

Hainesport Community Chronicle

A Bimonthly Newsletter Supporting Hainesport's Commitment to Community

Elizabeth Gallagher, Editor

Spotlight on Hainesport Resident: Dr. Jackie Casper Agostini

A new 'purpose': On 2024 MLK Day of Service,
some say volunteering changed their life

Phaedra Trethan, USA Today reporter*



"I couldn't just stay home and raise babies," Jackie Casper Agostini said.

After earning a degree from what was then Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) and working as a teacher, Agostini married and started a family with her husband. But, "always goal-driven," she wanted to do more, so she began volunteering, working with children and teens and with her Catholic church's ministries.

As her children grew up, Agostini earned a doctorate in psychology from Temple University in Philadelphia and launched a private practice.

But the octogenarian said that, for many women of her generation and prior ones, education didn't necessarily evolve into a career. Instead, they would volunteer their time and expertise. Agostini began researching and teaching women's history on a volunteer basis at community colleges and a library near her South Jersey home.

She learned about Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, women whose legacies were preserved largely because they were prolific writers. Women, she knew, do the bulk of society's unpaid and low-paid work, so she encouraged women she taught to write their own stories.

"I knew, though, that I couldn't just tell a white story," she said. "As a white woman living in a very white world, I knew I had to expand my thought process. There are Black women and Native American women who are part of the history here, too."

She met Louise Calloway, a retired educator and social worker who founded a museum dedicated to the Underground Railroad in Burlington County, New Jersey.

Their friendship would last for years. Agostini eventually became treasurer of the museum and remains on its board of trustees. Calloway died in February 2023, and Agostini still mourns the loss while working to preserve her friend's legacy.

"It's such a gift to encourage other people, and Louise and I encouraged each other," Agostini said. "It was wonderful to have her in my life, and I treasure that, and through her I got to know all these wonderful women over the years."

*The article above, reprinted with the permission of USA Today, was written by USA Today reporter, Phaedra Trethan, and originally published in USA Today on January 15, 2024

Business Buzz

Jennifer Koutsouris, Technical and Administrative Assistant

The Bradford Estate is a hidden gem along the Rancocas Creek, right here in our wonderful town of Hainesport. Well-known for being a popular wedding venue, The Bradford is also part of the Clarks Landing Wedding Venues, a collection of premier venues located throughout Central and South Jersey. Many couples looking to tie the knot choose The Bradford because of its gorgeous views, exceptional service, attention to detail, and delicious food. Another attractive feature of the venue is the fact that it is among the very few venues that hosts only one wedding at a time, so the wedding couple enjoys undivided attention throughout their special event.

The Bradford Estate hosts more than weddings, however: this special venue hosts a variety of events, including luncheons, business conferences, and parties of every type—retirement, anniversary, cocktail and holiday parties, just to name a few. Furthermore, the venue's facilities can accommodate up to 200 people in a variety of settings—a ballroom, a cocktail hour room, private suites, not to mention beautiful outdoor settings, too, including a

garden, gazebo, and fountain. In fact, The Bradford Estate will host Hainesport's 100th Anniversary Tea and Fashion Show on March 3, 2024 (Check out "Casey's Corner" for more details!).

If you're looking for a memorable venue to tie the knot or celebrate another special event, be sure to consider The Bradford Estate, located at 1910 Marne Highway. You can visit the venue's website at <https://www.thebradfordestate.com>.

Hawks Highlights

Maddie Minero, Sixth Grade Student, Hainesport Township School

Alex Fisher, Assistant Principal, Hainesport Township School

A historic event is going to take place on March 12, 2024: the town of Hainesport is going to turn 100 years old! In celebration of our town and our school, some important history about Hainesport School and the town needs to be shared! The first "school" originally was a one-room building that was shared with St. Paul's Church. In 1877, a brick, three-room schoolhouse, "Hainesport School" was built. Thereafter, in 1925, a new school was built next to the three-room schoolhouse, one that offered more classrooms, as well as offices and a cafeteria, which now operates as the school library. Due to growing enrollment, an addition was dedicated in 1998. The original schoolhouse, which underwent interior renovations in 1974, is still standing and now houses the offices for the Board of Education and Superintendent Corn.

Our town's name also has an interesting backstory. The area used to be called Haines' Port, a shipping port that was well-known for shipping businesses and ample jobs. Many came to Hainesport for these jobs, including Polish immigrants, who built a reputation for their strong sense of work ethic.

One of Hainesport's residents, Mrs. Sue Keiss, a devoted Hainesport School volunteer, generously shared information on the history of Hainesport and its school. She is also working diligently to sort through several photo albums and records from the early days of Hainesport School, so that the photos and records can be displayed in honor of Hainesport's 100th Anniversary. It should come as no surprise that Mrs. Keiss is invested in the history of Hainesport and its school: her husband, Mr. Walter Keiss, was one of our school's superintendents. Both have given a great deal to our school.

Profiles of Success at RVRHS

Vicki Bersch

The Jeff Coney Classic varsity basketball tournament, in its 15th year, was held at RVRHS on Saturday, January 27th, and featured 26 of South Jersey's finest boys basketball teams! This classic, started by Coach Jay Flanagan in 2008, awards a scholarship to a basketball program athlete who demonstrates exemplary character.

The tournament's namesake, Jeff Coney, was a 1979 graduate of RVRHS who passed away in 2004. During his senior year at RVRHS, Coney was named to the All-South Jersey Group IV Team, averaging 22 points per game, and was also an All-County selection. Coney continued his playing career in community college and later played for, and graduated from, St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparta, New York. Coney then spent 16 years as an assistant to legendary coach and friend, Ron Powell. Powell and Coney led RVRHS to a finals appearance in 1995 and two state titles in 1996 and 1998, respectively. When Powell left to coach at Cherokee High School, Coney was named RVRHS head coach for the 1998-99 season.

In its first season under Coach Coney's leadership, RVRHS won the South Jersey Group IV sectional title and made it to the state championship game. Coney led the Red Devils to a 23-6 record. RV also shared the BCSL Liberty title in 1999 with Willingboro High School. Coney was inducted into the South Jersey Basketball Hall of Fame in 2002. Coach Coney continued as head coach for five more seasons before he passed away in July 2004.

ALL of the gate proceeds from this special event comprise the scholarship that will be awarded to an RVRHS student athlete who possesses the same gentleman-like qualities that Coach Coney portrayed. The majority of tournament workers were RV staff members and administrators who volunteered their time and talent throughout the tournament weekend.. The success of this event would not be possible without their strong sense of commitment to the RVRHS community and the mission of the tournament.

Because RVRHS does not announce the scholarship winner until later this year, **be sure to look for the June 2024 "Profiles of Success at RVRHS" column**, in which readers will learn the identity of the Jeff Coney Scholarship recipient.

Casey's Corner

Donna Casey, Recreation Director

Here we are in the month of February, when many begin to prepare for that day of the year famous for romance, Valentine's Day. **What if instead of the traditional focus on cards, candy, and flowers, you're ready to try something new?** Well, we have a wonderful opportunity for you to do just that: **our "A Heart to Give Shoebox" project!** The project is a wonderful way for **families, organizations, and businesses** to come together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who are in need—local members of the community who are served by the First Presbyterian Church soup kitchen that provides approximately 200 meals a week.

To start, you and your family members, or co-workers, need shoeboxes. **You can purchase plastic shoeboxes at Target, Walmart, and Dollar Tree, or you can use shoeboxes you have at home.** Once you have your shoeboxes, start to collect **NEW items to place in the boxes:** travel size disposable razors, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, winter scarves, gloves, and hats, lightweight or thermal socks, small first aid kits, small packs of tissues, small packs of antibacterial hand/face cleaner, small hand sanitizers, hand lotion, deodorant, Chapstick, and mints/gum. While they will not fit into the shoeboxes, sweatpants and sweatshirts donations are also needed. Next, add a Valentine's Day card or card of encouragement (no personal information, such as phone numbers or addresses, please), and last but not least, **drop off your shoeboxes at the Kenneth Street Community Center on Saturday, February 10th between 10:00 AM and Noon.**

Please join us in this alternative approach to sharing your heart in February, and **help us to reach our goal of 100 boxes in honor of Hainesport's 100th Anniversary.**

Speaking of Hainesport's 100th Anniversary—we are kicking off our anniversary social season with our **"Let's Get This Party Started" Adult Midwinter Dinner Dance, on February 16th, from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM at the Hinesport Volunteer Fire Co. Hall.** The BYOB event includes a buffet dinner catered by Colonial Catering, a DJ, and door prizes. We're also holding a **"mystery wine exchange,"** so join in the fun by bringing a wrapped bottle of wine to the dinner dance. **Tickets are \$30 per person and may be purchased through the Recreation Commission. Please contact Donna Casey at 609-267-2730 X 121 no later than February 2nd, if you wish to attend.**

And...while you have your social planner (or your phone) handy, **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SUNDAY MARCH 3RD** because the next anniversary event in our 2024 lineup is the **100th Anniversary Tea and Fashion Show!**

All proceeds from this special event will help fund Hainesport Township's 100th Anniversary Celebration on June 1st and will be held at **The Bradford Estate, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Highlights of the event include the following:**

-a fashion show presenting ten decades of fashions starting with the 1920s

- silent auction for 35+ baskets (cash only)
- luxury silent auction items including a TV, a bicycle, a piece of jewelry, and crystal champagne flutes
- a 50-50 raffle (cash only)
- Hainesport Royale Anniversary Cocktail, tea sandwich and wrap buffet, fruit and crudites, cookies and biscotti, and cash bar

Whether you're a fashionista or a fan of breaking up the long winter with a full calendar of engaging social events, please join us for our **100th Anniversary Tea and Fashion Show on Sunday, March 3rd, at The Bradford Estate, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.**

Last but not least, as spring draws closer, we look forward to the **annual Easter Event for Hainesport children, ages one through ten, on Saturday, March 23rd, from Noon to 1:00 PM, at the Hainesport Township Pavilion.** Highlights of the event include Mr. Bunny's arrival at the pavilion via a parade escort courtesy of the Hainesport Fire Company and the New Jersey State Police, photo ops with Mr. Bunny, and, of course, candy-filled Easter eggs! The rain date is Saturday, March 30th.