



# Bedford Teachers' Association

Representing the Caring & Dedicated Teachers of Bedford

October 25, 2006 Volume 1, Issue 1



New BTA President, Adam Yuro (center), is joined by VP Pat Galvin-Bloom & former President, Ken Kurzweil

## BTA WELCOMES NEW FACES

### Honoring Outgoing President: Ken Kurzweil

### New President: A Bedford Graduate

**THANK YOU FOR 23 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE!!!!**



Ken Kurzweil with his wife Suzanne & Son, David

On Friday evening, October 13<sup>th</sup>, over 150 people gathered at the Crowne Plaza in White Plains. Teachers and administrators as well as board of education members and parents came to celebrate the work of Ken Kurzweil. Ken was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in the Bedford Teachers' Association for almost a quarter of a century. As a leader in our union, he has been an advocate for both teachers and children alike. As teachers, we all have an innate sense of community. Ken's sense of community is planted firmly, but not limited to the classrooms of Bedford Central Schools. He is most proud of his work as the Chair for NYSUT's Human and Civil Rights Committee. He has been our leader for a very long time. Directly or indirectly, adult or child, we all have benefited from the work of Mr. Kurzweil in BCSD.

Ken, we salute you!



I am proud to be a product of the Bedford Central School District. Having graduated from The Fox Lane High School in 1980, it was my intention at a very young age to return here and teach in the rooms where I was educated. Little did I know that there were many other graduates of BCSD with the very same idea as mine. Enter any one of the seven buildings in the district and you will meet a graduate of Bedford Central Schools. Our teachers enter the field

because they are dedicated professionals. To them, it is not a job, but rather a calling.

The Bedford Teachers' Association is an enthusiastic and committed group of educators that are devoted to the children of BCSD. What makes us stand out is that we are not only devoted to our students, but we are community minded as well. Our union is involved in events beyond the four walls of the classroom as well as within. For example, our teachers participate annually in the Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk, sponsor an academic scholarship for a graduating senior from FLHS, contribute to such causes as the victims of Hurricane Katrina and orchestrate a food drive on behalf of the Mt. Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry. We are the Bedford Teachers' Association, teaching all, reaching all.

-Adam H. Yuro, President, Bedford Teachers' Association

## Teachers Use Summer Break To Reach Out to Children & The Community While Others Pursue Professional Development

Teachers in Bedford spend parts of their summer in many enlightening ways. Here is just a sample of the myriad things some of our members did in our "free time" this past summer:

Kevin Crowley, Psychologist, traveled to New Orleans to assist with Hurricane Relief efforts.

- Lesley Hunt, Nurse, taught a Babysitting class for ages 10+.

-Teachers participated in the Summer Academy program offered by the district to students in grades 4 through high school.

- Nine BTA members participated in Leadership workshops sponsored by NYSUT (New York State United Teachers)

-Deb Meyers, Karen Temple, Roisin McGuire, and Danielle DeCapua attended "Its Got to Make Sense", a Reading Workshop in Saratoga NY

- Julie Harris, learning specialist, attended a 2 day math seminar

- Mimi Warren, speech teacher, attended a conference in ME: "Best Practices in Language & Literacy"

- MaryAnn Raph, music teacher, took a course at the Hart School of Music

- Michael Mulder, teacher, earned Kodaly Level Certification at NYU & Orff



Nine BTA members participated in a NYSUT sponsored Leadership Conference: (l to r.) Adam Yuro, Pat Galvin Bloom, Linda Magni, Cathy Maceira, Mimi Warren, Kevin Crowley (missing from photo: Mike Groarke, Ruth Ann Funnari, & Stacey Haynsworth)

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE



Organizer, Libby Pearl, reports the success of the October 15th

### BTA Members Raise Money For Breast Cancer

By Libby Pearl

For several years the members of the BTA have been involved in various activities which strive to improve the quality of life in area communities. Participating in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk is just one example. I became the Team Co-captain with Candice Ermer (now retired) a few years ago when she learned that I was a frequent participant in this event. Together we worked to organize a BTA group and joined forces with other NYSUT members. Because most of our members know someone who has been affected by this disease, I felt it was important to continue to promote this walk which raises both dollars and awareness to fight this disease. Each year more and more members join us to honor the survivors and pay tribute to those who died. The camaraderie amongst all the walkers cannot be described. Each year our donations increase and help the American Cancer Society's lifesaving research, prevention, early detection and colleagues who have survived breast cancer and with some who did not. It is for this reason that I engage our members in this battle. The feedback from the many, many members who walked and/or contributed is so positive that I will continue to be involved with this community activity.

### BTA Members Giving of Their Time in Summer

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Level Certification at NYU & Orff certification at WCSU

- Dan Levy, teacher, swam across the Hudson for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, coached a swim team for 4-18 year olds, & attended Teachers College for the Reading & Writing Project at the Reading Institute

- Beth McCabe, teacher, directed a preschool camp at a local Rec. Dept.



## BEDFORD CELEBRATES LONGEVITY!

Eleven teachers were awarded recognition for their many years of service in the Bedford Schools. The following teachers have served the district for 15 years: Cindy Goldenberg, Ellena Weinstein, Sue Colgan-Borrer, Regina Weiss, Bea Maguire, Bill Hunter and Rosemary Hogan.

Joan Kazer and Pat Galvin Bloom have given 25 years of service to Bedford, and

William "Skip" Earl, Greg MacDonald & Joe Amuso were recognized for giving 35+ years of service to the Bedford School System.

Congratulations to all these dedicated professionals!

## 40 Teachers Join Bedford Teachers' Association



The BTA is proud to announce the addition of 40 new members. Welcome to the following individuals and know we are there for you:

Michele Werney, Michael Carron, Rhonda Doctor, Susan Sammon, Victoria Bradley, Michelle Desjardin, Laura Ferrari, Nicole Kossifos, Marlyse Minnich, Ellen Cunningham, Joseph Dimauro, Jeffrey Alviti, Stacey Esmond, Marcie Frishman, Donna Swift, Alyssa Verheyn, Rosalie Campisi, Stephanie D'Urso, Melissa Heyde, Sharra Jackson, Regina Trusiewicz, Jana Fox, Margaret Goodman, Kevin Grayson, Erica Van Patten, Carol Degeorge, Luis Fernandes, Darrell Flynn, Katherine Kelly, Erika Kostik, Caroline Markel, Jennifer Neilsen, Glenn Reed, Sasha Silverman, Christine Belvin, Brenda Henderson, Linda Morley, Nicole Ryan, Judy

## Senator Leibell Addresses the BTA Rep Assembly: Places Education A Priority Again

By Mimi Warren

Senator Vincent Leibell addressed the Rep Assembly on October 19th, arranged through a joint effort between BTA & NYSUT. Senator Leibell is running for re-election in the 40th State Senatorial District, which includes Putnam County and parts of Westchester & Dutchess Counties. Senator Leibell has served as chair on many committees, including the Standing committee on Civil Service & Pensions. During his tenure as chair, he oversaw significant legislation, including a permanent cost of living adjustment for public employees. Senator Leibell has also served as a statewide leader in the field of Libraries & Education. He has been instrumental in initiatives to advance the education & reading skills of both children & adults. NYSUT's endorsement of Senator Leibell is based on his record on education & labor.



Senator Vincent Leibell stresses his commitment to education during October's Rep Assembly Meeting held at Fox Lane High School

"It's Got To Make Sense" was attended by elementary teachers Deb Meyers, Karen Temple,

Psychologist, Kevin Crowley assists in Hurricane

