



Children and Youth Services: Marjorie Chaplin, left, and Cindy Pierce Lee, Child Abuse Prevention Services



Cultural Arts: The late Hiao-Tsiun Ma, Children's Orchestra Society



Emergency Services: The late Kate and Henry P. Davison, left, American Red Cross in Nassau County



Environment: Janine Dion, Pet Peeves



Health: Marion Terry, African-American Health Education and Development Fund

Helping hands

17 founders of nonprofits will be inducted into the Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame

BY RHODA AMON
STAFF WRITER

The man who saved the Fire Island Lighthouse for future generations, and a woman who established a home and future for homeless young mothers, are among 17 founders of nonprofit groups who will be inducted Sunday in the Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame. Four of the founders were nominated posthumously.

Each of the inductees founded an organization that in some way improved the quality of life on Long Island, said Diana O'Neill, executive director of the Long Island Volunteer Center. The fifth annual ceremony at the Carlyle on the Green at Bethpage State Park "celebrates people who bring out the best in all of us," she said.

For Thomas Roberts of Bay Shore, cited for historical preservation, it began in 1979 when the Coast Guard wanted to demolish the lighthouse, which had guided ships off Fire Island since 1858. Challenged by his wife, Marilyn, to "do something," Roberts, a "committee of one," wrote to everyone up to President Jimmy Carter. The Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, which he organized in 1981, succeeded in getting the lighthouse transferred to the National Park Service, but the park service needed money to restore it. The preservation society raised \$1.2 million, and the lighthouse beacon, dark for 12 years, shone again in 1986.

Today the lighthouse, run by the society in partnership with the park service, is visited by 120,000 people a year. "It feels good to see the excitement of the children coming to the lighthouse. We teach them about the environment, wild-

life, lifesaving and Long Island nautical history," Roberts said.

Roberts, 67, a banker and president of the Tri-State Appraisal Group, also delights in seeing the light, visible for 22 miles.

For Patricia Shea of Massapequa, founder of MOMMAS House, the defining moment came in 1984 when a homeless young woman asked her to baby-sit and never returned for the month-old boy. "I knew we had to do something," said Shea, a social worker and lifelong volunteer who had been taking pregnant teenagers and mothers with newborns into her own home although she had five children of her own.

The desperate young women "need more than a bed," she said.

The first MOMMAS House opened in 1986. The name, derived from Mothering Adolescent Services, was chosen because "it sounds warmer," Shea said. Young women, 17 to 21, enter a two-year program with an emphasis on education and "giving them the tools to be good mothers." There are now two MOMMAS houses in Glen Cove and Jericho and two transitional apartments in East Massapequa for mothers leaving the program because "it's almost impossible to find affordable housing on Long Island."

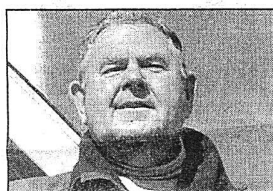
The group now is searching for another five-bedroom house to rent. For more information, the group's Web site is mommashouse.org.

Sol Goldstein, founder of Rebuilding Together, Long Island, will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award in Volunteerism, along with O'Neill. Rebuilding Together, formerly called Christmas in April, repairs the homes of elderly or disabled homeowners.



"I knew we had to do something"

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Historical Preservation: Thomas Roberts, Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society



Family Support: The late Luke Smith, Society of St. Vincent de Paul



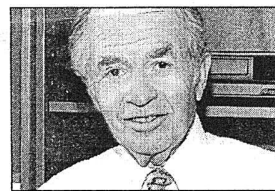
Philanthropy: Suzy Sonenberg, above, Betty Schlein, and Barbara Strongin, Long Island Fund for Women and Girls



Betty Schlein



Barbara Strongin



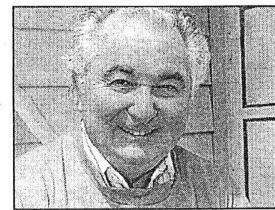
Mental Health: Dr. David Pollack, Clubhouse of Suffolk



Homelessness: Patricia Shea, MOMMAS House



Special Needs: Lisa Gatti, Pal-O-Mine Equestrian



Lifetime Achievement Award in Volunteerism: Sol Goldstein, above, Rebuilding Together, Long Island, with honorary award to Diana O'Neill, below, Long Island Volunteer Center

