

Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor

2016 Honorees



Amy Lou Arnold, a 1977 Brighton High School graduate, has earned a solid reputation as a key costumer-supervisor for many major movies, e.g. *Titanic* (she was Kate Winslet's personal costumer for the majority of the shoot), *Beloved*, *Sea Biscuit*, *Big Fish*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, *Jersey Boys*, *Captain America*, and *American Sniper*. Amy began her career at Northern Michigan University with a work-study position that used her homegrown sewing skills. Summer work in costuming at a regional outdoor theater led to a costume shop internship at Actors Theater of Louisville, KY, and eventually to New York City where Amy started at Carelli Costume House as a shopper while learning aging and dying. At the Spoleto Festival in Charleston,

SC, Amy expanded her knowledge base to all costuming skills from basic stitching to coordinating/supervising. During her six years at The Martha Graham Dance Company as Costume Supervisor, she worked with the New York City Opera and the Eliot Feld Ballet. After three years of supervising costumes for the San Diego Opera, Amy went to Hollywood and worked at American Costumes, a period costume house. Opportunities to work on feature films soon followed.

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Carole Bullion-Mincy has been active in the real estate and title industries since 1985. Carole owned and operated Classic Title Agency in Brighton for almost a decade before selling the company in 2010 to Liberty Title and now serves as the Business Development Director. Carole co-authored the National Ethics Training Program used by American Land Title Association and presented her work to members of the United States Congress. Author of several industry-related articles in national publications, Carole has written and published the book *The Dark Side of the Closing Room*. As a certified instructor for the State of Michigan since 1997, Carole teaches continuing education courses required for re-licensure. Past-President of the Women's Council of

Realtors (WCR), 2013 WCR Affiliate of the Year, Livingston County Association of Realtors' 2015 Affiliate of the Year, Development Director of the Livingston County Humane Society, Member of the Leadership Livingston Steering Committee, Treasurer for the Livingston County Republican Party, and Brighton Rotary member, Carole is an active and involved member of the community.

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Kathleen Carney has lived in Brighton since 1972. When it was discovered in 1978 that the water wells in the Fonda Island Briggs Lake Area were being contaminated by road salt stored at the Michigan Department of Transportation garage, Kathy joined the group of women leading the cleanup efforts. Pickets, signed petitions, and a meeting with then Lt. Governor Martha Griffiths led to a state commitment for resolution. Currently serving as Chair of the Fonda Island Briggs Lake Joint Water Authority and the 8th Congressional District, Kathy has been active in the 2015 “Yes to Brighton Library” millage committee, the Green Oak Charter Township Board of Review, and 2006–2012 Chair of the Disciplinary Subcommittee of The Michigan Board of Osteopathic Medicine. In 2003, Kathy received the “Outstanding

Democratic Woman Who is Making a Difference” award.



Shirley Jean Shekell Danforth worked in the Shipping/Receiving Office at Gar Wood Industries in Detroit from 1943–1945 before coming to live in Brighton from 1954–2015. An active member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 4375, Shirley was one of the original 25 founding members that created the VFW Ladies Auxiliary in 1972 and remained an active member. She served as President from 1973–1976, Secretary from 1976–1980, Post 4357 Chaplain from 1980–2015, Chaplain for the Veteran Council from 2014–2015, and Poppies Chair from 1980–2015. In 1990, she became the VFW Chair for the Ann Arbor Veterans Hospital and coordinated coffee hours with donuts and providing holiday packages and boxes to local veterans and overseas military. Shirley’s efforts were

recognized with election as VFW Ladies Auxiliary of the Year in 2002 and 2014.

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2016 Honorees

Shirley raised eight children, participated in many Cub Scout activities, and was an AVON representative for 51 years, a Red Hat Society member, and a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Brighton.



Colonel Karin Flood, M.D., salutatorian of the Brighton High School class of 1988, will retire in May, 2016, with the Legion of Merit Award after 28 years of military medical service. A 1992 dual-major Distinguished Cadet graduate of West Point, she was in the top 5% of a class that included less than 8% women. She completed her medical degree from the University of Michigan in 1996 with honors, and was top resident of orthopedic surgery at Madigan Army Medical Center, in Tacoma, WA. In 2003, COL Flood became the Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at Darnall Army Medical Center in Fort Hood, TX, where she continued to alternate between Bosnia, Iraq and Kuwait deployments and garrisons at Darnall, Winn (GA), and Martin (GA) Army Community Hospitals as Chief of either or both Orthopedics and Department of Surgery. COL

Flood competed as Team Captain for the Army Women's Judo team, with four-year NCAA All American honors, a National Collegiate Championship, and participated in the 1992 Olympic Trials. She serves as a member of the USA Judo Medical Committee and provides medical support for national and international sports competitions, including the US Open tournament. COL Flood has twice received the Meritorious Service Medal, four times received the Army Commendation Medal, and twice received the Army Achievement Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. She has earned the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Iraqi Defense Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the NATO Medal, Schutzen-Schnur (German marksmanship badge).

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Mary E. Griffith is a life-long resident of Livingston County and has devoted her life to community service. During the 1970's, Mary was the first woman elected to serve on the Livingston County US Soil Conservation Committee and as a trustee officer of McPherson Hospital (1973-1979). From 2006-2008, Mary was a member of the Livingston County Senior Needs Assessment Committee. She was appointed by the Livingston County Board of Commissioners in 2010 and continues to serve as a member of the Area Aging Council along with being a 20-year member of the Farmer's Club. Mary is a past

Vice-Chair of the Livingston County Republican Party and was a Precinct Delegate in the 1970s. Mary also has conducted many hours' worth of tours of Howell's Historic Court House since 1990. An active gardener, Mary volunteered and taught classes for the MSU Extension Master Gardener Program and was a Livingston County Fair Tester. Through the 1970s, Mary wrote the thank-you notes for area donations to the American Cancer Society, and is currently active in the MSU Alumni Group. Mary has served on local PTAs, the Modern Mothers Child Study Club (1960-1970), and as a Camp Fire Girls Leader through the 1960s. Her contributions of time, talent and skills have inspired others, particularly women, to follow in her footsteps.

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Nancy B. Johnson, Ph.D. served as Director of the Brighton District Library from 2007–2016. As Director, she guided innovation and quality service despite economic hardships springing from lower tax revenue and booming demand for services. Nancy has championed literacy for all ages, both within library programming and with her volunteer hours with the Livingston County Literacy Coalition Steering Committee (helping adults connect with tutors) and as 2008–2014 Literacy Chair for the Brighton Rotary Club. Nancy's contributions to the Brighton community reach far beyond the library with roles on the Leadership Council on Aging, the Livingston County United Way Board of Directors, Campaign Cabinet, and Community Investment Council, and with

the Howell Opera House Advisory Council, and membership on the Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor Advisory Council. Nancy has modeled the importance of connecting within the Brighton community and has encouraged her staff to participate in Leadership Livingston, Chamber business networking events, and community programs and fundraisers. Nancy has been recognized by the University of Michigan School Of Library Science with the Margaret Mann Award and a Title II scholarship in addition to receiving the 1997 Wayne State University Excellence in Teaching Award. Recognized in 2014 as a Brighton Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, Nancy has earned many Rotary accolades for her work with Gleaners Food Bank and the Rotary Raiders, along with receiving a Brighton Art Guild 2011 John and Deb Tunis Award.

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2016 Honorees



Edith Amanda Leith worked at the General Motors Co. Fisher Body Cadillac Plant in Detroit in 1944-1945 as a "Rosie the Riveter" spot welder building B-29 and B-17 bomber planes. At the age of 19, Edie jumped at the chance to leave her job as a babysitter in Cheboygan to support the war effort and joined her sister in the ranks of young women who ultimately changed the view and role of working women. In October, 2015, mothers, daughters, and staff members from Brighton Area Schools, including Edith, participated in the Willow Run Bomber Plant Guinness World Record gathering at the birthplace of "Rosie the Riveter." A member of First Presbyterian Church in Brighton, Edith has been active in the

"Sew and So's" group which meets to cut, sew, and ship garments to people in need around the world. One of Edith's own quilts is proudly on display at the Brighton Fire Department.

Athletic Championship Honoree:



Julia Dean won the 2015 Division I Individual State MHSAA Golf Championship and then was chosen as Miss Golf by the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association. Julia is the first Brighton female athlete honored by the Michigan Interscholastic Coaches Association.