

NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER

HALL OF FAME

2020 INDUCTION CEREMONY

Friday, February 7, 2020
Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel





NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER HALL OF FAME

The Hall of Fame honors newspaper industry heroes whose talent, hard work and exceptional accomplishments are an inspiration to all journalists in our six-state region.

Thank you for joining us as we honor our 2020 New England Newspaper Hall of Fame inductees.

- ❖ John Dennis Harrigan, Northern New Hampshire
- ❖ Julia Wells, Vineyard Gazette
- ❖ Carol J. Young, The Providence Journal



John Dennis Harrigan Coos County Democrat

John Dennis Harrigan has been an important part of New Hampshire journalism and newspapering, both daily and weekly, for more than a half century and counting. He is the quintessential newsman.

Harrigan was hired as a darkroom trainee at the Nashua Telegraph in 1968 and that soon led to news reporting on a variety of beats and his first regular column. It was the beginning of a more than a half-century illustrious career as a statewide reporter, outdoor writer and North Country newspaper owner. He's done it all in various media, often appearing on public television and radio, but most of his world has revolved around newspapers. He currently writes a regular column "North Country Notebook" for the Salmon Press newspapers, covering the northern two-thirds of New Hampshire from Concord to Canada and parts of Maine and Vermont. The column is also published in his daughter Karen's paper in Colebrook, the News and Sentinel (established in 1870).

Harrigan is probably best known for his column, "Woods, Water & Wildlife," in the New Hampshire Sunday News. He continued writing the column long after he left the paper's employ – for a 37-year run, one of the longest-running columns in the state.

As publisher of the Coos County Democrat, he founded the weekly direct-mail tabloid, the Northern Beacon. He also purchased and ran a four-unit Goss press producing his newspaper and the newspaper long published by his father, the late Judge Fred Harrigan.

Harrigan's columns, editorials, and feature writing have regularly presented a view of New Hampshire nature and wildlife to a statewide, often suburban readership that would otherwise be lacking in that perspective.

He left a secure, high-paying Sunday News reporting slot to return to his North Country homeland, buying the Coos County Democrat and later assuming ownership of his family's News and Sentinel. With both publications, he continued to provide an independent voice as well as provide jobs. He later sold the Democrat to Salmon Press and the News and Sentinel to his daughter, Karen Harrigan Ladd.

As much as he learned from his father, he has passed on to his daughter Karen in setting and maintaining a high standard in the ownership and operation of the News and Sentinel.

His informed, respectful, and often humorous columns have introduced and educated generations of readers to New Hampshire's outdoor vistas and wildlife.



Carol J. Young The Providence Journal

During 45 years at The Providence Journal, Carol rose from small-town bureau reporter to statewide education reporter, and eventually to deputy executive editor - second in charge of the news department. She was a leader of the Providence Newspaper Guild during a time of labor strife, before becoming the first woman to join the Journal's management team in 1979.

A native of rural New York and a graduate of Syracuse University, Carol came to Rhode Island to work for The Journal in 1965 and never left. At the time, she was one of only three women on the news staff. Starting in the Warren bureau, she joined the city staff in 1967. Over the next two years she was assigned first to cover Providence schools, and then to the statewide education beat. Education coverage would remain her passion for the remainder of her career as a reporter and an editor.

In 1973, Carol was a leading figure in a 13-day strike by the Providence Newspaper Guild. The next year, in an attempt to soothe some of the bitter feelings remaining from the strike, Carol and others organized the first Guild Follies, a satirical review of news and newsmakers that remained an annual tradition every year through 2018.

Carol joined the management ranks in 1979, as assistant city editor. From there she was promoted to state editor, metropolitan managing editor and deputy executive editor. She was a guiding force behind the newspaper's intern program, serving as a mentor for many who would go on to careers at The Journal and at other publications around the nation.

"Just her influence in the newsroom has impacted hundreds of people," former Journal publisher Howard G. Sutton said in 2010, when Carol announced her retirement. "That's quite a legacy."

Since retirement, Carol has remained extremely active in the Rhode Island community. She is chairwoman of the board of directors at Inspiring Minds, which provides tutors and mentors for students in the Providence public schools. She is also a member of the advisory council to the president of the University of Rhode Island; and an active volunteer with Leadership Rhode Island, which named her one of the state's "inspiring leaders" in 2018.

Carol remains a fierce advocate and defender of the free press, and one of the best ambassadors that we could have in the community.



Julia Wells Vineyard Gazette

Julia Wells has devoted her entire professional career to covering her Island community. After moving to Martha's Vineyard fresh out of Wells College, she joined the New Bedford Standard Times' two-person bureau in 1973, then worked for the Cape Cod Times when that newspaper eclipsed the Standard Times as the Vineyard's preferred mainland paper. In 1984, she joined the Gazette, where she served as senior reporter for many years before being named editor in 2004.

Over more than four decades, Julia has chronicled the Vineyard's evolution from a quiet backwater where artists and writers mixed easily with farmers and fishermen to an elite resort and vacation getaway for Presidents Clinton and Obama. She covered the devastating effects of Hurricane Bob; a fire that nearly destroyed the quaint fishing village of Menemsha; a series of high stakes battles pitting developers against conservationists; ongoing issues involving the Steamship Authority, the ferry service that links the Island to the mainland; and countless town meetings, community forums and cultural events.

Her affection for the Island and her deep knowledge and respect for both its ecology and its history are evident throughout the newspaper. You'll see her stamp on a story that puts a current event in context with things that happened years ago, an editorial on an endangered landscape, an essay about the natural world or an intimate portrait of someone who has shaped the Vineyard, whether a literary giant or an unheralded town worker.

The Vineyard Gazette has long considered itself a "teaching newspaper," offering summer interns and young reporters a rigorous course in the basics of journalism and encouraging them to write with style and a sense of place. Julia has embraced that role, working closely with editors, reporters and columnists to ensure their copy is well written, accurate, and complete. Many of her "graduates" have gone on to impressive careers at The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and other prominent news organizations.

She has also helped make fine photography a hallmark of the newspaper, working with the art director to give prominent space to stunning black-and-white images in the print newspaper and showcasing video and still photography in color online.

A fearless reporter, graceful writer and skillful editor, Julia is also a demanding leader who holds herself as much as her staff to the highest standards. Night or day, when news breaks on the Vineyard, you can be sure that Julia will be directing coverage and, if circumstances require, making the phone calls, taking the pictures, filing the story online and teasing it on social media.

A guardian of the public's right to know and a mentor to many young journalists, Julia Wells is a shining example of a consummate news professional.



Welcome

to the

**NEW ENGLAND
NEWSPAPER HALL OF FAME**

*and thank you
for leading
and inspiring journalists
around the region!*

HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

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Dickey Drysdale, *The Herald of Randolph*

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HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

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- William Wasserman, *North Shore Weeklies*
- Peter Watson, *Gloucester Daily Times*
- Alan White, *Eagle -Tribune*
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- John Widdison, *Worcester Gazette*
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