

# TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS



## HALL OF FAME

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### Twenty Fifth Induction Dinner

May 19, 2019

Ramada  
Versailles Room  
Route 9  
Toms River, NJ



## **2017 BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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Russell K. Corby, Vice President

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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

**2019  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Linuel P. Lloyd III  
Chair**

Kim General  
Irene Hartmann  
L. Manuel Hirshblond  
Debra L. McKenna  
Dr. Jeffrey Schenker  
Matthew Malagiere  
Dave Correll

# 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, 1225 Raider Way, 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 every other year to choose honorees. Those not selected remain on the eligible list for five years.

## PROGRAM

Welcome & Introduction of Distinguished Guests .....	Linuel P. Lloyd III Chairperson/High School Social Studies Supervisor
Greetings .....	David M. Healy Superintendent of Schools
.....	Joseph Nardini 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

2019 Distinguished Honoree

#### **Jay & Linda Grunin Foundation**

Presenter: Matthew Malagiere, Trustee  
High School East AP Government Teacher

### Last Year Attended or Year of Graduation

1965 <b>Frank Trembulak</b> ..... (TR Schools)	Presenter: Linuel P. Lloyd III, Chairperson Secondary Social Studies Supervisor
1964 <b>Joseph Adelizzi</b> ..... (TR Schools)	Presenter: Jeffrey Schenker, Trustee Retired High School South AP History Teacher
1966 <b>Oscar Cradle</b> ..... (TR Schools)	Presenter: Karla Ivarson High School North Media Specialist
1992 <b>Tara Cunningham</b> ..... (North)	Presenter: Linuel P. Lloyd III, Chairperson Secondary Social Studies Supervisor

1996 **Jaffar Mahmood**.....  
(North)

Presenter: Debra McKenna, Trustee  
Assistant Superintendent for Toms River Regional Schools

1998 **Jared Gertner**.....  
(North)

Presenter: Kim General  
High School North History Teacher

### **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.”



2017 Ernest "Jack" Milkovitz

"Never underestimate the value of the Arts. They are essential for the intellectual and social development of all students at every level of education."

2019 Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation

"We focus our philanthropy on driving economic growth throughout Monmouth and Ocean Counties by investing strategically in the arts, education and healthcare. Strong school systems and abundant educational opportunities, arts-rich programming and access to the arts, and world-class healthcare options that address the needs of the entire population, help to build a thriving economy. We are proud to have strong roots in Toms River and to have the opportunity to work with such incredible individuals, businesses and organizations throughout the Central Jersey Shore." - Jeremy Grunin, President, Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation

# Hall of Fame

## HONOREES

Last Year Attended  
or Graduation

Inducted

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
1939	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
1964	Tai Sam Choo	2017
1966	Joseph Adelizzi	2019
1965	John C. Bartlett	2007
1965	Robert H. Ogle	1995
1965	Dr. Lewis Pyenson	1990
1965	Richard C. Ward	1998
1965	Frank Trembulak	2019
1966	Oscar Cradle	2019
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
1968	Louis Ureneck	2011
1969	William Campbell	1992
1969	Gary A. Jobson	1990
1969	Glenn R. Reichardt	1997
1969	Brig. Gen. Norton A. Schwartz	1996
1969	Nancy Hudson Aaberg	2002
1970 (South)	Dr. Russell C. Cattley	1995

1970 (South)	Dr. Eric Dinerstein	2009
1970 (South)	Thomas L. Finkbiner	1999
1970 (South)	Dr. Vivien Green Fryd	1996
1970 (South)	William "Rip" Scherer	1996
1970 (South)	William Malast	2005
1970 (South)	Robert Peck	2015
1971 (South)	Joan E. Bray	1994
1971 (South)	Dr. Dale Whilden	1992
1971 (South)	Miguel Reabold	2003
1971 (South)	Debrah Morante	2011
1972 (North)	Colonel Mike Applegate	2000
1972 (North)	E. David Millard	2001
1972 (South)	Miechelle O. Willis	2003
1972 (South)	Diana (Levine) Madaras	2005
1972 (North)	Theresa Lettman	2005
1972 (South)	Mark Perlmann	2011
1972 (North)	Deborah Ralph	2011
1973 (North)	Steve Mormando	1996
1973 (North)	Dr. Lee E. Schechter	1995
1973 (North)	Valerie R. Bencivenga	2004
1974 (North)	Sonya Naryshkin, M.D.	2001
1974 (South)	Geoffrey Rich	2005
1975 (North)	Mark Mutter	2015
1976 (North)	James Crane	2011
1977 (South)	Anthony G. Calamai	2003
1977(South	Robert Tarver	2017
1978 (South)	Neal Mayer	2001
1978 (South)	Sandra D. Levine	2004
1979 (South)	Todd G. Buchholz	2000
1979 (North)	Marie DeNoia Aronsohn	2009
1981 (East)	Lori Grifa	2013
1979 (North)	Marie DeParis	2017
1979 (North)	Kurt Kaulback	2017
1980 (North)	Kyle Kaulback	2017
1982 (East)	Danny Clinch	2009
1983 (East)	Joseph W. Scott	2005
1983 (South)	Andrew Elliott	2017
1984 (East)	Michael Piscal	2007
1986 (North)	Jerry Dipoto	2015
1986 (East)	Kris Kaulback	2017
1987 (South)	Kimberley Babiak Phillips	2013
1989(East)	Michael Brune	2013
1991 (South)	David Gavin Duff	2013
1992 (East)	William Castner, Jr	2013
1992 (North)	Tara Cunningham	2019
1993 (East)	Brian Geraghty	2017
1996 (North)	Jaffar Mahmood	2019
1998 (North)	Jared Gertner	2019

## **Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation**

Jay and Linda Grunin started their long and loving relationship while both attending NYU School of Law back in the mid-1960's. After graduation, Jay and Linda decided to begin their lives and careers together in Toms River, and it was here where they successfully started their own law firm. As time went on, the couple continued to grow their business interests to include not only the law practice, but expand into the real estate market and other investment ventures. After practicing law for over three decades, both Jay and Linda decided to retire and focus their efforts on investing and philanthropy, establishing the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation.

The Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation focuses its philanthropic efforts on increasing citizen activity and economic development opportunities through the arts, healthcare and education. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded over \$18 million dollars, with an additional \$14 million already committed to future programs and organizations.

Through the assistance, guidance and generosity of the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation, the Toms River Regional School district has been able to implement and participate in a number of different programs, directly benefiting the Toms River student population of all grade levels. One of the first and most successful programs created through this collaboration has been the *Elevate Toms River Principals' Innovation Challenge*. Established to award a \$10,000 grant to schools that enhance STEAM curriculum through these projects, the application was open to all Toms River schools, with all 19 creating programs that not only incorporate student-driven education, but also fostered the creation of partnerships with others in the community including non-profit organizations, businesses, and other educational institutions. Upon receiving the grant applications, the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation awarded funding for not just a few, but all programs, totaling over \$180,000.

The Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation has also been a major contributor supporting the arts in Toms River Regional Schools. Teaming up with an organization called *Young Audiences Arts for Learning*, The Grunin Foundation has assisted in funding the ARTS LAB program established at Silver Bay Elementary. This program utilizes various fundamentals of art education to tackle any challenges students may face on a daily basis. This program has been well received in Toms River, bringing in a number of different programs to the school community since its introduction.

As the IT industry continues to advance, programming and technology emerge as major fields of focus for all generations. Toms River Regional Schools has been at the forefront of establishing educational opportunities for our students gain valuable knowledge and develop skill sets within this field of study. These opportunities, such as the *FIRST Tech Challenge*, and the *TR:TechReady* programs, would not have been possible without the support of the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation. As major sponsors of the Tech Challenge, the foundation made possible the opportunity for Toms River to host over 30 schools from around New Jersey to compete in the field of robotics. Additionally, the *TR:TechReady* program allows for the collaboration between Toms River Schools and the Office of Naval Research.

Time and again, the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation continues to show a strong personal connection to the Toms River Regional Schools and the overall community. In September

2018, Jeremy Grunin, President of the Foundation, participated in the *Extraordinary Fitness 10-Week Challenge* to raise money for Toms River Regional Schools. Upon completion, the Foundation equally matched the total funds raised, presenting the school district with a check for \$16,000.

These are just a few of the many examples of how the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation has supported Toms River Regional Schools. Their dedication, support and generosity has given opportunities to students that would not have been possible otherwise. The Foundation has and will continue to be an integral part of the Toms River Schools family. With this in mind, it is an honor to name The Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation a Distinguished Honoree into the Toms River Schools Hall of Fame.

## **Frank Trembulak**

Frank Trembulak attended East Dover Elementary School, Toms River Intermediate School and Toms River High School graduating in 1965. He fondly remembers the Island Beach section of Toms River near Island Heights where he grew up. Mrs. Wheeler made an impact on him during his attendance at East Dover Elementary School. Her kindness and warm personality impacted him greatly. In High School, Mr. Robert Hawthorne influenced him due to his no nonsense, straightforward nature and honest way of communicating.

Life lessons were well received in his time with Toms River Regional Schools.

After high school, Frank attended Susquehanna University and graduated in 1969 with a BS in Accounting and boy accounting did he go.

After college, he went to work for Main Hurdman & LaFrantz Certified Public Accounts (which went on to being a part of KPMG later). His work included audits of various public, private, family owned businesses as well as universities, municipalities, government agencies and wealthy individuals. He worked from 1972-1976 for AID, Inc. a public, for profit healthcare company that owned and operated nursing homes in primarily New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida and California. He was a Senior Internal Auditor and a founding member of the Internal Audit Department. He then moved to the company he eventually retired from, Geisinger Health System (1976-2016; 40 years). Frank Trembulak worked initially as the Director of Internal Audit and then was promoted to Chief Financial Officer of Geisinger Medical Center. By the time he retired he was the Executive Vice President Chief Operating Officer with Geisinger now having approximately one thousand six hundred employed physicians, twenty nine thousand other employees providing health services. The organization reached \$6.0 billion in annual net revenue and Geisinger Health Plan had over five hundred and thirty thousand members, providing health benefits in five states.

He has earned multiple awards with the following sampling of them:

- Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors for:
  - Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania
  - Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
  - Pennsylvania Health Care Quality Alliance
- Member of Pennsylvania Intergovernmental State Commission on Alternative Dispute Resolution Demonstration Task Force
- Member of American Hospital Assn. Special Advisory Board
- Member of Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Health Information Organization Board
- Multiple citations from:
  - Pennsylvania Senate
  - Pennsylvania House
  - Governor of Pennsylvania
  - Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
- Volunteered or served as:
  - Trustee and Vice Chair of Susquehanna University
  - Saint Joseph Catholic Church
  - Boy Scouts of America
  - Girl Scouts of America
  - Ronald McDonald House

We are proud to induct Robert Trembulak as a 2019 Toms River Regional Schools Hall of Fame member.

## **Joseph Adelizzi**

Joe Adelizzi was born and raised in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, NY. His family moved to Pine Beach in 1961. But part of Joe, however, never left Brooklyn in that he loved to reminisce about Ebbets Field and the old Brooklyn Dodgers.

Joe was an extremely proud graduate of Toms River High School in 1964. It was said that Joe “bled maroon.” His high school days were influenced by Principal John Donald and his baseball coach, Bob Hawthorne, and the many life-long friends he made there.

After graduation, Joe attended St. John’s University, Ocean County College, and Trenton State College.

In 1969, Joe took a job taking sport scores for the Ocean County Observer. This led to a life-long career as a sports journalist. By 1971, Joe was the Observer’s sports editor. He rose to managing editor two years later. In 1976, he went to work for the Asbury Park Press. Joe became sports editor in 1978, a position he held until 1992 at which point he became a columnist.

Joe took great pride in hiring many reporters who went on to remarkable careers. During his tenure as sports editor of the Press, the paper won 11 consecutive top 10 ratings from the Associated Press Sports Editors. He served as a regional chairman for the organization for three years and was a speaker at the American Press Institute twice. Two times he was named N.J. Sportswriter of the Year and twice he won writing awards from the APSE and the N.J. Press Association. He was also named to the Jersey Shore Sports Hall of Fame and the Shore Conference Football Hall of Fame. Just this past fall Joe was inducted into the Jersey Shore Interscholastic Wrestling Association’s Hall of Fame for his contribution to Shore Conference wrestling.

Joe exhibited a great passion for sports from the high school level to the pros. However, his greatest love was always his family. Joe was extremely proud of the fact that both his children, Jacqueline and Joseph, graduated from his alma mater, Toms River High School South. His legacy lives on in Toms River as his wife of 36 years, Lee, teaches history at Toms River South, as does his daughter. His son, Joe, works with autistic children at Pinelands Regional High School, while coaching football and wrestling.

Joe passed away in 2017, but memories of Joe will always live on by his many friends and family.



## **Oscar Cradle**

Reverend Oscar Cradle recently finished a four-year term as the mayor of South Toms River; prior to that, he served on the township committee for a total of 14 years since 1996. His accomplishments include moving the Borough Hall to a better facility, working to clean up the waterfront properties along Route 166, landing substantial grant monies for a comprehensive after school program in partnership with Toms River Schools and working to bring more ratables to South Toms River.

Reverend Oscar Cradle was born in 1947. While his earliest years were spent in Virginia, Oscar's family made South Toms River their home by the time he turned five. He remembers South Toms River as a close-knit neighborhood where everyone was looking out for each other. While at Toms River High School, Oscar participated in football, wrestling and Key Club, graduating in 1966. After studying math and physics at Hampton Institute in Virginia, Oscar returned home to marry his childhood sweetheart, Bertha Mae Dinkins, only to lose her to an early death a year after the birth of their son. This tragic loss precipitated Oscar's descent into drug addiction; for 21 years, Oscar maintained the semblance of a normal life while secretly using heroin to numb his pain.

Being arrested and subsequently jailed for selling drugs in 1991 gave him the opportunity to sober up, and Oscar used this opportunity to improve the community around him. It took five years to shut down the open-air drug market that ran in the Center Homes section of South Toms River. Oscar spearheaded this effort by starting a Neighborhood Watch program as well as making sure that young people had positive activities by running the Community Outreach Center of the Wells Chapel AME Church in the 1990s.

When the South Toms River Council reneged on their promise to build a playground in the Center Homes area, Oscar was inspired to run for office. His greatest accomplishment in office was the creation of the Community Development Corporation, a comprehensive afterschool program which included physical activity and academic instruction. This program was funded through a \$2.2 million grant, which paid for facilities, staff and computers sorely needed by students who lacked access to such equipment at home.

In addition to his political and community work, Oscar operates heavy equipment as a paving contractor, ministers to the congregation of St. Thomas AME Church in Jackson and works as the unofficial historian as South Toms River. He has been blessed with eight children and 14 grandchildren.

## **Tara Liston Cunningham**

Tara Liston Cunningham was born in 1974 in Toms River, New Jersey. She attended Hooper Avenue Elementary School, Intermediate East and graduated from Toms River High School North in 1992.

Upon graduation, she attended Ocean County College and then graduated from Rutgers University in 1996 with a BA (History and Political Science). Her studies also include the University College of Dublin, The Whitaker School of Government and Management, graduating in 2013 with a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management field of study Healthcare Management. Tara then attended Stanford University and graduated in 2017 from the Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders.

Tara's life was interesting in that she went from a successful Washington DC internship with the National Federation of Republican Women to leaving politics, and the Republican party, taking her first job in marketing at an Architectural Interior Design Firm.

She then decided to backpack through Europe and fell in love with Ireland, moving there in 1998. She worked in international marketing for Baltimore Technologies, followed by becoming Director of Ogilvy Interactive. Volunteering with disadvantaged youth made Tara realize she was on a career path that wouldn't make a difference, which led her to become the Development Director with Down Syndrome Ireland. In this role she recognized the need for speech therapy in Ireland and with the support of her then boyfriend and now husband Mark, founded Release Speech Therapy, which became Ireland's first internationally recognized best practice.

Tara was appointed by Ireland's Prime Minister to the National Disability Authority to help guide Irish policies for people with disabilities, where she represented Ireland in the White House under President Obama. She was the Irish Representative to the European Commission for Healthcare Innovation and Health Demographic Change and guest lectured at Trinity College and University College Dublin. Tara's work is still part of Trinity College's social entrepreneurship curriculum.

In 2007, Tara was accepted into the Ashoka Fellowship, at the time 1 of only 1800 throughout the world, the highest honor in social entrepreneurship. Tara was invited to speak across Europe to promote the idea of social entrepreneurship while also advocating for disability rights.

In 2013, Tara left Ireland with her husband Mark and three children Eoin, Charlie and Emilia as she wanted to be home. Her sister and best friend, Detective Tina Rambo was killed in the line of duty in August 2011 on Route 70. In 2014, Tara successfully lobbied the State of NJ to complete roadworks on Route 70, reducing annual deaths from 12 a year to three. This is Tara's proudest achievement.

The timing of her move home was perfect, as The Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation was just starting. She became Director for the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation in January of 2014 serving until 2017. Her proudest achievement there being the Co-Founder of the Grunin Center for Law and Social Entrepreneurship at NYU School of Law.

Presently, Tara Cunningham is the CEO of Specialisterne USA, an international social enterprise harnessing the untapped skills of autistic individuals by matching them with business

in meaningful jobs. Tara was invited to speak at the United Nations in 2018 as a global leader in the space and has been asked to speak again in 2020 during the UN's 75th anniversary. Tara also enjoys guest lecturing at Johns Hopkins University and Rutgers, her alma mater.

Tara has earned many awards and is involved in numerous community efforts, among them are the following:

- Keynote speaker at the Microsoft Autism@Work Summit
- Grunin Center for Law and Social Entrepreneurship at NYU School of Law Advisory Board
- Founding Member of Ocean County College 100 Women Advisory Board
- Opportunity Collaboration Delegate
- Hooper Avenue Elementary PTO
- American Red Cross Board of Directors
- Junior Chamber of Ireland Outstanding Young Person of the Year, Children and Human Rights
- WMB 2007 Irish Life Social Entrepreneur of the Year
- Irish America Magazine "The Global 100" List
- Shut Sellafeld, Volunteer Director Online Communications, working with Bono's wife

Tara Liston Cunningham fondly remembers her Hooper Avenue Elementary School Teachers Mrs. McGarrell, who later became Mrs. Hollman, visiting Tara in Ireland, Mrs. LaRusso, and Mrs. Fernandez who is today among Tara's sons Eoin and Charlie's favorite teachers.

At Intermediate East, Mr. Landis inspired a love of literature, and at High School North, Mr. Gregory used literature to question life, challenging Tara at a personal level. Those questions led her to challenge inequity leading to her life as a systems changer.

Most importantly, Tara credits her JV Field Hockey Coach Mrs. Lighty, with her ability to lead and motivate individuals into a team that gives their best. She thinks of her lessons every day.

Congratulations and we are proud of your induction to the 2019 Toms River Schools Hall of Fame.

## Jaffar Mahmood

Jaffar Mahmood (Toms River High School North Class of 1996) is a well-known name among an elite group of producers and directors in Hollywood. He is currently the Producing Director for CBS's *Young Sheldon* and, prior to that, directed such popular shows as *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, *Brooklyn Nine Nine*, *The Middle*, *Life in Pieces*, *Santa Clarita Diet*, *Superstore*, and *Modern Family*, to name a few.

It comes as no surprise to his teachers and classmates that Jaffar would be successful in any chosen career. During his senior year of high school, he was Vice President of his class; voted by his senior year classmates Most Likely to Succeed, Best Personality, Class Optimist, Teacher's Pet, and Best Dressed; and graduated as his class valedictorian. He excelled in all academic areas, which put him right on track when he went off to college at Tufts University, initially to pursue a career in the medical field.

The intellect, attitude, social skills, and strong work ethic that his teachers, advisors, coaches, and peers had identified in Jaffar continued to be the driving force that eventually led him to success and recognition for his work in a totally different field: producing and directing movies and television.

With so many college and career choices open to him, Jaffar followed his father's advice to find a career that he truly loved and for which he had a passion. Although his original plan was to pursue a career in the medical field, a unique set of circumstances led him to a quite different place. Jaffar became intrigued by entertainment after seeing *Back To The Future* multiple times in the theater as a young boy. His interest in film and television was further cultivated by one of his elective courses while he was studying in London. It was during his study of filmmaking that Jaffar saw first hand the power a director can have in shaping a movie. Following his graduation from Tufts with a B.A. in Economics, Jaffar found a unique opportunity to further the development of his skills in the producing and directing fields. He was accepted into the highly selective Peter Stark Producing Program at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts where he earned an M.F.A. in Motion Picture/TV Producing in 2002. This extremely competitive program opened up an entirely new world to him. With his involvement in the experiences that the program offered, Jaffar again impressed the teachers and mentors in his new field, and he took advantage of every opportunity.

Although he dabbled in other areas of the industry, Jaffar's true passion was in directing. His talent in this area gained accolades in his feature directorial debut, *Shades of Ray*. His work on this film won awards at film festivals around the world and landed him a spot in the 2010-2012 Disney/ABC DGA Directing Program, the 2011 NBC Director Fellowship, and the 2013 Warner Bros. Directors' Workshop. Through those programs, Jaffar gained experience in how to direct single camera television comedies until booking his first networking television gig on NBC's *About a Boy*. With this success and further experiences as a visiting director for episodes of other popular shows, Jaffar emerged as a stand out and formed important relationships, earning the reputation of being someone who is creative, reliable, and able to get quality work done on time. Perhaps most impressive of all was his unique ability to network and gain the cooperation of all different groups of people, which is a most important skill when working on a television shoot.

After directing one episode of ***Young Sheldon***, Jaffar's personality clicked with the cast and crew, and he was asked to stay on as Producing Director. Now a hit show, ***Young Sheldon*** just finished shooting the second season in April, and the cast and crew is due to begin shooting the third season in July 2019.

Although Jaffar has already achieved so much in his chosen field, all who are familiar with him know that this is just the beginning of his success. We are proud to induct Jaffar Mahmood into the Toms River Regional Schools' Hall of Fame for 2019.

## Jared Gertner

Jared Gertner is a 1998 graduate of Toms River High School North and a 2002 graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

In 2007, Jared made his Broadway debut as William Barfee in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. He also performed this role with the show's first national company in San Francisco and Boston, where he won an IRNE Award (Independent Reviewers of New England) for Best Actor. Mr. Gertner also created the role of Warren in the Off-Broadway premiere of *Ordinary Days* with the Roundabout Theatre Company.

Jared is best known for his role as Elder Cunningham in *The Book of Mormon*. He performed this role on Broadway with the original cast in 2011, and on the first national tour in 2012. In 2013, Mr. Gertner opened the London Company of *The Book of Mormon* where he received an Olivier Award Nomination (London's equivalent of a Tony Award) for Best Lead Actor in a Musical.

Mr. Gertner has worked in regional theaters nationwide including Paper Mill Playhouse (NJ), Goodspeed Opera House (CT), Fulton Theatre (PA), Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park (OH), St. Louis Repertory (MO), The Gem (MI), Cape Playhouse (MA), The Orpheum (NE), Sacramento Music Circus (CA) and 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Theater Company (PA).

In Los Angeles, Mr. Gertner played Frank Lippencott opposite Faith Prince in *Wonderful Town* at LA Opera. He also created the role of Al Dubin in the musical, *I Only Have Eyes For You*, and the role of Sidowsky in the world premiere of the play, *The Dodgers*.

Mr. Gertner's television credits include: *Supernatural*, *Mom*, *Modern Family*, *2 Broke Girls*, *Superior Donuts*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *Marvel's Agent Carter*, *Ugly Betty*, and *The Good Wife*, as well as his award winning work as Randall Moody in the popular Broadway-themed web series, *Submissions Only*. He also starred in a television pilot for NBC/Universal called *How We Live*.

Jared's voice can be heard in the animated films *Pup Star* and *Smallfoot*, and as various characters on *American Dad* and *Family Guy*. He has done several radio and television commercials, and is on the original cast albums for *The Book of Mormon* and *Ordinary Days*.

As a theatre educator, Mr. Gertner has taught master classes in colleges, high schools and theatre programs all over the country and in London. His private teaching business in Los Angeles has grown to include classes and private coaching for adults and teenagers all across Southern California.

Jared is active with several charity organizations. While working on *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *The Book of Mormon*, Jared led record-breaking fundraising efforts for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. He is also on the Artistic Advisory Board for a nonprofit organization called Opening Act which brings theatre education to under-served schools in New York City.

We are honored to induct Jared Gertner into the Toms River Regional Schools Hall of Fame.

**Class of 1998**

**Inducted May 19, 2019**