

Honoring Our Retirees

Susan Bedell

Cardyn Cuttler

Fran Daddona

Robert Greenberg

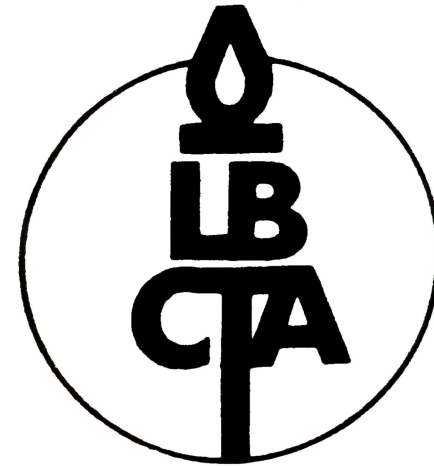
Cresensio Morales

Ronni Reimel

Michel Richez

Jacqueline Scher

Harry Witkin



**Year End
Celebration**

Honoring Our Retirees

May 11, 2011

In Memoriam

Please take a moment to honor our colleagues and friends who passed away this year:

Shirley Tydings - Dorothy Thompson
MARGIE BERGER - Bill Van Dyke - AMALIA HOFFBERG
MURIEL PROPPER - Josephine Cuneo - Vincent Michaelis

Solidarity Forever

To the tune of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*
New words by Ralph Chaplin

*When the u-nion's in-spir-a-tion, thru the work-er's blood shall run,
There can be no po-wer great-er, an-y-where be-neath the sun,
Yet what force on earth is weak-er, than the fee-ble strength of one,
But the u-nion makes us strong.*

Chorus

*Sol-i-dar-i-ty for-ev-er, Sol-i-dar-i-ty for-ev-er.
Sol-i-dar-i-ty for-ev-er, for the un-ion makes us strong.*

*They have taken untold millions, that they never toiled to earn,
But without our brain and muscle, not a single wheel could turn.
We can break their haughty power, gain our freedom when we learn,
That the union makes us strong.*

Chorus

*In our hands is placed a power, greater than their hoarded gold,
Greater than the might of armies, magnified a hundred fold.
We can bring to earth a new world, from the ashes of the old,
For the union makes us strong.*

Chorus

Welcome to Our Annual Retirement Celebration



We, the members of the Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association, gather today to honor this year's retirees. Their years of experience working with children has made our school district and our association strong.

As President I would like to wish the retirees as they leave the district to fulfill their dreams; the best that life has to offer. With sadness let me say they will be sorely missed; but let us rejoice for their new beginnings.

On behalf of the association I wish all of the retirees a long, happy and healthy retirement. We all know they deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,
Steve Freeman

ASPPG

Administrative, Supervisory and Pupil Personnel
Group

Farewell in any language can be a bitter sweet word ... Bon Voyage, however, implies that the best is yet to be!

It is my privilege as President of ASPPG, to honor you and to express my sincere best wishes to all of my retiring colleagues in LBCTA as well as ASPPG.

As I join you in beginning our next journey in life, it is my hope that happiness and fulfillment, discovering new roads, creating goals for the future, and making new memories occur for us all.

We gather to celebrate our esteemed careers of which required the utmost in dedication, professionalism, courtesy and commitment to the students, staff and families of the Long Beach School District. Guidance and support that has been provided is not easily measured, but will certainly be remembered and appreciated for years to come. We hold onto fond memories, and know that the footprints that we are leaving behind will help us to continue on a path of educating and ensuring the emotional well being of our most precious commodity, the children.

Our reward will be realizing that our future adult citizens were at one time young hearts and minds that we had a role in developing.

Thank you for everything!
All the best,
Michel Richez

Jacqueline Scher

And There Was Music ... The sky opened up and the magical sounds of violins floated through the air as Jacqueline appeared on the stage of the LB Schools music dept. What a career Jackie has had! She has brought joy into the hearts of the children she has taught and to those who are fortunate enough to attend one of her concerts.

Jackie became interested in music at an early age. She started playing the cello in 3rd grade and has been involved in music ever since. After graduating from Jericho HS she attended Hofstra Uni. and earned a Bachelors degree in music education. She then earned her Masters from C.W. Post.

Jackie's first teaching experience was in Hauppauge where she taught strings/orchestra to children in grades 3-8. She left teaching to raise her family and be a stay-at-home mom to her two children, Adam and Jonathan. During that time she continued to work as a counselor in a day camp and nursery school. After her children began school, Jackie returned to teaching and was hired in LB 21 years ago. Here she created the strings/orchestra program. She taught in all four elementary schools and gave lessons to 4th and 5th graders. In addition, she conducted a District-Wide 5th Grade Orchestra. With winter and spring concerts in all buildings, Jackie believes that she has conducted the most concerts in any one school year!

As her program started to grow and expand beyond the elementary schools, Jackie was no longer "on the road" and she became the orchestra teacher at the MS. In addition to her three orchestras, she formed the Chamber Orchestra, which meets at 7 AM. The Chamber Orchestra was selected to perform several times at the State Capitol during "Music in Our Schools Month" celebrations. Through the years some of Jackie's students were selected to participate in the All-County Orchestra and LI String Festival and many also participated at NYSSMA. Jackie has prepared her students for all of these festivals and served as an Adjudicator for LI String Festival and All-County. In addition to her musical talents and expertise in the field of music, Jackie also served as the co-cheerleading coach at the MS for three years.

There is no doubt that Jackie's family is the most important part of her life. She is extremely proud of her children's accomplishments. Her son Adam is a doctor in South Carolina and is married to her lovely daughter-in-law Taryn. Her son Jonathan is an attorney in Manhattan.

In retirement, Jackie plans on traveling, staying involved in music, volunteering, making play dates with her retired friends and never setting her alarm clock again. We all wish her continued happiness, health and contentment. Jackie's beautiful smile and quick wit will truly be missed by all of her friends at the MS.

Jackie, take a well deserved bow.

Crecensio Morales

Crecensio holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brooklyn College (English and Philosophy,) an Masters in Education degree with a Specialization in Bilingual Counseling from Bank Street College of Education and New York State and City Departments of Education certifications and licenses in School Counseling and Bilingual School Counseling.

He began his tenure as a Bilingual School Counselor at Long Beach High School in October 1988. and has served as faculty advisor of the ASPIRA Club at Long Beach High School since 1992. Prior to employment in Long Beach he held the following positions: Director of ESL Skills Lab of the SEEK Program at Brooklyn College, ASPIRA of New York Deputy Director for Programs, Director of Student Support Services at CCNY, Boricua College Admissions Representative, Guidance Counselor at Boys and Girls HS (NYCDOE).

A longtime activist and advocate for equity and access in higher education. Mr. Morales has delivered presentations on education issues affecting Latino youth to federal and state legislators, college presidents, and New York City principals and community organizations.

Mr. Morales is a Brooklyn native and lifelong resident of Puerto Rican heritage and a Vietnam War combat veteran 1970-1971.

Michel Richez

During the summer of '56, a skinny little French kid with a girl's name arrived in NY and began the journey of experiencing the American Dream. He started the 2nd grade at P.S. 199 in Queens, moved through JHS 125 & finished his K-12 experience Bryant HS where he participated in the SO and varsity basketball and track. He then went to Adelphi Uni. where Miss Michel Richez was greeted with a letter informing him that "Michel would begin her collegiate experience in a wonderful ladies' dorm." Of course he showed up and was disappointed to find that alternate accommodations would have to be explored.

At Adelphi Mike majored in Bus. Admin. and continued his athletic endeavors by enjoying a successful 4 year varsity basketball and track career. It was in his junior and senior years at Adelphi, that Michel discovered LB by having a share in apartments in the West End one year and Lido the next.

After graduation Mike worked in the food industry for several years before going back to school to attain a degree in Education, with a Master's in Reading & Learning Disabilities. He began in LBMS as a substitute teacher in '76 and attained a FT position in Sept. '78. Since then Mike has had the pleasure of working with students and staff in the MS, West, Lindell & HS through '99 and then served on a multitude of building and district-wide committees.

In '83 Mike was awarded a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Administration and Policy Studies from Hofstra Uni. and began to consult with over 100 school districts in NY State in the area of technology. In '99 Mike was appointed Director of Technology & Information Services for the LB Schools. The district has since moved from Apple IIs to a fibered gigabit wide-area network with over 2,000 computers, SmartBoards, laptops and peripherals. Students and Staff utilize technology in some form every day through networked and web-based applications.

At the County level Mike has Chaired the Nassau County Directors of Technology (NASTECH) on two separate occasions, '03-'05 & '10-'11, has received a '06 Cablevision Finalist Leaders in Learning Award for his International video conferences with Jordan, Egypt, Pakistan, Chile and England, and has been invited to speak at conferences on the subject of integrating technology into the curriculum, and designing and maintaining administrative & instructional networks. On the political front, he has served on the Executive Board of ASPPG for 10 years and has been President and Chief Negotiator for the past two.

Mike has profound love and affection, and is extremely proud of his children Nicole & Chris, as well as his son-in-law James and future daughter-in-law Nadia. Aunt Grace has always been part of his everyday life, and Granddaughter Abigail Anne has captured his heart forever. But the person who maintains his equilibrium, offers unconditional love and support, and makes every day a brand new experience is his wife, love and dearest friend, Suzanne.

In the 30+ years that Mike has been in LB he has lived by the credo to always be kind and nurturing to children, provide necessary resources for all staff to be successful, and represent his colleagues with honesty and dignity.

Harry Witkin

In the spring of 1974 Harry Witkin, a senior at Adelphi Uni., had an experience that would ultimately shape the direction of his life; he became a student teacher at LBHS. Almost immediately Harry realized he had a passion not only for teaching mathematics, but for LB as well. After a few months as a sub, he became a classroom teacher, teaching everything from General Math to AP Calculus. 27 years later, Harry became the chair of the HS math dept., continuing to teach three periods a day. After six years in that position, Harry spent three years as the Director of Math (K-12).

Harry is also well known for his work outside of the classroom. Over the years, he has been the head varsity coach for both track and lacrosse, but his real passion was football. He worked his way up from JV Asst. Coach in 1975 to Head JV Coach to Asst. Varsity Coach, and finally to Head Varsity Coach, a position he held from 1990-1998. Harry continues to hold the record for the highest winning percentage among LB football coaches.

There are many things that make Harry stand out from among his peers; besides his good-natured smile, his quick wit and his friendly demeanor; it is clear that he genuinely cares for his colleagues, former students, and athletes. Harry truly believes in what he does and enjoys coming to work each day.

Harry will be quick to tell you that his best friend and love of his life is his beautiful and talented wife of 34 years, Janet. He is also very proud of his two wonderful children. His daughter Alyssa, who married Michael this past July, teaches math to students with emotional disabilities at a HS in Fairfax, Virginia. His son Gregory is completing his third year as a doctoral student in clinical psychology at Gallaudet University and hopes to one day work with patients with and without hearing loss. It is no surprise that both of his children have chosen careers where they can help others.

It might be cliché but Harry will tell you that if given the opportunity he would do it all over again without changing a thing. Above all else, he treasures the many wonderful relationships he has formed over the years with both students and colleagues.

As Harry retires from this wonderful profession, he is uncertain of the path his "new" life will take him, but he is definitely looking forward to the journey! He would like his parting words to be: Enjoy what you do. We really do make a difference!

Susan Bedell

"Long Beach through and through"; that's Susan Bedell. Not only was she born and raised here, so were her handsome husband Jack and both sets of their parents. When the 3rd generation came along, their two beautiful daughters, Elissa and Joanna followed in their sandy footsteps. While raising the family in their beautiful beachside home, Susan went on to get her Masters from Adelphi Uni. Her students are very fortunate that she spent her entire teaching career of 22 years at East. Over those years, she taught First, Third and Fourth grades and Reading. Each year, she has honed her skills and amassed new ones. She enthusiastically undertook a variety of courses as well as studied for two summers at The Reading Institute of Columbia University.

Combining a sense of humor with a passion for teaching, Susan has passed on a love of reading to her students. Her last few years at East were spent in a collaborative class with special education teacher, Joan Benowitz. In addition to the skills Susan has taught, her sensitivity and warmth have helped foster a sense of self worth and confidence in the most fragile of children.

Now that she will be leaving East, Susan would like to spend more time with her family. She has enlarged her home to invite visits from her beautiful, growing family including her wonderful sons-in-law, Andrew and Joey, as well as her delicious grandchildren Carli, Jed, Reese and Thea. We have all been witness to the pictures of these adorable and photogenic children. We've also heard their words of wisdom so aptly repeated by Grandma Susan. It's a pleasure to see the delight in her eyes at the mention of her precocious offspring. Susan intends to take advantage of free time during the day by exercising, jogging on the boardwalk and taking professional cooking classes. If she continues to use the new mixer she proudly bid for, and won, on e-Bay, she is going to need to do a lot of jogging.

Susan is looking forward to traveling ANYWHERE during off-peak times. She would also like to explore new interests. Who knows? Her dream may become a reality – to house-swap for a year in order to live in a villa in Tuscany and learn Italian. We are grateful for Susan's friendship, advice, support, generous heart and love. We wish her continued peace, joy and laughter in her retirement and her future. We will miss her greatly.

Carolyn Cuttler

Carolyn received her Bachelor of Science in Education and her Masters in Counseling from Hofstra University. In 1976 she began her career as a Business Education teacher at Long Beach High School. During that time she developed the Career Internship Program, served as Class Advisor and coached the Junior Varsity and Varsity Cheerleaders. She left the district in 1982 to become the Coordinator of Legal Studies at SUNY Farmingdale. Over the course of her twelve years at the university, she rose to the rank of Professor in the School of Business. At Farmingdale, Carolyn was instrumental in the development of new curriculum and in the coordination of student internships.

In 1995 Carolyn returned to Long Beach High School as a guidance counselor and became Chairperson of the department in 1998. Over the course of her thirty-five years in education, Carolyn was the recipient of both the Farmingdale Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching and the New York State Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Carolyn works closely with the middle school and high school counselors and support staff. She takes great pride in the valuable services that this dynamic and professional staff provides to the students and families of this community.

In 1982 Carolyn married Dr. Henry Cuttler. They are the proud parents of three sons. Jeffrey, a graduate of Northwestern University is currently an actor on Broadway. Michael is a Geology major at Boston College, and Max is an Architecture/Economics major at the University of Virginia.

Fran Daddona

Fran has enjoyed every aspect of Elementary Education and has run the gamut of philosophies. She began teaching second and third grade in Saranac Lake, NY after graduating from Potsdam College. Leaving the North Country after two years, she went into Marketing and Research for Citibank. Elizabeth was born, which allowed Fran to be a stay at home mom and was followed by Michael. Five years later, when Michael went to kindergarten, it was time to reevaluate career opportunities. After a false start at Hofstra for a Computer Science certificate, Fran obtained her Master's Degree in Education at Adelphi and immediately landed a position in East Meadow as the Computer Lab teacher.

A year and widowhood later, Fran became the Computer Lead Teacher in the Rockville Centre School District, as computers were becoming an integral component in education. When Lead Teachers were no longer fashionable, Fran was hired by Lydia Parris at Lindell School as the only certified teacher assigned to the Computer Lab. As Fran enjoyed all aspects of the curricula, when the opportunity was right, she became a 3rd grade teacher and then moved up to 4th grade. She enjoys sharing literature, writing strategies and math with her students, as well as learning how to inspire students to be lifelong learners of Social Studies, Science and current events.

Participating in district committees has also been an important part of her time in Long Beach. She has been a member of the CTA Executive Board and the Teacher Center Policy Board. She sat on a variety of search committees, the Technology Committee, Curricula Committee, Science Committee, APPR. She believes that it is very important to have a voice and be part of the process and to know colleagues in other buildings, as well as administrators.

Fran looks forward to spending more time with David, her very significant other, traveling and golfing, sharing dinners with Michael and Erica, and playing with Elizabeth and Peter's two girls, Sophie and Izabela during the winter months in Florida.

Fran is a friend, mentor and force to be reckoned with. We wish her health, happiness and much love as she begins many new adventures.

Ronni Reimel

Ronni began her career in Rockville Centre as a Special Education teacher. After three years she was appointed Chairperson of Special Education. Next, she went to Nassau BOCES where she became the Project Officer of SETRC (Special Education Training Resource Center) and was then promoted to Assistant Principal. After a short stint in Valley Stream as the Coordinator of Curriculum she came to Long Beach and found her home as East School Principal for the past sixteen years.

Ronni and her husband, Captain J. Barry Reimel, have six children and four grandsons in their melded family. Their sons Ian and Joey both live in Long Beach. Their daughter Francie, and her husband Kevin and the newest grand prince, Max, live in Ohio. Their son Tucker and daughter Lindsay live in Alabama with Lindsay's boys Elijah, Nathaniel and Isaac. Their former Marine Matthew and his wife Shauna live in California.

Visiting their children helps to accumulate miles so that Ronni and Barry may travel wherever and whenever they wish (not school holidays!). This September instead of setting up for school she will be on safari in South Africa.

Ronni plans to continue working as an Adjunct Professor for CITE. Teaching courses in Educational Administration and Special Education. Additionally, she hopes to work as Educational Consultant a few days a week. However, her staff believes she could be a very successful stand up comic!

Ronni has always inspired those around her to treat students as they would treat their own children and grandchildren. She has woven a beautiful tapestry of education and love as she led her staff members in the challenge to teach and reach every child.

Dr. Robert Greenberg

Bob Greenberg joined the Long Beach Schools during the summer of 2004. During his time here he has worked hard to achieve a climate of achievement for all students. He has been instrumental in bringing the prestigious and challenging International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme into LBHS and providing rigorous opportunities to the Advanced Placement and college courses. He has changed the ranking system for the HS seniors, provided honors for all, brought students back to the district from placements throughout the county and has adjusted the administrative structure to ensure success with all of his initiatives.

Dr. Greenberg also spearheaded the district's multi-million dollar Preservation Plan. Even prior to coming to LB he noticed that the district's infrastructure required renovation. Diligently and with precision, he worked with the Board, community, faculty, staff, parents, students, a team of architects and an army of construction professionals to survey the district's needs and gather the information necessary to take on this massive and costly undertaking. There were weekend tours through the buildings, meetings with the media, public presentations at every imaginable gathering, press releases and district newsletter alerts. If Bob wasn't "there" in person, his words were "there" on his stationery.

Lest you think he is too young to retire, Bob has had a long and distinguished career beginning in the classrooms of the NYC schools where he also served as an Asst. Principal, Chairperson of the Committee on the Handicapped, Exec. Asst. to the Chief Administrator of Pupil Certification, Director of School Based Support Team and Committees on the Handicapped.

Moving to the suburbs, he served as Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services in Hicksville, Asst. Supt. for Pupil Services in White Plains, and as Deputy Supt. at both Valley Stream Central HS District and Plainview-Old Bethpage

While Dr. Greenberg only has honorary "sand in his shoes" he truly is Long Beach royalty. Always a gentleman, he is King among administrators. If you don't believe me just ask him how he refers to his son as "the prince". He and his work wife (sorry Judy), the legendary admin. bldg. "princess", Lynn Gawkoski, shared many private jokes, and she wore a crown. All of his loyal subjects wish him the best as he leaves the fiefdom of Lido Beach to return to the hamlet of Rockville Center