

The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

A Message from Your

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Founders Day is a reminder of the substantial role that the PTA has played locally, regionally and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families. It is a time to reflect and take pride in our many accomplishments, and to renew our commitment to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents and a strong advocate for public education.

Founders Day is when we celebrate the legacy and work of our founders – Alice McLellan Birney, Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Selena Sloan Butler – to better provide education, health and safety for every child. Our founders represented women of imagination and courage. They had a simple idea – to improve the lives and futures of all children. They understood the power of individual action, worked beyond the accepted barriers of their day and took action to change the world for all children.

In observing Founders Day this March 1, we congratulate and celebrate the accomplishments of all our honorees, who have given so much of their time and energy to the children of Hicksville. Our outstanding honorees and the legacy of our previous honorees of the past 65 years provide a strong foundation on which to build a very promising future.

This year's District Honored Guest is someone who exemplifies the meaning of being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education. Mrs. Susan Strauss, Principal of Dutch Lane Elementary School, has been, and continues to be, a truly dedicated administrator. In the almost 15 years she has been here, Susan has had more of an impact on our district than most might realize. Her years of service to the Hicksville school community stretches beyond the doors of Dutch Lane Elementary School. Susan sits on numerous school district committees and has helped to spearhead many of the initiatives our district has implemented. Most notably, she was instrumental in the development of the special education program that is housed at her beloved Dutch Lane. While the needs of her students and staff are her priority, she views the future of our entire school community as the larger picture. She knows that the education and welfare of every student and family in our district is the most important duty that a district must fulfill. It is these qualities that have earned her this well-deserved honor.

Along with Mrs. Strauss, we will be honoring the many individuals throughout the district whose service goes above and beyond expectations, and has earned them the distinction of Founders Day honoree from their respective PTA units. I am proud to be your president of the Hicksville Council of PTAs and to be a part of this great community. Your dedication to our children, school and community is to be applauded. Congratulations to all our 2018 Founders Day Honorees!

Sincerely,
Annette Beiner

Introducing...the 2018

PTA FOUNDERS DAY HONOREES

BURNS AVENUE:

Christine Bohnemann
Linda Guerriere
Crystal Lipski
Margaret Pusinelli

DUTCH LANE:

RoseMarie Dones
Tina Garbacki
Krista Mazzara-Croce
Rachel Nadler
Amy Siegenthaler

EAST STREET:

Shelley Cecchetti
Lori Gorostieta
Katherine Manning
Wendi Osorno
Al Williamson

FORK LANE:

Keri Competello
Barbara Guida
Cindy Hudson
Lisa Iovine
Christopher Mammone
Deborah Renna

LEE AVENUE:

Jennifer Cromwell
Maria DeRosa
Angela Lanzarone
Jennifer McGahan
Henryk Milkowski
Jodi Shapiro

OLD COUNTRY ROAD:

Joanne Curran Perrucci
Robyn Goldthwaite
Betty Leyser
Patricia Papageorge
Lori Simon

WOODLAND:

Patricia Bulerin
Maureen Cervantes
Pat Fogarty
Renee Glick
Sharon Olivares
Gayle Pinsky

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Bruce Gordon
Kathleen Kelly
Lisa Robertaccio
Elissa Shapiro
Justin Starr
Christine Weih

HIGH SCHOOL:

Fran Kislowski
Angela Kobetitsch
Bruce Paredes
Jonathan Shmuel
Brenda Telesky

SEPTA:

Diane Faria
Michelé Sweeney
Rachel Ytuarte

SPECIAL DISTINCTION

This year's PTA Founders Day Honored Guest is **Susan Strauss**. She is being recognized for her outstanding involvement in the community and for her commitment to the students of the district. To learn more about Ms. Strauss and her accomplishments, see page 2.

District Honored Guest



SUSAN STRAUSS

The 2018 Founders Day honored guest is Susan Strauss, principal of Dutch Lane Elementary School. In January, the second-time Founders Day honoree began her 15th year in the district, and since then has sat on various committees, including After-School Staff Development, Bond, Curriculum Council, Efficiency, Policy, Pre-Kindergarten Exploratory and Report Card Redesign. Susan holds a bachelor's degree and master's degree in reading from Queens College, and a master's degree in administration from LIU Post.

Susan says, "It is a privilege to be an educator and leader at Dutch Lane. I am overwhelmed being this year's honored guest, and I am honored to be a member of this district; this recognition is deeply appreciated." An accomplishment of which she is most proud has been participating in the launch of the district's pre-kindergarten program.

She lives by the quote, "Treat others as you would have them treat you." She strives to provide students with a safe, rigorous and respectful learning environment, and prides herself on how kind her students are to each other. One

of her favorite memories in the district is when she attended a special assembly during which several World War II veterans, who are Hicksville residents, received honorary high school diplomas. She says, "Young men, committed to defending their country, chose to immediately join the military, giving up their high school graduation. Seeing these veterans walk down the aisle in Hicksville High School's auditorium and finally receive their diplomas, knowing how very much it meant to them and their families, was a very heartwarming event."

Susan lives in Jericho with her husband of 46 years, Howard, with whom she has three sons, Eric, Jesse and Scott. She is also the proud grandmother of Eliza, Jacob and Matthew.

BURNS AVENUE *Elementary School*



CHRISTINE BOHNEMANN

Christine Bohnemann: Christine teaches third grade in the same classroom she was once in as a child. The first-time Founders Day honoree has worked in the district for six years, beginning as a substitute teacher and then moving on to teach second and then third grade at Old Country Road before coming to Burns. She has also served on various committees, including Response to Intervention and Curriculum Mapping. Christine holds a bachelor's degree in childhood education and a master's degree in special education, both from SUNY Cortland, and enjoys reading, skiing, traveling and being with her family in her spare time. "I am extremely honored and thankful to be recognized for the things that all teachers do every day," she says. Christine lives in Hicksville and will be marrying her fiancé, Phil, on April 21.



LINDA GUERRIERE

Linda Guerriere: Linda served as council delegate for the Burns Avenue PTA from 2013-2014, and has sat on various committees from 2012 to the present, including Field Day, Talent Show, Site-Based and Ways and Means. The first-time Founders Day honoree attended West Hempstead High School and Nassau Community College, and works as a lunch monitor at Lee Avenue School. "It's an honor to be recognized, but the reason I [am part of the PTA] is to see the happy smiles on the kids' faces," she says. Linda has lived in Hicksville for the past 12 years, and is married to her husband, Lou, with whom she has one son, Louis.



CRYSTAL LIPSKI

Crystal Lipski: Crystal has been a district employee for the past four and a half years, and has taught kindergarten for the past three and a half years. In that time, the first-time Founders Day honoree has sat on various committees, including Extended Day, Safety, and Summer School. Crystal holds a master's degree in literacy from Dowling College, and in her spare time loves to read and travel with her family. "Thank you for this wonderful honor; it means the world to me and I love my Burns Avenue family!" she says. Crystal lives in Miller Place with her husband, Adam, whom she married in Italy a little more than a year ago.



MARGARET PUSINELLI

Margaret Pusinelli: This year, Margaret is serving as treasurer for the Burns Avenue PTA, and has sat on various committees from 2012 to the present, including Book Fair, Field Day, Plant Sale and Talent Show. The first-time Founders Day honoree attended Hicksville High School and Nassau Community College, and says, "I'm so passionate about the school, the PTA and our mission. Everything I do to support that is with our children's best interests in mind; being recognized for that is wonderful." A Hicksville resident of 41 years, Margaret lives with her husband, Frank, with whom she has three children, Isabella, Joseph and Nicholas.

DUTCH LANE *Elementary School*



ROSEMARIE DONES

RoseMarie Dones: RoseMarie is a teaching assistant who has worked in the district for the past eight years, beginning her career at Old Country Road before coming to Dutch Lane in 2010, and has also been a part of the PTAs at both schools in that time. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from LIU Post, and says, "I am truly honored to be recognized by the Dutch Lane staff and PTA. I love being a teaching assistant and have found it to be a rewarding experience personally and professionally." A Hicksville resident for more than 27 years, RoseMarie lives with her husband, Abe, with whom she has two sons, Robert and Mark. Both Robert and Mark are United States Marines who graduated from Hicksville High School.

DUTCH LANE *Elementary School* (continued)



TINA
GARBACKI

Tina Garbacki: Tina has been a part of the Dutch Lane PTA from 2009-2017, and in that time, has sat on various committees, including Book Fair, Halloween Dance, School Store, and Yearbook. The first-time Founders Day honoree attended Division Avenue High School in Levittown, and says, "It is an honor to be recognized for all the work I do for the children. It has always been something that I enjoy. I love to make all the children happy!" Tina works as a school monitor at Baylis Elementary School in Syosset, has lived in Hicksville for the past 15 years, and is married to her husband, Tom, with whom she has three children, Logan, Madison and Tyler.



KRISTA
MAZZARA-CROCE

Krista Mazzara-Croce: Krista has been a part of the Dutch Lane PTA from 2014 to the present, and has in that time sat on various committees, including Fun Stuff Books, PARP, School Store, and Star Dusters Kickline. The first-time Founders Day honoree attended Hicksville High School and Nassau Community College, and is a certified legal assistant from Katherine Gibbs School. Krista is a stay-at-home mother to her two children, Barbara and John, whom she has with her husband, John. She has lived in Hicksville for the past 44 years, and says, "I feel extremely blessed to be able to be such a huge part of my children's childhood. I always loved my experience at Dutch, and it is amazing to see my kids experience the same amazing moments."



RACHEL
NADLER

Rachel Nadler: Rachel has been a "split teacher" at Hicksville Middle School, Old Country Road, Woodland and Dutch Lane, which has been her "home" building since she began working in the district five years ago. In that time, the first-time Founders Day honoree has served as assistant director of Hicksville High School's marching band and has sat on the Autism Awareness Day Committee at Dutch Lane. Rachel holds a bachelor's degree in vocal performance and a master's degree in music education, both from Hofstra University, and says, "I am so appreciative of, and humbled by, this honor!" She lives in East Meadow with her husband, Adam, and their dog, Baxter.



AMY
SIEGENTHALER

Amy Siegenthaler: Amy has been the school nurse at Dutch Lane for the past three years, and has also been a part of its Site-Base Team. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree from SUNY Albany and an Associate of Applied Science Nursing degree from the College of Staten Island, and says, "It is an honor and an incredible feeling to know my work does not go unrecognized." In her spare time, she loves camping and spending time with her family. She is also appreciative of the little gifts she occasionally finds on her desk upon arriving to work, such as ice packs, flowers and fresh figs, courtesy of colleagues and the PTA. Amy lives in Seaford with her husband, Justin, with whom she has two children, Henry and Lylah.

EAST STREET *Elementary School*



SHELLEY
CECCHETTI

Shelley Cecchetti: Shelley has been a part of the East Street PTA from 2012 to the present, and has, in addition to serving as its recording secretary for two years, sat on various committees, including Special Person's Day and Health and Safety. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from Molloy College, and works as a registered nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Cohen Children's Medical Center. She says, "I am honored, and it's very nice to know that the volunteering efforts are recognized and appreciated by the community." In her spare time, Shelley enjoys cooking, baking and spending time with her family. She lives in Jericho with her husband, Mauro, with whom she has one daughter, Juliana.



LORI
GOROSTIETA

Lori Gorostieta: Since 2013, Lori has either chaired or co-chaired various East Street PTA committees, including Boxtops for Education, Pre-K Program, Reading Incentive, Reflections and School Pictures. The first-time Founders Day honoree attended Boston University and San Francisco State University, and says, "I am flattered to be recognized among so many dedicated and hardworking parents." In her spare time, Lori enjoys exploring all of Long Island's parks and hiking trails with her children, and especially appreciates any place that allows them to bring along their dog. A resident of Hicksville for 16 years, she lives with her husband, Miguel, and their two children, Ryan and Brooke.



KATHERINE
MANNING

Katherine Manning: Katherine has taught in the district for nearly 22 years, 20 of which have been at East Street. In that time, the first-time Founders Day honoree has also sat on various committees, including Acts of Kindness and Women's History Month. She holds a bachelor's degree in education from SUNY Old Westbury and a master's degree in education from LIU Post, and says, "It is a great honor to be recognized by my school community; I am humbled by their choice." Katherine loves riding her horse, Oscar, which she has ridden since she was eight years old. She lives in Locust Valley with her husband, Joseph, with whom she has two sons, Peter and Jack.



WENDI
OSORNO

Wendi Osorno: Wendi has been a part of the East Street PTA from 2009 to the present, and in that time, has chaired various committees, including Fifth-Grade Yearbook, Holiday Boutique, and PTA Newsletter, and has also been a class mom or assistant class mom. The first-time Founders Day honoree attended Nassau Community College and holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from SUNY Old Westbury and a master's degree in library science from LIU Post. She says, "I am honored and touched to be recognized as an honoree. I love being a part of the East Street PTA family and will miss helping out and seeing all of the students and teachers!" A Hicksville resident of nearly 15 years who works as a librarian at West Hempstead Public Library, Wendi lives with her husband, John, with whom she has two children, Isabella and John.



AL
WILLIAMSON

Al Williamson: Al has taught in the district for 18 years, beginning at Dutch Lane and Burns Avenue and currently at East Street and Woodland. In that time, the first-time Founders Day honoree has helped lead various district sports teams, including junior varsity football and basketball, girls varsity lacrosse, and Hicksville Middle School's girls basketball and girls lacrosse. Al holds a bachelor's degree from SUNY Cortland, and master's degrees from Stony Brook University and Hofstra University. In his spare time, he enjoys surfing, scuba diving, and fishing, and says that the feeling of being recognized as a Founders Day honoree is "like a warm hug from mom." Al lives in Long Beach.

FORK LANE *Elementary School*



**KERI
COMPETELLO**

Keri Competello: Keri has taught in the district for more than 20 years and is a second-time Founders Day honoree. She says, "Teaching has taught me to be strong enough to stand alone, smart enough to know when you need help and brave enough to ask for it. I'm not sure when this 'aha' moment happened, but I am a more confident teacher today because I realize no one can do it alone!" In her spare time, Keri enjoys baking and decorating sugar cookies for friends and family to celebrate special moments in their lives, reading, art, music, dance and doing "all things creative." She is married to her husband, Peter, with whom she has one daughter, Madeline.



**BARBARA
GUIDA**

Barbara Guida: Barbara has been a teaching assistant in the district for five and a half years and is a first-time Founders Day honoree. She holds an associate's degree from Queensborough Community College, and says, "I am very humbled and honored" to be recognized. Barbara loves working with children and believes it is important to find the good in people and to encourage everyone you meet. She lives in Old Bethpage with her husband, Paul, with whom she has two daughters, Melissa and Rachael.



**CINDY
HUDSON**

Cindy Hudson: Cindy has been a part of the Fork Lane PTA since 2014, and during that time has served as a council delegate, corresponding secretary and co-president, and also chaired various committees, including Arts in Education, Read-A-Thon, and Staff Appreciation. The first-time Founders Day honoree is a former Hicksville High School graduate and holds a bachelor's degree in English and sociology, a master's degree in sociology and a doctorate degree in sociology, all from Stony Brook University. She works as a research analyst for a qualitative research consulting firm, and says, "I view this honor as much for me as it is for the creative and hardworking volunteers who help make Fork Lane the great place that it is." A resident of Hicksville her entire life, Cindy lives with her husband, Donald - also a Hicksville graduate - and their two sons, Christopher and Joseph.



**LISA
IOVINE**

Lisa Iovine: Lisa has worked in the district since 2005, and at Fork Lane and Dutch Lane since 2016. The first-time Founders Day honoree was also an assistant coach for the varsity girls lacrosse team from 2005-2008. Lisa holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in literacy and special education, both from Hofstra University, as well as a master's degree in administration from Adelphi University. Lisa says, "It is truly an honor to be recognized at the Founders Day celebration. I feel blessed to be working with such amazing colleagues, students, parents, and administrators." She lives in Bethpage with her husband, Pat, with whom she has two sons, Addison and Brody.



**CHRISTOPHER
MAMMONE**

Christopher Mammone: Christopher has taught English as a New Language at Fork Lane for three and a half years, and has during that time also been a PTA liaison and sat on the Wellness Committee. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in mass communications from Iona College and a master's degree in TESOL/Childhood 1-6 from Molloy College. In his spare time, Christopher enjoys wrestling and running; he has been an elite distance runner for most of his life and has won various races, ran two marathons and has even competed in Canada. He says, "This is an amazing honor and I'm extremely flattered. I work with so many great people, and I feel privileged to be in such great company." Christopher lives in Massapequa.



**DEBORAH
RENNA**

Deborah Renna: Since 2015, Deborah has served as vice president of the Fork Lane PTA and has sat on various committees, including Back to School BBQ, Family Fun Night, Picture Day, and Staff Appreciation. The first-time Founders Day honoree attended Sewanhaka High School in Floral Park and works as a unit secretary at NYU Winthrop Hospital. She says, "I'm very honored to be recognized at the Founders Day celebration. As a member of this community and Fork Lane, I try my best to make it a great place for my sons and their peers to grow up in, and I hope to continue to do so." Deborah has lived in Hicksville for 12 years, and is married to her husband, Gerry, with whom she has two sons, Nicholas and Michael.

LEE AVENUE *Elementary School*



**JENNIFER
CROMWELL**

Jennifer Cromwell: Jennifer has been a part of the Lee Avenue PTA since 2015, and during that time has served as co-president and vice president. She has sat on various committees, including Book Fair, Holiday Boutique, Lee Day, and Prestige Fundraising. The first-time Founders Day honoree is a former Hicksville High School graduate and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Belmont Abbey College. She says, "It is an absolute honor to be chosen as one of Lee Avenue's recipients. Seeing the smiles on children's faces is the most rewarding part of it all and the only recognition I need." Jennifer works as an administrative assistant and has lived in Hicksville for 40 years. She lives with her husband, Keith, with whom she has four children, Aiden, Alexis, Brady and Lucas.



**MARIA
DEROSA**

Maria DeRosa: Maria began teaching in the district in 2010, and has been at Lee Avenue since 2013. During that time, she has served in various roles, including facilitator for the Noetic Learning Math Contest, member of the Reading Committee, and editor of the school's monthly newsletter since its launch in 2013. The first-time Founders Day honoree was also a winner of the 2016 National Student/Parent Mock Election Award for the Teaching of Democracy K-12. Maria holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from St. John's University, and master's degrees in childhood education and early childhood education, both from LIU Post. She says, "I want to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the PTA, as well as the people of the community. I feel very blessed in my role as your children's teacher." Maria is married to her husband, Anthony, with whom she has two children, Alex and Isabella.

LEE AVENUE *Elementary School* (continued)



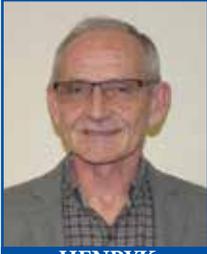
ANGELA LANZARONE

Angela Lanzarone: Since 2008, Angela has sat on various committees for the Lee Avenue PTA, including Book Fair, Homecoming, Mother's Day Plant Sale, Movie Night, Picture Day, and Talent Show. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds an associate's degree from SUNY Farmingdale, and says that the recognition "is a great honor and a wonderful surprise. I've loved the times I've been able to help out in school activities." The 18-year Hicksville resident is married to her husband, Nat, with whom she has three daughters, Adrianna, Michelle and Victoria.



JENNIFER MCGAHAN

Jennifer McGahan: Jennifer has worked in the district for the past 10 years and has taught kindergarten at Lee Avenue since 2015. In that time, the first-time Founders Day honoree has sat on various committees, including Book Club, Milk and Cookie Night, and Social Studies Curriculum Task Force. Jennifer holds a master's degree from LIU Post, and says, "It is an extreme honor being recognized; it means everything to me. I do what I do for the students. I always have their best interests at heart, and for that to be recognized is amazing!" She lives in East Meadow with her husband, Michael, with whom she has three children, Aidan, Emma and Grace.



HENRYK MILKOWSKI

Henryk Milkowski: Henryk has been a custodian in the district for the past 23 years and began his career in the East Meadow School District in 1990. The first-time Founders Day honoree attended a pedagogical technical school and says that the recognition is "much appreciated." In his spare time, handyman Henryk enjoys maintaining and improving all aspects of his home in Oyster Bay. He is married to his wife, Bogumila, with whom he has one son, Piotr.



JODI SHAPIRO

Jodi Shapiro: Jodi has been an English as a New Language teaching assistant in the district for nine and a half years, beginning at Hicksville Middle School before coming to Lee Avenue in 2010. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Michigan and a master's of social work degree from New York University. Jodi says, "It brings me joy knowing that I am being recognized and honored for my hard work these past almost 10 years." She lives in Plainview with her husband, Scott, with whom she has two children, Joshua and Samantha.

OLD COUNTRY ROAD *Elementary School*



JOANNE CURRAN PERRUCCI

Joanne Curran Perrucci: Since 2014, Joanne has chaired various committees for the Old Country Road PTA, including Citizen/Student of the Month, Cookies and Milk/Primetime Reading, Hospitality, and Kindergarten Picnic. During this time, she has also served as recording secretary, treasurer and corresponding secretary. The first-time Founders Day honoree says, "I believe Founders Day is an opportunity for the Hicksville School District to celebrate its rich past and its promising future. To be nominated is a huge honor, and I am pleased to be a part of [its] legacy." Joanne holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Adelphi University and a Juris Doctor from CUNY School of Law, and is a bureau chief in the family court of the Nassau County Attorney's Office. A resident of Hicksville for the past 11 years, she lives with her husband, Keith, with whom she has four children, Catherine, Liam, Sarah and Victoria.



ROBYN GOLDTHWAITE

Robyn Goldthwaite: Robyn has sat on various committees for the Old Country Road PTA since 2016, including Baton Kickline, School Pictures, and Talent Show, and has also served as its vice president since then. The first-time Founders Day honoree says, "It means a lot that people notice my effort in our PTA." A Hicksville resident for the past 20 years, Robyn lives with her husband, Sean, with whom she has two children, Abby and Kevin.



BETTY LEYSER

Betty Leyser: Betty has been a senior clerk typist at Old Country Road for the past nine and a half years. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds an associate's degree from Bronx Community College, and says, "I am truly grateful to be honored by all the wonderful people I work with. I have enjoyed my time working with teachers, parents and especially the children in my school!" She lives in Hicksville with her husband, Robert, with whom she has three children, Janine, Jeffrey and MaryEllen, and two grandchildren, Caroline and Nicholas.



PATRICIA PAPAGEORGE

Patricia Papageorge: Patricia has worked at Old Country Road for the past 10 years, and during that time has sat on various committees, including Site-Based Team and Student Council. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in special education, both from LIU Post. She says, "It's an honor to be selected with so many deserving people." In her spare time, Patricia enjoys photography. She lives in Kings Park with her husband, George, their two children, Alexandra and Nicholas, and their two rescue boxers, Napoleon and Abby.



LORI SIMON

Lori Simon: Lori has worked in the district for 29 years, beginning at East Street and then moving to Fork Lane before coming to Old Country Road for the past 22 years. The second-time Founders Day honoree has also served as chairperson of the Cultural Arts Committee since 2008, and as teacher liaison to the PTA since 2010. She holds a master's degree and attended SUNY Cobleskill, LIU Post and SUNY Cortland. Lori, who has two children, Jason and Jacklyn, and lives in Syosset, says, "It truly is an honor to be recognized by the PTA for doing something I love. Hicksville is my other home and Old Country Road is my other family."

WOODLAND *Elementary School*



**PATRICIA
BULERIN**

Patricia Bulerin: Patricia has sat on various committees as part of the Woodland PTA since 2009, including Family Picnic, Fifth Grade, and Winter Wonderland, and served as its treasurer in 2013. The first-time Founders Day honoree, who attended Nassau Community College with a focus in liberal arts, says, "This recognition means the world. I don't do

any of it for the glory, but it's so nice to know your peers appreciate it. It's a wonderful feeling." Patricia works as a merchandise manager, was once a balloon handler in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and enjoys running/walking 5K marathons. She has lived in Hicksville for the past 11 years and has three daughters, Aryana, Juleanna and Leighanne.



**MAUREEN
CERVANTES**

Maureen Cervantes: Maureen has worked in the district for the past 25 years, beginning at Fork Lane before coming to Woodland in 1993, and has served as co-leader of its Student Council since 2004. The third-time Founders Day honoree and Honorary Life Award recipient holds a bachelor's degree from SUNY Cortland and a master's degree from Stony Brook University. This year, Maureen moved back to teaching fifth grade after

teaching first grade for many years and will have the honor of graduating many of the same students she taught to read. She says, "I feel blessed and fortunate each day to be doing what I love. I am so grateful to receive the honor this year." Although Maureen grew up in Hicksville, she now lives in Farmingdale and has one son, Douglas.



**PAT
FOGARTY**

Pat Fogarty: Pat been a secretary for 28 years, and came to the district five years ago to work as a secretary in Woodland's main office. The first-time Founders Day honoree attended Nassau Community College and holds an associate's degree with a focus on legal secretarial science. She says, "I am very honored to have been nominated and

extremely thankful and fortunate to work with a warm and caring faculty and staff whom I am proud to call my second family." Pat has lived in Hicksville since 1991 and has fond memories of helping the East Street PTA when her three children - Erin, Kelly and Timothy - were in elementary school.



**RENEE
GLICK**

Renee Glick: Since 2003, Renee has sat on various committees for the Woodland PTA, including Book Fair and Plant Sale, and chaired Penny Auction and Founders Day. The first-time Founders Day honoree, who attended Berkeley College and is a former Hicksville High School graduate, works as a part-time medical biller at the Center for

Coping in Hicksville. In her spare time, Renee enjoys reading, and believes, "Never think you don't have an impact. Your fingerprints can't be wiped away from the little marks of kindness that you've left behind." She has lived in Hicksville her entire life and is married to her husband, Gerry, with whom she has two sons, Matthew and Joseph.



**SHARON
OLIVARES**

Sharon Olivares: Since 2015, Sharon has sat on various committees for the Woodland PTA, including Field Day, Homecoming, and Holiday Boutique, and this year is serving as its corresponding secretary. The first-time Founders Day honoree says, "I am grateful to be recognized among such dedicated volunteers. We all

work together to make the children's years at Woodland memorable. I love to help out whenever needed, and I just want to make things fun for everyone." Sharon has lived in Hicksville for the past 15 years, and is married to her husband Willy, with whom she has two children, Nicole and Mario.



**GAYLE
PINSKY**

Gayle Pinsky: Gayle has taught fifth grade in the district for the past six years, the last five at Woodland. During that time, the first-time Founders Day honoree has served in various roles, including presenter of a Go Math parent workshop, member of the Curriculum Council Committee and lead teacher in Math Olympiads. Gayle holds a bachelor's degree from Queens College, a master's degree from LIU Post, educator certifications in B-6 General Education and B-6

Special Education, and is a Certified Public Accountant. She says, "Being recognized at the Founders Day celebration is an absolute honor. Being nominated and chosen by colleagues, students and parents represents appreciation for doing what I love to do and doing it well." Gayle lives in Plainview with her husband, Steven, with whom she has three children, Brett, Jaclyn and Justin.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



**BRUCE
GORDON**

Bruce Gordon: Bruce has been a technology teacher at Hicksville Middle School for 31 years, and in that time has also been an important part of the School Safety Team. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in industrial arts from SUNY Oswego and a master's degree in special education from LIU Post. In his spare time, Bruce enjoys skiing and kayaking, and has been a volunteer fireman for the past 27 years. He says, "I truly feel honored to be recognized for the privilege to work with the students of the Hicksville community for so many years." Bruce lives in Bay Shore with his wife, Cathy-Anne, with whom he has three sons, Keith, Kristopher and Kyle, and three grandchildren, Lyla, Lucas and Liam.



**LISA
ROBERTACCIO**

Lisa Robertaccio: Lisa has been actively involved with several PTA groups and district functions since 2005, and has also served in various positions, including council delegate for Woodland's PTA and treasurer for SEPTA. The third-time Founders Day honoree, who also received the Honorary Life Award at Woodland in 2015, says, "It is very special to me. I am always willing to help when it is needed; I'm just a phone call away." Lisa is a staple at Board of Education meetings and Supe's On events, and believes it is important to always give a smile. She has lived in Hicksville for 23 years, and is married to her husband, Robert, with whom she has three children, Jordan, Tyler and Jessica.



**KATHLEEN
KELLY**

Kathleen Kelly: Since 2010, Kathleen has been actively involved with the East Street, Hicksville Middle School and SEPTA PTAs, sitting on various committees, including Penny Auction and Book Fair, and serving various positions, including co-president, council delegate, and recording secretary. The second-time Founders Day honoree, who attended SUNY Cortland, works as an operator with Nassau County Police Communications and owns a state-licensed daycare. She says, "Being honored a second time is very special. There are so many people that are deserving of this award, and to stand out to be chosen is quite special." Kathleen has lived in Hicksville the past 22 years, and is married to her husband, Philip, with whom she has two children, Ryan and Ava.



**ELISSA
SHAPIRO**

Elissa Shapiro: Elissa has been an active member of the Dutch Lane PTA, of which she served as treasurer twice and president once, and more recently the Hicksville Middle School PTA, of which she has served as both vice president and president. The second-time Founders Day honoree, who holds a bachelor's degree from SUNY Old Westbury, says, "It is an honor to be recognized because all of the volunteering is for the kids. One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time." Elissa works for Northwell House Calls as a medical coordinator, and has lived in Hicksville for the past 17 years. She is married to her husband, Robert, with whom she has two children, Ilana and Max.

MIDDLE SCHOOL *(continued)*



JUSTIN STARR

Justin Starr: Justin has taught chorus at Hicksville Middle School and served as vocal director for the school's Drama Club since 2010. From 2010-2011, he served as adviser for the SADD Club, and from 2015 to the present, he has served as adviser for the school's Astronomy Club. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a Bachelor of Music degree in composition, and a master's degree in music education, both from Syracuse University. Justin says, "It means quite a lot to be recognized. Sometimes, I wonder if people know about what I do, what we do, in the music wing; I wonder if people know about the students I have helped to better themselves academically, not just in music." He believes, "When a student succeeds, it is their success. When a student fails, it is my failure." Justin lives in Huntington with his wife, Joana, and their labradoodle, Oscar.



CHRISTINE WEIH

Christine Weih: Christine spent more than 20 years as a member of the Dutch Lane PTA prior to becoming a part of the Hicksville Middle School PTA for the past three years, during which she has served as its vice president. The second-time Founders Day honoree has, in her time with the middle school's PTA, sat on various committees, including Book Fair, Founders Day, and Staff Appreciation. Christine is a Hicksville High School graduate, and attended Nassau Community College and Ithaca College to earn her associate's degree. She says, "It means the world to me to have the honor to work alongside so many people who care so much about our community, no awards necessary." Christine has lived in Hicksville her entire life, and is married to her husband, Eddie, with whom she has four children, Eddie, Brendan, Logan, and Marissa.

HIGH SCHOOL



FRAN KISLowski

Fran Kislawski: Fran has taught math at Hicksville High School for 15 years and has, in that time, sat on various Curriculum Committees, in addition to serving as adviser to the Math Honor Society since 2013. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in education/math from St. John's University and a master's degree from Stony Brook University. She says, "This is such a surprise and honor for me. I try to keep a low profile!" In her spare time, Fran enjoys cooking and trying international dishes. She lives in Rockville Centre with her husband, Peter, with whom she has five children, Alexandra, Catherine, Elizabeth, Gregory, and Peter.



ANGELA KOBETITSCH

Angela Kobetitsch: Angela has been an active member of the Lee Avenue, Hicksville Middle School and, most recently, Hicksville High School PTAs. A multiple-time Founders Day honoree, she has chaired the Homecoming Committee, served as the PTA's council delegate, and sat on various other committees, including Site-Based and Interview. Angela holds a bachelor's degree in administration and planning from CUNY John Jay and is a retired NYPD officer. She says, "It is an honor, as there are so many deserving people involved with our schools." Angela has lived in Hicksville the past 19 years, and is married to her husband, Kenneth, with whom she has two daughters, Eva and Katarina.



BRUCE PAREDES

Bruce Paredes: Bruce has worked in the district for two and a half years and, in that time, has sat on both the Safety Committee and Talent for the Troops Committee. The first-time Founders Day honoree says, "It is a great honor to be selected. I love working for this school district, but this is just as much about my crew as it is me. Without them, I couldn't do anything." Bruce believes, "It's not the load that breaks you down, it's how you carry it." He lives in Wantagh with his wife, Karen, with whom he has three children, Brandon, Devin, and Marissa.



JONATHAN SHMUEL

Jonathan Shmuel: Jonathan has taught music in the district for 10 years, including symphonic band at Hicksville High School, band at Hicksville Middle School and Woodland, and orchestra at Lee Avenue. He has also sat on the PBIS Committee and coached boys soccer at Hicksville Middle School. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Crane School of Music SUNY Potsdam, and a certificate in performance from Stony Brook University. A regular performer with the Atlantic Wind Symphony, Long Island Wind Ensemble and Nassau-Suffolk Alumni Ensemble, Jonathan says, "It is a pleasure to work with great staff and students every day. I am very lucky to have the opportunity to make music with talented students every day of my career." He lives in Farmingdale with his wife and fellow Hicksville High School music teacher, Michelle Emeric Shmuel.



BRENDA TELESKY

Brenda Telesky: Brenda has been an active member of several PTAs, including Dutch Lane, Hicksville Middle School, Hicksville High School, and SEPTA, and has served as treasurer for them all. The third-time Founders Day honoree has also sat on various committees, including Penny Auction and Eighth-Grade Barbeque. She is a Hicksville High School graduate and holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Hofstra. Brenda says, "I shall cherish this for the rest of my life and continue to volunteer, because at the end, it's for the children." She works as a Medicaid coordination supervisor. Brenda has lived in Hicksville for the past 38 years, and is married to her husband, John, with whom she has two children, Kayla and Kyle.

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SEPTA



DIANE FARIA

Diane Faria: Diane has served several roles on various PTAs since 2006, including corresponding secretary and president of the Old Country Road PTA, council delegate and recording secretary of the Hicksville High School PTA, and president of SEPTA.

The four-time Founders Day honoree holds a

bachelor's degree in business administration/management of information systems. Diane says, "I volunteer for the students and the community, not for recognition. To be recognized for Founders Day again is a little embarrassing, but it means so much to me that all the hours away from my family and hard work isn't for naught and is appreciated." She works as a teaching assistant in Glen Cove, and has lived in Hicksville for the past 19 years. She is married to her husband, Ross, with whom she has two children, Ricky and Danielle.

Michélé Sweeney:

Michélé has taught at Hicksville Middle School for the past 16 years and, in that time, has sat on various committees, including SEPTA, Site-Based, and Technology, and coached girls soccer and boys and girls cross-country and track.

The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in special education from Dowling College and a master's degree in elementary education from Stony Brook University. Michélé says, "I am humbled by the acknowledgment, and I couldn't imagine doing any other job." She also believes that one should "choose to be kind or quiet" and that "kindness should always win!" Michélé lives in East Patchogue.



MICHELÉ SWEENEY

Rachel Ytuarte:

Rachel has taught special education in the district for 10 years and, in that time, has been at seven different schools and taught every grade from kindergarten through eighth. The first-time Founders Day honoree has also sat on various committees, including

Common Core Parent Workshop and Wellness Fair Planning. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in literacy, both from Hofstra University. Rachel says, "It is truly an honor to be recognized. I always try to work hard and be the best teacher I can be, but to be recognized for the work I love is something very special that I am very thankful for." In her spare time, she enjoys yoga and taking a stroll on the boardwalk. Rachel lives in Long Beach with her husband, Sam.



RACHEL YTUARTE

A TRADITION OF DEDICATION

More than 60 Years of Founders Day Honorees...

<i>Susan Strauss</i>	2018	<i>Mike Dunn</i>	2002	<i>Gerald Klein</i>	1986	<i>Felice Stein</i>	1970
<i>Brenda Judson</i>	2017	<i>Rosemary Planz</i>	2001	<i>Arlene Rudin</i>	1985	<i>Marge Giannelli</i>	1969
<i>Dave Bell</i>	2016	<i>Stephen Aronowitz</i>	2000	<i>William Becker</i>	1984	<i>Marion Coffey</i>	1968
<i>William McKee</i>	2015	<i>Pat Love</i>	1999	<i>Nancy Staron</i>	1983	<i>Kathy Janca</i>	1967
<i>Effie Rafaelides</i>	2014	<i>Rose Walker</i>	1998	<i>Lorraine Losche</i>	1982	<i>Geraldine McManus</i>	1967
<i>Janice Fitzgerald</i>	2013	<i>Leslie Mann</i>	1997	<i>William Feigin</i>	1981	<i>Mary Raffa</i>	1966
<i>Carol Foran</i>	2012	<i>Nancy Callari</i>	1996	<i>Dr. Frederick Hill</i>	1980	<i>Louis Millevolte</i>	1965
<i>Dolores Garger</i>	2011	<i>Peggy Theis</i>	1995	<i>Barbara Smith</i>	1979	<i>Donald Abt</i>	1964
<i>Susan Powell</i>	2010	<i>Robert Durso</i>	1994	<i>Shirley Smith</i>	1978	<i>William O'Donnell</i>	1963
<i>Maureen K. Bright</i>	2009	<i>Nancy DeSorbo</i>	1993	<i>Norma Dagna</i>	1977	<i>Mrs. Oliver Foran</i>	1962
<i>Patty Angenbroich</i>	2008	<i>Richard Hogan</i>	1992	<i>Richard Evers</i>	1976	<i>Mrs. M. Polsenski</i>	1961
<i>Donna Clark</i>	2007	<i>Norma Goerke</i>	1991	<i>Muriel Schwartz</i>	1975	<i>Leon Galloway</i>	1960
<i>Nancy Rooney</i>	2006	<i>Terry Moehring</i>	1990	<i>Lou Penque</i>	1974	<i>Bernard Braun</i>	1959
<i>Deirdre K. Ryan</i>	2005	<i>Charles Wayne</i>	1989	<i>Grace Cranmer</i>	1973	<i>Mrs. Harry Glecker</i>	1958
<i>Marianne Litzman</i>	2004	<i>Carol Marks</i>	1988	<i>Neil McCormack</i>	1972	<i>Mrs. Clinton Foster</i>	1957
<i>Terrie Perkowski</i>	2003	<i>Patricia Rooney</i>	1987	<i>John McGovern</i>	1971	<i>Dr. Erie LeBarron</i>	1956