

2008 Honorees

Irene Etkin Goldman – Advocate for Human Rights

Irene Etkin Goldman has literally saved lives as a prominent peace and human rights advocate. She currently serves as chair of the Coalition for Peace Action (CFPA) based in Princeton and has been active with this organization for more than 17 years. The largest peace organization in New Jersey, the Coalition is a grassroots citizens' organization working in support of three goals: global abolition of nuclear weapons, a peace economy, and a halt to weapons trafficking at home and abroad. Ms. Goldman assisted the Russian Women's Club Transfiguration, the first Russian NGO (non-governmental organization) for women's rights, to gain international standing. She is vice president of the Nakashima Foundation for Peace and oversees the placement around the world of peace tables created by the late artist George Nakashima. She was instrumental in the placement of the Peace Table in Russia. The late Dean of Douglass College, Margery Somers Foster, said in 1993 "There is no other woman in this country who exceeds Irene in service to the development of freedom and rights for women in Russia."

Donna Roman-Hernandez – Advocate for Domestic Violence Victims

Donna Roman-Hernandez is a recognized domestic violence expert, a community leader and a resource for victims of domestic violence by providing free counseling, safe house assistance and Spanish-to-English interpretation. Donna devotes countless hours advocating for the rights of domestic violence victims. She has trained over one thousand New Jersey law enforcement officers on investigating and prosecuting domestic violence cases. She lectures students about bullying, sexual predators and the perils of dating and sexual/domestic violence. Donna helped to organize and rain the West Essex New Jersey Domestic Violence Response Team which is comprised of volunteers that provide networking and advocacy for victims. As a survivor herself, Donna directed, produced and wrote a documentary-memoir entitled "The Ultimate Betrayal: A survivor's Journey" which is her personal story that chronicles her family's 40-year secret of physical and emotional abuse which Donna and her mother endured. Donna's domestic violence intervention skills and lectures have saved countless victims from further abuse and prevented young adults from entering into dangerous relationships.

Major Wendy Galloway – Role Model for Women in Law Enforcement

Wendy Galloway is the first African American woman to hold the rank of Major in the New Jersey State Police and the first woman to serve as State Police spokesperson. She has been an enlisted member of the Division of State Police since July 1982 and is currently assigned to the Superintendent's Command Staff as the Commanding Officer for Community Affairs. Her command includes the Public Information Office, the recruiting and Equal Employment Opportunity Bureau and the Office of Employee and Organizational Development. An active member of the New Jersey Women in Law Enforcement Association and Vice President of the New Jersey Council of Boy Scouts of America, she is also a life-time member of Girl Scouts USA and serves on the Board of Directors for Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore and the advisory Board of the New Jersey Asian American Law Enforcement Advisory Committee. State Police Superintendent Colonel Joseph Fuentes stated that Major Galloway's nomination "is a testament to her serving as a trailblazer and role model for women in the law enforcement profession."

Veronice Horne – Advocate for the Homeless

Having been destitute for ten years, the life Veronice Horne has led since coming out of homelessness and the negative behaviors often associated with that lifestyle is a model of commitment, service and inspiration. When her life stabilized into normalcy, Veronice worked tirelessly to give back and help those in need, just as she had been helped, by providing warm food, shoes and clothing, all from the

trunk of her car. Ten years ago, without any outside support, she and her husband established In the Hands of a Woman Ministry in Newark to offer a "hand-up" rather than a "hand-out", providing homeless women with counseling, skills development and employment placement as well as educational opportunities and personal assistance with the basic necessities of daily life. A recent addition to the Ministry is a prevention program for teenage girls, working to develop positive attitudes and behaviors. Her goal today is to build a Hand Up Home for Women, a refuge for homeless women, providing a secure environment that will enable the development of the skills necessary to build successful futures.

Carmen Twillie Ambar – Leader of Women

Ninth Dean of Douglass College and the youngest Dean appointed to lead the largest women's public institution of higher learning, Carmen Twillie Ambar's vision has enabled students at Douglass to experience global leadership through living-learning communities. Under her leadership and with her recognition of women's excellence in non-traditional fields, there has been an expansion of the Douglass Project for Women in Math, Science, Engineering and Technology, an award-winning program dedicated to supporting undergraduate women and high school students interested in these fields. Dean Ambar has been recognized as the valiant leader in the "Save Douglass College" campaign, focusing on the relevance of women's education and leadership in today's society. Her steadfast resolve in the face of tremendous pressure at Rutgers University, her vision and commitment to women's education and Douglass College, exhibited leadership and achievement at the highest level. A college dean, an attorney and the mother of triplets, Carmen Twillie Ambar approaches responsibility with grace, strength and purpose; she is a role model for Douglass students and an inspiration for all who know her.