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Citizen Hall of Fame Announces Historic Inductees

Spokane, WA—The Spokane Public Library Foundation (SPLF) and the City of Spokane announces the historic inductees into the Citizen Hall of Fame.

Father Joseph Cataldo, James and Eleanor Chase, Francis Cook, Bing Crosby, and Carl Maxey are our 2016 historic inductees into the Citizen Hall of Fame. Eighteen living finalists have already been announced, of which six citizens will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the breakfast on April 14th.

Father Joseph Cataldo (1837 – 1928), Jesuit priest and missionary, who was born in Sicily was sent to minister to the Spokane Indians and later opened a small school at Saint Joseph. He purchased two parcels of land, one becoming Mount Saint Michael and the second parcel establishing Gonzaga College at that site. “Spokane was just a little shanty town then and many criticized me for building such a large house in the wilderness,” Cataldo said.

James Chase (1914 – 1987) and **Eleanor Barrow Chase** (1918 – 2002) formed a strong team for the benefit of Spokane. James was elected as the first black city council member in 1975 and then mayor in 1981. Eleanor worked as a social worker for 25 years as well as using her classically trained voice as a soloist at Westminster Congregational Church for thirty years. Together and separately, they served on numerous civic boards, promoting education and equal rights for all. James later said that Eleanor was “the person who influenced my life the most” and that “all of my goals, desires and accomplishments are geared with her happiness in mind.”

Francis Cook (1851 – 1920) newspaper editor, town booster, farmer, inventor, land developer and visionary, arrived in Spokane in 1879. He started Spokane’s first newspaper, *The Spokan Times*, upon his arrival and published the paper until 1882. Cook then set his sights on developing an area on Spokane’s South Hill. “I started my paper in ’79 with the full belief that here by the falls was the site of a future great metropolis and I started in immediately to do my part to make the vision come true,” said Cook.

Bing Crosby (1903 – 1977) international singing and acting star, was born as Harry L. Crosby and moved to Spokane in 1906 with his family. He got the nickname “Bing” from a comic strip which appeared in the *Spokesman Review* when he was a child. Crosby graduated from Gonzaga High School (now Gonzaga Prep) in 1920 and attended Gonzaga University for three years. Bing started singing with various bands in local theaters in Spokane before leaving for Los Angeles. “Love is the important thing:

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love and the right sense of values, which include a respect for people, a love of God, and a pride in achievement,” said Crosby.

Carl Maxey (1922 – 1997) civil rights leader, criminal defense attorney, and national collegiate boxing champion, was credited with “virtually singlehandedly desegregating much of the inland Northwest.” After serving during World War II, Maxey came home and won scholarships to attend the University of Oregon and Gonzaga Law School where he was the only black student. As an attorney, he used litigation to break down racial barriers at restaurants, private clubs and schools. “I look on life as a war and not a game,” said Maxey.

These six catalytic individuals set the stage for our 18 finalists who will also be honored on April 14.

Please go to www.spokanelibraryfoundation.org for more information about the event and to purchase tickets.

The Spokane Citizen Hall of Fame recognizes individuals, both living and deceased, who have made significant contributions to the city of Spokane in one of six categories while providing an opportunity to raise funds for the Spokane Public Library. The Spokane Public Library, as one of the centers of our community, is a resource to the citizens of Spokane, providing the tools and resources to enhance the lives of all citizens. The library is a valuable resource which includes experts, curators and navigators of knowledge for our city. Together, the City of Spokane and the Library Foundation, want to honor these outstanding citizens who make Spokane great.

Citizens will be honored for their achievements in the following categories:

1. **Arts and Letters:** for activities that enhance and support the artistic/cultural and literary life and well-being of the community
2. **Economic Development and Business:** for entrepreneurial activity or significant contributions toward the economic betterment of Spokane
3. **Education:** for enriching and inspiring lifelong learning in our community
4. **Innovation and Leadership:** for activities that cultivate strong innovation and leadership city-wide
5. **Public Service and Philanthropy:** for exemplary voluntary and public service activities that benefit the community
6. **Science and Medicine:** for individuals who have made significant contributions in the area of science or medicine

About Spokane Public Library Foundation

The Spokane Public Library Foundation, a 501(c)3 enhances programming, services and resources offered by the Spokane Public Library through advocacy, partnerships and private dollars to ensure the library’s excellence. For more information about us visit www.spokanelibraryfoundation.org and follow the library @spokanelibrary on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the City of Spokane

The City of Spokane, home to more than 210,000 people, is located in the heart of the Inland Northwest. Our 2,000 employees strive to deliver efficient and effective services that facilitate economic opportunity and enhance the quality of life for all our citizens. For more information visit spokanecity.org and follow us @spokanecity on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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