

*Waltham Public Schools
Retirees' Corner Newsletter
Summer 2020*



Congratulations to the new retirees



The Retirees' Corner wishes to welcome this year's retirees.

Ilene Ackerman	Music
Phyllis Caci	SPED, Kennedy
Robert Cook	Music
Barbara DeVito	Plympton
Linda Hanley	Banks
Donna Holdman	MacArthur
Elissa Levine	Stanley
Joan Olah	Fitzgerald
Deborah Quagliozi	Kennedy
Vincent Rucinski	Kennedy
Melinda Verde	Music



In our previous newsletter, we missed a few retirees who continued their dedication to the Waltham Public Schools by serving on the Waltham School Committee. It has been corrected on the Newsletters link on the left side of the retireescorner.org page, but here is what it should have said on the original winter 2020 newsletter. (We hope we got it right this time!)

Lillian Shirley – who retired as a High School English teacher and department head

Henry O'Brien - who retired as Principal of South Junior

John Graceffa - who retired as Principal of Waltham High School

Jane Gately – who retired as Principal of MacArthur School

Stephen Rando - who retired as Principal of Bright School*

Suzanne McIvor –who retired as Principal of Stanley

Harold "Jerry" Walker – who retired as a Social Studies teacher at Waltham High



Mary Abramo	Plympton
Alfred Carme	School Department Carpenter
Cathy Collins	SPED Aide, WHS, McDevitt, South
Janet David	Secretary Title
Melva Gray	Secretary, Hill, Kennedy
Carmen O'Kane.	Secretary in Guidance, WHS, Vocational HS
Eileen Rochleau	Food Services, WHS, Plympton
Judy Rosenstein	Plympton Reading
James Vaccaro	Assistant Principal Plympton, Title 1 Director
Dorothy Vinciullo	SPED Aide, WHS
Suzanne Williams	Secretary, Guidance



In late April, on the one year anniversary of Judi Paradis' passing, (Judi was a much beloved library teacher at Plympton) her legacy was celebrated!! Massachusetts School Library Association congratulated Kristie Hanley, Library Teacher at the Whittemore Elementary School, as the first recipient of the Judi Paradis Action Grant.

The grant for \$500 honors Judi Paradis who was a key leader in the school library community and the Massachusetts School Library Association. As a champion of social justice, diversity, multiculturalism, and advocacy, her dedication, leadership, creativity, and enthusiasm inspired many school librarians. Congratulations, Kristie Hanley!

<https://www.maschoollibraries.org/uploads/5/7/2/2/57223027/2020awardshanley.pdf>

Kristie is the daughter-in-law of one of our newest retirees, Linda Hanley!



Meet the New Superintendent

I am proud to say that I have known our new superintendent **Dr. Brian Reagan** almost since the day he was born. My husband Steve was his godfather. Brian was raised in Waltham Highlands by a loving family who really had a knack for having fun. Brian was a polite and caring child, a diligent hard worker who loved building with Legos and making music. He enjoyed walking down the hill to Plympton School where his love of music was fostered with great instruction in the trumpet. With quiet confidence, he started performing in fifth grade and continued through Central Junior High and flourished as member of the Waltham High marching band. Brian credits his childhood desire to become a teacher to the quality of teachers who touched his life in the Waltham Public Schools. Key to Brian's success with music and academics was the mentoring he received from his teacher and friend, Music Director Tom Dumas. They are in touch to this day. When Brian graduated from Waltham High in 1990, he then pursued his music studies at Boston University graduating in 1994.

Brian's first teaching job was as a music teacher at Bedford High School. Within a short time, he became an assistant principal. In a few years, he became principal of Shrewsbury High School. When the opportunity came to become principal in Hudson, where he and his family live, Brian grabbed hold of it and became a force for good in the community. During these years he was also working to complete his master's degree at UMass Boston and doctorate in education from Northeastern. His most recent position is Assistant Superintendent of the Wilmington Public Schools.

Dr. Brian Reagan brings to the Waltham Superintendent's job a breadth of experience in a range of school systems with varied socioeconomic backgrounds. But, the most important things to know about Dr. Reagan is that he is kind, intelligent and congenial. He is a man who seeks out people's opinions, a good listener and someone who really enjoys his interactions with students, staff, parents and the broader community.

Raised in Waltham, Dr. Brian Reagan knows and appreciates this community yet brings a fresh outlook and a new energy to the Waltham Public Schools.

(This profile was written by Virginia Connearney, retired High School Art teacher.)

Graduates in the News



One of our outstanding graduates of Waltham High School is **Thomas Hardiman**. The federal judge graduated from Waltham High in 1983. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1987. He then attended Georgetown University, receiving his Juris Doctorate in 1990.

In 1997, he was nominated by Pres. George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as a Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals. He continues in that position today. Judge Hardiman has made some very notable rulings; ranging from capital punishment to religious freedom. A couple of years back he was nominated to the United States Supreme Court. Although not ultimately appointed, the nomination was a great accomplishment.

Judge Hardiman is the married father of three and grew up in a very community oriented family in Waltham. He was a hard-working young man, extremely polite and respectful and very dedicated to both hard work and community involvement. All of his teachers always spoke very highly of him.

Waltham's educators are proud to recognize Judge Hardiman as a WHS graduate and acknowledge his contributions to his country.

(This profile was written by Norm MacDonald, retired Principal of McDevitt and High School housemaster.)

Waltham Lions Hero Awards: 2020 Winners

Bruce Burke - Business Leader

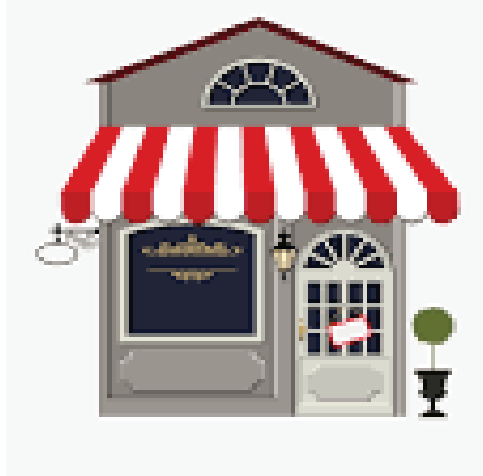
Bruce Burke, a graduate of Waltham High School (1966) and the Rittners School of Floral Design, worked for Frederick Brasco Florist, for two decades before buying it 1987. He is a member of the Waltham Rotary, and has served on the Board of Directors of Waltham Weston Hospital, the Waltham Boys and Girls Club and the Bay State Florist Supply in addition to the Leland Home's board.

Geoff Stanton - Community Leader Joe Burgoyne Memorial Award



Co-sponsored by The Waltham Women's Club
(The Waltham Women's Club is a service organization that dedicates itself to helping out a charity a month, be it through financial donations or some other means.)

Geoff Stanton is a lifelong resident of Waltham and graduated from Waltham High. He then graduated with a degree in Psychology from Providence College in 1998. He joined Stanton Insurance in the Claims Department in 1999. He is also a member of the Waltham Lions Club and serves on the board of the Waltham Education & Beyond Foundation, Waltham West Suburban Chamber of Commerce, the Leland Home and the Waltham Boys and Girls Club.



The current economic situation has really been hard on small businesses. We are hoping that the following restaurants owned by Waltham High School graduates will weather the storm (and maybe get a visit from you, if you are able!)

Bistro 781	336 Moody St.	Waltham	Jeff Abelard
Charcoal Guido	482 Moody St.	Waltham	Luigi Giovanetti Ciro & Mario Zottola
Fiorello's	187 North Street 24 Walden Street	Newton Concord	Remon & Marcel Karian
O'Hara'S	1185 Walnut Street	Newton Highlands	Karl O'Hara
Patty's Pub	95 Elm Street	Newtonville	Karl O'Hara
Ritcey's East	208 Waverley Ave.	Watertown	Michaela Ritcey
La Campagnia	504 Main Street	Waltham	David and John Maione



Retirees: Avoid coronavirus scams
(This email was received in late April from MRTS)

During the coronavirus pandemic, as trillions of dollars in stimulus funds flow to individuals and businesses, be aware that scammers are increasing the frequency and aggressiveness of their activity, targeting everyone, including retirees. Here are some tips to assist you in identifying and avoiding fraudulent activity.

Be suspicious of all unsolicited phone calls or emails.

No reputable organization, such as the MTRS, the IRS, or your bank, will contact you via phone or email asking for your personal or financial information.

It might not be a legitimate email or phone call.

Scammers try to trick you with emails and phone calls pretending to be from known organizations like the MTRS, your bank, government agencies such as the IRS or your city or town, or someone you know claiming to need money. They can "spoof" email addresses and phone numbers, making their fraudulent communication attempts look legitimate.

Do not provide personal or financial information via email or over the phone.

If you receive a suspicious email, do not click on any links, and do not reply or engage in any way. Delete the email immediately. Likewise, if you receive a suspicious phone call, do not engage and hang up immediately.

Don't be rushed or pressured.

Most fraud schemes attempt to create a false sense of urgency and call on you to act quickly. Don't allow scammers to pressure you into immediate action.

How can I tell if it's real? Red flags for scams.

It can be difficult to identify potential scam emails; however, there are common red flags to look for such as grammar, punctuation and formatting errors. Look for language that creates a sense of urgency for you to act quickly. Carefully review both the links and email addresses to check for extra characters, dashes, or additional letters and numbers that don't seem to belong. Place your mouse cursor, or "hover," over a link or email address to reveal the link location or actual underlying email address.

Research the organization online.

If you wish to verify the legitimacy of a communication, contact the organization in question using contact information found on the official organization website. Do not attempt to verify legitimacy using any email addresses, phone numbers, or links embedded in the questionable communication. Independent research is especially important if you are considering donating money in response to an unsolicited phone call or email.

Please note that emails from the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System will always come from addresses that end with [@trb.state.ma.us](mailto:trb.state.ma.us). Please be safe and continue to visit our website, by typing mass.gov/mtrs or mtrs.state.ma.us into your browser address bar, for updated information and Frequently Asked Questions.

Attention REAM Members

Received in mid-May

It has come to our attention that there are several suspicious emails being sent to our members as if they were from Marilyn Frank, REAM President and John Hassan, REAM Director. Unfortunately, hackers are taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to solicit donations. **REAM is NOT** soliciting gift cards for Veterans at Hospice and Palliative care units.

As you know, membership dues, REPAC and the Edith Stewart Chase Foundation are the only reasons that REAM typically sends out a request and they should be sent to the following mailing addresses:

- REAM, 165 Lakeside Ave, Marlborough, MA (dues and REPAC)
- Edith Stewart Chase Foundation, Milford Common – Suite #114, 258 Main Street, Milford, MA

Rules to live by:

- 1 Always check the validity of your emails by checking the senders actual email address. Typically, it is a bogus address.
- 2 Look for the REAM logo in the body of the email.
- 3 Never send money to an unknown location.
- 4 Never click on a suspicious link even if you know the person who sent it.
- 5 If in doubt, always check with us first.

*Stay safe and have a happy, healthy
Summer of 2020!*

