

Welcome to the New Rochelle Walk of Fame

Ruby Dee Park at Library Green



Along this unique Walk of Fame,

you have the opportunity to learn about the fascinating lives of several of individuals from many fields – the arts, business, politics, education, the media, entertainment and sports. What do they all have in common? They are all nationally-renown people with distinct ties to New Rochelle. From its earliest years as a 17th century French settlement, to present times, New Rochelle has attracted and nurtured an unprecedented number of notable and famous residents from every field of human endeavor.

Just “45 Minutes From Broadway,” New Rochelle earned the title of “Queen City of the Sound” due to its many magnetizing attributes: a sweeping waterfront providing panoramic views of Long Island Sound and great access to aquatic activities, rolling hills of fertile acreage, a robust history, and wonderful neighborhoods that were planned as residential parks. All just an easy train ride from Manhattan...

The interpretive signs of the Walk of Fame, featuring text and images, celebrate many great Americans who called New Rochelle home. This innovative project, launched in 2011, was conceived and made possible by Roderick Kennedy Jr., who was born in New Rochelle and developed a great affection for the city while spending his early childhood here. A writer and historian, Mr. Kennedy realized the importance of recognizing the achievements of the honorees, and provided for the addition of more New Rochelle notables—outstanding individuals who helped shape American society.

Barbara Davis, City Historian

Original Inductees: October 29, 2011

Madame Alexander	Premier doll maker of the 20th Century (1895-1990)
Theresa Brewer	Singer and entertainer (1931 – 2007)
Joseph Campbell	Professor and writer about mythology and comparative religions (1904 – 1987)
Irene Castle	Dancer and trend-setter, of Irene and Vernon Castle fame (1893-1969)
Carrie Chapman Catt	Leader of the women's suffrage movement (1859 – 1947)
Ellabelle Davis	Opera singer (1907 – 1960)
Ossie Davis	Actor, writer, activist (1917 – 2005)
Ruby Dee	Actress, writer, activist (1922 – 2014)
Eddie Foy	Vaudeville performer, of “Eddie Foy and the Seven Little Foy’s” fame (1856-1928)
Lou Gehrig	Yankee baseball player and Hall of Famer (1903 – 1941)
Don Hewitt	Television producer; “60 Minutes” (1922 – 2009)
Adrian Iselin and family	Financier, philanthropist (1818 - 1905)
Elia Kazan	Director, playwright, producer, actor (1909 - 2003)
Walter Lantz	Animator, cartoonist; “Woody Woodpecker” (1899-1994)
Joseph Leyendecker	Artist, illustrator (1874 - 1951)
Robert Merrill	Opera singer (1917 - 2004)
Thomas Paine	Pamphleteer and author of <i>Common Sense</i> (1737 - 1809)
Jan Peerce	Opera singer (1904 - 1984)
Pearl Primus	Dancer and choreographer (1919 - 1994)
Alex Raymond	Comic Strip artist; “Flash Gordon” (1909 - 1956)
Frederic Remington	Artist and sculptor of America's West (1861 - 1909)
Norman Rockwell	Artist, illustrator (1894 - 1978)
Saint Elizabeth Seton	The first American-born woman to become a saint (1774-1821)
Buffalo Bob Smith	Radio and TV personality; “Howdy Doody” (1917 - 1998)
John Stephenson	Inventor of the streetcar (1809 - 1893)
Whitney M. Young, Jr.	Educator, civil rights leader, founder of the Urban League (1921 - 1971)

2013 Inductees

Jerry Boch & Joseph Stein	Composer, <i>Fiddler on the Roof and others</i> (1928 - 2010) Writer, <i>Fiddler on the Roof and others</i> (1912 - 2010)
Nell Brinkley	Illustrator, cartoonist (1886 - 1944)
E. L. Doctorow	Novelist (1931 – 2015)
Jay Leno	Television personality and comedian (1950)
Frederick Douglass Patterson	President of Tuskegee Institute; founder of George Washington Carver Foundation; helped start black Tuskegee Air Corps (Tuskegee Airmen); helped establish United Negro College Fund; president of UNCF; (1901-1988)
Carl Reiner & Rob Reiner	Television writer, director, actor (1922) Television personality, actor, writer, director (1947)
Mighty Mouse	Paul Terry - Animator (1887 -1971)

2014 Inductees

J. Fred Coots & Robert Allen	Composers (1897 - 1985) & (1927 - 2000)
Richard Courant & Kurt Friedrichs	Mathematicians (1888 - 1972) & (1901 - 1982)
Barry Gray	Father of Talk Radio (1916 - 1996)
Monty Hall	Game Show Host (1921-2017)
Willie Mays	Baseball player and Hall of Famer (1931)
Don McLean	Musician (1945)
Alan Menken	Composer (1949)
Richard Roundtree	Actor (1942)
Robert Sherwood	Playwright, (1896 - 1955)
John Starin	Transportation magnate/Glen Island Resort developer (1825 - 1909)
Frances Sternhagen	Actress (1930)
Edwin & Gertrude Thanhauser	Film pioneers (1865 - 1956) & (1882 - 1951)

2017 Inductees

Lillian & Dorothy Gish	Silent movie actresses (1893 - 1993) & (1989 - 1968)
Claire Trevor	<i>Film noir</i> actress (1910 - 2000)
Reginald Marsh	Artist (1898- 1954)
Henry J. Heimlich, M.D.	Physician and developer of the “Heimlich Manoeuver” (1920 - 2016)

NFL Players

Frederick (Fritz) Douglass Pollard	First African-American head coach in NFL, (1894 - 1986)
Kyle Rote	New York Giants (1928 - 2002)
Fran Tarkenton	Minnesota Vikings and New York Giants (1940)
Matt Snell	New York Jets (1941)
George Starke	Washington Redskins (1948)
Courtney Greene	Seattle Seahawks (1986)
Ray Rice	Baltimore Ravens (1987)