

Livingston Education Foundation

LHS Alumni
Hall of Fame
Reception



October 18, 2013

The Wilshire Grand Caterers
West Orange, NJ



President's Message

We are honored to celebrate education on this special day by recognizing the achievements of such distinguished alumni as **Hannah August**, *Class of 2001*, **The Honorable Governor Chris Christie**, *Class of 1980*, **Nikki M. James**, *Class of 1999*, **Ronnie Konner**, *Class of 1966* and *LEAD Awards* recipients **John Hopton** and **Dr. Barbara Tamburro**. Each of them will share with us the 'stories' of their experiences in the Livingston Public Schools as well as their past and current achievements.

With the Hall of Fame events as a vehicle, these 'stories' celebrate accomplishment. They generate awareness and illustrate to our current students and Township citizens examples of how a strong foundational public education when paired with interest-driven passion can bring personal success and create the opportunity to give back to family, school and to the local and global communities. Through the sharing of 'stories', students learn not only about the history of their schools and those who preceded them, but they learn about themselves. Hearing from alumni and past educators offers insights and interest in traditions and values, universal life experiences and the consideration of new ideas. Our honorees serve as models for how seeking opportunities to better ones-self through education can in-turn lift others and strengthen an entire community.

Today we rejoice in the past and present with hopes and dreams for tomorrow. It is our vision that the examples set by our honorees will inspire educators and parents alike to create encouraging 'stories' both inside and outside the classroom today to make our students extraordinary tomorrow; that we as citizens will be generous in our contributions of thought, of time, of caring and of donation that will make our Livingston Public Schools extraordinary tomorrow; and that together with our Township officials and business leadership, we will collaborate as partners in the creation of new ideas to connect education in meaningful ways today that will benefit the entire community, continue the recognition of Livingston as exceptional and lay the groundwork for an extraordinary tomorrow.

Join LEF and share *your* ideas so that new 'stories' can be heard every year ensuring the excellence of all Livingston Public Schools, our students, our families and our community. Together we can build an extraordinary tomorrow!

Respectfully,

Heidi Cislo

“Building upon a foundation of excellence.”

Program

Buffet Dinner and Dessert

3:30pm to 7:00pm ~ Cash Bar

Welcome and Special Presentation

Emcee Mark Stern

Principal, Livingston High

Hall of Fame Committee

LHS Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

Hannah August, Class of 2001

Governor Chris Christie, Class of 1980

Nikki M. James, Class of 1999

Ronnie Konner, Class of 1966

LEAD Award Recipients

John Hopton

Dr. Barbara Tamburro

Closing Remarks

Heidi Cislo, President

Livingston Education Foundation

Music provided by members of the LHS String Orchestra.

About Our 2013 LHS Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

Hannah August, *Class of 2001*



Hannah has served as Press Secretary to First Lady Michelle Obama since May 2011. Previously, she served as Press Secretary to Attorney General Eric Holder, acting as spokeswoman for press communications in high profile cases. In 2008, she was the Deputy Communications Director for a Senatorial Campaign

Committee and served as Deputy Press Secretary for Senator Bob Menendez. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2005 with a major of International Relations.

Nikki M James, *Class of 1999*



Nikki is an award-winning actress on OFF-BROADWAY, BROADWAY and television. She performed in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* while attending NYU, played in *House of Flowers* and was in the original casts for *All Shook Up* and *Bernarda Alba*. She played Dorothy in the production of *The Wiz* for which she won the 2006 *Craig Noel Award for Theatrical Excellence*.

She appeared in *Walmartopia*. In 2008, she played Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* and starred opposite Christopher Plummer as Cleopatra in *Caesar and Cleopatra* at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. She continues to perform in and won the 2011 TONY Award for *Featured Actress in a Musical* for *Book of Mormon*. Her television credits included Guest Leads on *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, *The Jury*, *Third Watch* and *30Rock*. She worked with Spike Lee on a PSA for the United Negro College Fund. Soon to be released are the film version of the musical "Lucky Stiff" in which she will star alongside Jason Alexander and "The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby" starring James McAvoy and Jessica Chastain.

Governor Chris Christie, *Class of 1980*



Governor Christie attended the University of Delaware and Seton Hall University School of Law and then joined a Cranford law firm where he was soon named a partner. He was elected a Freeholder in Morris County, and served as Director of the Board in 1997. He was named U.S. Attorney of New Jersey in 2002. As the chief federal law enforcement officer in New Jersey, he earned praise and

drew national attention for his efforts in battling political corruption, corporate crime, human trafficking, gangs, terrorism and polluters. He led a widely acclaimed charge against public corruption. One of his finest moments was when he led the team that thwarted terrorists' plans to attack our military men and women at Fort Dix. He left the U.S. Attorney's office on December 1, 2008 and was sworn in as New Jersey's 55th Governor on January 19, 2010.

Ronnie Konner, *Class of 1966*



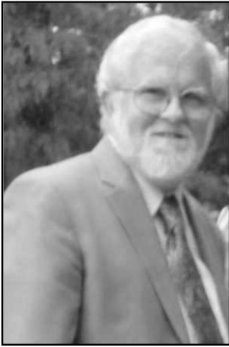
Senora Konner is a Spanish teacher at Riker Hill and Burnet Hill Elementary Schools in Grades K-5. Her school and community service experience is broad. Her LPS school related work includes, Livingston P-T Council, as a founder of LEF, the LPS Strategic Planning Committee and Technology Committee, the Multicultural Committees at Riker Hill,

Burnet Hill and Hillside and several positions on H.S.A.'s. She was a member of and served as President and Vice President of the Livingston Board of Education. She served on the Montclair State University Network for Educational Renewal – Geraldine R. Dodge Grant. She has collaborated with the Intercambio Escolar – Sister School Exchange Riker Hill and Burnet Hill Schools with Escuela Primaria Gregorio Cruz y Rodriguez, San Jose del Cabo, Mexico since 2001 and continues to serve on the NCJW since 1975.

About Our 2013 LEAD Award Recipients

(Leadership in Educational Achievement and Dedication)

John Hopton



Mr. Hopton came to the Livingston Public Schools (LPS) in 1983 and served for the next seven years as K-12 Director of Computer Education and K-12 Supervisor of Instructional Computing. He then served as Principal of Burnet Hill Elementary School and of Mt. Pleasant Elementary School. His choice to pursue an educational career was based on the simple realization that very little in life is more important than learning to learn. It is his belief that the level of change in our society mandates

an evolving learner capable of coping with change, and taking informed action. Over the years his passion was fueled by studying how people learn best, and developing strategies for helping them on that journey. His was the voice that offered the word 'empowerment' to the LPS mission statement, "*Empowering all to learn, create, contribute and grow*".

Dr. Barbara Tamburro



In 1979, there were four string players enrolled in the LHS orchestra and forty additional string players disbursed throughout the school district. Within ten years, the number rose to 450. Dr. Tamburro served as a Strings Teacher and Orchestral Conductor grades 4-12 from 1979-2010. During her tenure she was an Elementary Choral Conductor and taught General Music. She went on to establish the Townwide Elementary Orchestra. She authored *The Corda Collection* as well as *Great Music for String, Orchestra*,

chaired the North Jersey Region Orchestra Auditions, was a clinician for the American String Teachers Association and the Music Educators National Conference, was a two time recipient of the *Women's Achievement in Education Award* from Douglass College, founded the NJ/ASTA Annual Symposium (American String Teachers Association) and chaired the ASTA State Solo Festival. She served as conductor for NJ All State Intermediate Orchestra 2008.

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