

The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

A Message from Your COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Founders Day is a reminder of the substantial role that 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 the lives of every child in education, health and safety. 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 on February 28, 2019, 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 the previous honorees for the past 66 years provide a strong foundation on which to build a very promising future.

This year's District Honored Guest is not only someone who exemplifies this legacy, but exceeds it with her dedication to our community. Mrs. Christine Weih has been and continues to be, truly dedicated to our district. Christine was born and raised here in Hicksville where she attended Dutch Lane Elementary School, Hicksville Middle School and Hicksville High School. Christine began volunteering at Dutch Lane over 20 years ago; she has chaired various committees at all levels and held several PTA Board positions at the elementary and middle school levels. Christine has been a mentor to many PTA volunteers and she truly is that one person that you can always rely on to help, support and encourage you. Not only is she an active member of PTA, she also serves as the secretary for the Hicksville Baseball Association, board member of the Hicksville Crusaders Youth Football and Cheerleading League and as a religious education teacher at Holy Family. Christine's commitment to our district and our children is to be applauded. When asked about being this year's District Honored Guest, she remains characteristically humble and credits her family, friends and fellow PTA volunteers as the reason she's able to do all that she does. It is with sincere gratitude that we thank Christine for her dedication to the Hicksville community, and for caring for all our children as her own.

Along with Mrs. Weih, we will be honoring the many individuals throughout the district whose service goes above and beyond expectation, and has earned them the distinction of Founders Day honoree from their respective units. I am proud to be your president of the Hicksville Council of PTAs and to be a part of such a great community. Your dedication to our children, school and community is to be applauded. Congratulations to all our 2019 Founders Day Honorees!

Sincerely,
Annette Beiner

Introducing...the 2019 PTA FOUNDERS DAY HONOREES

BURNS AVENUE:
Jacqueline Ciano
William Dougherty
Milena Morales
Carolyn Pinto

DUTCH LANE:
Kathy Barrientos
Jennifer Coady
Diana Parada
Kim Sconzo
Patricia Wiertz

EAST STREET:
Danielle Fotopoulos
Pamela Johnson
Maura Palermo
Gia Reyes
Joanna Rocco
Mary Shurley

FORK LANE:
Lauren Colavito
Heather Hock
Michelle Iadevaia
Riva Kaplan
Nancy Ruisi
Sharon Stone

LEE AVENUE:
Kristine McAllister
Joanne McDonough
Diane Pramberger
Jack Remini
Seleena Seemangal
Marissa Wilson Pressler

OLD COUNTRY ROAD:
Jade Cristales
Tina Ithier
Christine Moir
Kim Raspanti

WOODLAND:
Gina Baade
Nancy Nowak-Reilly
MaryEllen Vassallo
Veronica Vinieratos

MIDDLE SCHOOL:
Laurie Alexander
Susan Doucette Cleary
Nora Jennings
Bernadette Massa
Jan Matthiessen
Linda Smith

HIGH SCHOOL:
Irene Carlomusto
Marybeth LoVerso-Kacprzycki
Lisa Nowakoski
Lisa Robertaccio
Michelle Shmuel
Raymond Williams

SEPTA:
Patrick Allgier
Kelly Bocchicchio
Brenda Telesky

*Congratulations to
all our honorees!!!*

SPECIAL DISTINCTION

This year's PTA Founders Day District Honored Guest is Christine Weih. 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. Weih and her accomplishments, see page 2.

District Honored Guest

Congratulations to Christine Weih, the 2019 Founders Day District Honored Guest, who has volunteered with the Hicksville School District's PTA organizations for more than 20 years. This is the third time Christine is being recognized on Founders Day, the previous two as an honoree at Dutch Lane and at the middle school. She is also a recipient of the prestigious PTA Honorary Life Award from Dutch.

Christine is the current president at Dutch Lane, a position she has held before in addition to having served twice as vice president and secretary as well as council delegate and middle school vice president. Her roots at Dutch Lane run deep,

as both of her parents attended the school, just as her five brothers, four children and she did. Her two youngest are present students.

"Our family pictures literally line the hallways!" Christine joked.

The list of PTA and district committees on which Christine has served are nearly endless, and include Bulletin Boards, Family Fun Nights, Founders Day, Homecoming, International Night, Pasta Sale, Site-Based and Staff Appreciation, to name a few. She was also a class mom. The history of service also runs deep in her family, as Christine's mother served on the PTA and both of her parents were on the board of Hicksville Baseball, for which she is now secretary.

She has many other roles in the community, as does her husband Eddie, also a Hicksville graduate and lifer. Together they volunteer for the Crusaders youth football and cheer league.

From the moment Christine volunteered to make costumes for her brother's third-grade play in Ms. Masterson's class at Dutch, she was hooked on helping make the schools a better place. She insists she will miss it once her children Brendan, Emily and Logan have all graduated, just as daughter Marissa did in 2012.

"The sheer privilege of supporting the families of the community and watching the children grow into amazing people makes it all worth it," said Christine, who



CHRISTINE WEIH

credits her family and her fellow PTA ladies, teachers, principals and administrators for her success. "It takes a village" has proven itself in many shapes and forms over the years. It is a sentiment that I truly believe in, and we are lucky to be raising our family as a part of this one."

BURNS AVENUE *Elementary School*



JACQUELINE
CIANO

Jacqueline Ciano: Jacqueline has been a district employee for the past five years, working as a teaching assistant at Burns Avenue. A first-time honoree, Jacqueline began her career teaching physical education and coaching three varsity sports. After leaving for a short period to raise her sons and work as a substitute teacher, Jacqueline resumed her career teaching prekindergarten and directing a nursery school. "Thank you so much for this wonderful honor," Jacqueline said. "Helping children learn is something I love to do, and I am so happy to be a part of the Burns Avenue family." Jacqueline lives in Syosset with her husband, Jack. She has three sons, James, John and Joseph.



WILLIAM
DOUGHERTY

William Dougherty: Although Bill grew up in Levittown, he calls Hicksville home. After working as a lab technician, he joined the Hicksville School District as a part-time cleaner and obtained a full-time position in 1985. He started working in the middle school, moved to the high school and from there was promoted to the position of custodian, with the honor of opening up the high school. After a year, Bill began his "journey" around the district, working at several buildings. The first stop was Willet, then Fork Lane and Old Country Road. For the last two years, he has worked at Burns. Throughout his career he has been known as the consummate professional, coming in early and staying late to ensure the building is always ready for students and staff. Bill doesn't do it because he has to; he does it because he cares about the kids.



MILENA
MORALES

Milena Morales: Milena has been volunteering with the Burns Avenue PTA for nine years and is in her second year as a council delegate. She has sat on various committees, including Bake Sale, Field Day and Fifth-Grade Graduation, and has also worked as an assistant prekindergarten teacher. As a first-time honoree, Milena said, "Thank you very much for this wonderful honor. I love to volunteer and make our children smile and enjoy the events in the school." Milena is from Costa Rica, has lived in Hicksville for the past 18 years and works with the Sisters of St. Dominic in human resources. Milena and her husband, Olman, have three children, two attending the middle school and one enrolled at Burns: Alejandro, Mariana and Santiago. She also has two stepsons, Jonathan and Daniel.



CAROLYN
PINTO

Carolyn Pinto: Carolyn is the corresponding secretary at Burns Avenue, where she has also served as the president and recording secretary. In her six years at the school she has participated in many committees, including Bake Sale, Book Fair, Cultural Arts, Founders Day, Graduation, Holiday Boutique, Honorary Life Nominating Committee and Scholarships. Carolyn has three children, all at Burns Avenue, the same elementary school she and her husband attended. As a first-time honoree, she is grateful to be recognized, but said, "Everything I do is really about the kids. I just want to see them happy. Having been born and raised in Hicksville, it is gratifying to see the Hicksville community change and grow, and I am looking forward to many more years of service in the district."

DUTCH LANE *Elementary School*



KATHY
BARRIENTOS

Kathy Barrientos: Kathy is recording secretary for the Dutch Lane PTA and has assisted on various committees, including Talent Show and Field Day. This year she is overseeing the Dutch Lane PTA Stardusters Kickline and has been a part of kickline since 2014. The first-time Founders Day honoree works as a prekindergarten teaching assistant and was a monitor at Woodland School for three years. "It is an honor to be recognized," Kathy said. "I love seeing the students' happy faces by being a part of the Dutch Lane PTA." Kathy lives in Hicksville with her husband, George, and her three daughters, Chloe, Katie and Natalie.

DUTCH LANE *Elementary School* (continued)



JENNIFER
COADY

Jennifer Coady: Jennifer is the librarian at Dutch Lane and has served as a PTA liaison, having collaborated with the school community on the annual Books Alive performance and numerous author visits. A first-time Founders Day honoree, Jennifer has served on the Dutch Lane Site-Based Team and the Bond and Elementary Technology Committees at the district level. Mrs. Coady earned her master's in library and information science from LIU Post and belongs to a variety of professional library organizations. "It is an honor to be recognized," Jennifer said. "I love working in Hicksville with such wonderful students and such an involved community. I've always felt like a welcomed member of our team, and I'm so grateful." Jennifer lives in Copiague with her husband, Jason, and their son, Caleb.



DIANA
PARADA

Diana Parada: Diana has been a member of the Dutch Lane PTA since 2013, served as treasurer for 2016-18 and is a council delegate. Aside from her time as a class mom, she has volunteered at various dances, penny auctions and bake sales, as well as the Books Alive and Homecoming committees. She was awarded a Certificate of Recognition in 2016 for Outstanding Service to the children of Dutch Lane. "I'm honored to receive this nomination as I am truly proud to be a Dutch Lane PTA mom," Diana said. She holds a bachelor's in radiologic sciences and has been in the field for 18 years. The first-time Founders Day honoree has lived in Hicksville for the past 14 years with her husband, Jack, and their son, Jason.



KIM
SCONZO

Kim Sconzo: Kim has been a district employee for the past 20 years as a speech and language pathologist. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a master's in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Syracuse University and in her spare time loves boating and traveling with her family. "Thank you so much for the wonderful honor," Kim said. "I clearly remember my father, Jeff Shaffer, who worked in Hicksville Middle School for 35 years, receiving this award, and I know he would have been so proud!" Kim lives in Babylon with her husband, Vinny, and their three boys, Dylan, Jake and Tyler.



PATRICIA
WIERTZ:

Patricia Wiertz: Patricia has been a district employee for five years, beginning as a second-grade teacher at Woodland her first year. She's been a first-grade teacher at Dutch for the past four years. Patricia has sat on numerous committees, including Curriculum Council, Site-Based and Social Studies Curriculum Writing. She has also participated in the Extended Day and AIS Summer School programs. March Madness and the teachers vs. fifth-graders volleyball game are her favorite events. "I am honored to receive my first Founders Day recognition for being in a career that I truly love," Patricia said. "I could not have achieved any of my successes without the support of my husband, Rob, and children, Michelle and Justin. I am blessed to work with the teachers, parents, staff and amazing PTA of Dutch Lane."

EAST STREET *Elementary School*



DANIELLE
FOTOPOULOS

Danielle Fotopoulos: Danielle was born and raised in Hicksville and is the PTA president of East Street, where her two eldest children attend. She enjoys volunteering her time to help the people of her community. Danielle has chaired the Mother's Day Plant Sale, Spooky Halloween, Winter Wonderland and Wreath Sale committees and has helped out on almost every other committee at East. Danielle and her husband, Chris, have four children, Angelo, Christopher, Nicholas and Theo. She is an alumnus of Lee Avenue and East Street Elementary schools. Danielle loves working with the PTA to ensure all children achieve greatness at school and at home. Borrowing her favorite quote from Art Williams, Danielle said, "I'm not telling you it's going to be easy. I'm telling you it's going to be worth it."



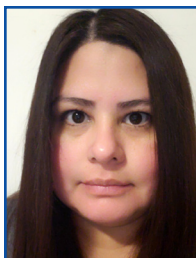
PAMELA
JOHNSON

Pamela Johnson: Pam is in her 21st year as a third-grade teacher at East Street and her second Founders Day honor there. Pam has been the PTA liaison for 18 years and has been a Student Council adviser for over 10 years. She enjoys the many community service activities that the Student Council runs, including toy and book drives, the Giving Tree, Canine Companions and various veteran projects. Every day she tries to instill a love of learning and discovery in her students. "The best teachers are those who show you where to look, but don't tell you what to see," she said. In her free time, Pam is an avid reader, gardener and equestrian. She lives in Farmingdale with her husband, Michael.



MAURA
PALERMO

Maura Palermo: Maura has been a member of the East Street PTA since 2008. She has assisted in many PTA-driven activities and has chaired Winter Wonderland and the Family Picnic committees. She also enjoyed serving as a class parent. Originally from Queens, this first-time Founders Day honoree attended St. Jean Baptiste High School in New York City, Queensborough Community College and Queens College. "Thank you for this recognition," Maura said. "East Street is a wonderful school and I have enjoyed working alongside so many wonderful parents and teachers." In her spare time Maura enjoys spending time with her husband, George, and their two children, George and Kaylee. George is a sophomore at the high school and Kaylee is a fifth-grader attending East Street.



GIA
REYES

Gia Reyes: Gia has been a dedicated member of the East Street PTA since 2011. She has been on several committees throughout the years, including Scholastic Book Fair, and has served as coordinator of the Halloween Spooky Costume Party for three consecutive years. The first-time Founders Day honoree has been a resident of Hicksville for 10 years. "I am so grateful to be honored in such a special way, but even more thankful to be given the opportunity to contribute in such a special way to my East Street family," she said. Gia and her husband of 14 years, Jose, are the proud parents of Alexander and Massimo. She enjoys traveling and finding new creative outlets.



JOANNA
ROCCO

Joanna Rocco: Joanna started in Hicksville as a part-time employee and has taught general music, chorus, instrumental lessons and marching band for the past three years. She has been a member of the Memorial Day Committee and ran Music in Our Schools Month at East in March 2017. Now in her fourth year of teaching, Joanna is a full-time faculty member and first-time Founders Day recipient. Joanna graduated from Hicksville High School and went on to earn her bachelor's and master's degrees at Queens College in music education and instrumental conducting. Joanna is affiliated with various music organizations, including Drum Corps Associates and eVoco Voice Collective Women's Ensemble. She also plays the keyboard for Hicksville Talent for the Troops. "It is an honor to be recognized," Joanna said. "The passion from the students drives my career to higher levels each year."



MARY
SHURLEY

Mary Shurley: Mary holds a master's degree in early childhood education and has taught kindergarten for 22 years at East Street School. She has been a Founders Day honoree in the past; once as an Old Country Road parent and twice as a teacher at East Street. Mary has worked on various committees, including Curriculum Council, Green Team, PTA Liaison, Site-Based and Student Council. Living and working in Hicksville has been fulfilling, according to Mary, who offers the following advice: "Seek opportunities to show you care. The smallest gestures often make the biggest difference." Mary loves to read and spend time with her family, her husband, Stephen, and their children Amy, Damon, Kathleen and Joel, as well as their two granddaughters Mackenzie and Hailey.

FORK LANE *Elementary School*



LAUREN
COLAVITO

Lauren Colavito: Lauren has been a special education teacher for the past nine years, working across multiple grade levels. She has worked at Burns, Dutch, East and the middle school. Lauren currently works at Fork Lane with grades K-2. She has served on the Curriculum Council, the Site-Based and Technology committees, and is the head coach for the junior varsity girls lacrosse team. As a second-time honoree, Lauren is grateful for this esteemed distinction and is blessed to be part of this wonderful Hicksville family. One of her favorite quotes is, "Teachers who love teaching, teach children to love learning." She is passionate about teaching and wants to instill in children a love of learning. Lauren lives in Massapequa with her husband, Nicholas.



HEATHER
HOCK

Heather Hock: Heather resides in Hicksville with her son, Landon, and is vice president of the Fork Lane PTA. She has chaired various committees from 2016 to the present, including Picture Day, School Supply Boxes, Staff Appreciation and Welcome Back to School. This first-time Founders Day honoree attended Fork Lane and is a Hicksville High School graduate. She holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Hofstra University and owns a private business in Mineola. "I am honored to be recognized this year," Heather said. "It is an absolute pleasure being part of the Fork Lane PTA. My hope is for the students to take lasting memories of their elementary school years with them as they continue their educational journey."



MICHELLE
IADEVAIA

Michelle Iadevaia: Michelle began her career as a permanent substitute, which led her to become a full-time teacher at Fork Lane. Since then, the first-time Founders Day honoree has sat on various committees, including Extended Day, Math Olympiads, Science Curriculum Council and Summer School. Michelle holds a master's degree in literacy studies from Hofstra University and will be attending Hofstra in the fall to pursue her administrative degree. "I would like to thank my Fork Lane family for nominating me for this honor and thank my colleagues who have supported me during my first years of teaching," Michelle said. "My passion is teaching and I am thankful to the Hicksville community for making my passion a reality." Michelle loves to read and travel and is planning for her wedding in November.



RIVA
KAPLAN

Riva Kaplan: Riva has been a speech language therapist in Hicksville for 12 years and has provided speech language therapy at Dutch, East, Fork and the middle school. Throughout this time, she has participated in various school activities, including Books Alive, kindergarten orientation and summer school. Riva holds a master's degree in speech language pathology. As a first-time Founders Day honoree, Riva said, "I am truly honored and humbled to receive this recognition. I feel privileged to work with wonderful colleagues and parents at Fork Lane Elementary School. It means so much to me to be recognized for what I love to do, which is to inspire students to find their strengths so they reach their full potential." She lives in Plainview with her husband, Ira, and enjoys traveling, reading and spending time with her sons, Gregg and Jared.



NANCY
RUISI

Nancy Ruisi: Nancy started her career as a permanent substitute at Fork Lane in 1986 and has been teaching there ever since. She has served on various committees, including Curriculum Council, Math Olympiads and Site-Based, and as a PTA liaison. Nancy is the recipient of the prestigious PTA Honorary Life Membership Award and the Nassau County Math Teacher of the Year Award and is a second-time Founders Day honoree. She is also an adjunct professor at Adelphi University. "Teaching at Fork Lane has been the most rewarding experience," Nancy said. "My students and their families have truly touched my heart throughout the years. I am blessed to work with people I consider family in this wonderful community of Hicksville." Nancy and her husband, Salvatore, have twin daughters, Brittany and Jaime.



SHARON
STONE

Sharon Stone: Sharon has been a teacher assistant in the district for 15 years. For the last four years she has worked in self-contained classrooms, which she finds very rewarding. Sharon has been teaching herself sign language to help assist nonverbal students and finds hard work and repetition to be the key components for each individual child's success. This is Sharon's first time being honored, and she said, "Thank you to my Fork Lane family for this wonderful honor. I feel privileged to work with such great colleagues." Sharon holds a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation from St. Joseph's College and loves spending time with family, going to the beach and working out. She lives with her husband, Eric, and children, Brian, Emily and Kevin.

LEE AVENUE *Elementary School*



KRISTINE
MCALLISTER

Kristine McAllister: Kristine has been a teacher at Lee Avenue since 2013, having already taught AIS and second, fourth and fifth grades. She has also served as a lead teacher in the Extended Day Program, sat on the Response to Intervention Committee and serves as a co-adviser of Student Council. Kristine holds a bachelor's degree in childhood education and a master's degree in literacy, both from LIU Post. The first-time Founders Day honoree appreciates the acknowledgement of her dedication to her students and all of her hard work. "It is truly an honor to be recognized at the Founders Day celebration," Kristine said. "I want to express my sincerest gratitude to the PTA and my Lee Avenue colleagues." Kristine and her husband, Lance, have twin daughters, Avery and Liv.



JOANNE
MCDONOUGH

Joanne McDonough: Joanne has been a district employee for the past six years, currently serving as a computer teaching assistant who is beloved by her students. This first-time Founders Day honoree previously served a year as a special education teaching assistant in the first-grade classroom. "I thoroughly enjoy working with the staff and students at Lee," Joanne said. "I am truly honored to be recognized on Founders Day." Joanne lives in Plainedge with her husband, Robert, and their four children. She is happy to be a part of the Lee Avenue family.

LEE AVENUE *Elementary School* (continued)



DIANE
PRAMBERGER

Diane Pramberger: Diane has sat on various committees from 2012 to the present, including Back to School Picnic, Father-Daughter Dance, Mother-Son Event and Movie Events. She is corresponding secretary for 2018-19. Diane holds a master's degree in reading from St. John's University and is a reading teacher at James H. Boyd Intermediate School in Elwood. "Thank you so much for this wonderful honor," Diane said. "I feel blessed to have made so many friends within my Lee Avenue family." Diane was raised in Queens and has lived in Hicksville for the past 13 years. She and her husband, Tom, have four children, Catherine, Christopher, Peter and Thomas.



JACK
REMINI

Jack Remini: Jack has been a district employee for almost nine years, having started his Hicksville career at Woodland School. After receiving two promotions, he is now the head custodian at Lee Avenue. Jack is a proud, first-time Founders Day honoree and remembers what his father always said: "You can't soar like an eagle if you fly with turkeys." Following this advice, Jack always tries to surround himself with good people. He loves spending time with close friends and enjoys good food. Jack and his wife, Kristen, have two sons, Jackie and Rocco.



SELEENA
SEEMANGAL

Seleena Seemangal: Seleena has served as vice president of the Lee Avenue PTA since 2017, yet she's been an active participant since 2011. The first-time Founders Day honoree was encouraged by her work with elementary children to pursue a career in teaching. She recently received her master's in education from Queens College and is now a certified teacher. "I am honored to be recognized - the excitement I see at the bake sales, the smiles at Lee Day or the joy I experience at our welcome back picnic is all the thanks I need," said Saleena, who has lived in Hicksville for 15 years with her husband and sons. Her eldest son attends the middle school, her middle two boys attend Lee Avenue and her youngest will start Lee in two years.



MARISSA
WILSON
PRESSLER

Marissa Wilson Pressler: Marissa has been with the district the past four years and began by working part time at Lee, Holy Family and Woodland. She served as a leave replacement before being hired as a full-time school psychologist, where she initially split time between Burns and Lee Avenue. This year, Marissa is full time at Lee Avenue and during her time here, the first-time Founders Day honoree has sat on various committees, including Extended Day, Response to Intervention, Safety Committee and Site-Based Committee. Marissa holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Adelphi University and a master's degree in school psychology from Queens College. She loves to read, snowboard and spend time with her family. "I am incredibly humbled and so very thankful for this honor!" Marissa said. "It is such a great feeling being nominated by my Lee Avenue family!" Marissa lives in Merrick with her husband, Tim, and their lovable dog, Brody.

OLD COUNTRY ROAD *Elementary School*



JADE
CRISTALES

Jade Cristales: Jade is a first-time Founders Day honoree. She has been active in Old Country Road School PTA, chairing committees such as Adventureland Fundraiser, Bingo, Fifth Grade and Winter Wonderland. Jade is always willing to help as class mom or at any event she can, such as Site-Based, school dances, talent show, kickline and baton, book fairs and whatever else may be going on at the school. Jade works as a full-time labor and delivery registered nurse. She has lived in Hicksville for 15 years with her husband, Doug, and three beautiful children, Ava, Douglas and Dylan. "You just do what needs to be done for the kids and never expect such an honor!" Jade said. "Thank you to everyone who nominated me."



TINA
ITHIER

Tina Ithier: Tina has been a teaching assistant at Old Country Road School for 20 years. During her time here, she helped bring History Night to life, co-created Dr. Seuss STEAM Night and is actively involved in creating exciting PARP themes. Tina works in the Special Education Summer School program and with grades 3-5 in the Extended Day program. Tina was also an assistant girl's lacrosse coach at the high school. This three-time Founders Day honoree is receiving her second recognition from Old Country Road; she was also recognized as a PTA member by Fork Lane School, where her four daughters attended and now her grandson attends. "It is an honor to be recognized by the parents and my peers at OCR with this award," Tina said. "My advice is 'Don't just fly, soar!'"



CHRISTINE
MOIR

Christine Moir: Chris is a two-time Founders Day recipient from Old Country Road School. While at the school, she created History Night and Dr. Seuss STEAM Night and participated on committees like PARP, Cultural Arts and others. Christine holds a master's degree from Adelphi University and earned her Student Development Administration degree from Long Island University. Chris also received the March of Dimes Golden Apple Award and the Hicksville Scholars Honored Teacher Award, and the We Make a Difference and Lifetime Membership awards from the Plainedge School District, where her two sons, Robert and Nicholas, attended. Chris has lived in Massapequa for the past 22 years with her husband, Bill, and her sons. "It's an honor to receive such recognition for doing what I truly love to do!" she said.



KIM
RASPANTI

Kim Raspanti: Kim is a first-time Founders Day honoree who serves as PTA co-president. Kim has chaired many committees, including Dances, Districtwide Bingo, Future Comet Spirit Wear, LI Ducks Outing, Talent Show and Winter Wonderland. She has been a class mom and assisted on numerous committees. Kim works as a supervisor at an insurance company and is a lifetime resident of Hicksville. She attended Old Country Road and is a graduate of the high school and the Cultural Arts Center of Performing Arts for Dance. "I truly enjoy volunteering, trying new ideas and giving my all," said Kim, who is very appreciative to all who nominated her. "It's all about putting smiles on the kids' faces, which makes all the hard work seem easy."

WOODLAND *Elementary School*



GINA
BAADE

Gina Baade: Gina has served on the Woodland PTA since 2008. She has also served on various committees, including Book Fair, Dr. Seuss Day, Field Day, Holiday Boutique, Homecoming, PARP and Picture Day. The first-time Founders Day honoree is also a greeter at the Old Country Road School. "It is an honor to have people recognize all that I do," Gina said. "Especially when it's for the children." Gina has lived in Hicksville for the past 20 years with her husband, Tom, with whom she has three children, Amanda, Brandon and Melissa.



NANCY
NOWAK-REILLY

Nancy Nowak-Reilly: Nancy recently completed her 31st year as a teacher at Woodland School. This second-time honoree has been a first-grade teacher for most of her career and has served on many committees, including Curriculum Council, Safety and Site-Based. She holds a master's degree in early childhood education from Adelphi University and has also mentored and guided many new teachers at Woodland. Nancy enjoys learning about new and innovative concepts to bring into the classroom. "I am truly proud to be a 2019 Founders Day honoree!" Nancy said. "I am also very grateful and fortunate to be a part of the Woodland family." A lifelong resident of Levittown, she lives with her husband, Luke, of 30 years.



MARYELLEN
VASSALLO

MaryEllen Vassallo: MaryEllen has been involved with Woodland PTA since 2005. She previously was corresponding secretary and vice president and is PTA president for Woodland. She has served on countless committees, including Children's Activities, Dance, Founders Day, Reflections, and Ways and Means. "This is my first time being honored, and I am truly humbled," MaryEllen said. "It's an honor to be recognized. I love being a volunteer. I get paid in lots of smiles and thanks, and I have made a lot of amazing friends along the way." A lifelong resident of Hicksville, MaryEllen is married to her husband, Frank, with whom she has three daughters, Danielle, Frances and Hailey. She insists she could not do what she does without them.



VERONICA
VINIERATOS

Veronica Vinieratos: Veronica serves as a membership chair for the Woodland Avenue PTA and has sat on various committees, including Fall Festival, Halloween Dance, Penny Auction, Picture Day and Winter Wonderland, in addition to serving as a class mom. The first-time Founders Day honoree attended Fordham University and wears numerous hats on top of her PTA duties. She works as an office manager for a psychologist and as a membership coordinator for a financial publication and is a personal shopper with Shipt. Veronica is also a proud Girl Scout leader. "I feel so blessed and thankful to be recognized by my peers, for just being a mom and being able to help make memorable experiences for the kiddos every day," Veronica said. She is a seven-year Hicksville resident, along with her husband, Scott, and children, Ava and Evan.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



LAURIE
ALEXANDER

Laurie Alexander: Laurie, a two-time Founders Day honoree, has been a teacher in Hicksville for 22 years, as a high school science teacher for 19 years and at the middle school for three. She has been involved as a coach, class adviser, club adviser and mentor for new teachers. "Thank you for considering me for this honor," Laurie said. "I look forward to coming to work every day at the middle school. I am lucky to work in such a supportive environment with incredible colleagues and students that make me smile every day." Laurie credits the district with not only giving her a career she loves, but her husband, Glen Alexander, who also works at the middle school, and their two children, Matthew and Riley.



SUSAN
DOUCETTE
CLEARY

Susan Doucette Cleary: Susan has been involved with PTA for 11 years, having started her service at Woodland School, where she worked on numerous committees and held two board positions. She was honored by the Woodland PTA with Founders Day recognition in 2013 and with the prestigious Honorary Life award in 2017. Susan has continued her PTA involvement at the middle and the high school. She has served as a council delegate for the middle school and has chaired or assisted with many committees, including Courtyard Dance, Eighth-Grade Graduation Breakfast, Fundraising, Homecoming, Scholarships and Sixth-Grade Field Day, just to name a few. Susan has lived in Hicksville her entire life. She and her husband, Brian, are both Hicksville alumni. They have three children, Angela, Kaitlyn and Michael.



NORA
JENNINGS

Nora Jennings: Nora has been an active PTA member since 2010, starting at Dutch Lane School. She has helped out with various committees such as Bake Sale, Car Wash, Carnival, International Night, Penny Auctions and Talent Show, and has also been a class mom. Nora served as the corresponding secretary from 2014-2016 for the Dutch Lane PTA and is now the co-president of the Hicksville Middle School PTSA. This is her second time as a Founders Day honoree. "It's so special to be recognized," said Nora, who attended the High School of Art and Design in Manhattan, and joked, "When I grow up, I will be an artist." Nora has been a Hicksville resident for the last 18 years and lives with her husband, Jimmy, and their daughter, Teresa.



BERNADETTE
MASSA

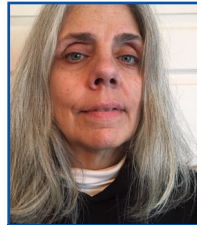
Bernadette Massa: Bernadette has been teaching sixth-grade math at the middle school for 23 years. A first-time honoree, she is being recognized for the parent-friendly focus of her teacher website. Bernadette holds an Ed.D. in instructional leadership from St. John's University and serves as a member of the District Secondary Technology Committee. She advises the sixth-grade Math Olympiad team. Bernadette also mentors student teachers and newly hired teachers and serves as an HCT building representative. "Thank you for this honor, it means a lot to me," Bernadette said. "I feel fortunate to be part of the middle school family." Bernadette likes to garden, ski and cheer for the Jets. She and her husband, Bill, live in New Hyde Park with their two sons.

MIDDLE SCHOOL *(continued)*



JAN
MATTHIESSEN

Jan Matthiessen: Jan has been the secretary to the middle school principal since 2001. She has enjoyed being both a PTA member and an employee of the Hicksville School District. Jan will finish her career this August, retiring after 20 years. She has received past Founders Day recognition from Old Country Road, the middle school and the high school. She has served on numerous committees and held numerous PTA board positions, including president at Old Country Road, the high school and PTA Council. "First off, I would like to thank the middle school PTSA for this honor," Jan said. "I was an active member of the Hicksville PTA for 17 years, and I know the importance of the PTAs." Jan is a lifetime resident of Hicksville, married to her husband, Chris. They have three daughters and seven grandchildren.



LINDA
SMITH

Linda Smith: Linda is a two-time Founders Day honoree and serves as co-president of the middle school PTSA. During the last three years at the middle school, Linda was a council delegate and helped at the Eighth-Grade Graduation Breakfast, Field Day, Teacher Appreciation and school dances. While at Old Country Road School, she served on various committees, including Special Persons Day, Movie Night and her favorite, Picture Day. Linda also served as council delegate and PTA president. "I don't volunteer to be recognized," Linda said. "I do it to see the smiles on my kids' faces when I'm at an event. Thank you all for this very special honor." She has lived in Hicksville for the last 21 years with her husband, John, and their children, Connor and Fiona.

HIGH SCHOOL



IRENE
CARLOMUSTO

Irene Carlomusto: Irene has been a PTA/PTSA member since 2000. She served as president at Burns, middle school, PTA Council and currently the high school. Since coming to the high school, she has chaired the Homecoming, Founders Day, Plant Sale and Scholarships committees, in addition to her involvement in many districtwide committees. Irene enjoys working hand-in-hand with high school staff and administration for the good of the student body and school community – always living by the words, "We do what we do for all the children – not just for our own!" Irene has received past Founders Day honors from Burns and the middle school and is also the recipient of the prestigious District Honorary Life and Golden Oak awards from PTA Council. Irene and her husband, Tom, have lived in Hicksville since 1992. They have three amazing girls, Jessica, Michelle and Nina.



MARYBETH
LOVERSO-
KACPRZYCKI

Marybeth LoVerso-Kacprzycki: Marybeth serves as recording secretary for the high school PTSA and has sat on various committees from 2006 to the present at Lee Avenue, the middle school and now the high school, including Audit and Budget, Council Delegate, Curriculum, Membership and Site-Based. The first-time Founders Day honoree attended Stony Brook University and has taught social studies at West Babylon High School for the past 27 years. "Thank you for this wonderful honor," Marybeth said. "I truly enjoy working on both sides of education, as a teacher and a parent, seeing all of the wonderful happenings in our district." Marybeth has lived in Hicksville for the past 26 years with her husband, Stanley, and their twins, Amy and Matthew, who are seniors.



LISA
NOWAKOSKI

Lisa Nowakoski: Lisa has taught physical education and health in the district for 15 years. This first-time Founders Day honoree has also coached numerous sports teams, sat on various committees, advised the Middle School Leaders Club and helped to implement many new health and wellness initiatives throughout the community. Lisa feels her most rewarding achievements as a teacher are the connections she makes with people on a daily basis. "I have the privilege of providing opportunities for students to explore their own health and well-being in a safe environment," Lisa said. "It is a responsibility I take very seriously, and that I am very grateful for. Thank you so much for this wonderful recognition." Lisa is married to her husband, Michael, and is mom to four beautiful children.



LISA
ROBERTACCIO

Lisa Robertaccio: Lisa has been involved in PTA for 18 years, and this is her fourth Founders Day honor. She began her PTA service at Woodland School, where she was twice honored on Founders Day and then later at the middle school, where she also received Founders Day recognition. Lisa is also the recipient of the prestigious Honorary Life award from Woodland. Lisa enjoys being involved and helping out with whatever needs to be done. She serves as vice president of SEPTA as well as PTA Council treasurer. She has chaired numerous committees through the years and has sat on the Shared-Decision Committee. Her eldest son is a senior at Oswego University and her younger son is a freshman at Utica College. Her daughter is a freshman at the high school. Lisa's motto is to "treat people the way you want to be treated and to always say thank you."



MICHELLE
SHMUEL

Michelle Shmuel: Michelle has served as choral director at the high school for the last eight years. The first-time Founders Day honoree has volunteered for various committees, been the student nominee for Teacher of the Year and has prepared ensembles for numerous district and community events through the years. Michelle is also a member and president of the professional choral ensemble eVoco Voice Collective. In her spare time, she loves to perform, spend time with her family and partake in needlepoint. "Working in Hicksville has given me the opportunity to share my passion for the performing arts with the younger generation," Michelle said. "I hope the love I share for the arts and self-expression travels with my students for years to come!" Michelle lives in Farmingdale with her husband, Jonathan, and their dog Coda.



RAY
WILLIAMS

Ray Williams: Ray has been the High School Principal for the past six years. "A combination of wonderful opportunities led me to seek the principal position in Hicksville," said Ray, citing a diverse community that supports its schools, the commitment of the fine teaching staff and the opportunities for future growth. Ray sits on various committees throughout the district, including Curriculum Council, PBIS, Safety and Site-Based. One of his proudest achievements has been the introduction of the BOCES CNA class at the high school to meet the needs of a wide range of students through hands-on learning experiences, including BOCES vocational training. He is also proud of taking the graduation rate from 87 percent to over 90 percent and orchestrating the full-day visitation of Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor to interact with and inspire students. This first-time Founder's Day honoree said, "To be honored by the community is certainly a point of distinct pride." Ray has a wife, Chivonne, two daughters, Ezilyia (Zee) and Sydney, and a son Shane.

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SEPTA



**PATRICK
ALLGIER**

Patrick Allgier:

Patrick has worked in the district for a little over three years, having taught eighth-grade special education and co-taught social studies. This year, he has moved into the high school to teach more self-contained social studies classes in grades 10 and 11. Patrick is a

middle school boys track coach in the spring and a boys varsity swimming coach during the winter. He is also a member of the Secondary Technology Committee. "This truly is an honor to be recognized by SEPTA, and I am truly proud to be a member of the middle school and high school families," said Patrick, who lives in Rockville Centre with his wife, Brianne. They recently had their first child.

Kelly Bocchicchio:

Kelly joined the Hicksville School District in 1995 as a social worker. She took time away to raise her children before returning in 2008. Kelly works at the high school and serves as co-adviser for the Natural Helpers Club and co-chairperson for the PBIS Committee, and is a member of the Alternate School Committee. She received her master's degree from Adelphi University. "No one can get through life alone," said Kelly, who is grateful to SEPTA and feels blessed to be part of the Hicksville School District family. "It's all about teamwork." Kelly thanks her husband, Rich, and their children, Jenny, Patrick and Paul, for their love and support throughout the years.



**KELLY
BOCCHICCHIO**

Brenda Telesky:

Brenda is a fourth-time Founders Day recipient who volunteers as the SEPTA treasurer. Through the years, she served as president and treasurer at Dutch Lane PTA, in addition to treasurer at the middle school and high school PTAs and for PTA Council. Brenda has volunteered on countless committees for the PTAs and Council, including Homecoming, Penny Auctions and SEPTA's Personal Achievement Awards. She is a graduate of the high school and Hofstra University and works as a Medicaid coordination supervisor. "Thank you so much for giving me such an honor," Brenda said. "I shall cherish this for the rest of my life and continue to volunteer because, in the end, it's all for the children." Brenda lives with her husband, John, and their two children, Kayla and Kyle.



**BRENDA
TELESKY**

A TRADITION OF DEDICATION

More than 60 Years of Founders Day Honorees...

Christine Weih	2019	Terrie Perkowski	2003	Patricia Rooney	1987	John McGovern	1971
Susan Strauss	2018	Mike Dunn	2002	Gerald Klein	1986	Felice Stein	1970
Brenda Judson	2017	Rosemary Planz	2001	Arlene Rudin	1985	Marge Giannelli	1969
Dave Bell	2016	Stephen Aronowitz	2000	William Becker	1984	Marion Coffey	1968
William McKee	2015	Pat Love	1999	Nancy Staron	1983	Kathy Janca	1967
Effie Rafaelides	2014	Rose Walker	1998	Lorraine Losche	1982	Geraldine McManus	1967
Janice Fitzgerald	2013	Leslie Mann	1997	William Feigin	1981	Mary Raffa	1966
Carol Foran	2012	Nancy Callari	1996	Dr. Frederick Hill	1980	Louis Millevolte	1965
Dolores Garger	2011	Peggy Theis	1995	Barbara Smith	1979	Donald Abt	1964
Susan Powell	2010	Robert Durso	1994	Shirley Smith	1978	William O'Donnell	1963
Maureen K. Bright	2009	Nancy DeSorbo	1993	Norma Dagna	1977	Mrs. Oliver Foran	1962
Patty Angenbroich	2008	Richard Hogan	1992	Richard Evers	1976	Mrs. M. Polsenski	1961
Donna Clark	2007	Norma Goerke	1991	Muriel Schwartz	1975	Leon Galloway	1960
Nancy Rooney	2006	Terry Moehringer	1990	Lou Penque	1974	Bernard Braun	1959
Deirdre K. Ryan	2005	Charles Wayne	1989	Grace Cranmer	1973	Mrs. Harry Glecker	1958
Marianne Litzman	2004	Carol Marks	1988	Neil McCormack	1972	Mrs. Clinton Foster	1957
						Dr. Erie LeBarron	1956