



The Arc
Oakland County

Profiles

Achieve with us.

The Arc of Oakland County's 2021 Dove Awards Program

The Arc of Oakland County's 2021 Dove Awards Presentation took place on Friday, March 19th via Zoom. It was wonderful to acknowledge and celebrate our twenty award recipients virtually as we were not able to gather in person. We were honored to have Deena Centofanti, Fox 2 Detroit, as our emcee for the evening. A special congratulations to our very own, Tom Kendzierski, who was the recipient of the coveted 2021 Advocacy Hall of Fame Award! We are so proud of Tom and all he has accomplished here at The Arc of Oakland County.

We hosted an online auction in conjunction with the 2021 Dove Awards Program that ran from Thursday 3/18/21 through Sunday 3/21/21. The online auction was a great success as we raised over \$8,000 gross! Thank you to everyone who took the time to view the online auction, bid on an item, and share our social media posts with family and friends. We greatly appreciate your support in our fundraising efforts!

We would like to thank all of the individual donors, organizations and local businesses that graciously sponsored our event this year. We raised over \$27,000 gross in sponsorships -- the most ever! Thank you!

Please see the full list of sponsors and auction donors on page 4.

SAVE THE DATE !

2022 Dove Awards Program tentatively scheduled for
Friday, March 18, 2022
Details will follow on our website & Facebook page



"From The Director's Chair"

By: Tom Kendzierski

My last column. Yikes! It is a bit difficult for me to fully express my thoughts about retirement and all my civilian work-life spent in one place. Don't get me wrong, the time is right. I cannot believe that it has gone by so quickly. But it happens to all of us. And, given this good fortune, I can make a graceful exit on my own terms. What do I say? How do I encapsulate almost 39 years of employment at The Arc? Obviously, this agency occupies a large swatch of my life.

There are so many people to thank. Tom Hite was President of the board when I was hired in August of 1982. Agnes Wisner was Executive Director. In the beginning, The Arc team consisted of Doris Johnson (Business Manager), Barb Hessen (Secretary), Marsha Tuck (Attorney-Advocate), and Bev Thomas (Community Relations). I am most grateful to each of them for giving me a chance to learn, make some mistakes, and to experience a career doing what turned out to be a singular passion, a commitment to others, and a source of great joy.

Outside of the office, I could not have accomplished anything without the unwavering support and love of my wife of 40 years, Mary. Thank you, honey. My daughters, Andrea and Julia were there too, traveling to far-off cities with us when

Continued on Page 3

Mission Statement

The Arc of Oakland County advocates for the rights and full participation of all children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We strive to improve systems of supports and services; connect families; inspire our community, and influence public policy.

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2021 ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VIRTUAL MEETING via ZOOM
Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 7 PM.

Video and/or Audio:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3666460580>
Meeting ID: 366 646 0580
Password: 727438

or by Telephone (Audio Only):
1-312-626-6799 or 1-301-715-8592

ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER

Dawn Calner – next Executive Director of The Arc of Oakland County, Inc.

Officers:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term ends</u>
President	Lisa Kowalski	June 2022
1st Vice President	Tom Liss	June 2022
2nd Vice President	Randy Meeno	June 2022
Secretary	Stamara Macquett	June 2022
Treasurer	Jerry Rubin	June 2022
Past President	Tom Quabebush	June 2022

All officers have one-year terms and each is re-electable in June 2022.

Delegates-at-large:

Ren Chalk, Esq.	June 2023
Tim Hatfield	June 2023
Paul O'Meara (new candidate)	June 2023
Julianne Laith	June 2023
Kara Sprague, Esq. (new candidate)	June 2023
Nadine Milostan	June 2022**
Barbara Scott	June 2022**
John Torsons	June 2023
Ann Wischmann	June 2023

All names in **BOLD** are up for election
**Not up for re-election in June 2021

I served as parliamentarian for several national conventions of The Arc U.S. Neither missed a Dove Awards Dinner, even as infants, until they moved away from home to begin their own lives. I love you guys. Of course, family has colored everything that I have ever achieved, so I send special admiration and gratitude to my late parents, John and Evelyn, along with my extraordinary six siblings: Bill, Mike, Patricia, John, and the twins, Bob and Ray.

Throughout most of my tenure as your Executive Director, one person helped guide me and this agency during all of my "away-time" playing Navy Reservist, and that is our former Office Manager and Comptroller, Lynn Gideon. Her talents are enormous and this agency benefited greatly from them. I owe Lynn a big debt of gratitude. Thank you.

The many members of the board of directors over the years helped set the policy for The Arc and kept me on a straight and narrow course. Every one of you focused your energies on supporting an agency that was floundering financially at times, but as a group you had the patience to persevere and the fruits of your labor yielded a strong organizational prominence that will last long into the decades ahead.

Although I have mentioned these individuals in previous columns, each is still worthy of another shout out as some of my long-time mentors at The Arc: Jerry Provencal, Jerry Rubin, Liz Bauer, Mabel Higgs, Mark Wiedelman, Mary Schmitt Smith, Sharon Connelly, Cindy Bliskey, Gary Van Horn, Carole and Harvey Rabinowitz, Ray Wert, John Williams, Dohn Hoyle, Bev Hughes, Dennis Bott, and David Loeffler. I am certain that I have left many wonderful folks off of this listing, so I apologize in advance. Anyone who touched this agency in any manner had a part in my long run here.

So, this is how it ends. Much appreciation for reading my column since March of 1992; all 200 or so of them! My hope is that I have educated many and made the others think. I will miss our time together on this page.

Dawn Calnen will take this agency to new heights never before imagined. "[S]he must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:27-36). I will pray for her success.

To all of our loyal membership, board members and our superb past and present staff members: Thank you so very much. All my best TFK

UPDATE: TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE 2021

by Thomas F. Kendzioriski, Esq.

THE 2021 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE IS NOW HISTORY. MEMBERS OF THE ARC OF OAKLAND COUNTY VOLUNTEERED ALONGSIDE THE MEN OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS POPE SAINT JOHN XXIII COUNCIL #5436 IN WATERFORD AND THE ST. DANIEL'S COUNCIL # 15967 IN CLARKSTON.

A TOTAL OF \$10,200 WAS RAISED AND WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY. EACH COUNCIL IS ALSO REQUIRED TO FORWARD 20% OF WHAT IS COLLECTED LOCALLY TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS STATE COUNCIL FOR DISTRIBUTION TO STATE-WIDE ORGANIZATIONS (E.G., SPECIAL OLYMPICS) SERVING THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. IN ADDITION TO WATERFORD AND CLARKSTON, SEVERAL OTHER OAKLAND COUNTY COUNCILS REGULARLY DONATE A PORTION OF THEIR TOOTSIE ROLL DOLLARS TO THE ARC OF OAKLAND COUNTY: MILFORD, WEST BLOOMFIELD, FARMINGTON, AUBURN HILLS, PONTIAC, HIGHLAND, ROCHESTER HILLS, HOLLY, AND TROY. THANKS, EVERYONE!

PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND OCCURRED IN LATE MARCH THIS YEAR, AND THE WEATHER WAS FAIRLY DECENT FOR A CHANGE. FIVE GOOD FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARC, MYSELF INCLUDED, VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME! I WOULD LIKE TO PUBLICLY RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING FOLKS FOR THEIR ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE: ROSEMARY RANGI, PAUL O'MEARA, VICKI DENNY AND FAMILY. THANK YOU AND HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE NEXT YEAR WHEN HOPEFULLY THE COVID RESTRICTIONS ARE GONE AND ADDITIONAL SITES AND CITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SOLICITATION!

The Arc would like to thank the following individuals, companies, & organizations who generously contributed

2021 Sponsorships

Knights of Columbus Select Councils from
Oakland County

PRESENTING SPONSORS

Whole Foods Market (\$2,892)
John Keegan on behalf of
CIBC Bank (\$2,500)
Patrick & Julia Heider (\$1,800)

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New Horizons

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Jerry & Judy Rubin
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with Lipson Neilson, PC
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Mark & Ann Wiedelman

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Tom & Mary Kendziorski (\$300)
Tom & Christine Lias (\$300)
Karen Mellott (\$300)

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Ron, Pam & Angel Cheli
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Otlewski & Maloney, P.C.
Progressive Lifestyles, Inc.
Tom Quakenbush
Springhill Pooled Accounts Trust
Judi & Bob Summers

(In Memory of Jennifer Summers)
Ina Mae Wilcox and
Karla Wilcox
Wm Sullivan and Son
Funeral Home

Canada Giving Fund (\$200)
Jo, Dennis & Perry Rexin (\$200)
Sherlitz Family (\$200)
Joe & Lisa Kowalski (\$150)
Tim & Lisa Manning (\$150)

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Mary Benvenuto
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Dance on Main
Ballroom Studio
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Simply Good LTD.
Janice Stevenson
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Milton Wohl, CPA, P.C.
Kenneth & Joan Wysocki

2021 Auction Donations

Arthur Murray Royal Oak
Dance Studio
Liz & Ginny Bauer
Beans & Cornbread
Bill's Eat & Drink
Bordine's
Carl's Golfland
Mary Carpenter
Cookies by Design
Costco
Cranbrook Institute
of Science
Creative Arts Studio
Dance on Main Ballroom
Studio
Detroit Pistons
Detroit Red Wings
Detroit Tigers
Detroit Zoo
Dreamland Parties &

Sleepovers
Edward Street Dental
Emagine Entertainment
English Gardens
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Nadine Milostan
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MotorCity Casino Hotel
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New Horizons
Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
David Newman and
CORE Litigation
Oakland County Parks &
Recreation

Dennis & Laura O'Meara
Patronik Family
Roadside B&G
Royal Oak Golf Center
Jerry & Judy Rubin
School of Rock of
Rochester
Sea Life Aquarium &
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Skate World of Troy
Soccer Moms Yard Signs
Streetside Seafood
Toyology Toys
Vera Bradley
Tom Walas & Diane Wolfe
Wheelhouse Detroit
Mark & Ann Wiedelman
Lee Yambura

Congratulations to the Dove Award Recipients!

ADVOCACY HALL OF FAME AWARD 2021

Tom Kendziorski, Esq., Executive Director,
The Arc of Oakland County

ADVOCACY HALL OF FAME AWARD 2020

Mabel Higgs, Founder, Family Living Center, Inc.

JANET and PAUL MacCORMACK LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Jerry Rubin, Board of Directors, The Arc of Oakland County

ARC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Kimberly Pietrylka-Miller, Vice President,
New Horizons Rehabilitation Services, Inc.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AWARD

Lynn Maginity, Executive Director, New Gateways, Inc.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Lisa Murrell, Executive Director,
Community Living Centers, Inc.

PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Lee Yambura

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Kevin Knoblock

SHELDON DUNN INSPIRATION AWARD

Amie Kupovits

AL CARTER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Ehrhardt Family

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Dustin Bramblett

LEONARD CERCONE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Tara Marchand, Special Education Teacher, Clarkston High School,
Clarkston Community Schools

LEONARD CERCONE POST SECONDARY

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Shea Seckel, Teacher,
Waterford Lifetracks Adult Transitions Program,
Waterford School District

GOLDEN DOVE AWARD

Ray Hooton, Retired Special Education Teacher,
Wing Lake Developmental Center, Bloomfield Hills Schools

PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

New Gateways, Inc.

INCLUSION LEADERSHIP AWARD

Brett Hanna, Physical Education & Health Teacher,
Waterford Kettering High School, Waterford School District

ROBERT THOMAS SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Patricia Christian, Campaign for Self-Determined Transitions Grant
Coordinator, Community Living Services, Inc.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

Daniel Maselli, Customized Employment Facilitator,
JVS Human Services

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARD

Bonnie Cowan, Assistant Home Manager,
Holcomb Haven Home & Olde Sturbridge Home

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

Santos Perez, ESL Parent Resource Para-Professional,
Waterford School District

2021 TAX GUIDE

PLEASE NOTE — THE TAX DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO MAY 17, 2021

PREPARED FOR PERSONS SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND/OR ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

This FREE authoritative income tax guide will prove to be invaluable for tax preparers, parents, and others concerned with tax deductions stemming from the care and support of a minor child, an adult, or other persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Issued annually for more than three decades, the 2021 INCOME TAX GUIDE was prepared by Thomas F. Kendziorski, Attorney at Law, and Executive Director of The Arc of Oakland County. The 2021 INCOME TAX GUIDE was written for The Arc Michigan and is copyrighted. The guide is available online.

Visit our website at www.thearcoakland.org and simply click on "Resources" and "Income Tax Guide" on the homepage. You may also view this tax guide on The Arc Michigan's website at www.arcmi.org. Please call The Arc of Oakland County with any questions at 248-816-1900.

Words Count

by Tricia Luker, Senior Staff Advocate

A variety of terms are used to describe people with disabilities. The words we use describe how we feel about others. Using outdated or insensitive language perpetuates stereotypes, misconceptions, and prejudice against those who have disabilities. It ignores the person's wholeness, personality, and abilities. Changing our language will help change our attitude.

For example, the word "handicap" conveys a negative image. It stresses the loss of ability and pigeon-holes the person based on what she or he cannot do. The preferred term is "disability." Likewise, saying, "he is disabled," ignores the person, replacing the image of an individual with the image of a disability. Instead, say "he has a disability." This statement sees the person first and the disability second.

The use of such words and phrases as crippled, a victim of, suffers from, afflicted with, and stricken by describe a person with no life outside the disability. Such terms create pity or fear. Nobody wants to hear him or herself described as "suffering from" or "stricken by" a disease or disability. Replace this negative terminology with the simple word has: "Jessica has epilepsy," not "Jessica suffers from epilepsy." Jessica probably is not suffering at all. No one wants to have these emotions placed on them.

People often are described as "wheelchair bound" or "confined to a wheelchair." Many wheelchair users can stand or walk with aid but choose to conserve their energy or move more quickly using a wheelchair. Even those who use wheelchairs on a full-time basis are not "bound" or "confined" in the true sense of the words. Instead, say "Ken uses a wheelchair."

Terms like the blind, the deaf, the disabled, the epileptic, or the retarded categorize disabilities, grouping people with disabilities into clusters and stereotypes. These generalizations are unreliable. Conditions vary by the person. Just as any two people have different personalities, two "blind" people may have different impairments. So, replace "blind" with "visually impaired"; replace "epileptic" with "has epilepsy"; and replace "retarded" with "has a developmental disability" or "has a cognitive impairment." Other similarly offensive terms include crazy, nuts, insane, maimed, invalid, lame, spastic, deaf and dumb, deaf mute, deformed, physically challenged and special.

Negative terms reinforce negative attitudes. Even referring to people who do not have disabilities as "able-bodied" or "normal" breaks the population into separate groups. People with disabilities are normal, too, as disability is part of the human condition. When people stop using and hearing negative references, their attitudes, and perspectives toward people with disabilities also will change.

Words

Positive language empowers. When writing or speaking about people with disabilities, put the person first. Group designations such as "the blind," "the deaf," or "the disabled," are inappropriate because they do not reflect the individuality, equality, or dignity of people who have disabilities.

Emphasize abilities, not limitations. For example, say "uses a wheelchair" or "walks with crutches" rather than "confined to a wheelchair, is wheelchair bound, or is crippled." Similarly, avoid use of inappropriate emotional descriptors such as "unfortunate" or "pitiful." Following are examples of positive and negative phrases. Note that the positive phrases put the person first.

Listed below are suggestions on how to relate and communicate with and about people with disabilities. Look beyond the disability. Look at the individual's ability and capability - - the things the make each of us unique and worthwhile.

POSITIVE PHRASES	NEGATIVE PHRASES
person with a disability	the disabled, handicapped
person without a disability	normal person [implies that the person with a disability is not normal]
says she/he has a disability	admits she/he has a disability
successful, productive	has overcome his/her disability; courageous [when it implies the person has courage because of having a disability]
person with epilepsy person with a seizure disorder	epileptic
Seizure	fit
person who is deaf, person who is hard of hearing	the deaf and dumb, suffers a hearing loss
person unable to speak, person who uses synthetic speech	dumb, mute
person who has muscular dystrophy	stricken by MD
person with a physical disability	crippled, lame, deformed
person with multiple sclerosis	afflicted by MS
person with cerebral palsy	CP victim
person with a psychiatric disability	crazy, nuts
person who no longer lives in an institution	the deinstitutionalized

Continued on Page 7

The ultimate objective of positive language is to move society to the point where having a disability is but one variable in the full range of human experience. When thinking or talking about people with disabilities, always think about and place the person first. The following "Ten Commandments of Etiquette for Communicating with People with Disabilities" support that objective.

1. When talking with a person with a disability, speak directly to that person rather than through a companion or sign language interpreter.
2. When introduced to a person with a disability, it is appropriate to offer to shake hands. People with limited hand use or who wear an artificial limb can usually shake hands. [Shaking hands with the left hand is an acceptable greeting.]
3. When meeting a person who is visually impaired, always identify yourself and others who may be with you. When conversing in a group, remember to identify the person to whom you are speaking.
4. If you offer assistance, wait until the offer is accepted. Then listen to or ask for instructions.
5. Treat adults as adults. Address people who have disabilities by their first names only when extending the same familiarity to all others. [Never patronize people who use a wheelchair by patting them on the head or shoulder.]
6. Leaning on or hanging on to a person's wheelchair is similar to leaning or hanging on to a person and is generally considered annoying. The chair is part of the personal body space of the person who uses it.
7. Listen attentively when you are talking with a person who has difficulty speaking. Be patient and wait for the person to finish, rather than correcting or speaking for the person. If necessary, ask short questions that require short answers, a nod or shake of the head. Never pretend to understand if you are having difficulty doing so. Instead, repeat what you have understood and allow the person to respond. The response will clue you in and guide your understanding.
8. When speaking with a person who uses a wheelchair or a person who uses crutches, place yourself at eye level in front of the person to facilitate the conversation.
9. To get the attention of a person who is deaf, tap the person on the shoulder or wave your hand. Look directly at the person and speak clearly, slowly, and expressively to determine if the person can read your lips. Not all people who are deaf can read lips. For those who do lip read, be sensitive to their needs by placing yourself so that you face the light source and keep hands, cigarettes, and food away from your mouth when speaking.
10. Relax. Don't be embarrassed if you happen to use accepted, common expressions such as "See you later," or "Did you hear about that?" that seem to relate to a person's disability. Do not be afraid to ask questions when you are unsure of what to do.

Ten Commandments of Etiquette for Communicating with People with Disabilities came from the National Center for Access Unlimited, 155 North Wacker Drive, Suite 315, Chicago, IL 60606

Support The Arc Using AmazonSmile

The Arc of Oakland County is a participating charity with AmazonSmile!

Do you already have an Amazon or Amazon Prime account? Do you not yet have an Amazon account, but would like to sign up for the first time? Here is what you can do to keep everything the same with your account, but still help support The Arc of Oakland County! AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know— same products, same prices, and same service.

Follow these SIMPLE steps!

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>
2. Log In with your normal Amazon or Amazon Prime username and password (or create new username & password for first-time users)
3. Select The Arc of Oakland County, Inc. as your preferred charity

DONE! Now every time you want to log in to your account you will go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and select your items to purchase!

Thank You Panasonic Automotive!



In March, The Arc of Oakland County was the recipient of a \$15,000 grant from the Panasonic Automotive Systems of America. This company provides funding to several non-profit charitable organizations each year. The home office is located in Peachtree City, Georgia, but there is a local office in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

One of our long-time members and a Panasonic Automotive Systems employee, Ms. Claire Holloway, submitted The Arc for consideration this year. The Panasonic Community Affairs Team reviewed The Arc's background and services and we were selected. Thank you, Claire!

The funds will be used towards extending our outreach into the areas of legal and financial affairs advocacy, special education assistance, and long-term supports services in Oakland County.

Profiles



The Arc

Oakland County

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NEW MEMBERS

AS OF 4/20/21 WE HAVE 585 MEMBERS!

MARCH MEMBERS

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2021 Membership Goal
2,000

Calendar

May

31 – Memorial Day

June

9 – The Arc of Oakland County's VIRTUAL Annual Meeting via Zoom, 7 p.m.
(more information on Page 2 of this newsletter)

July

4 – Independence Day

IN MEMORIAM

Joyce C. Gerada
Sandra Kopelman
Jane McCollough

The Arc of Oakland County Staff

Thomas F. Kendziorski, Esq.
Executive Director

Beth M. Lafata
Comptroller / Office Manager

Allison M. Murowany
Director, Public Relations & Development

Patricia D. Luker
Senior Staff Advocate /
Forever Plan Monitor

Kiesha D. Lawton
Administrative Assistant

Monica P. Goerg
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Monica M. Knoblock
Program Development,
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Fiscal Intermediary

Linda M. Yucha
Fiscal Intermediary

2020-2021

Board of Directors

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Jerry Rubin, 1st VP
Tom Lias, 2nd Vice President
Lisa Kowalski, Secretary
Suzanne Marquardt, Treasurer

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Ron Cheli
Tim Hatfield
Linda Knox
Julianne Lalik
Randall Meono
Nadine Milostan
Barbara Scott
John Torrone
Ann Wiedelman

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Allison M. Murowany