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Hunterdon Central Hall of Fame to induct educators Harry and Reva Kazman, Jennifer Spieker and artist Timothy Martin

By Renée Kiriluk-Hill | For NJ.com
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RARITAN TWP. — Three retired educators and a graduate who has found success as an artist will be honored in the springtime as inductees to the Hunterdon Central Foundation Hall of Fame.

Tickets for the Hall of Fame dinner on March 24 go on sale in January. A program book will be available for those who would like to advertise or offer congratulatory messages.

Reva and Harry Kazman taught theater at the school and directed student productions. Harry started working at Central in 1968 and retired after 33 years. His wife retired two years ago after a 27-year career at the high school. They lived for many years in Raritan Township but moved after her retirement to Doylestown, Pa.

Jennifer Spieker of New Hope was a gym teacher and then vice principal who also coached girls gymnastics and basketball and officiated for several sports during her 37 years at the school.

Timothy Martin of Delaware Township graduated from Hunterdon Central in 1967 and taught art at East Amwell School in the 1970s. In the late 1970s he created the first “furniture” painting for which he’s become known internationally.

Foundation President Julie Luster said, “The purpose of the ... Hall of Fame is to recognize, honor and provide an enduring memorial for those persons whose outstanding contributions have enriched our community and brought honor to the school. The recognition of these individuals and their significant contributions to society will serve to provide models for future generations of Central students to emulate.”

Harry Kazman started his career in theater when a high school director in Freehold needed dancers for a performance of “Brigadoon” and met his wife through theater work at that school. He was also the force behind the popular “Trial of the Century” play, re-enacting the trial of Bruno Hauptmann, who was convicted of the 1932 kidnapping of the 20-month-old son of famed aviator Charles Lindbergh. He wrote the play and directed it for 20 years, through 2010.

Mrs. Kazman started her career at North Hunterdon High School, took time off to raise the couple’s two children, then resumed teaching at Central. She retired in 2009 after choosing

“Beauty and the Beast” as the last musical she would direct at Central. It had a cast of 79, plus stage crew and orchestra.

In addition to the large-cast spring musicals, the Kazmans produced plays, cabarets and competition pieces that garnered awards.

As a girls basketball coach, Spieker compiled a 415-162 record, and is a state “Hall of Fame” honoree. During 26 years as a gymnastics coach at Central she netted a 268-56-3 dual meet record and led the Devils to Mid-State Conference championships from 1983 through 1987 and a Skyland Conference crown in 1990. She was honored as coach of the year in both sports and was also an official in girls field hockey, basketball and lacrosse.

Spieker was a class vice principal for 21 years. She retired in 2009 after speaking at the graduation of her final class of 698 students. Beyond her school and sports accolades, she participated in developing safety initiatives at the high school.

Martin’s paintings often center on a piece of furniture or a musical instrument, but they’re made of things such as flowers, seashells, animals and leaves, the furniture placed in natural settings on the canvas. In 1993 Tiffany & Co. selected his works for display in the windows of its flagship store on Manhattan’s Fifth Avenue. In 2010 his work appeared in the windows of the flagship Hermes fashion house in Paris.

Among his other notable public projects has been a commissioned painting of a piano for Steinway & Sons, the first time the famous piano makers had commissioned artwork in about 70 years. While primarily a painter, he sculpts, too, and in 1980 he was hired to produce a sculpture for the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. It was presented to New York City Mayor Edward Koch during a ceremony that helped kick-off the games

The all-volunteer Hunterdon Central Foundation raises money to support the high school. It has a Teacher of the Year program and has awarded teacher grants and paid for professional development for staff, computers and software for needy students and computer notebooks for class use.

For more about the Hall of Fame, tickets or the program book, contact Luster at julieautumn@yahoo.com or 908-237-8181.