

# The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

## A Message from Your

### COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The PTA is a volunteer organization that promotes the partnership between families and the teachers, administrators and staff in our Hicksville community, and each year our district gathers as one to recognize everything we have accomplished by working together.

Founders Day unites us as we affirm our dedication to what more than 2,000 parents, teachers and legislators did in Washington, D.C., over 120 years ago to better the lives of children. Alice McLellan Birnery, Selena Sloan Butler and Phoebe Apperson Hearst, the founders of PTA, realized that whether as a parent, a teacher, an administrator or even a community member, that by working together, we can make a difference in every student's life and future. And with the COVID-19 pandemic still impacting school systems, cross-sectoral partnerships like ours have become critically important. So, now more than ever, we know that this commitment and collaborative work is vital to our children's success.

As we celebrate 125 years of New York State PTA as a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child, our Hicksville PTAs couldn't imagine this longstanding tradition without the commitment and dedication of our volunteers. And at our 69th celebration at Crest Hollow, we continue to recognize the dedication and commitment of all our members who have given their time and energy to our Hicksville children. Thank you for all that you do, and congratulations to all our incredible and well-deserving honorees.

This year's District Honored Guest has surpassed this level of dedication not only to our students, but also to our staff and the entire Hicksville community, so it is with sincere appreciation and much gratitude that we congratulate Gail Hunker, RN, as our 2022 District Honored Guest. Gail has been a valuable asset in our district for over 20 years, raised her four children here and only moved to downsize just recently. She is a loving grandmother of six and enjoys many hobbies outside of work. Gail has been devoted to keeping our school community healthy, and most recently, in 2020, became the district's COVID-19 coordinator. Gail serves on two districtwide committees, Safety and Policy, and her dedication to her responsibilities shines through in all she does, whether in a school building, on the phone or at the Aquatic Center testing site. Whether you have reached out to Gail as a parent or as a staff member, you are always greeted with a smile, compassion and a wealth of knowledge, and for these reasons, we again congratulate Gail and thank her for all she does for our Hicksville school community!

Along with Gail, we will be honoring the many individuals throughout the district whose service goes above and beyond expectations, and has earned them the distinction of a Founders Day honoree from their respective PTA units. I am both honored and proud to be your Hicksville Council of PTAs president and to be a part of this great community. Your dedication to our children, school and community is to be commended. Again, congratulations to all our 2022 Founders Day Honorees!

All the best,  
Erin Guida

## Introducing...the 2022

### PTA FOUNDERS DAY HONOREES

#### BURNS AVENUE

Barbara Ann Frey  
Jennifer Griffith  
Tina Rufo  
Kelly Siracusano

#### DUTCH LANE

Adria Bedell  
Lisa Calderera  
Leigh Phillips  
Janine Rossi

#### EAST STREET SCHOOL

Catherine Carey  
Karen Deady  
Michelle Edwards  
Maria Varthis

#### FORK LANE

Nikko Callender  
Barbara Leader  
Edward Rodriguez  
Blair Stack

#### LEE AVENUE

Richard Enderle  
John Fitzsimons  
Christina Marconi  
Jason Martinoff  
Ramona Ramsaran

#### OLD COUNTRY ROAD

Danielle Baker  
Ralph Isernia  
Patti Korenshtein  
Dina Pinder  
Joann Roman

#### WOODLAND

Yola Baran  
Megan Callahan  
Lisa Dawber  
Stephen Viola  
Joan Welsh

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

Laura Cataldo  
Erin Guida  
Josh Morrow  
Carolyn Pinto  
Craig Stueber  
Brian Vollmer

#### HIGH SCHOOL

Matthew Canty  
Jennifer DeTomaso  
Donna Kelly  
Elissa Shapiro  
Courtney Wall-Hance

#### SEPTA

Stephanie Granberg  
Linda Imbriale

*Congratulations to all our honorees!!!*

## SPECIAL DISTINCTION

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

# District Honored Guest

Hicksville Middle School nurse Gail Hunker, RN, has been a valuable member of the district for more than two decades. She says it has been a privilege to care for students, staff and families, and she is appreciative of the recognition of being selected as a districtwide honoree. Gail has served as a nurse coordinator for eight years, CPR instructor for four years and COVID-19 coordinator for two years and has also served the district's Safety and Policy committees. In addition, she

has chaperoned school trips and dances at the Middle School and athletic events at the Middle and High School. When not in school, she enjoys yoga, walking, hiking, golfing, traveling, swimming, paddle boarding and spending time with family and friends. Gail lived in Hicksville for 38 years and recently moved to downsize. She has four children and six grandchildren. She holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from Adelphi University and received training at St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing in New



**GAIL HUNKER**

York City. Gail says nursing has been a wonderful career as it has allowed her to blend her love of education and nursing within the school district.

## BURNS AVENUE *Elementary School*



**BARBARA ANN  
FREY**

Barbara Ann Frey is a lifelong Hicksville resident and has been a district employee for the past 20 years, first as a computer teaching assistant at Fork Lane and now as a secretary at Burns Ave. "It is truly a great honor to be recognized for the second time by the PTA," she said. "Growing up in Hicksville and raising my children through Hicksville Schools has given me a great sense of perspective, pride and commitment. I truly believe that every child can

achieve and accomplish their dreams, and I am so pleased to be part of a wonderful learning environment supporting both students and teachers and enjoying the daily interactions with students when they visit the main office." Barbara and her husband Wayne reside in Hicksville and are very proud of their two grown children, Kyle, who has a career in the music business, and Kimberly, who works in the medical field and is the proud mom of a 2-year-old boy. Barbara enjoys her spare time researching genealogy, crocheting and spending time with family, especially her 2-year-old grandson.



**JENNIFER  
GRIFFITH**

Jennifer is a married mother of two daughters, Lily, 11, and Hannah, 3. Jennifer and her husband, George, moved to Hicksville while she was finishing her master's in social work at Fordham University. She is working full time as a licensed clinical social worker at a local hospital. Jennifer has been a member of the Burns Avenue PTA for the past six years, taking on roles such as council delegate and committee chair for Children's Activities, coordinating numerous events that fall under that committee. She helped bring the New York Islanders to a school assembly program with their mascot Sparky on a visit to Burns Avenue. She also coordinated a card drive to thank health care workers during the pandemic; the cards were delivered to the COVID-19 unit hospital staff. Jennifer is serving as co-president of Burns Avenue PTA and has always made the effort to be an involved parent willing to lend a helping hand to our school.



**TINA  
RUFO**

Tina is a mother of two, English teacher and Burns Avenue cheerleader. She's always willing to volunteer her resources and time to help the students and staff. Whether it is volunteering time at the book fair or helping contribute to the teacher appreciation, she has been an active member of the PTA since her son's first day of kindergarten.



**KELLY  
SIRACUSANO**

Kelly has been a fourth grade teacher at Burns Avenue Elementary School for the past six years. Before being hired as a full-time teacher, she worked as a permanent substitute at Burns Avenue and a leave replacement at Old Country Road and Burns Avenue elementary schools. Kelly lives in Commack with her new husband, Joe. "I am so honored to be working in this wonderful district and honored by this recognition," she said. "I hope that I can make the same impact on the children as teachers have done for me in the past that led me to this rewarding and fulfilling career."

# DUTCH LANE *Elementary School*



**ADRIA  
BEDELL**

Adria has been a member of the Dutch Lane PTA since 2016. She has served as council delegate at Dutch Lane and is currently its treasurer. She has helped on various committees, such as Class Mom, Penny Auction, Homecoming and the Holiday Boutique. "I do what I do for the children," she said. "It makes me happy to see their smiling faces. It is truly an honor to be recognized and appreciated by my friends and peers. I am an office controller for a property management company where I have worked for the past 18 years. I moved back to Hicksville into my childhood home in 2001 and I have raised my three sons, Adam, Aidan and Austin, here."



**LISA  
CALDERERA**

Lisa has been working in Hicksville at Dutch Lane Elementary School for 17 years. She has worked in a variety of classrooms ranging from pre-K to grade 5, as well as our special education and summer program. She currently works as a full-time teaching assistant in our pre-K program. She graduated from Stony Brook University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and has lived in Hicksville for 30 years, with her husband Sal and their two daughters, Alyssa and Rachel. "I love being a teaching assistant as well as being a part of the Dutch Lane family," she said. "It is so rewarding to come to work every day and have a positive impact in a child's life. It is a joy to help the children grow academically, socially and emotionally. It is my first time being honored as a Founder's Day recipient. Thank you so much to the Dutch Lane PTA, my colleagues and the parents of our school for selecting me for this prestigious honor."



**LEIGH  
PHILLIPS**

Leigh has been an elementary special education teacher in the district for the past nine years. She began her career in Hicksville as a leave replacement teacher at Burns Avenue and Old Country Road. Leigh has also taught at Fork Lane and has been teaching at Dutch Lane for the past four years. The first-time Founder's Day honoree has worked with students on every elementary grade level, both as an integrated co-teacher and special class teacher. She holds a Master of Science in childhood special education from Adelphi University and a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Salisbury University. She has served on the Finance Committee and currently sits on the District Wide Professional Development Committee as well as the Building Level Health and Safety Committee. When not teaching, Leigh enjoys spending time with her five nieces and nephews, reading, cooking, baking and running. "It is such an amazing honor to be recognized at this year's Founder's Day celebration," she said. "It is a privilege to be part of such an amazing school. I love working with all of the students and being a part of the Dutch Lane family!"



**JANINE  
ROSSI**

Janine began her career in education in 1996 as a teaching assistant and spent many years teaching fifth grade. She was an assistant principal for 13 years before becoming the principal of Dutch Lane School in 2018. She is a member of Hicksville's Mental Health Coalition and the NYSSA Focused Intervention Team. Janine stated, "I feel so fortunate to receive this honor. From my first day at Dutch Lane, it has felt like home. I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Hicksville community to help all of our children meet with success." Janine holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from SUNY Geneseo, a master's degree in special education from Hofstra University and a postgraduate degree in school district administration from Stony Brook University. Janine lives in North Merrick with her husband, Greg, and her two sons, Jackson and Ryan.

# EAST STREET *Elementary School*



**CATHERINE  
CAREY**

Catherine has taught fifth grade in the Hicksville School District for the past 20 years. She spent seven years as part of the Dutch Lane family and the past 13 years with the East Street family. She loves to support the PTA in as many ways as possible because they do so much for the children. For several years she has helped with the fifth grade volleyball fundraiser. She works closely with the PTA for many fifth grade end-of-the-year activities such as yearbook and graduation. Catherine is a member of the district's Curriculum Council and has participated in numerous committees over the years. "As a first-time Founder's Day recipient, I am so honored to be recognized," she said. "Spending my day with young minds has always been my passion and my reward." Catherine enjoys spending her free time boating and soaking in the sun and saltwater air with her husband, John, and their two children, Andrew and Emilie.



**KAREN  
DEADY**

Karen has been a teaching assistant for 16 years at East Street School. Karen and her husband Billy are proud parents of William, Jonathan and Sean, who have graduated from the Hicksville School District. She is very thankful for this nomination. She was also nominated in 2008 by Dutch Lane School. "I'm honored to be working with truly exceptional teachers and staff [at East Street]," she said. "I am very fortunate to be working at a very rewarding job. It's so wonderful to see the progress of the students as time goes by."



**MICHELLE  
EDWARDS**

Michelle has lived in Hicksville since 2008 with her husband of 10 years, Steve, and their son, Chase. Michelle has been involved in the East Street PTA since 2019 and has been an amazing team member. Michelle exemplifies teamwork and creativity, always ensuring that the PTA events are fun and wonderful experiences for the children, staff and their families. While being a member of many committees, her favorite is planning the events for Halloween followed by the planning of the end-of-the-year holiday celebrations. Michelle has been a teacher's assistant at a nursery school and a lunch monitor at Levittown. Michelle believes everything happens for a reason and enjoys spending time with her friends and family. When she's not dedicating her time to the children of East Street, she loves to go to Disney and loves animals.



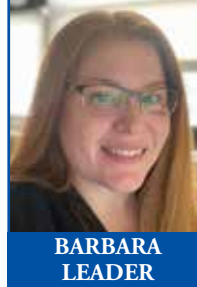
**MARIA  
VARTHIS**

Maria has chaired kickline for three years and is also chairing fifth grade this year. She is honored to be recognized for Founder's Day. Maria is so happy to be able to help fundraise for the fifth graders at East Street so they can have a memorable year! Maria is married with three girls, twin daughters, Christina and Emily in third grade and Evangelia in fifth grade. She was born and raised in Astoria, New York, and has been in Hicksville for 15 years. Maria has a bachelor's degree in biology from Hofstra University and a Master of Science degree in clinical nutrition from NYIT. Maria has been a registered dietitian for the last 15 years and has worked in several nursing homes on Long Island, as well as Long Island Jewish Medical Center. She is currently a physician educator for a pharmaceutical company, QOL Medical.

# FORK LANE *Elementary School*



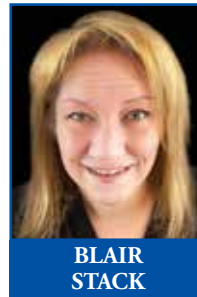
Nikko has worked as a computer TA for his Fork Lane family since 2017. Not only does he help solve technology issues for students and staff, but helps out in the classrooms whenever he is needed. Some of his favorite Fork Lane memories include helping kids with the tug-of-war at field day and having kids chase him around the playground during recess to keep them active. "This honor is special and extremely humbling because the people in this school mean a lot to me," he said. "I love being able to help everyone in the Fork Lane family, from students to staff to parents, even without the recognition." When not bringing smiles to faces in the halls at Fork Lane, this Baldwin resident coaches basketball at Queens College and lives his life according to the Golden Rule.



Barbara has been involved in the Fork Lane PTA for three years, serving as a council delegate and corresponding secretary. She has also chaired or helped with various fundraisers and events (such as Pre-K Orientation, Homecoming and Family Fun Night), has been a Class Mom for five years and is currently a co-chair for the Fifth Grade Class of 2022. When not working as a registered nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital, Barbara is working towards completing her bachelor's degree and even makes time to serve as a Girl Scout troop leader. "I'm honored to be recognized and enjoy working with the wonderful children, staff and parents at Fork Lane," said the first-time honoree. Barbara has lived in Hicksville since 2008 with her husband, Mike, and their two daughters, Julianna and Alexa.

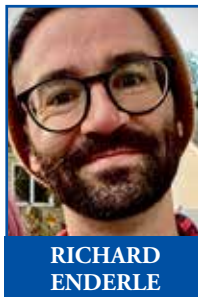


Edward has been working at Fork Lane for the past four years as an evening cleaner. Throughout the past year, during the pandemic, Edward would always be willing and available to work long hours into the morning to ensure the school was properly disinfected and all safety protocols followed for the start of school the next day. On top of his daily duties, Edward is always willing to go above and beyond to help the PTA for evening events, either by setting up tables or banners or just letting them know he is available if needed. "As an evening cleaner a lot of my work is behind the scenes, so it is a great honor to be recognized at the Founder's Day celebration by such great PTA members, faculty, families and students at Fork Lane," he said. Edward lives in Levittown with his wife, Giselle, and daughters, Victoria and Joanna.



Blair has been a member of the Fork Lane PTA for five years. She has previously served as corresponding secretary and is currently a council delegate. She has chaired the Field Day and Scholarship committees and assisted with many others. This proud, stay-at-home mom has also made time to serve as class parent at Fork Lane and Dutch Lane and as a parent member on various hiring committees for the district. "I would like to share this honor with the 5th grade PTA parents who have worked so hard through a pandemic to encourage our amazing graduates to persevere and harness their inner strength so they may continue to thrive in their education," she said. Blair lives with her husband, David, and their four children: Declan, 10; Braedan, 8; Raegan, 6; and Cavan, 4.

# LEE AVENUE *Elementary School*



Richard has taught orchestra at Lee Avenue and Fork Lane for the past five years. He holds music education degrees from Hofstra University and Stony Brook University. Richard has the unique honor of teaching in the same school that he attended as a student (Lee Avenue Class of 2001). Richard continues to grow the orchestra program every year and frequently has students selected for the All-County and Long Island String Festival orchestras. In his spare time, Richard plays upright and electric bass for multiple musical theaters on Long Island and runs a successful private lesson studio. Richard lives with his wife, Cortney, and his two children, Elliott and Nolan. "I am thankful to be surrounded by enthusiastic young musicians every day in a district that truly values the fine and performing arts," he said. "I couldn't be more fortunate to have a career that brings such joy and happiness to my students." He thanks his entire family as well as the Hicksville music community for the constant support through the years.



John has been a cleaner for Hicksville Schools for the past nine years. Seven of those years have been spent working at Lee Avenue School. This is John's second nomination. The two-time honoree said, "It's an absolute honor to be nominated by Lee Avenue School again. I am truly grateful to be able to work amongst a wonderful group of people." When not at work John enjoys spending time with his wife, Angela, and his son, Jameson.



Christina has been a teacher in Hicksville since 2016. She began her career at Fork Lane, where she taught second and third grade. Now, she is a teacher at Lee Avenue, where she has taught third, fourth and fifth grade. This first-time Founder's Day nominee sat as a member of various committees and programs, including Cadre of the Willing, Curriculum Council and Data Wise. Christina has also been a part of the extended-day program and served as a curriculum writer for elementary social studies. She also serves as a co-adviser for Student Council. In 2018, Christina was recognized as Nassau County Teacher of the Year when a student nominated her in a local contest. She graduated from SUNY Geneseo with a bachelor's degree in education and special education and a master's degree in reading and literacy. She is grateful for this esteemed distinction and is blessed to be part of the wonderful Hicksville community. "It is an honor to be recognized at the Founder's Day celebration," Christina said. "I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the PTA and my colleagues at Lee Avenue."

# LEE AVENUE *Elementary School* (continued)



**JASON  
MARTINOFF**

Jason has been a resident of Hicksville since 2010. He began his involvement with the Lee Avenue PTA during his daughter Sophia's kindergarten year. Jason has served as a council delegate and treasurer and is currently in his second year as vice president. Jason has chaired Homecoming, Picture Day and various other fundraisers while also volunteering at many others. Jason is in his 19th year as a police officer with the City of New York. He has been married to Jean since 2006 and enjoys most when they are volunteering together. Sophia is now in middle school and their boys, Henry and Colin, are in fourth and second grade at Lee, respectively. Jason is happiest with his family and standing in a crowd listening to live music. He is very grateful.



**RAMONA  
RAMSARAN**

Ramona moved to Hicksville in 2002 from Montreal, Canada. She has held the position of council delegate and corresponding secretary in the Lee Avenue PTA Board. She had been a teacher's assistant for several years until recently. Her favorite thing has been being class mom over the years for her son Mason's classes and volunteering for many special events at school. "Thank you for this special honor and award," she said. "It has been a privilege to volunteer my time at Lee Avenue, my favorite being the book fairs. I have been fortunate to work with amazing parents and teachers through the years."

# OLD COUNTRY ROAD *Elementary School*



**DANIELLE  
BAKER**

Danielle began teaching in Hicksville in September of 1999 and feels truly honored to be recognized by the PTA this year. She has worked with students in grades K, 1, 2, 3 and 4 at both Burns Avenue and Old Country Road elementary schools. Danielle is loving her role as a kindergarten teacher at Old Country Road where every day brings a new adventure. She was previously honored while teaching at Burns Avenue School, and she feels blessed to have worked with so many inspirational colleagues. Danielle has been proudly married to her high school sweetheart, Paul, for almost 25 years. They have three amazing children who keep them busier than they ever imagined. Sarah is 15,

Samantha is 10 and Jacob just turned 8. Throughout her time in Hicksville, Danielle has volunteered to serve on many committees designed to enhance instruction and student performance. She is currently part of the committee that will be responsible for selecting a new elementary reading program for the K-2 students throughout the district. When she is not teaching or cheering for her children on the sidelines, Danielle loves to read, hike and bike ride.



**RALPH  
INSERNIA**

Ralph has been working at Old Country Road for the past five years. He greets everyone with a smile and a joke and has made wonderful connections with all the students, their families and the staff. Ralph helps create a safe and comfortable environment for all.



**PATTI  
KORENSHTEIN**

Patti has been teaching in Hicksville for 29 years. She began her career at Woodland, and then off to Old Country Road to teach half-day kindergarten for two years. She then took over a fifth grade position and has been in Room 147 with her Old Country Road family ever since. Patti has formed everlasting relationships with parents who worked on the Fifth Grade Committee, endlessly making the final year in the building extra special. She recently told a parent that although it is lovely to receive honors such as these, her greatest pleasure is seeing former students succeeding in what they love! Patti was honored early on in her career, and is humbled that as it is nearing its end, she gets to stand beside all these incredible nominees once more. She is grateful, blessed and thanks all of her fifth graders for teaching her so much!



**JOANN  
ROMAN**

Joann was raised in Hicksville and is also an alumna. She is a mother of three; her eldest son graduated from Hicksville High School, her daughter is a freshman at Hicksville High School and her youngest son will be graduating Old Country Road Elementary School this year. Joann has been a PTA member for many years and chaired different events. She has enjoyed her job working with the special needs community for the past seven years. Joann loves to support her son's football team as the "Team Mom." It's her first time being honored for Founder's Day. "It's an honor to receive this award," she said. "It's been amazing working with parents and teachers from OCR school. I truly appreciate all the love and support given to my children, Branden, Ariana and Tyler."



**DINA  
PINDER**

Dina joined Old Country Road PTA when her daughter entered kindergarten six years ago. Since then she has served as co-president and recording secretary and is currently council delegate for Old Country Road and corresponding secretary for Council. Dina is also a member of the district's Communications Advisory Committee. She has been class parent five times and was part of several committees, including Baton, Book Fair, Clothing Drive, Founder's Day and 5th Grade. "It is an honor to be recognized by my Old Country Road family," she said. "I love volunteering at OCR and being able to give back to the children." This first-time Founder's Day honoree and Philadelphia native has lived in Hicksville for 14 years with her husband, John, and daughter, Amanda.

# WOODLAND *Elementary School*



**YOLA  
BARAN**

Yola moved to Hicksville when she was 8 years old. She attended Woodland and eventually graduated from Hicksville High School. Yola then attended Baruch College and graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing. She works full time as an executive assistant at NFP. Yola is married to Shawn Reilly and has four kids in total, with two of them enrolled in the Hicksville School District. Aidan is in third grade attending Woodland and Ava is a sophomore at Hicksville High School. Yola has been a member of the Woodland PTA for over 10 years. She has held many positions, including recording secretary, chairman of the Penny Auction, Woodland chair for Homecoming, 5th Grade treasurer, council delegate, and volunteers at numerous school events. She feels the best part of volunteering is knowing each event the PTA hosts adds a little excitement and experience to our children's lives. Yola is proud to be a part of the Woodland and Hicksville community. A quote that has been instrumental in Yola's life and is near and dear to her heart is "Work hard and be nice to people!"



**MEGAN  
CALLAHAN**

Megan is more than proud to receive this year's annual Founder's Day award from our wonderful PTA! She has been part of the Hicksville community throughout her entire life. She attended Dutch Lane School for kindergarten and first grade before transferring to Holy Family. She graduated from Holy Trinity High School in 1990. Megan then received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Binghamton University and her master's in elementary education from Hofstra. Shortly after graduating, she got her first teaching job at Woodland School. Twenty-seven years later, she is still here, and loves it today as much as she did when she started back in 1995. Megan is married to her high school sweetheart, Dan Callahan, and they have one son. Daniel is a senior at Holy Trinity and will be off to college in September. They currently live in East Meadow. However, Hicksville will always be her home away from home.



**LISA  
DAWBER**

Lisa is honored and privileged to be one of this year's Founder's Day honorees. Hicksville has been her home for many, many years. She grew up in Hicksville and attended Woodland School, Hicksville Middle School and Hicksville High School. Lisa has been teaching for 34 years, with 32 of them spent at Woodland. She attended Molloy College in 1984 and received her B.S. in biology and education N-6 in 1988. She then received her M.S. from Adelphi University. Lisa got married in 1989 and has two beautiful, adult children, Darrin and Sara. She also has an 11-month-old grandson, Brayden. Lisa has always been involved in the Hicksville community. Growing up right here where her education began has helped to make lasting relationships. Teaching at Woodland has allowed her to actually see the growth and achievements of so many students. The Woodland families and students all have a special place in her heart. Woodland has been her second home for her entire life and teaching there holds the best memories! She is so fortunate to be part of the fabric of Woodland and Hicksville Schools.



**STEPHEN  
VIOLA**

Steve has been an active member of the Woodland PTA since 2014. He is serving his second year on the Woodland PTA Board as treasurer and frequently volunteers on various committees, including Beautification, Trunk or Treat, Bake Sales, Graduation and others. Steve also volunteers with the Girl Scouts of Nassau County, where he has served as Troop Cookie Manager for his daughter's troop since 2016, and as the Hicksville SU Cookie Chair for the last three years. Steve is a 16-year resident of Hicksville, along with his wife, TJ, without whom none of this would be possible, and their two children, Garrett and Jillian. "I am truly humbled by this honor," he said. "It has always been about making the best for our children."



**JOAN  
WELSH**

Joan has worked in the Hicksville district for 27 years. She has been a nurse in Solomon Schechter School, East Street, St. Ignatius, Burns Avenue, Our Lady of Mercy and finally has found a home at Woodland Avenue. She holds a bachelor's degree from Adelphi University. "It is an extreme honor and incredible feeling to be recognized for all the things that nurses do every day," she said. In her spare time she enjoys reading, traveling and spending time with her family.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL



**LAURA  
CATALDO**

Laura has served as the recording secretary in the Hicksville Middle School PTA, has been a council delegate and currently serves as the PTA Council vice president. This second-time Founder's Day honoree is a Hicksville High School graduate. She teaches kindergarten and has been working at PS 131 in Jamaica Estates for the past 17 years. Laura lives in her childhood home with her husband, Billy, and three of their four sons, Ryan, Will and Paul, while John serves the U.S. Marine Corps as a military police officer in California.



**ERIN  
GUIDA**

Erin has served at three levels of PTA including her current positions of council delegate at the Middle School and the Council of PTAs president. She has sat on numerous PTA committees as well as numerous districtwide committees throughout her eight years in the district. The second-time honoree was recognized in 2017 by Old Country Road and said, "I am humbled and honored to receive this recognition. It means so much coming from a community where we all work together for the good of the kids." Erin holds a bachelor's degree in merchandising and design from the University of Cincinnati, works at Fork Lane as a greeter and sits on the Hicksville Library Board as the secretary. She lives in Hicksville with her husband, Brett, and their two children, Lincoln and Chloe.



**JOSH  
MORROW**

Josh has been teaching at Hicksville Middle School for 12 years. Although he has been teaching Algebra I for the past 10 years, he began his career in Hicksville teaching seventh grade math as well as working with sixth grade students over the years. Josh enjoys coaching the Middle School's boys cross-country team and seventh grade girls softball team, and has just begun coaching the boys varsity bowling team at the High School this year. He spent many summers working in the district's recreation program and has always enjoyed chaperoning the Middle School dances. He is very pleased to have received his first nomination as one of this year's Founder's Day honorees. Josh lives in Plainview with his wife, Rebecca, and 2-year old son, Ari.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL *(continued)*



**CAROLYN PINTO**

Carolyn is the co-vice president of the Middle School PTSA. She has been a member for three years and has been the chairperson of the Membership Committee and Founder's Day Committee. She has also served on the Scholarship Committee and several other committees. She has enjoyed helping the PTSA as they have figured out ways to support the students and faculty during these difficult times. Carolyn was honored by the Burns Avenue PTA with Founder's Day recognition in 2019. Carolyn and her husband both graduated from Burns Avenue, Hicksville Middle School and Hicksville High School. They are excited to watch their three children, Louis,

Daniel and Jeanette, grow up in the same community. Carolyn also works at East Street Elementary School as a teaching assistant. She is honored to be recognized for the second time and is grateful to have so many ways to support the community she loves. "Everything I do is really about the kids," she said. "I just want to see them happy. 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."



**CRAIG STUEBER**

Craig has been a part of the Hicksville School District for 22 years and has been teaching physical education at Hicksville Middle School for the past 21 years. During this time he has been involved in coaching football, winter track, girls basketball and

spring track at different levels. He is truly surprised and humbled to be nominated for this honor. Craig lives in West Islip with his wife, Bonnie, a physical education teacher at Hicksville High School, and their two sons, Aidan and Colin. In his spare time he enjoys fishing, paddle boarding and volunteering in the community.



**BRIAN VOLLMER**

Brian has had the pleasure of working as a band director in Hicksville since 2012 and at Hicksville Middle School since January of 2020. Aside from HMS, Brian has also spent time teaching at Woodland, East Street and Dutch Lane. Outside of the classroom Brian also has the pleasure of coaching the HMS girls cross-country and the HHS girls varsity track and field teams. This is Brian's second

time being honored at Founder's Day, having previously been honored in 2014 at Woodland Elementary School. "Hicksville is a beautiful, vibrant and diverse community that I've been privileged to help bring music to for almost a decade," he said. "Every day I am overjoyed to be a member of this community." When not at school Brian enjoys singing with the eVoco Voice Collective and hiking. He would like to thank his friends, family and colleagues for their continued support.

# HIGH SCHOOL



**MATTHEW CANTY**

Matthew has been a physical education and health teacher at Hicksville High School for six years. In addition to teaching health and physical education, Matthew coaches three varsity sports at Hicksville High School: varsity football, varsity gymnastics and varsity boys lacrosse. This is Matthew's first recognition for Founders Day. Matthew has been happily married for 2.5 years to Michelle and has a son, Carter. He loves his family very much and is extremely grateful for them. He would not be where he is now without the love and support from his wife, Michelle. Matthew's favorite Hicksville memory is coaching in the conference championship game last year for varsity boys lacrosse. "The atmosphere was incredible to be a part of, very exciting," he said. A quote that Matthew likes to live by is "Life's just too uncertain to have regrets." And a philosophy that he lives by is to do everything

to your fullest capability and always help others when you have the capability to do so. "It is a great honor and I feel a lot of pride in my nomination for Founder's Day," he said. "I am extremely proud to be a part of the Hicksville community and family. You have all been very kind and supportive throughout my tenure here at Hicksville High School. Thank you."



**JENNIFER DETOMASO**

Jennifer has been an English teacher at Hicksville High School for 15 years. She has taught every grade, but since her start in 2007, Jennifer has mainly taught ninth and 11th grade English. Jen has also been a co-teacher in the 11th grade Inclusion section for well over a decade and enjoys the collaborative and dynamic aspect of the classroom. Jen finds teaching these two grades the most formative: the ninth graders starting high school and the 11th graders preparing for the next steps in their lives post Hicksville. Regardless of the age, if asked what Jen's favorite part of teaching would be, she would answer the students' personalities and how each brings creativity, fun and laughter to her classes. In her time at Hicksville, Jen has been an 11th grade Class Adviser and helped lead Project Spotlight, which provided an opportunity for students to perform personal works on stage. She has participated in special committees toward the betterment of student involvement and learning and assisted in the writing of curriculum for the English department. Jennifer is a loving mom to two young boys, Nicholas and Joseph, who are her sweet and sassy joys! Being a mom and a teacher are her two favorite jobs! "It has been a pleasure and honor teaching here at the high school with such wonderful and dedicated faculty and staff; I look forward to the rest of my career at Hicksville."



**DONNA KELLY**

Donna graduated Hicksville High School in 1987, attended Nassau Community College and has a degree in business. She took a job in the beverage industry and says that's why she has so many friends. Donna has been married for 22 years to the same guy and they have one daughter that will graduate this year. She has never been nominated for this award before and is truly honored. Donna has always been a behind the scenes kind of person. She has been making baskets for many functions over the years, such as Homecoming, Penny Auctions, and the Wizard Game (she credited Annette for the amazing job putting it all together). She often thinks about all the parents that work so hard in their personal lives and do so much for our kids and this community. Donna's two favorite committees were being the Elf at Lee Ave and seeing the kids faces when they walked in with Frosty the Snowman. It was the best experience, and she will never forget it. The second one was when COVID-19 hit and the Hicksville High School was unable to

have their formal graduation. They decided to have a car parade and Mr. Williams personally came knocking on her door to ask if we could do it down Halsey Avenue. Donna told Mr. Williams, "I got it. Don't worry, it will be great." She then called all the neighbors and they all pitched in to help that day. To Donna's surprise Sue Ederle suggested a balloon arch. That morning the crew came over and the arch was made! Donna said that she didn't do that on her own, it takes a village, and we have a great one. The parade in her opinion was a success, and the faces of those kids that passed down the street is something she won't forget. Every child got a standing ovation for their accomplishments. The school did an amazing job. It was a great sense of people coming together for one objective, our kids.



**ELISSA SHAPIRO**

Elissa has been involved with the PTSA at the high school for many years dating back to 2014. In 2021 she was nominated and secured the co-president position on the Board. This is her first year on the High School Board but she's been involved in many committees at the High School level. She has chaired Membership for many years before becoming president. She was also involved over the years on Homecoming and Staff Appreciation committees, to name a few. Elissa has been recognized at all levels of PTA over the years, from elementary school when her children were in Dutch Lane and then again at the Middle School level when her son was in Middle School a few years back. Her favorite committee was the Book Fair; she chaired and ran them both on the elementary level and Middle School level and they were the most fun because she helped the children with all their purchases, and they were so excited to be able to buy their own books. It means a lot to be recognized for her volunteer work because she does it for the kids - all the kids. It makes her heart happy to be there for them. Elissa has been married to her husband, Rob, for 25 years. She has lived in Hicksville for 22 years and both of her children have gone through the Hicksville school district. Ilana is a 2017 graduate and Max will be in the Class of 2022. She is not a Hicksville graduate but just a town over in Levittown - Island Trees Class of 1988 and a SUNY Old Westbury graduate, 1993. She is a medical coordinator for Northwell House Calls and has been with the health system for just about 25 years also. "It is truly an honor to receive this award and to be part of such an amazing community," she said.



**COURTNEY WALL-HANCE**

Courtney has been teaching at Hicksville High School since 2004. She has taught both physical education and health at the High School and Middle School, and physical education districtwide. Courtney has written curriculum for Middle School Health, 10th grade Health and High School Dance. She has created and implemented physical education adaptations for the special-needs population of the district for the past six years and is presently working with students in seven of the nine schools within the district. She has been a part of the HS Teacher of the Year committee, HS Talent for the Troops committee, Wellness committee, NYSAA Focus Team, Caveat of the Willing and several interview committees, as well as coached both volleyball and lacrosse. She has mentored new teachers and worked with student teachers and observers. Courtney is happily married to her husband, David, since 2020. "Hicksville has become my home away from home," she said. "I am lucky to work with co-workers who have become my extended family and students who bring a smile to my face every day."

**BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

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# SEPTA



**STEPHANIE GRANBERG**

Stephanie is grateful to the Hicksville SEPTA Founder's Day Committee for the honor of being chosen this year. 2022 starts her 20th year as a special education teaching assistant. For the last 10 years, she has been working with the children of Dutch Lane. Previously, she worked with students at Woodland. Stephanie has also assisted in the Special Education Summer School program for several years. In the Hicksville community, she teaches sixth grade religion at Our Lady of Mercy School. She also tutors students after school. Stephanie has also held the position of education services supervisor for SCOPE and special education teacher at North Babylon High School. Stephanie and her husband, Vincent, have four wonderful children: Katie, Elizabeth, Shane and Martin. They also have three adorable grandchildren. Stephanie has resided in Hicksville most of her life. She is grateful to the teachers who have shared their classrooms and students with her. Stephanie hopes that her dedication and energy have had a positive impact.



**LINDA IMBRIALE**

Linda has been an active member of SEPTA for many years and is a first-time Founder's Day recipient. Through her involvement with SEPTA and many other special education organizations Linda has become a parent expert on the needs of our special education community. She is called upon, time and time again, to assist families struggling with understanding their rights to offer assistance and to help these families advocate for the needs of their children. Most recently, Linda was elected to the Hicksville School District Board of Education. As one of seven trustees Linda shares her special education expertise and passion for the needs of our Hicksville students and families advocating for change to strengthen services provided for these students and their families. She is viewed as the Board trustee who can be counted on to always look out for the needs of our special education community! Linda also serves as the Board of Education co-chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), where she has worked to develop a wide range of educational learning opportunities for parents and families throughout Hicksville. She is a passionate supporter of ensuring that ALL children receive the services they are entitled to, so they flourish into productive and happy adults. As Linda would say, "Our special education students deserve every opportunity to excel, and we as a school district must never lose sight of this." Linda has lived in Hicksville for the past 22 years with her husband, John, and two wonderful children, Emily and Michael.

## A TRADITION OF DEDICATION

### More than 60 Years of Founders Day Honorees...

<i>Catherine Temps</i>	2021	<i>Marianne Litzman</i>	2004	<i>Patricia Rooney</i>	1987	<i>Felice Stein</i>	1970
<i>Irene Carlomusto</i>	2020	<i>Terrie Perkowski</i>	2003	<i>Gerald Klein</i>	1986	<i>Marge Giannelli</i>	1969
<i>Christine Weih</i>	2019	<i>Mike Dunn</i>	2002	<i>Arlene Rudin</i>	1985	<i>Marion Coffey</i>	1968
<i>Susan Strauss</i>	2018	<i>Rosemary Planz</i>	2001	<i>William Becker</i>	1984	<i>Kathy Janca</i>	1967
<i>Brenda Judson</i>	2017	<i>Stephen Aronowitz</i>	2000	<i>Nancy Staron</i>	1983	<i>Geraldine McManus</i>	1967
<i>Dave Bell</i>	2016	<i>Pat Love</i>	1999	<i>Lorraine Losche</i>	1982	<i>Mary Raffa</i>	1966
<i>William McKee</i>	2015	<i>Rose Walker</i>	1998	<i>William Feigin</i>	1981	<i>Louis Millevolte</i>	1965
<i>Effie Rafaelides</i>	2014	<i>Leslie Mann</i>	1997	<i>Dr. Frederick Hill</i>	1980	<i>Donald Abt</i>	1964
<i>Janice Fitzgerald</i>	2013	<i>Nancy Callari</i>	1996	<i>Barbara Smith</i>	1979	<i>William O'Donnell</i>	1963
<i>Carol Foran</i>	2012	<i>Peggy Theis</i>	1995	<i>Shirley Smith</i>	1978	<i>Mrs. Oliver Foran</i>	1962
<i>Dolores Garger</i>	2011	<i>Robert Durso</i>	1994	<i>Norma Dagna</i>	1977	<i>Mrs. M. Polsenski</i>	1961
<i>Susan Powell</i>	2010	<i>Nancy DeSorbo</i>	1993	<i>Richard Evers</i>	1976	<i>Leon Galloway</i>	1960
<i>Maureen K. Bright</i>	2009	<i>Richard Hogan</i>	1992	<i>Muriel Schwartz</i>	1975	<i>Bernard Braun</i>	1959
<i>Patty Angenbroich</i>	2008	<i>Norma Goerke</i>	1991	<i>Lou Penque</i>	1974	<i>Mrs. Harry Glecker</i>	1958
<i>Donna Clark</i>	2007	<i>Terry Moebringer</i>	1990	<i>Grace Cranmer</i>	1973	<i>Mrs. Clinton Foster</i>	1957
<i>Nancy Rooney</i>	2006	<i>Charles Wayne</i>	1989	<i>Neil McCormack</i>	1972	<i>Dr. Erie LeBarron</i>	1956
<i>Deirdre K. Ryan</i>	2005	<i>Carol Marks</i>	1988	<i>John McGovern</i>	1971		