

## MAGISTRA: MISS ROBY

by Carole Savitsky

Teacher Extraordinaire - a graduate of DePauw University, 1930, summa cum laude and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Retired Latin and English teacher from Zionsville High School, 1975, and retired volunteer from the Page Program for academically talented elementary children grades four, five and six, 1999.

Miss Roby, first name, Dorothy. I don't know if anyone outside her family called her by her first name. Her title, Miss Roby, reflected the respect given to her by those with whom she taught and worked. She was a proper lady who served others in her role as teacher; one who respected others and was in turn respected by them.

I met Miss Roby in 1987, thirteen years before she died at age ninety-one. During that time I learned that boys should have blue pencils and girls should have pink. If blue and pink were not available, then the boys would enjoy pencils with sports and girls would enjoy pencils with flowers.

I learned that children should raise their hands and wait to be called upon before speaking and children should sit quietly listening while being taught. Bright children could and should be challenged. All of the work that the fifth graders were asked to learn came from the high school books she used when she taught high school English and Latin. Those who did well were congratulated. Those who did not were encouraged to study harder. And, above all, children love cookies and brownies and received a bag of home baked goodies at the end of each unit of study.

I learned to carefully Xerox test papers and to be sure that the lines of print were placed squarely and neatly on the original copy. Smudges were never acceptable, wrinkled pages were removed, and booklet covers were to be replaced once they showed signs of wear.

She prepared herself and those around her. We searched for unicorn stickers during the summer, Halloween spiders were ordered early in the fall months and carefully organized and placed within the children's packets. Special Christmas holiday treats for adults were ordered right after Halloween to ensure they would arrive on time.

I learned to be patient and listen to her stories. I know that she removed grapes from the Latin banquet because some of her students did more than eat them. Those who helped her do her yard work were paid with candy bars. I learned the names and personal stories of her contemporaries in Zionsville - who dated whom and all the intrigues that followed. On Sundays she taught a Sunday school class to the senior members of her church. She loved the people in the community who became a part of her life, her family. She worried about them and cared for them when they were in need.

I learned to respect the finished products of students. I still have the stories and projects her elementary students created years before I joined the Zionsville teaching community. Above all, I learned from Miss Roby that it is important to do ones best. Every unit of study, every paper and every card contained a lesson. Her handwriting was perfect, she was always on time; she was an amazing woman. Her porch was always open. Miss Roby loved visitors and delighted in the time each person spent in her home. Next to the door she placed a bowl of candy for any child or workman who stopped by just in case they were hungry.

She taught Latin well, she taught English and writing with joy, and she loved the little children with whom she spent her retirement. At the end of her ninety-one years, she said, "Maybe God will let me teach the gifted children who are in heaven."



**Mrs. Irene Sprong**  
**2008 Inductee into the ZAA Hall of Fame**

- Life-Long Resident of Zionsville, Indiana. ZHS Class of 1934.
- Zionsville Elementary School Teacher for Total of 43 Years.
- A Legacy of Education from Work and Dedication to the Community.



July 26, 2008

Mrs. Elizabeth Irene (Ottinger) Sprong was born in Hendricks County Aug. 5, 1916. Her mother and father, Carl and Mary Ottinger moved to Boone county 5 miles west of Zionsville to property purchased from her mother's parents. She had two brothers, Burl and Clayton Ottinger.

Mrs. Sprong attended Swamp College- a one room school for 2 years, her aunt Olive Harmon Schooler, being her teacher. The Zionsville school was formed making room for all township schools to consolidate. She graduated from Zionsville High School in 1934.

After high school graduation, she attended Central Normal College in Danville, Indiana. From there she was granted a 2-year teaching certificate and Indiana teaching license. Mrs. Sprong began her teaching career in 1936, in a one-room school in Union township near Gadsen in 1936 - 1937, and thereafter in what was Northfield, Indiana on U.S. Highway 421.

Irene married Rex Sprong in 1937 and decided at the end of that school year she would become a full time housewife. With the coming of WW II teachers became so scarce that Mrs. Sprong returned to teaching at Zionsville in 1941. She continued until 1976 when her husband became ill. After Mr. Sprong passed away, Irene again returned to teaching in 1978 and continued until her permanent retirement in 1984.

During her teaching career Mrs. Sprong achieved a B.A. in Education and later a M. A. in Education, both from Butler University. "Mrs. Sprong", as known by hundreds in the community taught 4th grade (22 years), 3rd, 5th and 6th grade for a total of 43 years.

Mrs. Sprong is a founding member of the Ottinger-Sprong Foundation which has awarded a total of 19 scholarships to ZHS Seniors over the last 5 years (2004-2008). These scholarships are in the areas of education, leadership & community service, and vocational pursuits. She will leave a lasting educational legacy imprint in the Zionsville community through her steadfast dedication and active involvement in education.

Mrs. Sprong is a life-long member of Salem United Methodist Church, a member of The Retired Teachers of Boone County, BUTLER University Boosters, and Psi Iota Xi.

Thank you "Mrs. Sprong" ... for giving the gift of education to so many. A little part of you and all that you have done is carried by many individuals throughout their walks of life, and in their own higher educational and career pursuits.

**Congratulations and welcome into the Zionsville Alumni Hall of Fame!**

**The Zionsville Alumni Association**  
**Zionsville, Indiana**

MR. & MRS.  
CARLETON L. PHILLIPPI

These Zionsville Alumni Association Soaring Eagle Hall Of Fame recipients are well known by many of us, especially me with us being family friends and neighbors for over 60 years.

From his election as president of the Zionsville High School Class of 1934, until his death on March 6, 1989, Carleton L. Phillippi was a popular and contributing member of the Zionsville community. He was the son of Jesse and Bernice Brock Phillippi and was born on January 11, 1916. He had bother Wendell Phillippi, Class of 1936, His lovely wife of 51 years, Aletha Hill, was also a 12 year Senior of Zionsville High School, Class of 1936. Their family consisted of daughters, Peggy Elzey, Class of 1959; Roberta Parks, Class of 1962; and the late Carla Phillippi, Class of 1972; son in law's Tom Elzey, Class of 1958 and Jay Parks; and two grandchildren, John and Laura Lynn Parks. Aletha was the daughter of Fred and Inez Hill and born on March 24, 1918 and had brother Robert Hill, Class of 1933.



Mr. Phillippi studied at Indiana University, Central Business College, and the Indiana College of Mortuary Science, graduating in 1937 and entering the family business, Phillippi Funeral Home. He was appointed and then elected Eagle Township Trustee in 1949, and during his 10-year tenure had responsibility for the school system, poor relief, township library, assessing and other Eagle Township Trustee duties.

Eagle Elementary School and the Fifth Street Varsity Gym were constructed while he was at the helm. After the Phillippi Funeral Home was sold to Flanner & Buchanan, Mr. Phillippi became a retail merchant, first working for Cruse & Co. who owned variety stores in Zionsville and Beech Grove. They later owned the Phillippi 5c-\$1 in Brownsburg for three years. He took a position as a field representative for the Indiana Board of Tax Commissioners in 1961, becoming chairman of the commission. When he retired in January, 1981, he had the distinction of having served as chairman longer than anyone else. To quote the February 2, 1979, Indianapolis News article, "Complaints and confusion generated by the statewide reassessment of real estate create problems for assessors, but the "buck" stops at the desk of Carleton Phillippi, chairman of the State Tax Board". He was a member of International Association of Assessing Officers.

Mr. Phillippi joined the Zionsville Volunteer Fire Department in 1943, and served as treasurer of its corporation and was a dispatcher and firefighter. Mr. Phillippi served on the advisory board of the Zionsville Water Utility, the Hussey Memorial Library Board and on the Cable TV Advisory Board. Aletha delivered Meals on Wheels to shut-ins. He was a past president of the Zionsville Lions Club, a 50-year member of the Order of Eastern Star, and a member and past master of Masonic Lodge. They both enjoyed being members of the Zionsville Historical Society and the Zionsville United Methodist Church. He was a amateur photographer and both members of the Republican Party.

He was named Town Crier by the Greater Zionsville Chamber of Commerce in 1987 and a Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Otis Bowen in 1979.

Mr Phillippi fostered the International Lions Clubs objectives to promote the principles of good government and good citizenship, to take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social, and moral welfare of the community, and to encourage service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and to promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works, and private endeavors. His dad Jesse F. Phillippi, first Zionsville Lions Club President and a founding club member in 1930 would definitely be most proud today as well as all their parents.

Aletha attended Indiana Business School, was employed at Zionsville Pitman Moore, special secretary at Eagle Elementary and Zionsville Middle School for at least 20 years. She volunteered her time and talent in Boone County 4-H, fund raising for the Zionsville Volunteer Fire Department and has been a long term member and now Life Member of the Zionsville Woman's Club and Honorary Member of Zionsville Auxiliary Chapter Psi Iota Xi, Alpha Lambda Chapter. To me the closing verse of Psi Iota Xi exemplifies Aletha. "It is a noble thing to give cheer to those less fortunate about you. Let us then be of good cheer that the lives of those about us may be enriched".

## BARBARA ALICE SPEES RUSSELL

Class Motto 1941 ---“With the ropes of the past, We will ring the bells of the future”

In 1971, former long-time school board member Lester Bradley made a phone call to Barbara Russell offering her a job that would change her life. She accepted and had only 2 days to prepare for a job that lasted almost 25 years.

Any child in the Zionsville Community School System during the years 1971 to 1995 knew of Barbara Alice Spees Russell. Barbara served the community school children as the school nurse. She spent long days taking temperatures, dispensing medications, applying bandages, calling parents and giving loving care to those who were just having a bad day. Many children with special health needs would not have been able to attend school without the treatments Mrs. Russell administered. She set up free health screenings including vision, dental and hearing exams. She helped with sports physicals and all the while running back and forth between Eagle Elementary, Union Elementary, Junior High and High School.

Barbara Alice Spees is the daughter of Byron and Amelia Spees. The sister of Robert Spees and Dr. Donald Spees, she graduated from Zionsville in 1941. She went on to attend Indianapolis City Hospital School of Nursing; now known as Wishard Hospital.

She then married Earl Russell, also an alumni of ZHS and had 3 children, Jane, Jim, and David. They all are ZHS alumni. She has several grandchildren who are alumni and is now the proud Great-Grandmother of 6.

Barbara and Earl welcomed exchange student Gherhard Schulthesis from Friedrichschafer, Germany into their home and family in 1965-66. He attended Zionsville High School with their son Jim and has been a vital part of their family.

After retiring from Zionsville Schools, Barb has continued to serve her community. She has been chairman of the Zionsville local blood drive for many years. She not only sets up the location of the draw but she enlists the local blood donors reminding them by a phone call.

She is a long-time member of Zionsville Christian Church and has done years of volunteer work at a thrift shop at the Central Christian Church in Indianapolis helping sort donations and pricing, etc. She is a member of the Dorcus Circle and many Bible study groups.

Barbara is a life-time member of Delta Sigma Kappa Sorority and was named Woman-of-the-Year. This group was a great help working as volunteers when Barb started the school vision screening along with the local doctors. She has also done volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity. She is an active community helper and a good neighbor and friend to those new to the community. She and her family are great representatives of Zionsville Alumni. By Susie Bullington “Class of 1960”



## KEVIN L. ROBINSON

Kevin L. Robinson was born June 10, 1961 in Lebanon, Indiana and moved four separate times before his family settled on State Road 334, two miles west of Zionsville.

Kevin shared his time in Zionsville with his father Dave, mother Betty and five brothers, Steve, Scott, Mike, Mark, and Keith.

During his years at Zionsville Community High School, he was Photo Editor of the Harbinger, eventually moving to managing Editor. In addition, Kevin attended Ball State Journalism Workshops, winning awards for his work.



Kevin was tremendously active at ZCHS including student government as Class Vice-President. His music career spanned Concert and Marching Band, Royalties, Concert Choir and Barber Shop Quartet, where his groups won many awards at state competition. He also joined the cast of Oklahoma!, playing the Will Parker character.

As a 1979 Zionsville Community High School graduate with a BA in Telecommunications from Indiana University ('84). Kevin Robinson has invested 25 years in communications with major broadcasting companies like Infinity, CBS, Salem, Westwood One and Viacom. His tenure in broadcasting has included on and off air work, working with nationally known talent such as Glenn Beck, Dick Biondi, John Records Landecker. .

In May 1985, Kevin married South Bend native Monica Ciesielski and just celebrated 23 years together. Kevin served his country in the Army Reserve National Guard in both the enlisted (E-5) and commissioned (O-2) ranks as a Computer Programmer and Quartermaster.

In 2003, Kevin was elected to the Village Board of Clarendon Hills, Illinois as Public Safety Trustee. Kevin has expansive involvement with global charities such as World Vision, Feed The Children and Food for the Poor as well as local ministries across the country. Robinson's deep broadcast experience includes success in Chicago, St. Louis, Buffalo, Phoenix, Louisville and Lansing in a wide variety of formats including Hot AC, Oldies, Christian AC, Mainstream AC, CHR and Talk. As Vice-President of HOT AC Programming with CBS, he mentored 15 radio stations from coast-to-coast while programming his own successful station in St. Louis.

Kevin developed unique national programming content with sister company Westwood One such as VH1's Weekly Rewind and Best Week Ever while serving as lead creative for the Dr. Phil Radio experiment. Kevin Robinson joined Audience Development Group as a Strategic Partner in 2006 after 25 years as a successful programmer, researcher, consultant and air talent.

His client base covers nearly every radio format across the country from Hilton Head to Las Vegas and works with major broadcast companies like Midwest Communications, Triad Broadcasting and Revolution Broadcasting of the West. Kevin's industry awards include nominations from the National Association of Broadcasting (Marconi Station of the year, '96, '97, '98) and Billboard Magazine (Program Director of The Year '89) Kevin is an avid runner, competing in nine marathons and dozens of other road races including the 5k, 10k and half-marathon levels. Kevin and his wife have three children, Chelsea, Zachary and Abigail.