

## **Mary Elizabeth Froustet – Teacher and Mathematics Leader**

**Mary Elizabeth Froustet was a high school and college teacher and a leader in mathematics education for over 60 years. Her close friends knew her as “Betty Lou” who was born in 1922. Mary was not only a close friend of many of us but was a great inspiration and mentor which led to the development of many new leaders in AMTNJ and NCTM.**

**Mary’s initial teaching degree was from Chestnut Hill College in 1943 and her masters degree was from Fordham University in 1948. Mary began teaching mathematics in the Union Township Schools. One of her colleagues at Union was Gloria Sanok who later became internationally known in her own right in mathematics teaching and writing.**



**In this photo taken in 1956, Mary Froustet is seated on the left and Gloria Sanok is seated third from the left.**

**Later on in her career, Mary Froustet taught college mathematics and teacher education courses at Caldwell College and Kean College until her retirement.**

**Mary was very involved in AMTNJ and NCTM activities during her lifetime. She served at every elected position for AMTNJ and also many committees and was AMTNJ President #57 from 1970-1971. Mary was a member of the NCTM Board of Directors from 1975-1978 and served as chair of several NCTM committees including the Committee on the Teaching of Mathematics in Urban Schools. She has authored articles for both AMTNJ and NCTM. Go to [amtnj.org](http://amtnj.org) and read the History section (see Tiny Treasures) for some examples of her work.**



**1989 AMTNJ 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**



**1978 Keynote Speaker at the  
AMTNJ Women in Mathematics  
conference at the College of  
St. Elizabeth, Convent Station**



**AMTNJ President  
1970-1971**



**Three Max Sobel Awardees - L to R: Nancy Schultz 2010,  
Evan Maletsky 1991, and Mary E. Froustet 1992**

## Some of Mary E. Froustet's AMTNJ Past-president Contemporaries



Back row left to right: Thomas Buscemi 1984-85, Stephen Krulik 1987-88, Jerry Parisi 1976-77, Arthur Collard 1971-72, David Glatzer 1980-81, Eugene Clark 1969-70, Arthur LePori 1968-69, J. Michael Nuspl 1979-80, Margaret Cotter 1964-65, Gail Koplin 1960-61, George McMeen 1959-60, Henry Petersen 1972-73, Kenneth Wolff 1981-82

Seated left to right: Thomas Tobiasen 1985-86, Beverly Whittington 1983-84, Mary Froustet 1970-71, Ellen Brockman 1986-87, Lina Walter 1957-58, Regina Cullen 1978-79, Charles Lewis 1975-76, Max Sobel 1958-59

Photo taken at the AMTNJ spring meeting held at West Essex High School on March 18, 1989



L to R: Paul Lawrence 1995-1996, Jim Rahn 1994-1995, Mary Froustet 1970-1971, Margaret Cotter 1964-1965, David Glatzer 1980-1981, Max Sobel 1958-1959, Arthur Collard 1971-1972, Ginger Cullen 1978-1979, Stephen Krulik 1987-1988

(Photo taken in October 1997)

**Here are some of the vignettes we have received in tribute of Mary E. Froustet.**

**Mary E. Froustet**



**#57 Mary E. Froustet  
1970-1971**

"Mary E. Froustet is our 57th President, 1970-1971, and our 3rd Max Sobel Awardee, after Max Sobel and Evan Maletsky. We are working on a piece about her for **Tiny Treasures in AMTNJ's History** and would like your help," says Mick Nuspl, Past President #66, 1979-1980, our most recent Max Sobel Awardee, and author of Tiny Treasures in AMTNJ's History.



**Bill Blaskopf**

Posted August 27, 2017 at 7:05 PM

Mary, thank you for being so kind and accepting of the young man I was even though I taught at a private school. You always made me feel so welcome and appreciated.

You were also my motivation for being involved in the Annual AMTNJ Math contest for so many years. I so wanted the contests I "wrote" to approach the quality of yours. I do not believe that mine did, but that is only because yours were of such high quality.

I wish you health and happiness. I am so proud to be able to call you friend.

Bill Blaskopf AMTNJ President #90, 2003-2004



### **Regina (Ginger) Cullen**

Posted August 29, 2017 at 7:33 AM

Mary Elizabeth Froustet, a friend, role model and mentor

I have so many positive memories working with Mary on AMTNJ meetings, NCTM meetings, and working as an adjunct teacher when she was head of the mathematics department at Caldwell College. Also Ellen Brockmann and I roomed with Mary at several NCTM meetings, as well as worked with her on New Jersey standards and testing committees. We were also colleagues at the Rutgers Summer institutes for new Mathematics & Science Teachers. Mary was also helpful when I was an AMTNJ officer, later as historian and, after my retirement, Mary had me help her with the AMTNJ Math Contest.

Mary opened many doors for many including nominating me and Mick Nuspi as overall chairperson and program chairperson, respectively, for the March 1980 NCTM Conference held in Cherry Hill, NJ. I also was recommended by Mary for the NCTM Convention Conference committee and the International Affairs committee on which I served as chairperson for half of my term of office on that NCTM committee. I will always be grateful for the rewarding experiences that followed. Each time it was an opportunity to grow as a mathematics educator.

Mary Froustet was always engaged with those who wanted to learn and grow to become better at their profession.



### **Ginger, Mick and Dave**

Posted September 21, 2017 at 1:00 PM

Mary Elizabeth Froustet had an uncanny talent to recognize and nurture the careers of many young mathematics teachers as they began their climb up leadership positions in AMTNJ and NCTM.

In particular, Mary was the mentor of the "core three" – Regina (Grieb) Cullen, J. Michael Nuspi and David J. Glatzer – who later served as Presidents of AMTNJ in 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1980-81, respectively. Mary "opened the doors" for the "core three" as each member served and chaired many state committees and later on committees and chairmanships for NCTM.

We are extremely grateful for all you have meant to us as an advisor for over 40 years.

Even though Mary recently celebrated her 95th birthday this spring, the "core three" still keeps in contact with our long time friend.

Ginger, Mick and Dave



## **Agnes Azzolino**

Posted August 15, 2017 at 4:21 AM

When I was an undergraduate, there was no such thing as women's studies. The math building at Princeton has no ladies room on each floor — there was no need. But, there were also women I came to know, few in number, who had received mathematics degrees in this environment and worse — Mary Froustet, Marge Cotter, Evelyn Dvorak. They were of my mother's generation. They'd lived through WWII. They were excellent role models. There were also younger women and men who I met and who helped me grow, but, I wish to thank Mary for the guidance, the friendship, the mentoring she gave me.

It was at AMTNJ that I met Mary, through people like Gloria Sanok and Joan Vas. Everyone who was anyone knew Mary. She was already a matriarch, but, she was also a real working member of the organization. She'd already been AMTNJ President and was a member of NCTM's Board of Directors, a prof at Kean, then chair at Caldwell, but, she was at AMTNJ meetings, and involved, and active, and serving as a committee chair, sitting at a registration table, attending the sessions, just like me.

In the lulls in traffic at the table we'd talk and socialize, and she'd coached and suggested. When I did a session at a regional meeting, she'd come and watch and make suggestions afterwards. We shared an AMTNJ-comped room at a Two-day, and, with AMTNJ politics as they often were, she was there when I needed her most. For being the wonderful, caring leader that you are, I thank you Mary Froustet. For unknowingly being a superlative role model, I thank you Mary Froustet. For being a friend, I thank you Mary Froustet.

Agnes Azzolino, President #89, 2002—2003, and current AMTNJ Webmaster