

TOMS RIVER TOWN CRIER

News From Honorees – 2009

From 1988 through 2007, the Toms River Schools' Hall of Fame inducted 134 Honorees whose graduation years ranged from 1880 to 1979 and now include graduates from the original Toms River High School plus South, North and East. The Honorees' respective fields of endeavor continue to reflect an amazing variety of outstanding achievements in an impressive variety of disciplines.

Following (in alphabetical order) is the latest news from some of our past Honorees:

JOHN C. BARTLETT (Class of 1965)

The new academic building under construction at Ocean County College will be named for Freeholder Director John C. Bartlett, Jr. In a February 5, 2009, news release college president Jon H. Larson said, "Freeholder Bartlett's support of OCC, our mission and our core values has been uniquely pivotal to the overall success and progress of our college. His personal involvement in the development of our alliance with Kean University has been a key factor in achieving our aspirations of bringing affordable baccalaureate and master's degree education to Ocean County. The Kean/Ocean alliance serves as just one example of his firm commitment to providing the best higher education opportunities for the residents of Ocean County".

Bartlett Hall is a 32,000 square-foot structure next to the existing administration building that will provide instructional space.

DON BENNETT (Class of 1959)

Don is retiring on May 23 of this year after 45 years as a journalist. His coverage of local news and politics as well as his featured stories in the Observer will be sorely missed by his loyal readers. His "Monday Morning Commentary", often recounting bits of history of the county, was a "must read" for thousands of people as they began each week. But the good news is that Don is working on two books about Ocean County history, one a novel, the other a collection of buried treasures (???)

He is looking forward to this year's induction celebration as is his son Joseph, a graduate of South and TCNJ, who became a history teacher because of the "wonderful influence of P. David Correll", the recipient of this year's Hall of Fame's Distinguished Honorary Medallion.

ANTHONY G. CALAMAI (Class of 1977)

On March 17 of this year, Dr. Calamai was named Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. He had been serving as Interim Dean since June of 2008. In addition to becoming Dean of the college, he has been serving as a member of the Executive Board of the NASA-sponsored North Carolina Space Grant Consortium since 2006.

CAROLYN M. CAMPBELL (Class of 1941)

"I have moved from the house in which I was born in Beachwood to Harrogate, a life care facility near the Toms River/Lakewood border. It's not strange to me as I taught in Lakewood from 1947-51 while living in Beachwood, driving Route 9 for thousands of miles.

Since writing Chickaree in the Wall, A history of one-room schools in Ocean County, N.J., I've given many programs, (between 141-150), about the schools. My list is not handy since I packed up over 80 years of stuff when I moved from Beachwood to Harrogate in July."

WILLIAM CAMPBELL (Class of 1969)

"I am still living in San Diego with my wife Sherri. Our oldest son, Andrew, graduated from Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, in 2007. He is a very good sailor and was lucky enough to represent the United States in the Laser Class of the 2008 Olympics in Qingdao, China, this past year. He has certainly surpassed his grandfather, Clifford, and I as sailing master of the family. Andrew continues to sail professionally as well as work in the athletic department at Georgetown in their donor programs.

Our youngest son, Michael, is finishing his sophomore year at Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service. He is quite the sailor himself and we enjoy keeping up with his exploits in Washington, D.C. during these very exciting times, and on the water.

Sherri and I remain very active sailing. I am currently Vice Commodore at San Diego Yacht Club and expect to be very busy there for the next couple of *years*. I am still working at Driscoll Boat Works on Shelter Island. Sherri is very busy as the administrator of several one-design sailboat classes. She is active at San Diego Yacht Club as well as serving on the SDYC Sailing Foundation Board of Directors. We love the outdoor life we have sailing in Southern California, but remain loyal to our `roots' in New Jersey."

JOSEPH A. CITTA (Class of 1926)

The large, bold, front page headlines of the February 6, 2009, edition of the *Asbury Park Press* proclaimed:

**OCEAN COUNTY ICON DIES
Lawyer-developer-philanthropist Joseph A Citta,
100**

Citta's obituary had been published two days before with the news that "Joe" Citta, as everyone knew him, had passed away peacefully on January 30 at Hospice By the Sea in Boca Raton, Florida, with his family by his side, He lost his beloved wife of 64 years, Regina, in 2008, and their son, Phil, in 2004. He is survived by his daughter, Roseanne Citta; his son, Joseph A. Cilia, Jr.; four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. His complete obituary can be read on the internet at APP.com/obituaries.

Joe leaves behind many legacies, one of the most prominent being that for every business success and fortune he achieved, there was always a public benefit that was good for the community - many centered around education: the Ocean County College, the Toms River Regional Schools (his donation of real estate helped build an elementary school that now bears his name), and another land gift enabled the Boy Scouts to create a summer camp in the Brookville section of Waretown.

Joe was inducted into the Toms River Schools' Hall of Fame in its inaugural year of 1988, later serving on the Board of Trustees for several years helping to decide on other worthy graduates who had achieved success in their respective fields of endeavor. His resume and a portrait hang in the Hall of Fame corridor at 54 Washington Street. It is interesting to note that the picture he donated for the exhibit shows him in his Major's uniform in 1946 after having served on the staff of the War Crimes Section in Germany following the Allied Victory. He also donated for the exhibit, an exciting memory of his high school years, a football with the score painted on it (*Toms River - 6, Lakewood - 0*) from the first game ever played between the two rivals in 1924. Joe had scored the winning touchdown! It is for alumni like Joe Citta that the Toms River Schools' Hall of Fame was founded. He became an extraordinary Ocean County citizen, a proud graduate of our school system, and left a legacy of good works, admiring friends and a loving family.

JULIO M. FUENTES (Class of 1964)

Judge Fuentes served as the William Beatty Jurist in Residence at Southern Illinois University, April 9-11, 2008. He also had the distinct honor of receiving an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Montclair State University on May 14, 2008.

On the home front he is proud to report that his daughter Olma will receive her MBA from Fordham in May and Karina is serving as a Public Defender in Newark.

DAVID K. JEFFREY (Class of 1959)

Since our last Hall of Fame dinner, David Jeffrey did us all proud by being promoted to Dean of the College of Arts and Letters at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia!

His wife continues to teach at Riverheads High School in Greenville, Virginia and his children's success round out the good news. Their oldest daughter works for an architectural firm in San Francisco and their youngest daughter graduated from Princeton and is in American University Law School. Their oldest son, now a Marine major, has returned safely from two tours in Iraq and is now stationed in Okinawa. Their middle son has graduated from Haverford College and is now a hedge-fund manager in New York City. Their youngest son graduated from Brown and is a managerial trainee at Clark Construction Company DC. Congratulations to all the family!

ROBERT L. GARTHWAITE (Class of 1943)

Although semi-retired from show biz (after all, one is never really retired from things theatrical!), we do see Bob from time to time in TV commercials and character roles.

But, his greatest success the past two years has been his leadership in the revival of a temporarily ailing Ocean County Historical Society. As its most recent President, Bob has energized the longtime members and the society's financial base by his attention to detail, sincere friendliness and good-humored attention to detail. Membership has increased, more volunteer hours are being recorded, and significant remodeling and refurbishing projects have been accomplished. Thanks to Bob and to all members who contributed to making the past two "historical" year's one of significant progress.

GARY A. JOBSON (Class of 1969)

It has been a very active time for Gary over the past few years. He gives about 100 plus speaking engagements per year all over the world. He has produced 30 films in the last 3 years and a series of TV shows, mostly for ESPN and occasionally for PBS.

In Gary's own, always charming, words, "Here is my website for more propaganda, www.jobsonsailing.com." We encourage everyone to visit the site for a list of news articles, video reports, DVD's and books, his TV schedule, and his lecture schedule. Who knows? You might be in the same city at the same time and catch his sage advice on sailing first hand. Of local interest, Gary will be speaking at the NJ Association of School Business Officials in Atlantic City on Thursday May 7, 2009.

DR. ALLEN H. KASSOF (Class of 1948)

Dr. Kassof was inducted into the Toms River Schools' Hall of Fame in 1988, our charter year, so it is exciting to hear of news from an inductee of such long standing who continues to do such meaningful work and for whom his home town and its memories are still a vital part of his life.

Although retired as president of the Project on Ethnic Relations in 2005, Dr. Kassof has been busy since then doing a lot of reading, writing and traveling. He has a chapter in a new book that will come out later this year concerning successful cases of mediating interethnic disputes. His contribution is about the work that his organization carried on (and still does) in countries like Romania and Montenegro. In his words, "my take is that, despite all the talk about peace-building and the proliferation of academic courses and departments, there really is no such discipline: the generalizations that we are able to make are not specific enough to be useful and the role of chance and accident are greater than most people realize when it comes to managing interethnic disputes. This does not mean that the efforts are not important (on the contrary) but that one-size-fits all approaches are far too optimistic". We all look forward to reading the finished publication.

For the last couple of years, Dr. Kassof has taken an annual road trip with an old Toms River High School classmate, Jerry Sprague. They drive off without a fixed itinerary for a

few weeks of roaming. The first trip was coast-to-coast (Princeton to Berkeley, California), the second to El Paso, Texas, including stops in Appalachia. "You could say that these adventures are a continuation of my Toms River education. They represent long-postponed aspirations to see the U.S. that were only dreams during our late Depression and wartime school years."

BESSIE M. McLEAN (Distinguished Honoree 1996)

On October 6 of 2009 some of Bessie's former students and coworkers came together to share memories - AND to celebrate Bessie's 100th birthday which was the day before! Now living at Harrogate, an assisted-living and nursing facility in Lakewood, where she moved in 1981, she spent most of her life as a resident of Toms River after moving here from Connecticut. Bessie worked for the Toms River School District from 1930 to 1976 and, along the way, created a devoted following of students, teachers, administrators and fellow librarians.

For you history buffs, when Bessie began her distinguished career as a librarian, Toms River had a population of 3,970 people. As of 2006 records, an estimated 94,889 people resided here (now estimated to be closer to 100,000). There was one high school then and, for most of its life, it housed Kindergarten to 12th grade. Now, there are three high schools, three intermediate schools, and twelve elementary schools educating more than 18,000 students. That's a lot of memories.

Happy 100th Birthday, Bessie!

DIANA LEVINE MADARAS (Class of 1972 South)

Owner of the Madaras Gallery in Tucson, Arizona, Diana was voted the Best Visual Artist in Tucson in 2008. This honor was followed in 2009 by being awarded one of Tucson's "10 Women of Influence". Also of notable significance, Madaras Gallery's "African Sojourn" Charity Art Show raised \$80,000 for charities in Tucson.

Just another example of the influence of Toms River all over this country and around the world!

ANNETTE BRAFMAN MEYERS (Class of 1951)

Everyone who loves mysteries will love spending time reading the books written by Annette Meyers - great plots, snappy dialogue, never a dull moment. To access all the titles , go to <http://www.meyersmysteries.com>. You can also read a profile and see a video of Annette and her work on [Forbes.com](#).

In 2007 Annette had two short stories published in two different anthologies. One titled "It's Too Late, Baby" is in the anthology [A Hell of a Woman](#). The other "Not Just the Facts" is included in [Sisters On the Case](#).

Recently Annette and her husband, Marty, did a signing at the Mysterious Bookshop in Manhattan for the publication of their 7th collaboration, The Organ Grinder.

Since Annette and Marty live in Manhattan, it's the setting for much of their work. Lucky for us, creativity flourishes!

PAULINE S. MILLER (Class of 1936)

On May 3, 2009, Polly will receive the Gold Medal Award from the Joshua Huddy Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She is the first woman from this aptly named Toms River chapter of the DAR to receive the award which is given in recognition of being a member for fifty years. During her most active years with the DAR, she held various positions of responsibility on the local, state and national level. She will be presented with the award at a luncheon to be attended by 25 current members of the Joshua Huddy Chapter.

DR. PAUL RAFFER (Class of 1964)

We are proud to announce that Dr. Raffer was honored by his medical peers as a "Top Doctor in San Diego 2008", one of nine neurologists recognized in San Diego County in the October issue of San Diego Magazine. Lucky California!

ALAN RINZLER (Class of 1956)

Alan was kind enough to reply to our request for info and was happy to report that all is well with his five children and four grandchildren. He is still publishing books out of San Francisco.

MARIE SNYDER (Class of 1963)

Sadly, we have been informed by Julia E. Gleason of the law firm of Choate, Hall & Stewart from Boston, MA, that Marie Snyder died on November 20, 2008. No further details are available at this time.

ARTHUR A. SOCOLOW (Class of 1938)

The Hall of Fame is especially proud to recognize that Dr. Socolow was awarded the Ian Campbell Medal presented at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America. The Ian Campbell Award is the American Geological Institute's most distinguished award, "given annually to acknowledge outstanding performance and contributions in the field of geology. It is in memory of Ian Campbell, State Geologist of California from 1961-1969 who was highly respected for his integrity and his many achievements, not only as a geologist but also as an administrator, public servant and educator. Art Socolow's contributions to the geological sciences, the people of Pennsylvania, and the nation followed a similar path."

Inducted into our Hall of Fame in 1993, a full listing of Art's accomplishments can be found in that year's program. However, it is worth mentioning again that after graduating from Rutgers in 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force using some of his geologic expertise to aid our country in World War II, serving as a photogrammetrist and interpreting aerial photographs. After the war he attended Columbia University in N.Y. where he earned his MS and PhD degrees in geology and embarked on his enviable career as a geologist in both the public and academic communities. Of course, Toms River is proud that his education began here.

Now living in Gloucester, MA, the Ian Campbell award cites "His many outstanding contributions to the profession of geology throughout his long and distinguished career, as well as his integrity, civility, and leadership, are fittingly recognized by the geological community nationwide."

NOEL VALIS (Class of 1964)

Noel continues to enhance her distinguished career at Yale University by receiving several notable prizes and awards as well as publishing two new books.

For the 2006-2007 academic year, Noel was awarded both the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship. In 2008, she earned the Best Book Translation Prize by the New England Council of Latin American Studies for Burning Cartography, Poems by Noni Benegas, translation and introduction by Noel Valis.

In 2007 Noel edited Teaching Representations of the Spanish Civil War published by the Modern Language Association and has a forthcoming book, Sacred Realism, Religion and the Imagination in Modern Spanish to be published by the Yale University Press.

DALE WHILDEN (Class of 1971 South)

In addition to his regular practice, Dr. Whilden continues doing volunteer dental work serving in Ecuador in August of 2007 and Haiti in May of 2008. Another scheduled trip to Bolivia in September of 2008 had to be canceled due to political unrest in that country. He is currently organizing a team to work in Guatemala later this year.

In January, 2009, Dr. Whilden was elected as President of the Board of Directors of the New York Rescue Mission, a board he has served on for twelve years.

The Hall of Fame continues to be proud of Dr. Whilden's philanthropic contribution of his time and talent.

********A Special Note to all Honorees********

Please keep in touch! If you have an honor or achievement, professionally or personally, that you would like to share, please contact me at any time.

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