

# West Babylon Alumni Foundation



Hall of Fame  
Induction Dinner

November 5, 2016



# ***Program***

## **Presentation of Colors**

Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634 of the American Legion

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Miss Kyra Duke, 9th Grade Student  
West Babylon Senior High School

## **Welcome**

Ralph Rienzo '64, President  
West Babylon Alumni Foundation

## **West Babylon Alumni Military Honorees**

Miss Kyra Duke

## **Superintendent's Message**

Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly

## **Board of Directors' Award**

Melvin Noble  
Margaret Joan Haugen (Posthumously)  
Emanuel Campisi

## **Dinner**

## **Hall of Fame Inductees**

Suffolk County Legislator Thomas Cilmi '82  
Benedict Reyes '64 (Posthumously)  
Mary Myers Bruckenstein '63  
Leroy Douglas '60 (Posthumously)

## **Closing Remarks**

Ralph Rienzo

## **Dessert**

# *Hall of Fame Inductees*

## 2009

Erica Crespi '88  
Jonathan Reese '86  
Mozelle Thompson '72  
Judy Skillen  
Senator Owen H. Johnson  
Helmer Petersen (posthumously)

## 2010

Thomas C. Teufel '88  
Dr. Charles Thompson '72  
Thomas McAteer '71  
Justice Ralph Costello '59  
H. Austin Sheldon, Jr., (posthumously)

## 2011

Dr. William G. Hawkins '87  
Lawrence Doyle '76  
Dr. Christopher Proto '72  
Dr. Daniel McCally '64  
Major Melvyn Kloor '59

## 2012

Dr. Debra Viti '77, (posthumously)  
Eric Kraft '61  
Silvio Impagliazzo

## 2013

Patrick M. Farrell '73  
Michael J. Rizzo '67  
Dominick Varrone '67  
Dr. John Bernardo '64

## 2014

Shannon Smith '08  
Harold Dieterle '95  
Patrick Halpin '71  
Vincent DiMartino '66  
Russell D. Van Brunt (posthumously)

## 2015

Dr. Mark Thompson '79  
Anthony Cacciola '73  
Constance Campanella '73  
Eileen Naughton Roberto '70  
John Zaruka '69

# *Hall of Fame Board of Directors' Awards*

**2010**

Dr. Robert J. Manley

**2011**

Martin P. Kennedy  
Dr. Anthony Capone  
Mathew Wilensky

**2012**

Frank Taplin

**2013**

Margaret (Peggy) Ehrensperger

**2014**

Phillip Ames

**2015**

Wally Alesse  
Barry Titone

**2016**

Melvin Noble  
Margaret Joan Haugen  
Emanuel Campisi

A portrait of Melvin Noble, a man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a white dress shirt and a dark, striped tie. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

## **MELVIN NOBLE RETIRED SUPERINTENDENT**

**Mel Noble was selected to become the West Babylon Junior High School Principal in 1983 while completing his fifth year as assistant principal at Carmel's George Fischer Middle School in Putnam County, NY. From 1967-1978, he taught and held various administrative roles at Eleanor Roosevelt Junior High School in Manhattan, where he met the love of his life and future wife, Ruth. He earned degrees at Hunter College (BA), NYU (MA), and Fordham University (Professional Diploma).**

**At West Babylon Junior High School, with the support of the Board of Education, central administration, staff and parents, Mel worked tirelessly to promote expeditious fundamental changes—placing emphasis on academic excellence, fair, consistent student discipline, recognition of students' accomplishments and improvements in the physical plant. In 1986, the WB Junior High School was named one of New York State's top performing middle schools.**

**In 1993, Mel was appointed West Babylon's Assistant Superintendent, responsible for overseeing K-12 instruction, special education services, policy review, and all Title IX matters. In 1996, he became Deputy Superintendent, then serving as West Babylon's Superintendent of Schools from January 2000 through June 2007. Throughout his career in central administration, Mel strived to organize a cohesive K-12 instructional program, involving teachers, supervisors and principals in the development of learner expectations published in the district's curriculum guides.**

**Mel secured the Board's adoption of several additional Advanced Placement courses. This encouragement to students resulted in a huge increase in enrollment. As federal and state academic testing requirements became stricter, he and his colleagues emphasized maintaining a balance of enhancing opportunities for deeper student engagement in musical groups, dramas and art courses, thus increasing the number of participating students.**

**Working closely with the trustees and administrators, he proudly directed a large capital project, including construction of WB's Performing Arts Center, elementary school's extension, upgrading the secondary science labs, and adding an elevator at WB Junior High School.**

**Always committed to attending numerous K-12 extra-curricular activities, Mel retired with fondest memories of student achievements. Similarly, he and Ruth take great pride in the accomplishments of their sons Mark and Ira, their daughters-in-laws Michelle and Daryl, and the precious grandchildren Abby, Charlie, Elijah, Leo and Lorelai.**

**Mel will always cherish the mutual respect and collegial relationships he has experienced within the West Babylon community.**



## **MARGARET JOAN HAUGEN**

### **COMMUNITY ADVOCATE**

Margaret Joan Wright was born at the beginning of the Great Depression and graduated from Farmingdale High School. The majority of “Boney Joanie’s” formative years were spent boarding with kindly relatives or on her own. The Lions Club presented her with her first pair of eyeglasses. At school chorus tryouts, she heard the words “Please try again next year, Miss Wright” and knew what that meant, but would forever remember that sentence as a model of compassion. It would take three tries to make the girls tumbling squad, but the other girls eventually relented and let her be part of the group. While a freshman, a senior named Ray called Joan’s older brother Jerry to discuss the lineup that the coach ought to put up: “Telephone Joan” picked up the receiver and Ray ended

up explaining the finer points of a batting order to her. Not surprising, Joan did most of the talking, but picked up a few ideas about teamwork and organizational strategy.

Joan and Ray married about a year after Joan graduated high school and, in the early 50s, took their young and growing family to young and growing West Babylon.

Joan became involved in Santapogue’s PTA and embraced the intelligent enthusiasm for education and community involvement she admired in Mr. Ames and Miss Doris. She learned to drive so she could attend meetings and get donations from local shopkeepers. With the guidance and support of the school’s administration, Joan moved on to District and Council posts. That kitchen table practically disappeared under piles of Joan’s “very important papers”. After the first batch of Haugen kids, Joan was just getting started all over again at Santapogue, where she reveled in the role of a sort of senior statesperson. She found special joy and fulfillment in being able to help teach in a true classroom setting with Mrs. Rigby’s “Recipe for Reading Program”.

Joan then got involved in the establishment of the West Babylon Public Library and numerous projects initiated by the WB Beautification Society. Joan helped organize the placement of — among other things — the H. Austin Sheldon Walk and the lampposts with hanging flower baskets. Somewhere in there, the windmill — that icon of the community, was somehow successfully conjured up and made to rise once more. Joan was thrilled to be a part of making that happen and to be able to share it with all the wonderful people who welcomed her so graciously to West Babylon.



## **EMANUEL CAMPISI RETIRED PRINCIPAL**

**Manny was born in Bushwick Brooklyn on February 29th 1936 and celebrated his 80th birthday this year. Manny and his beautiful wife Janet have been together for 65 years and married for 60 wonderful years. They have four fantastic daughters and five terrific grandsons.**

**After graduating from Bushwick High School in 1953, Manny attended Brooklyn College before serving two years in the United States Army and was discharged in October of 1956. Manny and Janet were married seven days later and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on November 3rd.**

**Mr. Campisi earned his degree at Brooklyn College and began his teaching career at Babylon Junior-Senior High School. In September of 1960, Helmer Petersen, District Principal of West Babylon Schools, hired Manny to teach in the Junior High School. At that time, the construction of the Senior High School building was not yet completed and there were four elementary schools. West Babylon had become the home of the largest populated junior high school in all of Suffolk County — so large that it was difficult to maneuver from one location to another. Larry Tooker and Dr. Anthony Capone were the principals at that time. In 1968, Mr. Campisi became assistant principal of the Junior High School joining Salvatore Mangone, the principal and Murray Friedland.**

**As a result of the recognition of his leadership qualities, Mr. Campisi was promoted to Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. His service was so valued that he served under four different Superintendents: Martin Kennedy, Dorothy Pierce, Edward DeIulio and Phillip Ames.**

**Next Mr. Campisi was appointed principal of John F. Kennedy Elementary School where for 13 years he dedicated his passion for education to students and families of the JFK community. Mr. Campisi stated “The 13 years I spent at JFK Elementary School were the most memorable and rewarding of my career.”**

**In July of 1996, after 36 years in the West Babylon School District, Mr. Campisi retired. Upon his retirement, and to this day, he maintains “It was indeed my pleasure to have been given the opportunity to serve the community of West Babylon and to close out my career with such a wonderful staff and children who were the light of our lives ... thank you”.**





## **SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR THOMAS CILMI CLASS OF 1982**

**Suffolk County Legislator Thomas Cilmi graduated from West Babylon High School in 1982. In 1984, while working at the TSS Seedman's Department Store, he met his wife Anna. Tom and Anna were married in 1987, own a home in Bay Shore and have two grown children, Stefanie and Thomas Michael.**

**After receiving a BS in Business Administration from the New York Institute of Technology, in 1986, Tom worked in the music business, then in digital publishing and eventually owned and operated a small commercial printing company for 15 years.**

**Tom served as President of the Islip Chamber of Commerce, the East Islip Soccer Club and the South Shore Republican Club. He coached youth soccer and basketball and also served on the Board of Directors of St. Mary's CYO.**

**Elected to the Legislature in 2009, Mr. Cilmi sold his printing business shortly thereafter. He is serving this fourth term as Legislator for the 10th District in Suffolk County which encompasses parts of Islip, East Islip, Great River, Islip Terrace, Bohemia, Brentwood, Islandia, Central Islip, Bay Shore, Ronkonkoma and Hauppauge. He presently sits on the Legislature's Public Safety Committee; Ways and Means; Health; Seniors and Consumer Protection Committees.**

**Legislator Cilmi sits on the Board of the Suffolk County Land Bank, a not-for-profit corporation formed by the County to address contaminated, tax delinquent "brownfield" properties and zombie homes. He also chaired a Task Force on Substance Abuse and calls teen alcohol and substance abuse his top social priority.**

**Mr. Cilmi has been a staunch advocate for efficiency measures in government, has been outspoken against excessive spending and borrowing, and has sponsored a variety of proposals to increase budget and regulatory transparency.**

## **BENEDICT REYES CLASS OF 1964**



**Ben Reyes attended West Babylon Schools beginning at Santa-pogue School, then the Junior High School and graduated in 1964 from the West Babylon Senior High School. At WB, he was well loved by fellow students and teachers alike. Ben was a standout athlete participating in Track & Field and wrestling, but it was football where he truly excelled. He was an outstanding player who was rewarded by being chosen as one of Suffolk County's best when he was selected to the All-County Football team.**

**Ben was ahead of his time, yet espoused the ancient values of Native culture. An Oklahoma Creek with family stories of the Trail of Tears, he grew up on New York's Long Island with his grandmother. Ben was known for his indomitable spirit, engaging gargantuan smile, brilliant business sense, generosity and kindness to worthy causes and needy individuals.**

**Ben's radiance had a positive effect on all who knew him, yet he faced many obstacles that could have shaken his confidence and paralyzed his will. A Vietnam Vet, he was a ground member of the Air Force mobile communications unit, coordinating air guidance systems during the 1968 Tet Offensive, labeled as the worst battle of the Vietnam War. He empathized with vets and was an active member of his local veteran's association.**

**Working his way up to an operations engineer, Ben got his Riggers union card and then became a US Navy Seabee, working with heavy construction equipment and as an instructor as well. He credited those years with giving him the foundation to open his own business. In 1993, Ben founded Iron Eagle, a company engaged in every part of the construction industry with a focus on innovative environmental services.**

**Ben found time for a myriad of causes from Down's Syndrome to Native economic development. He was a cherished advisor to Carroll Cocchia, President of the Native American Chamber of Commerce. "Ben Reyes knew EVERYONE and everyone knew him". No matter what you needed — a business connection — a friendly shoulder to cry on — an answer to a perplexing problem — Ben was always there to help. Ben knew how to develop business opportunities and assistance for Native people. He wanted so much to help them succeed. Once you met Ben, it didn't take long to find out that he had had the biggest, caring heart of any one you will ever meet.**



## **MARY MYERS BRUCKENSTEIN CLASS OF 1963**

**Mary, the oldest of 6 children of Stuart and Elizabeth Myers, attended all West Babylon Schools and graduated in 1963.**

**After graduation, she completed the Nursing program at King's County Hospital and worked as well as taught at the Rusk Institute for Rehabilitation. In 1968, Mary joined the Peace Corps and at her farewell party, Dr. Rusk presented Mary with the International Patient Award. After three months of training, she relocated to Ethiopia.**

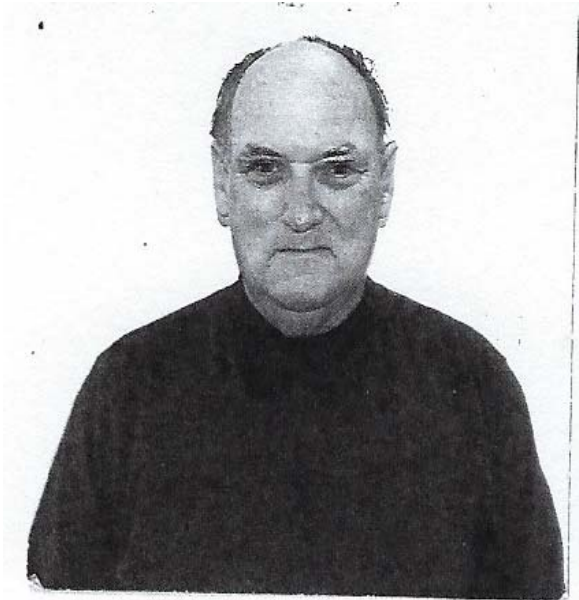
**Mary taught at the Addis Ababa Nursing School, worked in a maternity clinic, and volunteered in an orphanage where she met Berhane Daba, an abandoned 4 year old girl crippled with polio. She bartered for corrective surgery and therapy and eventually "adopted" Berhane.**

**In 1970, Mary returned home, resumed work at NYU Hospital and continued her education, earning an AAS in 1972 and a BS in 1975. She then worked at Visiting Nurses of New York and earned an MPA at CW Post in 1983.**

**Mary kept on achieving higher levels in her nursing career, married, and moved to Coram with her husband, Joseph. She became active in local politics and joined the Women's Health Board of the John T. Mather Hospital. She remained committed to the goals of the Peace Corps by becoming a member of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Long Island.**

**In 1995, Berhane helped found the Ethiopian Women with Disability National Association (EWDNA). With Berhane as President, EWDNA, is now a national organization in 7 countries. In 2012, Mary returned to Ethiopia to see Berhane's accomplishments. In 2015, Mary returned to Ethiopia to see Berhane receive the Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award. They then went to Washington, DC and met with Congressional offices, visited NGOs, and attended more ceremonies. This fall 2016, Mary and her sister will meet Berhane in Ottawa, Canada, after Berhane completes a certification course.**

**Mary's (and Berhane's) life and work can be summarized by the quote of Edward Everette Hale: "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something and I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do. And, by the Grace of God, I will."**



## **LEROY DOUGLAS CLASS OF 1960**

Leroy Douglas was raised in Wyandanch, NY. He attended West Babylon schools and graduated in 1960. "Roy" went on to attend Dowling College for his undergraduate degree and earned his master's degree from New York University.

An avid reader and lifelong learner, Roy began to teach in the New York City school system in the 1960s. He taught a variety of courses, including AP American History and United States History Regents for many years in the

Bronx and Queens. Roy worked with the Gilder Lehrman Institute to expand the AP program in different school settings. After a long and very successful career, he retired in 2003.

Roy had many interests outside of his teaching career. He loved the time he spent supporting Dowling College and the Republic Airport Historical Society. Through his work, Roy spent many years writing a variety of articles for numerous publications. He co-authored a book about the Republic Airport manufacturing in the later 20th century which was published shortly after his death in March of 2016.

Roy became involved in the West Babylon Alumni Foundation and served as Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee. The committee's most important work was finding candidates worthy of being inducted into the Hall of Fame. Roy would sit, starting with the letter A, and go through the names of graduates and their accomplishments which were listed in the Alumni Directory. This directory holds 15,000 names. Roy would do extensive research and would attempt to contact the individuals. Many alumni found this act of reaching out endearing. His joy in conveying to the committee how many successful graduates there were gave constant validation to the work of the Foundation.

Gardening was also a passion of Roy's and he worked in his own garden to create beautiful flowers and grow fresh vegetables. He was known in his neighborhood as the gardener. Among his many interests were traveling, Irish history and his familial home in Donegal, Ireland. Roy was the quintessential family man who adored his wife, daughters and extended family tremendously. For the last 8 years of his life his granddaughter, Neeve, was the center of his world. Roy was the ultimate gentleman and a joy to know.

## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The West Babylon Alumni Foundation was established in 1997 and re-organized in 2008. The West Babylon Alumni Foundation is comprised of graduates from 50 years of students.

The purpose of the Foundation is to perpetuate the “*tradition of excellence*” in the West Babylon School District.

The Foundation has set goals of awarding scholarships, creating a “Hall of Fame” and establishing a website, as well as a grant program for student clubs and organizations.

## THE MISSION

The West Babylon Alumni Foundation, Inc. is a broadly based, non-profit organization whose purpose is educational and charitable to secure and distribute contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations for the benefit of the students in the West Babylon Public Schools and by doing so, perpetuate the unique experience and traditions.

## ADVISORY BOARD

Donald Cowdell  
Robert Duggan  
Thomas McAteer

Jonathan Reese  
Judy Skillen  
Mozelle Thompson  
Jay Toner

## 2016 OFFICERS

President – Ralph Rienzo  
Vice President – Chris Connors  
Treasurer – Noreen Lico-Wood  
Secretary – Joan Datena Weinschenk

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elaine Billings Alexander  
Barbara Burrows  
Anthony Cacciola  
Carol Modafferi Foisset  
Rosemary Rizzo Menendez  
Louise Pastore Scelza  
Sheila White

You can find the Foundation on the school district’s website at:  
[www.wbschools.org](http://www.wbschools.org) and also at [www.westbabylonalumni.org](http://www.westbabylonalumni.org)

Register as an alumni ~ See Reunion listings ~ Get Foundation Information

Or contact us at:

[wbalumni@wbschools.org](mailto:wbalumni@wbschools.org)

# 2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

Miss Alexandra Capobianco  
Miss Alissa Collora  
Miss Jennifer Melfi  
Miss Toni Pastore  
Miss Erin Galvin-Santarpia  
Miss Julianne Sullivan

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION TONY CANNIZZARO SCHOLARSHIP**

Miss Sarah Capobianco

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION RAYMOND M. MEISENHEIMER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Mr. Justin Leeb

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION ANTHONY CACCIOLA SCHOLARSHIP**

Miss Emily Edwards  
Miss Allison Thiel

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION HELMER PETERSEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Miss Madison Milito - 2 year school  
Mr. Justin Leeb - 4 year school

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION FRANK TAPLIN SCHOLARSHIP**

Miss Kelsie Gering

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION RICHARD J. DOYLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Miss Marlana Krulish

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION PFC SALVATORE ARMATO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Mr. Luke Bianco

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION CLASS OF 1986 MEMORIAL ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP**

Mr. Luke Bianco  
Miss Elizabeth Bisson  
Mr. Jack Greer  
Miss Allison Thiel

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION GEORGE S. ISLINGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Miss Allyson Rebehn

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION EDWARD S. DE IULIO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Miss Madison Milito

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION LUCY PROTO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Miss Erin Galvin-Santarpia

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION THOMAS N. LORITO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Mr. Luke Bianco

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION EAGLE RECREATION CAMP SCHOLARSHIP**

Mr. Alexander Barrett  
Miss Leana Bein  
Mr. Luke Bianco  
Miss Angeline Meller  
Miss Emily O'Halloran  
Mr. Francesco Quintalino

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION BEN REYES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Miss Jessica Cozzi  
Miss Julia Furnari

## **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION PAUL O'BRIEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Miss Jillian Schiavone

# 2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION**   **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION**  
**JERRY SCHIFFMAN**   **MARGE STEIGER**  
**MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**   **MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Miss Vanessa LaCascia   Miss Nicole McGovern

**WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION**   **WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION**  
**BERNARD "BUNNY" BRENNAN**   **WALLY ALESSE/BARRY TITONE**  
**CLASSIC SCHOLARSHIP**   **SCHOLARSHIP**  
Mr. Luke Bianco   Miss Jessica Capobianco  
Miss Elizabeth Bisson

**WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION**  
**JOHN ZARUKA SCHOLARSHIP**  
Miss Emily O'Halloran

## **Sponsors**

*West Babylon Lions Club  
West Babylon Fire Department  
Cosmo's Service Station—Joseph Barbieri '72  
Town of Babylon Democratic Committee*

## **Donors**

*Phil & June Ames (in honor of Joan Haugen, Manny Campisi & Mel Noble)  
Ignatius Asaro (in honor of Manny Campisi)  
Dr. Robert and Kay Manley (in honor of Mel Noble & Manny Campisi)  
Dr. Frances DeSimone Becque  
Leonard Congiusta (in honor of Michael Sikora & Lenny Alberci)  
Jon Link  
Dr. William Hawkins  
Donald Cowdell  
Patricia Farrell (in honor of Joan Haugen, Manny Campisi & Mel Noble)  
William Coysh (in honor of Manny Campisi)  
Corinne DiSomma  
Janet Powell King (in honor of Manny Campisi)  
Terry McKenna (in honor of Mel Noble)  
John Randazzo (in honor of all past Eagles)  
Helen Schiffman (in honor of Mel Noble)  
Walter Stoeber (in honor of Leroy Douglas)  
Michael Serigano (in honor of Grace Serigano & Michael Serigano)  
Austin Sheldon (in honor of Benny Reyes)  
Lucy Duke & Kyra Duke (in honor of the WB Alumni Foundation)*

*West Babylon String Ensemble  
under the direction of Barbara Kelly*