

# CENTER COURT

December, 2007

## Newsletter of the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame

**Ann V. Fariss,**  
President/ Executive  
Director/ Founder

**Louise Albrecht,**  
Vice President/Membership  
Chair/Founder

**Linda J. Wooster,**  
Banquet Co-Coordinator/  
Founder

**Tony Candido,**  
Fundraising Chair/  
Founder

**Brenda Reilly,**  
Founder(Posthumous)

**Lee Franzman,**  
Nominating Chairperson

**Jean Hunt,**  
Historian/Archivist

**Marge Dolan,**  
Regional Project Director

**Pat Nicol,**  
Ass't Newsletter Editor

**Lynn Spagnesi,**  
Computer Consultant

**Laura Degennaro Raftery,**  
Board Member/ Scrivener

**Sue Crisafi,**  
Secretary

**Tracey Finer,**  
Creative Writer/  
Newsletter Editor

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.....**As Executive Director of the Connecticut Woman's Basketball Hall of Fame, I along with the entire Executive Board would like to wish you and your family good health and a peaceful holiday season.

During 2007, we celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary induction ceremony and it was another outstanding evening honoring superior individuals who have contributed to the success of women's basketball in the State of Connecticut. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all members of the Executive Board for their contributions to this event, and send a special thank you to Carol Stiff, MC-ESPN, Linda Wooster (Founder), who led the evening, and of course, our Nominating Chair, Lee Franzman.

The Hall of Fame has updated its "mission statement" and the three – five year "strategic plan" – our mission is endless and reads:

"To recognize, honor and perpetuate the memory of those who through participation, support or achievement have contributed to the enhancement of women's basketball in the State of Connecticut."

As part of our strategic plan we are looking to broaden opportunities for this recognition. Just think, 20 years ago there was no organization that recognized individuals for this effort.

In keeping with its long standing tradition, we sponsored eight young girls to attend a summer basketball camp in our State through the Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship, and through the Brenda Reilly Memorial High School Basketball Award we honored and recognized seven outstanding girls basketball programs in Connecticut.

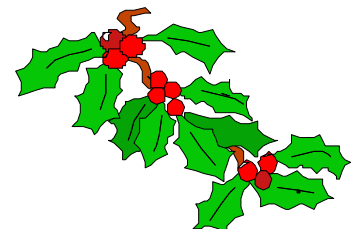
The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual goodwill fundraiser gala was held on September 28, 2007 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, at a private home, with over 100 invited guests in attendance. I would like to thank all of those members who contributed financially, those who made the many baskets for the raffle, and those who attended and volunteered during the event. Why not plan on attending next year's fundraiser to be held on Saturday, November 8, 2008 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Our "Center Court" newsletter will be coming to you earlier in the future. We added another Board member Tracey Finer of Branford, CT who will be our Creative Writer and Editor of the newsletter with Pat Nicol as Assistant Editor.

Networking with friends and colleagues is a great way to get new ideas and again I would like to ask all of you to share your thoughts with any member of the Executive Board. We want to know what we can do to improve our organization and your input is a great way to monitor the pulse of the Hall of Fame.

Thank you for your support in keeping our mission alive and I hope to see you at our 21<sup>st</sup> Induction Ceremony to be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at CASCADE, Hamden, CT. **SAVE THE DATE!**

Ann V. Fariss, PhD.  
Founder & Executive Director



**DRIBBLE.....**The 2008 Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at CASCADE in Hamden. The festivities will "tip off" at 6:00 p.m. with a cash bar followed by the induction ceremony and dinner at 7:00 p.m. This event is a wonderful opportunity to reminisce and renew old friendships, meet new friends, and recognize all those individuals who have laid the foundation and continue to promote and support athletic opportunities for women in Connecticut. Seven outstanding individuals who have assisted in bringing acclaim, honor and distinction to the sport of women's basketball in our state will be honored.

2008 Inductees.....	Ms. Jan Pacific	Referee
	Ms. Candy Perez	Honorary
	Mr. Steve Nemergut	High School Coach
	Ms. Sandy Serra-Lefebvre	High School Player
	Ms. Jessica Gelman	High School Player
	Ms. Kara Wolters	College Player
	Mr. Joseph Frager	College Coach

As always, we welcome your input and support throughout the year and hope you will attend the banquet and join us in acknowledging these special people who have contributed so much.

Please be advised that your tickets will not be mailed to you. You may pick them up at the door upon your arrival on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**For information and reservations concerning the 2008 CWBBHF Banquet, please contact Ann Fariss, 76 W. Hillside Avenue, Stratford, CT 06615 (Telephone: 203-378-6581) or email at [avfariss@sbcglobal.net](mailto:avfariss@sbcglobal.net)**

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**DR. DONNA LOPIANO SAYS GOODBYE.....**Dr. Donna Lopiano recently announced that she was stepping down from her position as Chief Executive Officer of the Women's Sports Foundation.

Dr. Donna Lopiano joined the Women's Sports Foundation (WSF) in 1992 following 18 years at the University of Texas-Austin where she initiated and built the women's athletic program (18 National Championships in six sports). During her tenure at the Women's Sports Foundation, Dr. Lopiano:

- Built an internationally respected education, research and public policy organization;
- Oversaw the development of model education programs and award-winning curriculums distributed nationwide;
- Secured funds that enabled the Women's Sports Foundation to award more than \$14 million in cash grants and free education curriculum that affected the lives of one million girls and women;
- Expanded the Women's Sports Foundation endowment to \$4 million; and
- Grew annual revenues from \$1 million to \$10 million.

"Donna Lopiano has made a strong and lasting impression on the Women's Sports Foundation and her never-ending commitment to advance the lives of girls and women from all walks of life will forever be part of the organization's history," said Ilana Kloss, Chair of the Women's Sports Foundation's Board of Trustees

As the Women's Sports Foundation Board of Trustees searches for Dr. Lopiano's successor, the leadership of the organization will be shared by longtime WSF senior staff, Tuti Scott, Chief External Relations Officer and Dr. Marjorie Snyder, Chief Program & Planning Officer. Confident the organization is being left in extremely competent hands, Dr. Lopiano looks forward to devoting "her time and energy to the next treasure about which I am passionate."

[www.WomensSportsFoundation.org](http://www.WomensSportsFoundation.org).

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**BRENDA REILLY ADVOCACY HOTLINE ESTABLISHED.....**The Women's Sports Foundation (WSF) has recently formalized to the public the Brenda Reilly Advocacy Hotline (1-800-227-3988). This hotline is the first line of support for coaches, athletes and parents who are dealing with gender or disability inequities in sports. "We are proud to associate Brenda's name to this important component of the WSF work" said Dr. Donna Lopiano, CEO of the Women's Sports Foundation.

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**HAPPY 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, TITLE IX!!....** With all the opportunities that exist in society today for female athletes to compete at the high school, collegiate and professional level, it is easy to forget that it was not very long ago (would you believe 35 years!) that these opportunities did not exist.

In 1972, Congress passed Title IX which stated, "no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subject to discrimination under any education program or activities receiving Federal financial assistance." The law was further defined in 1975 by prohibiting gender discrimination in athletics and giving colleges three years to comply. Since its enactment the athletic opportunities for girls have increased by more than 900 percent in high school and by more than 450 percent in college.

Having come a long way since 1972, it would be easy to have full confidence that girls and women will always have equal opportunities in high school and collegiate sports. However, Billie Jean King, the founder and honorary chair of the Women's Sports Foundation, reminds us that the protection of equal opportunity in sports requires constant vigilance. Currently women still have 1.3 million fewer high school and 56,110 fewer college athletic participation opportunities than their male counterparts and female college athletes receive \$148 million less in athletic scholarships and \$43 million less in recruitment money than male athletes each year.

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**CIAC GIRL'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT (2007-2008) ADOPTS NEW FORMAT.....** In an effort to address the various issues and concerns expressed by its members, in particular the issue of manipulating schedules to gain an unfair advantage, the CIAC Girls' Basketball Committee and tournament director Dave Maloney have adopted a new format for the 2007-08 Girls' Basketball Tournament. Under the new format, which is nearly identical to the boys, tournament classes (LL, L, M, S) will be established using the following criteria:

- Enrollment of girls in grades 10, 11, 12 as of October 1, 2006;
- Enrollment with a multiplier of 2 x girls enrolled in grades 10, 11, 12 for state defined schools of choice (except vocational technical and vocational agriculture/aquaculture high schools) and all member tuition high schools. Choice programs that are housed in a member school where the out-of-district students attending the choice program participate in athletics at the member school are subject to the multiplier for the out-of-district students;
- A weighted **factor\*** for schools that advanced to the semi-finals or finals in the state tournament over the past three years. Point earned will be added to the school's base enrollment.
  - \*Factor (over the past three years)**
  - 10 points if team reaches the semi-finals
  - 25 points if team reaches the finals
  - 50 points if the team won the championship

Tournament classes will be distributed after enrollment (plus factor) is determined.

For more information log on to [www.casciac.org](http://www.casciac.org).

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**CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INDUCTION AND GALA.....**The Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame recently held its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Induction and Gala at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, CT. This year the Hall of Fame celebrated "Women in Sports & the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Title IX".

The Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame is the state's premier organization dedicated to women's history and culture. This year three remarkable and highly accomplished women athletes were inducted into the Hall of Fame: Dorothy Hamill, Olympic figure skating gold medalist; **Joan Joyce**, national Softball and Sports Hall of Fame honoree and 1994 Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame inductee; and Glenna Collett Vare, six-time national amateur golf champion.

In addition, over 30 Connecticut women athletes were recognized and honored in the Hall's Walk of Fame including our very own **Louise Albrecht**, a founding member of the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and 1989 Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame inductee. Special recognition awards were also given to CPTV, ESPN, and the UCONN Women's Basketball Program for their positive influence and contributions to advancing women in sports. **AWESOME JOB LADIES!!**

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**JEAN HUNT RECEIVES AWARD.....** Jean Hunt, Executive Board member of the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, was awarded the Twiness Award from BU Sargent College. The Twiness Award is presented to alumni who embody the ideal spirit of Sargent College in both behavior and professionalism and serve for the advancement of the school. Jean Hunt (Class of '52) graduated from BU Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences with a BS in Physical Education. **CONGRATUALTIONS, JEAN.....WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!**

**IN MEMORY.....**In honor of Dr. Brenda Reilly, the Associate Athletic Director of Central Connecticut State University and one of the organization's founders, the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame has created the **Brenda Reilly Memorial High School Basketball Award** and the **Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship**.

The **Brenda Reilly Memorial High School Basketball Award** is awarded annually to the most outstanding high school girls' basketball team in the State of Connecticut. The coach of the selected team, as well as a team representative, is invited as honored guests to the Hall of Fame's annual banquet.

**Brenda Reilly Memorial High School Basketball Award**

2001	Norwich Free Academy	William Scarlata, Coach
2002	Guilford High School	Jim Rooney, Coach
2003	Guilford High School	Jim Rooney, Coach
2004	Hillhouse High School	Catrina Hawley-Stewart, Coach
2005	Manchester High School	John Reiser, Coach
2006	Hartford Bulkeley High School	Al Phillips, Coach
2007	Holy Cross High School	Frank Lombardo, Coach

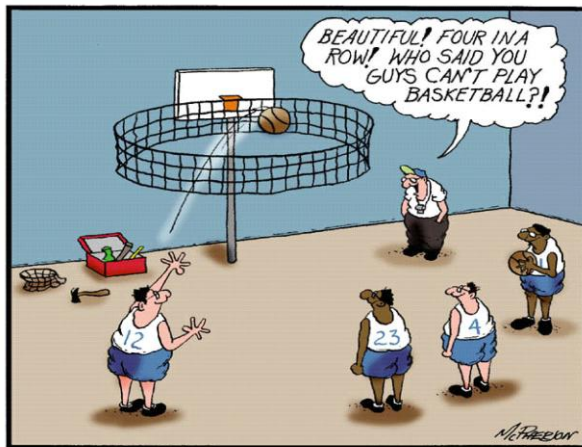
The **Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship** provides the opportunity for a young girl to attend a summer basketball camp in Connecticut. Each year a different camp within the State of Connecticut is selected. The recipient and her parents or guardian are invited as honored guests to the Hall of Fame's annual banquet.

**Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship**

2000	Sherida DeWitt Smith	Diane Nolan's Hoop School Summer Camp
2001	Larissa Farmer	Jody Rajcula BB Summer Camp
2002	Jynell Smith	Quinnipiac Girls BB Camp, Tricia Sacca Fabbri, Director
2003	Sarah Elwell	SCSU, Joe Frager, Camp Director
2004	Katrina DePugh	Yale University BB Camp, Amy Backus, Camp Director
2005	Megan Frazier	Northwest BB Camp, Candy Perez, Director
2006	Bianca Simmons	Wesleyan Basketball Camp, Kate Mullen, Director
2007	Jenna Pittleman	Steve Schuler's Sudden Impact Basketball Camp

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**Contribution to the Cause.....**The CWBHOF Committee is determined to provide maximum service to/for Connecticut Women's Basketball. To give you the best we have to give and to stay abreast with the increasing demands of operating our initiatives, we would welcome any financial contributions to defray our operating costs. CWBHOF is a Section 501C (3) TAX ORGANIZATION FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES. Certain Contributions to CWBHOF MAY BE deductible to the person making the contribution. The CWBHOF recommends that a person consult with his/her legal advisors as to the deductibility of the donation. If interested in donating, please contact Louise Albrecht at 203-256-0930. Thank you.



After the team lost 20 consecutive games, Coach Farnsworth did his best to help his players regain their confidence.