

# *Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame*



*In Memoriam*  
**Lawrence Anthony von Beidel**  
**Fine Arts Teacher, Department Chairperson**

Larry von Beidel served Watchung Hills Regional High School from September of 1962 through June of 1982, both as a teacher of fine arts and as Art Department chairperson.

A naturally talented artist, Larry always sought to enhance his native abilities, to improve his techniques and to keep abreast of trends in the world of art. He attended Pratt Institute and received the Certificate of Illustration and then the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He then went on to obtain the Master of Arts degree from Columbia University. Even with these academic credentials, he would enroll in such summer courses as Eliot O'Hara's Water Color School at Goose Rock Beach in Maine, or even the Famous Artists School correspondence course, just to see what was out there.

Larry exhibited at many venues, among them the Montclair Museum of Art, where he won first prize in a New Jersey Exhibition sponsored by the American Artists Professional League.

Larry was an innovative educator. For example, he had no access to living models, so he sculpted several heads ("in living color") and set them out around his classroom so that students could draw portraits. Larry displayed his own samples of portraits, as well as his landscapes and still life depictions throughout his art room as examples of those genres.