



For Immediate Release - 12.4.2023

Contact: Pat Bingham, President, Aspen Hall of Fame

970-366-7901

pat.bingham130@gmail.com

2024 Aspen Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

Charlie Hopton, Mary Ryerson, Mike Kaplan

Three individuals who have made indelible contributions to the Aspen community have been selected by the Aspen Hall of Fame Board of Directors for induction into the 2024 Aspen Hall of Fame. They will be formally inducted at the annual Aspen Hall of Fame Banquet at the Hotel Jerome on April 14, 2024. The banquet features dinner and wine and an awards ceremony highlighted by video profiles of each inductee.

“We are so fortunate to have had such a colorful, passionate, playful, and impactful list of nominees to choose from,” said Aspen Hall of Fame President, Pat Bingham. This year’s inductees personify the spirit of Aspen. They are the people who make Aspen special, and we are thrilled to honor them.”

(More)



Charlie Hopton in front of Mount Everest in 2012 on a trip he took with Aspenites Mike and Steve Marolt, Jim Gile, Doug Dolginow and Cherie Silvera. Photo - Doug Dolginow

Charlie Hopton - Charlie Hopton is a beloved figure in Aspen. He moved to Aspen in the 1950s and has been involved in service to his community for nearly 70 years. He is a founder of Mountain Rescue Aspen and of the Western Slope Veterans Coalition, having enlisted at a young age in the Korean war. Charlie has given his time to many Aspen organizations over the years, including the Buddy Program, Friends of Hunter Creek, and Wilderness Workshop. Hopton received the Greg Mace Award in 2018 for his service in the community.



Mary Ryerson Photo courtesy Alpine Bank

Mary Ryerson - Mary Ryerson is President of Alpine Bank in Aspen and has a banking career in the community spanning 45 years dating back to the Bank of Aspen. As a longtime valley resident and parent of 5 children, Mary has cemented her place as a

respected, admired, selflessly giving and infinitely approachable member of the Aspen community who has given her time to organizations including Kids First, Aspen Junior Hockey, Aspen Ski Swap and the Aspen Recreation Center. She can also be seen 'flipping burgers' for the myriad Aspen Booster Club events.



Mike Kaplan Photo courtesy Aspen Skiing Company

Mike Kaplan - Mike Kaplan worked for the Aspen Skiing Company for 30 years, including 17 as CEO. He was widely acclaimed by Skico employees as a popular and inspiring leader with a passion for sustainable operations and climate change advocacy. He championed the admired ski company policy of the management team taking turns working on the front lines loading lifts, driving ski shuttles, shoveling snow, and busing tables at on-mountain restaurants.

Videos of the life history of each inductee are prepared and presented at the banquet, becoming a living narrative on the rich history of our area as told through their lives, their families, and colleagues.

About the Aspen Hall of Fame

Since its founding in 1986/87, the Aspen Hall of Fame has honored more than 100 community members for their lasting contributions. Its mission is to recognize and

honor individuals who have embraced the spirit of Aspen with their significant and lasting impact on the community by demonstrating excellence and leadership in areas including civic activities, culture, sports and philanthropy, and who inspire the next generation to follow in their footsteps.

The Aspen Hall of Fame is a nonprofit organization, dependent upon donations for its continued existence. Donations keep the annual banquet affordable for all who wish to attend and support the making of the documentary videos.

“A big priority for the board of directors is to try to keep the annual banquet as affordable as possible for all who wish to attend, “ said Bingham. “Our non-profit organization not only subsidizes the banquet, but we also cover the gratuities during the cocktail/socializing hour prior to the banquet. We also share the biographical videos on our website, aspenhalloffame.org on the Aspen Historical Society’s website, at the Pitkin County Library, and on the Aspen Hall of Fame’s YouTube channel.”

Invitations to the 2024 Aspen Hall of Fame banquet will be mailed in late February/early March 2024. The public may sign up to be on the mailing list or make a donation at aspenhalloffame.org.

###