

The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

A Message from Your

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The main role of the local PTA is to build strong working relationships among parents, teachers and schools, in support of all students, and each February 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. As Henry Ford once said, “Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success,” and this idea is what our PTA stands for, especially in the community of Hicksville.

Now more than ever we know that this commitment and partnership is vital to our children’s success, and we will continue to follow in the footsteps of our founders, Alice McLellan Birnery, Selena Sloan Butler and Phoebe Apperson Hearst. These women realized that whether as a parent, a teacher, a staff member, an administrator or a community member, that by working together, we are making a difference in every student’s life and future.

Though our 68th celebration will not be our usual gathering at Crest Hollow, we still celebrate the dedication and commitment of all our members who have given so much time and energy to all the children in Hicksville. 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 the usual level of commitment to our students and our community, and it is with sincere appreciation and pleasure that I congratulate Ms. Catherine Temps as our 2021 District Honored Guest. Ms. Temps has worked in the Hicksville community at the secondary level for nearly 20 years and throughout her career has worked tirelessly to serve others while inspiring numerous students. Ms. Temps has been a class adviser and has been involved in many school groups, including student government and theater, and serves as the coach of the Middle School Lego Robotics Teams as well as the coach of the Hicksville J-Birds Robotics teams. Not only has she taught students to build competitive robots, but she has also taught them important life lessons, including teamwork and sportsmanship. During the current pandemic, Ms. Temps worked with the Booster Club and student volunteers to create and distribute 3D face shields and snack bags to essential workers and was recognized by the Hicksville Patch and Fox 5 for her outreach. Those who have worked with or who have been taught by Ms. Temps recognize that all she does comes from the heart and that it shows in everything she does, every single day. Again, congratulations, Ms. Temps, and thank you for all you do for our Hicksville children and the community!

Along with Ms. Temps, we will be honoring the many individuals throughout the district whose service goes above and beyond expectations, which has earned them the distinction of a Founders Day honor 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 2021 Founders Day Honorees!

All the best,
Erin Guida

Introducing...the 2021

PTA FOUNDERS DAY HONOREES

BURNS AVENUE
Andrea Adler
Stephanie Collier
Lu Fennelly
Nicole Fragopoulos

DUTCH LANE
Jaimie Fleschner
Juan Mane
Donna Silvestri
Stefanie Sterenfeld

EAST STREET SCHOOL
Tara Bonifatto
Danielle Fumagalli
Lauren Morgante
Lisa Reinhardt

FORK LANE
Cindy Garcia
Randi Feinberg
Steve Kerkenides
Tricia Thompson

LEE AVENUE
Tara DiDomenico
Marilyn Kneski
Daniel Luu
Danielle McKie

OLD COUNTRY ROAD
Suzy Cáceres
Karen Floccari
Laura McConnell
Ana Morell

WOODLAND
Lauren Dilena
Nicole Lyons
Lizbeth Raquet
Beth Swanson
Megan Williamson

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Jen Chaplin
JoAnn Ellinger
Cindy Hudson
Ellen Nietsch
Paul Silverman
Benjamin Tangney

HIGH SCHOOL
Lisa Aronov
Robert Arzt
Dena Civello
Adam Clive
Susan Manjrekar
Craig Mateyunas

SEPTA
Alyssa Fiorese
Rachel Kalman
Kimberley Reilly

Congratulations to all our honorees!!!

SPECIAL DISTINCTION

This year’s PTA Founders Day Honored Guest is Catherine Temps. 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. Temps and her accomplishments, see page 2.

District Honored Guest

Catherine Temps has Northern roots, manners, guts and pride. In pursuing the challenge to grow as a professional, Cathy attended Nassau Community College where she earned an Associate Degree in Industrial Technology. Cathy continued her studies and earned the Bachelor of Science in Technology Education from City Tech and the Master of Science in Instructional Technology from NYIT in Old Westbury, New York.

Cathy's lifelong passion is working with youth in guiding them to reach their full potential. She has worked in the Hicksville Community at the secondary level for approximately 20 years. Throughout her career, Cathy has inspired many lives and made a difference for those individuals and families whom she has served with an unwavering loyalty.

Cathy has always had a love for science and technology. During her career and tenure she has

had the opportunity to coach many students on the Hicksville J-Birds. This team of FIRST Robotics was established in 2004. The success of the high school J- Birds is due to the commitment and support of the community and team members. Cathy has taught the techniques and guided students to build competitive robots but more importantly the art of sportsmanship, teamwork, competitiveness, winning and losing with grace. Cathy also initiated and coaches the three Lego Robotics Teams at the Middle School. Looking ahead, she would like to bring robotics to the elementary level.

Volunteering has been an integral part of Cathy's life in the community as she works tirelessly to serve and assist others. Cathy has taken the initiative on many fundraisers, which have been profitable to many organizations and charities. During the current pandemic, Cathy worked with

the Booster Club and student volunteers to create and distribute 3D face shields and snack bags to facilities and essential workers. The Hicksville Patch and Fox5 "Hero of the Day" recognized this outreach.

Cathy is a lifelong educator and learner. She serves as an inspiration to many. Cathy has worked with students and families of the Hicksville Community as she has experience and involvement in Student Government, Theater, Class Advisor, Middle School Robotics and High School Robotics. During her tenure in Hicksville, Cathy has been recognized for her exemplary dedication with awards such as Founders Day Recognition, Paul Vetrano Teacher of the Year, Above and Beyond Award and the Certificate of Honorary Life Member to the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers. Her greatest pride is her daughters Katie and Brenda



CATHERINE TEMPS

and her granddaughter Ryleigh. Any student, who has been guided and taught by Cathy understands and responds to the gaze from her eyes, the tone of her voice or the stride of her walk. Everything that Cathy does is from her heart. Cathy has a Hicksville Heart. She is thankful for her career and life's purpose. She loves what she does and it shows each and every day. Cathy is the consummate educator and parent. She is the perfect combination of a woman teaching STEM, one who is passionate, generous and is always guided by putting students' education and well-being first.

BURNS AVENUE *Elementary School*



ANDREA ADLER

Andrea has been a Computer Teaching Assistant at Burns Avenue Elementary School since 2002. She has watched technology evolve over her 19 years of service. Although no two years have been the same, 2020 has presented many challenges. She continues to guide staff, students, and parents through the trials of remote learning. Andrea makes sure technology issues are resolved in a timely and efficient manner. Every day she is reminded of a quote from Henry Ford, "Anyone who keeps learning stays young." That's what keeps her motivated! A second-time honoree, it's been her pleasure to serve the wonderful students and very talented staff at Burns Avenue. When she is not with her Burns Avenue family, she resides in Jericho with her husband of 35 years, Wayne, and her two children, Ashlee and Brandon. In her spare time she enjoys making cookies and chocolate favors for her coworkers and the PTA.



LU FENNELLY

Lu Fennelly has been a Teaching Assistant at Burns Avenue Elementary School for 21 years, during which time she has held various TA positions. She currently works as a Computer TA. During this challenging year, Lu has found it very rewarding to assist children and their parents working remotely with their computer issues and loves all the children as if they were her own. Lu has been living in Hicksville since 1997. She and her husband, Jim, have been married for 38 years. Their daughters, Sarah and Rachel, both went to school in the District and have become very successful in their careers. Lu is honored to be recognized on Founder's Day by the Burns Avenue PTA. She loves being a part of the Burns family. Her motto in life is "to always have a smile on my face, be kind, and have a positive outlook on life."

No Photo Available

STEPHANIE COLLIER

Stephanie Collier has been a member of the Burns Avenue PTA for nine years. She has chaired many committees including Box Tops, Labels for Education, Holiday Boutique and Ways and Means. Stephanie is a first-time Founder's Day honoree and is happy to share this honor with her husband, Brandon, and her children, Emily, Ryan and Riley. Stephanie has lived in Hicksville for more than 17 years; however her husband's family has been here much longer. Stephanie's husband and mother-in-law both attended Burns Avenue School.



NICOLE FRAGOPOULOS

Nicole Fragopoulos is currently Co-President of the Burns Ave PTA and a member the last six years. She has dedicated her time as council delegate and as past VP. She has written the school's newsletter and taken part in committees like Site Based, Bake Sale, Holiday Boutique, Book Fair, fifth grade graduation and after-school pre-K program. She helped bring the buddy bench to her school. Her favorite event she has co-chaired is the Talent Show. Nicole also sits on the district's Communication Advisory Committee. Nicole also attended Burns Avenue school and graduated from Hicksville High School. After earning her M.B.A. and working in finance, she decided to stay local to her roots and raise her children, Katerina, 11, and Dimitri, 9, with her husband Taso, in the same town she grew up in. "I'm truly grateful to be honored. My goal is to help our kids' school experience be more enjoyable."

DUTCH LANE *Elementary School*



**JAIMIE
FLESCHNER**

Jaimie Fleschner has been teaching for the past 19 years. She started her career as a general education teacher. She has taught every grade but fifth. Jaimie has spent the last 13 years teaching special education in the Hicksville School District. Jaimie began her career at Woodland Elementary School where she taught the K-2 special class. She is now teaching grades 3-5 at Dutch Lane Elementary School. Jaimie also coached the Hicksville Girls Junior Varsity Soccer Team and was the assistant coach for the Hicksville Varsity Gymnastics Team for several years. This is Jaimie's first time being honored as a Founders Day recipient and is very grateful and honored to be recognized by members of the school community. Jaimie enjoys the beach, traveling, and spending time with her family and watching her children participate in the sports that they love. She looks forward to watching her students continue to grow both academically and socially and is extremely grateful for this honor.



**DONNA
SILVESTRI**

Donna Silvestri was raised in Hicksville and is married with three children. Donna has been working in the Hicksville School District for 15 years. In 2008 Donna was recognized as "Employee of the Month" at Lee Avenue. Then in 2018 she received a Dutch Lane PTA Service Award for her Outstanding Service to the Children of Dutch Lane Elementary School. Donna had worked with the Special Education Autism classes and more recently worked with the Pre-K Program at Dutch Lane. Donna stated, "I love being a teacher assistant. I love helping the children and watching them grow socially, emotionally and academically. I am very honored and proud to be chosen as a Dutch Lane Elementary Honoree."



**JUAN
MANE**

Juan has been a member of the Dutch Lane PTA for 10 years. He has held the position of Council Delegate and served on many different committees over the years. His favorite PTA activity is Books Alive. He loves acting out the many characters in the books and seeing the looks on the children's faces. Juan is a father of three, Hailey (19), Heather (13) and Lucas (10). Juan has been married to his wife Shannon for 14 years. Juan has spent time volunteering for the Hicksville Baseball Association as both a softball and baseball coach over the years. "It is a tremendous honor to be picked by the Dutch Lane PTA as the Founders Day honoree. I am extremely humbled and proud. Thank you."



**STEFANIE
STERENFELD**

Stefanie Sterenfeld has been working in Hicksville for 17 years. She is presently the third grade remote teacher at Dutch Lane, where she was a pre-K teacher from 2016-2020. She previously taught at Burns Avenue in grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 from 2003-2016. Stefanie has been on the Curriculum Council Committee since 2016. Founders Day is a wonderful recognition she is honored to be receiving. She absolutely loves her job and working at Dutch Lane. Stefanie is honored to be recognized by the staff and families at Dutch for the work that she does and her dedication to the students. Stefanie is married to Noah Sterenfeld and has two children, Xavier, age 13, and Siena, age 10. Stefanie graduated from SUNY Oneonta and Hofstra with a master's in math, science and technology. This is her second Founders Day recognition; the first was from Burns Avenue PTA. Stefanie also received recognition from the graduating Class of 2015 at their Scholar's Dinner. At home, she is the Girl Scout troop leader for her daughter's troop. She also spends time at a dog rescue, helping to care for and find new homes for the dogs. Stefanie's favorite quote is, "We all need to stop and just breathe and get through the hard times together."

EAST STREET *Elementary School*



**TARA
BONIFATTO**

Ms. Bonifatto has been teaching for Hicksville Public Schools for six years. Ms. Bonifatto has been the Academic Intervention Specialist for five years at East Street School. This year she is teaching second grade. Prior to working in Hicksville she taught at St. Luke's in Whitestone. There she taught fourth and fifth grade math and science. She left the Diocese of Brooklyn to teach for the N.Y.C.D.O.E. at PS 290 in East New York. Over her time there she was grade leader and taught second, fifth and pre-K. She graduated in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Molloy. She later obtained a Master's in Literacy from Hofstra. Currently she is part of the Curriculum Council and Read Across America. She lives in Massapequa with her husband and two children. "I have been a teacher for almost 20 years and I still love teaching. I love being a part of the East Street family and Hicksville Public Schools community. I am so incredibly lucky to be a part of such a wonderful community. The parents and staff of East Street School are like a second family. As a first-time recipient of the Founders Day award it is an honor and a privilege to serve in Hicksville Public Schools. It truly means so much to me."



**LAUREN
MORGANTE**

Lauren serves as the East Street Elementary School PTA Vice President. In her three years serving the PTA, she has chaired several different committees such as Holiday Boutique, Halloween Dance, Field Day and more. "My favorite committee is Holiday Boutique, watching the students get excited about picking the perfect gift for someone they love is heartwarming." Lauren grew up in Hicksville, attending Lee Avenue, Hicksville Middle School and finally graduated Hicksville High School in 2005. She met her husband John, while attending Hicksville Middle School. They have one son, John, who is in second grade. "Watching our son grow up in Hicksville, like my husband and I did, is pretty awesome!" Lauren manages her father's Welding Shop and Technical School in Westbury. This is her first time being recognized for Founders Day, "It is truly an honor to be recognized, everything I do is for the students at East Street. I want to be sure they receive everything they deserve!"



**DANIELLE
FUMAGALLI**

Danielle Fumagalli has been teaching special education in Hicksville for 17 years. She is an integrated co-teacher in second and fifth grades at East Street Elementary School. Danielle has earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education and psychology from Hofstra University and her master's degree in special education from Molloy College. For as long as she can remember Danielle has always wanted to be a teacher and make a difference in the lives of her students. Some of her favorite East Street events are Expo Night, Field Day, Special Person's Day and the fifth grade Commencement. Danielle loves to be a part of the PBIS committee and the Sunshine Committee. Chaperoning the fifth grade trip to Greenkill is her favorite Hicksville memory. Danielle has been married to Paolo Fumagalli for 12 years. They have two sons, Paolo and Lorenzo. They recently added a new furry member to their family, a mini goldendoodle named Sandy that they love and adore. Danielle loves spending time with her family, running, hiking, reading, cooking, bike riding and going to the beach. This fall she ran her first half marathon! Danielle would like to thank her East Street family for nominating her for this award! It is truly such an incredible honor for her!



**LISA
REINHARDT**

Lisa attended East Street School, graduated from Hicksville High, and has come full circle as an East Street parent with a daughter in fourth grade. She is serving her second year as Recording Secretary on East Street's PTA Board. In her five years with the PTA, Lisa has served as Hospitality Chairperson, Wreath and Poinsettia Committee Chair, and has assisted on Homecoming, Halloween Dance, Picture Day, Staff Appreciation, Scholarship and Family Picnic Committees. She has volunteered for Staff Appreciation Day Luncheons, Holiday Boutiques, and East Street's 2020 Drive-by Trick or Treat. Highlights along the way include being guest reader in her daughter's second grade class and learning the art of cotton-candy-making at Homecoming. Lisa is grateful to be recognized as a Founders Day Honoree: "It's an honor to be recognized by the school community. I enjoy working with the PTA, teachers and staff to help make our students' early school years memorable."

FORK LANE *Elementary School*



**CINDY
GARCIA**

Cindy has been involved with the Fork Lane PTA for five years. She previously served in the role of Vice President and has been Co-President for the last two years. She has chaired events including various holiday boutiques and Pre-K orientation. The first-time honoree said, "I feel blessed to be part of the Fork Lane Family and to work with so many incredible parents, teachers, and staff. I genuinely enjoy helping to create fun experiences and great memories for all of the children. Being recognized for simply doing what you love is an added bonus." Cindy currently works as a Bilingual Parent Liaison for the Hicksville School District. She holds a degree in Accounting from Binghamton University where she met her husband, Eddie. They have lived in Hicksville for 22 years and have one son, Luke.



**RANDI
FEINBERG**

Randi has been a part of the Hicksville School District for five years. She started out as a behavioral consultant at both Dutch Lane and Fork Lane elementary schools. She joined our district full time in the Fall of 2018 as a special education teacher in a self-contained class. During this time she has served on numerous committees including NGSS Science, OLWEUS and Books Alive. Randi also serves as the district's parent trainer. After stepping away to focus on behavioral consulting, her desire to return to the classroom landed her at Fork Lane and she "feels so fortunate to be a part of the Fork Lane family." Randi is a first-time Founders Day honoree. "It is truly an honor to be recognized and part of a dedicated and supportive team of faculty members, administrators, students and parents." Randi lives in Plainview with her husband Michael and two daughters, Hope and Ava.



**STEVE
KERKENIDES**

Steve Kerkenides had a successful career working on Wall Street for 38 years before deciding to retire from the financial services industry. As a passionate person who loves to help people, he chose to work part time in the education sector to leverage his skills and knowledge. He started his new career as a computer Teaching Assistant in the Hicksville Middle School. For the last six years, he has worked at the Fork Lane Elementary School, teaching children how to navigate desktop computers, Chromebooks, and iPads. Seeing the children's faces light up when they learn something new is Steve's greatest sense of gratification. He sees his role as preparing the Fork Lane students to become positive individuals in society. Additionally, Steve participated in the Extended Day Program, where he supported the teachers with their math lessons. He also volunteered his time during the bus strike providing academic support to the students. Steve has been a Syosset resident for the last 26 years, living with his wife, Lydia, and raising their three children. The first-time Founders Day honoree is an avid bowler, having bowled a perfect score of 300, enjoys watching all sports, is a huge Yankee and Giants fan, and loves spending time with his family, especially his three grandchildren. He is genuinely grateful to his Fork Lane family for nominating him for this prestigious award.



**TRICIA
THOMPSON**

Tricia has been involved in the Fork Lane Elementary School PTA for five years and has served as recording secretary, co-president and currently serves as a vice president. She has chaired various PTA fundraisers including Gift Wrap, School Supplies and the Fall Plant Sale. She currently co-chairs the Fifth Grade Committee for the class of 2021. The first-time Founders Day honoree said, "I feel volunteering in the PTA sets a good example for my own children and the other children at Fork Lane to get involved and that their school is just as important to me as it is to them. It is such an honor to be recognized." She holds a master's degree in social work from Fordham University and works as a licensed social worker at Eden II/ Genesis Programs. Tricia has lived in Hicksville for 10 years with her husband, Mike, and their two daughters, Ciara and Caitlin.

LEE AVENUE *Elementary School*



**TARA
DIDOMENICO**

Tara DiDomenico has been a teaching assistant at Lee Avenue School for five years. She graduated from St. John's University with a BA degree in education. Her career began as a temporary preschool teacher which turned into a seven-year position. She then chose to stay at home and begin my own family. She has been blessed to raise her son Marco and daughter Marcela. She has continuously been an active member of the PTA committee, running fundraisers and enjoying many years of being a class mom. "As my children grew, I then decided it is time to get back to being a part in the education field. Working at Lee Avenue instantly became my second home. I am surrounded by great teachers, staff, parents and the most amazing children. I can honestly say I put my whole heart and time into helping the children who are our future. I truly love what I do, it shapes me and makes me who I am. I am honored and so appreciative as the Hicksville School District is recognizing me as a Founders Day Honoree. I am extremely lucky to work in such a great community and in a wonderful environment. Hicksville School District is and will continuously be my family."



**MARILYN
KNESKI**

Marilyn Kneski moved from Queens to Hicksville in 2004 and is a first-time Founders Day honoree. She is also a first-time PTA board member holding a Council Delegate position. Marilyn retired from the NYPD in 2019 as a Special Victims Detective. Her schedule was unpredictable, but she managed to be a class representative every year from 2016 to 2020. She maneuvered her rotating shifts to volunteer for as many PTA-sponsored events as possible. From book fairs to plant sales, picture days to holiday boutiques, storing 2,000 pounds of donations for a clothing drive in her garage, and transporting it all to a pick-up location, Marilyn stepped in. Her first chaired Bingo event was cancelled in April 2020 due to the pandemic. However, she was able to pivot and convert it to a very successful live virtual event. "I am surprised and humbled by this Founders Day recognition. The urge to hustle and make things happen for the children is an honor in itself." Marilyn and her husband of 16 years, Michael, are the proud parents of Mackas, a fifth grader at Lee Avenue Elementary.

LEE AVENUE *Elementary School* (continued)



DANIEL
LUU

Daniel Luu has taught Physical Education at Lee Avenue for the past four years. During that time, Daniel has participated in many extracurricular activities as well as coached middle school and high school sports. In his spare time, he enjoys playing sports, exploring new restaurants and spending time with friends and family. Daniel has two extremely supportive parents as well as an older brother and a twin brother. "It is an honor to give back to the community in which I grew up. It is an even greater honor to be recognized as one of Lee Avenue's Founders Day award recipients. Thank you to Lee Avenues' students, staff and families. You are all the best!"



DANIELLE
MCKIE

Danielle McKie attended her first Lee Avenue PTA meeting back in 2013. Since joining, she has been a council delegate and is currently the school treasurer. Danielle has helped with several events in the school such as Holiday Boutique, Photo Day, Lee Day, Yearbook and several others. Her favorite thing has been being class mom over the years for both of her boys, Ryan and Dylan. "I am very grateful for this award. I feel very blessed that I was able to work with so many wonderful teachers and parents over the years to help make all of the children's years at Lee special ones".

OLD COUNTRY ROAD *Elementary School*



SUZY
CÁCERES

Suzy Cáceres has been a bilingual elementary teacher in the district for the past four years. During that time, she has taught both second and third grade in the bilingual program at OCR. The first-time Founders Day honoree consistently presents and participates in Parent Student University, The Bilingual Authors' Tea, and many other events and activities for our families of English language learners within the district. When not teaching, she enjoys spending time with her husband and four children. "I am so incredibly grateful to teach my wonderful bilingual students and get to know their families. I want them to always know that knowing more than one language is a super power and that I am so proud of them. I am very lucky to work with everyone at OCR, especially in this amazing program with a dedicated group of bilingual educators who have helped me learn and grow as a teacher. ¡Muchísimas gracias!"



KAREN
FLOCCARI

Karen Floccari has been involved with the OCRPTA since 2013. Karen has served on the board as a council delegate, corresponding secretary and vice president. Throughout the years she has helped with many successful PTA events such as Baton, Kickline, dances, Cookie exchange, International night, Homecoming, membership, yearbook, Field day and many more. Karen really enjoys working together with teachers and parents, sharing ideas and making things happen for the children. "Being an active member of the community has become second nature to being a parent. It's what we do- If I can help in any way, I will jump right in." Karen and her husband, Anthony, both work for the district. They have two children, Keera, in Middle school and Anthony, in his final year of OCR. Karen has lived in Hicksville for over 40 years and works at Fork Lane School. This is the second time she has been recognized for Founder's Day. "I originally joined the PTA to lend a hand and hopefully make a difference, and what I got in return was much, much more. It has given me wonderful memories and lifelong relationships which I am so grateful for."



LAURA
MCCONNELL

Laura McConnell has been a principal in Hicksville since 2018 and has worked in education as a classroom teacher and an assistant principal since 1993. She is a member of the district's Curriculum and Wellness committees. She is extremely proud to be a member of such a close-knit community. "Hicksville felt like home since the moment I walked in the door." Laura is an avid reader and loves going to the beach with her husband, Joe, and three children, Casey, Joe, and Shannon. "It means so much to me to be honored by the members of the Hicksville community. I am extremely honored to work with such an amazing group of people."



ANA
MORELL

Ana I. Morell has been a member of Hicksville Schools PTA and PTAs for the last 13 years. She has chaired and co-chaired various committees at Old Country Road School including Reflections, Bingo Night, Book IT, Student of the Month, PARP, fifth grade yearbook and the Middle School Penny Auction as well as a member of the OCR and HHS Site Based Committee. As a first-time honoree, she is honored to receive this recognition. For Ana, seeing the children's excitement has been the most rewarding part of volunteering. She especially enjoys interacting with the children and supporting the teachers as a class parent. Her most memorable event was the various PARP assemblies she organized with her fellow co-chairs, most memorable being the Harry Potter-themed PARP in 2018. Ana has a BA from SUNY Albany and is an administrator for New York University. Ana and her husband Daniel have lived in Hicksville for the last 20 years and are proud parents of their three beautiful girls, Jordan, Ashley and Mia!

WOODLAND *Elementary School*



**LAUREN
DILENA**

Lauren Dilena has been an elementary teacher in the district for the past seven years. She began her career here in 2011 as a leave-replacement teacher at Woodland, East Street, Burns Avenue, and Old Country Road School. Mrs. Dilena previously taught fourth grade and second grade and is currently teaching virtual kindergarten at Woodland. The second-time Founders Day honoree has sat on various committees, including the Social Studies Curriculum Task Force, curriculum writing for AIS and the Summer Academy, Curriculum Council, and most recently, the Elementary Math Curriculum Search Committee. Lauren enjoys spending time with her husband and two children. "This year has been like no other; to be recognized by my amazing school community is truly an honor." She thanks her family as well as her Woodland Family for their support through the years.



**NICOLE
LYONS**

Nicole has served as an active member of Woodland's PTA for the past four years on various committees including, Bulletin Board, Winter Wonderland, and apparel, while acting as a Council Delegate. She is a Hicksville High graduate who also attended Woodland Elementary. Nicole said, "It is a true honor to be recognized by those who deserve to be honored as well. The parents, teachers and staff at Woodland all work together as a team, it's a very special place that I feel blessed to be a part of. The projects I plan or ideas I have, usually become a family affair in our house. I am so lucky to have a husband and parents who don't mind pitching in as well!" She added, "Volunteers do what they do to make the children smile, that's what it's all about. We are filling their hearts with happy, lifelong memories." Nicole lives in Hicksville with her husband Paul and their two boys, Hunter and Trevor. Nicole looks forward to continuing to help both the Woodland community and Hicksville in the future in any way she can.



**LIZBETH
RAQUET**

Lizbeth Raquet has served the Woodland PTA for the last four years. She has chaired many committees including Miss Chocolate, Scholastic Bookfair and is currently Treasurer for the fifth grade Committee. This first-time Founders Day recipient moved to Hicksville in 2015. She has been married to her husband, Andrew, for 11 years and has two children, Alyssa and Andrew. "I am so grateful for the recognition. Seeing the smiles of happiness on the children's faces makes me happy to contribute in any way I can."



**BETH
SWANSON**

Beth Swanson has been in the teaching profession for 19 years. Beginning her career as a teaching assistant, she then spent three years teaching in NYC and 10 years in Connetquot School District as an elementary teacher. Beth earned her first Master's Degree at Queens College and spent the summers teaching special education at Nassau BOCES. She later earned a second Master's in School Administration from the College of St. Rose. Beth was an Assistant Principal in Levittown School District for five years before finding her dream job as the Principal of Woodland School in Hicksville in 2018. She lives in Syosset with her husband, two sons (ages 7 and 10), and giant Sheepadoodle. "I was incredibly taken aback by this honor. When you love what you do, it's truly a gift in itself. I am beyond grateful and fortunate to work alongside all of the amazing people that I do each day - it's them who make the magic happen. The Woodland staff, students and families are the biggest and best extended family I could ever wish for!"



**MEGAN
WILLIAMSON**

Megan Williamson has been a Physical Education teacher in Hicksville for 13 years. She began her career at East Street Elementary School but since then has worked at the High School, Middle School, and Old Country Road School. Megan is currently teaching at Woodland Elementary School, the school she has called home for the last 10 years. In addition to her teaching responsibilities she is the Assistant Varsity Girls Soccer Coach and the 7/8th Grade Middle School Girls Lacrosse Coach. She thanks her friends and family as well as her Woodland/PE family for all their support throughout the years.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



**JEN
CHAPLIN**

Jen Chaplin has been on the Hicksville Middle School PTSA board for three years. She served as treasurer for two years and is currently one of the co-vice presidents. She was previously recognized at Founders Day in 2016 by Fork Lane PTA and as a teacher by the East Meadow High School PTSA for Founders Day in 2009. She has taught math at East Meadow High School since 1995 and has lived in Hicksville since 1998 with her husband, Ryan, and sons, John Ryan and Connor, who are both students at HMS in eighth grade and sixth grade. "I'm thankful that through the PTA I have met so many people and made friends that are also invested in the schools and community to give the children a wonderful place to grow and thrive."



**JO-ANN
ELLINGER**

Jo-Ann Ellinger has lived in Hicksville over 50 years with her husband Roger. She has two grown children who both graduated from the Hicksville School District. She has three grandchildren. Jo-Ann started working at Burns Avenue School as a TA in 1982. She also worked at Fork Lane and the High School. JoAnn has worked at the Middle School for the past 28 years. Jo-Ann was a Girl Scout leader as well as a PTA President, Vice President, and served on other committees. This is the second time Jo-Ann has been nominated for the Founders Day Award and is greatly surprised and honored. Working with children has always been dear to her heart.



**CINDY
HUDSON**

Cindy Hudson has been an active member in the Hicksville Middle School PTSA since 2018, serving as Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Chair of the Scholarship Committee and assisting with book fairs, staff appreciation luncheons and various fundraisers. She was also the HMS parent representative on the district's Reopening Schools Task Force last year. Cindy holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from SUNY Stony Brook and has worked as a research analyst and consultant for almost 20 years. The second-time honoree said, "It is an honor to be recognized for Founders' Day by the dedicated parents, teachers and administrators at HMS. I have enjoyed playing a part in making the Middle School the remarkable place it is." Both Cindy and her husband Donald are lifelong Hicksville residents and share two sons, Christopher and Joseph.



**ELLEN
NIETSCH**

Ellen Nietsch has enjoyed 28 years of teaching sixth grade social studies at the Middle School. These years have made an indelible mark on her life. As a member of the ICT team for the last 19 years, Ellen has had the privilege of working with outstanding educators and students. Their positive energy has been the cornerstone for developing exciting and memorable experiences in the classroom. Ellen is honored to be recognized by the PTSA with this award. Ellen lives in Massapequa with her husband, Mark, and their two children, Sean and Kate. "Thank you to my colleagues and family for your support. It is a privilege to serve the community I grew up in!"

MIDDLE SCHOOL *(continued)*



PAUL SILVERMAN

Paul Silverman started his PTSA career at Lee Avenue, encouraged by Carla Hoene and Annette Beiner in 2012 when his daughter Josephine was in first grade. He served as a council delegate for many years, chaired many committees, his favorite was Lee Day, all this kids smiles are priceless. He moved onto the Middle School, when his twin sons, Luca and Russell, started there, served as council delegate for a few years. Those of you who know him from council know he always enjoys a good desert! Paul is currently a member of the Middle and High School PTSAs, is always available to get donations, help out, and is always thinking of how to help all the kids in our schools. He is also an active member of the district Safety committee, Facilities committee and the Middle School Safety committee. Paul has a Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering from SUNY Farmingdale also has certifications in business management, health and safety, first-aid just to mention a few. He loves his three children dearly! They are his world! You can find him and the kids spending their summers upstate New York camping, vacationing, going on fun adventures, and working on all sorts of fun hobbies with his kids too!



BENJAMIN TANGNEY

Benjamin Tangney has been a member of the Hicksville Middle School community for the past three years. Serving as an Assistant Principal, he takes immense pride in working with the students and staff at Hicksville Middle School. Benjamin is grateful for the opportunity to work with such an amazing school community. Benjamin is a member of the District's Safety Committee and Curriculum Council. This first-time Founders Day honoree said, "I am deeply honored to be recognized by the Hicksville community." Benjamin holds a bachelor's degree in Earth Science and Adolescent Education from SUNY Oneonta, a Master's Degree in Educational Technology and Leadership from American College of Education. Benjamin has also completed the Educational Leadership and Administration Program through The College of Saint Rose. Benjamin lives in Wantagh with his wife, Jaclyn, and daughter, Annalyse.

HIGH SCHOOL



LISA ARONOV

Lisa served as HHS PTSA Council delegate during the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years and has been involved in several committees including Founders Day, Co-Chair of Fork Lane Yearbook Committee, 2015 and is Treasurer for the Hicksville High School Alumni Foundation. The HHSAF members organized a fundraising concert in 2019 (Tommy Sullivan HHS Class of 1963) that benefitted HHS clubs plus Middle and Elementary School donations for various projects. Other fundraising includes Science Olympiads team of 2018 and ongoing support for the Class of 2022 with selling Ornaments. With a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology she is Senior Manager of Research Laboratory Operations for NYU Langone Health. She has been married to husband Greg and has been a Hicksville resident since 2004. "It's been my absolute pleasure to work with such an amazing school district, group of parents and kids! I am grateful for the positive experiences that my twins, Samuel and Josef, have had in this community and am honored by this recognition."



ROBERT ARZT

Robert Arzt has been a teacher at Hicksville High School for over 28 years. He is a member of the HCT Bargaining Unit, and will be retiring this year. The second-time honoree is a big fan of PTSA, "because of their unwavering support for the children and staff since I have been here. To be honored a second time is a bit overwhelming, because to be acknowledged in this matter means that our work as educators is appreciated. This cements the relationship between parent/teacher that I believe is crucial to the continued success of our children. I am truly grateful and humbled." He was also nominated by a Hicksville student as "Disney's Teacher of the Year" in 2003 as well as Teacher of the Year in 2002 and 2015. Robert is married to his wife, Cynthia, and they have three children (Troy 24, Emily 21, and Isabella 18). He has a Bachelor's Degree from Dowling College, and a Master's Degree from Stony Brook University. He volunteers at a local Food Pantry. His favorite quote is "Don't let your biggest enemy be your reflection in the mirror."



DENA CIVELLO

Dena has been a district employee for the past 10 years and has mostly taught 10th grade English, Introduction to Theatre and Journalism. In that time, the first-time Founders Day honoree has been co-adviser of the Comet News, and directed 13 theatrical productions at Hicksville High School. In addition, Dena is a founding committee member for the districtwide Talent for the Troops Fundraising event which raised funds for wounded veterans for the past five years. Outside of Hicksville, she has served as a founding board member of the Royal Star Theatre Company based in Jamaica Estates. "Thank you to the PTSA for this incredible honor and to my colleagues and students who inspire me every day. Much love to my family, Amanda and Emerson."



ADAM CLIVE

Adam has been a Technology Education Teacher at Hicksville High School for over 27 years primarily teaching the multiple levels of Video Production Technology and Principles of Engineering. In 1994, Adam's proposal to start a Video Production Technology course was well received and resulted in the start of Hicksville's very first Video Production course. In addition to writing the curriculum for and introducing the additional levels of Video Production Technology, Adam also proposed the start of the Principles of Engineering course, which he had been teaching previously at Canarsie High School, as well as the start of the High School Video Production Club and Hicksville High School News which he has run since inception. Adam has been happily married for 26 years to Melissa and has two children, Rachel and Austin, who he is extremely proud of and grateful for. "Hicksville has always had extremely talented, hard working and caring faculty and staff members, it has truly been and pleasure working with them throughout the years".



SUNITA MANJREKAR

Sunita Manjrekar is an 18-year resident of Hicksville. She has a Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling from St. John's University and a Masters in Sociology from the University of Bombay. Sunita currently works as a Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Social Services at Nassau County. She was previously honored at Founders Day in 2015. "It is truly an honor to receive this award and to be part of such an amazing and diverse community." This is Sunita's second term as a Board Trustee. She co-chairs the Curriculum Committee. She is passionate about Education and believes in children getting the best education possible. Sunita recognizes that children are our future and guiding and shaping them to be the best they can be is her goal! Sunita has been married to husband Nitin for 27 years and have two children - Rohan (currently in the High School) and daughter Rhea (Hicksville graduate).



CRAIG MATEYUNAS

Craig Mateyunas has been an Art Teacher at Hicksville High School for the past six years. He is a first-time Founders Day Honoree. Craig has been the Advisor for the National Art Honor Society for the past five years. In this role, he helps promote the work of the talented and dedicated students in our district. He organizes the Hicksville McDonalds Window Painting on Broadway every year, as well as Empty Bowls which is an event that raises money for the Food Pantry at the Hicksville United Methodist Church. Craig's students have also been active participants in the annual NYSATA Olympics of the Visual Arts since 2015. "Seeing my students grow as artists and individuals is one of the things I love most about what I do. The students in Hicksville are a unique group of individuals with whom I feel lucky and privileged to be able to teach and work with. Being an Honoree at Founders Day means a great deal to me. I would like to thank my fellow colleagues, administrators, the wonderful community members, and the PTSA for the support they provide not only for the art department but for the entire Hicksville student body. I am genuinely thankful for this honor and feel very fortunate to be a part of this community!"

THE HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Administration Building
 200 Division Ave.
 Hicksville, NY 11801

NONPROFIT
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 HICKSVILLE
 NEW YORK
 PERMIT NO. 126

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Phil Heckler, *President*
 Brenda Judson, *Vice President*
 Carla Hoene, *Secretary*

Trustees:
 Christopher Amato
 Sunita Manjrekar
 Linda Imbriale
 Irene Carlomusto

Marianne Litzman
Superintendent of Schools

****ECRWSS****

Postal Customer
 Hicksville, NY 11801

SEPTA



ALYSSA FIORESE

This is Alyssa Fiorese's first time as a Founders Day honoree. She's been a part of the PTA for almost 13 years. She served on the East Street board as secretary when her children were students there. She has been on the SEPTA board for the last two years, as treasurer and currently as president. "It is an honor and greatly

appreciated to be one of SEPTA's honorees, but it is a collaborative effort. I couldn't do it without the other parents in SEPTA." She enjoys chairing the membership and scholarship committees the most, because it's something she can do at home after work. She has been a teacher at PS 143Q in Corona since she started teaching over 15 years ago. She currently teaches kindergarten. She has lived in Hicksville for the last 19 years with her husband Vincent, and children Jordana and Cameron who attend the high school.

This is Rachel Kalman's first time being honored as a SEPTA Founders Day recipient. She is extremely honored to be recognized by members of the Hicksville Community. Rachel has been a School Psychologist at Hicksville High School for 25 years. She received her undergraduate degree at Binghamton University and her graduate degree at Northeastern University. Rachel has served on

various school committees including the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Committee, the Mental Health and Wellness Committee and the Nassau BOCES Mental Health Consortium. In her spare time, Rachel enjoys spending time with her husband, Brian, and sons, Jonathan and Justin. Rachel also enjoys walking to keep positive and stay healthy. "It has been a truly rewarding experience working with the wonderful students, families and staff at Hicksville High School!" Rachel thanks her family and her Hicksville High School family for their support over the years.



RACHEL KALMAN

Kimberley Reilly has been passionate about her career in the field of special education for the past 25 years. She began working as a teacher for preschool students with disabilities in Brooklyn where she resided as a child. In 2005, Kimberley became a part of the Hicksville School District, working first at Dutch Lane as a

Special Education preschool teacher for five years. Over the past 10 years Kimberley has worked at Hicksville High School in the Special Education Department. She has been a co-teacher in the integrated co-teaching model, as well as a resource room teacher for grades 9 through 12. In her spare time, Kimberley enjoys reading and spending time with her family and friends. This is Kimberley's first time being acknowledged as a Founders Day recipient. "I am truly grateful and honored to be recognized by the Hicksville school community."



KIMBERLEY REILLY

A TRADITION OF DEDICATION

More than 60 Years of Founders Day Honorees...

<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		
<i>Marianne Litzman</i>	2004	<i>Patricia Rooney</i>	1987	<i>Felice Stein</i>	1970		