Bill Ronayne, is the president, treasurer and publicity director of the Mario Lanza Institute, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization which honors the memory of the late great singer by sponsoring scholarships to promising young singers to further their training and careers. More than 300 scholarships have been awarded and many of the recipients have gone on to perform at major opera houses. Ronayne connected with the Mario Lanza Institute after it had established its first few locations initially at Nick Petrella’s Record Shop on Snyder Avenue in the 1970s, then a quick stop on Broad Street before moving to the Settlement Music School in Queen’s Village in the 1980s. In 2002, it moved to 712 Montrose Street where Ronayne became heavily involved as part of the Institute. He took over as president in 2010 after holding the position of vice president and publicity director and has engineered several fundraisers and events to keep the ball rolling. Ronayne is a Brooklyn, NY resident who makes the two-hour commute on weekends to open and entertain at the museum, now located at 1214 Reed Street, with guided tours. He also regularly provides educational programs such as lectures, concerts and the screening of Lanza’s films and television appearances.