



# Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor

## 2014 Honorees

### **Shirley J. Barton**

As a founding member of the Human Relations Council to encourage open housing and discourage discrimination in the Brighton area, Shirley Barton has demonstrated a willingness to express her beliefs and act toward change. Her voice was raised in support of women's rights through the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and the National Organization of Women (NOW), and she traveled to Washington, D.C. and local venues in conjunction with the anti-war movement. Born in East Jordan, Michigan, she moved to the Brighton area in 1959. A graduate of Michigan State University, Shirley Barton was an active volunteer within Brighton Area Schools supporting the education of her seven sons through leadership positions in the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), the Child Study Club, and the Modern Mothers organization. Shirley served nine years as a Den Mother for the Boy Scouts, provided reading and tutoring assistance to children at Miller School, and was active in the First Presbyterian Church as Director of Bible School, Youth Fellowship volunteer, and supporter of the Drop-In Center. Brighton NC Machine Corporation was founded in 1965 as one of the first private companies in the United States to use NC machine tools for machining, grinding and assembly services. An on-site working half-owner since the beginning, Shirley serves as Vice President and liaison to Gleaners Food Bank and the Livingston County United Way.

### **Jean K. Becker, PhD**

Working over thirty years for the State of Michigan in children and family programs, Dr. Jean Becker served as Program Manager at the Livingston County Department of Social Services and as Program Manager for the Substance Abuse Treatment Unit at the Maxey Boys Training School. As a pioneer performing some of the earliest research on the effects of computerization on human service case management, she filed one of the first sex discrimination suits against the State of Michigan in 1971 requiring equal treatment of men and women employees when holding the same position. Dr. Becker chaired Livingston County's WomenFest for several years, helping to bring low-cost, local opportunities to women in the area. As the longest serving Chairman of American Mensa, she is only the



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second woman chairman in the organization's fifty-year history. Recently serving as President of the Michigan Association of Gifted Children, Dr. Becker continues on their Board of Directors while advancing the recognition and encouragement of gifted females. Dr. Becker's lifelong dedication as a volunteer, board member, and leader of events and organizations serving women has made a difference in our community.

### **Michele Bouhana**

Founder of Michele's Salon and Day Spa in 1980, Michele Bouhana combines her business acumen with intelligence, integrity, and a passion for the community. Active in the Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Michele joined the Brighton Rotary Club in 1993 and has been a leader and advocate for community improvement through projects such as the construction and maintenance of the Brighton Community Center, coordination of Red Cross Blood drives, Youth Exchange Program support, Gleaner's Food Bank volunteers, educational scholarship awards, and serving as Club President in 1998-1999 and Rotary Foundation President in 1999-2000. She was recognized with one of the highest honors in Rotary as a Paul Harris Fellow in 2000. Michele's enthusiasm and dedication to others serves as inspiration and example.

### **Heidi G. Clausnitzer**

Born in Mannheim, Germany, and experiencing the horrors of World War II, Heidi Clausnitzer moved to the Brighton area in 1956. An owner of Brighton NC Machine Corporation, a machining, grinding and assembly services provider that began business in 1965, she was awarded the "Woman of the Year" distinction by the Brighton Jaycees in 1965. In addition to early roles in the Child Study Club, the Modern Mothers group, and the establishment of the Human Relations Council to support open housing and discourage discrimination in the Brighton area. A member of the National Organization of Women (NOW), Heidi advocated for women's rights through the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and marched in



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Washington, D.C., with the anti-war movement. A leader with the Active Christians Together Serving (ACTS) organization with many Livingston County churches, Heidi's involvement at the First Presbyterian Church included teaching Sunday School for eleven years and Bible School for eight years, volunteering in Youth Fellowship, serving as Director of the Youth Choir, working as a counselor at the Drop-In Center for three years, and currently serving as a Deacon. Serving as a Girl Scout leader for many years while providing reading and tutoring to children at Miller School, Heidi became a paraprofessional working with severely mentally-impaired children at the Livingston Intermediate School District. Eventually becoming Director of Programming for Children at the Livingston Area Council Against Spousal Abuse (LACASA) for eleven years, she continues to serve on the LACASA Board today while volunteering weekly at Gleaner's Food Bank. Heidi's lifelong efforts were recognized by the 2010 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association with a distinguished "Breaking the Silence" Award.

### **Karen J. Goss**

As a notable educator for 42 years at Brighton High School (BHS), Karen J. Goss enriched the lives of many students while sharing her passion for scholarship and excellence in mathematics and German language and culture. Every other summer, she led a group of BHS German students on unique and self-designed tours of key German landmarks that complemented the students' historical and cultural education. Karen was the National Honor Society (NHS) advisor for ten years and continued for many years to evaluate applications as a subject-area advisor on the NHS faculty review team. Upon retirement from the Brighton Area Schools, Karen has continued challenging and guiding the minds of students young and old through her private tutoring skills. For several years, Karen has served on the Vestry and as lay reader and chalice bearer, in addition to being responsible for scheduling service lay readers at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at The Millpond. Karen's commitment to community service is commendable with numerous volunteer hours at the Livingston County United Way preparing packets for fundraising campaigns, organizing lunch food service to feed Day of Caring workers, and providing administrative and manual labor to complete annual Day of Caring projects. Since the inception of the Women's



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History Roll of Honor in 2003, Karen has worked behind the scenes to support the preparation of publicity materials, administrative record keeping, and induction ceremony details.

### **Sheryl Lohmiller**

A lifetime of service to the community and the Brighton Area Schools helped spur Sheri Lohmiller's commitment to the establishment of the Brighton Area Women's Roll of Honor. When Brighton School Board of Education Secretary Joyce Powers proposed a public display of Women's History materials in 2002, Sheri Lohmiller enthusiastically organized processes and procedures, handled the myriad details, and foresaw opportunities to permanently honor area women. The growth and recognition of the Roll of Honor from the initial display of significant women and their role in history to the annual celebration of contributions by local pioneers, innovators, and leaders was nurtured and guided by Sheri's and Joyce's belief, knowledge, dedication, and hard work. Serving twenty-five years as Assistant to the Superintendent for Brighton Area Schools until her retirement in 2011, Sheri supported five Superintendents and several interim Superintendents, coordinated millage campaigns, and performed Recorder duties for the Brighton Area Schools Education (BASE) Foundation. A Lindbom Elementary PTO volunteer and co-creator of the "Leopard News" publication, Sheri established the Leopard Leggin 5K Race in 1985 and 1986, was a five year volunteer for the Brighton Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Outing, and coached boys soccer for many years. Through Sheri's partnership and ownership of the important historical of contributions of Brighton-area women, she became a founder of the Brighton Area Women's Roll of Honor.



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### **Cheryl Ann Mayday**

Owner of Alterations Unlimited, a seamstress and tailoring business established in 1985, and the Mayday Retail Building in downtown Brighton, Cheryl Mayday has invested personal and financial resources to propel downtown Brighton into a favored destination for area residents. As Chair of the Brighton Fine Art and Acoustic Music Festival since its inception in 1985 and a longstanding member of the Principal Shopping District Board of Directors since 2008, Cheryl has developed the Festival into a much-anticipated event each summer. She was also a member of the committee that created the Fashion Show for Love INC at Oak Pointe Country Club. In 2006, Cheryl participated in the creation of a University of Michigan educational documentary about her previous husband's end-of-life journey entitled "Evan Mayday's Good Death." The film is used as a learning tool regarding palliative care in medical schools across the country, and she has been a frequent guest speaker about the experience. Cheryl was honored with the 2013 Distinguished Service Award by the Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce for her community leadership and efforts.