



# Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor

## 2015 Honorees

### **Nancy J. Fredenburg**

Areas of Distinction: Community Service and Local History

Nancy has been extremely active in preserving and promoting local history and activities of the Brighton High School Alumni Association. Nancy has been a member of the Brighton Historical Society since 1987 and has served on the Board of Directors since 1992. She helps to make the history of our community vibrant and alive through historical exhibits, activities at the Lyon School one-room schoolhouse, and even through the design of the Historical Society's Brighton Afghan. In 1986, Nancy joined the group of Brighton High School graduates charged with planning the 100-Year Reunion, a successful event which initiated the resurgence of the Brighton Alumni Association. Nancy has been a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors since that time, and has served as Treasurer since 1995. She is a fierce advocate for the Alumni Association through her activities with the annual Alumni Dinner, the fall Homecoming parade, the Independence Day parade, educational scholarships and working with the Brighton Core to organize a successful 2014 Reunion Weekend. In addition to her career as a Senior Registered Client Associate for Merrill Lynch these past 29 years, Nancy has volunteered as an usher for the Brighton Center for the Performing Arts since 2005 and has served on the Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor Advisory Council. Nancy is a 1975 Brighton High School graduate and holds a Bachelor's degree in Business and Economics from Central Michigan University.

### **Laura Kelley**

Area of Distinction: Business, Human Services

Laura began working at Keehn Funeral Home in 1991 and purchased the business with her husband in 1995. A 1985 Brighton High School graduate, Laura earned Bachelors degrees in English Literature from Eastern Michigan University and Mortuary Science from Wayne State University. As a female owner in a male dominated industry, Laura has helped and served many Brighton area families during highly emotional times in their lives. Since 1995, she has mentored several Mortuary Science students through Wayne State University's Mortuary Science Programs Practicum which pairs students with a licensed funeral director.



# Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor

## 2015 Honorees

She has participated with the Michigan Funeral Directors District #2 "Toys for Motts" program to collect and donate toys to hospitalized children during the holiday season. Laura is a longtime member of St. Patrick Parish in Brighton. She has volunteered and helped coordinate the Brighton Area Fire Department's Annual Halloween party since 1990 and assisted with the Adopt-A-Family initiative. During the 2014 holiday season, Laura contributed and helped distribute donated items throughout Brighton Area Schools. Laura currently serves on the Brighton High School's Girls Lacrosse Team Board of Directors.

### **Donna Susan Oswald Kelly**

Areas of Distinction: Environment, Social Change, Community Service

Sue has actively worked to protect the environment since 1991 as a founding member and leader of the local Sierra Club – Crossroads Group. She served as Chairperson of the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club from 2002–2005. Sue was part of the leadership team for the successful grassroots effort to have the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) deny a permit quadrupling allowable dioxin emissions for an asphalt company on Whitmore Lake Road. She led the successful effort during the 1990s to prevent clear cutting and bulldozing of Lady Bird Johnson Park near the Challis Road shopping development in Genoa Township. She led the effort to get a stop work order from the Department of Natural Resources in accordance with the Federal Migratory Bird Act when bank swallows were actively nesting at a construction site occupying the corner of Old-23 and East Spencer Roads. Sue collaborated with the Planning Commission and the MSU Extension to draft the 2005 Brighton Township Woodlands Ordinance and has helped organize and educate the community about high-volume, high-pressure, deep horizontal fracking wells in Conway Township. Sue is a founding member of Voters Voice, a non-partisan group that addresses issues and offers educational programs on topics such as campaign finance, stem-cell research, healthcare reform, and candidate forums.



# Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor

## 2015 Honorees

### **Pamela McConeghy**

Areas of Distinction: Business or Industry, Community Service

Since joining the Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce in 2001, Pamela assumed leadership as President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in 2005. To better support women business leaders, Pamela created the Women's Business Network which has burgeoned into the Professional Women's Club of Michigan. The AXIS Young Professionals Group was launched by the Chamber of Commerce under Pamela's guidance several years ago to support young professional women and men to develop into leaders of the community through monthly meetings and educational events. Through her capacity at the Chamber, Pamela has become an integral part of the community serving as Brighton Rotary President in 2012-2013 and on the Rotary Foundation Board of Directors, as the 2014-2015 Work Skills Chairman of the Board and on the Work Skills Foundation Board of Directors, Chair of the 2012 March for Babies Event, and numerous Boards of Directors with the Livingston County United Way (2007-2013), Livingston County Hunger Council (2009-Present), the Economic Development Council, and the County Convention & Visitors Bureau. Pamela is a member of the Statewide Prisoner Reentry Advisory Committee and has partnered with St. Joseph Mercy Health Care Systems' Healthy New Year and the Go Red for Women Heart Awareness events in 2014 and 2015. Pamela has been instrumental in fundraising thousands of dollars supporting veterans of the American Spirit Centre in Brighton and serves as a musician for Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

### **Jane Marie McManus**

Areas of Distinction: Business or Industry, Community Service

Jane started Micro Works Computing as a desktop computer training company in 1987 which has grown into an outsourced information technology department for many local organizations. In 2008, Micro Works was recognized in the Best of Michigan listing by Corp! Magazine, received the Women's Resource Center Community Gem Award in 2009,



# Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor

## 2015 Honorees

and has been recognized with the Corporate Excellence Award each year since 1996 by the Livingston County United Way. Jane has been active in the Brighton Rotary Club since 1988, holds three Paul Harris Fellow awards, served as Club President from 2011–2012, President of the Brighton Rotary Foundation since 2012, and is Assistant Governor of Rotary District #6380. Jane served as co-chair of the Veterans Memorial Fundraiser that garnered \$10,000 for the construction of the Downtown Brighton Veterans Memorial. She has also been active on the Howell Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, has donated numerous hours to the Women's Resource Center as Chair and as a board member for the Livingston Area Council Against Spouse Abuse (LACASA), and has served on the United Way Allocation Committee. Jane holds a Bachelor of Business degree from Eastern Michigan University.

### **Jane K. Petrie**

Area of Distinction: Business, Education, Community Service

After graduating from Indiana University, Jane taught math and chemistry at Henry Ford High School in Detroit. When her family moved to Brighton, she began teaching algebra to adults on a part-time basis for Brighton Community Education in 1973 until the program was incorporated into the full-day alternative high school in 2011. Jane was a substitute teacher for Brighton Area Schools until 1988 when she became a full time mathematics teacher and Academic Team coach at Stockbridge Schools until retirement in 2003. Her Academic team competed in the national tournament in Georgia, and she was honored as an Outstanding Coach by the Michigan League of Academic Games. Jane and her husband owned and operated Poor Richard's Book Shoppe in the Old Town Hall from 1984–1988. She was elected to the Brighton District Library Board, holding offices of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer from 2006 to the present. Jane is a longtime member of the Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit since 1967, serving as an elder and current moderator of the Presbyterian Women's Group as well as a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Brighton's Sanctuary Ringers bell choir since its founding in 1994.



# Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor

## 2015 Honorees

An enthusiastic supporter of the city of Detroit, Jane has volunteered at major events including Super Bowl XL, NCAA Final Four Basketball Tournament, NCAA Frozen Four Hockey Tournament, Hockey Town Winter Festival, and the Detroit Free Press Marathon.

### **Nancy Jane Roberts** (1929–2005)

Area of Distinction: Environment, Community Service, Law/Government

In 1978, Nancy formed the grassroots organization Society to Oppose Phosphorus Pollution (STOPP) in response to the algae bloom on Ore Lake that had grown progressively worse since her family's summer outings to their cottage during the 1960s. Under Nancy's leadership, meetings with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality garnered the attention of the State's Governor. Nancy was instrumental in having Hamburg Township donate land to the City of Brighton to build a "state-of-the-art" wastewater treatment plant that would serve sewers around Ore Lake in addition to the City of Brighton. Forming a new group called Hamburg Environmental Review Board (HERB), Nancy worked with Hamburg Township to address Huron River water issues, develop sewers for lakefront residences, and remove old, leaking septic tanks that were polluting the waters. Nancy served as Vice-President for Region 1 of the Michigan Lake and Streams Association and earned many awards for her efforts including the Michigan Outdoor Writers Association's Clean Waters Award that recognized her "energy dedication and leadership and exemplary efforts to improve the environment." In 1979, Nancy received funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to sample water and test over 729 Michigan lakes and streams. Her efforts helped spur the passage of the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) and funds were earmarked to redesign and implement the Lake Water Quality Assessment (LWQA) for the State. Nancy was also a bus driver for many Brighton Area Schools students, a forty-year member of St. Patrick Church, and a member of Holy Spirit Church in Hamburg.



# Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor

## 2015 Honorees

### **Sara Thomas**

Areas of Distinction: Environment, Community Service, Education

Since 1988, Sara has worked to protect the environment. She is a founding member of the local Sierra Club – Crossroads Group that began in 1991, served as the Conservation Chair for six years, and received a State of Michigan Service Award from the Sierra Club – Mackinac Chapter. Sara is a founding member of the Livingston Land Conservancy (a non-profit, tax-exempt, all volunteer organization) that began in 1992 with the mission to protect the natural heritage and rural character of the greater Livingston County area. She served as board president for ten years and helped the organization grow to protecting over 642 acres with a collective value of over \$1,000,000. Currently serves as Land Protection Chair and helped negotiate and complete 14 different land acquisition projects as well as coordinating land stewardship on conservation easements and nature preserves. Sara was awarded the National Conservation Medal by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in 2001. She was active in the Brighton Schools organizing the 1995 Environmental Awareness Month at Miller School and the 1996 Hornung Elementary Animals We Fear events. In addition, Sara received the Green Tree Award from the Huron Valley Girl Scout Council. Sara holds a B.A. in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University.