West Babylon
Alumni Foundation

Hall of Fame
Induction Dinner

November 3, 2012
Program

Pledge of Allegiance
Welcome
Ralph Rienzo '64, President,
West Babylon Alumni Foundation

Benediction
Monsignor Jim Vlaun
President and CEO of Telecare

Superintendent’s Message
Anthony Cacciola '79

Board of Directors’ Award
Frank Taplin

Dinner

Hall of Fame Inductees
Dr. Debra Viti ‘77 (posthumously)
Eric Kraft ‘61
Silvio Impagliazzo

Closing Remarks
Ralph Rienzo

Dessert

Special Thanks to the Following:
The West Babylon High School String Ensemble,
under the direction of Elizabeth Leidel
High School Fine Arts Chairperson Barbara Kelly
Hall of Fame Inductees

2009
Erica Crespi '88
Jonathan Reese '86
Mozelle Thompson '72
Judy Skillen
Senator Owen H. Johnson
Helmer Petersen (posthumously)

2010
Thomas C. Teufel '88
Dr. Charles Thompson '72
Thomas McAteer '71
Justice Ralph Costello '59
H. Austin Sheldon, Jr., (posthumously)

2011
Dr. William G. Hawkins '87
Lawrence Doyle '76
Dr. Christopher Proto '72
Dr. Daniel McCally '64
Major Melvyn Kloor '59

2012
Dr. Debra Viti '77, (posthumously)
Eric Kraft '61
Silvio Impagliazzo
Hall of Fame Board of Directors’ Awards

**2011**

Martin P. Kennedy  
Dr. Anthony Capone  
Mathew Wilensky

**2012**

Frank Taplin
FRANK TAPLIN

Frank "Tappy" Taplin was born January 15, 1933 in Lowell, Massachusetts, a tough mill town on the banks of the Merrimack River. He was the oldest of four boys born to Frank and Marion Taplin. Growing up in Centerville, a rough section of the city, and living across the street from the ball field, sports became his passion. Frank was awarded a basketball scholarship to Keith Academy, a private prep school, where he captained the team in his Senior Year when they won the league title. He also led the team in scoring and played in the All New England Tournament at the Boston Garden. Frank garnered All City Honors in both basketball and baseball. He picked up a tennis racquet at age 13 when kids from his side of the tracks didn’t play tennis. He went on to become the City of Lowell Junior Tennis Champion in 1947, '48 and '49. The city newspaper, The Lowell Sun, referred to him as a "dead-end kid" playing tennis.

Frank graduated from Keith Academy in 1951 and went to work for the Lowell Sun newspaper while attending Lowell Textile Institute. He joined the army in 1954 and spent three years at Redstone Arsenal playing both baseball and basketball for the Arsenal teams. Discharged from the army in 1957, he enrolled in the University of Alabama where he graduated in 1960 with a B.S. in Chemistry and a Masters in Education.

His best friend Hugh Mason suggested he visit West Babylon as they were looking for teachers. Frank met with Superintendent Mr. Helmer Petersen who hired him as a math teacher. "Tappy" had found his home. He married his beautiful wife Adele, who was a teacher at Santapogue, in 1961. Together they have five children and five grandchildren.

Frank’s career at West Babylon spanned 38 years during which he was a math teacher, guidance counselor, 9th grade baseball, basketball and soccer coach, J.V. basketball coach, Assistant Varsity basketball coach and Varsity basketball coach.
DEBRA VITI, M.D., POSTHUMOUSLY

Dr. Debra Viti grew up in West Babylon residing on Justice Avenue with her parents and her brother, Paul. She graduated from West Babylon Senior High School in June, 1977.

Dr. Viti received her BA from Indiana University. She was accepted to three Ivy League medical schools: Cornell, Georgetown University and Dartmouth. Debra received her MD from Cornell University Medical College in 1991. After completing her internal medicine residency at the University of Iowa hospitals and clinics, she moved to the Boston area in 1994 to practice internal medicine at Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates (HVMA) and joined the Harvard Medical School community as a clinical instructor at Mount Auburn Hospital. Debra was an active teacher at HMS and contributed, for many years, to Patient-Doctor II courses and to OSCE examinations.

In addition, Dr. Viti was a primary care internist at the HVMA Cambridge and Somerville practices and was beloved by her patients. She was also an HVMA physician facilitator in the Brigham and Women's Hospital Emergency Department. She was active on the Quality Assurance and Research Committees of HVMA and had strong research interests in the study of women's health issues. In collaboration with the Department of Ambulatory Care and Prevention, Dr. Viti conducted a study of women’s attitudes toward alternative medicine use for menopause, the results of which were presented in 2004 at the national meeting of the North American Menopause Society. She was also a member of the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Human Studies Committee.

Dr. Viti credited her wonderful experience at West Babylon High School to the successes in her life. She is quoted as saying “I had some memorable teachers at West Babylon High School who guided me into going to college. They not only changed my future, but that of my brother Paul and many cousins who followed my lead.”
ERIC KRAFT

After graduating from West Babylon High School in 1961, Eric Kraft was, briefly, co-owner and co-captain of a clam boat. It sank. He went on to Harvard.

After Harvard, he taught school in the Boston area, moonlighting as a rock music critic for the *Boston Phoenix*, and then worked as a book editor. In 1975, he and his wife, Madeline, established a company to develop textbooks for publishers throughout the United States. That work eventually led to Kraft’s producing the Clifford the Big Red Dog website for PBS and editing the *Just Neighbors* program for Family Promise, an organization that helps homeless and low-income families.

In 1982, Kraft began creating a large work of fiction called *The Personal History, Adventures, Experiences & Observations of Peter Leroy*, which has become his life’s work. It appears to be the memoirs of a fictional character called Peter Leroy, who grew up in the town of Babbington, on the South Shore of Long Island. Over the course of ten books (so far) Peter has told an alternative version of his life story; explored the effect of imagination on perception, memory, hope, and fear; held a fun-house mirror to scenes of life in Babbington (and beyond); and pondered the nature of the universe and human consciousness. The *San Francisco Chronicle* has called the *Personal History* “the most ambitious and rewarding literary enterprise of our time.” *Newsweek* called it “the literary equivalent of Fred Astaire dancing: great art that looks like fun.”

Kraft has held a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and was awarded the John Dos Passos Prize for Literature.

Eric and Madeline currently live in New Rochelle. They have two sons, Scott, a marketing executive, and Alexis, an architect and teacher. Their granddaughter, Carson, is a student.
For over 30 years, Silvio has been a mainstay in the West Babylon District’s volunteer ranks. He was one of the founders of the West Babylon Parents’ Sports Association in 1975, and for all but four years he has been the president. Sil organizes seasonal meetings of the parent volunteer members, which often include presentations by the district’s athletic director and coaches who explain their plans and encourage others in the community to be of assistance throughout the season.

Over a decade ago, Sil orchestrated the donation of materials and labor to the district to facilitate the construction of the concession building located at the junior high fields. Before and since that time, Sil and the Parents’ Sports Association members have donated their time during Eagles home athletic competitions and graduations to serve food and drinks to raise money for the scholarship fund.

The efforts by this organization have brought revenue that has been used to fund the Annual Parents’ Sports Association Scholarship Fund. Over $120,000 has been awarded to students by the association during Sil’s tenure.

In addition to the scholarship campaign, Silvio schedules celebration dinners for the varsity teams to recognize team championships. He always has a speech ready to go.

Silvio is also the founder and sole director of the Our Lady of Grace intramural basketball program, which grew into the CYO program. Thousands of West Babylon students have participated in it through the years. He organizes the teams, reserves the gym space, develops schedules and works with the coaches. He has done this continuously for the last 51 years.

You will also see Sil participate in West Babylon legislative breakfasts for community leaders, trustees, administrators and legislators. He takes an active role in the School Board’s Mission on behalf of the students. This is a man who loves his community.

Silvio has been honored as, “Volunteer of the Year,” by CYO of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, as well as being the recipient of the “Community Services Award,” from Scope Education Services.

He is the proud father of six, all of whom live in nearby towns. In his spare time, Silvio is usually found cheering for his four grandchildren on and off the field.
ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The West Babylon Alumni Foundation was established in 1997 and re-organized in 2008. The West Babylon Alumni Foundation is comprised of graduates from 50 years of students.

The purpose of the Foundation is to perpetuate the “tradition of excellence” in the West Babylon School District.

The Foundation has set goals of awarding scholarships, creating a “Hall of Fame” and establishing a website.

THE MISSION

The West Babylon Alumni Foundation, Inc. is a broadly based, non-profit organization whose purpose is educational and charitable to secure and distribute contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations for the benefit of the students in the West Babylon Public Schools and by doing so, perpetuate the unique experience and traditions.

ADVISORY BOARD

Donald Cowdell
Robert Duggan
Thomas McAteer

Jonathan Reese
Judy Skillen
Mozelle Thompson

2012 OFFICERS

President – Ralph Rienzo
Vice President – Chris Connors
Treasurer – Noreen Lico-Wood
Secretary – Joan Datena Weinschenk

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elaine Billings Alexander
Barbara Burrows
Anthony Cacciola
Carol Modafferi Foisset
Rosemary Rizzo Menendez
Louise Pastore Scelza
Sheila White

You can find the Foundation on the school district’s website at:
www.wbschools.org and also at www.westbabylonalumni.org

Register as an alumni ~ See Reunion listings ~ Get Foundation Information

Or contact us at:
wbalumni@wbschools.org
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2008 SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Janene Gaffney

2009 SCHOLARSHIPS
WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Taylor Davino
Miss Grace Drewes

2010 SCHOLARSHIPS
WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Molly Bianco
Miss Emma Leary
Miss Emily Toner

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION ALBERT J. RITACCO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Jesse Powers

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION TONY CANNIZZARO SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Mark A. Palminteri
Miss Amanda Whitaker

2011 SCHOLARSHIPS
WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Kerry Clancy
Mr. Andrew Howard
Miss Jamie Rizzi
Miss Taylor Stone

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION TONY CANNIZZARO SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Amanda Birr
Miss Amalia Drewes
Miss Alexa Goebel

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION CLASS OF 1960 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Christopher Betting
Miss Melissa Prunzion

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION CLASS OF 1960 ARTS SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Amanda Birr

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION CLASS OF 1960 ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Thomas Walthers
Miss Taylor Webb

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION HELMER PETERSEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Amalia Drewes
Mr. Shane Salanitri

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION ALBERT J. RITACCO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Daniel J. Apuzzo
Mr. Jeffrey Orelien
2012 SCHOLARSHIPS

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Justin Fitzpatrick
Miss Deandra Livoti
Miss Stacie McGann
Miss Jamie Nankervis

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION TONY CANNIZZARO SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Mark Carr
Miss Jennifer Hirshkowitz
Mr. Samuel Schmid

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION BERNARD "BUNNY" BRENNAN CLASSIC SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Paul Chiappone
Mr. Gaetano Innamorato

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION CLASS OF 1961 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Sydney Davino
Miss Allison Lazzaro

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION CLASS OF 1986 MEMORIAL ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Ashley Marinello
Miss Rachel Mercorella

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION RICHARD J. DOYLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Rachel Mercorella

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION PAUL O'BRIEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Megan Ossmann

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION HELMER PETERSEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Melissa Flaherty – 4 year school
Miss Salina McAlvin – 2 year school

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION ALBERT J. RITACCO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Tyler Hartmann
Mr. Michael Kata
Mr. Michael Richardson
Mr. Reginald Robinson
Mr. Unique Ford
Sponsors
West Babylon Teachers Association—Patricia Squicciarini, President
West Babylon Lions Club—Thomas Lano, President
Cosmo's Service Station—Joseph Barbieri '72
AMF Babylon Bowl—Mike Serigano '74 (In honor of Grace Serigano)
Mr. Ed Mooney
Marcor Roofing, Construction & More

Donors
Leroy & Noeleen Douglas (In honor of Dr. Efstratios Kalogerakos—
American History teacher at the WBHS 1958-1959)
Dr. M. Daniel Becque and Dr. Frances D. Becque (In memory of
Louise DeSimone Hannaford)
Walter F. Stoeber (In honor of Mathew Wilensky)
Jon Link (In honor of Frank Taplin & Sil Impagliazzo)
Theresa McKenna

ALMA MATER

The Eagle is a symbol of the high school we hold dear.
A school that those of us who know, regard without a peer,
Her colors Blue and Gold, when seen, do gladden every eye,
Of all those sons and daughters of our own West Babylon High.

Chorus

Oh, dear old Alma Mater to you we will be true,
You'll live forever in our hearts, West Babylon we love you.

“Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle”