



HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

2011 HALL OF EXCELLENCE

INDUCTION CEREMONY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2011

WELCOME TO THE

2011

INDUCTION

HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

HALL OF EXCELLENCE

Ceremony and Dinner

Saturday, October 22, 2011

The Riverview
Warburton Avenue
Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.
6:15 to 11 p.m.

PROGRAM

OPENING REMARKS

INTRODUCTIONS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

DINNER

PRESENTATION OF THE 2011 INDUCTEES

CLOSING THOUGHTS

The Retirement of Bernie O'Brien '50
Founder and Chairman
Hastings High School Alumni Association

A WARM WELCOME TO THE 2011 HALL OF EXCELLENCE DINNER!

Hastings High School Alumni Association serves two principal masters... one to foster camaraderie and good-fellowship programs for our many members -- the other to raise funds for the annual scholarships we award to our talented HHS graduating seniors. Our Hall of Excellence Dinners accomplish both of those objectives, and they go a step further. They point out to all of us that there is something remarkable about the quality of education at Hastings High School. It is said that the 'proof of the pudding' is in the eating thereof. The evidence of the value of a Hastings High School education is readily observed in our many extraordinarily accomplished alumni. How else does a school of modest size and financial resources turn out Nobel Prize winners, Admirals and Ambassadors? This year we will induct a second group of academic and professional standouts. Among them you will find distinguished college professors, Olympic Gold Medal winners, a writer, an actor and an inventor. Please turn to the biography pages of the Dinner Program to learn the details. While you're reading, you will note the outstanding design of this year's Program. We were voluntarily assisted in its production by EMMY award-nominated Bill Bohnert '50... another of the 2011 inductees, and a great friend.

The Hall of Excellence membership has also added a \$5000 academic scholarship to the slate of awards that the Alumni Association presents annually. Perhaps it will go to a future Hall of Excellence eminence, decades off in the future.

Enjoy the evening!

HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2011 HALL OF EXCELLENCE INDUCTEES
AND INTRODUCING ALUMNI MEMBERS

INDUCTEE

PRESENTER

LYSAK BROTHERS '31 & '36

BOB GERSKY '53

BILL BOHNERT '50

JOHN CARNEY '50

DON MARICLE '51

NED PHELPS '51

MIKE HOWARD '53

RON JESBERG '53

BOB HIRST '59

JUDITH BENDER '59

STEPHEN COLLINS '65

FRED BARNES '65

STATON RABIN '76

ED CACCIA '76

STEPHEN & JOHN LYSAK Class of 31&36

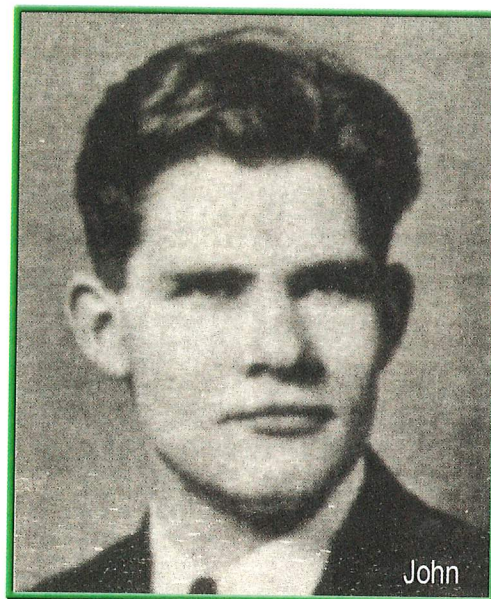
Participants in the 1936 and 1948 Olympic Games
Gold and Silver Medals in Canoeing



This biography commemorates the Olympic achievements of two extraordinary brothers – STEVE and JOHN LYSAK -- who brought international fame to the quiet Village of Hastings-on-Hudson in the 1930's and 1940's. They are remembered for their years spent on the Hudson River honing their racing skills with early boats built from salvaged barrel staves. The country was surprised by their successful efforts to gain a place on two U.S. Olympic Teams – by John in 1936 (at Munich, Germany) and Steve in 1948 (at London, England). The world was amazed when Steve has paddled his canoe across the finish line on the Thames River in the 10,000 meter race, winning an Olympic Gold Medal – followed a day later by a Silver Medal in the 1000 meter competition. Both were unexpected victories in canoeing – a sport in which the U.S. had never won an Olympic medal.

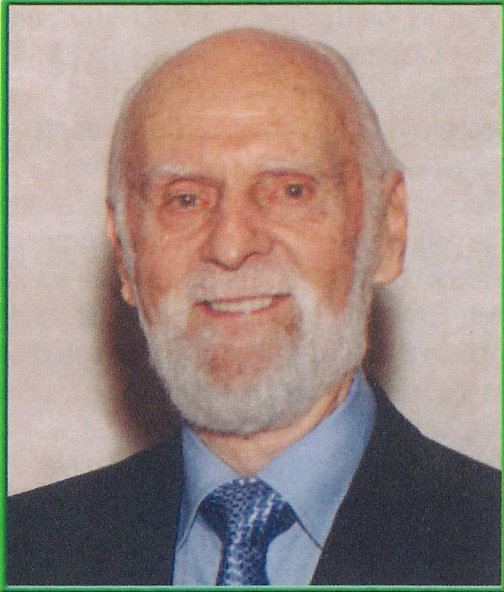
The LYSAK brothers started-out in life with very few advantages. They were orphaned at an early age and moved from one home for children to another before arriving at Graham School on South Broadway in Hastings- on-Hudson, N.Y. -- in the early 1920s. At the School these former runaways found the necessary measure of stability and support. They became good students, Boy Scouts, and were eventually enrolled in Hastings High School.

When the 1940 Olympic Games were cancelled by the early hostilities of World War II, both of the LYSAK brothers enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and witnessed some of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific. By the time that Steve (HHS Class of 1931) participated in the 1948 Olympic Games, he was one of the oldest participants at the Games. He later went on to win nine U.S. National Canoeing Championships. STEVE LYSAK passed away in 2001, but brother John (HHS Class of 1936) is still with us in 2011. He lives in Fremont, California, at age ninety-six. One can only admire their skill and ingenuity.



BILL BOHNERT Class of 1950

Production Designer



With a Bachelor of Architecture degree from M.I.T. and M.F.A. in Stage Design from the Yale School of Drama, Bill began his career in New York. He designed The Ed Sullivan Show for its last ten years on air, including the Beatles first appearances in this country; and he created the visual concepts for The Electric Company series produced by the Children's Television Workshop, before moving to Los Angeles.

On the West coast, Bill's career has encompassed every conceivable kind of show. He has been Production Designer for many variety show series including The Donny and Marie Osmond Show, Dick Clark's Live Wednesday, Steve Allen, Not Necessarily The News, Fridays, and The New Bill Cosby Show. Shows in the talk-reality area include America's Funniest Home Videos, Hard Copy, I Witness Videos, & Entertainment Tonight .

He designed anniversary celebrations for the Screen Actors Guild, The Grand Old Opry, 50 Years of Soaps & over 50 specials for many stars, including Comic Relief with Billy Crystal, Whoopi Goldberg and Robin Williams, and specials for Jerry Seinfeld, Richard Pryor, Chevy Chase, Joan Rivers, Carroll O'Connor and others..

Game Shows include Password, American Gladiators and Zoo Venture. Bill has designed the EMMY AWARDS, COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS, GRAMMY AWARDS, GOLDEN GLOBES, World Magic Awards, and the Entertainer of the Year awards. He has also done numerous live shows in Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe (plus touring) and a Broadway show for Magician Doug Henning.

He was one of the first into the field of virtual scenery for television. His work included Sci Fi Vortex, Paranoia, and the Secrets of the Crypt Keeper's Haunted House, designing all of the real sets and virtual sets for those series.

Bill has received three EMMY nominations in addition to winning the CABLE ACE AWARD for Comic Relief V. and the N.Y. Film Critics award for best computer animation for The Electric Company. He was on the Board of Governors of the New York branch of the Television Academy.

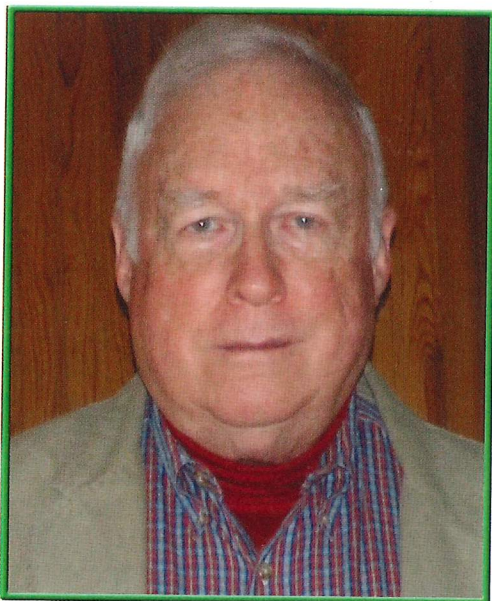
"The best part of my career is the fact that I enjoyed every moment of it," Bill says.

"My life outside my career has been very enjoyable as well. I've been married for over 50 years to my wonderful wife, Pamela. I have 3 great sons, and now living with us are our delightful twin granddaughters -- while they attend Beverly Hills High School."



DONALD MARICLE - Class of 51

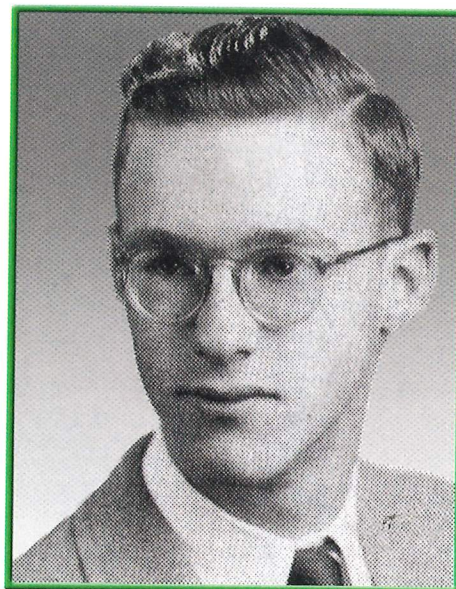
Inventor Chemical Engineer Consultant



Don Maricle graduated with honors from Wesleyan University with a BA in Chemistry in 1955. After working as a summer intern at American Cyanamid in Stamford, CT, he started his graduate school years working on a Ph.D. in Chemistry at MIT. His thesis work was in Molten Salt Electrochemistry. After earning a Ph.D. in 1959, he started his professional career back at American Cyanamid as a Research Chemist. The next eleven years were exciting and productive for him. He and his technician invented and developed the first LiSO₂ battery, discovered electrochemiluminescence, developed electrochromic and cathodochromic display devices, studied organic electron transfer processes and developed electroorganic synthesis.

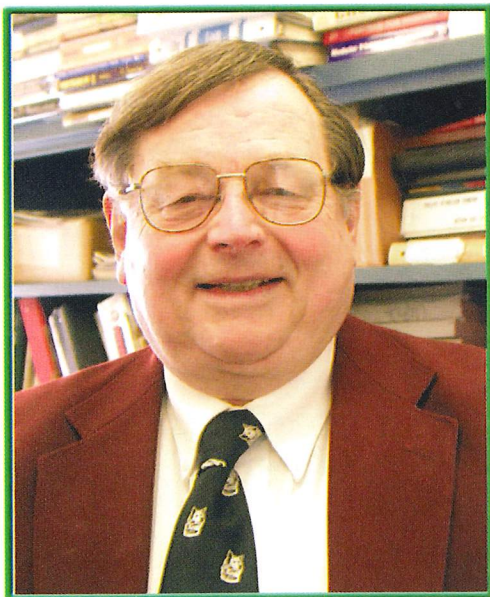
The LiSO₂ battery was by far the most significant of these projects. It was the first successful lithium battery, predating the present lithium ion battery by almost two decades. At 115 Watt hours per pound it exceeded the power density of any other battery known at the time and produced power from minus 76°F to plus 176°F. In spite of the highly-reactive lithium anode, the battery had a 10 year shelf life at room temperature. It is still in use by the military as a BA5590, (satellite communications) battery.

His main industrial job was with International Fuel Cells (IFC), a division of United Technologies Company. Fuel cells are similar to batteries except the reactants (oxidizer and fuel) are supplied to the cell from external sources rather than stored in the can or case. As Manager Materials Engineering his responsibilities included: Cell stack and power module development, development of a planar solid oxide fuel cell and development of a modified ceria for a low temperature Solid Oxide fuel cell. He also managed stack component development for several DOE molten carbonate fuel cell programs. Don developed the tape matrix now used by all MCFC developers. Upon his retirement from UTC in 1996 he began a consulting career that lasted for more than a decade. His clients included; United Technologies Research Center, Sandia National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, ICET INC., Superprotonic Inc. and others.



G. MICHAEL HOWARD - Class of 1953

Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering
The University of Connecticut



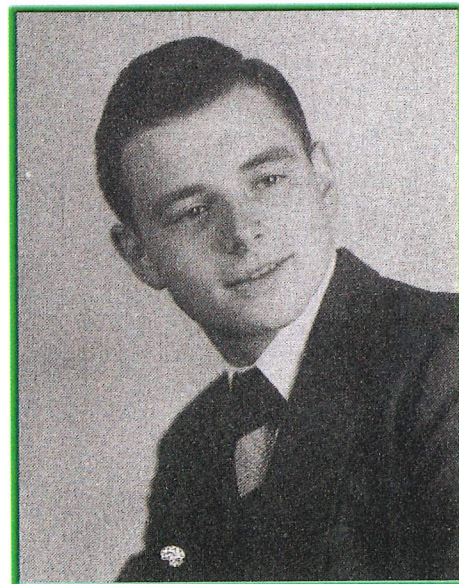
Starting out in 1961, Michael Howard advanced from Instructor to Professor of Chemical Engineering at The University of Connecticut. He was Associate Dean of the School of Engineering from 1974-1988, and at times Head of Chemical Engineering. Since 1997, Dr. Howard has held the title of Professor Emeritus at the University of Connecticut – continuing a distinguished fifty-year career at New England's leading public university.

During his fifty years at the University he has received numerous teaching awards, including: UCONN/Winner of Outstanding Teacher Award from the Student Government; Two-time Winner of Roger's Outstanding Teaching Award in Chemical Engineering. Additional Honors include: Tau Beta Pi, Induction/UCONN School of Engineering Academy of Distinguished Engineers; The Mike Howard Educational Excellence Fund in Chemical Engineering established by peers and former students.

Mike decided to attend the University of Rochester after HHS because it offered both chemistry and chemical engineering. It was his judgment that engineering would be a good choice, because it led to more career versatility. One could always switch to chemistry if it was later decided that they liked the basic science more -- and that is the advice he has given to students for fifty years.

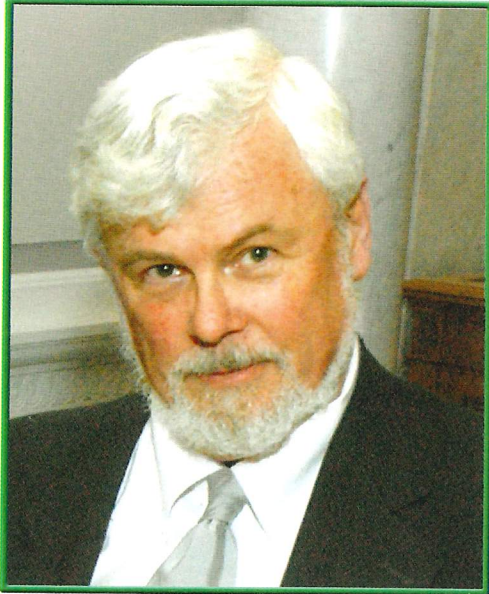
Mike went to UCONN in 1961 so that he could try teaching as a career. Finding a position as a full-time instructor there was a great stroke of luck. He wanted to find out if he really liked teaching -- and it took only a few weeks to know that he loved it. Fortunately the department almost immediately started a Graduate Program... and so he remained and got his PhD at UCONN in 1967. Teaching became his interest, and he found that he had a gift for organizing material and explaining it in ways that made it easier for his students to understand it. He gained great satisfaction in seeing his students' faces light-up when they finally grasped a difficult concept that had been long eluding them.

"Happily," Mike explains, "Retiring from a university is different from retiring in the real world. I still work with the senior lab class and have an office on campus. It is an ideal teaching and advising situation. I sometimes ask our students to think about the year 2063, and only a few catch the significance. It is the year that they are likely to retire." "Learn principles, concepts and how to solve problems," I tell them, "and learn how to learn. That will result in your making important contributions -- 20 to 40 years down the road".



Robert H. Hirst - Class of 1959

Curator of the Mark Twain Project and Papers
University of California (Berkeley)

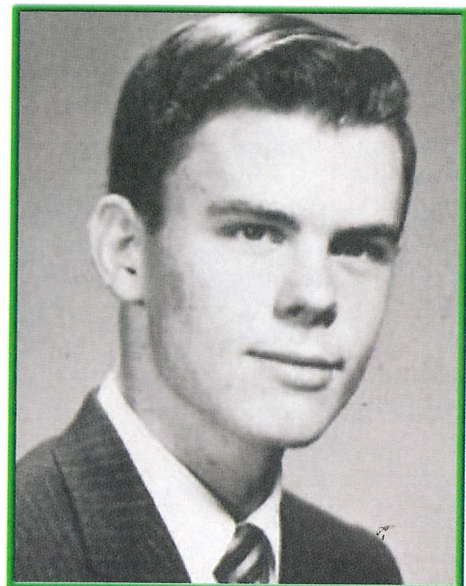


Robert H. Hirst was born in New York City in 1941 and moved to Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y when he was three years old. Bob advanced through the Hastings school system and graduated in the High School Class of 1959. Bob Hirst has early memories of the majestic Hudson River. Mark Twains' early home was a bustling port on the mighty Mississippi where he could survey the steamboat and barge traffic along the great river and hear the cry of riverboat leadsmen sounding the depth of the river bottom and calling it up to the pilot. One of those calls, "MARK TWAIN" literally meant there were two fathoms of water below a boats waterline. The literary output of this great American humorist included more than a dozen major books including – The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Life On The Mississippi, The Innocents Abroad, and A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court. Mark Twain also produced a mountain of personal letters, manuscripts and stories. At the Mark

Twain Project, housed in the library at Berkeley since 1949, there are thousands of magazine and newspaper pieces. The University of California Press has already published twenty seven volumes of The Mark Twain Papers and Works of Mark Twain.

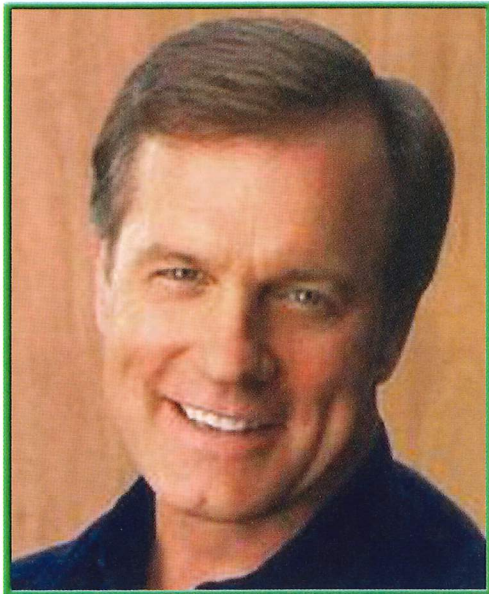
The recent appearance of a one hundred-year delayed Mark Twain autobiography, edited by the Mark Twain Project, has produced quite a literary sensation. Even before its release, demand for the Twain autobiography prompted the University Press to increase the print-run from 50,000 to 300,000 copies; now more than 500,000 copies have now been printed.

Bob Hirst left Hastings for Harvard University in 1959 and graduated with a B. A. in English in 1963. Then like Twain, he headed west to California. Two years later he earned an M.A. from Cal, in American Literature. In 1967 Bob took a job as a proof reader and checker in the Mark Twain Papers project, where he gradually picked-up the craft of scholarly editing. All the while he continued to work toward the Doctorate which he received in 1976. Bob next joined the English Dept. at UCLA as an assistant professor, but continued to commute back to Berkeley where he collaborated with Edgar M. Branch on several volumes of Mark Twain's Early Tales and Sketches. In 1980 Dr. Hirst became General Editor of the Mark Twain Project, which over-arched the continuing editions of The Works of Mark Twain (Iowa City) and the Mark Twain Papers in Berkeley. Dr. Hirst has since added the title of Curator of the Twain Papers to his resume, in which role he has significantly added to the overall Twain collection by gifts and purchases.



STEPHEN COLLINS Class of '65

Actor, Writer, Director



Stephen Collins was born in Iowa but raised in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, attended Hastings schools from K-12, and graduated from Hastings High School in 1965. At HHS, he distinguished himself on the G.O. Council and National Honor Society, and played a little baseball. His early interest in acting was in evidence in Dramatics Club productions of *Our Town* and *The Crucible*. He was voted "Best Looking," and played Judson Barry in the senior play, *Mr. Barry's Etchings*.

After graduating cum laude from Amherst College, Stephen moved to New York to pursue his dream. A break came with the Broadway hit *The Ritz* in 1975, and he was cast in his first film role in *All The President's Men* – a success which led to his commuting between Los Angeles and New York for the next twenty years. Though his sights had been set on a stage and film career, television opportunities kept coming his way. Many classmates remember Steve

starring in his first series in 1982-3, *Tales of the Gold Monkey* for ABC. He went on to star in eighteen made-for-TV films and eight mini-series, including the Emmy-winning *A Woman Named Jackie* as JFK, and *The Two Mrs. Grenvilles*, in which he was Emmy-nominated for his work opposite Ann-Margret. His most famous role, though, was as Rev. Eric Camden on the WB Network's *7th Heaven*, which passed *Little House on the Prairie* and *The Waltons* as the longest-running family drama in television history.

In recent years, Stephen starred on Broadway in *Monty Python's Spamalot*, in the Hallmark Channel western, *Every Second Counts*, the film comedy *The Three Stooges*, and TV guest appearances on *The Office*, *Private Practice*, *Law & Order: SVU*, and *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*. Most of his films are available on DVD, including *Brewster's Millions* with Richard Pryor, *Jumpin' Jack Flash* with Whoopi Goldberg, *Because I Said So* and *First Wives Club*, both opposite Diane Keaton, and *Blood Diamond* with Leonardo DiCaprio (nominated for 5 Academy Awards).

Steve has had two novels published, including *Eye Contact*, a national bestseller for Bantam Books, as well as several short stories and essays. Steve still exercises his musical talents as the front man for Stephen Collins & The 7th Band (*The Hits of Rick Nelson* was a recent release), and his short film, *Next of Kin*, premiered at the Rhode Island International Film Festival, where Steve won Grand Prize for Best Directorial Debut. With the late Ron Silver and Christopher Reeve, Steve founded The Creative Coalition, an influential New York-based arts advocacy group that is thriving today.



STATON RABIN Class of 1976

Author of Children's Books
and Historical Novels for Teens



If "it takes a village" to raise a child, it also takes a carefully chosen library. For decades, author Staton Rabin's books have been helping to raise each new generation, inspiring young people to love reading -- and learning from-- history.

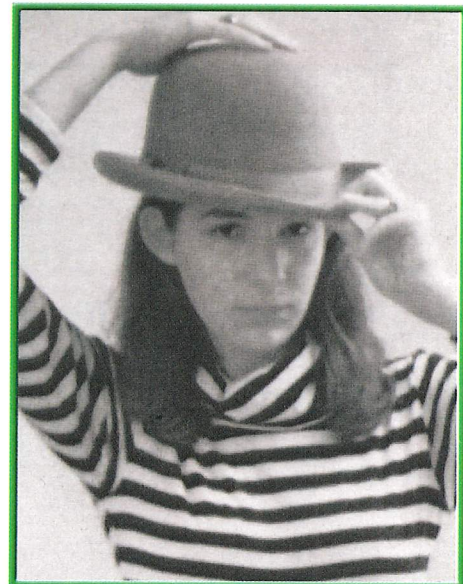
If you know a kid who doesn't care what the "crowd" thinks as long as she is doing the right thing, and is stubbornly convinced that she can change the world, then you know the kind of young person that Staton writes for-- and the kind of person she is.

Staton believes that history needn't be "boring", and that by learning about the past the youth of today will become better voters and citizens of tomorrow. Staton Rabin's historical novels are unique. By blending real people and true events with humor, fantasy, and poignant drama, her tales have captured the imaginations of young people all over the world. Teachers also use her books in the classroom.

Staton's best-known novel, *BETSY AND THE EMPEROR*, is in development as a movie with Al Pacino attached to star as Napoleon. Her other books include *BLACK POWDER*, *THE CURSE OF THE ROMANOVES*, and *MR. LINCOLN'S BOYS*. Among the awards and honors her works have received are: Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies, New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age, Westchester Best Book, ABA/Book Sense Pick for Teens, and starred reviews in "School Library Journal" and "Publishers Weekly". It would be impossible to imagine a career like Staton's had she grown up anywhere but Hastings. Where else but here could she have found caring, passionate, and dedicated social studies teachers like Bob Tucker, Tom Hogan, and Howard Weishaus, whose lectures inspired her love of history and led her to write books that inspire that same passion for history in young people, today?

Staton's books inspire kids to think independently, cast aside their prejudices, question the necessity of violence, stand by their friends in adversity, and demonstrate courage and loyalty. Teens send her "fan mail" from as far away as Indonesia, and she always takes the time to write back.

Born and raised (with her brother, Brandon) in Hastings, Staton is proud to be the daughter of Gideon, a writer and WW2 vet, and Mury, an artist. Staton's passion for movies led to a film degree from NYU, a cinematic style for her novels, and a parallel career as a screenplay analyst. Her website is www.statonrabin.com.



2009 INITIAL HALL OF EXCELLENCE MEMBERS

October 17, 2009

HON. DONALD P. GREGG '45

National Security Advisor
Ambassador to South Korea

DR. EDMUND S. PHELPS '51

Nobel Prize in Economics (2006)
Columbia University

REAR ADMIRAL RONALD H. JESBERG '53

U.S. NAVY (Retired)
Member of the Golden Eagles

MITZI MALLINA WERTHEIM '55

Peace Corps Under Secretary of the Navy
Social Entrepreneur

DR. ROBERT C. MERTON '62

Nobel Prize in Economics (1996)
MIT and Harvard University

HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2010 – 2011

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PRESIDENT BOB GERSKY 1953

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2011 HALL OF EXCELLENCE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Alumni Association Board Members

Robert Gersky '53 (Chairman)

Nancy Maleska '72

Alan Fine '75

Patricia (Chemka) Speranza '76

Alex Libin '05

Class Representatives

Julia (Scott) Maser '51

Sue Gersky '53

Wayne Landry '57

Bill Cook '65

Jeff Bannon '78

Marjorie Lang '81

A special 'THANK YOU'
goes to each member of the
Hall of Excellence SELECTION COMMITTEE
for their volunteer service.

Rules for Nominations and the Selection Committee

Nominations to the Hall of Excellence may be made by any classmate of a nominee, by contacting their current Class Representative once the HHS Alumni Association Board of Directors announces that the nomination period is open. Induction Dinners are held every other year, alternating with Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Dinners. Usually the Hall of Excellence Induction Dinners take place on Homecoming Weekends in October. Classmates should prepare a brief biography of the candidate to highlight the reasons for their nomination. Class Representatives may forward only one nomination to the Selection Committee from their class, in each Induction period. In the event of multiple nominations received by a Class Representative, that class is free to determine its own procedure for voting or otherwise deciding which nomination will be forwarded to the Selection Committee. If a nomination is not submitted to the Selection Committee by a Class Representative because another nomination from that class was given precedence, the nomination should be retained at the individual Class level until the next nomination period.

A Hall of Excellence Selection Committee is chosen by Board of Directors for each Hall of Excellence Induction Dinner year, whose purpose is to vote on the nominations (with attached nominee biographies) that have been forwarded by the Class Representatives. The HHS Alumni Association may determine if certain decades of alumni classes will be given precedence over other decades, based on a number of considerations, including the number of Class Representatives in place to represent the classes in prior years. For example, there are almost no Class Representatives currently for the alumni decades of the 1990's and 2000's. When these Class Representative positions have been filled, they may be awarded extra seats on the Selection Committee for that election cycle.

The Selection Committee is made up of HHS Alumni Association Board members and Class Representatives, providing that if a Board member elects to represent their Class, they may not also vote as a Board member on the Selection Committee. In the event of a tie in voting for any individual nominee, the Chairman of the Board of Directors (who may not also be a member of the Selection Committee) will be the tie-breaker. If there is no Chairman of the Board, the President of the Board of Directors (who then may not also be member of the Committee) will act as tie-breaker. The Board of Directors can have, but may decide not to have to have, a number of Selection Committee members equal to the Class Representative members. In the event that a nominee is not elected in one bi-annual election period, they shall remain eligible for re-consideration in the next.

HHS Alumni Association Inc.
A NYS 501(c)3 tax-exempt Corporation
For information go to hohalumni.org
Dues and gifts may be sent to:
HHS Alumni Association, Inc.
Hastings High School
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Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706