

# LTA EXAMINER



Lynbrook Teachers Association

## June 2014

The Official Newsletter of the Lynbrook Teachers Association

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION, COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

IN THIS ISSUE

## Congratulations, Retirees!

Neil Giordano



*Pictured with wife Debbie, daughter Lauren, and sons Chris and Matt.*

For most of the past 37 years, I've worked at South as a 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Math teacher. I also taught computer lab in the early years. I taught both Physical Education and Math at many schools in Lynbrook, including at the high school, West End and Waverly Park. I coached football, wrestling and Track throughout my tenure at Lynbrook, and coached both my sons, Chris and Matt, in Football and Wrestling. My fondest memories are watching as the kids we taught become young ladies and gentlemen and come back and visit. They talk to you about their experiences and their families and jobs, and many times they tell you of how we as teachers have had an distinct influence on their lives. This is a very gratifying experience. Once retired, I just want to try and do what everyone keeps telling me to do, relax. It will be a new experience. I want to thank my friends, my colleagues, my principal, Mrs. Ronai, coaching friends, neighbors and especially

my family for their support and encouragement throughout the years.

Donna Smith



I'm at West End since 1979; however, I've also taught at Atlantic Ave. (the year it closed), Marion Street and Waverly Park. I've been in Lynbrook for 39 years. It's hard to pinpoint my fondest memory. There have been so many poignant and funny experiences. I must say that I never tire of seeing my former students, especially the ones I am blessed to work with. It is such affirmation. The first thing I will do is sit by my pool with a book. My big treat will be the day after Labor Day. Instead of emptying backpacks, I'll be on the beach at the Outer Banks with my husband Craig, my daughters Shannon and Siobhan and my son in law, Ray. Though I'm looking forward to retirement, it will be bittersweet. It has been a blessing to wake up every morning to do something I love with people I love. Who could ask for more?

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## YOUR LTA



<http://lynbrooklta.org/>



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## LTA Executive Board (593-1929)

### President

[Craig Kirchenberg](#) (HS)

### Advocate Vice President

[Neil Giordano](#) (SM)

### Educational Vice President (Secondary)

[Mike Spinella](#) (HS)

### Educational Vice President (Elementary)

[Donna Smith](#) (WE)

### Treasurer

[David Rabinowitz](#) (HS)

## LTA Building Reps

Your building reps are a great resource. Don't hesitate to contact them with any questions you may have.

### High School (887-0200)

[Mary Kirby](#), [Jen Turner](#), [Kim Herrmann](#),  
[Carol Ann Winans](#)

### North Middle (887-0282)

[Michelle Bergsohn](#), [Liz Cardito](#)

### Marion Street (887-0295)

[Victoria Schiller](#), [Anthony Simone](#),  
[Patricia Wierzbicki](#)

### West End (887-0288)

[Dave Ajello](#), [Annmarie Roth](#)

### Waverly Park (887-6589)

[Amy Garfinkel](#), [Jackie Marino](#)

### Kindergarten Center (887-8065)

[Kathy Freehill](#), [Joan Kocher](#)

### South Middle (887-0266)

[Kristin Affrunti](#),  
[Anne-Marie Calitri](#), [Jen Fusco](#)

# From the President's Desk

by Craig Kirchenberg

In April, I took my family to Washington, D.C. for a few days. My older daughter, Kayla, was begging me to take her to the Holocaust museum. I was a little apprehensive; she's only ten years old, and my younger daughter, Abby, is only six.

I was torn. I didn't want to scar my kids, but we need to learn our history.

We need to know where we come from in order to know where we're going.

We need to learn about the horrors in history so we don't repeat them, and we also need to learn about the honorable people who stood up to make a difference.

I am someone who believes in standing up to make a difference, and if there's one thing I want to teach my kids and my students, it's that it's important to be that person.

I decided to bring them to the museum. Abby didn't completely get it, but Kayla was moved. She asked a lot of questions, and I tried to answer them as honestly as possible in terms that she would understand.

At the end of the museum, there's a quotation by [Martin Niemöller](#), a prominent Protestant pastor who spent seven years in concentration camps because of his public criticism of Adolf Hitler.

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out--  
Because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out--  
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out--  
Because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me--and there was no one left to speak for me.*

Throughout my life, I primarily only thought of the Holocaust in the context of being a Jew: my history, my heritage, my ancestors. I of course knew that there were other groups persecuted, but I never gave any thought to the Trade Unionists. And here I am now, a union leader.

When we see the wrongs in this world, we must all speak out together. As a union, this is what we do – we look out for each other, and we look out for others. By we I mean all of us. The union isn't just the union leadership; the union is the rank and file.

Remember the story of Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

*There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** could do it.*

***Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it.*

***Somebody** got mad about that because it was **Everybody's** job.*

*Everybody thought **Anybody** could do it but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it.*

*It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.*

*The moral: **Nobody** has to do **Everything** if **Everybody** does **something!***

As a local union, the LTA is only as strong as our member involvement. As a state union, NYSUT is only as strong as the strength of the individual locals, which stems from the local member involvement. As a national union, the AFT is only as strong as the state unions, which depend on the local unions, which depend on local member involvement.

There are groups actively trying to destroy the unions. The union's voice is strong when we speak together. There are groups actively trying to destroy public education. Politicians are starting to rethink policies because teachers and parents are speaking out together.

The next time your profession needs a voice, let's be the voice together.

The next time your students need a voice, let's be the voice together.

The next time the community needs a voice, let's be the voice together.

Change begins with one voice at a time.

Together we can make a difference.

Your voice is needed before it's too late.

Ask an LTA rep or officer what you can do to help.

In Unity,  
Craig Kirchenberg

# Congratulations, Retirees!

*Continued from page 1*

## Theresa Rein



West End Elementary- School Nurse for 20 years. Was also a parent here for 8 years. I have many fond memories of West End- not only while working here but also when my daughters, Chantelle and Stephanie attended West End. My fondest memory is when, for 4 years, I co-directed Drama with my good friend Donna Smith. We had so much fun doing the plays and I really got to know the students in a different way. The first thing I am going to do is actually nothing. Hopefully, I will be able to sleep a little later. But the most important thing I will be doing is spending more time with my new grandchildren, Kennedy and Bauer. I have had many wonderful years here at West End and formed many special friendships both here and throughout the district. I am going to miss all the children I have watched grow up over the years. It is hard leaving, but it is time to move on to the next phase of my life. Thank you all for being a part of my life for the past 28 years. I will miss you!!

## Tina Becker



West End School- 36 –years, also attended the Lynbrook schools as a student. My fondest memory of teaching is the look on childrens' faces when they learn something new.... the smiles that show they are enjoying themselves and the wonderment in their eyes learning something new. Teaching children to love learning is the greatest accomplishment for a teacher. Being part of the Lynbrook community, I've had the pleasure of seeing many of my students grow into adults. They often share memories of times we shared in the classroom; it's rewarding to know that I've touched their lives as they have touched mine. First thing I will do during my retirement is take a trip to Paris with my husband Greg and daughters, Stephanie and Allison!!

## Sherri Levin



Teacher at South for 35 years. I plan on enjoying my son's wedding in September and then hopefully travel a little and escape part of the cold winter by going to Florida for a few weeks. Of course, one of my fondest memory is marrying my husband who I met teaching in Lynbrook. I have great memories of the hundreds of students that I've had the pleasure of having in my classes, and then, having their kids in my classes the last few years! I cherish the friendships I've made with so many of my dear colleagues through the years. I'm looking forward to not running out of the house at 6:30 A.M. and spending time with my family and having the time to read a few good books!

## Elizabeth Moseman



West End Elementary-36 ½ years  
First, I was a part time resource teacher at Waverly Park and South Middle Schools for two years; then I was the first full time special education teacher to be hired at Lynbrook High. Later, I worked at South Middle School again before ending my career at the elementary level.  
Fondest memory: Watching my students graduate with a sense of accomplishment and joy whether from 5th, 8th, or 12th grades always left me with such pride and admiration as I know how much effort was required to meet the academic requirements.  
Future Plans: I always wanted to join the Peace Corps, so I will explore this and other organizations to work as a volunteer. I am very fortunate to enjoy such a long teaching career in the Lynbrook School District and would like to "give back" in some way to the local or world community.  
Traveling the globe has been my second passion

after teaching, so I plan to visit India and Southeast Asia as well as hike in the Himalayas and Patagonia in the next few years. My immediate goal is to be a "46-er" in the Adirondack Mts. of New York State. I have only 7 out of the 46 high peaks left to climb, so I'll be busy hiking this fall!

## Judi Broadhurst



I began my teaching career in 1972 at St. Edward the Confessor in Syosset. When I was hired to teach second grade at West End in 1974 my salary doubled, I had an unencumbered lunch, and I got prep periods! The following year I was sent to teach at Atlantic Avenue and then returned to West End when Atlantic Avenue closed in 1976. I remained there until I moved back to Atlantic Avenue in 1995 to teach in the brand new Kindergarten Center. What a blessing it has been to work with such a dedicated, caring, collegial group of professionals at the K.C.. My fondest memories of my forty years of teaching are the beautiful faces of the children I have been privileged to teach and the joy and excitement that I felt every day as we shared the wonder of learning through music and exploration. Recently, I have been thrilled to see many of these students as adults, now teachers themselves in this district, or bringing their own children to my classroom for a second generation in the "Mickey Room". I decided to retire before the third generation arrived!  
The first thing I plan on doing when I retire is to turn off my alarm clock and read, read, read! Then, in August, my husband and I will take off for a long awaited trip to Alaska. Hopefully, this will be the first of many new adventures as I begin the next chapter in my life.

## Michele Bergsohn

North Middle School- 12 years  
8th Grade Math Teacher  
For me, I do not consider this retirement. Having had many career jobs over the years, I am still in the process of deciding what new adventure to pursue next. But first, I will enjoy the summer traveling, reading, and just enjoying the beach. Teaching and working with middle school students has been completely rewarding and stimulating. I have always said, you forget your personal troubles and thoughts from the moment you walk into the school building until the time you leave. For me, it has been all about the students.

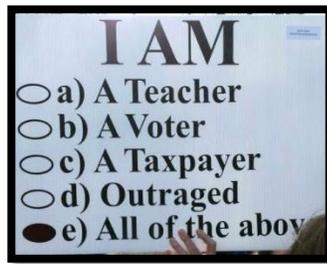
# Cuomo's Gotta Go!

by Mike Spinella

The rally in Holbrook at Villa Lombardi's on April 28 against Governor Cuomo and everything having to do with Common Core and high stakes testing was a huge success. What made it so successful was that it was a grassroots movement, assembled not by NYSUT, but by Tony Felicio, president of the Connetquot Teachers Association, and the teachers of Suffolk County. In addition, the support from Nassau teachers, parents, and other unified groups was overwhelming. With rallying signs saying "Cuomo Is Bad For Students" and "Cuomo Eats Our Pasta Wrecks Our Schools" as well as battle cries such as, "1-2-3-4, Andrew Cuomo's Gotta Go!" has exemplified the ideology of standing together as a unified voice.

It was apparent that the crowd of 3,000 strong was quite bothersome to Governor Cuomo who earlier in the week, reached out to Tony to cancel the event. The image of the governor going into the restaurant shielding his face from the protesters was a sight to behold and hopefully made him understand that this movement is not going away anytime soon.

The Huntington Hilton Rally displayed the same grassroots campaign protesting the Democratic Convention. Roughly 2,000 teachers, parents, and other activists lined Rte. 110 displaying the same signs that could be seen at the previous rally. The battle lines have been drawn, and a coalition of parents and teachers are ready for a long fight.



## NATIONAL AWARDS

We are proud to announce that the *LTA Examiner* has won 2 Awards in the AFT2014 Communications Contest.

### 2nd Place: Best Editorial or Column

**Craig Kirchenberg's** [May 2013](#) column about the Common Core won second place for presenting a definite point of view on a subject.

### 2nd Place: Best Layout

**Susan Ehrlich** won second place for Best Layout for the [March 2013 Newsletter](#). This was the first issue with the new design.

## TAKE ACTION!

### Prekindergarten - 12 Issues

Support Truth in Testing for the Common Core  
[Fax Legislators](#)

Stand with Spencerport on Testing! Sign the Petition! [Sign the Petition](#)

2-year Moratorium on High Stakes Consequences of Tests. [Fax Legislators](#)

Oppose "Back-Door" Voucher Legislation  
[Fax Legislators](#)

# Colleague Corner

## Tenure

Congratulations to this year's newly tenured teachers: Rosanne Bogard - HS/S, John Christ - S, Peter Dennis - HS, Nicole DiCarlo - WP, Jill Johanson - HS, Meghan Kudlek - S, Joseph McElean - N, Roxanne Migliacci - S/N, Annie Pasqua - S, Donald Seibert - N

## Congratulations

**Christine Ketelsen's** daughter, Samantha, will be graduating HS this June. She is in the top 15% of her class and a scholar athlete. Sam will be attending Marist College's School of Communications in the Fall majoring in Journalism and Public Relations.

**Steve Freifeld**, Third Grade Teacher at Marion Street, is proud to announce that his son, Jonathan Freifeld, graduated this May, with his Master's Degree in Higher Education Leadership, from Northern Illinois University

**Kim Herrman's** daughter, Madison, is graduating from LHS this month. She will be attending the University of Florida.

## New Babies

**Christine Marino** from West End had a baby girl, Taylor Ann Marino, born on March 15th.

**Christine Castellano** (4th Grade Teacher at Marion St) and her husband Lou are proud to announce the birth of their second child, a boy, Andrew William, born on February 4, 2014.

**Karen Trotta** welcomed a baby boy, Brayden Cooper in December.

**Madelyn Torres** is home enjoying her new addition to the family, Isabella.

**Laura McCarthy** welcomed baby Caroline Jenna McCarthy on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Jill Johansen**, LHS, Welcomed her first son, Ethan, on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Melissa Marr** had her second son, James, on June 11. Congratulations to Melissa, Bill and big brother Charlie!



## LTA Receives NYSUT Community Service Award

For the third consecutive year, we have received the NYSUT Award for consistently evidencing a belief in community service.

Thanks to everyone who helped us achieve this award.