



# CENTER COURT

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

DATE: 3/1/06

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  
April Hunt, Creative Writer

*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEWS*..... On behalf of our Executive Board, I thank you for your support of the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. It has been an honor and privilege for me to serve as Executive Director. No one ever serves as President of any organization without tremendous support from many people. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank a few of the many: Louise Albrecht, Linda Wooster, Lee Franzman, Tony Candido, Jean Hunt, Pat Nicol, Lynn Spagnesi, Marge Dolan, and Laura Degennaro Raftery. I would also like to welcome Sue Crisafi and April Hunt to our board. Their energy and expertise will undoubtedly strengthen the objectives of the CWBHOF family.

While we are very proud of the CWBBHF achievements over the past 18 years, there still remains an even greater job to do. With your help, I am confident the Hall of Fame will continue to flourish and remain as one of the elite entities in which the accomplishments of those involved with Connecticut women's basketball are recognized.

This year we will be celebrating our 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we want you to be a part of the celebration. We are working on a strategic plan for the future and want you to be involved. With your help, I believe we can accomplish our goal of honoring the past, celebrating the present and embracing our future. If you have any suggestions, please forward them to me at the address listed later in the newsletter.

Mark your calendars and join us on April 27<sup>th</sup> to celebrate those who have given so much to girls and women's basketball in the State of Connecticut. Please plan on visiting the home of the CWBBHF at Central Connecticut State University. Thank you so much.

Ann V. Fariss  
PHD

*DRIBBLE*.... As mentioned, the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame will be celebrating its 19<sup>th</sup> year and seventh of the new millennium on Thursday, April 27, 2006 at 500 Blake Street Café in New Haven. Our 18<sup>th</sup> annual celebration "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 seven 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 27th.

.....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 27th.

2006 Inductees....	Ms. Paulla Kolnaski Solar	High School Coach
	Ms. Patricia Porter Buttice	High School Player
	Ms. Maria Conlon	High School Player
	Ms. B.J. Toolan-Constatine	College Player
	Ms. Donna Devlin	College Player
	Ms. Lucille A. Vassallo	Referee
	Ms. Carolyn D. Vanacore	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](mailto:avfariss@sbcglobal.net)**

*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](http://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

*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. The Kate Mullen's Fundamental Basketball Camp has been selected for 2006.

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

*Home for the Hall:* As you may 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 October 20, 2005, Linda Wooster, Associate Director of Recreation and Athletics was honored by Quinnipiac University as one of its "best of the best." At the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Service to Students gala dinner, Linda was one of six faculty and staff bestowed Quinnipiac's highest honor for excellence in and outside the classroom. Linda, you ROCK!

*Kudos Again:* Hall of Fame member and National Icon Donna Lopiano, was awarded the Women and Sport Trophy for the Americas, given by the International Olympic Committee. The award was given on March 8<sup>th</sup>, International Women's Day, during a ceremony held at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.

*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.

