

## Buddy Berardi

by Doug Kent

This only child was born on January 21, 1947 just two short months after his father had passed away. His mother and grandparents struggled in Brooklyn, New York to provide a normal childhood for our Mr. February (Mr. F). He was involved in all the childhood adventures, and attended Catholic School at St. Athanasius. The nuns provided a good education for Mr. F and he graduated from Lafayette Public High School in 1964. He was an average student and was editor of the school paper in his senior year. He entered St. John's University immediately after high school and completed his BA degree in 1968 with a Major in Psychology and a minor in English.

Upon graduation he took a position at the Brooklyn Academy, a private high school in Brooklyn New York, and began teaching English full time. He also began his Masters Degree at New York University and completed all the MA requirements in Educational Psychology in 1970. Mr. F then took many graduate English courses, since he enjoyed teaching English so much. The Brooklyn Academy offered Mr. F the opportunity to become a part time Guidance Counselor and he gladly accepted the challenge eventually becoming the Director of Guidance. In 1979, Mr. F jumped at the opportunity to teach English to adults part time at St. Joseph's College at their Brooklyn Campus. Teaching adults at the college level was something that Mr. F had always wanted to do. He continued to teach English and perform the guidance function for students at Brooklyn Academy until 1985, earning state certification in both English and Guidance along the way.

In 1985 the opportunity to become part of the New York State Education System opened up in Long Island at the Malverne Public Schools as a full time Guidance Counselor. For the next twenty five years, Mr. F distinguished himself within the system as the Outstanding Staff Member in 2001, was Coordinator of Master Scheduling, was a reader for the SAT writing Test, and won Distinguished Educator in 2007. If this was not enough to keep one busy, he also was Vice President of the Malverne Teacher's Union and was responsible for handling all district/union grievances for the teachers, while at the same time maintaining his part time

position at St. Joseph's College, eventually becoming academic advisor and preceptor (a quasi full time designation granted to certain faculty members). It was also during this same period of time that Mr. F found time to take Ph.D. level courses to further his career.

His ambition and drive were not confined to his professional development. His private life also flourished. It was on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue at a bar called Dancing Danny's that he met his partner of 41 years. They dated, then moved in and lived together in New York before purchasing their condo in Florida in 2002. They continued to work and live in New York before retiring in 2010 and started living full time in Florida. Retirement did not come easy to Mr. F, because he still is substitute teaching in the Broward County School System. His partner on the other hand has embraced retirement to the fullest.

Mr. F is an active member of Prime Timers, as is his partner. They enjoy bowling, all the social functions of the group and Mr. F is currently serving on the Board. Computer literate to the point of distraction, Mr. F and his partner enjoy traveling in these golden years. Mr. F in an outgoing, ambitious, caring and fun guy from New York; can you identify him?

