



CENTER COURT

Newsletter of the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame

DATE: 3/1/07

Ann Fariss, Executive Director/Founder
Louise Albrecht, Vice President/Membership Chair/
Founder
Linda Wooster, Banquet Co-Ordinator/Founder
Lee Franzman, Nominating Chairperson
Brenda Reilly, Founder (Posthumous)
Laura Degennaro Raftery, Board Member/Scrivener

Tony Candido, Fund Raising Chair/Founder
Lynn Spagnesi, Computer Consultant
Jean Hunt, Historian/Archivist
Marge Dolan, Regional Project Director
Pat Nicol, Editor, "Center Court"
Sue Crisafi, Secretary
Tracey Finer, Creative Writer

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.... Let me be among the first to wish you a happy Spring! As I think back to 1987, and recall our first induction ceremony, it is difficult to imagine that we are celebrating our twentieth year. The last nineteen years with 500 Blake Street Café certainly hold many fond memories, but change is healthy, and our twentieth year induction ceremony will be held at **Cascade in Hamden, Ct. on Wednesday, April 25, 2007. A new place and a new beginning of another twenty years!**

I would like to welcome the latest member of our Board, Tracey Finer, from Branford, CT, a 2000 inductee to the Hall of Fame. She will be our creative writer and we look forward to working with her.

The dedication and commitment of the entire board is immeasurable: Lou Albrecht, Founder/Treasurer/Membership; Linda Wooster, Founder/Banquet Coordinator; Tony Candido, Founder/Fundraising; Lynn Spagnesi, Computer Consultant; Sue Crisafi, Secretary; Jean Hunt/Historian; Marge Dolan, Regional Project Director; Pat Nicol, Newsletter Editor, *Center Court*; Lee Franzman, Nominating Chair; and Laura DeGennaro Raftery, Scrivener. A special thank you to each and every one of you for the many hours you have given to the Hall of Fame.

If you have any interest in joining our Board, please contact me at avfariss@sbcglobal.net. We Welcome the opportunity to get other members to take an active role in the Hall of Fame.

This past year, we partnered with the Women's Sports Foundation, Share Our Strength, (a national non-profit that helps to end hunger), and Central Ct. State University (Brenda A. Reilly Foundation), in a private party fundraiser held October 14, 2006 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. I would like to thank all of those members who contributed financially, those who made the many beautiful baskets for the raffle, and those who volunteered during the evening of the event.

Best wishes for a wonderful and healthy year. Please visit our website www.ctwomensbasketballhallof fame.com and the Brenda A. Reilly Gallery located at Central Ct. State University, Kaiser Gymnasium, the home of the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

Ann V. Fariss, PhD
Founder & Executive Director

DRIBBLE.... As mentioned, the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame will be celebrating its 20th year and 8th of the new millennium on Wednesday, April 25, 2007 at Cascade in Hamden. This special evening, (which will be full of surprises), "taps off" at 6:00 p.m. with a cash bar, followed by dinner and our induction ceremony. As you remember, this event is a wonderful opportunity to reminisce and renew old friendships, meet some new friends and recognize those individuals who have laid the foundation and continue to promote and support athletic opportunities that presently exist for so many Connecticut women. The evening will also serve to honor six outstanding new individuals who have assisted tremendously in bringing acclaim, honor and distinction to the sport of women's basketball in our state. As always, we

welcome your input and support throughout the year, and especially your attendance at our banquet to acknowledge those special people who have contributed so much. We hope to see you on the 25th.

.....Please be advised that your tickets will not be mailed to you. You may pick up your tickets at the door upon arrival on April 25th.

<i>2007 Inductees....</i>	Ms. Chris Webster	High School Coach
	Ms. Laurie St. Jean Sevigny	High School Player
	Ms. Crystal L Brown	High School Player
	Ms. Kim Penwell Seymour	College Player
	Ms. Charlotte Gallagher	Referee
	Mr. John A. Molina	Honorary

For information and reservations concerning this year's celebration, please contact Ann Fariss at 76 W. Hillside Ave., Stratford, CT 06615 (Tel: 203-378-6581) or e-mail avfariss@sbcglobal.net

2007 Commemorative Program: The 2007 CWBHOF commemorative program will have an exciting new format. It will be printed on high-quality paper in a newspaper format (17"x 23"). In addition to biographical **information about the 2007 inductees**, this commemorative edition will include **abbreviated biographies and photos of ALL previous inductees.*** A special feature will incorporate "action" photos of previous inductees and selected photos from the History of Women's Basketball Collection of John Molina. It will truly be a keepsake.

Include your congratulatory message to the 2007 inductees or to a former inductee. Ad sizes and pricing information is as follows:

Business card (2x3.5")	\$25.00
3.5" x 3.5"	\$50.00
7" x 3.5"	\$100.00

Send either camera-ready message or information to be included in the ad, along with the check payable to CWBHOF – by Wednesday, March 7th to:

Linda Wooster	(phone) 203-582-8626
CWBHOF Program	(fax) 203-582-8716 (attn. L. Wooster)
275 Mt. Carmel Avenue	e-mail: Linda.wooster@quinnipiac.edu
Hamden, CT 06518	

- We are still looking for additional action photos of our inductees. If you have any pictures that you would be willing to share with us and with the Molina Collection, we would be happy to scan them and return them to you.

Savor The Evening Forever: If you would like to purchase photos of the evening's festivities, you can purchase on line at www.babaraellen.com. Click on gallery...special events...hall of fame. The photos will be available within 5 days of the banquet and will stay on the site for 30 days.

Picking Your Brain: The Hall of Fame Committee welcomes your suggestions of the names of those individuals, past and present, who have been trend setters or pioneers in the promotion/support of CT women's basketball. We realize there are many unsung heroes out there and we wish to recognize their efforts.

*In Memory....*To keep her passion for excellence alive, the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame will once again proudly announce the recipient of the **Brenda Reilly Memorial High School Award**. This award is given annually to the outstanding high school girls' basketball team in the State of Connecticut. A selection committee comprised of members of the Executive Board of the Hall of Fame selects the high school using specific criteria. The coach of the selected team, as well as a team representative, will be the guests of the Hall of Fame during our annual banquet. This award is in honor of Dr. Brenda Reilly, Associate Athletic Director of Central Connecticut State University and one of the founders of the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. The recipient of this year's **Brenda Reilly Memorial High School Award** will be announced at the Hall of Fame Banquet.

Past Recipients:	Year 2001	Norwich Free Academy – William Scarlata, Coach
	Year 2002	Guilford High School – Jim Rooney, Coach
	Year 2003	Guilford High School – Jim Rooney, Coach
	Year 2004	Hillhouse High School – Catrina Hawley-Stewart, Coach
	Year 2005	Manchester High School – John Reisser, Coach
	Year 2006	Hartford Bulkeley High School – Al Phillips, Coach

In Addition: The **Brenda Reilly Youth Camp Scholarship** will be awarded to a young girl to attend a summer basketball camp in Connecticut. The camp selected will rotate throughout the State of Connecticut and the recipient and her parents or guardian will be the guests of the CWBHOF at our annual banquet. Steve Schuler's **Sudden Impact Basketball Camp** has been selected for 2007. Bianca Simmons, our 2006 recipient wishes to say "thank you for the scholarship that allowed me to attend the Wesleyan Basketball camp. I appreciate your support to help further my basketball career. I was able to learn a lot from the experience, and it would not have been possible without your generosity."

On behalf of the CWBHOF, we say: Bianca, **YOUR WELCOME!**

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

Home for the Hall: As you know, the Hall of Fame/Brenda Reilly Gallery has found a home. The Hall is permanently housed in the lobby of Kaiser Gymnasium on the campus of Central Connecticut State University. The designated area is ideal as it will be visible to all who come through the doors. Visitors will be treated to the history of the great events, athletic achievements and individuals who have contributed to the unprecedented success of Connecticut women's basketball. A very special thanks to Ann Fariss, Louise Albrecht and the Central Connecticut Administration for their efforts in turning a dream into reality. We encourage you to visit this outstanding tribute to the sport we love so dearly.

Reminder: Tune in to the CWBHOF website....Through the outstanding efforts of Lynn Spagnesi, our website continues to provide the "history" of the organization, pictures and biographies of all Hall of Fame Inductees, the CWBHOF constitution, a page on the banquet's ceremony, the committee members, newsletters, upcoming events and much, much more. This informative site is a great resource for those wishing to learn about the history and development of Women's Basketball in the state of Connecticut. You are invited to join us at <http://ctwomensbasketballhalloffame.com>.

Kudos: On March 11, 2006, our own **Lee Franzman** received the 2006 CIAC girls basketball merit award during the 33rd annual girls basketball tournament held at Central CT State University. Lee has been involved in women's basketball for more than 45 years and in 1965 was the co-founder of the Eastern Basketball Camp. He was the first male to officiate a girls CIAC tournament game and was also involved with the New Haven Tap Off Club. He is a member of the CT Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, serving as its Nominating Chairperson. **CONGRATULATIONS LEE!**

Kudos Again: A former Southern Connecticut State University basketball coach and three Southern graduates were inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame this fall, honored for their roles in forwarding the sport throughout the region. Congratulations to **Joan Bonvicini**, University of Arizona Women's BB Head Coach, **Marnie Dacko**, University of Massachusetts Women's BB Head Coach, **Louise O'Neal**, former Southern Women's BB Head Coach/Wellesley College Director of Athletics & **William Mudano**, the founder and executive director of the Nutmeg State Games. The everlasting influence these individuals have had on student athletes and to the game of basketball is felt on a local, regional and national level.

Wills and Bequests: We have had inquiries requesting information on how to include the CWBHOF in their wills as a beneficiary. Such bequests are greatly appreciated and constitute an important source of support. If you would like to designate the CWBHOF in your will, the proper wording should read as follows: "I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the CWBHOF, a nonprofit organization, currently located in New Britain, CT., the sum of _____ for its general use and purpose." If you have any questions, please contact Ann Fariss, Executive Director.

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 501©(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.

