

TOMS RIVER SCHOOLS



HALL OF FAME

Twenty Third Induction Dinner

May 3, 2015

Ramada
Versailles Room
Route 9
Toms River, NJ

Hall of Fame

On February 24, 1987, Charlotte Ford Spillane, Assistant Principal of Toms River High School South, obtained approval of the Board of Education of the Toms River Regional Schools to found a Toms River Schools Hall of Fame to honor those who had attended or graduated from the public schools of Toms River and who had made significant contributions to the cause of humanity in their various fields of endeavor.

A Board of Trustees was formed with thirteen members, each of whom had either graduated from Toms River or had been employed in the school system for a long period of time. Responsibilities of the trustees would be to research possible candidates, to manage financial support, to collect memorabilia and other gifts, and to organize a display of the honorees.

**1988
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Charlotte F. Spillane
Chair**

Claire Grover Bey
Elinor Bryant
Carolyn Campbell
Angela Cazzola
Joseph A. Citta
Milton Gelzer
William King
Renée Lomell
Bessie N. McLean
Estelle Martin
Gerald Rich
Floyd Smith

**2015
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Linuel P. Lloyd III
Chair**

John Coleman
Sandy Forman
Kim General
Irene Hartmann
L. Manuel Hirshblond
Debra L. McKenna
Douglas M. Polhemus
Charlotte F. Spillane
Dr. Jeffrey Schenker
Kevin Smith

Hall of Fame

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

1. A candidate will begin to be considered for induction twenty years after leaving school.
2. A candidate must have attended one of the public schools in a town now included in the Toms River Regional School District.
3. A candidate shall have made a significant contribution to the cause of humanity, improved the quality of life, or achieved outstanding recognition in his or her career or education.



NOMINATIONS

The public is encouraged to nominate those who have attended the Toms River Schools (graduation not a criterion) and who they feel are worthy of consideration. To nominate, send the name, address and telephone number of your candidate along with your recommendation to The Toms River Schools Hall of Fame, 54 Washington Street, Toms River, New Jersey 08753. A questionnaire will be sent to the nominee or to a friend or relative. Upon receipt of the questionnaire, the Board of Trustees will continue the research to determine eligibility of the candidate nominated. Trustees vote once a year to choose honorees. Those not selected remain on the eligible list for five years.

Board of Education

Joseph Torrone, President
Gigi Esparza, Vice President
Ben Giovine
Ginny Rhine
Loreen Torrone
Gloria McCormack
Robert Onofrietti, Jr
Walt Ramsay
James Sigurdson

PROGRAM

Welcome & Introduction of Distinguished Guests	Linuel P. Lloyd III Chairperson/High School Social Studies Supervisor
Greetings	David M. Healy Superintendent of Schools
.....	Joseph Torrone President, Board of Education
Invocation	David Correll Past Distinguished Honoree 09' Retired High School South AP History Teacher

Presentation of Awards

Criteria and Selection Process.....	Linuel P. Lloyd III
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Honorees

2015 Distinguished Honoree

Victoria Duff

Presenter: John Garrabrant, Past Trustee
Former Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Last Year Attended or Year of Graduation

Category

1986 Jerry Dipoto	Major League Baseball Executive General Manager
(North)	Presenter: Steve Hill High School Mathematics Teacher/Baseball Coach
1939 Roger Gaiter	Tuskegee Airman/Educational Leader
(TR Schools)	Presenter: David Correll, Past Distinguished Honoree Retired High School South AP History Teacher
1958 Richard Kuntz	Educational Leader/Dean/Professor
(TR Schools)	Presenter: Dr. Jeffrey Schenker, Trustee High School South AP History Teacher
1975 Mark Mutter	Lawyer and Political Leader Historian
(North)	Presenter: Kim General, Trustee High School North History Teacher

1970 **Robert Peck**.....Law Enforcement Official
(South) Ocean County Prosecutors Office

Presenter: William Malast, Past Hall of Fame Honoree 2005
Former Lieutenant Colonel NJ State Police

1966 **Howard Wolen**.....Musical Engineer
(TR Schools)

Presenter: Linuel P. Lloyd III
Chairperson/High School Social Studies Supervisor

HONORARY AWARD

In 1990 the Hall of Fame created a plaque on which a Hall of Fame medallion was mounted. The plaque, with an appropriate inscription engraved, was given that year to two individuals who sanctioned, championed, and facilitated the goals of the Toms River Schools Hall of Fame.

Albert J. Dietrich
Superintendent of Schools

"For encouraging and supporting the founding of the Toms River Schools Hall of Fame with appreciation from the Board of Trustees."

John R. Garrabrant
Senior Assistant Superintendent of Schools

"For his dedication to and enthusiastic support of the ideals of the Toms River Schools Hall of Fame with appreciation from the Board of Trustees."

DISTINGUISHED HONORARY MEDALLION

In 1991 the Hall of Fame Distinguished Honorary Medallion was awarded for the first time. The medallion, which is mounted on a plaque, was created to honor those who did not attend the Toms River Schools but who contributed in an exemplary way to the ideals and educational philosophy of our school system.

1991 **Renee A. Ewart**

"Whose teaching inspired her students not only to love the French language but to respect all learning . . ."

"For a lifetime of excellence."

1992 Elinor Bryant

"For a lifetime of excellence in teaching."

"Love the children and let them know you love them."

1993 Dr. Edgar M. Finck

"Honored for a lifetime of creative educational ideas."

"Teaching is a joyous experience because it is a life of service;
teaching is forever."

1994 Nathaniel S. Detwiler

"For a lifetime of excellence and innovation as an educational leader."

"He understood, encouraged, created and inspired with unique enthusiasm."

"G-R-R-R-R- Fight"

1995 Charlotte Ford Spillane

"Doing the right thing for students and the community is her delight."

"Her joie de vivre inspires all who know her."

1996 Bessie N. McLean

"Honored for a lifetime of inspiring in students the love of books."

"Treasured friendships make lasting memories."

1997 DeWitt E. "Doc" Ricketts

"A leader of teachers."

"He had the knack of seeing what was true and important and framing it clearly."

1998 Gerald Rich

"And gladly would he learn, and gladly teach."

1999 Joseph D. Clouser

"Yes you can...if you try."

2000 William "Doc" Dougherty

"United States Marine, teacher, coach, family man, humanitarian, friend to all."

"Try to be the best that you can be."

2001 Isadore M. Hirshblond

"The show must go on! Why? There's five dollars in the box office, and we can't return it."

2002 William E. "Bill" King

"Don't ever give up!"

2003 Albert J. Dietrich

"A leader in the pursuit of excellence for the Toms River Regional School District."

"Children are a product of their environment, and the Toms River community and schools provide a caring and safe environment."

2004 Olga Clement

"For leadership and encouragement of teachers and children in the face of challenge."

"Be prepared to give your best to everything you do."

2005 Margaret F. Bartlett

"For outstanding contributions to the Toms River Regional School District."

"Anything worth doing is worth doing well."

2007 Milton H. Gelzer

"I shall find the path or I shall build one."

2009 P. David Correll

"Do As Much as You Can! To As Many as You Can! As Long As You can!"

"Always do what's Right – No Matter what the Consequences!"

And, of course: "Ask not what South can do for you, but what you can do for South!"

2011 Joseph Monti

My greatest goal was "To instill patriotism in the students and appreciation of veteran's sacrifices for our freedoms throughout history."

2013 Martin Meszaros

"And gladly wolde he lerne, and gladly teche"
The Oxford Clerk, from *The Canterbury Tales*, By Geoffrey Chaucer

2015 Victoria Duff

"Our schools are learning organizations focused on increasing the knowledge and skills of our educators and students. We are the learners – using the power of our learning to build the capacity of those whose lives we touch to improve our world."

Hall of Fame

HONOREES

<u>Last Year Attended or Graduation</u>		<u>Inducted</u>
1882	Simon Lake	1989
1883	Ethleen Longstreet	1988
1883	William Henry Fischer	1991
1891	Philip Sheridan Bailey	1988
1904	Frank W. Sutton, Jr.	1989
1908	James Stanley McClenahan	1992
1910	Dorothy Jameson	1988
1914	Benjamin Novins	1989
1917	George Daniel Moore	1990
1920	Elizabeth Sculthorpe Force	1988
1922	Adolph E. Woolley	1989
1924	Johanna Wells-Smith	1988
1924	Mildred Worth Potter	1991
1925	Margaret Maisch Moore	1990
1926	Ethel Price Gaunt	1988
1926	Joseph A. Citta	1988
1927	Bartholomew Applegate Ellis	1990
1928	Arthur Cornelius, Jr.	1997

1931	Lewis H. Elverson	1988
1934	Dr. Robert E. White	2002
1935	Rt. Rev. Albert Van Duzer	1988
1936	Dr. Faye Glenn Abdellah	1989
1936	Dorothy Dugan	1989
1936	Pauline S. Miller	1988
1936	Barbara T. Carlino	2003
1937	John H. Beddow	1996
1937	CDR George Cornelius USN (Ret.)	1990
1937	Nelson H. Cornell	1999
1938	Jack H. Milne	1989
1938	Hugh Connolly Clayton	1991
1938	Dr. Arthur A. Socolow	1993
1938	Dr. Edwin P. Mickiewicz	1998
1939	Lloyd R. Clayton	2003
1939	Bernard "Ben" Carroll	2004
1939	Rodger Gaitor	2015
1941	Carolyn M. Campbell	1995
1941	Sidney L. Harris	2009
1942	Wallace A. "Gub" Polhemus	2002
1942	George A. Lillie	1999
1942	Rt. Rev. Vincent King Pettit	1991
1942	Janet Loveman Taber	1998
1943	Dr. Alfred J. Casagrande, Jr.	1999
1943	Robert L. Garthwaite	1991
1943	Dave Johnson	2001
1943	Vincent J. Smith	1994
1944	Richard C. Clement	1990
1944	L. Manuel Hirshblond	1991
1944	The Rev. Lloyd Rogers Applegate	1993
1944	Robert F. Novins	2000
1944	Dan Kahler	2005
1944	Friar Emmett Carroll	2007
1946	Mary Ellen Hudson	2000
1946	Lester A. "Bud" Tice	2000
1946	William Lee Polhemus	2004
1946	William Skillman	2007
1947	Robert W. Camp	1998
1948	Clifford William Campbell	2001
1948	Dr. Allen H. Kassof	1988
1949	Juanita Carfora	1993
1949	Lolita Carfora	1993
1949	Burton K. Davis	1993
1950	Zev Rosen	1991
1951	Roberta Hornig Draper	1994
1951	Dr. Karl Engelman	1990

1951	Annette Brafman Meyers	1992
1952	Capt. Albert E. Graham	1998
1952	Dr. Walter J. Kahn	1995
1954	Max Culpepper	1989
1954	Richard D. Garretson	1994
1955	Robert Gasser	2007
1956	Alan Rinzler	1999
1956	William Sommeling	1993
1957	Dr. Carl E. Wagner	1990
1958	Maxine Glorsky	1990
1958	Charles H. Ehrmann	1991
1958	Richard Kuntz	2015
1959	Donald J. Bennett	2002
1959	David K. Jeffrey	2003
1959	Gia Maione Prima	2004
1959	Peter E. Thompson	2009
1960	Laurence M. Johmann	1992
1960	Diana Janusz Kedz	1997
1960	Roman Rudnytsky	1988
1961	Donald V. Browne	1992
1961	Carole Applegate Hedinger	1999
1962	Lloyd Keith Clayton	2013
1962	David Bailey Lee	2002
1962	Dr. Celia Genishi	1989
1962	Hon. Alexander D. Lehrer	1993
1962	Robert L. Pastine	1997
1962	Dorian Rudnytsky	1997
1962	Clarence E. "Bud" Aldrich III	2000
1963	Dr. Heidi Hartmann	1989
1963	Dr. Bambi Bernhardt Schieffelin	1988
1963	Marie E. Snyder	1996
1963	RoseanneCitta	2011
1964	Judge Julio M. Fuentes	2001
1964	Dr. Susan D. Halsey	1992
1964	Dr. Noel Ritter Valis	1995
1964	Ellen Estomin	2004
1964	Paul Raffer, MD	2007
1965	John C. Bartlett	2007
1965	Robert H. Ogle	1995
1965	Dr. Lewis Pyenson	1990
1965	Richard C. Ward	1998
1966	Howard Wolen	2015
1967	Laurence E. Bethune	1992
1967	Dr. Kenneth M. Green	1997
1967	Linda Troeller	1994
1967	Bonnie L. Nycz Blume	2002
1968	Tom Brown, Jr.	1994
1968	Marian Head	2009

Victoria Duff

Victoria Duff (Vicki) grew up in Canton, Ohio (home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame) and she helped her mother conduct the Ladies Lunches at the Hall of Fame. She attended and graduated from Perry High School and then attended Muskingum University and graduated in 1970. In 1971, she got her first job as a First Grade Teacher at St. Joseph's Elementary School in Toms River, NJ teaching 54 students. She then attended Georgian Court University from 1976-1978 to attain her Elementary Certification. This led to a teaching job in 1978 in the Toms River Schools as a First Grade Teacher and from 1980-2000 as a Third Grade Teacher (eventually serving as Grade Level Coordinator). She was honored in 1988 as the Teacher of the Year at East Dover Elementary School. She then became involved as the Mentor Coordinator in Toms River and helped the district meet the new teacher mentoring standards that had been established by the NJ Department of Education. She then continued in this capacity and also became a Gifted and Talented Teacher in 1988.

In 2003, Vicki was to become involved with the actual New Jersey Department of Education in the Office of Professional Development and Standards (on loan to the NJDOE from the Toms River Schools). She became actively involved with Mentoring and Professional Development of teachers in all schools in the State of New Jersey. In 2004-2005, she then completed an MA in Educational Administration from Walden University.

Vicki continued her work on loan from the Toms River Schools in the NJDOE until she retired in 2012. From there she moved on to another job with Learning Forward based out of Dallas, Texas from 2012-2014 as a Senior Consultant Project Manager. This work was involved with Gates Knowledge Development Initiative which gathered and disseminated best practices in identifying supports for teacher effectiveness systems. Today (2015) she works with the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association as Coordinator of Professional Learning.

Along with her extensive work history, she also found time at Community Memorial as a Hospital Volunteer and as part of the White Pine Twig fundraising organization of Community Memorial Hospital as President for four years. For many years she was an active member of the Island Heights Yacht Club serving in many positions from Junior Sailing Program Committee and Chair as well as a member of the Sailing Foundation Board of Directors.

She acknowledges many Toms River Regional School employees as mentors such as Mary Lou Tappan, Frank Falcetta, Bill Cardon, John Garrabrant, Kathy Stacy, and Linda Wheeler.

Her quote as a distinguished honoree says it all about her philosophy and why we happily induct her into the Toms River Schools Hall of Fame for 2015.

“Our schools are learning organizations focused on increasing the knowledge and skills of our educators and students. We are the learners – using the power of our learning to build the capacity of those whose lives we touch to improve our world.”

Jerry Dipoto

Gerard Peter Dipoto (Jerry) was born May 24, 1968 in Jersey City, NJ. He moved to Toms River and graduated from Toms River HS North in 1986. He was an accomplished baseball player participating in the Ocean County Baseball Tournament in 1985 earning MVP honors. In the 1986 season he earned MVP for the Toms River HS North team coached by Steve Hill. He earned All Shore recognition in 1985 and 1986 and as a pitcher threw three consecutive no-hitters in 1985, NJ State Baseball Tournament. The Principal, Ray Ryan says of Jerry, "He was a respectful student as well who quietly did his homework and participated in the school." His favorite teacher was Marty Walsh, who taught American History.

After high school, Jerry attended Virginia Commonwealth University from 1986-1989 earning honorable mention All-American before being drafted in the third round in 1989 by the Cleveland Indians.

Jerry entered the minor leagues becoming an all-star in the Carolina League in 1990 and in the International League in 1993. He made his major league debut on May 11, 1993 for the Cleveland Indians. From there he played for the Indians to 1994. In 1994 he survived thyroid cancer, having curative surgery and continued his baseball career.

He became a New York Met from 1995-1996 and finally played with Colorado Rockies from 1997-2000 winning the Rocky Mountain Chapter Lou Gehrig Award and the (Roloids) Relief Pitcher of the Year. His playing career ended and by 2003 he became a scout for the Boston Red Sox and was part of the 2004 World Series winning team (breaking the jinx that had haunted the Red Sox for 86 years). (The curse of the Bambino because the Red Sox sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees).

In 2005, Jerry became head of the scouting department for the Colorado Rockies. By 2007 he became the Director of Scouting and Player Personnel with the Arizona Diamondbacks. When a mentor, Josh Byrnes was fired in 2010, Jerry Dipoto became the Interim General Manager of the Arizona Diamondbacks, serving until Kevin Tower was named the new General Manager.

By 2011, Jerry was offered the job as General Manager of the Los Angeles Angels, which he accepted, and has been working there continuously since. He led the team to a division title in 2014 with a playoff appearance. This year they are hoping to repeat and hope to make a serious run in the playoffs into October, 2015.

Jerry has been active over the years in many church communities in the multiple areas of the country he has lived, played and worked within. He has also contributed to society through organizations such as Special Olympics, 65 Roses, American Cancer Society and as a member of the Colorado Rockies "Field of Dream's" program. Through this program he paid for and had built three different youth baseball fields in Colorado.

Jerry Dipoto was born to Gerard and Barbara Dipoto and has two siblings, Marc Dipoto and Lori Dipoto-Duvsey. Presently he is married to Tamie and has three children: Taylor, Jordan, and Jonah. We are honored to induct Jerry Dipoto to the Toms River Schools Hall of Fame for 2015

Roger Gaiter

Roger Gaiter is a remarkable individual who personified family values, faith, education, and patriotism. Roger served our country during World War II. This was a time period in which the American military was totally segregated. It was believed that African-Americans lacked the requisite attributes needed to perform successfully in combat conditions.

Roger played a large role in dispelling that mind-set. He served as one of the talented Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Airmen helped break down the erroneous stereotypes that were indicative of the time period. Roger fought with the 99th Fighter Squadron, 332 Fighter Group. The original Tuskegee Airmen consisted of only 429 men and 47 officers. He achieved the rank of captain, serving in the capacity of a fighter pilot. To become a Tuskegee Airman, one had to be a college graduate, which most of them were, or pass vigorous entrance examination. Roger's courage is exemplified by his flying 38 combat missions.

Roger was shot down over Hungary in October of 1944. Parachuting into German-occupied Hungary, he avoided capture for three days before being captured by three civilians who turned him over to local German troops. Roger was one of 33 Tuskegee Airmen to be a prisoner-of-war. He was a recipient of the Army Air Corps Medal and was presented with three Oak Leaf Clusters for serving his beloved country. The Gaiter family placed great emphasis on the value of an education. Thus Roger went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree from Glassboro and a Master's Degree from Temple University.

After the war, Roger returned to New Jersey and became an educator for over thirty years. Developing young minds was his highest priority. Leslie Gaiter said of his father: "Much like my cousins, education was a very important part of my early life as my Master's Degree and the undergraduate degrees of my three daughters would indicate, thanks to the influence of my father." With the education of youth a top priority, Roger became a teacher in Newark and Clifton, New Jersey and retired in 1981 as principal of Stillman School in Plainfield, New Jersey.

Roger left his family with an impressive legacy. His military heroism helped African-Americans by dispelling racial stereotypes. Through the utilization of an executive order, President Truman ended segregation within the military. Roger clearly demonstrated how education opens up the door of opportunity to all people. His legacy will live on. As a graduate of Toms River High School in 1939 we are proud to induct him to the Toms River Schools Hall of Fame for 2015.

Richard Kuntz

Richard had had an exemplary career at Monmouth University. Many of his accomplishments still resonate at the University.

Richard served as an administrator for 21 years in numerous capacities. He is held in high esteem by his students and administrators.

Some of Richard's achievements and titles include: published research, Chair of Mathematics, Chair of Computer Science, Dean of the School of Information Science, Dean of Graduate Student, Vice President for Administration, Vice President of Technology.

Richard is a 1958 graduate of Toms River High School. He is very proud of being selected as captain of the football team. In addition, he was a member of the Student Council and played on the school baseball team. Two teachers Richard found to have a great influence on his development were Edward Kusnick and Gerry Rich. Richard feels that his experiences in the Toms River School System "provided opportunities to grow." It was at this time that Richard learned what it meant to be a leader.

After graduating from Toms River High School, Richard earned a B. S. in Mathematics from Monmouth University. He then proceeded to obtain a M. S. in Mathematics from the University of Maryland. This was followed by his achieving a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Maryland in 1968.

While maintaining a vigorous work ethic, Richard found the time to belong to numerous Professional Societies and published in over twenty academic works. Richard also gave much effort to serving the Monmouth University community. He was on numerous committees including: The Educational and Planning Committee, the Tenure and Promotion Committee, The College Scholarship Committee, the Budget and Priorities Committee and numerous others.

Richard's contributions to Monmouth University are greatly appreciated by his colleagues. It was stated of Richard that: "Although Dr. Kuntz has earned multiple achievements, I'd like to acknowledge Dr. Kuntz on a more personal level. Dr. Kuntz has a unique teacher style that challenges each of his students. He enjoys getting to know his students in and out of the classroom."

Richard truly is responsible for the modernization of technology at Monmouth University. In fact, one of the accomplishments he is most proud of is his developing of Monmouth's technology communications system. This was projected by Richard to be a one year project and proved correct.

We proudly induct Richard into the Toms River Schools Hall of Fame for 2015 due to his many accomplishments at the collegiate level. He is well deserving of this honor.

J. Mark Mutter

The Latin motto of Toms River Township is “Homo Cogitat, Deus Indicat” – Man Thinks, God Directs. This could just as easily be the maxim of her favorite son – J. Mark Mutter.

Mark moved from Sayreville to Toms River in 1970 at the tender age of 12. In his own words, Mark resented “being packed up with my two brothers to move to some ‘foreign’ place – Toms River!” Luckily, Mark soon found his calling. In September of 1974, Mark joined the Young Republicans. From that point forward, Mark spent countless hours working “for many people and many causes.”

After graduating from High School North in 1975, Mark earned additional diplomas from Ocean County College, Rutgers University, and Western New England College - School of Law. Armed with his Juris Doctor, Mark could have gone anywhere, but he chose to come back to the town he now lovingly calls home – Toms River.

Mark has used his various degrees in numerous capacities. He has served as an attorney-at-law and a legislative aide. He has been the chairman of the Zoning Board, has served as Mayor of Dover Township and currently serves as the Clerk of Toms River Township. As impressive as this resume may be, it does not reflect Mark’s true passion.

Anyone who knows Mark Mutter knows that history is not just a simple avocation for him. Mark holds the title of Toms River Township’s official Historian. He is also the chairman of the township’s Historic Preservation Commission. Not only is he is a member of the Ocean County Historical Society, but also those of Sussex County, Sandyston Township, and Walpack Township. Formerly, Mark has chaired the Dover Township Bi-Centennial Commission and the 225 Year Anniversary Commission. Currently, he is preparing for the 250th Anniversary of Toms River – which will take place in 2017. To say that Mark likes history is a little like saying that the sky is blue – both obvious and a little awe inspiring.

In what little free time he has, Mark is an adjunct instructor at Ocean County College where he teaches business law and New Jersey history. He has also published numerous articles on the history of Toms River in the Ocean County Observer and the Toms River Times. Mark is also a proud member of the Russian Orthodox Church and has been an active member of both St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Howell and St. Vladimir Memorial Church in Jackson.

In a letter to the Hall of Fame, Mark wrote, “Someday, when I am gone, I hope that people will say, Toms River was a little bit better because of my service here.” Fortunately, Mark will not have to wait to know that he has made a difference. The trustees are proud to recognize J. Mark Mutter’s contributions to Toms River and we welcome him as a 2015 inductee into the Toms River Regional Schools Hall of Fame.

Class of 1975

Inducted May 3, 2015.

Robert Peck

Robert Peck moved to Toms River in the late 1960's and attended Toms River High School but the next year, graduated from Toms River High School South (since Toms River High School North was opened). He remembers his time fondly and especially his favorite teacher David Correll. After high school, he earned a real estate license and worked with Crossroads Realty from 1972-1980. During this time he was a member of the Ocean County Board of Realtors serving on the Board of Directors from 1974-1975. He volunteered as a member of the Toms River Kiwanis Club and served on the board of Directors from 1974-1976.

Robert attended Ocean County College earning an Associate in Arts Degree in 1981 and gained experience with the police force in the Seaside Heights Seasonal Officers Basic Training in 1979 and serving as a Seasonal Patrolman until 1981. He also found time to serve in the NJ Division of Economic Development as a civil service appointment in the capacity as a Community Development Representative.

The experiences led to his work with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office as an investigator from 1981-1983. Eventually he came back to Toms River to work within the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office from 1983-2007 where he retired as the Deputy Chief. His contributions in the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office were numerous and immeasurable from the stand point of keeping the community safe and protected. He was an investigator that worked in the Major Crime Unit. As an investigator, he worked diligently on the Joseph Portach corruption case in Manchester Township and on the murder trial investigation which led to the conviction of Robert Marshal. He became a Sergeant in 1992, a Lieutenant in 1995, Acting Chief of Police in Lavallette due to the Ocean County Prosecutor appointing him due to internal problems there, Captain in 1998, Executive Captain in 2005 and finally Deputy Chief in September of 2005 until retirement.

Retirement for Robert Peck was not an end of working or service. He has continued his work in the community helping the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office with helping establish Tina's House, named after the child abuse investigator, Tina Rambo, who passed away in 2011. Tina's House is the renovated Child Advocacy Center that serves abused children in our community. Robert was asked to help coordinate a response team to aid residents after Super Storm Sandy disaster. Presently he is proud to work with the recent effort to bring aid to the Ocean County Community and Toms River in the BEAT Center. This center will emerge in the Silverton Section of Toms River off of Hooper Avenue. The BEAT Center (which stands for Bringing Everyone All Together) will merge the efforts of the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, the People's Pantry Relief Center, and the Soul Kitchen. The People's Pantry evolved as a means to help Sandy victims with major involvement of the Toms River Regional Schools. The Soul Kitchen is a second location that helps feed the hungry with the help and support of Bon Jovi as well as the David Tepper Charitable Foundation in Red Bank.

We are honored to induct Robert Peck into the Toms River Schools Hall of Fame for 2015.

Howard Lee Wolen

Howard Lee Wolen attended the Toms River Schools from 1954-1966 attending Toms River Elementary School, Toms River Intermediate School and Toms River High School graduating in 1966. Upon graduation, Howard attended Wilkes College, Ocean County College and Stockton State College where he graduated with a BA in Fine Arts. Howard has achieved success in the music industry in Vocals, Instruments and Performance, Writing and Arrangement, Production, Technical and Recording and Mixing Engineer. He enjoyed a varied career, working with some of the biggest stars of pop and R&B.

Howard Wolen began his life in music as a drummer in his hometown, Toms River, playing mainly with regional bands along the Jersey shore. He made the move to California when an artist he had been playing behind on the East Coast needed a drummer for some gigs around Santa Cruz, California.

After a few months in Santa Cruz, he moved to Los Angeles, where he hoped to line up some drumming gigs. Wolen says he had held a lifelong fascination with the record-making process and felt L.A. was the place to take the next steps in his career. "I followed every lead that was even the slightest possibility of a situation, calling ads in the Recycler, checking bulletin boards at local supermarkets and, of course, the bulletin board at the local musicians' union. I called and went to just about every studio in L.A., knocking on a lot of closed doors," Wolen says.

Wolen eventually knocked on the door of a studio owned by George Tobin and was hired to overdub drum parts for various productions, but the drummer soon found himself gravitating toward the other side of the glass—in part, because there was so much competition in L.A. for working musicians. Wolen says his path to becoming Tobin's staff engineer required equal measures of "hard work, blind faith, diligence, and a lot of luck!" He read piles of audio magazines, and learned a great deal from his mentors.

Wolen also benefited from a few key small-world coincidences within the business. Recording artist Kim Carnes' manager turned out to be a longtime friend from Toms River, Michael Brokaw, whom Wolen hadn't seen since they were students at Ocean County College. One of the first artists Wolen was called upon to record for George Tobin was Robert John, who remembered Wolen as a session drummer on some of his early songwriter demos in New York. Wolen states, "When I was at Stockton State College in New Jersey, I had studied music composition, and I learned ear training. For some reason I had an aptitude for it; I was at the top of my class as far as being able to hear if something was sharp or flat."

His first "Gold Record" as a recording engineer was for an artist named Robert John for a song called "Sad Eyes". From there he recorded various hits with Kim Carnes, Herb Alpert, Natalie Cole, Tiffany and Smokey Robinson.

For Wolen, the Smokey Robinson album, "Being With You" was a career game-changer. Soon after Robinson's album hit the charts, the engineer found himself in demand for Motown and A&M projects. He engineered The Temptations' Reunion album with Robinson producing; records with Herb Alpert, Natalie Cole, Flo & Eddie, and Thelma Houston; and Roberta Flack and Peabo Bryson's smash hit, "Tonight I Celebrate My Love."

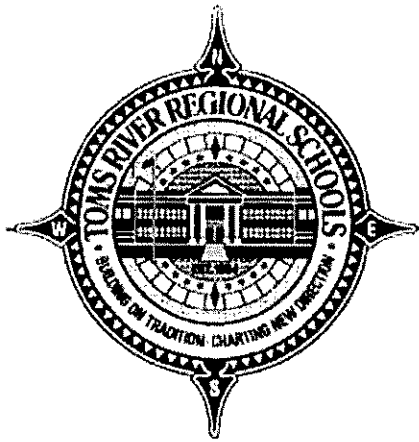
Wolen also worked for three years as the recording and mixing engineer for the popular "Solid Gold" TV series. That experience led him to work with artists Boy George, Smokey Robinson, Jimmy Buffet, The Commodores, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Barry Manilow, The Oakridge Boys, Joe Cocker, Michael McDonald, Rick Nelson, Julio Iglesias, Frank Sinatra, Marilyn McCoo and Dionne Warwick, among others.

Wolen's friend, and a former Toms River Schools Hall of Fame inductee in 1997, Dorian Rudnytsky states, "In the field of recorded music, it is not only the musician who plays the pivotal role. It is also the often unnoticed recording engineer with his professional training and experience, musical knowledge and sensitivity who is required to capture the extremely varied and personal nuances of individual performances and whose responsibility it is to have these performances properly recorded. He or she is the technical connection, without whom recording music to records or CD's, or to film, TV shows, etc. would be impossible...This is the world of Howard Lee Wolen."

"A New York record producer named Artie Wayne once told me, 'If you want to make records, you have to go to where records are made,'" Wolen says. "It was the truth."

Unfortunately, Mr. Wolen's career was cut short because he suffers from Multiple Sclerosis. Today, he lives in Hawaii with his wife, Lin Bennett Wolen, a former A&M production department employee. His list of successes is long and impressive and can be viewed online under "Howard Wolen or Howard Lee Wolen".

We here today are honored to induct Howard Lee Wolen in the Toms River Regional Schools Hall of Fame for 2015.



Hall of Fame



Town Crier
May 2015

THE TOWN CRIER

2015

From 1988 through 2013, the Toms River Schools' Hall of Fame inducted 151 Honorees whose graduation years ranged from 1882 through 1992. This year's inductees advance the total to 157 and now include graduates from the original Toms River High School plus High Schools South, North and East. The Honorees' respective fields of endeavor reflect an amazing variety of outstanding achievements in an impressive variety of disciplines.

In 1991 the Distinguished Honorary Medallion was awarded for the first time. The Medallion, mounted on a plaque, was created to honor those who did not attend the Toms River Schools but who contributed in an exemplary way to the ideals and educational philosophy of our school system. Including this year's recipient, 20 have been honored.

Following is the latest TOWN CRIER news from some of our past Honorees:

CAROLYN M. CAMPBELL (Class of 1941)

Carolyn Campbell passed away peacefully March 17, 2015, at the age of 91. She was the Salutatorian of her graduating class as well as an outstanding athlete who won varsity letters in every sport offered. She graduated from Montclair State Teacher's College in 1944 with a degree in Education later earning a Master's Degree from Rutgers University. She was a gifted educator and a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Organization of Honorary Women in Education. She authored and co-authored numerous articles and books about Ocean County and the towns surrounding the Toms River. She also served as President of the Ocean County Historical Society from 1983 to 1985 and was a speaker at over 100 programs on the history of schools and of Ocean County.

She was inducted into our Hall of Fame in 1995 but was also a member of the original Board of Trustees formed in 1987 that designed the criteria for those we now honor.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL (Class of 1969)

In his own words as of March, 2015, "Sheri and I are still living in San Diego. and sailing most every chance we get. We spent some time in Tuscany, Italy, while she was helping to run a major world championship regatta in June 2013. We are headed to Peru this October to do some trekking in Machu Picchu, again while she helps run a major regatta there. Both our sons are very busy. Michael is working as Press Secretary for our local congressman and spends his time in Washington DC and on the Hill. Andrew and his wife Jacqueline are moving to Bermuda where he will sail with Oracle Team USA for the next America's Cup in 2017.

I am still very active in San Diego Yacht Club, helping on membership committees and sailing race organization. I am Chairman of the selection committee for the National Sailing Hall of Fame which is establishing permanent roots in Annapolis, Maryland. We are into our fifth year of inductee selections. Sheri is also very active in the San Diego Yacht Club helping with their Sailing Foundation. But we continue to love being in San Diego, despite the draught, which is a significant problem.

“And we are saddened by the loss of our Aunt Carolyn Campbell as you might imagine.”

DAVID KENNETH JEFFREY (Class of 1959)

David Jeffrey was an associate dean when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame. He is now Dean of the College of Arts and Letters at James Madison University. He lives in Staunton, Virginia, “a beautiful stop off Interstate 81 and would welcome visitors from the class of 1959 or thereabouts. So, I’d bet would Phillip Miller (TRHS’59), an old friend and an attorney here”.

DR. ALLEN H. KASSOF (Class of 1948)

In 2014 Dr. Kassof was asked by the government of Romania to reconvene the interethnic roundtable that he had initiated and chaired for several years beginning in 1992 as President of the Project on Ethnic Relations, an American NGO that he founded with the support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

“The basic understanding worked out then provided the political framework for the accommodation between the Romanians and their Hungarian minority. Changing circumstances and new frictions suggested a need for renewed negotiations among the political leaders and possible revisions of the original agreements. I made four trips to Rumania and chaired two roundtables. I certainly did not expect to be called back to work as an octogenarian, but as you can imagine, it has been an exhilarating experience. The process is expected to continue later in 2015.”

The sad news that preceded this good news was the loss of Arianne, his wife of sixty years in September of 2013. “She had been my faithful companion at all of the Hall of Fame events.” Dr. Kassof and Arianne were very frequent as well as charming attendees at many Hall of Fame dinners.

We wish him well with his upcoming return to Rumania with positive results!

WILLIAM A. KING, Jr. (Class of 1944)

Although Bill King was not an inducted Hall of Famer, he served on the committee in 1987-88 that designed the framework and qualifications that resulted in the first Induction Ceremony in 1988. He served on the original Board of Trustees.

Born in Toms River in 1926, he passed away on March 13, 2015.

Bill spent two years in the Navy working in an underwater demolition unit. After returning to Toms River and obtaining teacher certification from Rutgers and Glassboro. Later he became certified at the University of Vermont as a librarian. He taught in Lakewood for four years before joining the faculty at Toms River High School from 1959-1989. Before becoming a librarian at South he taught business courses and was sent to school for computer training, enabling him to establish one of the first programs for computers in the Toms River Schools.

He was active in Ocean County Historical Society activities and programs serving as a member of the Board of Trustees and the Publications Committee.

WILLIAM S. MALAST (Class of 1070)

William Malast retired from the State Police in 10/2006 as a Lieutenant Colonel and Superintendent of Homeland Security. Malast is presently working in the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office in the Intelligence, Homeland Security and Special Projects Unit.

NEAL MAYER (Class of 1978)

Neal Mayer was recently seen in the new musical "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" written by Alan Menken ("Beauty and the Beast", "Aladdin", "Little Shop of Horrors") and Stephen Schwartz ("Godspell", "Pippin", "Wicked") at the LaJolla Playhouse and Paper Mill Playhouse. He toured the United States with "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" in 2013 and spent much of 2014 working on a new musical "Greed", acting in various regional theaters and appearing in a comedy sketch on "The Tonight Show" with Jimmy Fallon.

Neal continues to come back to Toms River High School South for a few days each year to coach students on their annual musical. "I'm incredibly proud of the work that South Drama Director Kristine Perry does with her students every year. May the arts continue to thrive in Toms River Schools!"

ANNETTE BRAFMAN MEYERS (Class of 1951)

We're happy to report that Annette is back to her creative self after being a caregiver for her husband and writing partner Marty. He died last year of Alzheimer's. Annette writes, "It was seven nightmare years for me as a caregiver watching him disappear. It's taken me a while to get back to myself and begin working again."

The good news is that Annette recently sold a short story to an anthology called DARK CITY LIGHTS, edited by Lawrence Block. It was published in April. She also signed a contract with a company that will e-book the rest of her books and the Maan Meyers' books. Nine are already available on Kindle, Nook, and Kobu.

AND a TV pilot is being written for THE DUTCHMAN, the first of the Maan Meyers' books that Marty and I wrote together.

She has a new website, just up, and a blog: www.meyersmysteries.com

ALAN RINZLER (Class of 1956)

Alan claims he doesn't have any big news but his reply to the Town Crier is worth printing in his own words:

"I'm happy to be continuing my friendship with 1956 classmates Sonny Whyman, Marilwyn Gaskill, Pete Heimbold and others. I'm officially retired from book publishing but

continuing to work on a free-lance basis with many authors who are writing thrillers, literary novels, memoirs and other kinds of books.

I've been traveling with my wife Cheryl quite a bit. We recently came back from a three week trip to Hanoi and Saigon, which I recommend to anyone who's interested in Vietnam and what's happening there since the war, and we'll be going to Norway and Sweden in June for my daughter-in-law's 50th birthday celebration. Also, my granddaughter Judith is getting married on July 12th, another milestone to enjoy in our continuing seniority."

Warm regards to all Grrrr...fight!

LINDA TROELLER (Class of 1967)

Linda Troeller finally moved after living and working at the famous Chelsea Hotel for 20 years. An urban real estate firm bought the hotel, home for many famous writers and artists, and set about to evict the artistic community in order to renovate to their modern taste. She finally left in January when the firm would not fix the mold problem during restorations.

The good news is that Schiffer, a PA publisher, started negotiations for a book on Linda's life at the Chelsea which was signed last June. Titled "Living in the Chelsea Hotel" by Linda Troeller, the book will come out in December, 2015, with 76 photographs and an autobiography!

"Daylight 2014", a book out last November on positive sex lives for women with interviews and photographs by Linda Troeller and Marion Schneider was well received in Europe. Interviews with women from Columbia, Israel, Germany, USA and Portugal led to a book tour by the authors to Berlin, Dresden, Hamburg, Frankfurt and Vienna as well as signings in NYC and New Orleans bookstores.

LOU URENECK (Class of 1968)

Lou has a new book coming out in May, 2015, titled THE GREAT FIRE "One American Mission to Rescue Victims of the 20th Century's First Genocide". Published by Harper Collins, the extensively researched book tells the story of the American rescue of a quarter million refugees from the city of Smyrna in Turkey in 1920. The burning of Smyrna, a rich and cosmopolitan city, was the last violent episode of the Armenian and Greek genocide that swept the Ottoman Empire in the early years of the last century. It was a precursor of the Jewish Holocaust by the Nazis. www.smyrnafire.com

Dr. NOEL RITTER VALIS (Class of 1964)

At the end of last year Dr. Valis, Professor of Spanish at Yale University, published a novella, The Labor of Longing (Charlotte, NC: Main Street Publishing, 2014) which is set largely in Toms River, the Pine Barrens, and Philadelphia. It was a Finalist for the Prize Americana for Prose. It is available from www.mainstreetrag.com.

The publicity flyer for the book can be found at:

<http://mainstreetrag/bookstore/product/the-labor-of-longing/>

Dr. Valis has been giving readings of the novella at West Virginia University, at the Cathedral del Redentor in Madrid, with future readings scheduled for Yale University, Dartmouth College, Rutgers Barnes and Noble Bookstore, Douglass College Reunion's Authors Corner, and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

In press: True Confessions. A translation of essays by Maria Zmbrano and Rose Chacel, with Introduction, Afterward, and Annotations, is forthcoming (with Carol Maier) (SUNY Press 2015).

Dr. Valis also spoke at the "James Burnham's Suicide of the West: 50 Years Later" Conference held at Yale University, November 14, 2014, and aired on C-SPAN Book TV on December 21, 2014. It is also available on YouTube.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL HONOREES AND DISTINGUISHED HONOREES

*** PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH ***

If you have an honor of achievement, personally or professionally, that you would like to share with the hometown crowd, please contact me at any time. We care about your lives and always look forward to seeing you at the Hall of Fame luncheon, a unique reunion.

Charlotte Ford Spillane – 1700 North Bay Avenue, Toms River. NJ 08753

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