


INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S BOXING HALL OF FAME

2014 IWBHF INDUCTEES



**Barbara Buttrick
Bonnie Canino
Christy Martin
Lucia Rijker
Regina Halmich
Christy Halbert
JoAnn Hagen**

IN RECOGNITION OF ELECTION TO
MEMBERSHIP INTO THE INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S BOXING HALL OF FAME AND
GRATITUDE FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN,
SUPPORT OF AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
SPORT OF WOMEN'S BOXING.







The International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame

WBAN announced formative steps towards establishing an International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame [IWBHF] in January of 2014. In this time, the IWBHF website was developed along with the social network Facebook for the IWBHF.

We then formulated a board of nine members. The board members include the following: Tokyo Rosenthal, Alex "The Bronx Bomber" Ramos, Krysti Rosario, Bernie McCoy, Malissa Smith, Michael O'Neill, Harvey Johnson, Rick McLean, and Sue TL Fox.

The IWBHF then established our "History-First" inaugural induction ceremony to take place on Thursday, July 10, 2014, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and is in conjunction with the 2014 Women's National Golden Gloves.

We opened up the nominations to the public, and after we ran the nominations that worldwide people could participate, we announced our first class of inductees.

The seven inductees, Barbara Buttrick, Bonnie Canino, Christy Martin, Regina Halmich, Christy Halbert, Lucia Rijker, and Jo-Ann Hagen (posthumous)] were selected based on their contributions to the emergence and growth of the sport of Women's boxing over the past several decades.

The mission of the IWBHF is to provide increased awareness of the contributions of both female boxers and the men and women whose outside-the-ring contributions to the sport played a significant role in the on-going growth of the sport through the creation of competitive opportunities for female boxers along with increasing the awareness of Women's boxing within the sporting public.

Website: www.iwbhf.com / Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/iwbhalloffame>



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S BOXING HALL OF FAME 2014 INDUCTEE

Barbara Buttrick

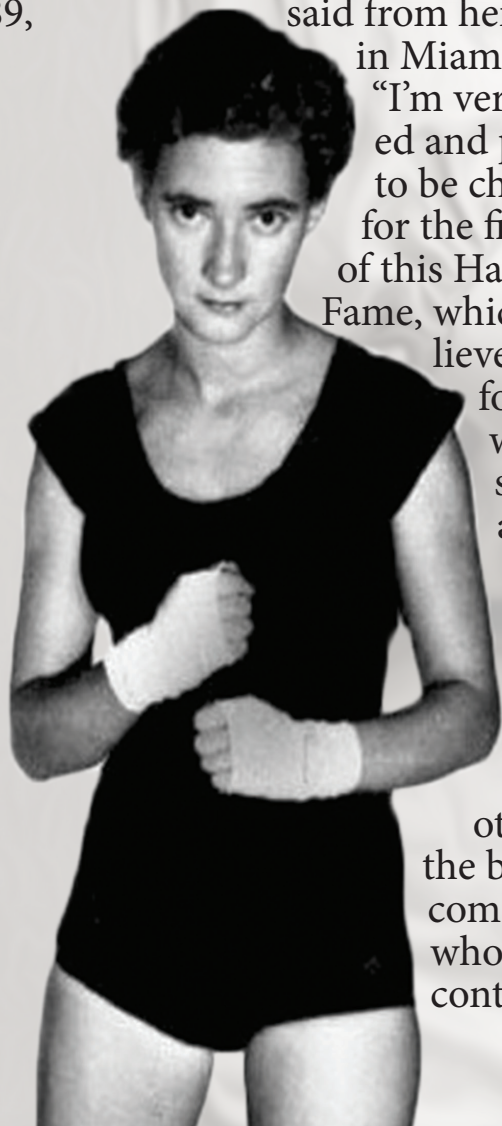
Barbara Buttrick, 84 year old Englishwoman and ground breaking pioneer in the sport of Women's boxing, has been elected to the initial class of the newly established International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame. She will be inducted, along with six other female honorees, at a ceremony on July 10 in Fort Lauderdale, FL, in conjunction with a scheduled national Female Golden Gloves tournament. Buttrick, who founded the Women's International Boxing Foundation (WIBF) in 1989,

said from her home in Miami, FL, "I'm very excited and proud to be chosen for the first class of this Hall of Fame, which, I believe, going forward, will serve as a lasting recognition of the athletes and others in the boxing community who have contributed

to and supported the sport of Women's boxing."

Buttrick enters the IWBHF as one of six former professional fighters being inducted in the initial class: Christy Martin, Lucia Rijker, Regina Halmich and Bonnie Canino from the "modern" era of the sport, the decades of 1990s and 2000, along with Jo-Ann Hagen, a boxer who competed professionally at the same time as Buttrick, in the 1950s. Christy Halbert, the seventh inductee also spent, what she describes as a "short career" as in the professional ring, but is being honored, primarily, as a highly sought after boxing coach and for the pivotal role she played in the successful effort to get the sport of female boxing included in the 2012 Olympics.

While it took the London Daily Mirror 53 years to correct the prejudicial diatribe leveled, in it's pages, at Buttrick, the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame got it right the first time. Buttrick was an overwhelming choice for inclusion in the initial class of the Hall. It was, in part, recognition of the many hurdles Buttrick overcame in her quest toward the professional boxing ring.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S BOXING HALL OF FAME 2014 INDUCTEE

Bonnie Canino

Bonnie Canino spent so many years in the ring, she lost count of how many black eyes she had. But she definitely remembers the first.

"I was four, and I got my first one fighting against my brother," she recalled.

Canino, nicknamed "The Cobra", is one of seven inaugural inductees in the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame on Thursday, July 10 as part of the festivities at the women's national Golden Gloves championships in Fort Lauderdale.

She made her name first and primarily as a kickboxer, in large part because there were so few opportunities for women in the regular boxing ring. She was drawn to the sport via the magic of Muhammad Ali as she watched "The Greatest" in the early 1970s.

As a kickboxer, she fought a who's who of the sport including Lisa Howarth, Bridgett Riley, and most notably, Kathy Long and fellow inductee Lucia Rijker. In all, she compiled a 27-4 kickboxing record.

She may be the only fighter who matched up against both Rijker and Christy Martin, although for fight fans, neither unfortunately came in a boxing ring.

She fought Rijker for the ISKA kickboxing title, losing a decision, and had a self-proclaimed four-

round "gym fight" with Martin (tapes of which, for those who are interested, can be found on YouTube) in 1991. It was around that time, she also had two exhibition kickboxing matches against a man, Jesse Chaves, because there were so few opportunities for women in the sport still.

"Kickboxing was what was happening then, I had six world title fights in one year," Canino recalled.

As a kickboxer, she snagged two world championships, and as a boxer, she won belts from the IFBA and WIBF.

Canino's professional boxing resume covered 15 bouts (11-4), highlighted by two bouts with Chevelle Hallback, a fight against Beverly Szymanski, and match up against Deidre Gogarty on March 2, 1997, a year after Gogarty's landmark fight against Christy Martin.

She is no stranger to halls of fame, being inducted into the Martial Art Hall of Fame in 2004 and the Broward County, Florida, Hall of Fame in 2008. She is also an author, having published "The Body" which is an illustrated guide to boxing fundamentals.

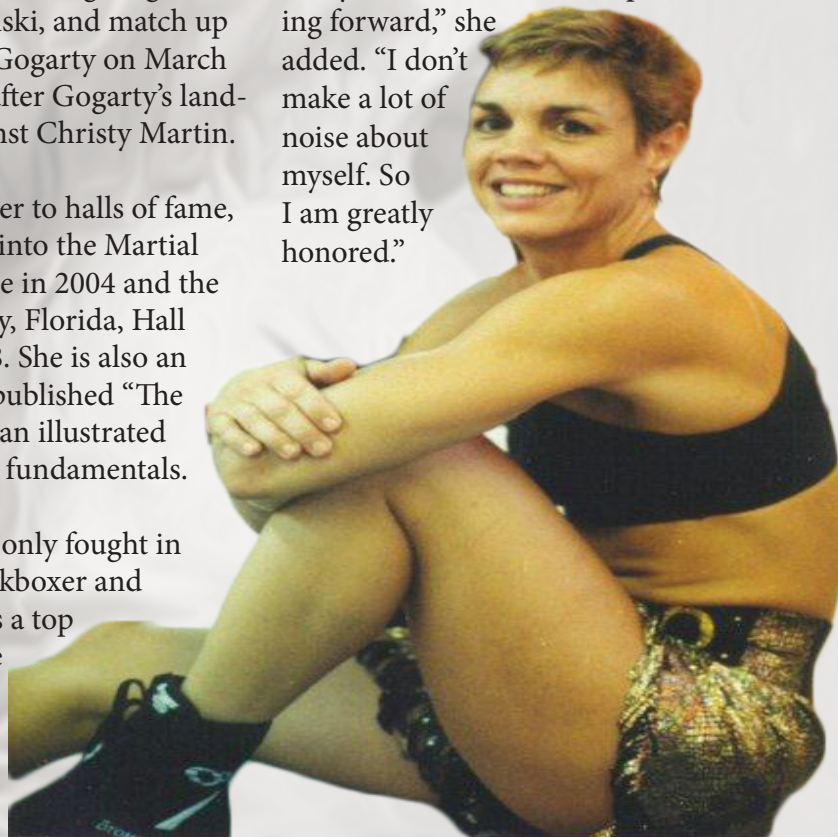
Canino has not only fought in the ring as a kickboxer and boxer, but she is a top advocate for the sport outside the ring. She

has had numerous amateur tournament in Florida, and has been a trainer for the sport with amateurs and pros.

Canino is owner of a karate and boxing gym in Dania Beach, Florida, and has trained two world title holders since retiring from the sport. She is a two time USA team coach for the World Games, and six times since 2006 has been the promoter for the Women's National Golden Gloves championships. In karate, she holds an eighth degree black belt.

Being part of the inaugural IW-BHF class is one more milestone in a career full of them.

"I'm a very humble person, I've always worked hard and kept moving forward," she added. "I don't make a lot of noise about myself. So I am greatly honored."



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S BOXING HALL OF FAME 2014 INDUCTEE

Christy Martin

5'4½" junior welter-weight Christy Martin from Orlando, Florida was probably the best-known female boxer in the world in the late 1990's. Her contract with promoter Don King introduced millions of pay-per-view viewers to the sight of her knocking out (mostly over-matched) opponents on the undercards of promotions featuring Mike Tyson.

Born on June 12 1968 in Bluefield, West Virginia, the former Christy Salters was a catcher in Little League baseball. She played basketball at Mullens High and at Concord College in Athens. While at Concord, she entered and won

a Tough Woman competition on a dare. Despite having little ring experience, she was amazed by how much she enjoyed herself. After graduating with an education degree in 1991, she and her mother Joyce looked into a ring career for her.

Christy's professional boxing career began with a five-round draw against Angela Buchanan of Australia in Bristol, Tennessee on September 9, 1989. Three weeks later in Durham, North Carolina, Christy knocked Buchanan out in the second round.

Martin became a media star through the bloody nose she was given by her most serious opponent in 1996, Irish featherweight Deirdre Gogarty. The unanimous six-round decision for Christy Martin on March 16 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas earned Martin recognition by the World Boxing

Council as its nominal women's lightweight champion of the world (they did not offer women's title belts for open competition).

The fight's real significance was that it was easily the highlight on the undercard of a disappointing men's heavyweight title bout (Mike Tyson vs. British boxer Frank Bruno). The Martin-Gogarty battle was seen in an estimated 30 million homes and in over 100 countries! Gogarty fell to 11-5-2 with the loss.

Martin relies on strength, aggression and relentless pressure to overwhelm her opponents. Gogarty, a skilled boxer, found holes in Martin's defense and bloodied Christy's nose but was unable to blunt the heavier boxer's attack. It was a boxer-sluggish confrontation, with the slugger winning.

The image of the bloodied Martin battling to outpoint Gogarty (who recovered from a knockdown to make an exciting fight of it) brought more attention to women's boxing than any other single event before or since. It took the sight of a female boxer bleeding like a stuck pig while winning her fight that put our sport on the world's media radar in 1996!

Martin has had 59 professional fights, and earned the WBC light middleweight title in September of 2009. Photo Credit: Chris Farina



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S BOXING HALL OF FAME 2014 INDUCTEE

Lucia Rijker

5'6" junior welterweight Lucia Rijker of Holland, now living in Los Angeles, California, may be the world's most dangerous female fighter on a pound-for-pound basis. She has been referred to as "The Most Dangerous Woman in the World," and "Queen of Lightning".

Born in Amsterdam on December 7, 1967, Rijker began training in judo at the age of six.

At seven, she became a member of the Dutch National Softball Team. At thirteen, she took up fencing and won the Amsterdam championship, going on to become the Netherlands' junior champion.

Rijker began kickboxing at age 15, studying in the gym of Johan Vas, one of the most respected training facilities in Holland and training primarily with male kickboxing, boxing and judo champions. She burst into prominence in the kickboxing world in her sixth match on January 15, 1984 ... disabling veteran American champion Lilly Rodriguez (sister of then world champion kickboxer Benny "The Jet" Urquidez) just 30 seconds into a scheduled five-round fight with powerful kicks to the legs.

Lucia eventually amassed a 36-0 (25 KO) record as a kickboxer, and won four different world titles.

Her pro boxing career resumed on March 21, 1996 at Los Angeles' Grand Olympic Auditorium, where she made her US boxing debut by knocking out Melinda Robinson of Austin, Texas at 1:37 in the first round. Rijker quickly rendered Robinson helpless with several rights and left hooks. She retired from professional boxing with a undefeated record of 17-0-0 (14KO).

Lucia was the subject of an award-winning documentary film about Women's Boxing, "Shadow Boxers" by Katya Bankowski, released in 2000. New Yorker writer Hilton Als called it "as visually stunning as it is politically important, witty and humane" and the Vancouver (Canada) Sun said that "Shadow Boxers is a subtle achievement in filmmaking that reaches far beyond the screen."

Outside the ring...Lucia is a top boxing coach, who has trained the likes of world champions Myriam Lamare, Diana Prazak...and more. She is also a life coach, and she does workshops and seminars to those in the sport.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S BOXING HALL OF FAME 2014 INDUCTEE

Regina Halmich

The newly formed International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame (IWBHF) has announced the scheduled induction of Regina Halmich into the initial class of seven women to be honored on July 10 in Fort Lauderdale, FL., in conjunction with a US National Female Golden Gloves tournament. Halmich is generally recognized as the boxer who, during the decades of the 1990s and 2000, brought the sport of female boxing to sold out popularity in Germany while also establishing credibility for the sport throughout Europe, with her finely honed ring skills.

Halmich enters the IWBHF along with Christy Martin and Lucia Rijker, two of the most highly regarded professional boxers during the 1990/2000 era; Barbara Buttrick, a pioneer female boxer in the 1940s and 50s, who, today, continues to be active in the sport; Bonnie

Canino, a highly ranked professional boxer during the mid 1990s and early 2000 years, who is currently a major contributor to the sport of amateur female boxing in the United States as both a highly sought after coach and a promoter; Christy Halbert, a former professional boxer, a current boxing coach and a leading force behind the successful effort to bring the sport of Women's boxing to 2012 Olympics and Jo-Ann Hagen, a top ranked professional boxer, during the 1950s, whose award will be posthumous.

Regina Halmich's professional career began in 1994 and in her tenth professional bout (June '95), she captured the Women's International Boxing Federation (WIBF) flyweight title with a ten round win over Kim Messer. From that point, until Halmich retired from the ring in 2007, she defended her title an incredible forty five times, beating, in the process, such highly ranked fighters as Elena Reid, Maria Jesus Rosa, Wendy Rodriguez, Viktoria Pataki and, in Halmich's final bout (November '07), Hagar Shmoulefeld Finer. Over Halmich's thirteen year professional career, covering fifty-six bouts and four hundred and fifty-five rounds, the only blemishes on her record were a loss to American Yvonne Trevino.

As with Halls of Fame for other sports, the IWBHF's first class of inductees is a special assemblage of the best of the best from the sport of Women's boxing. The seven women being inducted in July represent an impressive gamut of ring skills, coaching abilities, promotion capability and on-going, present day contributions to the sport, a group into which Regina Halmich has been awarded a richly deserved inclusion.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S BOXING HALL OF FAME 2014 INDUCTEE

Christy Halbert

Christy Halbert, Ph.D. the Director of Boxing Resource Center. Dr. Halbert has used her background as an academic in sociology and a collegiate athlete, to take a multi-disciplinary approach to coaching and studying the sport of boxing.

Halbert became the first researcher to publish on the social experiences of women professional boxers in her article "Tough Enough and Woman Enough." Her book, *The Ultimate Boxer*, was written in an effort to make Olympic-style boxing skills and tactics accessible to all audiences. Dr. Halbert continues to research the sport, and regularly gives multi-media lectures on the "Debut of Women's Olympic Boxing," a socio-historical analysis from her perspective as researcher and participant.

Her coaching work has been devoted mainly to three areas: coaching boxers at Boxing Resource Center, coaching and developing women's Olympic boxing in the United States, and coaching girls and women in international development programs.

In 2011, Dr. Halbert received the United States Olympic Committee's Olympic Torch award, for her pioneering work in the development and advancement of women's Olympic boxing in the United States. Coach Halbert is recognized internationally as an expert on women's boxing, and became the first U.S. coach, and only woman coach, to serve as instructor for the International Federation's Road to Dream program, which gives training and World Championship opportunities to boxers in under-represented countries

Last summer Coach Halbert served as an Olympic Coach for Team USA at what was the inaugural Olympic Games for women boxers (and the first Olympic Games in which women athletes participated in every sport). The three women boxers for Team USA brought home a gold and bronze medal. Just 11 years

earlier, Halbert served as Head Coach for the first-ever World Championships for women boxers.

In 2013 Halbert was awarded the Guiding Women in Sport Award by the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport, given in recognition of extraordinary service and leadership in female sports, demonstrating a pioneering spirit and commitment to improve sport for girls and women.

Christy Halbert coaches women and men, boys and girls, in the art and science of Olympic-style (amateur) boxing. She conducts courses in coaching Olympic-style boxing, in her role as a Level IV Coach with USA Boxing, and is an international instructor/coach with boxing's International Federation, in her role as a 3-Star Coach/Instructor. She holds administrative appointments as Chair of USA Boxing's Women's Task Force, Chair of the Americas' Boxing Confederation Women's Commission, and Secretary of the International Federation's Women's Commission. Halbert has published and presented on coaching techniques as well as her ongoing research and observations in the sport. Copyrights: boxingresource.com



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S BOXING HALL OF FAME 2014 INDUCTEE

JoAnn Hagen

JoAnn Hagen, a fighter in the fifties, was the only female to defeat Barbara Buttrick. Hagen was a tall, beautiful blond-haired woman. She was very graceful in her movements when she boxed in the ring.

Some interesting tidbits on Hagen (from The Police Gazette-June 1950), Hagen had appeared on the Steve Allen Show in November 1956. The show is viewable at the Museum of TV



and Radio in NYC <http://www.mtr.org>. According to Barry N., who sent in this information and had viewed the tape, said that the tape was “Pretty Wild.” and that Hagen appeared with Phyllis Kugler, and they were billed as “Champion Women Boxers”. The whole thing was played very tongue in cheek. First they both come out in evening dresses (Hagen is gorgeous!).

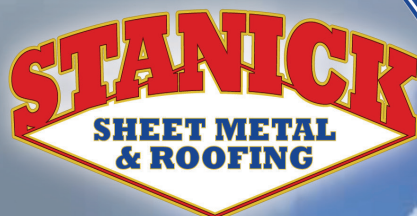
Then they made them change into their boxing duds on stage, behind a screen! All the while Allen continued to interview them, coyly shielding his eyes with one hand. After they came out, Hagen sparred a little with Allen, who quickly gave up, then with Kugler. Hagen announced that she and Kugler were having a title match.” (A special thanks to Barry for sending in this information.

After WBAN interviewed a past boyfriend of Hagen in 2001, we were contacted by a relative of Hagen that said that at that time, Hagen was in poor health, and then we were notified that she had passed away.



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I would like to thank all of those who made this possible by contributing time and effort to pay honorary tribute to those professional female boxers along with men and women whose contributions to the sport and it's athletes, from outside the ring, have been instrumental in growing female boxing.

The history-first 2014 IWBHF inductees distinguished themselves through extraordinary efforts in the promotion and development of female boxing by being either being a professional boxer, providing competitive opportunities for female boxers in the ring and/or providing increased awareness and positive exposure for female boxing and it's athletes within the sporting public.

I would also like to give a special thanks to the IWBHF board members, Harvey Johnson, Bernie McCoy, Krysti Rosario, Alex Ramos, Rick McLean, Tokyo Rosenthal, Malissa Smith, and Michael O'Neill who contributed significantly to the development of the IWBHF.

Sue TL Fox
Founder of the IWBHF

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