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Message From Alumni Chairman

Happy Holidays



During this holiday season, I encourage all of you to think back on your times in Babe Ruth League. I remember entire neighborhoods gathering at the ballpark on warm summer evenings, where kids rode bikes, families cheered from the stands, and the smell of roasting hot dogs wafted over postgame parties. Parents, relatives and neighbors served as coaches and umpires, worked in the concession stand and in other volunteer positions. This is what the Babe Ruth League program is all about—a sense of community.



I encourage all of you to remember your “alma mater”. Advance Babe Ruth League pride by sharing your wonderful memories with friends, family and your community.

In this season of giving thanks, it is important to think about all that we have accomplished for youth. And during this special time of year, I want you to know that we sincerely appreciate your generosity and support of the Alumni Association. With your assistance we are reaching milestones and making a difference in the lives of many, many children.

The Babe Ruth League

program has been blessed with a network of caring volunteers who have given unselfishly of their time and resources for over 63 years to benefit our participants.

As the upcoming holiday approaches and 2014 nears its end, I want you to know how much all of you are appreciated and commend you for providing our kids with the opportunities and tools to help them grow into upstanding adults.

May the Holidays bring you peace. May your friends and family bring you warmth. And may the warmth fill your heart. Wishing you and yours the best the Holiday Season has to offer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Mike Trout".

Graduate Corner — Mike Trout



Best player in baseball? That's what a lot of people are saying about Millville, New Jersey Babe Ruth League graduate and current Los Angeles Angel Mike Trout, who won his first American League MVP award for the 2014 season.

Trout hits for average, hits for power, steals bases, steals home runs from opposing batters, steals the spotlight, and inspires fans to wear silly fish-shaped hats. Trout, 23, became the youngest unanimous winner of the MVP award and third youngest to win it behind Vida Blue and Cal Ripken, Jr. He is the third Angels player to be selected MVP, joining Don Baylor and Vladimir Guerrero. And he is the first player since Mickey Mantle to win the award after two consecutive second-place finishes.

The Angels posted the best record in the Major Leagues this season.

Trout hit a career-high 36 home runs and led the leagues in runs scored (115) and runs batted in (111).

He also led the league in extra-base hits, the first player to lead the AL in runs, RBIs and extra-base hits since Ken Griffey in 1997.

Trout is the first player ever to hit 75 home runs, steal 75 bases and score 300 runs in his first 400 career games.

In addition, Mike Trout was honored by his peers, winning the Players' Choice Award for American League Outstanding Player.

The Players' Choice Awards are selected through a vote of major league players, conducted by the Major League Baseball Players Association.

For winning the award, Trout received \$20,000 to put toward the charities of his choice. He earmarked half for the Dempster Family Foundation, an organization that raises money for 22q11.2 deletion syndrome, a genetic condition that causes a variety of health issues. He also donated funds to the Marshall R. Smith Childhood Cancer Foundation. Smith, one of Trout's friends from New Jersey, who died at age 22 in 2013.

Mike Trout also received a Silver Slugger Award for the outfield.

Is Trout the best player in baseball? Maybe? He is that good. Keep watching.



Former Players Make It Big

From Babe Ruth League Grad to Major League Superstar. Hundreds of players who are currently playing professional baseball began their career in their local Babe Ruth League. These figures tacked on to former Major League players who at one time played in Babe Ruth leagues, make Babe Ruth League, Inc. one of the best represented youth baseball programs in Major League Baseball.

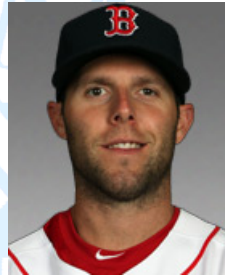


Madison Bumgarner, a graduate of the Hickory, NC Babe Ruth league, is a giant among giants. A pitcher for the San Francisco Giants, Bumgarner, 25, capped off a most splendid October to win the World Series MVP. After dominating the Royals in Game 1 and throwing a shutout in Game 5, Bumgarner finished the Royals in Game 7 of the World Series with five shutout innings, allowing only two hits while striking out four and allowing no walks. It truly was one of the greatest World Series pitching performances. In World Series history, Bumgarner became the sixth man to pitch at least five innings in three different World Series games while allowing no more than one earned run per contest.

In the 2014 post-season, Bumgarner threw more than

double the innings of any other pitcher. In addition, Bumgarner won a Silver Slugger Award and was named the NLCS MVP.

Boston Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia, a graduate of the Woodland, CA Babe Ruth League, won his 4th Gold Glove Award in 2014, joining outfielders Dwight Evans, Carl Yastrzemski and Fred Lynn as Red Sox players with four or more Gold Gloves. Pedroia had one of his best seasons in the field. He committed only two errors in 135 games and led American League second basemen with an 18.3 ultimate zone rating.



Zack Greinke, a Babe Ruth graduate from the Apoka, Florida program, won his first Gold Glove in 2014. Greinke is considered one of the NL's top fielding pitchers. He made one error in 59 chances this season, a .983 fielding percentage. He is known to position the infielders when on the mound.

Congratulations to the following Babe Ruth grads who won a Silver Slugger Award for their outstanding performances in

2014: Mike Brantley (Ft. Pierce, FL); Ian Desmond (Sarasota, FL); and Anthony Rendon (Lamar, TX).



Pictured (l-r) are Brantley, Desmond and Rendon.

Congratulations to Jimmy Rollins, graduate of the Oakland, CA, Babe Ruth League, for winning the Roberto Clemente Award. This award recognizes those who best represent the game through positive contributions on and off the field, including sportsmanship and community involvement.



Rollins has long supported J-Roll's Aces, a charitable ticket program, and the J-Roll's Readers program, each of which is dedicated to directly working with and enhancing the lives of inner-city students. Rollins is also actively involved with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and Juvenile Arthritis. This season, he passed Mike Schmidt and become the Phillies all-time hits leader.

2014 Babe Ruth League Scholarship Winners

Today, college costs are a major challenge for most families. For millions of students, college wouldn't be possible without some type of financial aid. Babe Ruth League, Inc. is proud of its commitment to provide financial assistance to former Babe Ruth baseball and softball players. It is for that reason that we established the Babe Ruth League College Scholarship Fund.

At this time, it is with great pride that we announce the recipients of the 2014 Scholarship Program. Not only were we overwhelmed by the many applications we received this year, but also with the incredible accomplishments of each applicant. The combination of those two factors made the decision of our Scholarship Committee very difficult. Job well done to everyone who applied!

**Trevor Bradway—Hagerstown, Indiana
Ball State University**

**Thomas Favata—Niskayuna, New York
Cornell University**

**Megan Nichole Hand—Monticello, Arkansas
Arkansas Tech University**

**Emily Jannace—Wantagh, New York
The Cooper Union**

**Paul Landini—Arlington, Virginia
University of Virginia**

**Nathan Leintz—Hazen, North Dakota
Concordia, College**

**Brandon Liu—Hillsborough, California
Stanford University**

**Victoria Kuch—Port Angeles, Washington
Olympic College**

**Jeffrey Peterson—Newtown, Connecticut
University of Connecticut**

**Harold Smith—Petersburg, Virginia
The College of William & Mary**

**Conley Runions—Santa Maria, California
Mid-American Christian University**

**Sam Thornton—Carlsbad, California
Cedarville University**

**Noah Zavolas—Acton, Massachusetts
Harvard University**



Sincere Thanks to Those Whose Contributed

Every day, Babe Ruth League is changing lives in ways that are practical, profound and educational—creating opportunities for youth to develop into happy and productive adults. The millions of kids that have worn a Babe Ruth League uniform are now an integral part of that force for good. One of the most important things they do is provide support to help make it possible for the next generation of Babe Ruth “leaguers” to contribute to the world. The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association greatly appreciates the contributions and support received during the last quarter.

Special Thanks To:

Jerry Bodden

Chevron (In honor of Joe Cormier)

Charles Grantz

Jim Hill

Marge Inteso (In memory of James Lunt)

Robert and Alice McGlone (In memory of John Kerr)

NiSource Charitable Foundation (In honor of Rick Galloway)

North Dakota Babe Ruth Leagues (in honor of Marge Inteso)

Pacific Northwest Region (In memory of James Lunt)

Robie’s Food Center

Sandra Sisisky (In memory of John Kerr)

South Texas Babe Ruth Leagues

Tennessee Babe Ruth Leagues

Alumni Spotlight: Bob Willis



How has Babe Ruth League shaped the lives of alumni who have graduated from the program? For some, Babe Ruth League has provided a new way of looking at the world. Others believe Babe Ruth League gave them a second chance at life. Still others mention how Babe Ruth League

helped them gain the self-confidence necessary to succeed.

Bob Willis has been involved with the Kansas Babe Ruth Leagues since 1963, at which time he participated as a player on the Wellington V.F.W. Cubs Babe Ruth team. During the summers of 1983-1991, Bob served as a coach in the Wellington Babe Ruth League and was selected as a Wellington All-Star Coach in 1989 and 1990.

After his coaching days were over, Bob served on the Wellington Babe Ruth League Board as a secretary/treasurer for several years (1985-1991). He also served as Kansas District 3 Assistant Commissioner until 1990 when he was elected to fill the District 3 Commissioner position. Bob held that position until 2009, when he was elected State Commissioner, a position he still holds today.

Bob's philosophy of teaching solid baseball fundamentals and having fun playing the game has enabled the Kansas Babe Ruth program to grow in numbers over the past 16 years.

As Bob would say, "First of all, involve all players. Recognize that not all players have the same skills, but they can all play together on a team and help each other reach individual and team goals."

This philosophy of making everyone feel important and a vital necessary part of the overall picture

works well when dealing with various league officers. If league leaders know that their ideas and hard work are appreciated, they become more involved and their programs grow.

Bob's success can also be attributed to great communication and organization skills. He communicates often with his Commissioners and leagues. He wants everyone to be good friends and he strives to give recognition to each one for their many hours of volunteer work.

Bob and his wife Sherry reside in Wellington, Kansas. Bob serves the community as a dentist and Sherry is an elementary school educator. They have five children, 17 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Bob's other community involvement includes treasurer of his church congregation and being a member of the Wellington Crusader Club.

Bob is a U.S. Air Force veteran, having served from 1968-1971.

Bob was inducted into the Kansas Babe Ruth League Hall of Fame in 2005.

Bob often speaks of his journey with the Babe Ruth program, acknowledging that it is an outstanding atmosphere and experience for youth and volunteers, as well as a great foundation from which they can learn valuable life lessons to help them succeed.

While many Babe Ruth alumni have achieved particular distinction in fields such as entertainment, sports or business, the average alumnus may not be famous. Most have achieved success and happiness by getting an education, raising a family and supporting their community. People like Bob Willis—successful dentist, community activist, husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.



George Lally is the Face of Baseball in Norwood

It's no secret that Norwood is a baseball town, one that lives and breathes a passion for the game. But one resident might just embody that enthusiasm more than most. George Lally, who was born in South Boston but came to Norwood in 1979, is an International Board Member and Historian for Babe Ruth League, Inc., as well as a member of the Alumni Association.

Though he was unable to make the Babe Ruth team as a teenager, Lally has been involved in just about every other aspect of the game—as a coach, umpire, League Vice President, League President and Commissioner, among other positions—since 1962.

“I have for many years put more hours into Babe Ruth than my own job. I've gotten a lot more from baseball that I could ever give,” said Lally.

As such, Lally has become a treasure trove of knowledge about the organization and the game, not only in Norwood, but all around the world. He even has a “Babe Ruth League room” at home.

Throughout his travels, Lally has had the pleasure of meeting many professional ball players and figureheads of the game, including former Yankee and American League President, Dr. Bobby Brown, George Foster, and Babe Ruth's wife Claire.

“There's been a lot of elite people and players, but 99 percent of these kids are elite because they become better citizens,” said Lally. “They give something back to the program wherever they may be. They help future kids coming behind them participate and be a part of something in the great game of baseball.”

Lally even met his wife at a Babe Ruth League state tournament and one of his sons turned down a scholarship from American University to attend the University of Notre Dame, a place he fell in love with during a Babe Ruth tournament.

But if there's a ground zero for Lally's love of youth

baseball, it's certainly Norwood.

Lally credits the whole town, from General Manager John Carroll, to the folks who maintain the fields, for making Norwood a renowned and successful baseball community, responsible for producing well-rounded youth.

“Norwood offers the great American dream,” Lally said.

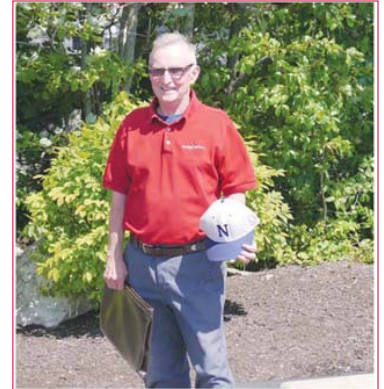
For Lally, it's the people of Norwood in particular who embody the mission of Babe Ruth League: to have fun, enjoy the game, get an education, and give something back to the community.

Lally cited Babe Ruth alumnus and current Norwood Coach Rocco LoRusso as an example of the mission in action.

Babe Ruth League seeks to give every boy and girl the opportunity to play baseball and softball for as long as they wish, but Lally says the ultimate goal is to have an impact beyond the game.

“They're learning about life skills along with baseball and softball—how to advance the runner who just walked to first base and how to give yourself up putting down a bunt, sacrificing yourself for the sake of the team...you're learning to give and take and to be a giver and not just a taker in life,” Lally said.

Lally believes the town's reputation will continue to grow as a baseball community and as a great place to live. “We say that everyday gets better and better in Norwood baseball and our best day is yet to come, meaning everyday is going to be better than the previous day in some shape or form as you continue to work at it,” Lally said.



Major League Baseball—Did You Know...

...The first baseball game played was in New York on June 19, 1845.

...Cal Hubbard is the only person credited in both baseball and football hall of fame.

...the first baseball stadium built in the U.S. was Forbes field in Pittsburgh.

...the first rulebook of baseball was issued in 1877. And it has been changing every year since then.

...Nolan Ryan, a Babe Ruth League graduate, had the longest career in baseball history that lasted 27 years.

...Doc Medich, who was studying medicine while playing for the Texas Rangers, was able to save a fan's life from a heart attack.

...Carl Edward is the shortest major league baseball player, he stood at three feet and seven inches.

...Babe Ruth wore a cabbage leaf under his hat to keep cool. He changed it every 2 innings.

Wise Advice From Alumni

Advice

If I Only Knew Then...

Here are a few words of advice from members of the Alumni Association:

It's better to head off into an unknown situation than to remain in one you know well but that makes you miserable.

Be true to your heart, your mind and your principles in this ever-changing world and you will discover who you really are; not who you think you should be.

You have all kinds of abilities stashed away. You can mobilize the initiative to use them. So step up to the plate and knock things out of the park – time after time.

Holiday Recipes

A Christmas Candy Favorite—Peanut Brittle

Ingredients:

- Unsalted butter, softened for baking sheet
- 2 Cups of Sugar
- Pinch of Salt
- 1 1/2 cups salted peanuts (7 ounces)
- Vegetable Oil



Directions:

1. Butter a rimmed baking sheet; set aside. Stir together sugar, 1/2 cup water, and the salt in a medium saucepan. Cook over high heat, without stirring, until sugar begins to melt and turn golden, about 3 minutes. Continue to cook, stirring occasionally, until sugar has melted and mixture turns golden amber, about 10 minutes.
2. Remove pan from heat. Stir in peanuts. Immediately pour peanut mixture onto buttered baking sheet. Quickly spread mixture to 1/2 inch thick using a vegetable-oiled metal spatula. Let cool completely, about 15 minutes. Break brittle into pieces.

(You can substitute cashews or almonds.).

A Crowd Pleaser—Fried Ravioli

Ingredients:

- 3/4 to 1 pound fresh ravioli (meat and/or cheese)
- 3 large eggs beaten
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh rosemary
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 2 cups breadcrumbs
- 3 tablespoons fine chopped parsley
- Vegetable oil for frying
- Marinara sauce for dipping

Directions:

1. Spread the ravioli on a baking sheet and freeze until hard, 20 to 30 minutes
2. Whisk the eggs and milk in a shallow dish. Mix the breadcrumbs, parsley, rosemary and 1/2 teaspoon salt and pepper in another shallow dish.
3. Dip the ravioli in the egg mixture, letting the excess drip off, then coat with the breadcrumb mixture. Return to the baking sheet and freeze until hard, about 15 minutes.
4. Heat about 1 inch vegetable oil in a deep skillet. Fry the ravioli in 2 or 3 batches, turning as needed, until golden brown, 4 to 6 minutes per batch. Transfer to a paper towel-lined baking sheet to drain and immediately sprinkle with the parmesan.
5. Serve with the marinara sauce.



Have Fun with Some Holiday Riddles

Answers to Riddles appear at the bottom of the page

1. What's red and white and black all over?
 2. Why was Santa's little helper depressed?
 3. How does a Snowman travel around?
 4. What happened when John ate the Christmas decorations?
 5. What do you call people who are frightened of Santa?
 6. What do you get if you team Santa with a detective?
 7. Why was Cinderella no good at football?
 8. Where do Snow-women like to dance?
9. Can you decipher these common Christmas Carols?
- A. Happiness to the Global Ecosystem
 - B. Small Male percussionist.
 - C. I am experiencing nocturnal visions of a colorless holiday.

- D. Festoon the Corridors.
- E. A non-summer fairytale area.
- F. Oh holiday conifer.
- G. Ten plus two twenty-four periods of holiday festivity.
- H. Hey tiny city in Israel.
- I. In a remote location in a barn stall.



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The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) Organization. Whenever you give a donation to the Alumni Association, you will be able to make a tax deduction when you file your taxes. Donating to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association can help you make a difference for a worthy cause and help you achieve tax benefits at the same time. If you wish to make a financial contribution, please make the check payable to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association and mail to P. O. Box 5000, Trenton, NJ 08638.



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- Answers to Christmas Riddles:**
1. Santa Claus after he slid down the chimney.
 2. Because he had low 'elf' esteem.
 3. By riding an icicle.
 4. He came down with tinsel-itis.
 5. Claus-trophobic.
 6. Santa Clues.
 7. Because her coach was a pumpkin.
 8. At Snow Balls.
9. Answers to Deciphered Christmas Carols:

- B. Little Drummer Boy
- C. I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
- D. Deck the Halls.
- E. Winter Wonderland.
- F. Oh Christmas Tree.
- G. 12 Days of Christmas.
- H. Oh Little Town of Bethlehem.
- I. Away in a Manger.

A. Joy to the World.