**In Memorium:**

**2025**

\*\*Frances Van Buren passed away on July 6, 2025. Frances was a reading teacher and went on to become the Assistant Superintendent and also served as an Interim Superintendent.

**2024**

\*\*Joe Gregson passed away on March 28, 2024. Joe was a Science teacher at WHS and retired in 1993.

\*\*Edwin D. Bernauer, passed away on May 4, 2024, at the age of 80. He was born in Queens, NY on November 16, 1943. He was a resident of Farmingdale for more than 40 years, before moving to East Islip in 2018. Dedicated Math Teacher at Westbury High School. He is reunited in heaven with his beloved wife Annmarie. He is survived by his sons Edwin D. Bernauer, Jr. (Lorraine) of Wantagh, NY, and David (Shannon) of North Wales, PA, and his beloved grandchildren Nikki, Allie, Justin, Gabriella, and Grace. He is also survived by his sister Margaret Casaccio (Vic Gagliano) and brother-in-law Edward Coco (Patricia), several cousins, nephews and a niece.

\*\*We mourn the passing of Larry Simon, who passed away on April 10, 2024. Larry was a retired Industrial Arts Teacher from Westbury Middle School. Larry was born in Long Beach, NY on May 2, 1947. He graduated from Oceanside High School and continued on to receive a degree in Industrial Arts Education from Buffalo State University, graduating in 1969. He continued on to receive his Masters in Administration at NYU in 1971. Larry was married to Ann Goldberg on December 24, 1972. They were married for 51 years. Larry worked as a technology teacher for 39 years, primarily at Westbury Middle School. In addition, he worked many other part time jobs including architectural draftsman, power tool demonstrator, and computer sales for Gateway computers. He enjoyed golf, hockey games, dining out, and times with family. He used his skill as a technology teacher to complete many home renovations. After retirement, he enjoyed travel and more time to golf. He was also actively involved in Temple Beth El Synagogue on Long Island as a building and grounds volunteer. Upon relocating to North Carolina seven years ago, he stayed involved in building and grounds maintenance for his neighborhood and Judea Reform Congregation. Larry is survived by his wife, Ann, children, Daniel (Jill), Scott (Stacey), and Jeremy (Jamie), and grandchildren, Asher, Jacob, and Lila. Larry is predeceased by his parents, Muriel and Morty, brother Jay, and granddaughter, Marlowe.

\*\*It is with sadness to note that Lavilla Watson passed away. Lavilla was a Social Worker at Park and Dryden St. Schools.

\*\*It is with sadness that we inform you of the passing of Mr. Albert Handy on January 19, 2024. Mr. Handy served the school district community as a Physical Education teacher and District-wide chairperson of the PE Department. He supervised an after-school hockey team that recently honored him. He is survived by his wife (of 43 years), Cathy and 4 children: Alicia, Cathy, Albert, and Lizzy and 5 grandchildren. Cathy is a retired Park Avenue School teacher who later became a Teacher Representative for our Committee on Special Education. Al devoted his life to helping others. In the Peace Corps he taught Corrective Therapy at Haceteppe Children’s Hospital in Ankara, Turkey; he taught in the Open Door Program in Brazil and worked with earthquake victims in Peru. He worked on minority issues in Westbury and accepted any challenge that came his way. He loved Westbury Schools and the Westbury community serving as tee ball coach for many years. He was very grateful for all the opportunities that Westbury gave to him.

 **2023**

\*\* Bob Seckler passed away November 26, 2023. Bob taught History at Westbury High School

\*\* It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Annmarie Bernauer in September 2023. Annmarie was a teacher at Drexel Avenue School.

\*\* JoAnn Gross Cohen passed away Friday, July 21, 2023. JoAnn was a retired Special Education teacher from the Middle School. She was a member of the District CSE team for many years up until her passing. She also volunteered since retirement at the Response Crisis Center hotline helping those in crisis. She was always there for others. She is interred at Mount Ararat Cemetery, Farmingdale NY.

\*\*Maureen Dunn Hocker passed away on Thursday, May 4, 2023 while living at the Sunrise Assisted living Facility, in East Meadow. She was 78 years old. Maureen was born on September 20, 1944 in Queens Village, New York to Patrick and Elizabeth (Betty) Dunn.  She was the first of three children which included her sister Patricia (dec. 2021) and brother Edward (dec.2005).  Maureen attended Marymount College in Manhattan, N.Y. where she studied French Literature and Language.  She graduated in 1966 and completed graduate studies in Rhode Island. She applied for a teaching position in the Foreign Language department of the Westbury School system, teaching French to Middle School Students.  There she found her niche. She embraced her profession, her students and made life-long friendships with colleagues.  Over the years she was very highly regarded and well-respected, so much so, that she was elected to the position of President of the Westbury Teachers Association. In that position, she fought for and won successful contracts for the membership with her calm and dignified leadership and negotiating skills. Always a concerned and dedicated political individual, she was sought after by a number of top New York companies where she interned during the summers off trying to decide if the job was her calling.  Her love of teaching and her desire to mentor her students educationally, drove her back to the classroom and back to Westbury. Some years later, the drive for professional challenge reared its head again and she answered the call. Maureen earned a professional certificate for Superintendent of Schools and left for leadership positions around the county. She held the position in East Meadow, Glen Cove and Bayshore schools, where she retired from the educational arena. During her retirement, she travelled extensively to Europe, visiting countries such as Italy, Greece, Sicily and Ireland.  It was in Ireland that she found her heart.  She researched her father’s heritage and regularly returned to Ireland in the latter part of her life, happy and content that she had a chance to be part of his culture and to learn of his homeland. Maureen leaves to mourn a multitude of family, friends and colleagues.  She is interred at St. Charles Cemetery, Farmingdale, N.Y. next to her beloved brother, Edward.

 **2022**

\*\*Nora Friedl passed away in June 2022. Nora was a retired Special Education Teacher from Drexel Avenue School. In 2004 when the WSR was formed she was a founding member. Nora served as treasurer until moving to Henderson, NV with her husband, Paul, in the spring of 2018.

\*\*Adrienne Ginsberg passed away on March 31, 2022. Adrienne was a retired Reading Teacher from Park Avenue School. Services were held on April 3 at The Gardens of Boca Raton in Boca Raton, Florida.

\*\*Gwen Clement-July 10,1928-Feb 22, 2022. Gwen was a General Education teacher and also a Typing Teacher. She taught at Dryden Street School and most of her career at the Middle School where she taught typing and 6th Grade. One of her colleagues shared these remembrances: “Gwen was old school; she had solid values about dignity, being fair and getting along, and honesty. Gwen was an exceptional educator and motivator. She was a classy lady. Gwen used to bring in old and unusual artifacts and asked the kids what they might be used for. If the kids learned one thing in her class, it would be manners and how to act properly; the academics would follow.” To this colleague, “Gwen was one in a million!” What wonderful memories of a life well lived. What an impact Gwen had on her students and colleagues. Maw-Maw, as her family affectionately called her, is survived by her two sons Bruce (Cynthia) and David (Jacqueline), both graduated from WHS, five grandchildren Daviece, Donnell (Danielle), Brandon, Christopher and Jonathan, two great-granddaughters Jaliyah and Myla, and many loving nieces, nephews, colleagues and friends. ​

\*\*Patricia Ann Francis, affectionately known as Pat, began her teaching career in 1983 at Friends Academy in Locust Valley (1983 – 89) where she taught a combined 2nd and 3rd grade class. Shortly into her career she was offered a teaching position in the Westbury School District at Drexel Elementary School where she taught 4th and 5th grade from 1989 to her retirement in 2013. Pat was a truly dedicated teacher. She was a no-nonsense teacher, however her children loved her. She loved her children and taught them in a manner which was both strict and loving at the same time. She simply wanted the “best” for her children and went out of her way to accomplish that task. Outside of school, Pat was an avid health enthusiast: walking daily, eating healthy, participating in Yoga classes, Pilates, Zumba, Strength Training and even Belly Dancing. She was a motivator of her friends, especially her walking buddies, which were called “The Walking Club”. She often shared health tips and even registered them in health seminars. She also liked to share recipes with everyone. We remember Pat as an energizer and motivator with an infectious smile and effervescent personality. She was a wonderful, loyal friend. Most of all she is remembered as a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and loving friend. Her husband of 51 + years, Leslie L. Francis, sons David M. Francis and Michael K. Francis are fortunate to have been in her presence in the precious time that they shared. As a member of the Executive Board she was in charge of the annual Breast Cancer Walk. She was always at every luncheon with a friendly word and smile for everyone. We miss you Pat.

\*\*Thelma Tribble was a fourth and fifth grade teacher at Drexel Avenue School. She passed away on January 30th in Whispering Pines, North Carolina.

\*\*William "Bill" Bowden was a Biology Teacher at WHS for 22 years. He had a love for horticulture and served for 12 years as the Superintendent Director of Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay. He continued to pursue his passion for horticulture, serving as Commissioner of Jurors for the Long Island Flower Show. Over the years, he worked as a consultant to some of Long Island's more prominent nurserymen. His home was a refined yet spectacular exhibition of azaleas, rhododendrons, and specimen trees, which he, and his wife of 67 years, Amelia, organized masterfully into a parade of seasonal colors. Bill was a long-time member of the WSR and regularly attended our luncheons. He was loved by his students and admired by his colleagues.

 \*\*Iride Bubek retired from Powell's Lane School. She was a sweet and kind person and attended a few of our luncheons. She was predeceased by her husband, Ernest in May, 2022.

\*\*Esther Kosakoff was a reading teacher at Park Avenue School. Services were held July 6 at Temple Emmitt in New Jersey.

\*\*Maurice Beres, affectionately known as Moe, served as a Health Education Teacher at Westbury High School and as District-wide Chairperson of the Health Education Department. He was easy-going and the students loved him. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis.

  **2021**

 \*\*Edward M. Krinsky passed away on October 28 2021 at the age of 88 after a brief illness. In 1957 Ed joined the faculty at Westbury High School as a History Teacher. He went on to become Chairperson of the Guidance Department and served as the Head Coach of the Basketball Team for 20 years. At Westbury Ed coached Nets star Joe DuPre who said that Ed “helped a lot of ball players” and Dennis Duvall, who played for the Atlanta Hawks and Washington Bullets. He said that Ed was “a great coach who really cared about his players. He didn’t cut anyone off his team and drove all his players home from training because there was no late bus.” Former Georgia Tech Coach, Paul Hewitt also remembered how many times Ed helped him throughout his years in WHS and in securing a basketball scholarship to St. John Fisher College. Former student and basketball player, Charles Patterson, recalled what an impact the teachers at WHS had on the students and how much he appreciates all the values they instilled in the students. Ed played basketball and baseball at Harvard where he earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees. He also served in the US Army. In 1977 Ed coached the US Team in the Maccabi Games in Tel Aviv and established basketball clinics in Egypt during the summer of 1980. Ed served as general manager of the Long Island Surfs Basketball Team. In his retirement years Ed served as a consultant to the basketball team at SUNY Old Westbury. Ed is survived by his two daughters, Donna Romano of Dix Hills and Yoon Krinsky-Ruder of Boston.

 **2020**

* \*\*Mr. Maddaloni retired from the District in June of 1995. He was a French and Spanish teacher at the High School. Art Maddaloni passed away on June 25, 2020, at the age of 86. Art began his career, teaching French, in 1960 at St. Francis Prep HS in Brooklyn. He continued his teaching career at Westbury High School, teaching French and Spanish and became the Foreign Language Chairperson for the Middle and High Schools until his retirement in June of 1995.

 Art was a true professional and a true gentleman. As a teacher, he was patient, knowledgeable and understanding. As a department chairperson, he was always helpful in guiding his staff to reach his/her full potential. Art Maddaloni will always be remembered as a kind and compassionate human being

\*\* Ms. Anderson was a retired teacher from Powells Lane School.

\*\* Anthony (Tony) Bonamo was a Science Teacher at the Westbury Middle (Junior High) School for 30 years. His son, Anthony Bonamo, Jr. is a Science Teacher at the Westbury High School.

 **2019**

* \*\* Marilyn Sporty was retired classroom teacher in Westbury. She was the last living person in her family. Her wonderful aide, Indy Singh, was with her until the end. There is no address to send condolences since Marilyn has no family survivors, but donations can always be made in her name to a charity. Please say a prayer for her...
* \*\*Barbara Hickey, retired Reading teacher, who many colleagues, friends and older students will remember serving the Westbury community with great care and dignity, passed away in October 2019. Written condolences can be sent to: Dr. John K. Hickey, 31 Great Oaks Rd. East Hills, NY 11577. The family welcomes contributions in the name of Barbara Hickey to St. Jude Children’s hospital or the Sunrise Day Camp, Long Island.
* \*\*Eleanor Merritt served as an Art Teacher and Districtwide Chairperson of the Art Department dating back to the 1960’s. Ellie was the first African-American art teacher and dept chair in Westbury and was an early member of the LI Black Artists Association. She is survived by her daughters Lori Merritt and Dr. Lisa Merritt who both graduated from Westbury High School. Ellie believed that, “Art can open a window in time-it speaks to the heritage of the past, but carries these traditions into the future.”
* \*\*Paul Ebron, social worker at Junior High/Middle School and High School and beloved mentor. Passed away 8/10/19