

West Babylon Alumni Foundation



Hall of Fame
Induction Dinner

November 4, 2017

Program

Presentation of Colors

Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634 of the American Legion

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Sheila White

West Babylon Alumni Foundation Trustee

Welcome

Ralph Rienzo '64, President
West Babylon Alumni Foundation

Superintendent's Message

Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly

Board of Directors' Award

Jon Link

Dinner

Hall of Fame Inductees

Glenn Drewes '67
Jeffery Mintz '75 (Posthumously)
Christine Mowbray Manzi '96
Shannon Romanchuk Saturno '01 (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

2016

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

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

2017

Jon Link



JON LINK RETIRED SOCIAL STUDIES AND HUMANITIES TEACHER

Jon was born and raised in a small farming and ranching community in West Texas. Upon graduating from public school, he attended Abilene Christian University and graduated with a major in History in 1968.

In the spring of that year, Mr. Petersen and Dr. Capone traveled to Abilene to interview prospective candidates for teaching positions in West Babylon. Following a series of unlikely occurrences, Jon accepted a job teaching Social Studies in the Junior High School. He was transferred to the Senior High building the following year.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Jon received a master's degree from Stony Brook, became a member of the English Department, and joined the Humanities Team. Following Tom Bonanno's retirement in 1981, Jon was given the position of faculty advisor to the Student Association.

In 1989 during the beginnings of the "Glasnost" and "Perestroika" openings in the Soviet Union, Dr. Robert Manley and the New York State Education Department negotiated an agreement for West Babylon to host a group of teachers and students from a secondary school in Moscow. Dr. Manley asked Mr. Vincent Foley and Jon to serve as faculty coordinators of the program. In another series of unlikely events, the exchange continued for more than a decade and became the longest continuous running cultural program of its kind in the state of New York.

In 1989 Jon joined the "Insane Players", an acting troupe founded, produced, and directed by Hans Haugen. The group raised funds for the PTA and various local scholarships.

Jon retired in 2000 and continued to do some substitute teaching and volunteer at Our Lady of Consolation.



**SHANNON MARIE
ROMANCHUK SATURNO
CLASS OF 2001**

Shannon Marie Romanchuk Saturno spent all her primary school years in West Babylon. In high school, Shannon served as class president all four years, served as a student ambassador representing West Babylon on two overseas trips, and graduated with high honors.

Early on Shannon was a cheerleader for the West Babylon conference league, and then developed a love for dance and spent many years dancing at the June Claire Dance Center.

Another passion of Shannon's was the beach. She worked at Overlook Beach for about 6 years, which became one of her favorite places to relax with her family and friends. This past summer, the Town of Babylon dedicated a playground in her honor.

Shannon received a bachelor's degree in education from Mount Saint Mary College in 2005 and a master's degree in literacy from Long Island University. Shannon was a 3rd Grade Special Education teacher in the Babylon Grade School.

On February 2, 2007, Shannon met the love of her life Kevin Saturno. They got engaged in Disney World in April 2009 and were married on July 15, 2011. In August of 2013, Shannon was diagnosed with Triple Negative Breast Cancer while in her 6th month of pregnancy. Shannon immediately started her treatments while pregnant and on November 12th, 2013 gave birth to a healthy little girl, Siena Hope. Shannon was only in remission for a short time when the cancer came back. During her entire journey, Shannon shared her story on Social Media, fighting each and every day and inspiring others to do the same. In May of 2016, she was transferred to Hospice and even then remained positive and kept her strong faith in God. Sadly, the cancer took Shannon from us on July 10th 2016, but the cancer never took her will, her spirit and her determination to love all those close to her. Shannon was put to rest on July 15th 2016, which would have been her 5th year wedding anniversary.

Since her passing, she continues to inspire those affected with this horrible disease. Shannon worked closely with First Company Pink, a non-profit organization, where she depicted her story with a video. Currently, this video is being played in schools around the island to promote awareness to high school students to check themselves, know their family history and not be afraid to talk about cancer. There is also a "Shannon's Law", Bill #A06731B, that has unanimously passed through various NYS committees. We are waiting for its final approval. This bill will allow women to get mammograms at the age of 35.

Shannon did and continues to inspire many. Her legacy will live on and Siena Hope will know how loving, caring and compassionate her mommy was.

Thank you so much. Our family is very touched by this beautiful honor.



CHRISTINE MOWBRAY MANZI CLASS OF 1996

Being from a family of volunteer firefighters and following in her father's footsteps, in August of 1992 at the age of 14, Christine joined the West Babylon Junior Fire Department. While working her way through high school, maintaining superior grades, and participating in extracurricular activities, Christine was also busy advancing herself within the ranks of the Junior Fire Department, where she was elected and served as both lieutenant and captain.

In August of 1995, while friends were preparing for senior year, Christine was being inducted into West Babylon Fire Department's Rendezvous Truck Company #4 as a probationary firefighter. Within her first year, she completed all probationary firefighting requirements and was on her way to completing her certification as an emergency medical technician. During her senior year, she was involved in maintaining her academics (graduating with honors), playing Varsity Field Hockey, being a member of the marching band, and participating in Blue and Gold as a decorations captain.

Christine went on to earn her Associate's Degree from Farmingdale State University followed by a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Long Island University, C.W. Post. She began working as a full time elementary teacher in West Babylon. She continued to complete her firefighter training and responding to alarms as an active firefighter, maintaining one of the department's highest percentages.

In December 2001, Christine was elected to the rank of lieutenant within her company - a position a woman had never held. After two years, Christine moved up again and was elected to the position of captain. She was still working as an elementary school teacher, coaching two sports, and working on her master's degree in reading.

Christine always had the unwavering goal of becoming chief. In December 2009, Christine was elected to the position of 3rd assistant chief, another "first". Over the course of the next six years, she continued to climb the ranks, serving as 2nd Assistant and 1st Assistant Chief. Recognized for her exceptional leadership skills, in December of 2015, Christine was elected Chief of the West Babylon Fire Department, the first woman to hold this position not only in West Babylon, but in the entire Town of Babylon. As chief, Christine continues to teach 5th grade at Santapogue School. She is currently chaperoning the Junior High Cheerleading team every day after school.

Christine has truly shown herself to be a dedicated member of the community and her exemplary lifelong achievements detail just how much pride she takes in protecting and giving back to her community. Above all, the most important role she plays is being mom to her two sons. She and her husband, John, have two boys, Michael who is 8 and a third grader at South Bay and Wyatt who is 3. While Christine always seems to have a meeting to go to, or training to attend, or the fire alarm sounds, she stills finds time in her day to spend with her family.

JEFFERY H. MINTZ CLASS OF 1975



Jeffery Mintz was born and raised in West Babylon. He graduated in 1975, one of three brothers who attended and graduated from the West Babylon Senior High. During his high school years, he was involved in a number of activities, including: Student Government (S.A.); and Human Relations which at that time of racial strife was used as a means to successfully unify the student body, as well as other meaningful school and community activities. One highlight of his high school career was organizing various successful activities to raise funds for One to One, a charity organized by another WB Alumni, Geraldo Rivera, to assist residents of Willowbrook. Willowbrook was a facility for developmentally disabled children and young adults that were being warehoused in less than desirable environments and transitioning them to group homes.

Jeffery was married to his wife of 39 years, Cheryl Benson Mintz, also a graduate of West Babylon. Together they had two children, a daughter Jenifer, and a son Daniel.

He held three degrees: An A.A.S. from Suffolk County Community; a B.S. from Long Island University; and a M.S.E. from University of Florida. He also held a Diploma in Funeral Service from American Academy McAllister Institute.

Jeffery had two separate and distinct careers. Originally an insurance agent and agency owner, and then a Funeral Director and Funeral Director/Owner. He spent close to 40 years serving the needs of the public. His civic involvement included serving as an Elected Trustee on the West Babylon Board of Education, as well as membership in Rotary International both in Babylon and later in Citrus County, Florida.

Even while residing in Florida, he formed an Alumni Group for West Babylon on social media and it currently boasts over 5,000 active members covering every graduating class.

Jeffery lost his ten year battle with Ankylosing Spondylitis on September 10, 2017.

GLENN DREWES

CLASS OF 1967



Glenn Drewes, West Babylon Class of 1967, grew up on Bermuda Road. He began playing piano at the age of eight and trumpet in the sixth grade. He was inspired at an early age by his teachers Barry Titone, Ed DeIulio, Shirley LeVann and Wally Alesse. His mother was an assistant cook for West Babylon Schools and his brother Billy, Class of 1970, is also a world renowned musician.

Glenn is one of the most 'In-Demand' trumpet players on the New York City freelance scene today. His diverse career has spanned the likes of jazz greats Lionel Hampton, Dizzy Gillespie, Gerry Mulligan, Woody Herman, Buddy Rich, Doc Severinsen, and Mel Lewis, to today's pop artists, Michael Jackson, Madonna, Harry Connick, Jr., David Sanborn and Sean Combs (Pi Diddy).

In addition to being heard on hundreds of jingles, feature films, network award shows and sports themes, Mr. Drewes can be heard on the popular children's TV show, "Sesame Street". At special live concert events, Glenn accompanied Lena Horn, Liza Minelli, B.B. King, Frank Sinatra at Carnegie Hall, among others.

He appears on the albums of Puff Daddy, Bette Midler, Luther Vandross, Harry Connick Jr., Liza Minelli, David Sanborn, Lionel Hampton, Jane Horricks (on The Further Adventures of Little Voice), and Ricky Martin (playing on She Bangs).

Glenn gives back as a mentor in many ways, serving as a clinician for high school and college festivals and as a faculty member at the University of Bridgeport (Connecticut) and C.W. Post University (Long Island, NY).

Currently, Glenn is playing lead trumpet on the hit Broadway production "Chicago" featuring his own jazz quintet. He also has played in Sweet Charity, Guys and Dolls, City of Angels, Side Show, Fosse, Once Upon A Mattress, Young Frankenstein and the 2004 one night concert of Hair. Since 2006 he has been with the Birdland Big Band and is its current leader.

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.

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You can find the Foundation on the school district’s website at:
www.wbschools.org and also at www.westbablyonalumni.org

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

Or contact us at:

wbalumni@wbschools.org

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LUCY PROTO
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WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION
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MEMORIAL ACADEMIC
SCHOLARSHIP
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Miss Jacklyn Teufel

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*Thank you, from the West Babylon Alumni Foundation,
for your continued support of our organization.*