



Aspen Hall of Fame
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ASPEN HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES 2008 INDUCTEES
Mary Hayes, Dave and Sigrid Stapleton to be Honored at January Banquet

Aspen, Colo... Longtime Aspenites Mary Hayes and David and Sigrid Stapleton will be inducted into the Aspen Hall of Fame at the local, non-profit organization's 21st annual banquet. The three individuals were selected by the Aspen Hall of Fame board from a broad field of nominations. The banquet takes place Thursday, January 31, 2008 at the Aspen Meadows' Doerr-Hosier Conference Center at 6 pm. It features an award presentation and a signature video profile of each inductee's life.

"Aspen Hall of Fame is proud to honor these exemplary community members, who have contributed so much to our town," says Jeanette Darnauer, founder and president of the organization. According to their mission statement, the 21-year-old organization annually recognizes "local individuals whose inspirational leadership, ideas and contributions have made lasting impressions on the Aspen-Snowmass communities." There are 72 distinguished citizens who have been inducted into the Aspen Hall of Fame to date.

The ubiquitous and charming Mary Hayes came to Aspen in 1952 for a ski vacation and as lived here since. She writes the *Around Aspen* column in the Aspen Times Weekly and is the author of two very popular books, *Aspen Potpourri* and *The Story of Aspen*. Over a fifty-year career at the Aspen Times, she's filled most of the positions at the newspaper – photographer, reporter, feature writer, and editor. For many years, her biographical features of local personalities were as much of a must read as her weekly column. In addition to her newspaper career, Hayes raised five children with husband and famed Aspen silversmith Jim Hayes.

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David and Sigrid Stapleton helped moved Aspen from the sleepy ski town it once was into the town it is today. Both have strong historical ties to the Aspen community. David's great-grandfather came over from Leadville in 1880, homesteading on land which now comprises Sardy Field. Sigrid's father was the late Fred Braun, a steadfast mountain man and visionary of the Alfred A. Braun Memorial Hut System. Fred Braun was inducted into the Aspen Hall of Fame many years ago.

While raising their five children in Aspen, the Stapletons were very active in local organizations and events. David is a past president of the Aspen Valley Hospital board, a former city councilman, a member of Mountain Rescue, and has held a many positions in the world of skiing, including board member and vice-president of the USSA and various positions with the F.I.S. and World Cup boards. Sigrid, in addition to playing the organ at the Catholic Church for more than forty years, is a hospital Blue Lady, a member of the Aspen Valley Hospital Volunteers, president of the Colorado Hospital Volunteers, a ski race volunteer, and was, along with Ruth Whyte, in charge of celebrations for the 50th and 60th anniversaries of the Aspen Ski and Snowboard Club.

The banquet includes dinner accompanied by music from the Walt Smith Trio, a video production spanning the lives of the inductees and the presentation of awards. This year's master of ceremonies will again be Tony Vagneur, vice president of the Hall of Fame Board of Directors.

Established in the winter of 1986-87, the Aspen Hall of Fame inducts individuals each year who have had a lasting impact on the Aspen/Snowmass communities by demonstrating inspirational leadership or making major contributions to the area's cultural, sports, and/or civic activities.

Invitations to the January 31st banquet were mailed last week. For those not receiving an invitation, reservations for the banquet can be made at Community Banks of Colorado, Aspen, located at 210 North Mill Street. For further information on the banquet, contact Jeanette Darnauer at 925-9010.

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