



# CHS Alumni Association, Inc.

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## CHS Alumni Association to Host an 85th Anniversary All-Class Reunion on November 1st at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet

On November 1st, 262 alumni and family members gathered at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of Coventry High School and the 10th anniversary of the Coventry High School Alumni Association. Graduates in attendance ranged from Viola Gertrude Knight Sroka (class of 1939) to Trevor DiMicco (class of 2009). Several former teachers were in attendance, as well as the current superintendent, Craig Levis and the chairperson of the Coventry school committee, Katherine Patenaude.

Speakers for the evening included Gary Osbrey '79 who started working in high school at the high CHS's radio station, WCVY. He went on to work in commercial radio, culminating in his purchase of a radio station, WINY 1350 AM in Putnam, CT. Other speakers included the superintendent, CHS teacher Julie Lima Boyle '90 who was RI Teacher of the Year in 2012, and Brooke Macomber '90, the former student, teacher, assistant principal and the current principal. Entertainment was provided by Reckless Blues featuring Colleen Nottage Rogers '85 and The Bob Tremblay Band, who played oldies for the evening. Many old friendships were rekindled and photographs of all arrangements were taken by Kevin

Dolan '80, who provided photography services for the evening.

In addition to Viola Sroka, who was recognized as the oldest attending member of the alumni, Joanne and David Leroux (of the classes of 1958 and 1959) were recognized as the longest married alumni couple, together for 57 years. Finally, the Sroka family was recognized for having 4 generations in attendance.

Many thanks to the Alumni Reunion Committee, who organized this event under the leadership of event planner Tarah M. Warner and Ernie DiMicco '66, CHSAA President. Other committee members included Jo-Ann Passarelli '80, Lori Di Costanzo '80, Kevin Dolan '80 (photographer), Stephen Bestwick '80, Jean Boucher '68, Kate McCarthy Barnett '85, Helen Gray '64, Maureen Jendzjec '85, Beverly Blais '74, Kathy Lavallee '83 (website work) and Ray Coppa and Charlie Harrigan, former science teachers. It was an evening of memories that helped everyone to recall why Coventry High School is such a special place and why the CHS family helped so many students to find their way in life.

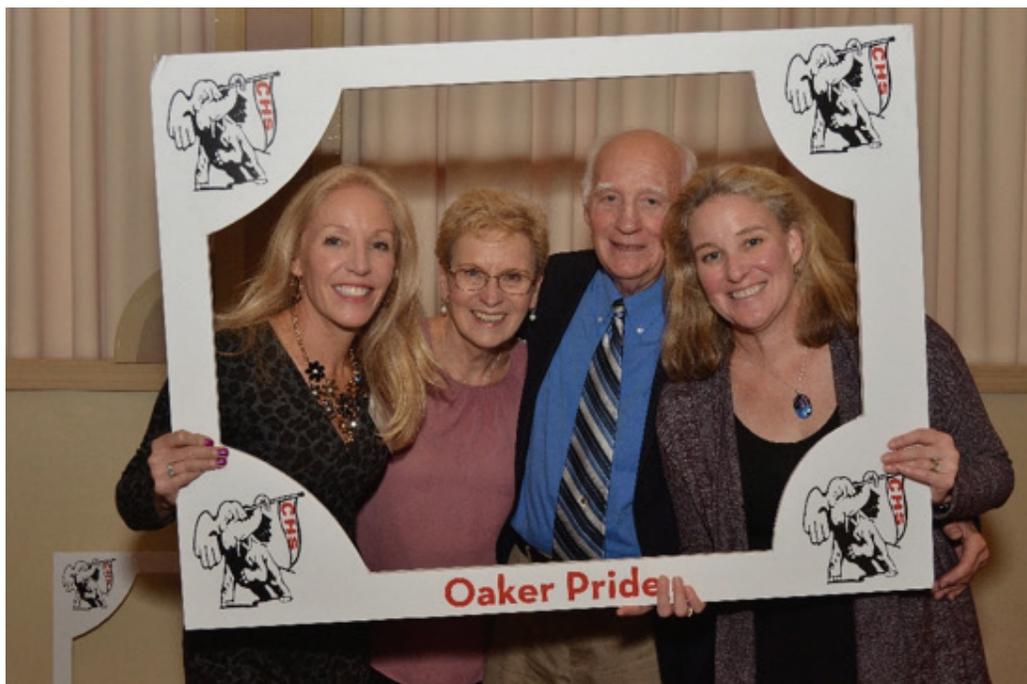


Viola Sroka '39



Coventry High School  
85 Year All-Class Reunion  
Friday, November 1, 2019  
Classes of 1980-1982

Classes 1980 - 82



**The St. Pierre Family at the Reunion**

## **Five New Inductees added to the CHS Alumni Hall of Fame**



L.to R. Shannon Donovan '91, Rev. Michael Woolley '85, Michael Hobin, James Hopkins '58, and Kevin Dolan '80

Five individuals were honored by induction to the Coventry HS Alumni Hall of Fame for 2019 at Quidnessett Country Club on Thursday, October 17th. This year's inductees are: Michael Hobin, former principal and teacher; James Hopkins '58; Shannon Donovan '91; Kevin Dolan '80; and Rev. Michael Woolley '85. About 100 individual came to honor these individuals who have not only had successful careers but they have also found the energy and resources to give back to their communities. These amazing individuals are a credit to CHS and serve as an example to our students of what is possible for them.

The selection of Hall of Fame members is determined by a committee including Kathy Patenaude, school committee chairperson; Florence Duperry '83; Todd Fusco '81; Gail Groves '54; Robert Iannotti '81; Ted Szymkowicz '55 and Brooke Macomber, Principal. Our ability to select quality inductees depends on nominations submitted to the committee. Applications can be found at [www.oakeralumni.org](http://www.oakeralumni.org) with a deadline of submission of August 1, 2020. Please consider nominating a deserving person.

## Class of 1968 Establishes a Scholarship after Donation Drive

The class of 1968 has established a scholarship to honor deceased members of their class. Over 100 letters were sent out to class members in August, issuing a challenge to match \$10,000 donated by some anonymous donors to establish a scholarship through the CHSAA. By November, 54 members of the class donated \$10,718, making the total donation nearly \$21,000. The donation has been invested in the CHSAA Endowment Fund and will support scholarships for many years going forward. Congratulations to the members of the class for this amazing achievement undertaken on behalf of CHS students.

## 3rd Annual Breakfast Fundraiser to be held on January 25, 2020

On January 25, 2020, the CHSAA will host a winter breakfast at the Olde Theatre Dinner from 9:00 AM to 11 AM. We will have a delicious breakfast and some raffles with all proceeds going to our scholarship fund. Tickets will be available now for \$20 from committee members or through our website at \$21 per ticket at [www.oakeralumni.org](http://www.oakeralumni.org). Tickets can be purchased by check through the mail for \$20 at CHSAA PO Box 705 Coventry, RI 02816. Please plan to join us to support our scholarship program to help graduating CHS seniors with their college expenses.

## Chicken Dinner at the Coventry Men's Club on April 25th, 2020.

On Saturday, April 25, 2020, the CHSAA will host a chicken dinner at the Coventry Men's Club from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Tickets will cost \$20 and will be available on March 1st from committee members or at [www.oakeralumni.org](http://www.oakeralumni.org). Please come and join us for a wonderful evening of food, friendship and entertainment and help us to raise funds for scholarships for CHS seniors.

## CHSAA Presented \$17,000 in Scholarships on April 9th and May 16th

The CHSAA presented scholarships totaling \$17,000 this year bringing the total since 2011 to \$100,000! The following scholarships were awarded in 2019:

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>In honor/memory of</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Messier	Taylor	Chet Kuipers	\$1,000.00
Barden	Theresa	Mary Ann Cantino	\$2,000.00
Killea	Carleigh	Maureen Pontarelli	\$2,000.00
Cafaro	Matthew	John Macomber	\$1,000.00
Donahue	James	James A. Blair	\$2,000.00
Gramajo	Brandon	David L. Parenteau	\$2,000.00
Travers	Allison	Megan Anne Alexion Mello	\$1,000.00
Gebler	Hannah	Erica Tremblay Shea	\$1,000.00
Mattias	Danielle	Margaret St. Pierre	\$2,000.00
Furtado	Michael	Arthur D. St. Jean	\$1,000.00
Begones	Abigail	Martha M. Barber	\$1,000.00
Suran	Sagar	Class of 1968, in memory of our deceased members	\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$17,000.00</b>



## **Carolyn Lukowicz Harrington '61**

As a senior at Coventry High School in 1961, Carolyn Lukowicz was the female recipient of the Babe Ruth Sportsmanship Award, was named Most Athletic Girl, and was a member of the Rhode Island Honor Society.

Carolyn began playing softball in the Coventry Girls' Softball League on the Coventry Kats and the Butcher Boy Girls. She also played with the Local 57 Oilerettes in Providence and with Conimicut in the 1960s. Later she played in the Atlantic Coast League with the Waltham Drifters in Waltham, Massachusetts, a team that placed 5th out of 18 teams in the 1972 National Majors Women's Softball Tournament in Tucson, Arizona.

In addition to softball, Carolyn played field hockey as a member of Northeast One Team participating in the National Field Hockey Tournament held in St. Louis, Missouri (1961) and New Jersey (1968). She also competed against the Canadian National Team at the World's Fair in Montreal, Canada in 1967 for the same team. Selected to the Boston Field Hockey First Team in

the 1960s-early 1970s, Carolyn played against touring teams from New Zealand and Great Britain/Ireland.

Carolyn entered a career as a Massachusetts Physical Education and/or Health Educator on the elementary, middle, and high school levels and served in this position for thirty years. An advocate of girls' and women's sports through her career, Carolyn served as a varsity high school coach, an official on the high school and collegiate levels, and the director of the MIAA state high school softball tournament.

Carolyn received many honors for her amazing work including induction into the Boston University Athletic Hall of Fame (1990), the Northeast New Agenda Hall of Fame (1990), and the Massachusetts High School Softball Coaches Association Hall of Fame (1994).

Carolyn is thankful for endless support for her in all her endeavors given by her family, outstanding teachers and coaches, skilled teammates and great friends.



## **LCDR Heather Shibley, USN**

After graduating CHS in 1997, Heather Shibley attended Tulane University where she majored in Cell and Molecular Biology. She graduated Summa Cum Laude and landed the top biology prize award and was honored into the Phi Beta Kappa Society. She then earned her MD at Penn State College of Medicine where she graduated with Alpha Omega Alpha honors. She completed her Psychiatry Residency at the Medical University of South Carolina where she was named an American Psychiatric Leadership Fellow. She then completed her child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship at Brown University receiving a house staff excellence award and being selected a national Laughlin Fellow.

Shortly after joining the US Navy, she became the Senior Medical Officer of Mental Health at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. From there, she deployed to Afghanistan to the Role 3 Combat Trauma Hospital 2011-2012. She then founded the Wounded Warrior East Btlm Mental Health Clinic at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and became the Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) Psychiatrist, the Marine Special Operations Command Psychiatrist and the Department Head of Mental Health at NHCL. She was the Naval Center for Combat and Operational Stress Control Peabody Award Winner in 2015 and the Navy Junior Female Physician Leadership Award winner in 2017. She currently is a LCDR and the command psychiatrist for Naval Special Operations Group TWO in Virginia Beach. She is married to Billy Strokes and has two lovely daughters: Sierra and Scarlett.

## Careers Completed



HALE (CONLAN), JUDITH A.

74, died Thursday July 25, 2019. She was the beloved wife of Richard M. Hale. Judy worked for the Coventry School Department for 35 years, where she loved assisting children with reading. When not reading in school, you would find her reading to her grandchildren. She was the beloved mother of Elizabeth A. Hale-Rose, Jennifer L. Kicia and Danielle L. (James) Kuipers.



MAZZIE, NOREEN F. (O'BRIEN)

75, of Salem Ave., Cranston, passed away Sunday, June 9, 2019 at the home of her daughter Samantha surrounded by her loving family. Noreen was a teacher for 38 years with the Coventry Public Schools and later for 12 years at St. Rose of Lima in Warwick before retiring. She enjoyed reading and spending time at the beach. Ms. Mazzie will live on through the deeds and accomplishments of her students.



SENNERCHIA, SHIRLEY C. (COURNOYER)

79, of Foster Drive, Coventry passed away on October 22. Shirley was the secretary at the West Bay Career and Tech Center for over 40 years and served as the head of the union for classified employees for many years. We are thankful for her years of service to the Coventry Public Schools.



Jennifer N. Carlsten, 72, passed away due to complications related to Alzheimer's disease on Monday October 28th at the Hope Hospice Center in Providence. She was an avid gardener and a talented artist. Jennifer achieved National Board Certification in art education and taught special education and art in the Coventry School district for 25 years before retiring in 2015. We are thankful for Mrs. Carlsten's years of service to art students at CHS.



RICCI, BARRY J.

62, of Foster, passed away on Sunday, December 22, 2019 after a courageous 18-month battle with brain cancer. Mr. Ricci served as Superintendent of Chariho Regional School District for nearly 15 years after joining the Chariho family as Assistant Superintendent in 2001. Prior to his time in Chariho, Mr. Ricci served as principal of Western Coventry School from 1987 to 2001. Mr. Ricci was an outstanding educator who made a difference for thousands of students.



**Scholarship recipients for 2019.**

## **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 scholarships 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](http://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. Several individuals have also arranged bequests to the organization to help ensure that future CHS seniors will continue to receive support through CHSAA Endowment and other investments. Please consider helping us.

## **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, 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, Ernie DiMicco '66, Jo-Ann Passarelli '80, Lori DiCostanzo '80, Helen Gray '64, and Diane and Robert Tremblay.

## **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](http://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 on October 17, 2019 at Quidnessett Country Club.