



News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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Somerset County to Honor 17 Outstanding Women

FRANKLIN – Seventeen Outstanding Women in Somerset County will be honored by the county Commission on the Status of Women at the group's 19th annual awards dinner Friday, March 25, at The Imperia on Easton Avenue.

“On a daily basis, thousands of women who live and work in Somerset County enhance our quality of life by contributing to our communities in so many different and critically important ways,” said Freeholder Jack M. Ciattarelli, commission liaison. “It is our pleasure each year, on behalf of the many thousands, to honor a select few for their extraordinary contributions.”

The Commission on the Status of Women presents these awards annually in celebration of Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 winners in 15 categories. Honorees are women who reside in Somerset County. Recipients by category are:

Arts/Entertainment – Normarie McLean of Franklin. With more than 20 years' experience in choreography, stage management, performing arts and vocal training, she has served since 1998 as choreographer for the Anointed Praise Dancers with the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Franklin. She also is founder and director of B.A.M. School of Performing Arts in New Brunswick, which she opened in 2009.

Athletics – Jennifer Scuderi Balucha of Manville. She has been a physical education teacher at the JFK and Milltown schools in the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School System for 11 years. Described as “a teacher's teacher,” she is dedicated to her students and to teaching a healthy lifestyle. She also is involved in community outreach programs for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society in memory of her mother.

Education – Raritan Valley Community College President Casey Crabill, Ed.D., of Montgomery. She has over 25 years of broad-based experience in higher education, including more than 10 years' experience as a community-college CEO. She joined RVCC as president in August 2006. Her success stems from an inclusive management style as well as expertise in planning, budgeting and community-building.

Entrepreneur – Barbara Long of Bernardsville. She has owned Wabba Travel in Basking Ridge since 1971 and has weathered many industry changes over the past 40 years. She and her employees have gone from hand-writing tickets to being the first agency in the area with automation. She has continued to develop creative and innovative travel packages, including the popular Art & Architecture Tours around the world.

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Environmental Initiatives – Thuy Anh Le of Hillsborough. A 2007 graduate of the Rutgers Agricultural Extension Environmental Steward Program, she has brought her passion for the environment and “green” living to both the Sustainable Hillsborough and Sustainable Montgomery committees. As facilities chair for the Hillsborough Board of Education, she has encouraged energy reductions in the schools.

Government – Manville Mayor Lillian Zuza. A Manville resident for nearly 30 years, she was elected mayor in November 2007. In addition to various cost-saving measures, including shared health and engineering services contracted with the county, she spearheaded the formation of the Raritan & Millstone River Flood Control Commission.

Government – Raritan Borough Councilwoman Denise Hudak Carra. She is a fourth-generation Raritan resident who has served eight years on the Borough Council, including terms as Council President in 2006 and 2010. She currently is on the Economic Development Committee and is working with the Youth on Main Street Committee; her children also serve on this board.

Government – Warren Township Deputy Mayor Carolann Garafola. She has served on the township Board of Education and Planning Board, and is in her sixth term on the Township Committee, having served as Mayor four times. She currently is working on a municipal project to erect a 9/11 memorial that will be unveiled on Sept. 11, 2011, funded totally by donations.

Hometown Hero – Michelle Woolf of Montgomery. Under her leadership, the Montgomery Special Olympics program has gone from inception six years ago to include more than 50 athletes ages 2½ to adult. A coach herself, she also coordinates the activities of 12 coaches and at least 50 volunteers. She received the Special Olympics of New Jersey Outstanding Coach of the Year award for 2010.

Law – Katherine Esposito Howes of Peapack-Gladstone. She has a varied and broad background in both law and finance. She and her husband Tim have had a law practice in Raritan since 1991. She has extensive experience as a municipal court magistrate and public defender and prosecutor. She also is a first-term Borough Council member in Peapack-Gladstone.

Media – Bernice B. Wicks of Bernards. As director of public relations/communications for the Somerset County Vo-Tech Schools since 1989, she has chronicled the schools’ history and growth. She previously was public relations director at Fairleigh Dickinson University, wrote and produced the “Focus on Bernards” cable TV program and was an associate producer at Channel 13.

Medicine – Kate Lincoln of Bernardsville. She has a full-time practice in Classical Homeopathy, treating acute and chronic symptoms in clients ranging from six days to 86 years old. A graduate of Smith College, she has attended seminars by world-renowned homeopaths and did post-graduate studies at the Hahnemann Instituut Nederlands.

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Public Service – Pat Reilly of Franklin. She came to The Center for Great Expectations in Franklin as residential manager in March 2010. She is responsible for a facility that houses up to 16 homeless women and 24 children, as well as a daycare center, and manages a 20-member staff. She also is a strong member of the Great Expectations treatment teams for both adults and teens.

Research/Management – Patricia E. Cataruozolo, Ph.D., R.N., FN-CSA, of Warren. She has been involved in breast cancer trials at Pfizer since 1998. She became the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) coordinator in the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office in December 2010. She also is an adjunct professor at Stevens Institute of Technology and Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Social Services – Sarah Murchison of Franklin. She has worked in Somerset County's Department of Human Services for over 13 years, currently serving as human services coordinator. She has led more than 350 Youth Council members in many community-service activities. She is a New Jersey-certified social worker and job counselor, and volunteers as co-facilitator of Youth Leadership Somerset.

Volunteerism – Christine A. Retz of Franklin. As president of the Meadows Foundation in Franklin, she organizes most of the historic site's monthly programming and handles all publicity. She is involved in numerous community programs that benefit needy families, pregnant, homeless teens and women, senior nursing-home residents, her church and her residential community.

Shirley Noble Award – Charlotte Frances Fischer of Bernardsville. Described as an "unsung hero" of her community, she has been a borough resident for some 50 years and has been involved in many volunteer activities. She and her husband were instrumental in raising \$1.5 million for a new library that was completed in 2000. She is an active member of the Friends of the Women's Shelter and of the Bernardsville Open Space Committee. Her volunteer interests have ranged from programs for women and children to education, politics and gardening. This award is named for the late Shirley Noble, a founder of the Commission on the Status of Women.