

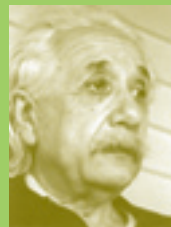
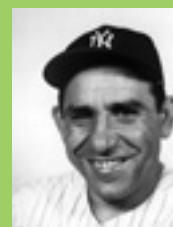
Review

FEBRUARY 2007

A TEACHABLE MOMENT:

**Your students can
vote for the N.J. Hall
of Fame's first class
of inductees.**

Ballot inside!



Celebrate some remarkable New Jerseyans with your students

The New Jersey Hall of Fame ballot is an excellent opportunity to teach about our most accomplished residents

By Don Jay Smith

This month, New Jerseyans will select the inaugural class of inductees for the New Jersey Hall of Fame. The balloting provides teachers with a great opportunity to discuss our most famous and accomplished residents with their students.

Signed into law in 2005, the New Jersey Hall of Fame currently is a virtual museum (www.njhalloffame.com) launched to honor New Jerseyans who have made significant contributions to society. A 50,000 square foot state-of-the-art museum is being planned that will immortalize New Jersey legends and the founders who help to build it. The museum will feature interactive displays, a movie theater, Hall of Fame plaques, and wax figures of Hall of Fame inductees, among other exhibits.

The New Jersey Hall of fame is a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity and is overseen by a Board of Commissioners. NJEA serves as a charter member of the Hall of Fame Voting Academy and participated in the selection of this year's nominees for induction.

Five nominees in each of five categories—Historical, Enterprise, Arts and Entertainment, Sports and General—were announced in December. This month, residents has been invited to vote for their top choices, either online or by paper ballot, available in many diners, supermarkets and convenience stores around the state. For your convenience, a ballot has been bound into this issue of the *NJEA Review*.

How to incorporate the ballot into your classroom

Even if your students have already voted, the balloting presents any number of teachable moments in many classrooms. Perhaps the easiest to incorporate are those nominated in the Historical Category. Thomas Edison (West Orange) and Albert Einstein (who spent three decades in Princeton) are often discussed in science and math classes. But don't

overlook Camden's Walt Whitman in a high school literature course or the opportunity to alert your students to the connection of President Woodrow Wilson to New Jersey (he was our governor). Red Cross founder Clara Barton is a favorite in elementary schools and youngsters often are intrigued that she is from New Jersey.

The celebrity nominees in the Arts and Entertainment Category are sure to

generate interest in your classroom. What better language lesson is there than the clever "Whose on First" routine by Bud Abbott (from Asbury Park) and Lou Costello (a favorite son of Paterson)? Or how about integrating Meryl Streep's great films "The French Lieutenant's Woman" or "Sophie's Choice" into a literature class?

Frank Sinatra, who took an early lead in the voting, is often associated with the Great American Songbook in music classes, but there is no reason that some of Bruce Springsteen's works wouldn't find their way into the classroom. Why not combine John Steinbeck and Springsteen in a lesson on the working poor in American literature?

The nominees for Sports are much more than just jocks who have excelled on the playing field. Is there a more fascinating role model than Bill Bradley—three-time All-American basketball player for Princeton University, star professional basketball player and member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, two-term U.S. Senator from New Jersey and one-time Presidential candidate? Paterson's Larry Doby was only the second African American to play Major League Baseball and the first in the American League. His story is an inspiration to young people of all ages, as is the life of Althea Gibson whose journey from the dangerous streets of Harlem to the courts of Wimbledon paved the way for the likes of Tiger Woods and Serena Williams today.

At first glance, most of the Enterprise candidates would seem to be more appropriate for high school classrooms, but Buzz Aldrin, for example, is a hero to all of us. He had "the right stuff" to become an astronaut and was one of the first two

people to walk on the moon. Growing up in Montclair, Aldrin went to West Point and graduated third in his class. He went on to become a U.S. Air Force fighter pilot, flying 66 combat missions in the Korean War. He later earned a doctorate in astronautics before being selected by NASA as one of the early astronauts. Since retiring from NASA, Aldrin has become a successful entrepreneur, earning a patent for his design of a permanent space station and coming up with the reusable liquid flyback rocket booster. He has written two best-selling novels and now advocates for space tourism.

The other Enterprise nominees offer fascinating stories as well, but Mary Roebling is the one whose pioneering role as a woman in the financial services industry inspires many. A brilliant leader, Roebling was the first woman to become president of a major commercial bank and the first woman governor of the American Stock Exchange. A champion of women's

rights, Roebling was active in numerous women's organizations and helped to found the Women's Bank, the nation's first chartered bank established exclusively by women.

If you look at the General Category, you will find many classroom opportunities, not the least of which would be the magnificent novels of retired Princeton professor, Toni Morrison. Morrison has won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Nobel Prize for Literature. Several of her works have found their way onto academic reading lists. So have the works of F. Scott Fitzgerald, who spent his teenage years in Hackensack before going to Princeton University.

Harriet Tubman worked in Cape May to raise money for the Underground Railroad and is an integral part of the fourth-grade social studies curriculum. It is also interesting for elementary school children to learn about General Norman

Schwarzkopf, one of the most distinguished military leaders of the 20th century, who grew up in Trenton.

Another option is to use the entire ballot as a classroom activity. Have your students study the nominees and debate who the class should select. While they make the case for their selections they will hone their verbal skills, learn about some great Americans and increase their knowledge of New Jersey history. You can submit one ballot on behalf of the class or have each student vote online.

The inaugural class of nominees for the New Jersey Hall of Fame are remarkable individuals who serve as role models and promote learning, inspiration and even hope. Get your students thinking and talking about the nominees and get them to vote. Together we can all celebrate the Garden State and the remarkable people who have made it great. 🇺🇸

Don Jay Smith of LKS Associates handles publicity for the New Jersey Hall of Fame.

New Jersey Hall of Fame 2007 nominees

HISTORICAL

Thomas Edison (Newark; Menlo Park; West Orange) Considered the most prolific inventor in history.

Albert Einstein (Princeton) Regarded as the most important scientist of the 20th century; awarded the 1921 Nobel Prize for Physics.

Woodrow Wilson (Princeton) The 28th president of the United States as well as governor of the State of New Jersey.

Walt Whitman (Camden) Considered by many to be the most influential poet in U.S. history.

Clara Barton (Bordentown)) Created New Jersey's first free public school and founded the American Red Cross.

ENTERPRISE

Buzz Aldrin (Montclair) One of the earliest astronauts and one of the first to walk on the moon.

David Sarnoff (Princeton; Camden) Considered the father of the modern broadcast era, both radio and television.

Mary G. Roebling (Trenton) A pioneer for women's rights, becoming the first woman president of a major commercial bank.

Robert Wood Johnson II (New Brunswick; Highland Park; Raritan) President and chairman of Johnson & Johnson; created the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Malcolm Forbes (Far Hills) Famous publisher of *Forbes Magazine* and noted philanthropist.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Jerry Lewis (Newark) Respected actor, comedian, film producer, writer, film director and philanthropist.

Frank Sinatra (Hoboken) One of New Jersey's best known celebrities; considered by many as the finest male popular song vocalist of all time.

Bruce Springsteen (Freehold; Asbury Park) Multiple Grammy Award winning singer/songwriter/guitarist; Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee.

Meryl Streep (Bedminster) Considered by many to be the greatest living film actress; more Academy Award nominations than anyone else.

Bud Abbott (Asbury Park) & **Lou Costello** (Paterson) Famed comedy duo whose routines transcended the vaudeville stage into radio and television.

SPORTS

Yogi Berra (Montclair) Hall of Fame New York Yankee; played on 10 World Championship teams.

Bill Bradley (Princeton) Three-time All-American basketball player, NBA star and U.S. Senator.

Larry Doby (Paterson) Second African-American Major League Baseball player and first in the American League.

Althea Gibson (East Orange) First African-American to win a Grand Slam tennis event when she captured French Open in 1956.

Vince Lombardi (Englewood) Coached the Green Bay Packers to five NFL titles and two Super Bowl crowns.

GENERAL

William J. Brennan (Newark). Highly respected jurist; U.S. Supreme Court Justice from 1956-1990.

Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, Jr. (Trenton) One of the most distinguished military leaders of the 20th century.

F. Scott Fitzgerald (Hackensack; Princeton) Regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century.

Toni Morrison (Princeton) Popular and highly respected author; awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

Harriet Tubman (Cape May) One of the great figures involved with the Underground Railroad during the time of slavery.

The top vote getter in each category will be inducted into the first class of the New Jersey Hall of Fame in the fall of 2007. Winners will be announced in the spring of 2007. The Board of Commissioners of the Hall of Fame reserves the right to induct additional nominees into the Hall of Fame at that time.