



President's Message

In an effort to serve its students and community, the Bedford Teachers' Association (BTA) believes that service must be extended beyond its geographical borders. Earlier this month the BTA sent delegates on its annual trek to the New York State United Teachers Representative Assembly (NYSUT RA). Each year well over 2000 educators come together to share and debate ideas as well as set political agenda in which students and community come first. In charting NYSUT's course this year, its delegates asked the state teachers' union to step up its legislative efforts on a variety of issues regarding education in the classroom, health care and safety in our schools, civil and human rights, and environmental concerns. The BTA views each one of these issues seriously and is proud to be part of an organization in which change is affected on behalf of our schools and community.

NYSUT serves us well as a state role model by advocating and supporting our efforts on a local level. In fact, I am proud to say that the Bedford Teachers' Association was recognized at the NYSUT RA this month as recipients of a Local Community Service Award to recognize the BTA's collective and sustained contribution to community service. I would like to congratulate our members on this collaborative effort.

They Came Back! Part II

The dedication of Bedford teachers is well-known. That dedication can be seen in the number of teachers who were educated in the Bedford schools and returned to "give back" to future generations. Some were graduates awhile ago, others are more recent. Here are some of their stories: **Leona Miller**, the reading teacher at MKES, is a graduate of her home school. Her class was the first 6th grade to go to the then, brand new FLHS. At that time it was a 6-12 school. She graduated in 1963. **Mr. Witherspoon** was an early influence. He created the feeling of an "art community" and inspired students while encouraging them to learn

various techniques. **Phyllis Stone** attended WPES, FLMS and FLHS and graduated in 1987. She fondly remembers many former teachers, some of whom, like **Nannette Furman**, **Dennis Maika** and **Jim Koloski** are still teaching. She also remembers Open House nights at WPES, where parents could see their children's work. (Still a tradition at the elementary schools!) **Stacey Haynsworth**, a science teacher at FLMS, went to BVES, FLMS, and FLHS and graduated in 1986. Many BCSD teachers influenced her! **Carrie Sears**, **Fran Lahey**, **Joan Curtin**, and **Candice Owen** are among those who inspired her twice - first as their student and then as

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● "The district has
● offered me a host of
● opportunities and
● experiences. I've
● never regretted be-
● ing part of this ever
● growing, ever chang-
● ing district." ~
● **Leona Miller, MKES**
●

her colleague at FLMS. Stacey has many fond memories but especially remembers FLMS as a unique and dynamic place to learn, so much so that she believed it would be a wonderful environment to teach in - a place where she can "continue to learn and grow as a teacher throughout my career."
Linda Carcich, AIS teacher at BHES, attended FLMS and graduated from FLHS in 1972. She has fond memories of **Mrs. Fay**, an art teacher, encouraging her budding
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PLAY BALL!

Did you know that the BTA sponsors two elementary basketball teams? In partnership with The Boys and Girls Club, the Bedford Teachers' Association sponsors the Celtics and the Heat. We cover expenses for the teams, including uniforms and some equipment. In the spring, we will be sponsoring a special needs baseball team from Pound Ridge. So go ahead and shout it: "Play ball!"



The Heat vs. the Celtics!



BTA President, **Adam Yuro**, with members of Heat and Celtics basketball teams, sponsored by the Teachers' Association.

They Served Well And Will Not Be Forgotten

A Legendary Fox Laner! Last fall **Saul Dicker**, a teacher at FLHS for over 30 years passed away. He is remembered fondly by both students and colleagues. Saul was a master teacher who knew the classics from Shakespeare to Arthur Miller. He could recite many passages at will, and often did! He taught the AP Literature class at FLHS for many years and students always remarked at how much they learned from him. When students would return to FLHS years after their graduation, they would be sure to visit with him. He was renowned by his colleagues for his dedication and knowledge of his subject, his commitment to student learning, and as a terrific public speaker. ~A remembrance from **Bob Cooper**.

Traveling with Saul: I had many wonderful experiences with Saul as we traveled to Europe. Our first trip was during the spring of 2001 when we traveled to England. One fond memory I have was as we approached Stratford-Upon-Avon, he was reading Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. His voice and the way he read truly enhanced the experience for the students. As for the students, Saul would do anything for them on these trips; he was energetic, enthusiastic, and always enriching the trips for them. His enthusiastic YEAH!, was our motto. Most tourists take photos of historic buildings, but Saul was always taking pictures of the kids which he would then distribute to the kids. I truly enjoyed working and traveling with Saul. He had a zest for life and it was so evident during these adventures.

~A remembrance from **Bill Broggy**

The Bedford community also recently lost **Joan Curtin**, a wonderful math teacher at FLMS who is remembered as an educator with a profound knowledge of middle level education. She knew how to reach all students: those at the top level and those who struggled with math. She was a co-teacher in the SAT prep class for 4 years, always helping students grasp and internalize the concepts, as well as a member of the Johns Hopkins Talent Search committee. Her students loved her and her colleagues respected her knowledge of her craft and how she always watched out for the welfare of others. In addition, Joan is remembered for her infectious smile and "patented reply" to the question how are you doing: "Walking 'n talking!"

~A remembrance from **Bob Cooper** and **Mike Simco**.

Bedford Teachers Give Generously, Again



Paul Tooker, FLHS Food Drive building coordinator, with FLHS's food donations.

The Bedford Teachers' Association has been supporting the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry for many years. This year 4,220 pounds of food and \$6,359 were donated. In a letter to Adam Yuro, Beverly Card, President of the Food Pantry, noted that "in the past month, the Food Pantry helped to feed more than 661 local residents [including] seniors who cannot make ends meet on retirement incomes; the disabled; the working poor; and, of course, children." In addition, the BTA was thanked for our generous donation which

"will assist us in providing groceries to over 191 children per month...all of whom reside within the BCSD borders." Thanks

to all the building coordinators who helped make it all happen: FLHS-**Paul Tooker**; FLMS-**Judith Aragon**; BHES-**Skip Earle**; BVES-**Julie Harris**; MKES-**John Delfavero**; PRES-**Melissa Heyde**; WPES-**Liz Pezanowski** and **Bev Card-CSEA**.



They Came Back! Part II

interest in art by sending her artwork to a show in Japan. In addition to Mrs. Fay, she fondly remembers **Lowen Bush** and **Rod Mergardt**, who both supported her on the gymnastics team. **David Albano**, an 1983 FLHS grad, remembers a great senior year because all the cliques dissolved, and "we simply enjoyed each other". He has great memories of **Steve Kluge's** Earth Science II, the first time it was

offered, because Kluge gave students academic freedoms and treated them like adult-learners. He recalls **Mr. Richardson's** English class as a place where literature became unlocked "with passion." Dave now ignites his own students with that same passion for learning and appreciating literature. He says, "As a teacher at Fox Lane if you can dream it, you can find a way to make it happen. This is a positive I realize now is a constant."

More Generosity!

At a recent social gathering of Bedford teachers, **Deb Dormady**, FLMS Social Worker, donated back to the Mount Kisco Food Pantry her share of a 50/50 raffle. On behalf of the BTA, an additional \$263 was donated to the food bank. Bedford teachers are reminded that they can donate food and money to the food pantry all year long. Keep the generosity flowing!