

30th
Anniversary

CENTER February, 2017 COURT

1987-
2017

A Message from the Executive Director.....

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. It is difficult to believe that in 1987, five of us held a meeting at Ann Fariss' seaside restaurant, and formulated what was to become the first of its kind in the country! Ann, Lou Albrecht, Brenda Reilly, Tony Candido and I became known as "The Founders". Amazingly, four of us are still working together today to perpetuate the Hall of Fame, by annually recognizing outstanding women's basketball luminaries. Over the years, The Founders have been joined by a group of multi-talented, dedicated people. Together, as the Executive Board, we embrace the opportunity to continue the special mission that began 30 years ago.

From humble beginnings - we provided security and sold hot dogs (cooked in 100 cup coffee pots!) at baseball card shows; conducted coaches' clinics and sold t-shirts -- to our current venture of assisting Connecticut's own John Molina in selling his book, our goal remains unchanged. We take great pride in honoring our inductees with a first class recognition banquet every year.

Through the years, we have created a website; found a home for the Hall (the Brenda Reilly Gallery at Central CT State University), mentored groups who wished to start halls of fame for other sports; secured and awarded camp scholarships for young girls; recorded the history of the CIAC Girls Basketball Tournament; created a newspaper style commemorative program for our 20th anniversary banquet; and designed a photo book history of our CWBHOF, including all 195 inductees!

We have been fortunate to have friends who have been willing to contribute to the realization of our dream, by stepping up to help with many projects. There is no doubt that our success is due to the tremendous support we have received. You too, can help! Please consider becoming a member (\$25 annual or \$100 lifetime), nominating potential candidates for induction, or suggesting recipients for our Pioneer Award.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to join us on April 19th, at Cascade in Hamden, as we celebrate our 30th year, and honor our outstanding group of 2017 inductees.



Linda J. Wooster,
President/Executive
Director/Founder

Louise Albrecht,
Vice President/Membership
Chair/Founder

Ann V. Fariss, PhD
Banquet Coordinator/
Founder

Tony Candido,
Fundraising Chair/
Founder

Brenda Reilly, PhD
Founder (Posthumous)

Lee Franzman,
Nominating Chairperson

David Strong,
Historian/Archivist

Marge Dolan,
Regional Project Director

Sue Crisafi,
Secretary/ Liaison to Web
Master

Tracey Finer,
Creative Writer/
Newsletter Editor

Tina Gonyea,
Publicity & Promotion

Pamela Moffo,
Publicity & Promotion

Elaine Piazza,
Events Promotion

Jeff Goddu,
Website Designer

Tracey Flynn,
Coordinator, Special Projects



30th
Anniversary

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
to the
Connecticut Women's
Basketball Hall of Fame

CWBHOF Inductees Honored in 2016



Cyndie Adamski (1990) and Donna Vavrinec (2011) were inducted into the Connecticut Field Hockey Hall of Fame. Adamski, honorary inductee from Brookfield High, and Vavrinec, umpire, were honored in a ceremony held on Sept 18th at the Aqua Turf. This honor “recognizes those



who, either through participation, support, service, or achievement have contributed to the enhancement of field hockey in Connecticut.”

Donna Vavrinec was also inducted into The New Agenda: Northeast Hall of Fame. Vavrinec has served as an athletic official for 41 years in softball and field hockey and 21 years in basketball. The New Agenda: Northeast Hall of Fame, created in 1988, honors women who have “made a significant contribution to the advancement of girls and women in sport within the six New England states through coaching, officiating, mentoring, or advocating.”

Elaine Biercevicz Piazza (2012) was inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame at a ceremony held on Nov 17th at the Aqua Turf. The CHSCA “supports coaches and student-athletes by offering ongoing educational opportunities, recognizing outstanding coaching achievements and providing general consultation and advice to its members.”



Rebecca Lobo (2004) was inducted into the Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame. Lobo was recognized for her achievements as an award-winning athlete, Olympic gold medalist, successful TV analyst, author, and advocate for breast cancer awareness and research. The CWHF’s mission is “to honor Connecticut’s women and preserve their stories, educate the public about their achievements and inspire future generations

of women and girls.”

Tony Candido (2004) was selected as the 2016 Head Referee Evaluator for the NCAA Division II Regional Basketball Championships; responsible for selecting the referee who would advance to officiate the NCAA Quarterfinals. Candido is the first person from CT to be tapped for this honor.



Honored in 2017

Linda Wooster, executive director of the CWBHF, will be inducted into the Connecticut Scholastic and Collegiate Softball Hall of Fame on May 21, 2017 at the Aqua Turf.

IN MEMORY.....



The Connecticut Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame created the **Brenda Reilly High School Basketball Award** and the **Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship** in honor of Dr. Brenda Reilly, the Associate Athletic Director of Central Connecticut State University and one of the organization’s founders.

The Brenda Reilly High School Basketball Award

is awarded annually to the most outstanding high school girls’ basketball team in the State of Connecticut. The award is sponsored by Central Connecticut State University Women’s Basketball in honor of Brenda Reilly and is given to a team based on the criteria of character and sportsmanship, the principles on which the hall of fame was founded. The coach and a representative of the selected team are invited as honored guests to the Hall of Fame’s annual banquet.

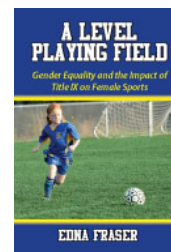
The **Stamford High School, Stamford, CT** Girls’ Basketball Team was awarded the 2016 Brenda Reilly High School Basketball Award.

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

Carly Raucci, Cheshire, CT was the recipient of the 2016 Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship. She attended the Tricia Fabbri Girls’ Basketball Camp at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT.

A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD, book by Edna Fraser

Hall of Famer Edna Fraser has published a book entitled “A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD: Gender Equality and the Impact of Title IX on Female Sports”. It is a treatise about how our CT pioneers fought, lobbied, and worked for equal opportunities for girls and women athletes and the many obstacles they had to overcome. Fraser hopes the book will serve as a historical model for anyone involved with women’s rights and to show that female athletes were capable of doing far more than was expected of them.

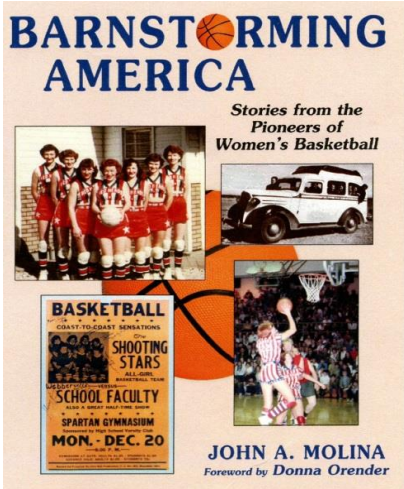


Anyone who knows Edna Fraser is familiar with her strong opinions about equity and fairness. She hopes her book will keep these issues at the forefront and serve as a reminder to continue the “fight”.

Edna is pleased with the end result and surprised at how well the book has been received.

Written by Linda Wooster

Barnstorming America: Stories from the Pioneers of Women's Basketball



John Molina, a member of the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, has written a book entitled, "*Barnstorming America: Stories from the Pioneers of Women's Basketball*" about the early days of women's basketball. It is an outstanding effort and John has generously agreed to donate a portion of the proceeds from the sale of any books ordered through this newsletter to the Ct. Women's Basketball Hall of Fame up to and including the Induction Ceremony on

April 19, 2017. Many thanks, John!

The purchase price for the book is \$ 34.95 + \$ 6.50 for shipping (\$41.45 total). Books may be ordered by sending a check made out to CWBHOF for \$41.45 to David Strong, 15 Old Middle Road Turnpike, Woodbury, Ct. 06798.

Please include any personalization you would like as John will be happy to sign the book for you. If you wish to save on the shipping cost, your autographed books may be picked up at the Induction Ceremony on April 19th. However, we ask that you send your check and the message you wish in the book to Dave as soon as possible so we can order the proper number of copies.

John will be at the banquet to sign and personalize copies for purchasers. Books will also be on sale.

OUR GIRL IS ALL GROWN UP

It seems like only yesterday when Tamra Gonyea, niece of CWBHOF inductee (2004) and executive board member Tina Gonyea, was walking around the Cascade banquet hall in the 1920's basketball uniform donated to the hall of fame. Now she is a senior captain of the Platt Panthers and nominated for Athlete of the Week in the Meriden Record Journal for her performance in a game against crosstown rival, Maloney High School. Gonyea scored 17 points and through her poise and leadership guided her teammates to a Panthers' victory. Auntie Tina is so very proud and so are we!



CT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PIONEER AWARD "Remembering the Pioneers of Connecticut Women's Basketball"

The Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame honors those individuals who have played a role in blazing the trail for women's basketball in Connecticut; preparing the way for others to follow. The CWBHOF, which first awarded this honor in 2013, has recognized three such individuals, Stacia A. "Skeets" Gayeski (2013), Helen "Jean" Cruickshank (2014), and Edith Olson Buckley (2015).

If you have the name of an individual who you think is deserving of this honor, we would be interested in hearing from you. Please forward all relevant information (i.e. name, contact information, history of involvement in the game, etc.) to Lee Franzman at franzmanlee@sbcglobal.net

My Experience At Quinnipiac Girls Basketball Camp 2016 Written by Carly Raucci

Over the time I spent at Quinnipiac Girls Basketball Camp this year, all of my skills have developed to greater strengths. From the beginning of camp to the last day, I was so thrilled to be there, even though I have a mild cold. From what I took part in, this camp is one of the best I have ever gone to.

In the first two days of camp, we were getting evaluated and sorted into teams. On my first week, I was on coach Carly Fabbri's team. She was an amazing coach and pushed our team to the limits. In my second week of camp, I actually had three coaches. They were Alan, Vanessa, and Katie, even though we only spent parts of the day with each of them they were all part of our team and great coaches.

I learned so much at this camp I don't know where to begin. When we first started to get into the physical part of training for the game, we used a rotation method. First, you would go to a basket with your coach and you would do what their station was, for example, fitness, shooting, rebounding, passing and handling, and layups. In ball handling and passing, I learned how to dribble the ball through my legs and how to dribble with two balls. I also learned how to shoot the ball and make it go in every time.

Of everything that happened this week, it would not have happened if I did not get this scholarship. I am so grateful that I got the scholarship because it has let me become a better basketball player. I am also thankful for the fact that Tricia Fabbri allowed me to come for yet again another week of basketball camp. I am so happy I got this opportunity.





MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2017 Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Ceremony

Inductees:

Susan Altieri	Jessica Grossarth
Denise Bierly	Judy Ruthko
Michelle Florin Custis	Fred P. Williams
William L. Dixon	

When: April 19, 2017
 Where: CASCADE (Hamden, CT)
 Reception: 6:00 p.m.
 Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Updated Postal Addresses



Please help us in our efforts to keep our list of members and inductee postal addresses current and up to date. If you are aware of address changes, please notify Lou Albrecht at labbz323@yahoo.com or Tracey Finer at george.finer@snet.net.

Jean Hunt, pioneer for girls' sports in Connecticut, passes away

Jean Hunt, legendary girl's high school coach, passed away in May 2016 in her hometown of Lexington, MA. Hunt coached high school girls' sports (field hockey, basketball, softball, volleyball, soccer, track and field, badminton and cheerleading) for over 30 years at Litchfield High School and Farmington High School amassing over 500 wins, 11 state championships, 8 conference titles, 20 undefeated seasons and induction into the hall of fame of seven organizations (CWBHOF, 1989).

But for Hunt, it was never about the successes on the court or field, it was about expanding the opportunities available for girls to compete in high school sports in Connecticut. She helped establish the first state tournament (which was eventually taken over by the CIAC) for girls to compete in volleyball, basketball, and field hockey, which provided more opportunities for girls to play. Linda Wooster, executive director of the CWBHOF, was quoted in an article about Hunt, saying, "Jean leaves a legacy that truly makes her one of the cornerstones of Connecticut girls' athletics."

Donations in Jean's memory may be made to the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, c/o Louise Albrecht, 323 Old Mill Road, Fairfield, CT 06824.

Don't forget to visit us on the Web.....

www.ctwomensbasketballhalloffame.com

Bonnie Maskery, renowned girls' basketball official, passes away

Bonnie Maskery of Bristol, CT, passed away in January, 2017. Bonnie was a 1992 inductee in the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, a 1998 inductee in the New Agenda: New England Women's Sports Hall of Fame and the 1999 recipient of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Association's Merit Award. She served the C.I.A.C. as the Girls' Basketball Officials Director for over 25 years.

Bonnie was an avid golfer, a charter member of the Edgewood Little League Girls' Softball program and was very active in girls' basketball and a field hockey official for 35 years. Bonnie will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Hall of Famer Pam Moffo shared her recollections of Bonnie. "What an incredible woman.....Bonnie definitely taught me a great deal! I can hear her now.....refereeing field hockey and basketball games my very first year of teaching and coaching. She cared so much, knew so much, and shared her time, knowledge, energy and passion so willingly."

Donations in Bonnie's memory may be made to the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, c/o Louise Albrecht, 323 Old Mill Road, Fairfield, CT 06824.

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 keep pace with the increasing demands of our operating 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.



THE BEAUTY OF A CHARITABLE BEQUEST

Charitable bequests to the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame help to ensure that we may continue our goal of honoring individuals who have contributed to the enhancement of Connecticut women's basketball through their participation, service, support, or achievement.

Please consider the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame when making future plans.