



CHS Alumni Association, Inc.

Volume 2, Issue 1

April 2019

CHS Alumni Association Funds School Grants



Unified Oakers Plunge: L-R Christine Hoskins, Advisor, Julianna Sinotte, Rylee Campbell, Jaya Joyce



Cardio Room Cubby: L-R Quentin, Brandon Machado, Domenic Bellotti, Jacob Budzyna

The Coventry High School Alumni (CHSAA) has partially funded five school projects for a total of \$2500. The projects include creating a History Museum Room; promoting school spirit and unity through the Unified Oaker Plunge; reconditioning a space to be used by students participating in the Adaptive Physical Education Cardio Room; highlighting the History of CHS including the major events in the school's history; and helping students with IEP and 504 Plans prepare for employment through work-readiness programs and internships through the Tri-employment program. The advisors include Christine Hoskins for the Unified Oaker Plunge, Matthew Brissette for the History Museum Room, Suzanne Tracy and Lisa Johansen for the CHS History Project, Kelly Kramer for the Cardio Room Cubby, and Shelley Bigelli for the Tri-Employment program. Student from the Career and Tech Center's carpentry program will assist with some of the projects.

In addition to the donation from the Alumni Association, some materials were generously provided by Bill and Sean Finnegan at Coventry Lumber. The CHSAA is grateful for Coventry Lumber's support.



Tri-employment - Tim Tousignant, Jennifer Doucette, Tom Costello, Kaitlyn Villandry, Alzah Dezel, Zachary DaBaer, Shelley Bigelli CHS ULC, Martha McConnell, CHS ULC



L to R: Advisors: Matt Brissette, Lisa Johansen, and Suzanne Tracy



**History Museum - Back Row: Alex Lupo, Hayden St. Germain, Nick Pietrzyk, Alex Tsang, William Turner, Connor Macomber, Sophia Federico
Front Row: Penny Bergeron, MacKenna Croft, Cassidy Choquette, Allison Bailey**

The CHSAA to Present \$17000 in Scholarships on April 9th and May 16th

The CHSAA will be presenting scholarships totaling \$17000 this year bringing the total since 2011 to \$100,000! The following scholarships will be awarded in 2019:

In memory or honor of:

Margaret St. Pierre	\$2,000.00
James A. Blair	\$2,000.00
David L. Parenteau.....	\$2,000.00
Mary Ann Cantino	\$2,000.00
Maureen Pontarelli	\$2,000.00
Martha Barber.....	\$1,000.00
Erica Tremblay Shea	\$1,000.00
Arthur D. St. Jean*	\$1,000.00
Megan Anne Alexion Mello*	\$1,000.00
Deceased Members of Faculty and Staff of CHS*	\$1,000.00
John Macomber*	\$1,000.00
Chester Kuipers*	\$1000.00

**Denotes scholarships given Senior Awards Night*

Total..... \$17,000.00

A special luncheon will be held on May 17th at 10:30 in the Knotty Oak Room for all CHSAA scholarship recipients. Some of the scholarship sponsors will be in attendance.

Careers Completed...



Alma L. (Clays) Morin

MORIN, ALMA L. (CLAYS)

93, formerly of Coventry, passed away at home in Scituate on Sunday, January 6, 2019. She was predeceased by her husband Ernest W. Morin Jr. in 1991. Alma was employed as an administrative assistant with the Coventry School System for 20 years before retiring in 1990.



Deborah A. (Dunbar) Fielder

FIELDER, DEBORAH (DUNBAR) A.

72, a long-time Greene resident, passed away unexpectedly at home, on Monday, February 25, 2019. Born on December 2, 1946, Deborah was a daughter of the late Edgar S. and Gwendolyn A. (Graves) Dunbar.

Her thirty-four-year teaching career focused on third-grade students, in the formative, early stages of learning. Retired in 2001, Deborah spent her entire career teaching in the Coventry school district and was a sought-after educator.



Raymond E. Reilly, Jr.

REILLY, JR., RAYMOND E.

of Smithfield, died Wednesday, Nov. 28th at the age of 77. He was the beloved husband of Joyce (McGuinness) Reilly for 55 years and the son of the late Raymond and Rita Reilly. A graduate of LaSalle Academy, he earned his bachelor's degree from Providence College and his masters from U.R.I. Ray was a dedicated educator for 35 years serving the towns of Smithfield, and Coventry, Later as the Superintendent of the Foster-Glocester Regional School District Raymond was named as the Superintendent of the Year in 1997.

About Us

The Coventry High School Alumni Association (CHSAA) is a nonprofit, 501-(3)(c) tax-exempt organization founded in 2009. Our mission is to: 1) provide scholarship for CHS seniors, 2) provide funds for school educational projects, and 3) recognize successful and community-minded individuals who had attended CHS, been employed at CHS, or who have been benefactors to the CHS community.

Since 2011, the CHSAA has awarded \$100,000 in scholarships and donated \$5050 to school projects over the last three years. Our goal is to help students identify their career pathways before leaving high school to minimize the wasting of time and money by changing colleges or majors, extending the time, and increasing the cost of college.

All of the committee members are volunteers so virtually all the money raised through fundraisers or donations goes to the students of CHS. Our website is www.oakeralumni.org and donations may be made there via credit card or by mailing a check to:

CHSAA

P.O. Box 705

Coventry, RI 02816

A Debt of Gratitude...

Many thanks to the members of the CHSAA committee, the Alumni Hall of Fame Selection Committee, and all our generous donors. Members of the committee give generously of their time and personal resources to help make the scholarships and grants possible.

CHSAA Committee members: John Ball, Jim Kuipers '85, Mary Ann Cantino, Mary Vandervelde '76, Karen Bookbinder '75, Maureen Jendzejec '75, Andrea Hopkins '64, Kate McCarthy Barnett '85, Suzie Chorney '64, Stacy Ferrara '83, Kevin Dolan '80, Pat Johnson '81, Jean Boucher '68, and Ernie DiMicco '66

Hall of Fame Selection Committee members: Brooke Macomber, Kathy Patenaude, Robert Iannotti '81, Todd Fusco '81, Lynn Blanchette, Florence Duperry '81, Gail Groves '54

Alumni Hall of Fame

The CHS Alumni Hall of Fame currently has 34 members who have brought honor to CHS and who have contributed greatly to the wider community. Their accomplishments serve as a model for CHS students and have made a great difference in our world.

Deserving candidates may be nominated to the Alumni Hall of Fame using the form on our website (www.oakeralumni.org). The form, with supporting documentation, should be submitted by August 1, 2019. Selections are made by mid-September and the induction dinner will be held



Chief Frank Brown with family and friends at the 2018 Alumni Hall of Fame Induction.



Gary Osbrey '79

As a child, Gary Osbrey was glued to the radio. Every day after school he would call the local radio station in West Warwick, WSVP-1450 with requests and contest attempts. He dragged his mother to every live broadcast to meet the DJ's and get a free record. While attending Coventry Middle School, he learned about the Coventry High School radio station, WCHS, which later went on the air as WCVY 91.5. He immediately began his countdown to high school so he could join the radio station. He and the other students, under the leadership of Ken Grady, worked hard to raise the money required to put WCVY on the air. The dream became a reality in 1978. Also in 1978, just before he returned to Coventry High School as a senior, he was hired as a part time announcer at WKRI in West Warwick, a job he held through his senior year and beyond.

After graduation in 1979, an additional stint was added at WSAR in Fall River. Next, he purchased and operated a mobile DJ company. He was hired full time at WNRI in Woonsocket in January of 1980.

In 1981, at age 20, he began his 34-year run at WINY in Putnam, CT, which he and his wife Karen purchased in 2001.

Community service is the backbone and lifeblood of WINY and Gary, Karen and the radio station have received numerous awards and recognition over the years for their efforts including Business Leader of the Year, Civic Achievement Award and citations from the CT General Assembly.

Gary has served as President of the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce and Putnam Rotary Club as well as Assistant District Governor for Rotary International District 7890. He is currently vice president of the church council at St. John Lutheran Church in Brooklyn and is also founder and chairperson of The Holiday Dazzle Light Parade, an annual event which draws nearly 20,000 people to Putnam, CT. Gary lives in Putnam with Karen, his wife of 28 years and starts each day the same way he has for his entire adult - by giving humble thanks to God for His abundant blessings and grace.



AMY STRATTON '90

A 1990 Coventry High School graduate, Amy Stratton continued her education at Boston College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, cum laude. She then completed a law degree from Suffolk University School of Law.

Today, she is a partner with Moonan, Stratton & Waldman, LLP, a women-run law firm based in the heart of the East Side of Providence. Amy and her partner Kristen Prull Moonan focus on trusts and estates and elder law, as well as the transactional matters critical throughout the life of a business.

With two decades of legal experience, Amy is known for her ability to listen actively to and understand her clients' most pressing challenges and overarching goals, she approaches their legal needs with both

compassion and empathy ... and strong advocacy when needed. She is licensed to practice law in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Amy has maintained her strong commitment to community, both personally and professionally. As the past president of the Rhode Island Women's Bar Association, she currently serves on the Emeritus Committee. She is a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association and active as a frequent volunteer in its Elderly Pro Bono program, helping needy senior citizens access legal representation at no cost. She is also a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the Estate Planning Council of Rhode Island.

Amy has spearheaded a team in the Walk To End Alzheimer's for the past three years in honor and remembrance of her grandfather, Philip Pompei (a former Coventry resident). Over the years, she has donated her legal services to the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RISPCA) and served as a guest speaker to a wide range of groups including Launch Business Planning Forum, the City of Warwick Public Schools and, most recently, a continuing education seminar for family lawyers.

In 2018, she completed training at the Warwick Citizens Police Academy, part of the Warwick Police Department outreach designed to highlight the challenges facing first responders in the Kent County community.

She currently resides in Warwick with her dog Libby," the official law firm greeter" on selected Fridays.