

Bellmore-Merrick  
Retired Teachers  
Association

# HIGHLIGHTS

Volume 35

Issue 3

Spring 2019

## BMRTA CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

Join us as we look back over the years of  
BMRTA through the eyes of our founder  
and first president *Pat Christy*:



Sharon Wisla and Pat Christy

I retired from a 34 year career teaching Physical Education in June 1982. I had started teaching in September 1948 in upstate New York. My starting salary was \$2400 a year! My goal was to secure a placement back home on Long Island. After teaching in the North Belmore district, I chose to follow my students to the new Jerusalem Avenue Junior High School.



Rick Hamilton, Louie DeFilippo, Marty Kozak



Mike Dolber, Harvey Wiener, Pat Christy

During these years, my interests led me to involvement with what was to later become the union. First, I served as one of the building representatives and finally became the Jerusalem Head Building Representative to BMUST.

After I retired in 1982, I thought I was about to lose my NYSUT catastrophic health insurance coverage. I went up to see Louis DeFilippo, then BMUST union president. Louie and I had shared the gym at Jerusalem for many years as Physical Education teachers. He assured me that the insurance would not be a problem and he then mentioned that I might be able to help BMUST (our union) start up a retiree chapter. I met with Lou and Rick Hamilton that night over a great steak dinner at McCluskey's and we stitched together a few ideas of how this could be done. That dinner was the beginning of the *Bellmore-Merrick Retired Teachers Association*.

Part of that effort on my part was the start of a newsletter to send to all known retirees which would keep them posted prior to each of our Fall, Winter, and Spring BMRTA meetings.

I started out writing this newsletter by hand when we first organized our retiree chapter for BMUST. It was the start of *Highlights* - so named because the District then consisted of senior highs and junior highs and I thought that was a clever play on words. I would turn in my handwritten copy three times a year to the union secretary who typed and ran off our four page newsletter. My Mom - bless her - used to proofread my handwritten copy. That is the way *Highlights* started back in the '80s. By the time we made it to the '90s, dear old Mom came to the rescue again, and surprised me with a little Apple Mac Classic. What a wonderful change that made in my life! And that was 30 years ago.

**IN CLOSING.** Life is not what it's supposed to be. It's what it is. The way you cope with it is what makes the difference.

Virginia Satir, psychologist and author, 1916 -1988

*With love, Pat Christy*



*35<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of the  
Bellmore-Merrick Retired Teachers Association*

Luncheon, Spring Meeting and Elections

*Wednesday, May 22, 2019*

12:00 pm

\$40 per person

Elisa's Ristorante

2754 North Jerusalem Road Bellmore, NY

516-679-4805

CHOICE OF:

- Veal Scaloppine Marsala
- Filet Salmon Dijon
- Chicken Parmigiana
- Eggplant Parmigiana
- Chicken Francese
- Shrimp Scampi
- Unlimited Soda
- Cash Bar

DIRECTIONS:

Southern State Parkway  
to Exit 25N  
(106-Newbridge Road)  
Turn right on  
North Jerusalem Road  
Elisa's will be one mile  
on your right



Please Print

RSVP by 4/17/19

BMRTA Member:

Address:

Phone Number:

Name of Guest(s):

I have enclosed my check for \$\_\_\_ for #\_\_\_ luncheon(s) at \$40 each.

Please make checks payable to: Bellmore-Merrick Retired Teachers Association

Mail to Sue Stamile 33 Richard Ave. Merrick NY 11566

PosterMyWall.com

Inquiries? Contact Sue at 516-379-4532 (home) [suestamile@gmail.com](mailto:suestamile@gmail.com)



**Slate of BMRTA  
OFFICERS  
And REPRESENTATIVES  
For 2019-2020**

**President**

Sharon Wisla

**Vice-President**

Susan Stamile

**Treasurer**

Pat Riew

**Recording Secretary**

Ellen Johanson

**Membership Chair**

Jane Sanacora

**Representatives**

Sal Bommarito

Mike Dolber

Joan Kleinman

Jane Kline

Roberta Mohr

Susan Stamile

Ellen Weiss

Harvey Wiener

Sharon Wisla



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday May 14 RC 17 General Membership Meeting	9:30	Farmingdale Library
Wednesday May 22 BMRTA 35th Anniversary Luncheon	12:00	Elisa's Restaurant, North Bellmore
Wednesday May 22 Mark Steinberg Retirement Party	6 pm	Captain Bill's, Bay Shore
Wednesday May 29 Welcome New Retiree Party	2:30 pm	Outback Restaurant, Merrick
Wednesday June 19 BMUST Dinner Dance	6 pm	North Ritz, Syosset

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### Retiree Council 17 General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, May 14, 2019  
Farmingdale Public Library  
116 Merritts Road, Farmingdale

9:30 am Full Hot Breakfast

10:00 am Program

#### Guest Speakers

Michelle Kennedy NYSUT Member Benefits

*WHAT DOES NYSUT MEMBER BENEFITS OFFER TO THE RETIREE?*

Donna Planty Assistant District Attorney for Suffolk County

*PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM SCAMS, FRAUD AND ELDER ABUSE*

Send \$2.00 in cash for registration fee which will be forwarded to  
NYSUT's Disaster Relief Fund, and the tear-off below to:

Pat Browne-Coleman, 267 Fox Hollow Road, Woodbury, NY 11797  
Please respond by May 10<sup>th</sup>, so we can make sure there is enough food.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ District Retired from \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_ \$2.00 in cash enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## The Winter Meeting



Erin Bienkowski

BMRTA's winter meeting was held at Brookside on March 6. The meeting featured Erin Bienkowski from the Long Island Chapter Alzheimer's Association. She spoke about all the resources accessible to caregivers and others dealing with Alzheimer's, dementia, and support services. This is the 24/7 helpline available to all including crisis assistance and community resources: **1-800-272-3900**. Her talk was very interesting and informative.



Roberta Mohr, Sharon Wisla, Carolyn Fredericks



Sue Stamile, Jane Kline



Ted Blatchley, Joe Gsell



Ellen Weiss, Carol Finkel



Joyce Chinsky, Lydia Paulsen, Sue Risberg



Joyce Chinsky, Ginny Johnson, Jane Kline, Mindy Brent



*You Are Cordially Invited to a  
Retirement Celebration*

*Honoring BMUST President*

*Mark Steinberg*

*Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 6:00 pm*

*Captain Bill's Restaurant*

*122 Ocean Avenue*

*Bay Shore, NY 11706*

*\$65.00 Per Person*

*Please RSVP by May 6, 2019 to the*

*BMUST Office: 1260 Meadowbrook Road*

*North Merrick, NY 11566*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

WILL ATTEND: \_\_\_\_\_

CANNOT ATTEND but would like to contribute \$10 towards a gift: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED (checks made payable to BMUST): \_\_\_\_\_





## Congratulations to our new Retirees

Mark Booth – JFK – Art

Kathy King – JFK – Nurse

Rita Calzetta – Grand – Para, Special Education

Neal Madnick – Calhoun – Social Studies

Debbie Cipolla-Minafo – JFK/Mepham – Physical Ed.

Dona Morales – Mepham – World Language

Amy Cohen – Mepham – Psychologist

Helen Russell – MAMS – Science

Martha DiGiovanna –MAP – Science

Lisa Steinberg – Mepham – Special Education

James Fox – Grand – Social Studies

Mark Steinberg – Grand – Science

### Non Member Retirees:

James Morris – Calhoun – Math Chair

Maria Sinatora – Mepham – Special Ed. Chair

**WELCOME NEW RETIREE PARTY**

**Wednesday, May 29**

**2:30 to 5 pm**

**Outback Restaurant, Merrick**

**\$5.00 for one drink and appetizers**

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO  
ATTEND THE BELLMORE-MERRICK  
UNITED SECONDARY TEACHERS'

*37th Annual  
Awards  
Dinner/Dance*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019  
6:00 PM - 10:30 PM

*The North Ritz Club*

274 JERICHO TURNPIKE SYOSSET

\$70 PER PERSON

PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 30, 2019

RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION, ALONG  
WITH PAYMENT (CHECKS PAYABLE TO BMUST)  
TO MEG HIRSCH THROUGH INTER-OFFICE MAIL  
OR MAIL TO:

BMUST, BROOKSIDE SCHOOL  
1260 MEADOWBROOK ROAD  
NORTH MERRICK, NY 11566

Name(s): (Please Print)

Phone #:

Personal E-mail:

School or Address:

Check #:

Total \$:

Total # of People:

Seat Me With:

I WILL Dance if the DJ Plays:



## 2019 BMUST Award Winners

### Outstanding Professionals

Sean Arresto—Grand  
Erin Coman—Kennedy  
Kelly Desmond—Mepham  
Zach Gosse—Meadowbrook Alternative Program  
Sarah Norton—Merrick  
Sandy Sardo—Calhoun

### Lou DeFilippo Outstanding Union Service Award

BMUST Board of Trustees

### President's Choice Award

Brian DeGaetano  
Kennedy High School

Jon Dell'Olio  
Kennedy High School

### PTA Award

Maria Small  
PTA Coordinating Council Co-President

### Patricia Christy Outstanding Retiree Award

Mike Dolber

### Community Service Award

Ken Abbott  
Grand Avenue Middle School

### Friend of Education Award

Mike Leone  
Retired NYSUT LRS





## Heard Here and There

Congratulations to Rich and Laurie Wilen on the birth of their grandson, Tyler Dean Wilen born 2/26/19 at 7 lbs. to son Andrew and daughter-in-law Stephanie. Rich is a retired science teacher from MAMS and former BMUST treasurer. Sharon Fox, retired English teacher from Kennedy, is now a great grandmother.

Jackson Thomas (“Jack”) was born on March 25, 2019, weighing 7lbs 14 oz. He joins parents Laura and Tom Kline, and his 3 year old sister, Madison. Grandparents Jane Kline, retired science from Grand and her husband Jim are very proud.

Congratulations to Dan Viafore and his wife Ann on the birth of their granddaughter, Hannah Elizabeth, on April 1st. Dan is a retired Social Studies teacher from Grand Avenue.

**John F. Kennedy High School and Bellmore JFK Alumni Association** proudly announce the 2019 inductees:

### **Hall of Fame**

Dr. Joseph Etzel '83 – Renowned Clinical Faculty-St. John’s University School of Pharmacy  
Rick Farber '78 – Senior Advisor for Financial Markets, United States Treasury  
Neil Grover '73 – Percussionist, Boston Symphony  
Steph Hammerman '08 – Adaptive Cross Fit Athlete, Trainer/Entrepreneur Motivational Speaker  
Dr. Jack Krauser '69 – Periodontist/ Officer of International College of Oral Implantologists  
Lee Mandel '99- CEO of Intralogic Solutions  
Dr. Thomas Pappas '74 – Director of Cardiac Cauterization, St. Francis Hospital  
Seth Pitlake '77 – Realtor, President of Merrick Kiwanis  
Jackie Stone '86 – Chief Marketing Officer of MiMedia  
Dr. Aren Skolnick '01 – Endocrinologist, Northwell Health, Asst. Professor, Zucker School of Medicine (Hofstra University)  
Steven Wunderlich '71 – Founding Executive Board /Exec. Director of PREVAIL/JFK Wrestler

### **Wall of Honor (Retired Faculty)**

Lorraine Poppe, Principal (1995-2018)  
Eileen Connolly, Assistant Principal (1996-2015)  
John Schaefer, Original Staff Member/Famed Wrestling Coach

### **Friends of Kennedy (Community)**

Janet Goller  
Brooke Jones  
Louise Maxworthy

## IN MEMORIAM

William Phelon passed away on December 24, 2014. He was a retired math teacher from Brookside and Grand Avenue, working from 1961 to 1980. He was 89 years old.

Bessie Glaster passed away in January of this year. She was 102 years old! She had been residing in Israel. Bessie worked in the district from 1968 to 1982. She was a homemaking teacher at Grand as well as a cosmetology teacher at Calhoun. During her career, she also worked at Mephram, Jerusalem, and Kennedy. She was our oldest member.

Frank Grimes, 86, a social studies teacher at Grand for many years, passed away on February 6, 2019. Family requests donations to St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Francis of Assisi Parish Greenlawn, NY 11740.

It is with sadness that we inform you of the passing of Jon Dell'Olio's father, John D. Dell'Olio, on February 22, 2019.

Jon is an inservice English teacher and Dean at Kennedy HS. He is also the Grievance Chair for BMUST. Condolence cards may be sent to the Dell'Olio family at 88 Willow Street, Garden City, NY 11530.

Joan Salvia passed away on March 31, 2019. She was a retired physical education teacher from Calhoun between 1963 and 1991. She was 83. Condolence cards may be sent to the Salvia family to Mary Jane Sutay, c/o Salvia, 31 Bramble Lane, Dennis, Massachusetts 02638.

Manuel B. Fernandez, father of Louise Costas, passed away. Louise is a retired Kennedy Spanish teacher. Interment will be at Arlington Cemetery on Monday, May 6, with full military honors. Condolences may be sent to the Costas family, 3327 Woodward St., Oceanside, NY 11572.



Lorraine Poppe

Lorraine Poppe, the longest serving principal of Kennedy High School, passed away on April 16, 2019. She began her teaching career in the English Department at Baldwin Senior High School in 1973, eventually serving as a master teacher, dean of students and assistant principal. She started her tenure as Kennedy's principal in 1994. Lorraine had perfect attendance at Kennedy for 18 of her 24 years. She was beloved by both students and teachers. She was 67 years old.



**Union-endorsed  
benefits designed to  
protect your loved ones**

**Legal Service Plan**

NYSUT members have access to dozens of endorsed programs available through NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality legal and financial planning assistance services that can help to protect their loved ones and provide them with peace of mind.



For an annual fee, the **Legal Service Plan** -- provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning. With the base plan, you'll get access to unlimited, toll-free advice from plan attorneys.



**Financial Counseling Program**

Meanwhile, the **Financial Counseling Program** -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation. The full-service program provides you up with to six hours of toll-free phone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor.

And unlike with purchasing products available to the general public, there's no need to go it alone when Member Benefits has your back. Member Benefits acts as your advocate for any program you participate in, and we'll do our best to quickly resolve any issues or concerns you may have.

Whether you are participating in one of our legal or financial services; insurance plans; or shopping, travel or entertainment offerings, NYSUT members have the **"Power of the Union"** behind them.

**A wealth of financial information -- Now available on the NEW Member Benefits website**

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call **800-626-8101**.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits

Mar / Apr '19