

***Waltham Public Schools  
Retirees' Corner Newsletter  
November 2018***



The following information has been submitted by Bill Nolan, who continues to be active in these groups, just as he was active in the WEA and WSAA. Thanks, Bill, for all you do and voicing concerns of retirees. For those of you who get the print newsletter from REAM, please note Bill's photo at the bottom of the first column on page 3!!

***The Retired Educators Association of Massachusetts (REAM)***

This is an organization committed to serving the needs and interests of its members based on democratic principles. It encourages the use of its members' collective power to promote their economic and social well-being while utilizing their professional background and collegiality to develop a sense of community. As an organization devoted specifically to retired educational personnel, the Retired Educators Association of Massachusetts stands as their advocate and is committed to taking any necessary action to promote and protect the interest of its members.

[www.ream1951.org](http://www.ream1951.org)

***Mass Retirees***

Since 1968, the Association has been the leading voice on all issues affecting public retirees, most notably their pension and healthcare benefits. With over 62,000 members from all walks of public employment, it ranks as one of the largest and strongest grassroots lobbying organizations in the state.

With its strength in numbers, the Association has achieved a remarkable history of legislative accomplishment. Most recently, its aggressive lobbying efforts resulted in the passage of landmark legislation, that allows local retirement systems to enhance cost-of-living benefits and increases pensions for certain widows.

As an advocacy group, the Association has long recognized the basic need for direct political activism. Its guiding principle is simple: stand with and support those candidates for elective office who embrace public retirees and our goals.

Toward that end, it has promoted and developed one of the most successful political action committees or PACs, known officially as the Retired Public Employees PAC. This committee's continued prominence, among statewide PACs, is due exclusively to those members, who are keenly interested in politics and want to remain involved in the process by voluntarily making modest contributions to it.

In order to reach, educate and energize its members, the Association utilizes a variety of means. As its centerpiece, the Association publishes *The Voice of the Retired Public Employee*, a bi-monthly newsletter with a circulation of over 75,000. In addition to its comprehensive website, toll-free hotline, direct mail and blast-email capabilities, the Association holds more than a dozen well-attended membership meetings each year.

Since its inception, the Association has been recognized for its hands-on service to members who need assistance in resolving retirement and insurance problems. It has also become an important information resource for public policy officials on retirement related issues.

Above all, the Association prides itself in not only being the premier advocacy group for all retired Massachusetts public employees, but a multi-faceted service organization for its members and the retirement community.

[www.massretirees.com](http://www.massretirees.com)

### ***Massachusetts Teachers Association - Retired***

Your knowledge counts. Having done so much for your students and our schools as an active educator, you can stay involved in public education when you retire. Join the MTA and NEA as a retired member. Maintain meaningful connections and continue to have access to information and programs that make a difference in your retirement years. Here's how you can continue to participate in the MTA: » Eight MTA Retired members are elected to serve on the MTA Retired Members Committee. » Retirees are elected as delegates to the MTA and the NEA Annual Meetings. » Two MTA Retired members are elected to the MTA Board of Directors. » One MTA Retired member is elected to the MTA Executive Committee. » MTA Retired members also serve on a number of MTA committees. The MTA and NEA continue to advocate on legislative issues that affect retirees. There is always a need to continue advocacy to improve your well-deserved and earned benefits, such as pensions and health insurance. Membership provides you with a voice in the MTA.

[www.massteacher.org](http://www.massteacher.org)



## Volunteer Opportunity



Mazie Program ( [www.Mazie.org](http://www.Mazie.org)) Waltham High School

In this program, adult volunteers are paired with struggling high school students to help them reach their true potential in school. This involves a commitment of 8 hours a month outside of the school day.

Students are recommended by high school staff for a variety of reasons. These students usually lack self-confidence, guidance from home, financial resources, or are from first generation families that don't know how to help their students. The stated mission is to guide these teens toward graduation and then into post-secondary training or college. Students are matched twice a year. 15 in the Fall and 15 in the Spring

A "Match Up" is scheduled for November 17. The immediate need is for 4 volunteers for this November "Match Up" and 2 volunteers for two junior students whose mentors who are no longer available. (This program is now under the auspice of *Big Brothers Big Sisters* because that organization was impressed with the current program.)

If you are interested contact:

Ethel Williams, Program Director of Mazie Mentoring Program

781-314-5526

[ethelwilliams@walthampublicschools.org](mailto:ethelwilliams@walthampublicschools.org)



On a sad note, over the summer, we have lost three more retirees - John Collins, who taught Math at Central and then at Waltham High School, Susan Abrahamson, who was a Speech pathologist, and Shirley Frant, who had taught Grades 4, 5, and 6 at several schools - Hill, Hardy, Plympton, MacArthur and Kennedy. All retirees who have passed in the past 3 years are identified at [retireescorner.org](http://retireescorner.org) under **Obituaries**.



In our first newsletter last July, as a new feature, we asked for you to share a wonderful memory or an insight about colleagues who have passed but who are remembered fondly. Each newsletter will put forth some names. Last newsletter names are in bold type and you can continue to share a memory about them, and new names have been added. Please indicate whether you want that memory posted with your name attached or anonymously. Email your reflections to [retireescorner@gmail.com](mailto:retireescorner@gmail.com). Our thanks to those who shared fond memories.

Elementary

**Eileen Long**  
Mary McCue

**Helen Flynn**  
Joe Sentence

**Jack Pinzone**  
Carol Manganaro

Middle/Junior High

**Paul Bolduc**  
Peg Martin

**Lucille Hanna**  
Henry O'Brien

**Al Garnache**  
Bill Patterson

High School/Vocational

**Frank Strazzullo**  
Marlyn Miller

**Sarah Giacalone**  
Judy Baginsky

**Dick Collins**  
Pat Hurley



My first teaching job began at the Banks School from 2/71 to 6/81.

**Jack Pinzone** was inspirational. From him I learned to teach from the heart and never lose your sense of humor. His students and peers all loved him. He kept us laughing in the Teachers' Room.

Pat Davis



I taught with **Eileen Long** at Northeast. She was an amazing teacher and a great friend. She inspired her students to do their very best. She had a memory like a computer. She not only remembered every event but also knew the exact date that the event took place.

Pat Davis



Everyone remembers **Mr. Jack Pinzone** for his small stature but I will always remember him for his big heart. What he taught me in school was top notch, but what he gave me in life was something a poor boy from the Southside, without a father, could not get. That something was his belief in me. It may sound like a cliché' but I am who I am because of this man.

I will always love this man.

Nelson Aviles

(former student, Waltham firefighter, father of two)



For those who don't know **Sarah Giacolone** was a guidance counselor at WHS. She was highly regarded by her colleagues in the department and beloved by the students she counseled. She was highly professional, very thoughtful and always kind. A scholarship was funded in her memory by her family for many years.

Anne Marie Carr-Reardon



**Helen Flynn** knew every student who passed through the doors of the schools where she was the principal, even years after those students had graduated!

She was the principal of the Plympton School when I did my student teaching there in Grade 5. Knowing when the supervisor was coming for observation, Miss Flynn alerted the faculty that the Grade 5 student whose behavior might be a disruption during the observation would be sent on a message delivery to all classrooms, coincidentally to match the length of the observation!

Marie McKenzie



**Frank Strazzullo** was the Head Custodian at Waltham High School. He took great pride in keeping the building and the grounds looking good. He passed his passion for doing a good job on to those who worked with him.

Frank cared about the students, teachers, and staff and wanted us to have a clean, safe place to learn and work. We all can see the results of his dedication and that of those who worked with him.

Frank was the best.

Anne Marie Carr-Reardon



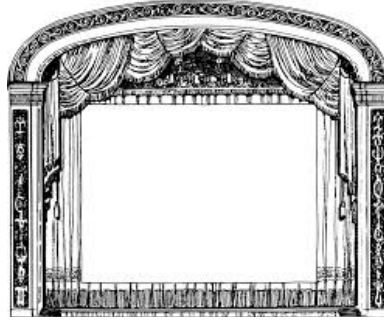
I was hired as a "foreigner" who grew up in Newton to teach English grades 10-12 at the former site of Waltham High School now known as James McDevitt Middle School. It was my personal and professional good fortune to be assigned to room SO4 (basement) under the mentorship of Richard Collins and Ira Steinberg. My memories of **Dick Collins** and his influence on my teaching style continued throughout my long career in the English Department. Dick had a quality of calmness and acceptance of the abilities of his students especially ones delegated to the "challenging" levels. He respected his students and maintained his sense of humor regardless of the wide range of capabilities his students presented. His students trusted him. He would say to me, be the same person to everybody and they will return the trust and respect. Dick encouraged me to be self-confident in my subject knowledge but never to "talk down" to students of any level. Dick was an avid reader, especially of historical novels. I would hear him next door relating some incident from the past, especially the Civil War, to whatever novel or play he was teaching. I believe Dick appreciated and valued his role as a teacher and his connection to his students. Many students today can thank Dick for helping them navigate their journey through Waltham High School. Personally, our friendship continued until Dick's retirement and beyond - until his untimely passing. I will always be grateful to that assignment years ago to that basement classroom and the introduction to Dick and Ira as colleagues and friends.

Barbara Peterson  
English Department.  
Waltham High School  
1968-2003



I also taught with **Al Garnache** at Northeast. He was talented, kind, quiet and generous. He inspired timid artists to try art projects that they were reluctant to do. My second graders always looked forward to their art lessons with Mr. Garnache.

Pat Davis



## **Congratulations to our colleague, Bob Eagle, on 50 years of the Reagle Musical Theater**

Since the summer 1969, when Bob Eagle and a group of Waltham High students and alumni performed *Carousel*, the Reagle Players have grown and delighted audiences of all ages throughout the year. What started as a summer-stock community theater has become a professional company. In partnership with the Waltham Public Schools and the City of Waltham, the award-winning Reagle Music Theater, and of course, Bob Eagle, have transformed the Robinson Auditorium into an air-conditioned, handicapped accessible, professional venue - our own Broadway theater on Lexington Street! The Reagle Theater also offers a summertime education program for aspiring performers ages 8-18, with master classes taught by Broadway professionals!

Bob – or (to many graduates of the Waltham schools) “Mr. Eagle” - began his career in Waltham in September 1956 as a Grade 6 teacher at the Thomas Hill School (now the Stanley Senior Center). He later taught English at Lexington Street Junior High (now Kennedy Middle School). In 1965, he became Assistant to the Chairman of the English Department. In 1969, he became Director of Drama, which was the first year of the Reagle Players. For the most part, Bob is known as the Director of English and Drama, a position he held from 1980 until his retirement in June 2000. A proud alumnus of Boston College, Bob was presented with the BC Alumni Award for Excellence in Arts and Humanities in 1989.

# Waltham High School Athletic Hall of Fame



In October, several more student athletes were elected into the Hall of Fame. Check the link for past inductees. Here are the newest ones, whom you may have known during your years in the Waltham.

Katie Monaghan Caruso	Class of 2008	Hockey
Bryan Lafort	Class of 1998	Hockey
Alison Fox Richardson	Class of 1998	Swimming
Katie Connors Rosenthal	Class of 2003	Skiing
Denise Nugent	Waltham High School Faculty	Coach

## Graduates in the News

JP (John) DellaCamera, Class of 1970, and Fox sportscaster was inducted into US Soccer Hall of Fame.

Lisa Genova, Class of 1988, spoke to a sold-out audience at Symphony Hall in October as part of Lesley University's Celebrity Series. She focused on Alzheimer's and on ALS, respectively, the subjects in her first novel, *Still Alice*, and her most recent one, *Every Note Played*.

Lauren Chiacchio DeLeon, WHS Class of 2000 was named Interim Director of the Career & Technical Education Department. She has taught at Northeast Elementary and the Kennedy Middle School before becoming the School to Career Coordinator at the high school.

