

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Melinda (Mindy) Rodabaugh Kinsey, Carolina Louise DeLuca and Josephine DeLuca Del Vero. All three members of the Brighton Area Historical Society were recognized for their contributions to the Brighton area. They were inducted into the Brighton Area Women’s History Roll of Honor at a recent ceremony held at the Brighton District Library. They were recognized along with 7 other women from the Brighton area. The first Brighton area celebration of women’s accomplishments took place in March of 2002. Their mission and purpose is as follows.

Mission: To honor and celebrate the diverse accomplishments of women of the greater Brighton area.

Purpose: To create an awareness in the general public of women’s contributions and steadfastness as a group inside and outside the home...

To recognize individual women of the greater Brighton area who have made a remarkable or unique contribution or have achieved an accomplishment in the greater Brighton community, the state of Michigan, the nation, or the world.

Melinda Rodabaugh Kinsey has been a leader with the Brighton Area Historical Society since 2002, serving on the Board of Directors, Treasurer from 2002-2013, and currently as secretary. She archives documents on a weekly basis to preserve Brighton’s history. At the 2017 City of Brighton 150th year celebration, Mindy planned, organized and oversaw the creation of 14 period outfits, historical displays, and events. Since 2008, she has been President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Friends of the Brighton District Library (FBDL) Board of Directors, while organizing the semi-annual sales of over 18,000 books. Mindy has served as an Election clerk for Brighton Township since 2017 and participates as Secretary and Scrapbook Chair of the Pleasant Valley Social Club, a 91-year-old tradition of Brighton Township.

Carolina Louise DeLuca graduated from BHS in 1958, from Marygrove College with a Bachelor’s degree in Speech/Drama/Theatre and English, and completed a 1967 Master’s degree in Oral Interpretation from The University of Michigan. Her family owned DeLuca’s Sweet Shop at 128 W. Main Street. Carolina chaired the 1967 Bicentennial Spectacular Committee for the re-enactment of City of Brighton History. After beginning as a 1963 sixth-grade teacher at Miller Elementary School, Carolina became an English and Drama teacher in Lapeer, Michigan. Her 30-year teaching career included 7-years as English Department Chair and 14-years as Lapeer Education Association Treasurer, as well as directing numerous plays, productions, and musicals.

Josephine DeLuca Del Vero graduated from BHS in 1960, and earned both Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from The University of Michigan. Hired in 1968 as a Hartland Schools high school counselor, Jo’s 40+ year career in the district included initiating the 1984 Legacy Alternative Education program that has grown into a full high-school for students who do not flourish in a traditional setting. The Jo Del Vero Award is presented each June to a graduating senior demonstrating success in the face of adversity. Jo began the Student Assistance Program (SAP) for students suffering life issues through support groups, prevention, and training. She was appointed and served on the Livingston County Mental Health Board from 1984-1994, and as a founder in the early 1990s of the Livingston Child Abuse and Neglect Network. Her work on the by-laws committee led to the present day Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Council.

(Compiled by Carole Damon from material located on the Brighton Area Women’s History Roll of Honor website. To learn about these and many others in Brighton who have made a lasting impact, please visit brightonlibrary.info/roll_of_honor/)