

HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT

2012/2013
Journal

Michael B. Falzarano

Class of 1969

Michael entered the Copiague school system in the 6th grade. He was drawn to music at an early age and began accordion lessons when he was eight years old. Michael quickly moved on to the guitar and eventually studied music with Copiague's Ronnie DeMarino. In high school Michael supported his alma mater by performing at a benefit with his band, Great Bear, of which the proceeds paid for new athletic uniforms. Michael credits former English teacher Ms. Page with giving him the confidence to pursue a songwriting career. As an undiagnosed dyslexic student, Michael struggled academically. Ms. Page took the time both to help and encourage Michael, for which he remains grateful.

Michael has been a professional musician since his graduation from high school. He performed throughout Long Island and New York for several years before relocating to San Francisco. There he teamed up with Jorma Kaukonen (ex-Jefferson Airplane guitarist) in the band Hot Tuna. As a prominent member of the group for 20 years, Michael wrote, recorded and produced songs for Hot Tuna and toured the world with them. In 2005, Michael was recruited by the ever popular New Riders of the Purple Sage. He and the New Riders continue to record and tour today.

Along with Jorma Kaukonen, Michael collaborated with Paul Simon on music for his Broadway play, *Cape Man*. He has shared the stage with legends such as the Allman Brothers and members of the Grateful Dead to Bruce Hornsby and The Band. Michael is widely known as an accomplished musician/singer/songwriter who possesses a noteworthy discography and is also a studio producer for other recording artists and contributes original music to films. Michael lends his talents to events benefiting disabled children, at-risk teens and countless others in need. He believes music is a universal language that offers positive benefits to all.

In 1978 Michael married fellow Copiague graduate Claudia Heim. In 1986 they left San Francisco for New York City where they still reside. Their daughter, Mia, is a honor student and senior at Hamilton College. The Falzarano family enjoys spending time together, traveling and supporting the arts.

“Perseverance pays off.”