

2017 Inductees into the East Stroudsburg Area School District Meritorious Hall of Fame

Jill (Lesh) Brink

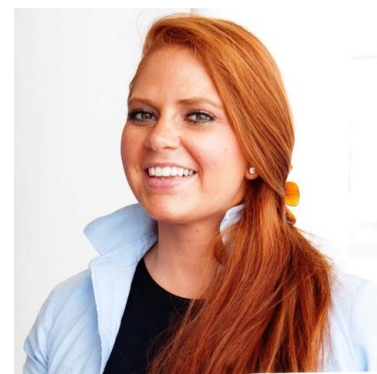


Jill is a graduate of East Stroudsburg Area High School, Class of 1980. At ESHS, she participated in chorus. She married David W. Brink in 1983 and they have two children, Nicole (Brink) Leeds and Matthew Brink, all of whom are graduates of the East Stroudsburg Area School District. In the community, Jill has served as council president of the former Grace Lutheran Church and as chairperson of its Christian Education Committee. She also served as Vice President of the former North Courtland Elementary School PTA (1997-1998). In 1996, Jill began volunteering at The Salvation Army and, in 1998, was hired as its Food Pantry Coordinator. At that time, the food pantry was a tiny room off of the gymnasium, with no amenities to handle perishable foods. Jill is now the Food Pantry/Volunteer Director and is responsible for all of The Salvation Army's feeding programs, leading the food

pantry's expansion into a 2,000 square foot building, which now has amenities to handle perishable foods. Under her leadership, the soup kitchen serves breakfast Monday through Friday and the food pantry has developed into a "choice pantry," where clients are able to pick items off the shelves (as opposed to bags being pre-packed for them). Under Jill's direction, The Salvation Army serves nearly 60,000 meals and provides 18,000 food baskets per year to the needy. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, food distribution is now a drive-through process, allowing clients to stay in their cars and their groceries are loaded for them. In addition, during the Christmas toy giveaway, the gymnasium is decorated to look like Santa's toy shop and parents are able to select gifts for their children (instead of toys being picked out by staff and pre-bagged for parents), with the number of toys provided each year approaching 25,000. Also, the age limit for the toy shop has been raised to serve more children, expanding from birth to age seventeen. A monthly food distribution for senior citizens called the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) has also been implemented and now serves over 30 seniors per month. In addition, Jill has spearheaded efforts that have secured thousands of dollars for food programming. Most recently, Jill has led the transition to incorporating healthy food/eating for all feeding programs. She also oversees a clothing distribution that provides approximately 1,100 clothing items per year to the needy. Jill is also responsible for supervising approximately 900 unduplicated volunteers at The Salvation Army. She also serves on the Leadership Committee for the newly formed Hunger Coalition of Monroe County. Jill is committed to serving the needs of her community and feels very blessed to be in her position, as she is able to give back to a community that she loves and is very proud to live within a community that is so giving!

Brittany Kross

Brittany is a graduate of East Stroudsburg High School South, Class of 2005. She participated in numerous clubs and activities as an ESHS student, including four years of softball, three years of field hockey, and one year of volleyball, serving as Captain and MVP of the first girls' volleyball team at South. She was also the recipient of the Arthur Perryman Award. While in high school, Brittany was actively involved in the Student Council and National Honor Society, and volunteered with the American Cancer Association, the Red Cross, and the local ASPCA. After graduation from South, she earned a B.A. degree in Strategic Communications from Temple University (2009). While at Temple, Brittany was one of two sophomores accepted into the Temple Rome study abroad program, spending six months living in Rome while studying Italian, art history, and photography. Throughout college, she volunteered for AmeriCorps, providing afterschool programs and mentorship for disadvantaged children in Philadelphia, and also worked for four years with the National Park Service at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Immediately following graduation from Temple, she was hired as a Special Agent with the Diplomatic Security Service (DSS), the law enforcement arm of the U.S. Department of State (Diplomatic Security Special Agents are sworn federal law enforcement officers who are responsible for the security of Foreign Service personnel, property, and sensitive information throughout the world). Brittany completed three months of Criminal Investigator training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia, followed by three months of specialized DSS training in Virginia and two months of specialized High Threat Tactical training. Her first assignment with DSS was to the protective detail of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, where she traveled to over 30 countries, coordinating with law enforcement organizations and foreign governments throughout the world to ensure that the Secretary of State was able to carry out American foreign policy safely and securely. At the conclusion of her two-year assignment with Secretary Clinton, she then spent the next two years working on a financial crimes task force, conducting criminal investigations into money laundering, passport and visa fraud, wire fraud, and alien smuggling. She was also deployed on a 60-day detail as an Investigator to the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg, Russia. In 2014, Brittany was presented the Public Service Award by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia for the successful prosecution of a criminal case. After resigning from the State Department, she took a job at KPMG in the Risk Consulting, Forensic Services practice. Currently Brittany lives in New York City and now works as a Global Investigations and Compliance consultant where she works with financial institutions to ensure compliance with anti-money laundering, terrorist financing and sanctions regulations. She also is a certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS). Brittany is also an avid supporter of breast cancer awareness and raises money each year to participate in the Avon 39 Walk to End Breast Cancer.



Melissa (Allen) Lear



Melissa is a graduate of East Stroudsburg Area High School, Class of 1985. While at ESHS, she participated in field hockey, prom and float committee, and the rifle squad for marching band, also serving as a photographer and writer for both the yearbook and the school newspaper, and as a tutor for the National Honor Society. She earned a varsity letter in field hockey, was recognized as a member of the National Honor Society, and received recognition in Who's Who Among American High School Students. In 1992, Melissa earned a Bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems from Centenary College in Hackettstown, New Jersey, and continued her education after moving to France, earning her Master's Degree in Business Administration in 1995. Then, she moved back to East Stroudsburg in the late 1990's, starting a business and raising two sons, Nicholas and Devin (both graduates of ESHS South). In November, 1995, Melissa and her mother Beverly Allen (also an East Stroudsburg Alumnus) started a business, *Beck 'N Call*, which has been committed to caring for the elderly at home (rather than in long-term care facilities and nursing homes) within the communities of both Monroe and Pike Counties. In 2002, Melissa and her mother added a second company, Allen Lear Home Care Associates, to provide skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy to older homebound individuals. In 2005, she also earned her degree as a Registered Nurse at Northampton Community College. Over the course of her career, she has represented the voice of our elderly population, our employees, and homecare agencies through regular participation and attendance at legislative events, trainings, and programs associated with state government. She has been a speaker and recognized leader for a variety of professional education programs including the Private Duty Boot Camp (Las Vegas, September 2003), National Association for Home Care (Salt Lake City, October 2002), and the Pennsylvania Homecare Association Private Duty Academy (Harrisburg, November 2001 and 2002). In 2010, Melissa testified at the Senate Hearing for a Special Committee on Aging to help increase awareness, on a state and federal level, regarding the impending workforce crisis, particularly as it relates to caring for older Americans. She has also been an educator within our community, speaking about the value and importance of homecare and the role it plays for our older adults. She speaks regularly, promoting community awareness at local clubs, organizations, schools and church groups, and also contributes educational material to Stroudsburg Neighbor's magazine monthly. Her continued support to community over the years includes being a speaker at the Longaberger Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser (August 2000) and chairing the Annual Alzheimer Fundraiser Memory Walk (September 2001 and 2002). She was nominated for Small Business Person of the Year and Best 50 Women in Business of the Year in 2003, and has served on the Pennsylvania Homecare Association Board of Directors (2005-2008), the Long-term Care Subcommittee, the Pennsylvania Providers Coalition Association, and the Board of Directors for the Pocono Eastern Business Association serving Monroe and Pike Counties. Melissa was also a member of the American Fundraising Professionals and has been a long-time member of Business Networking International. Over the last 22 years, Melissa has helped to care for countless families, employed many of our local residents, educated our community about long-term living, and volunteered her time, energy, and resources supporting many local organizations.

Brett R. Miller



Brett is a graduate of East Stroudsburg High School, Class of 1979. He was elected ESHS Class President in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades, was a member of the National Honor Society in 11th and 12th grades, serving as Vice-President in grade 12. He earned the American Legion Award and the D.A.R. Good Citizen Award, while also earning varsity letters in football, wrestling, and track (in grades 11 and 12), as well as the National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete Award and the ESHS Best All-Around Athlete Award as a senior. Brett has also been honored with recognition on the ESHS Football Wall of Fame. He earned a diploma from the Word of Life Bible Institute (1980); graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. degree in Pastoral Counseling from Liberty University (1984); received an M.A. degree in Counseling from Liberty University (1986); and earned certification in Secondary Education-Guidance Counseling (1989) and Secondary Principal Certification (1996) from Penn State University. Brett served as a Psychiatric Assistant at Philhaven Hospital, Mount Gretna, PA (1986-1989); as a Guidance Counselor at Garden Spot Junior High School, Eastern Lancaster County School District, New Holland, PA (1989-1993); and as a Guidance Counselor at Warwick Middle School, Warwick School District, Lititz, PA (1993-2015). From 1996 to date, he has been elected to eight terms as a Republican Committeeman on the Hempfield Area Republican Committee. From 2009-2014 he was elected to the Lancaster County Association of Township Supervisors Executive Leadership Committee, and has been appointed to several Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors Statewide Committees (2007-2014). He was twice elected East Hempfield Township Auditor (2002-2005), and was elected three times (2006-2014) as East Hempfield Township Supervisor, serving as the elected Chairman of the Board for four years, (2011-2014) and as Vice-Chairman of the Board for two years (2008-2009). In 2014, Brett was elected State Representative in the 41st Legislative District, Lancaster County, winning re-election in 2016. Presently he serves on the State Government Committee, Local Government Committee, Children and Youth Committee and Aging and Older Adult Services Committee. Brett has served as an athletic coach in numerous capacities for 27 years, holding the positions of: wrestling coach at the Eastern Lancaster County School District, Garden Spot Junior High School (1990-1992); track coach at Eastern Lancaster County School District, Garden Spot Junior and Senior High Schools (1990-1994); head junior high track and field coach in the Warwick School District, Lititz, PA (1999 to date). He also serves as the City on the Hill Youth Leadership Conference Director, Pennsylvania Family Institute (2005 to date). Brett lives in Lancaster, Pennsylvania with his wife Jennifer.

Sue Oiler

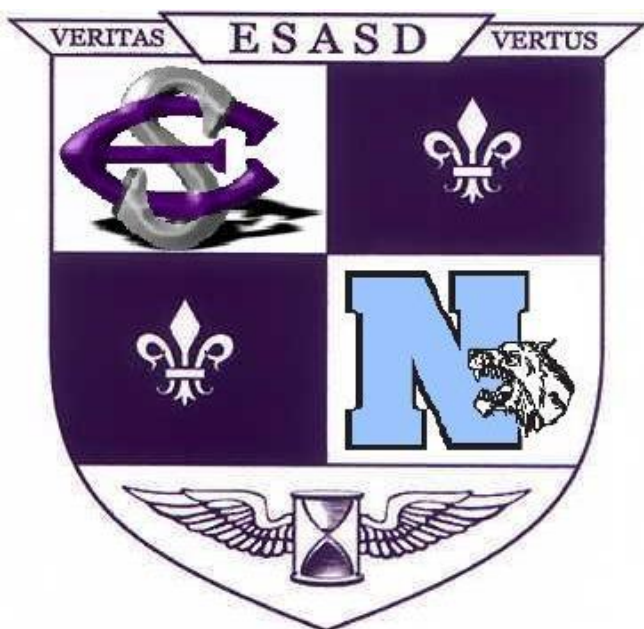


Sue is a graduate of East Stroudsburg High School, Class of 1958. At ESHS, she participated in concert and marching bands, chorus, Tri-Hi-Y, intramural sports, the senior class play, Junior Historical Society, and National Honor Society, while also receiving the Good Citizenship Award in 9th grade. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics from Penn State University in 1962, and taught home economics at Susquenita High School in Duncannon, PA in 1962-1963 and at Bangor Junior High School in Bangor, PA from 1963-1965. In 1963, Sue co-founded Quiet Valley Farm Museum, located in Stroudsburg, PA, co-managing daily farm museum operations from 1963 until 2005. In 1974, Quiet Valley became a private, non-profit corporation which has been enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of visitors and school children over the years.

Following her retirement in 2005, Sue has continued to support the museum as a very active volunteer, serving on its Board of Directors, Friends of Quiet Valley Committee, and as a workshop coordinator and instructor. She has been a member of Frances Irwin Handweavers for 26 years, serving as the organization's treasurer for 16 years and co-president for two years. Sue served on the Monroe County Extension Board for 10 years in various roles, including President and Secretary, and has been an active member of Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church since 1956, serving as Sunday school teacher, elder, Fellowship Committee Chairman, and Togo mission trip participant. She was honored as co-recipient of the Monroe County Historical Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006. For 55 years Sue has been married to her husband Gary Oiler, who shares the same passion for Quiet Valley and their family, and together, they have three children, one foster son, and six grandchildren.

Alex Romagnoli, Ph.D.

Alex is a graduate of East Stroudsburg High School South, Class of 2002. At ESS, he was a member of the National Honor Society, Chorale, Choraliers, and Mock Trial, also participating in musical productions, and serving as a DARE Role Model. He received his Ph.D. in Composition and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). Previously, he taught high school English at East Stroudsburg High School South and also taught composition studies at IUP, while receiving the 2014 IUP Composition and TESOL "Exemplary Interdisciplinary Research in Literacy Award" and the 2013 IUP Composition and TESOL "Exemplary Teaching of Literacy and Language Award." Currently, Alex is an Assistant Professor of English Education at Monmouth University where he also serves as the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program Director. Additionally, he serves as a student advisor for the International Education Honor Society Kappa Delta Pi. Alex is the co-author of *"Enter the Superheroes: American Values, Culture, and the Canon of Superhero Literature"* (2013), a highly acclaimed book that has been cited in both the International Journal of Medical Research and Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Journal of Criminology, Criminal Justice Law, and Society. In addition, he has authored book chapters on utilizing graphic novels in high school and college English courses including "Up, Up, and Away: Superman in the Composition Classroom" (2015), "The Man with Identities: Utilizing Daredevil as an Artifact for Literary Analysis" (2017), and "Graphic Novels and STEAM: Strategies and Texts for Utilization in STEAM Education" (2017). Alex also co-edited a special edition of the academic journal *Works and Days* (2015), and was a co-keynote speaker at the Spring 2014 English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities Conference and has presented at numerous National Conferences.



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L. Ludwig, Troy M. Marvin, Victoria Meyers, Raymond Morris, Terry Mutchler, Dr. Robert V. Nauman, Heather Perfetti, William M. Pinkowski, Lt. Col. Kathleen J. Porter, Dr. Evan C. Reese, Dr. Evan C. Reese Jr., Barbara Gail Leitner Samet, Laurie B. Samet, Melissa Anne Samet, J.D., Carl T. Secor, Nancy (Michael) Shukaitis, Martin K. Smith, Irving (Itch) Sommer, Walter (Bud) Stann, Charles Teeter, Ralph G. Turn Jr., W. Jack Wallie, Thomas L. Waring, James Weidman III, James C. Werkheiser, Marian F. Wolbers, Lawrence A. Zaccaro Jr. and Anthony Zugel.