

**Bellmore-Merrick
Retired Teachers
Association**

HIGHLIGHTS

Volume 39

Issue 2

Winter 2022

Winter Meeting

Time: 1:00 PM

Date: Wed., March 9, 2022

Place: ZOOM

**Topic: *The Latest News from
Bellmore-Merrick***

**Speaker: *Rob Walsh
BMUST President***

F.Y.I.

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See you on Zoom!



**From the Desk
of the President**

February, 2022

Happy New Year! I wish you all a healthy, happy and peaceful new year.

It has been a challenging year to date with Covid cases, changing policies on mask mandates and frigid temps/snowstorms. I am trying not to get lost in the snowdrifts!

Our **March 9th** meeting will take place via Zoom at **1 PM**. **Rob Walsh**, President of BMUST, will conduct a Q and A, catching us up on the latest news in Bellmore-Merrick. Additionally, we will announce the new retirees of 2022. Lastly, it will give us an opportunity to see each other, even if it is virtual.

BMRTA OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES 2021-2022

President

Sharon Wisla

Vice-President

Sue Stamile

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Pat Riew

Recording Secretary

Ellen Johanson

Membership Chair

Jane Sanacora

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Sal Bommarito

Mike Dolber

Joan Kleinman

Jane Kline

Roberta Mohr

Sue Stamile

Ellen Weiss

Harvey Wiener

Sharon Wisla

I am hopeful that by our **May 25th** meeting, we will be able to meet in person and outdoors. It would be great to welcome the new retirees in person. It would be wonderful to actually see each other face to face.

As of now, the BMUST Dinner Dance as we know it will not take place this June 2022. However, BMUST is in the process of coming up with a plan to honor award winners as well as the new retirees. Congratulations to Joan Kleinman, who is the recipient of the 2022 Patricia Christy Outstanding Retiree Award!

Let's have a good turnout at our upcoming events. I look forward to seeing you then.

Sharon

To join ZOOM:

Use your newest phone, tablet, laptop or desktop where you can receive email.

Download the Zoom App from your App Store.

Open the email which includes the code.

Click the code.

Your electronic device will do the rest.

Then follow the directions on the page.



Heard Here and There

BMRTA celebrated the holidays with a virtual happy hour on Friday, December 10, 2021. Attendees shared news and good cheer. Please join us next time until we can meet in person.

Beginning January 18th, you can order free rapid COVID-19 test kits through the government at the following website:

www.covidtests.gov

A total of four test kits can be ordered per household.

Dr. Mara Bollettieri retired January 28. She was the assistant superintendent of BMCHSD.

Linda DeMott, Calhoun guidance secretary, retired January 28, 2022 after serving 51 years in the district. During her tenure, she also was the president of the clerical staff organization. She is married to Rich DeMott, retired Calhoun social studies teacher and coach. They plan to take advantage of their second home in Florida.

SAVE THE DATE: MESSAGE FROM THE MEPHAM CLASS OF 1971

W.C. Mephram Class of '71 Reunion is finally scheduled for:

Saturday, August 27, 2022,
6 pm-10 pm
Captain Bill's, Bay Shore, NY.

*If any of the **teachers** who were active during our years 1968-1971 and would like to attend, please contact Lois Walker at hilo33@aol.com*

Lois Walker
W.C. Mephram Class of 1971
323 314 2912



Pat Christy's CLIPS and SNIPS Winter 2022

Closing Unused Credit Card Accounts Hurts Your Credit Score. Did you know that closing credit cards - even ones that are rarely used — can actually lower your credit score? *Exceptions:* consider closing an unused card if it has a high annual fee and a low credit limit - that low limit means it probably isn't helping your credit-utilization ratio enough to justify the cost. And strongly consider cancelling any joint credit cards you have with your spouse if the relationship appears headed toward divorce.

Bottom Line Personal, December 1, 2021

A bit of Tomato Sauce When You Need It. Spoon the last bit of tomato sauce in the jar into ice cube trays and freeze. Keep the frozen cubes in a plastic bag in the freezer for the next time you need just a little.

Bottom Line Personal, November 1, 2021

How to find someone's email address: Start with a simple search. *Example:* Enter "Jane Doe" + "email" into a search engine. Using quotes tells the search engine to look for that specific phrase, rather than returning results for every single "Jane" and "Doe." Also try + "gmail.com" or + "hotmail.com" or another email provider to the search.

Bottom Line Personal, November 1, 2021

Tips for Raising Money Smart Kids. Suggestions for books on money and investing that would be appropriate for high school students include *How to Turn \$100 into \$1,000,000* by James McKenna and Jeannine Glista, and *The Motley Fool Investment Guide for Teens*, by David and Tom Gardner.

Kiplinger's Personal Finance, November 2021

Asking Difficult Decisions for Family Members. A family conversation in which you ask your aging loved one to declare who he/she wants to serve as power of attorney (POA) should take place early. Make sure the proper documents including all legal, medical and financial records are filled out and safely stored. If your loved one hasn't communicated who he/she wants as his/her POA, gently raise the topic by asking, *If there's a crisis, who would you like to legally represent you and follow your wishes?* The appointed decision-maker should then be given everyone's support.

Bottom Line Personal, November 15, 2021

Advanced Health Care Directive: This gives Power of Attorney (POA) to the person whom you want to make health-care decisions for you if you're unable to speak for yourself. Also called a Durable POA or a living will, it is signed when you are healthy and of sound mind. It guides doctors and family members on matters such as feeding tubes ventilators and other end-of-life treatments.

Bottom Line Personal, November 15, 2021

Don't ever click on these links! Stan received an email from the post office informing him that a package could not be delivered. The email instructed him to click on a link to arrange delivery. But when Stan clicked on the link, his computer was infected with a malicious virus!

Self-defense: Before clicking on any e-mail link, hover your cursor over it. Then look at the status bar at the bottom of your browser window — it will show the actual web address to which the link connects. If it looks fishy, don't click on it!

Also be aware that the US Postal service does not send out emails about missed deliveries. They only leave notices in your mailbox.

Bottom Line, Yearbook 2022

Avoid this costly IRA mistake. If you've inherited an IRA, the IRS makes it easy for you to consolidate your retirement accounts by rolling over the inherited IRA into your own IRA. *Caution:* The IRA only allows only one rollover in any 12 month period (not within a calendar year). If you rollover two IRAs within a year, the entire amount of the second rollover is treated as a fully taxable distribution. This applies to traditional and Roth IRAs, but it does not count with IRA rollovers to (k) accounts, nor from one 401(k) to another 401(k).

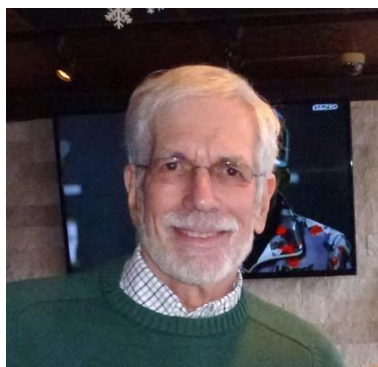
Bottom Line Personal, December 1, 2021

The Key to Living a Healthy and Happy Life? It's Not Money.

An impressive study has had surprising findings. *Close relationships, more than money or fame, are what keep people happy throughout their lives, the study revealed. Those ties protect people from life's discontents, help to delay mental and physical decline, and are better predictors of long and happy lives than social class, IQ, or even genes.* Quality relationships don't just determine happiness, but health, too. The study shows that at 50, the key determinant to health at 80, can be strong relationships, not just cholesterol or our genes or other health markers. Robert Waldinger, director of the study, psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital, and a professor at Harvard notes, *...loneliness kills. It's as powerful as smoking or alcoholism.*

During this winter season, take the time to make a quick phone call to a friend, hug a loved one, or join a local social media group.

Fool Wealth Weekly, December 30, 2021



Political Action News

Mike Dolber

I want to clearly state that some of the opinions in this piece are mine alone, and do not necessarily represent BMUST/BMRTA or any members.

It's an understatement to say that these are difficult and very trying times, and I hope that you and your families are managing the best that you can. My sincere sympathy goes to anyone who has suffered a loss of anything due to COVID. Hopefully we will see improvement in the near future. Since March of 2020, our in-service members and the BMUST leadership have worked tirelessly to make the best of an extremely difficult situation. They are certainly among the *front line heroes* that we have heard so much about in the media (though not as much as we used to).

We are entering a critically important election year, in which we in New York will be electing a US Senator, our entire delegation to the House of Representatives, our Governor, and local legislators and officials. On January 21, the NYSUT Board of Directors endorsed Senator Schumer, Governor Hochul, Lt. Governor Benjamin, Attorney General James, and Comptroller DiNapoli for reelection. The Endorsement Conference will take place later, at which endorsements will be made in other races.

Governor Hochul's proposed budget provides for a significant increase in state aid for K-12 schools, as well as for CUNY and SUNY. It remains to be seen what changes will be made when it goes to the legislature.

With the recent failure of *The John Lewis Voting Rights Act* and *The Freedom to Vote Act*, due to the refusal of all fifty Republicans and two Democratic Senators to alter the filibuster, it is essential that we do whatever we can to protect the right to vote. Voter suppression laws and new vote counting processes have been passed by Republican legislators and governors in approximately twenty states, with bills pending in many others. High turnout is critical to overcome these laws throughout the country. Even though New York is not threatened, we must continue to vote in large numbers and exercise our most fundamental right.

Finally, as teachers, professionals and citizens, we should be alarmed and dismayed by the attacks on academic freedom taking place in many districts—including here on Long Island. The basis of these attacks has been mainly the supposed teaching of *Critical Race Theory*, which does not even take place in K-12 schools. CRT is a legal theory concerning the historical impact of systemic racism on American law and society, but it is taught in universities and law schools, not in high schools. However, it has been used as a catch-all slogan to attack the teaching of real

American history. As a history teacher, I am appalled at the idea that students are harmed by learning the reality of the overriding role played by race in our history. We can only grow and improve ourselves and our nation by knowing our history, both the good and the bad. Some districts are censoring books about the Civil Rights movement, novels by authors as esteemed as Toni Morrison, and anything that they claim might offend the sensibilities of white students. Too add insult to injury, they love to selectively quote Martin Luther King, Jr., to support their contention. In addition, there have been campaigns to limit or stop discussion of LGBTQ issues and history. Teachers and school board members have been intimidated and even physically threatened. There have even been proposals to put body cams on teachers so that parents can monitor every word they say. Many of these attacks are supported and even funded by groups such as the Heritage Foundation, ALEC, and the International Organization for the Family, No Left Turn, and others, many of which have long been enemies of public education, and whose goals include privatization. They are urged on by commentators on Fox News and other right-wing networks. This is a crisis. As educators and union members, we must be vigilant and fight back against these attempts to whitewash and rewrite our history, and to attack teachers and public education. We should consider this when we make our endorsements and when we vote, especially in school board elections.

This is truly a critical election year. Retirees have a strong voice in NYSUT and in our state. We should continue to make that voice heard. Stay safe and well.

DATES TO REMEMBER--2022

March 9	Winter BMRTA Meeting	ZOOM at 1 pm
May 10	RC 17 General Membership Meeting	ZOOM at 10 am
May 25	Spring BMRTA Meeting/Election of Officers & Reps and Welcome New Retiree Party	TBA

The BMUST Representative Assembly meetings for 2022: (at 4:30 PM on Zoom) - Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 27, May 18, June 13 (June meeting at 3 PM).

IN MEMORIAM

Elsie Lopez, retired Spanish teacher, passed away on December 30, 2021. Elsie taught Spanish at Jerusalem Avenue Jr. HS from 1968 until her retirement in 1981. Elsie was born in Havana, Cuba and immigrated to the United States in May 1960 with her two sons to join her husband who had come two months earlier. Soon after arriving in the United States, she began working at a textile factory in West New York. Her husband worked as an accountant while she attended Teachers College in the evenings. Elsie earned a Master's Degree in education and worked as a Spanish teacher in our district. She was 96 years old. Condolence cards may be made to Charles Lopez (son) and the Lopez family at 74 Courter Avenue, Maplewood, New Jersey, 07040. Donations may be made in Elsie's memory to Gesu Church, 118 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132: gesuchurch@yahoo.org



Ralph and Carole Barris pictured at their 50th wedding anniversary in 2015.

It is with sadness that we inform you of the passing of Carole Barris, wife of Ralph Barris, on December 20th. Ralph is a retired guidance counselor from Mepham and Grand Avenue. Carole taught at Jerusalem and then Brookside in the 1960's, before becoming a stay at home mom. She returned to teaching in 1978 at Wantagh Middle School where she remained until her retirement. The funeral was held on Tuesday December 28th at St. Barnabas R.C. Church, 2320 Bedford Avenue, Bellmore at 10 AM. Condolence cards may be set to the Barris family at 2501 Lefferts Place, Bellmore, NY 11710. Donations may be made in Carol's memory to any cancer foundation. Carole was 81.

Laura Maitland passed away December 18, 2021. She was the science department chairperson at Mepham and Calhoun.

Edith Dietrich, the mother of Robert Dietrich, retired English teacher and department chair from Brookside and Calhoun, passed away on October 9, 2021. A funeral mass was held on Wednesday, October 13th at St. James Church in Seaford. Condolence cards may be sent to Robert at 65 Washington Place, Northport, NY 11768.

Rosemary Catanzariti passed away February 6, 2022. She was on the NYSUT Board of Directors representing ED 52 for the retirees. Condolence cards may be sent to the Catanzariti family at 15 Edward Lane, Syosset, NY 11791. She was 79 years old.

We would like to hear from you!

In future issues, we would like to include any news you would like to share. E-mail jsanaco@aol.com with the information and picture. And join us on Facebook.

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Jan/Feb 2022