

2010 Ottawa Hills Hall of Fame Inductees



Joe Ann Cousino

A long time Ottawa Hills resident, and world renowned sculptor, Joe Ann's work has beautified and enriched many public facilities, including Toledo Botanical Garden, The Toledo Hospital, the University of Toledo's Medical College, and Ottawa Hills High School.

Her free-standing bronzes and wall reliefs are installed in libraries, banks, churches, hospitals and parks, as well as in corporate and private collections throughout the United States and Europe. Joe Ann's many sculptures on permanent display in the Toledo area include "Women with Birds" at Toledo Botanical Garden; "Outreach" and "Joy of Generations" at the medical college; and "Stations of the Cross" at Christ the Kind church. She also has a life size bronze portrait, "Lillian Gish, Film Star," in the Lillian Gish Theater at Bowling Green State University.

In 2000, Joe Ann inspired Ottawa Hills High School art students, while serving as sculptor-in-residence. That endeavor resulted in "Student Reading," a bronze figure with books that sits on a pedestal in the Courtyard at the high school.

Joe Ann has shown in countless juried and invitational regional, national and international exhibitions, and has won awards at all levels. She taught graduate level workshops, and was a guest sculptor at UCLA in Berkeley, California. She continued teaching regularly for adults at the Toledo Museum of Art until her death in 2007.

Besides her wonderful artistic skills, Joe Ann was fluent in six languages and traveled the world visiting nearly one hundred countries in her lifetime.



Edith Franklin

In Toledo, Ohio, Edith Franklin is sometimes called "La Grande Dame of the Arts" and "The Godmother of Ceramics." She is a native Toledoan, born in 1922, and a resident of Ottawa Hills since 1952. Both of her children attended and graduated from Ottawa Hills Schools.

Edith Franklin attended Ohio State University from 1940-1942 and took classes at the Boston Museum of Fine Art in 1943 & 44, where she discovered she enjoys working with clay. She studied at The Toledo Museum of Art School of Design over the course of forty years and received a B.A. degree in Pottery from the University of Toledo.

As a ceramic artist, she studied under the direction of Harvey Littleton, when he taught at The Toledo Museum of Art. Harvey Littleton is considered to be the founder of the modern American Studio Glass Movement. With his guidance, she and fellow Hall of Fame honoree, Joe Ann Cousino, founded the Toledo Potter's Guild, in 1951.

Recognized for her commissioned commemorative pieces, Franklin's functional ceramic vessels often carry printed messages. Her artwork has been featured in solo exhibitions at the Toledo Museum of Art, at the Columbus Museum of Art, Bowling Green State University and the University of Toledo, and in many midwestern group exhibitions.

In 1987 she was hired by Toledo benefactor Virginia Secor Stranahan to teach at her Perrysburg estate, which later became *The 577 Foundation*. There, Edith set up the Pottery Studio and for ten years taught adult ceramics classes.

Notable among her numerous exhibition and recognition awards are the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Ohio Designer Craftsmen in 1983 and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Toledo Federation of Art Societies, in 1999. She is currently an Honorary Trustee of the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, serving on their board as an active member for several decades. Edith has been featured in several documentaries done by WGTE, including "The House That Glass Built" and "Legacy of Glass."



Steve Gordon

“There were ten laughs to a page instead of a laugh every ten pages” Dudley Moore, its star, said about the “witty, poignant, sweet and incredibly silly” film *Arthur* written and directed by 1957 Ottawa Hills High School graduate, Steve Gordon. In April, 2009, over twenty-six years following Steve’s untimely death in November of 1982, Ken Levine, Emmy winning TV comedy writer/director/producer writes, “Every couple of years I want to introduce or re-introduce you to Steve Gordon....He is still one of my inspirations, and whenever I begin writing a screenplay I always reread one of his. It’s called ARTHUR....Steve Gordon was a genius and continues to make me a better writer today.”

Steve Gordon was born in Chester, PA in 1938 and he and his brother, Mike, moved to Ottawa Hills in 1952 due to their parents deaths to be raised by their aunt and uncle, Jeanne and Joe Cohan. After graduating from Ottawa Hills in 1957, he went on to The Ohio State University where he graduated in 1961 majoring in history and political science.

Following college, Steve worked in advertising with agencies in San Francisco and New York becoming well known for his copywriting for which he won many awards. While working in New York he wrote plays scheduled for Broadway that never arrived until one comedy did, *Tough to Get Help*, directed by Rob Reiner. Although not a box office success, Reiner and Mel Brooks saw the writing talent and invited Gordon to Los Angeles to begin his writing career starting in television with episodes for *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, *Barney Miller* and *Chico and the Man*. He also created his own series, *The Practice*, starring Toledo’s own, Danny Thomas.

Steve then wrote and directed *Arthur* which was nominated and won several Academy Awards and also won the Golden Globe Award. As Levine writes, “Steve was finally on his way. The hottest comedy writer and director in Hollywood. And, then he died.” Although gone way too soon, Steve’s work still resonates throughout America and we applaud and recognize his life’s work tonight.



Jamie O’Hara

Singer-songwriter Jamie O'Hara was born August 12, 1950, in Toledo, Ohio. O'Hara, a talented athlete, was a star basketball, baseball and football player at Ottawa Hills High School. He went on to play football at Indiana University, with hopes of a career in the NFL, but after a career-ending injury, he took up the guitar, and discovered his true calling.

In 1975, he moved to Nashville, Tennessee, to pursue a career in music. Almost immediately, he was signed to a publishing contract, but spent five years working as everything from construction worker to chauffeur while writing in his off-time, before he began making his living as a professional songwriter. Over the years, he has received numerous awards, and several Grammy and CMA nominations. The 1986 Grammy for Best Country Song went to his "Grandpa, (Tell Me 'Bout the Good Old Days)".

In 1985, Jamie began co-writing with friend and fellow songwriter, Kieran Kane--a collaboration that led to their recording and performing together as "The O'Kanes". The O'Kanes were instrumental in bringing about the Alternative Country/Americana movement, which brought into prominence not only the O'Kanes, but a number of other innovative acts such as Dwight Yoakum, Patty Loveless, Randy Travis, Foster & Lloyd, Lyle Lovett and Mary Chapin Carpenter. The O'Kanes released three critically-acclaimed albums--packed with a number of hit songs, all written, produced and performed by the duo--before splitting up.

After the split, Jamie returned to solo songwriting, and his first solo album, "Rise Above It", on RCA, written entirely by O'Hara, was a commercial success. One of the songs included on that album was the poignant "50,000 Names", described by Emmylou Harris as "about the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, but . . . totally apolitical and non-judgemental, a recital of all the things people leave at the

wall." The song has gradually become something of an anthem for Vietnam Vets and their families. He followed up "Rise Above It" in 2001 with the self-penned "Beautiful Obsession", (which he co-produced with Brent Maher), a moody, vibe-y, solo album featuring poetic lyrics and melodies that range from seductive to deeply spiritual.

The list of artists who have recorded and had hits with his songs is impressive. Among them are Tim McGraw, Tammy Wynette, Josh Turner, Tanya Tucker, The Judds, Sara Evans, George Jones, Randy Travis, Don Williams, Tricia Yearwood, Lee Ann Womack, Pam Tillis, Shelby Lynn, Wynonna, Gary Allan, Emmylou Harris, and The Trio (Emmylou Harris, Dolly Parton, and Linda Ronstadt).

The Century Circle

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John Noble Richards

1922 Graduate of Scott High School, John Noble Richards went on to the University of Pennsylvania where he earned his bachelor's degree. He also received an honorary degree of Fine Arts from Bowling Green State University.

Throughout his more than fifty year career as an architect, John worked through the ranks of the profession and eventually gained national stature becoming President of the American Institute of Architects in 1958 and 1959.

Despite his architectural prowess, John's work as a water colorist was equally important for him, if not more enjoyable. He may be best remembered for his work displayed during his actress wife, Norma Richard's, frequent "Backyard Summer Theater" productions. These continued for twenty-seven years from the 1950s to the late 1970s in their Brookside home's terraced garden.

Besides his profession and his love for the arts, John gave back much of his precious time to his community culminating with his becoming Mayor of our village from 1966 to 1972. He was also a member of the Maumee Board of Education during the 1940s and he was named "Mr. Citizen" after being honored as the Toledo Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Young Man of the Year in 1939, President of the junior Chamber in 1938, President of the Chamber in 1961 and various other community positions. As a founding member of the Toledo Arts Commission, he supported public art with the creation of the 1% for Arts program, which set aside funds from new construction projects.

Richard's biggest contribution to the village and our region was his architecture. He became of draftsman for a prestigious firm that designed many Ottawa Hills homes. As he progressed in his career he continued to design many homes and institutional buildings. Among he and his firm's work includes the Village Municipal Courtroom, Edison Plaza, Stranahan Theatre, University Hall and the Ritter Planetarium at the University of Toledo, and the original Owens-Illinois world headquarters (now PNC Bank) at 405 Madison Avenue

John Noble Richards passed away in 1982 at the age of 78.