# THE BOUND BROOK CHRONICLE

Compiled and edited by Mayor Bob Fazen with the assistance of local community organizations



Mayor Fazen's Corner

Bob Fazen Mayor Borough of Bound Brook

#### The Wall

his month I am writing about an emotional and personal experience I had on the weekend of May 5th. It was a grand reunion of my West Point Class and it was held in Washington, D.C. It was great to see over 180 of my classmates and to talk about our experiences back then and our lives today.

The emotional part of the weekend relates to the history of our West Point Class. 550 of us graduated in 1966 at the peak of the Vietnam War and within two years, we lost 33 of my classmates to the War. The culmination of the weekend reunion was the gathering of my classmates at the Vietnam Memorial (Vietnam Veterans often refer to the monument as "The Wall"). The families and friends of the 33 classmates who died in the war were invited to the reunion and the total number of classmates, families and friends numbered over 500. Each of the 33 classmates were recognized and the families and friends of each deceased classmate were provided with a single red rose and escorted individually to the appropriate engraved name on "The Wall," where the rose was placed.

If you have not visited "The Wall," the Memorial is made up of two 246-foot-9-inch long black granite walls, polished to a high finish making them appear to have a mirror effect; while etched with the names of the servicemen being honored in 144 panels of horizontal rows with regular typeface and spacing. The walls are sunk-

en into the ground, with the earth behind them. At the highest tip (the apex where they meet), they are 10.1 feet high, and they taper to a height of 8 inches at their extremities. Symbolically, this is described as a "wound that is closed and healing".



When a visitor looks upon the wall, his or her reflection can be seen simultaneously with the engraved names, which is meant to symbolically bring the past and present together. One wall points toward the Washington Monument, the other in the direction of the Lincoln Memorial, meeting at an angle of 125° 12'. Each wall has 72 panels, 70 listing names (numbered 1E through 70E and 70W through 1W) and two very small blank panels at the extremities. There is a pathway along the base of the Wall where visitors may walk.

#### It is a remarkable monument and sharply represents a part of my life that will always be with me.

The rest of the reunion was far less emotional and truly enjoyable. Most of the time, we enjoyed rekindling memories from the past and talking about our grandchildren. We recalled our Class Motto, "Fame will Mix with Sixty-Six" which foretold the success of many of my classmates who had successful military careers earning the rank of General Officer, with one becoming the Commander of NATO and another the Surgeon General. Few of them were involved in politics but one ran for President of the United States.

My wife, Lynn and I also toured the White House, Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

All are free tours offered to visitors to the Capitol. If visiting, you must make reservations for tours and join visitors from all over the world to enjoy a guided tour of our nation's landmarks including the Supreme Court, Capitol Building, Washington Monument and many more.

One of the most talked about memories was that of our experience during our Plebe (Freshman) Year which began on July 2, 1962. On that date, we assembled at Trophy Point and took our official Oath of Office, dedicating ourselves to service in the U.S. Army.

Of course, discussion of our Plebe Year experience recalled the physical and mental challenges, the hazing and the bonding of our Class of '66. Just 50 days prior to taking our Oath of Office, General Douglas MacArthur gave his "Farewell Speech to West Point."

As Plebes, we were required to memorize a portion of the speech that I remember to this day. It is the passage in his speech that reflected on the West Point motto:

"Duty, Honor, Country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be."

Many memories and the rekindling of friendships that will last a lifetime. It was a good weekend!



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#### **Bound Brook American Legion Post 63**





he Giles Biondi American Legion Post 63 of Bound Brook has awarded their 2018 annual college scholarships to Bound Brook High School (BBHS) seniors Houston Ward and Eduardo Vargas Gutierrez. Scholarship Committee Chairman Tom Synnott along with committee members; Post 63 Commander Robert Newell, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Post Financial Officer Ben Auletta and Legion member Lee Politica selected the two students.



Houston Ward

Houston Ward, who was previously selected by Post 63 to attend the 2017 New Jersey Boys State, has two grandfathers, an uncle and father who served in the US military. In the fall, he will attend the University of Delaware and intends to seek a career in medicine. Along with his high academic achievements, he currently ranks number eight in his 119-member high school class. Ward has participated in numerous co-curricular community service and work experiences.



Eduardo Vargas Gutierrez

Eduardo Vargas Gutierrez immigrated to the US from Costa Rica in 2012, is a legal resident of New Jersey and anticipating earning his US citizenship. Along with his many co-curricular activities, including membership in the extremely successful Bound Brook High School Robotics Team, he also has extensive contributions in vol-

untary and community service activities together with multiple job experiences.

Choosing two candidates out of the field of highly qualified students presented to the committee by BBHS Guidance Department Secretary Kathleen Jordan, proved to be extremely difficult. "Their levels of scholastic achievement along with strong records of school activities and community service make us extremely proud of the quality of the children graduating in Bound Brook," stated Trustee Chair, Auletta.

Post 63 will attain its 100th anniversary next year and has been proudly presenting college scholarships to Bound Brook High School Seniors for a multitude of years. Those students interested in being considered for next year's scholarship opportunities should contact the Guidance Department at the High School.

All veterans of honorable service during a wartime period, and those currently serving on active duty, are eligible to belong to The American Legion. Congress chartered The American Legion in 1919 as a veteran's service organization and the organization is soon to reach its 100th birthday. Since its founding, The American Legion has remained focused on activities that serve veterans and their families, youth, their local communities, state, and nation.

Military veterans interested in joining or learning more about Post 63 or in need of services may contact Post 63 at post-63boundbrook@gmail.com or Post Commander Robert Newell at 908-227-7459.

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## Bound Brook Memorial Library/Arbor Day/Strawberry Festival

#### **Bound Brook Memorial Library**

402 E. High St, Bound Brook, NJ 08805 | 732-356-0043 | SCLSNJ.org.



#### **Library Programs**

ll programs listed are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs are subject to change; visit SCLSNJ.org or call the library for more information and to register.

#### **CHILDREN, TWEEN, & TEEN PROGRAMS**

Volunteer Orientation - Shelving Assistant (grades 9-12): June 1, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Role Play Saturday (grades 6-12): June 2, 9, 16, 23; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Make and Take Craft (ages 4 and up): June 2, 9, 16, 30; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Volunteer Orientation - Program Assistant (grades 8-12): June 8, 3:30-4:30 p.m. End of School Craftathon (grades 6-12): June 18, 19, 20; 12:30-2:30 p.m. Board Game Makers (grades 6-12): June

25, 2-3 p.m. Bang a Drum (grades 3-5): June 26, 4-5:30

#### **ADULT PROGRAMS**

English Conversation Group: June 5, 12; 12:30-2 p.m. & June 6, 13, 20; 7-8:30 p.m. Adult Beginning Knitting and Crocheting: June 6, 13, 20, 27; 3-5 p.m. Library Loopers: June 11, 25; 7-8 p.m. Meet the Musicians - Beethoven: June 16,

#### **Connect with Creativity Through Drumming at Your Library**

xplore drumming on June 26 from 4-5:30 p.m. with percussionist Josh ✓ Robinson at SCLSNJ's Bound Brook Memorial Library branch. Students entering grades 3-5 will learn how to express emotions and discover their creativity through drumming during the hands-on workshop,



bang a drum. Registration is required to attend this program. For more information or to register, visit SCLSNJ.org or contact the Library at 908-458-8410.

#### **Explore the Life and Music of Beethoven**



eet Ludwig van Beethoven at SCLSNJ's Bound Brook Memorial Library branch on June 16 from 2-3 p.m. Actor and musician Dennis Kobray of Meet the Musicians will explore the life and music of Beethoven through a living history presentation. Kobray will portray the composer as well as play excerpts from his extensive catalog, including "Für Elise." This performance is sponsored by the Friends of the Bound Brook Memorial Library. Registration is required to attend this program. For more information or to register, visit SCLSNJ. org or contact the Library at 908-458-8410.

#### **Arbor Day In Bound Brook**



Mary Patten, Shade Tree Commissioner, shows how to determine the proper planting depth for the tree.



Shade Tree Commissioner Nancy Lepionka answers a question about planting the seedlings.

n Saturday, April 28, 2018 Bound Brook celebrated Arbor Day at the Bound Brook Memorial Library followed by a tree planting and a tree seedling giveaway at the adjacent Old Presbyterian Graveyard.

The event opened with Mayor Robert Fazen reading an Arbor Day Proclamation that revealed that the first documented arbor plantation festival in the world was held in Spain in 1594. The first American Arbor Day was celebrated in Nebraska in 1872.

A speaker from the Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, home of the New Jersey Audubon Society spoke about Birds that Hunt - hawks, eagles, osprey, owls and falcons. She brought and passed around samples of wings, feathers and claws that illustrated the differences in species and functionality.

After the talk, the action moved to the adjacent Old Presbyterian Graveyard where a hornbeam tree, donated by the Home Depot on Promenade Drive, was planted. Instructions for planting a container grown tree were given by Mary Patten, Shade Tree Commissioner. Both adults and children from the audience helped to plant the tree.

After the tree planting, fifty Kousa Dogwood seedlings from the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign, a joint venture of the Arbor Day Foundation and the New Jersey Forest Service were given away to those present along with planting instructions for the bare root seedlings. Each person received three seedlings in their packet.

The Bound Brook Shade Tree Commission applied for and received the seedlings from the New Jersey Forest Service as part of its NJ Tree Recovery Campaign to help replant trees to replace those that died or were damaged because of Superstorm Sandy.

For additional information, contact: Mary Patten 732-469-9327.

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#### Strawberry Festival Friday, June 8th

he Bound Brook Presbyterian Church is holding its annual Deacon's Strawberry Festival on Friday, June 8th from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, rain or shine. Come join us for delicious strawberries, cake, ice cream, whipped cream and beverages. Activities for children will also be provided. General Admission is: \$6.00, Children (4-11): \$3.00, Children (3 & under): free. The church is located at: 409 Mountain Ave., on the corner of Union Ave., in Bound Brook, NJ. All proceeds benefit the Deacons' Fund which helps people in need in our local communities.

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## Bound Brook Memories/Franklin Street

#### **Bound Brook Memories**

By Jim Beatty

#### **Bound Brook and Princeton, Perfect Together**

or the first half of the twentieth century, Bound Brook was an economic power house in Central Jersey. One can make a case that, in those days, Bound Brook was as widely known as Princeton is today. For those of you who are smirking and rolling your eyes, and for those who are rolling on the floor laughing, please read on. I think you will agree.

The influx of immigrants from Italy, Poland, and other European countries in the first half of the century, greatly expanded the population and fame of Bound Brook. If you visit Ellis Island today, you will see that the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad tracks began there. The first stop listed was Bound Brook. It is still listed first today. When immigrants wanted to work in a factory, they were shipped to Bound Brook. There they were hired by Calco, Bakelite, Ruberoid, National Starch, Johns Manville, and other factories. This influx of immigrants brought entire families to the area. As occurs today, when one immigrant settled, they sent for their siblings and their parents and children when they could. This helped spread Bound Brook's fame and started the economy booming.

In those days, there was not a post office in every town. Bound Brook was the central post office for the Finderne, Martinsville, and Thomae Park areas of Bridgewater, as well as parts of Middlesex and Piscataway. Anybody mailing a letter to those in the above areas thought that the relative or friend lived in Bound Brook. There was no rural delivery. Thus people had to come into Bound Brook to get their mail.



Very few people could afford to own a car. Most traveled via trolley, train, or bus. Even in the late 50's, it would cost only a nickel or a dime to get to the cities of Plainfield or New Brunswick where the big department stores, such as Bambergers, Teppers, and Arnold Constable were. When it was time to get the mail, the whole family came into town to shop, worship, and play. Downtown Bound Brook became the central shopping district for the entire area. There was little in between it and Somerville, Plainfield, and New Brunswick, except for taverns and family markets.

There was no need for people to leave Bound Brook for shopping. Almost everything needed was available there. We had grocery stores, such as the A&P, Mayfair, Acme, Foodtown and Food Fair. We had neighborhood markets, such as Sunnyside and Paul & Mary's, There were two mov- Send them to me at jbib@aol.com, or to ie theaters, the Brook and Lyric. Clothing stores abounded, including Archie's,

Luzan's, and Victor's for the men, and Lilaine's, Ruth's, Town Shop, and Wahl's for the ladies. Pederson's was one of the few children's shops. Efinger's was the only sporting goods store. Of course we had many churches, taverns, delicatessens, ice cream and pizza shops to serve the growing population.

Students from South Bound Brook, Middlesex, Manville, Martinsville, Finderne, parts of Piscataway, and Bridgewater, went to Bound Brook High School. This connection also spread our little town's fame. People were proud to say that their kids went to Bound Brook High School, as they should be today.

Bound Brook was so prestigious in the 40's and 50's, that when a new housing development was built on River Road in Piscataway, the developer dubbed it "Bound Brook Heights" to take advantage of our town's prestige. The Thomae Park area of Bridgewater was considered part of Bound Brook.

These are all examples of how Bound Brook and Princeton were perfect together.

What happened to Bound Brook in the second half of the century? While there is a story to be told, I think that "Shopping Malls and Floods" tells it all.

#### **Around Bound Brook**

Eddy Leddy of Meadow Drive recently celebrated her 90th birthday, joined by her sons Harold, Matt, and family. Harold and Matt were two of the best cross-country runners to come out of BBHS. Matt even coached the BBHS X-C team for a short time in the 80's. His knowledge of advanced training techniques and strategy helped make his teams successful. Matt deflects credit to his assistant coach, Tom McMath. Tom was a great wrestler and track start for BBHS.

Thanks to loyal Bound Brooker Brad Higginbottom for chairing our Memorial Day Parade. Brad is a former councilman. He has partnered up with former Mayor and all around good guy Ron Fasanello, in Skybrook Realty. The sky part is apropos, as Brad was a fighter pilot in the Air Force. Nobody knows Bound Brook like these

Metropolitan Opera Star and BBHS Hall of Famer Ron Naldi will be giving a concert on June 9th at Canal Walk in Somerset. Contact Canal Walk for tickets

Thanks to Barbara (Bobbie) Corsini for alerting me to the concert. When I was in Smalley School, we had a beloved school secretary named Miss Capra. The next year our teacher, to our chagrin, informed us that she had been replaced by Mrs. Corsini. We were delighted to find out they were one and the same.

What are your Bound Brook Memories? Did your family achieve a milestone? 745 Ross Lane, Bound Brook, NJ 08805. We will try to publish them.

#### Franklin Street

By Jill Zabowski

ot realizing it way back then but growing up in the 50's and 60's in Bound Brook was an idyllic situation and life, especially living on Franklin Street. It was the place of adventures and freedom for kids during that time. My earliest recollection of playing outside was, of course, in my backyard with the neighborhood kids. But when I hit five, I could walk to afternoon kindergarten with my friend Patty (it was only 11/2 blocks to Lafayette School). We mostly skipped to school, but sometimes we would pretend to ride our horses there and leave them under the giant chestnut tree across the street from the school. You could walk on the property and collect the chestnuts and stuff your pockets with them, no one yelled at you. It was a friendly neighborhood. We always felt safe.

Each day after school, kids would race home, change into play clothes, usually dungarees and a hand me down polo shirt, eat an after-school snack of Ritz crackers with peanut butter and milk. Then get outside as soon as possible so you wouldn't waste your

I would cross the street to Patty's house where we spent most of our time, "down the brook" behind her house, imagining all sorts of adventures involving water, mud and rocks and trying to avoid getting our shoes wet, better known as the "soaker". Big trouble from Mom. We only had one pair of play shoes. It was a magical place and we could play there, unhindered by parents hovering over us, until the famous quarter to 5 o'clock Calco factory whistle blew loudly, when we all scattered for home for supper.

You only had to walk outside to find someone to play with, after all most families had three to five kids. I can count 29, on both sides of my block. Growing up, you could always find a kick ball game in the street, someone to ride your used Schwinn bike with or someone to join you in an adventure down the brook. If you jumped over the brook behind Patty's house, there was a large open space with trees and bushes. You could play an adventure game, like Warlocks, the girls against the boys, and have real stick sword fights and hide behind the garages and sheds. No one minded the kids playing there and I don't remember anyone getting hurt. There were plenty of things to dream up to do. You were able to figure out how to negotiate the world and take care of yourself.

If something happened while you were outside playing, you figured it out for yourself. If your roller skate came off, you took your skate key and tightened your skate, so it would stay on. If your shoelace broke, you tied it in a knot and then re-laced it. If the chain came off your bike, you put it back on. If you wanted to draw on the sidewalk, you found a piece of coal in a driveway. Although if you wanted help, you could go to any neighbor for help. We all knew one another on the street. Most mothers were home, washing, cooking and cleaning. There was always someone around if you had fallen down on the sidewalk, scraped your knee and needed first aid, usually



red Mercurochrome antiseptic and a band-aid. Then, back out to play.

When you were able to go beyond Franklin Street, you could walk to Codrington Park and swim, play tetherball or knock hockey. You brought 10 cents to the park for the ice cream man, Bill, so you could get an orange popsicle or brown cow. No one had to carry water bottles around, you got a drink from the water fountain, but you never put your mouth on it, cause in those days, you didn't want to get some dreaded disease, like Polio.

You could explore the other brooks, like the big one on Tea Street or sleigh ride down Billy Goat's Hill, (Fairview Avenue). In the summer, you went to P&M furniture and got a free pass to the movies. If you had a dime, you could go to Loree's drug store and buy 3 candy bars for 10 cents and bring them to the movie. Just about every kid in town was there.

Of course, you walked or road your bike everywhere. You learned the streets and the shortcuts. You met other kids, parked your bike on the sidewalk and played with them. No lack of fun. So much freedom back then. So glad I grew up on Franklin Street in Bound Brook.

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### Bound Brook High School

#### **Bound Brook High School Robotics Team #56** Caps Memorable Run At World Championships

Contributed by: Stephen Wisniewski, President BBHS Robotics Team



R.O.B.B.E.

t the end of the Mid-Atlantic Robotics District Championship at Lehigh University, the Bound Brook High School Robotics Team — FRC Team 56, R.O.B.B.E. — was preparing to clean up its workstation for the last time of the season.

Team 56 had finished eighth of 125 teams in the district, qualifying for the World Championship in Detroit, but, unfortunately, did not have the funds to attend.

The bus ride home consisted of approximately 20 students convincing each other that they were capable of raising enough money in a short amount of time. It was decided Team 56 would raise \$15,000 in just five days.



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# That night, the team realized that it didn't have five days — it only had two.

But, this changed nothing. The team connected with sponsors (previous and new), started a GoFundMe page and reached out through mentors, other FRC teams, families and friends. In just two days, Team 56 raised more than \$17,000 and was headed the World Championship.

Thanks to FRC Team 3314, Mechanical Mustangs (from Clifton High School), Team 56 was able to "hoof it" to Detroit on Mustangs' bus. The Clifton team also helped book rooms in hotels compatible with their location and schedule.

Upon arriving in Detroit, Team 56 was in awe. They did it; they made it. But, now, they had a competition to focus on. The first day, they set up their Pit, a workstation to maintain the robot's operable condition, and played one practice match. The day went well for the most part, but seeing the competition that they were up against, they knew nothing would come easy.

The following day, Qualification Matches began. For the duration of the day, Team 56 scouted other teams to assess their level of competitiveness, explored the venue to see FLL (FIRST Lego League) and FTC (FIRST Tech Challenge) Teams doing spectacular things and learned a lot from the Innovation Fair with many colleges and businesses.

After five matches that day, Team 56 headed back to the hotel with five wins.

The next day turned out to be a similar experience. Team 56 had another five matches. Throughout the entire day, the team fluctuated between the rankings. The first four matches were won, setting them up with a record of 9-0. The very last qualification match for the team, and the event as a whole, ended with a math error. At the conclusion of the match, it appeared as though Team 56 had lost by a single point, leaving the team in second place. However, after review, it turned out that the match ended in a tie. This tie put Team 56 into

And so, at the end of the qualifying rounds, Team 56 was undefeated and was the top-ranked team.

The following day, Team 56 participated in Alliance Selection, where the top eight teams choose who they would like to play with during elimination matches. Team 56 chose FRC Team 4028, FRC Team 1391, and FRC Team 365 to join the alliance. Out of these four teams, three of them are from our home district (Mid-Atlantic Robotics, or MAR). The alliance became known as MAR-Cubed.

Elimination matches begin with quarterfinals and are structured as a "best two, out of three" style elimination. At the end of the quarterfinal rounds, Team 56's alli-nity very well know, we have done, we do, ance won the first two of their matches and moved on to the semifinals. The first match

#### **Bound Brook High School Drama Club Meets Rise Actors & Receives Gifts From Marshalls**



n April 19th, 2018, the Bound Brook High School Drama Club traveled to the Marshalls in Tribeca to be a part of a film shoot for Marshalls and the RISE America program. This opportunity was made possible because the BBHS Drama Club was awarded a \$10,000 grant from RISE America and NBC earlier in the year. The students of the BBHS Drama Club were surprised when a trip down an escalator revealed three cast members of the NBC show, RISE. Damon Gillespie, Auli'i Cravalho, and Amy Forsyth of RISE and Kristin Chirico of Buzzfeed presented students with gift baskets of beauty supplies and a gift card to Marshalls to purchase supplies for the upcoming performances of "The Addams Family". The following day, BBHS Drama Club students were taken on a tour of NBC Studios at 30 Rock before returning to Bound Brook.

of the semifinals ended as a loss for Team 56 and the alliance. After the four teams refocused and re-evaluated their strategy, the alliance won the next two matches. This put the alliance in the finals, against the sixth-ranked alliance. The first match ended as a win for Mar-Cubed, but unfortunately the next two matches didn't end the same. Team 56 and the alliance finished as finalists.

At the World Championship, Team 56 finished with a record of 14-3-1. We may not have won everything, but this year was nothing short of a huge accomplishment and an incredible experience.

From a robot perspective, the team finished the season with an official record of 50-17-1, concluding a season with the second highest win percentage (77 percent of all matches) in the history of Team 56. This year, we also had the most wins overall, and the second most wins in elimination matches, throughout all of Team 56

From a non-robot perspective, our students have learned a lot and have gotten exposure to more than 400 teams from all across the globe. We have had the opportunity to speak with numerous colleges and businesses at the World Championship and have begun a journey that will shape the future of Team 56 and every member of our community.

And, as this year comes to an end, we must realize and acknowledge what we have experienced. This year is one for the books, an amazing story to tell and to never forget. Our motto is "To Teach, To Learn, To Inspire." As our team and our commuand we always will do, just that.

### **Bound Brook Resident Wins Programming** Competition



Photo by Autumn Driscoll, Quinnipiac University.

team of Quinnipiac University engineering students recently won the programming contest at the annual conference of the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges, Northeast Region, in Manchester, New Hampshire. Led by Stefan Christov of Cheshire, left, assistant professor of software engineering, the student team included Glen Levine of Bound Brook, NJ, a computer science and game design and development double major, Troy Ingel of Spencer, Massachusetts, a software engineering major, and George Karagkiaouris of Thessaloniki, Greece, a software engineering and biology double major. The team bested 29 teams from 25 colleges and universities from the northeast.





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