

## DIAMOND LEGACY NEWSLETTER

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## Reconnect

## Make New Friends

### Enrich Children's Lives



News from the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association

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## Message From Alumni Chairman

October 1st was a great day for the Alumni Association as we officially launched a new version of the website, the online destination for the up and coming Babe Ruth League Alumni Association. I encourage all of you to check out the new site.

One of our goals is to preserve a mutually beneficial, enduring relationship among alums and with Babe Ruth League, Inc. As your representatives, we are constantly seeking meaningful ways to embrace your needs and unite our efforts in the name of Babe Ruth League, Inc.

As you review the site, we hope you will look for opportunities to get more involved and stay engaged with Babe Ruth League. It is with great pride that I also

invite you to reconnect with the Alumni and Babe Ruth League through social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, which you can access from the new website.

'Tis the Season to Give Back. During the holidays, it is always important to remember to give back. During this holiday season, I encourage you to think back on your times with Babe Ruth League, whether you are still active or haven't been active in the program for some time. We have come a long way and we celebrate life, joy and Babe Ruth League pride.

Share with family, friends and the wider community the excellent work the Alumni Association and Babe Ruth League do for the youth of our

nation. Your alumni association is hard at work moving us into a new era of improved engagement and connectivity.

During this season of giving, take a moment to give to our "alma mater", by making a financial gift to the Alumni Association. Your gifts can be designated to support a variety of causes. Please refer to the website for a list of areas in which to contribute.

Thank you and best wishes for a memorable and happy holiday season.



James Wagoner

## Graduate Corner — Rob Gronkowski

Rob Gronkowski, a graduate of the Lou Gehrig Babe Ruth League in Amherst, New York, is a tight end for the New England Patriots. He



played college football at Arizona and was drafted by the Patriots with the 42nd pick in the second round of the 2010 NFL Draft.

In 2011, Gronkowski, in his second season in the NFL, Set the season record for touchdowns by a tight end with 17 receiving touchdowns and 18 overall, as well as the single-season record for receiving yards

by a tight end, with 1,327. That season he became the first tight end in NFL history to lead the league in receiving touchdowns.

In his first three seasons, he had 38 receiving touchdowns in 43 games; no other tight end during that span had more than 25.

Other career highlights and awards include:

- Super Bowl champion (XLIX)
- 3x Pro Bowl (2011, 2012, 2014)
- 3x First-team All-Pro (2011, 2012, 2014)
- PFWA All-Pro (2012)
- 2x AFC Champion (2011, 2014)
- AP NFL Comeback Player of the Year (2014)\*
- PFWA NFL Comeback Player of the Year (2014)\*
- Pepsi NFL Rookie of the Week (2010)
- Career NFL Statistics of the Week as of Week 3, 2015
  - ⇒Receptions: 324
  - ⇒Receiving Yards: 4,687
  - ⇒Receiving TDs: 58

\*In 2012, Gronkowski broke his left forearm during week 11 of the season. He returned to practice in week 15, but during week 17, re-injured his arm, which required another surgery. He missed the rest of the 2012 season.

On February 2013, Gronkowski was diagnosed with an infection in his forearm. He underwent a procedure to wash away the fragments in an effort to clear the infection and was subsequently placed on a course of antibiotics. On May 20, 2013, Gronkowski underwent a 4th surgery in his forearm to remove the hardware implanted in the second procedure and replace it with fresh hardware. Tissue biopsies were performed, but it was reported doctors were encouraged the infection had finally resolved.

On June 18, 2013, Gronkowski underwent back surgery. He was cleared to play for the October 20, 2013 game against the New York Jets. During a game against the Cleveland Browns on December 8, 2013, Gronkowski suffered a right knee injury after a direct hit from T.J. Ward. After that game, it was reported Gronkowski tore his ACL and MCL, which prematurely ended his 2013 season.

Gronkowski returned in the 2014 season. He played on limited snaps as the Patriots worked him back to full strength slowly. Before long, he was back to full strength. It was during the 2014 season that Gronkowski became the first tight end in NFL history to catch at least 10 touchdowns in four separate seasons. He was also a major factor in the Patriots' Super Bow XLIX win, recording 6 catches for 68 yards and a touchdown late in the second quarter. Gronkowski was named to his third Pro Bowl and was the unanimous choice for tight end on the 2014 All-Pro Team, receiving all 50 votes.

At the 2015 ESPYS, Gronkowski won the Comeback of the Year Award for his 2014 season.



## Alumni Rolls Out New Website

On October, 1, 2015, the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association officially launched a new version of <http://www.baberuthleague.org/alumni.aspx>, the online destination for the up and coming Babe Ruth League Alumni Association.

“The revamping of the website has been a work in progress, but a project well worth the wait,” said Alumni Chairman James Wagoner. “It’s great to have one place to link together alumni, friends and current members of the Babe Ruth program. It is also an important step to increase awareness of our mission, solicit membership and support, as well as assist in the impact the Alumni can have on the Babe Ruth League program and today’s youth.”

The new website has a lot of great features—stories about famous alumni, a place to share memories and photos, stories about the Alumni around the world, current Babe Ruth League news, fun and game pages, and the opportunity to reconnect with former teammates, managers, coaches, volunteers, just to name a few.

If you are not a member, please join today. Membership is free and the benefits are plenty. Whether you are joining for the first time, or if you are already a member, we encourage you to visit the new website to find countless opportunities to enrich your life and deepen your connection to the Babe Ruth League community.

### Alumni Moment with Mike Scioscia

*Angels Manager and DelCo, PA Babe Ruth League Graduate Mike Scioscia recalls a time during his Babe Ruth playing days when a storm soaked the field. “We played in the state championship game in Pennsylvania in Babe Ruth and it was raining,” he said. “It stopped raining and all of a sudden, you see these fire trucks show up and you see guys out there pouring gasoline on the base paths in the infield and lighting it on fire. And we played about 40 minutes later. It was amazing.”*



## Pay It Forward Campaign—100 Days of Giving

Have you always wanted to thank a teammate for their support and friendship or a special coach who took extra time to teach you the basic fundamentals of the game, or a Babe Ruth League volunteer for the opportunity of a lifetime? Do you look back fondly on your time involved with the Babe Ruth League program, whether as a player, manager, coach, commissioner or volunteer? Did the life lessons you learned as a participant encourage you to attend college, lead to a professional career and/or helped you develop into a happy and productive adult? Would you be especially proud to carry on the tradition of Babe Ruth League to make sure the program was available for the next generation?

If the Babe Ruth League program is special to you, there are several ways to show your appreciation. One such way is the Alumni Association's newly established campaign - The "**Pay it Forward—100 Days of Giving**" Campaign, which will begin on December 1, 2015 and end on March 9, 2016.

*How can you participate?* By simply making out a check to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association with "Pay it Forward" written in the memo section and mailing it to 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, New Jersey 08619.

*Why should you Participate? To show your pride and support.* A financial gift to this campaign, will help support the things that you have benefitted from as a participant and/or volunteer. Your support also helps ensure the next generation of participants and volunteers will have access to the same opportunities. *To remember or honor someone special.* A memorial donation is a special way to honor a departed loved one; an honorary donation is a great way to recognize a person or celebrate a milestone reached by an individual.

*Where do your charitable contributions go?* They support special programs/projects established by the Alumni and Babe Ruth League. They sponsor players, teams and leagues who would otherwise be unable to participate; provide gear for players, teams and leagues in need, especially league programs who suffer catastrophic loss from fires, floods, theft, vandalism, hurricanes and other sources of destruction. They provide college scholarships for Babe Ruth League participants. They support special causes that donors designate. Your gift makes a difference—especially in the life of a child!

All donations allow you to *pay your gratitude forward* and give all participants and volunteers (current and future) the chance to live the incredible Babe Ruth League experience we all hold dear. It is our goal to raise \$25,000 with this campaign. Any donation, no matter the amount, will be greatly appreciated. Just think...putting away only .25 cents per day—*yes it's that cheap*— can provide a \$25 donation at the end of the 100 days of giving. Contribute to this campaign and your name will be featured with our thanks in a future issue of DIAMOND LEGACY, as well as on the Alumni website. Who doesn't like a little shout out, right?

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If you are not a member of the Babe Ruth League Alumni, we encourage you to join—membership is free and the benefits are plenty.

# Alumni Sponsorships/Partnerships

**New Opportunity!** Put the power of the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association to work for your company! Partnering with the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association can be a powerful marketing tool for your organization. It's affordable...it's highly visible...*and it works*. And there are several options available to promote your products and services.

In addition, partnering with the Alumni Association will do more than market your company...your sponsorship dollars will provide funds that help the Alumni Association and Babe Ruth League continue its mission to see that each and every child or young adult with a desire to play baseball or softball be afforded the opportunity that opportunity...in a fun environment and in an environment where many life lessons are learned. Life lessons that help youth grow into happy and productive adults.

Partnering with the Alumni Association is an athletic marketer's dream to reach participants, fans, consumers and clients at a very affordable investment. The Alumni can deliver thousands of these individuals who are passionate about the games of baseball and softball.

For more information, please contact Theresa Cleary at 609-278-2308, or via email at [theresa@baberuthleague.org](mailto:theresa@baberuthleague.org). We also invite you to visit the "Advertising and Sponsorship Opportunities" page on the Alumni website, where on the you can download a copy of the *new* Advertising and Sponsorship Brochure.

**Heard it through the grapevine...**

2016 is the 65th Anniversary of the Babe Ruth League Program

Babe Ruth League welcomes Sports Illustrated Play to its line-up.

Employee Grace Paglione begins her 36th year with Babe Ruth League.

Employee Theresa Cleary begins her 38th year with Babe Ruth League.

## Class Notes

***What's new in your life?*** Stay in touch and keep us posted on all of your news—send us an email and give us an update on what's happening in your life. Feel free to include photos. EMAIL: [theresa@baberuthleague.org](mailto:theresa@baberuthleague.org) Or Send Mail to: Theresa Cleary, Babe Ruth League Alumni Association, 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619

## Three Class Members Honored

Everything that Babe Ruth League does and stands for would not be possible without the help of incredible volunteers. Recently, three volunteers from the Pacific Northwest Region received the region's Roll of Honor award for everything they do and have done to allow boys and girls to play baseball and softball. Ron Clack, John Van Allen and the late James Lunt were all inducted into this prestigious club in honor of their hard work and sacrifice.



**Ron Clack**, South Oregon State Commissioner, was surrounded by his family when he received his distinctive award. Coming on board in 1965, Ron has served as League President, Vice President and a coach for the Umpqua Valley Babe Ruth League. Before being elected State Commissioner in 2003, Ron was serving as an Assistant State Commissioner.

Wyoming State Commissioner John Van Allen is also a member of the Pacific Northwest Advisory Committee. He joined the Babe Ruth program in 1969. During his early years, he served as a coach for the Casper, Mt. Shasta and Laramie Babe Ruth leagues. Moving on to the state level, he held the positions of District Commissioner and Assistant State Commissioner.



Jim Lunt was awarded the Region's Roll of Honor posthumously in recognition of his long association with Babe Ruth League in Port Angeles, Washington State and the Pacific Northwest Region. Jim wore many hats for Babe Ruth League, serving as Washington State Softball Commissioner, President of the North Olympic Babe Ruth League, and as Assistant Regional Softball Commissioner, a position he held before his untimely passing.

The Pacific Northwest Regional Roll of Honor Program is designed to recognize and honor individuals, organizations or groups who have, within the framework of Babe Ruth League, made an outstanding contribution to the Region's program.

## Babe Ruth's Life After Baseball—Part Two

It was a comfortable life, but it lacked the adventure and challenge Ruth had previously enjoyed. He would drive by spring training sites on his winter jaunts to Florida and playfully yell “Hiya slaves” to the ballplayers, but in reality he longed to be one of them.

One acknowledgement that he had not been completely cast aside came in 1936, when Ruth was one of the original five inductees into the still-uncompleted National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. A total of 226 sportswriters voted from a list of 10 for those players they felt most deserving this honor, with 170 votes needed for election. The final tally: Ty Cobb 222, Babe Ruth and Honus Wagner 215 each, Christy Mathewson 205, and Walter Johnson 189. His archrival Cobb had barely beaten him, but Ruth still had the distinction of being the youngest of the original inductees.

On one of his rare trips to the ballpark with Claire, Babe drew the usual crowds and autograph hounds for a June 15, 1938 game at Brooklyn. Ruth wasn't the real story that night; the Dodgers-Reds contest was the first major league night game in New York City, and Cincinnati's Johnny Vander Meer chose the occasion to pitch his second consecutive no-hitter. Dodgers executive Larry MacPhail, however, noticed the attention the Ruths received. He had first thought of signing Babe while with the Reds three years before, and now the thought crossed his mind again. Brooklyn was in a three-way battle for baseball supremacy in New York; maybe Ruth's drawing power could put the Dodgers over the top.

MacPhail approached Babe with a \$15,000 contract to serve as first base coach. Ruth naively saw the offer as a stepping stone to bigger things.

“Babe Ruth belongs in baseball,” MacPhail told the press, but just as in Boston, Babe was not given any major responsibility. His job was simply to be a gate attraction. He was to take batting practice, play in exhibitions, and stand at first base smiling.

Looking more well-rounded than ever in his stark white uniform, the Babe handled these duties well and had soon won over everyone on the team, except Durocher.

Attendance improved dramatically, and when he started shooting balls into the seats during warm-ups, the 43-year-old Babe began pondering a comeback. The process of becoming an active player again was as simple as tearing up his coach's contract and signing a new one, but Manager Burleigh Grimes was against it.

So, Ruth kept on caching. Grimes obliged MacPhail by going over signs and occasionally his pitching choices with the Babe. Babe spent an hour or more signing autographs outside Eberts Field after games and always made sure even the smallest kids in the back row went away happy.

Durocher was not quite as enamored of the big fellow. His old contempt for Ruth—who had snubbed Leo when he was a cocky rookie with the 1927 Yankees—surfaced regularly. Ruth never bothered learning the signs Grimes showed him; whether he found it difficult or unnecessary is unknown. He never needed them as a player and didn't intend to start now.

Grimes usually handled such duties for Brooklyn at third, but one day a young writer erroneously reported that Ruth had given the Dodgers a 1-0 victory by calling for a successful hit-and-run play in the 11th inning. Grimes (who called the play himself) yelled at the reporter for the mistake and Durocher used it as an excuse to taunt Babe in the clubhouse. The two scuffled briefly before Grimes pulled them apart, and Ruth wound up with a mark under his eye.

MacPhail heard about the fight, and if he had ever given consideration to Ruth as more than a gate attraction, his mind was now set for good. At year's end, he found a way to let the Babe depart with dignity.

# Happenings in Babe Ruth League

*Stay up to date with what is taking place in Babe Ruth League*

The Alumni Association is your gateway to Babe Ruth League, Inc. for a lifetime of connections. Our focus is to create and nourish lifetime fellowship and active participation of Alumni with Babe Ruth League through advocacy, support, service and communication.



BRL Vice President Robert Faherty officially signs agreement with Palm Beach Gardens, FL to host 2016 Cal Ripken 10-Year-Old World Series. Pictured above (l-r): BG Mayor Eric Jablin and Faherty.



The Mid-Island Babe Ruth League (NY) spreads breast cancer awareness during the month of October by painting their field pink.



Two young players from the Bullard (CA) Cal Ripken League have fun participating in a great day of Fall Ball.



More Babe Ruth teams were honored by Major League Baseball recently.





The 2015 season culminated with 12 successful World Series. Listed below is the 2015 Honor Roll of Champions:

Softball 8U – Manassas, VA  
 Softball 10U – Pitt County, NC  
 Softball 12U – JPRD East, LA  
 Softball 14U – JPRD West, LA  
 Softball 16U – Kinnelon, NJ  
 Cal Ripken 10-Year-Old – Manatee, FL  
 Cal Ripken Major/60 – Plymouth, MA

Cal Ripken Major/70 – Mexico  
 Cal Ripken Major/70 US Champion – West Raleigh, NC  
 Babe Ruth 13-Year-Old – Tri-Valley, CA  
 Babe Ruth 14-Year-Old – Atlantic Shore, NJ  
 Babe Ruth 13-15 – Westchester, CA  
 Babe Ruth 16-18 – Columbia Basin, WA

All participating teams were supplied with special commemorative World Series emblems. And the participating teams at the Cal Ripken Major/70 World Series were supplied with a free uniform, compliments of Under Armour, and a free helmet and batting glove from Rawlings.

A Babe Ruth World Series offers so much more than just the thrills of teams battling it out for the win. It's a great opportunity for social and cultural exchange. It's a great way to connect and come together with other members of the *Babe Ruth Family!*

**What's your World Series Moment?** We want to hear about and share your World Series experience, whether as a participant, Host Parent, Task Force Member, Host Committee Member or as an attendee. Please send your stories and photos to Theresa Cleary via email at [theresa@baberuthleague.org](mailto:theresa@baberuthleague.org).

## Board of Directors Elections

Recently elected for another three-year term as an At-Large Member of the Babe Ruth League Board of Directors were Jim Hill of White Hall, Arkansas, and George Lally of Norwood, Massachusetts.

Jim Hill is retired from the Arkansas Power & Light Company. He currently serves as a Board Member for Babe Ruth League, and has served as a League President and as Assistant Regional Commissioner for the Southwest Region. Jim, an accomplished official for more than 35 years, has officiated many sports, including baseball, basketball and football throughout Arkansas. His umpiring expertise has been used for officiating at 14 Babe Ruth World Series. In addition, he held the position of Babe Ruth National Umpire Consultant for several years. Jim, over the years, has actively served as a World Series Task Force Member and as a World Series Host President.

Current Board Member George Lally became involved with Babe Ruth League in 1963 serving as a League President. He went on to serve as a State Commissioner and Regional Commissioner, as well as in many other capacities. Serving his first term in 1975, George has been continuously re-elected to the Babe Ruth League Board of Directors. Also, George has been involved working as a Task Force Member for many Babe Ruth League World Series. In addition, George has served as a coordinator for the Boy Scouts and as a Union Official.

### Where are They Now?

One of the purposes of the Babe Ruth league Alumni Association is to help players, coaches, managers and volunteers stay connected or reconnect. There are many players who stay in touch and consider their former teammates as some of their closest friends. While there are many players, managers, coaches and volunteers that have gone their separate ways since graduating or retiring from the Babe Ruth League program.

They have shared friendships in the past and a love of baseball or softball. They have played together on local league teams and/or have participated on tournament teams. You remember that teammate who had a great knuckle curve, or the teammate who always went to the plate swinging for the fences. Do you remember that coach that inspired you or the volunteer that gave you a ride to practices and games? Wouldn't it be nice to reconnect and find out "where they are now" and what they have been up to?

With the recent official launch of the "Find an Alumnus" tool featured as part of the newly redesigned website, the ability to reconnect with former teammates, coaches, managers and volunteers is here! In order to provide as many successful reconnections as possible, we are asking you to encourage any current or former member of Babe Ruth League you know to sign up for free membership in the Alumni Association. More members will equal more *winning* connections.

## Small Gifts Add Up to Big Impact

Are you of the belief that one person can make a difference? Or, perhaps you subscribe to the notion that “it takes a village?” Whichever you believe, the Alumni Association has a place for you.

The mission of our philanthropy efforts is to provide a perspective on giving back, to promote awareness of the ways private gifts impact participants and the entire Babe Ruth League program, and continue the legacy of philanthropy that enhances Babe Ruth League.

*Why do people give?* They feel compelled to support the special programs, projects and activities established by the Alumni and Babe Ruth League. They want to sponsor players, teams and leagues who would otherwise be unable to participant. They want to provide gear for players, teams and leagues in need. They feel it is important to provide college scholarships, which is an excellent avenue to provide benefits to every participant. All aspects of the Babe Ruth League program are enhanced by the generosity of others.

**Philanthropy.** There has never been a more important time to give. It is common knowledge that not as many children are playing baseball or softball due to economic situations. This means less children are able to experience the benefits that come from participation. Such benefits include socialization skills, making new friends, community awareness, parent/child involvement, physical & mental fitness, learning discipline and many other life skills, improved academic performance, greater personal confidence and self-esteem, stronger peer relationships, greater involvement in volunteer work, and more restraint in avoiding risk behavior.

*Playing The Percentages*—If a greater percentage of alumni give each year, no matter the amount, the donations will help the Alumni Association and Babe Ruth League accomplish one of its main goals which is to make sure the program is available and accessible for ALL YOUTH for generations to come.

**Philanthropy. All gifts, even nominal donations, have a BIG IMPACT! A gift of any size makes a BIG DIFFERENCE!**

The recent Capital Building Campaign was a huge success. A majority of the contributions were \$100 or less. These gifts combined with the other donations added up to 100% funding of the Hall of Fame and Museum room at the new Babe Ruth League Headquarters.

(continued on next page)

## Small Gifts Add Up to Big Impact

Don't wait to make a difference—giving is critical because alumni participation is a signal of our satisfaction with the Babe Ruth League program. When you make a gift, you're giving Babe Ruth League a vote of confidence in both the quality of your experience and the direction the program lead you to. You're saying, "The program was meaningful to me, I am grateful for my time participating in the Babe Ruth program, and I care about its future."

Babe Ruth League graduate Pat Smerczynski from Peabody, Massachusetts, recently sent a letter to Babe Ruth Headquarters which read, *"In 2010, the scholarship committee selected me as a recipient of a college scholarship. At that time, I was a freshman at the University of Vermont. I want Babe Ruth Baseball to know I have not forgotten your kindness. Since then, I graduated from UVM and am finishing my master's at Duke University – Nicholas School of the Environment. This summer I was the forester for the US Department of the Interior for Umbagog National Forest and Wildlife Refuge in Erroll, New Hampshire. I just want to say "thank you!" I will never forget how much fun I had playing Babe Ruth Baseball."* Making a difference in the life of a child is priceless!

### Joe Cormier, Erath, Louisiana

Joe Cormier is an active volunteer for the Babe Ruth League program serving as Southwest Assistant Regional Commissioner. He has been an avid supporter of the Alumni Association since its onset. Joe contributes an ongoing small monthly donation to the Alumni Association—each month in honor of a different individual or organization that has played a major role in the success of Babe Ruth League. In addition, he participates in a Matching Employee Fund Program with Chevron who makes a healthy contribution to the Alumni Association each year. Joe Cormier says, "You don't have to be able to give large amounts to make a difference. Smaller gifts add up. It is best to work as a team! And I find that most people want to give and make a difference, they just need someone to remind them. I give what I can and encourage others to do the same."

### Sandra and Patrick Eldridge—Ocala, Florida

Sandra and Patrick are both active volunteers. Sandra serves as a District and Assistant State Commissioner. Patrick is an Assistant State Commissioners and a member of the National Umpires Association. They have decided to contribute a monthly ongoing donation to the Alumni, started this month.

They are several people who support the Alumni Association like Joe Cormier and Sandra and Patrick Eldridge. Their kindness adds up to life changing experiences for Babe Ruth League participants. Giving to the Alumni Association is about supporting what's important to you. The alumni who came before you invested in the Babe Ruth League program that enriched the lives of participants. Now it's your turn to continue the tradition and help new programs flourish for tomorrow's participants.

For further information, please visit the Alumni website or contact Theresa Cleary at 609-278-2308 or via email at [theresa@baberuthleague.org](mailto:theresa@baberuthleague.org). The Babe Ruth Alumni Association is the vehicle, and you are the difference!

# We want your old pictures!

We are looking for your old pictures. They can include anything—teammates, team photos, plays, special events, etc. We would like to feature pictures from the past in issues of *Diamond Legacy*. Simply scan them and email them to [theresa@baberruthleague.org](mailto:theresa@baberruthleague.org). **HAVE ARTICLES OR STORIES**—Submit them to [theresa@baberruthleague.org](mailto:theresa@baberruthleague.org) or mail to Theresa Cleary, 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619.



## Blast From The Past



*Who's that umpire making a call at third base at the 1966 Babe Ruth World Series in Douglas, Arizona? It's late BRL President/CEO Ron Tellefsen. Before joining the BRL Headquarters Staff, Ron spent many an enjoyable time umpiring Babe Ruth games.*

## *Babe Ruth League Scholarships*

As providing scholarships has been a core mission of the Alumni Association, we are proud to recognize the following graduates who were awarded a 2015 Babe Ruth League College Scholarship. Funds for this scholarship were generated from the annual Babe Ruth League Alumni Golf Outing:

Ryan Rodrique (ME)	Joseph Schneider (FL)
Jacob Huggins (NH)	Austin Slough (VA)
Christopher Yacavone (CT)	Allen Hubert (MN)
Matthew Downey (NJ)	Halley Ryburn (AR)
Daniel Williamson (IN)	Brent Rosman (WA)
Sam Thornton (IN)	Justin Garza (CA)

In addition, the following graduates were each awarded an Irby Luquette College Scholarship. The Irby Luquette Endowment Scholarship was established by Luquette's son Gary to pay tribute to his dad and benefit the Babe Ruth league participants from the Southwest Region.

Will Green (AL)	Joseph Keller (LA)
Taylor McGoey (MS)	Jordan Taylor (AL)

For millions of students, college wouldn't be possible without some type of financial aid. The Alumni Association is proud of its commitment to provide financial assistance to former Babe Ruth baseball and softball players who wish to further their education.

### **Resolve To Get Involved!**

The Alumni Association exists to personally and professionally support Babe Ruth League successes; to inspire pride in, and promote involvement with the organization.

**RESOLVE TO GET INVOLVED** by joining the Alumni Association today. Membership is free and the benefits are plenty!

# FRIENDS we will miss...



**Dennis P. Ewing** of Bedford, TX (formerly of Jamestown, NY), passed away on August 30, 2015 at the age of 68. Dennis was a longtime volunteer for Babe Ruth Baseball, both on the local and state level for 42 years. He started out coaching in the Jamestown Babe Ruth League before becoming League President in 1978. Always wanting to do more for the kids and Babe Ruth Baseball, he became involved at the state level, serving as a District and Assistant State Commissioner before assuming the position of Upstate New York State Commissioner in 1985. In 1980, Dennis served as the first Vice President of the very first Babe Ruth 13-Year-Old World Series held in Jamestown, and served in the same capacity in 1981 and was active during the 1984 World Series.



**Richard Nicholas Giordano** of Palisades Park, NJ, passed away on September 11, 2015, at age 68. Dennis loved the Babe Ruth program and played for several years for the Oil City team that was part of the Palisades Park Babe Ruth League. Oil City was often the Palisades Park League Champion because of the talents of Giordano and his teammates. Giordano participated on many tournament teams and saw a lot of action. He won several batting titles and dominated final individual standings in both local and tournament competition.



**David W. Lipay** of Mount Holly, NJ, passed away on September 14, 2015, at age 58. David was a member of the National Umpires Association and worked for the Northern Burlington, Burlington Township and Sacred Heart Babe Ruth Leagues. He was dedicated to raising his boys into young men through sports, their continued education, and a shared sense of humor. His other hobbies included music, reading, and baseball.

**Eva Sermons**, longtime resident and considered by many the matriarch of Havelock, NC, passed away on August 12, 2015, at age 86. Eva was the wife of BRL Board Member/Southeast Regional Commissioner, Henry Sermons. Eva enjoyed many community and civic interests which spanned over 40 years of dedicated service to of Havelock. She became the first woman computer programmer in the Fiscal Directorate, and



was instrumental in bringing girls softball to Havelock. She was the first woman to hold the position of President of the Havelock youth baseball and softball league, and the first woman to become a member of the Havelock Fire and Rescue Squad. She served as a volunteer for Babe Ruth Baseball, for cheerleading and basketball programs and as President of the Havelock Elementary School PTA. Eva was a City Commissioner for Havelock, serving a combined 29 years. Because of her unwavering commitment to the City of Havelock, Eva was awarded many accolades, including the Havelock Woman of the Year Award and The Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

**Ronald Schuler** of Kenosha, WI, died on July 16, 2015 at age 78. Ron served as Wisconsin Babe Ruth Baseball State Commissioner for over 25 years. In the Babe Ruth League, he coached the Kiwanis All-Stars and the Kenosha Indians. He managed many teams with the Kenosha BRL. At the time of his death, Ron and his family owned and operated Truesdell Mini-Mart and Countryside Market in Bristol, Wisconsin



**George B. Simonka** of Hamilton, NJ, passed away on September 2, 2015, after a long courageous battle with cancer. George was the fiancée' of BRL Controller Donna Mahoney. George had a 42 year career with the State of New Jersey, Department of Labor, having achieved the position of Chief of Office Services. He was an avid New York Yankees and New York Giants fan. He enjoyed NASCAR and working on his own cards. George also enjoyed umpiring with the Delaware Valley Umpires Association.

**Stanley Williams** of Louisville, KY, died on August 5, 2015, at the age of 48. At the time of his death, Stan held the position of Kentucky Babe Ruth Softball State Commissioner. In addition, he served as Vice President of the Fern Creek Babe Ruth Softball League. He also served as a coach for Fern Creek for over 10 years, and was a five-time Babe Ruth World Series coach. Stan also coached Optimist basketball for eight years. Stan had been suffering from ALS for over a year. Despite the disease, he tried to attend every game and every practice. He loved spending time with his daughter, who was the team's starting pitcher.



## Sincere Thanks to Those Who Donated During the Past Quarter

### In Memory Of...

#### David Henneberry

By Michael & Leslie Dressel  
By Ben & Nanette Cassell  
By Kathleen Rehmert  
By Thomas O'Connor, Jr.

#### David Lipay

By Josephine Hunt  
By Richard Mackesy  
By Peggy Grimes  
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#### Eva Sermons

By George Lally  
By Steven Tellefsen  
By James & Edna Wagoner

#### George Simonka

By George Lally

#### Ronald Tellefsen

By Nancy and Robert Faherty

### In Honor Of...

#### Theresa Cleary

By Joseph Cormier

#### Joseph Cormier

By Chevron Corporation

#### Colleen Higgins

By Joseph Cormier

#### Joe Featherston

By Joseph Cormier

#### Bill Pullan

By James & Edna Wagoner

#### James Wagoner

By Joseph Cormier

### Miscellaneous Contributions

By Daniela Bottoni  
By George Simonka

## The Two Chairmen



*Recent travels brought together current Babe Ruth League and Alumni Chairman James Wagoner (pictured right) and retired BRL Chairman Bill Smith, who selflessly served the program for many years.*



# Brain Teasers/Trivia—Do You Know the Answer

Answers appear at the bottom of the page

1. The ages of a father and son add up to 44. The father's age is the son's age reversed. How old are they?
2. You are driving a bus. At the first stop, two women get on. The second stop, three men get on and one woman gets off. Third stop, three kids and their mom gets on and one man gets off. The bus is grey and it is raining outside. What is the color of the bus driver's hair?
3. Which was the last major league team to throw four consecutive shutouts?
4. You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat?
5. Billie was born on December 28, yet her birthday always falls in the summer. How is this possible?
6. We see it once in a year, twice in a week, and never in a day. What is it?
7. Yankee clipper Joe DiMaggio set a record for having at least one hit in how many consecutive games?
8. How do you make the number one disappear?
9. In 1986, who became the oldest pitcher in history to throw a shutout?
10. Supply the missing number:  
2 3 5 8 13 21 34 \_\_\_\_\_



## Babe Ruth League Alumni Association

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### Diamond Legacy Editors

**Theresa Cleary, Hamilton, New Jersey**

**Evelyn Skiendziel, Clifton Park, New Jersey**

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- Answers to Brain Teasers**
1. 31 and 13
  2. The color of your hair—you are the bus driver
  3. Giants (June 25-28, 2012)
  4. An ear of corn
  5. Billie lives in the southern hemisphere
  6. The Letter "E"
  7. 56 consecutive games
  8. Add the letter "G" and it's "GONE"
  9. Phil Niekro—the 46-year-old baged his 300th victory on the last day of the 1986 season against the Blue Jays. He surpassed Satchel Paige who previously set a record in 1952 for the oldest man to throw a shutout. Paige was only a few months younger than Phil.
  10. 55. Each number is the sum of the previous two.