

THE BRONXVILLE SCHOOL FOUNDATION

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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Bronxville's Concert Band Performs at Boston's New England Conservatory



What do Bronxville High School and the iconic New England Conservatory have in common? The answer: A charismatic musician/music professor by the name of John Heiss (BHS '56). On October 27, 2013, the Bronxville High School Concert Band traveled to NEC to celebrate John's 75th birthday with a concert called "What Goes Around Comes Around." Performing under BHS Band director Sharon Slote before an intimidating audience of NEC faculty, students and professional musicians, the Bronxville musicians (some very recent alums) received a standing ovation. This is the story of the connection between Boston and Bronxville.

Ilhan Gokhan (BHS '13) was welcomed back all the way from Duke University in North Carolina to join the Bronxville band in playing a piece he composed called *March for Concert Band*. Flutist Holly Rudd (BHS '13), now a freshman at NEC, contributed as well to the band's strong performance. In the audience were a dozen or more former BHS students who sang along when the band gave a brilliant rendition of *Onward Bronxville*. Ann Meyer (BHS Principal) attended the event as did NEC President Tony Woodcock, who also performed.

Brendan Carty (BHS percussionist) said, "We could not have received a warmer reception from The New England Conservatory. The highlight of the trip was seeing John singing along with the band as we played *Onward Bronxville*. It was very cool to see what an impact Bronxville had on this very successful man's life."

Founded in 1867, NEC is the oldest independent music school in the nation and it provides education for almost all age groups. The Bronxville band's invitation to perform came about when John's sister Kathryn Heiss Clarke (BHS '59) found an old picture of John in a band uniform --taken when he was in seventh grade. She realized it was to be his first time marching at a football game. She saw a serious 12-year old musician about to step out onto a larger stage...

John's music career began at the piano when he was 3 or 4 years old. It progressed in the BHS Music Dept. and on to his dance band years when he learned to play every instrument. And then, as John jokes ruefully, to the Lehigh Marching Band where he and his piccolo portrayed the dot on the "i" in "Lehigh".

During the concert, six of John's works were performed/conducted by NEC faculty and professional musicians. These were *Serenade for Flute and Harp* (2012); *Birthday Greeting* (1976); *Inventions, Contours and Colors* (1973); *Songs of Nature* (1975); *Epigrams for Flute and Percussion* (1985) and *Lines from Neruda* (1997), which was narrated by NEC President, Tony Woodcock.

The end of the concert shifted from the serious to the fun. Joan Bennett Kennedy (another famous BHS classmate) introduced Nancy Janssen Fletcher (who taught piano to both John and Joan when they were children). Nancy (piano) and her good friend Richard Bis-Cornet (bass) soothed the audience with *Clair de Lune* and *Ebb Tide*. Then the BHS Concert Band revved up the tempo and brought down the house! The program closed with a swinging *Lullaby of Birdland*, with Kim Holland (BHS '59) on the piano; Brad Kohl on sax; and John Heiss on flute.

Fast forward to April 2014: it had been over fifty years since John attended Bronxville High School, yet on a Monday morning he was up bright and early for the first period high school band class; the difference this time was he was teaching the class. Funded by a grant from the Bronxville School Foundation, for two days, John was back in school to give a series of Master Classes to the High and Middle school band students. John's classmate and fellow HS band oboe player Louise Scribner (BHS '57) observed John interacting with current BHS students.

Later in the day, John spoke at the High School Assembly "Voices". John described some experiences that led him to his career and played several recordings for our students. He stressed his experience with the Bronxville High School Band, where he first learned all the instruments and gained an appreciation for orchestration. Bronxville students peppered John with many questions about his time at Bronxville. Several BHS alumna attended the assembly: Bill White (BHS '57), Sam Bryan (BHS '57), Louise Scribner (BHS '57), Bob Wein (BHS '53) and John's sister, Kathryn Heiss Clarke (BHS '59). A mini reunion lunch followed hosted by Denise Lutter.



Donate Now!

Farewells



Anthony Angotta came to Bronxville High School to teach English in 1981. He was hired as a leave replacement for Linda Miller while she was on sabbatical and after two years he was offered a permanent teaching position. He will be retiring this June after 32 years of service.

Prior to Bronxville, Mr. Angotta taught at St. Nicholas Elementary School in Brooklyn (Language Arts 6th, 7th, 8th) and at St. Francis Prep in Queens (HS English for 4 years). It was at St. Francis Prep where he met John Kehoe who offered him the position at Bronxville.

Mr. Angotta was hired to teach 10th and 12th grade English. For the past 25 years he has been head of the English Department. In addition to teaching, he has coached Tennis and JV Baseball, been the teacher liaison for the Student Faculty Legislature (SFL) and been a part of numerous search committees for both faculty and administrators. Outside of Bronxville, he is very active as an Umpire for the Catholic League in Westchester and also in the NY Public school leagues.

When Mr. Angotta began teaching, there were only two AP classes offered at Bronxville High School: AP English Literature and AP Calculus. Today there are at least twenty AP classes. He has watched “the chalkboard become almost obsolete,” witnessed the several construction projects transform the school and seen the development of numerous student run committees including the SFL which he has been a part of for the last 15 years. Despite all these changes and growth, he has been amazed that no matter what you throw at the students, they always rise to the occasion.

Although looking forward to retirement, Mr. Angotta will miss his students and the special connection he has had with so many of them. He always goes the extra mile to see the person and not just the student. Mr. Angotta looks forward to spending more time with his wife, son, daughter and 2 grandchildren. He also plans to travel, play golf, and continue umpiring baseball.



John Kehoe retired this past January from his position as Assistant Superintendent of Schools after 33 years of service. Over this long tenure in the Bronxville School District, he has seen his share of challenges. The student population has doubled since 1989, the school has undergone multiple changes in curriculum, there have been at least 5 physical renovations, and he has survived 4 major floods. According to Dr.

Kehoe, some of the things that haven’t changed are the students (whom he thinks are fantastic), the support of the community and the great quality of the professional staff. All of these things have made this job a tough one to leave. Hence... he will be “easing into retirement”.

Dr. Kehoe was first hired back in 1981 to replace Mr. Zidik as Assistant Principal of Bronxville’s Junior and Senior High Schools. After 5 years in this position, the school was reconfigured and the Junior High School was eliminated and a Middle School took its place. Dr. Kehoe was asked to be the Middle School’s first principal. In 2000, he became the Assistant Superintendent of all

schools, a position created by the Superintendent at the time, John Chambers. Although he has retired, Dr. Kehoe will stay on in a part time role for one to two more years to see the school through its construction of the new auditorium and the renovation of the Middle School science labs.

Before coming to Bronxville, Dr. Kehoe taught Elementary, 8th grade and HS English at various Catholic Schools in Brooklyn. His first role in administration was as Assistant Principal at St. Francis Preparatory School where he had previously taught.

Next year, Dr. Kehoe will work 2 days a week at the school. He is not ready to cut ties and go fishing quite yet. Less time at the office will allow for more time with his family, skiing, and golfing. In addition, he will continue to be a baseball umpire in the Catholic High School League and in the New York City public schools. His continued role as a part timer will allow him to oversee the transition of new administrators (a new HS and Elementary principal) and the flood mitigation project that is about to begin. When he finally walks out of these doors forever, he will have left quite a legacy.



Carol Lockwood began her career at the Bronxville School 29 years ago. At the conclusion of this academic year, she will leave the high school counseling office and start her life as a “lady of leisure.” Carol began in the high school office before moving to the guidance department in 1989. She has served on both the negotiating committee and the principal search committee but she points

to interaction with students as her most enjoyable role. Many times, Carol has served as a friendly shoulder to lean on when the counselors have been busy with other students. And it brings her great joy when students come back to visit after graduation.

Before beginning her career at Bronxville, Carol was a stay at home mother for her two children, Lisa and Chris. She must have been a good role model, as her son Chris is presently a Bronxville Middle School English teacher. Before motherhood, Carol served as an executive secretary to the CEO of a retail firm.

Carol has seen many changes during her time at Bronxville but the one constant has been the student body. Carol has been impressed that students here remain respectful, focused and motivated to do well: “The Bronxville students are the best part of the job. It has been a pleasure to work with them.”



Maryellen Mullin is finishing up her 25th year at the Bronxville School. While she has always been a kindergarten teacher here, she has also taught in a K-2 multi-aged group setting, a 3-5 year old Montessori class and as a Special Educator before coming to Bronxville.

In addition to being a beloved teacher to her kindergartners, Ms. Mullin has served in a number of leadership positions and committees over the years. She has served as grade chair, been on the Policy Board, mentored new teachers, been union secretary and helped to negotiate many teacher contracts. One of the projects she is most proud of is the DVD she helped create with several primary colleagues. It was a research project entitled “The Power of Play” – a topic she has a great deal of passion for.

During her tenure at Bronxville, Ms. Mullin has seen the kindergarten program undergo several notable changes. She was a big advocate of the advantages of extended day structure and feels the move to full-day was a big adjustment for students. She enjoyed the opportunity of having large blocks of time to work closely with a smaller number of students, and she notes it was a very special time for both teacher and child. She is happy the school has preserved some key traditions that she values, such as the kindergarten home visits and the Holiday Sing.

Ms. Mullin feels that the students have changed over time. They have much busier schedules with less down time to process and play. She is a big advocate of the advantages of play – not just to alleviate stress and pressure, but also to teach essential social and problem-solving skills. She also has made it a point of integrating music into the lives of her students and hopes they will always keep singing.

When asked what she likes most about her job, she responded that one of the best aspects is having the opportunity to spend time working with the children every day – they are just “so real, so honest, loving and eager to learn and please.” She also made a point of saying, “I feel blessed to work in Bronxville with some of the most talented, professional and creative colleagues I have ever worked with. They have taught me so much over the years.” Ms. Mullin plans on continuing to spend time with children while helping take care of her grandchildren.

Bronco. Over the years, she posted articles about numerous Bronco teams. Football was one of her favorites since her son Alex played at Bronxville in the late 90s. And cheerleading too, since her daughter Maggie was cheerleading captain in the 1990s. A little known fact from the 1990s— with no prior experience, Ms. Sklar left her comfort zone and jumped into the position of Head Cheerleading Coach, drawing inspirational moves from MTV and Janet Jackson!

Retirement for Ms. Sklar will be anything but quiet. She plans on diving into her passion for antiques and vintage clothing by becoming a part owner of an antique store in Cold Spring, New York.



Susan Williams has retired after 17 years of teaching 4th grade at the Bronxville School. Susan received a BA in English and a Masters degree in Education from the University of Maine. She began her teaching career at the William Lloyd Garrison School in New York City. William Lloyd Garrison is a school for potentially gifted students. Here she taught Kindergarten, 3rd and 4th grades.

She remains connected with many of her former colleagues, a task made easier as several of them also came to teach at the Bronxville Elementary School. These teachers and good friends include Pam Kohlhoff, Valerie Palacio and Carol Fata.

Susan’s retirement will leave a large gap in the staff and heart of the Elementary school. Her commitment and dedication to her students is unparalleled. Students who were lucky enough to have been taught by Ms. Williams were touched by her devotion and stayed in contact with her well beyond their 4th grade year. On any given day, if you stopped by her classroom after 3 pm you would likely find a couple of high school or middle school students visiting or just checking in to say “hi”. Susan is an accomplished instructor who loves watching her students connect new ideas and grow into critical thinkers and problem solvers. She has also greatly enjoyed her role of working with fellow colleagues and designing the 4th grade curriculum.

During her tenure at the Bronxville School, Ms. Williams held several positions on the staff. She was a team leader for the 4th grade, a Curriculum Leader, Policy Board Representative, and a cooperating teacher for student teachers. She was part of the Sunshine Committee, ELA committee and FLES.

Susan has loved teaching and will miss the classroom and the students immensely. She looks forward to spending time with family, friends and traveling. She has taken trips to Spain and Portugal, has driven across the United States, and spent a month in Hawaii.



Marcia Sklar has been a Special Education and Resource Room teacher since 1990, providing a comfortable yet stimulating learning environment for Bronxville Middle and High School students who learn differently. This year, she will retire from the district with incredibly fond memories of her students. Ms. Sklar has always prided herself on her ability to “teach kids that they are smart

because so many of them do not know that they are.”

After teaching American History and American Literature in Maryland and then later at the Orchard School of Andrus in the 1980s, Ms. Sklar administered Special Education testing for Westchester County. There she received the Barbara Bush Award for Education in 1989-1990. Ms. Sklar describes the early 1990’s when she came to Bronxville as an exciting and ground-breaking time for Special Education. She joined the faculty and became part of a brand new team of 4 resource room teachers. These teachers helped students in middle and high school and helped each other as well. Since then, she has focused primarily on high school students. In the last two years, she answered a call for assistance with 8th graders and she loved the transition back to middle school teaching.

Ms. Sklar’s technique in engaging her students was unique... and it worked! After students would trudge up the four flights of stairs to her classroom, she strived to make sure that they felt at home. If they needed a breather before starting on academics, she encouraged them to “go to the beach”... by taking their shoes off and popping their feet onto the white sand which was conveniently located in the bottom drawer of a big old desk. If that did not work, they were able to take in the calming effects of her Zen water fountain, followed by a nice dose of artificial sunlight from her lightbox!

And beyond that, Ms. Sklar’s room was a magnet for all things

Former Faculty Get Together!

Phil Kuczma and Vito Priore got away from the cold this winter and visited Bill Green in Florida.



BHS Alumni Reunions

Class of '48 - 65th Reunion



Class of '53 - 60th Reunion



Class of '78 - 35th Reunion

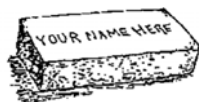


Class of 1973 and Class of 1993 also celebrated milestone reunions!

**BHS 2014 Homecoming Weekend - Columbus Day Weekend
October 10-12, 2014**

Bronxville School Alumni Walk

The Alumni Walk, created in 1994, has been enthusiastically built by donations from graduates of all ages, entire classes, as well as families and friends wishing to honor former students. More than 1500 bricks grace the path at the entrance to the Bronxville School. Add your brick today by completing the enclosed card or calling the Foundation Office at 914-395-0515.



Reunion Spotlight Class of '63 - 50th Reunion



At their 50th Reunion BHS Class of 1963 chose to honor fellow classmates Robert "Bogus" Burt & Robert "Biff" McKellip, who served and died in Vietnam, with a flowering cherry tree and Memorial Plaque planted on the school grounds corner at Midland Ave. & Pondfield Rd. A highlight of the Reunion morning was a tour of the school ending with a dedication of the tree with many classmates remembrances.



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Bronxville School Foundation
Alumni Group**

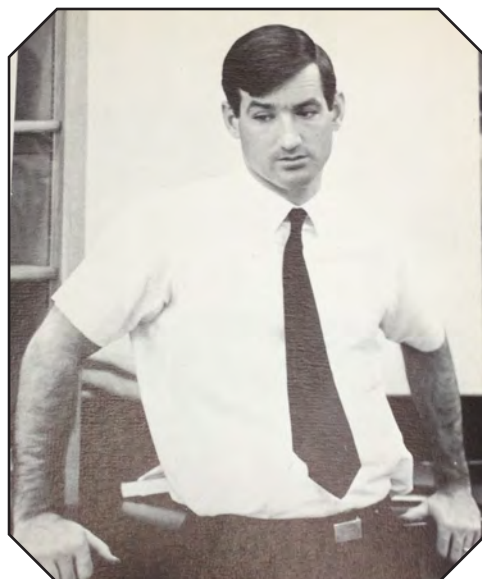
And A Blast From the Past . . .



Mary Sullivan
“Gilbert’s fine.”
32 Years at BHS:1956-1988



Robert Spenik
... Remember the Broncos of ‘66?
33 Years at BHS:1962-1995



Dr. John Moyle
“Happiness is a blackout.”
35 Years at BHS:1965-2000



Patricia Ribner Zendel
..Channeling her inner Zelda and Scott
33 Years at BHS:1968-2001



Dr. Edward Cosgrove
...Fond memories of his Mr. Spock move
36 Years at BHS:1972-2008

In Memoriam and In Honor Of

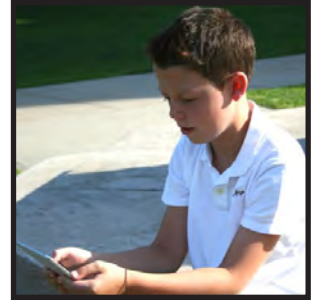
Gifts in memory of an alumna/us, parent, or friend of the Bronxville School have a very special meaning. These thoughtful remembrances contribute to the Foundation’s programs and perpetuate the memory of the individual.

In Memoriam: Mary Elting Church ‘55, Dr. Edward Cosgrove, Emmy Farnsworth Neiley Littlefield ‘39, Jeremiah W. O’Connor, III ‘94, Class of 1963-50th Reunion in memory of their classmates Bobby Burt ‘63 and Biff McKellip ‘63.

In Honor Of: The Bond, Epley and Warble Families, Christine Higgins, Dr. Rachel Kelly, Dr. Martin Roth, Georgiana Stewart.

Bronxville School Foundation 2013 Grants

Connecting Ideas to Actions



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University Graduate Student Internships
 Redefining “Rigor” for 21st Century Learners
 Singapore Math Program Materials
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 Lincoln Center Institute Partnership
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Faculty Development

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 Mindfulness in Education Conference
 National Science Teachers Conference
 Instructional Coaching for HS Faculty

New Technology for Arts and Sciences

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 TV Production Equipment

Athletics

Positive Coaching Alliance
 iPADS for Athletic Coaches and Teams
 FitLight Trainer
 Soccer Training Equipment

Facilities

Water Fountains and Retrofit Water Bottle Filling Stations
 Pride in School History: Restoration of Portraits

For Grant Award details, see www.BronxvilleSchoolFoundation.org

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 Mr. Peter Andrew Murrer '05
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 Ms. Kathryn Williams '07
 Mr. Robby Willams '08
 Ms. Caroline Harris '09
 Ms. Jessica Murrer '09
 Class of 2012

Capital Projects Progress

This past year was marked by many exciting facility enhancements at the Bronxville School. With the benefit of Foundation funding, several capital projects were completed, including new bleachers for the main school turf, a new press box, and a concession stand with bathrooms. Bronco Baseball fans are also benefitting from Foundation funded bleachers at Scout Field as of this season. The concession stand will be open for use in the fall of 2014.



Of note, the eye-catching sign on the concession stand was a generous gift from the Classes of 2012 and 2013.



The Auditorium renovation project is well underway with demolition of the existing facility, including the balcony and the stage, completed this spring. Excavation for the side lobby has begun and the exterior shell of the new construction should be finished this fall. The project is on track for completion in early 2015.



**Bronxville Girls Lacrosse First Section & Class C Title Win;
Bronxville Boys Lacrosse 4th Consecutive Section & Class C Title Win!**





Katie's Run has become a Thanksgiving Tradition for the Bronxville Community. The run is in honor of Katie Welling, a 2002 Bronxville graduate and established by her classmates. The memory of Katie's wonderful sense of humor, her infectious laugh, and her love of life, still shapes and colors our lives and keeps us all forever connected with her. This was evident all morning long as over 400 participants, BHS Alumni and current school families enjoyed the event this past November, 2013. *For a list of donors and pictures, visit www.BronxvilleSchoolFoundation.org.*



SAVE THE DATE! 8th Annual Katie Welling Memorial Run/Walk
Saturday, November 29, 2014--We'll See You There!