



CHS Alumni Association, Inc.

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The CHSAA Inducts 4 more Individuals into the Coventry High School Alumni Hall of Fame



Left to Right: Thaylen Waltonen '66, Donna Tobin, Megan Eddings '99, and John Kowal '87

The Coventry High School Alumni Hall of Fame inductees were first installed in 2012. Inductees include CHS Alumni; former or current members of the CHS faculty, administration, or staff; and benefactors to Coventry High School. Inductees have often overcome adversity to ultimately become successful. Since 2012, 57 individuals and one group have been inducted. Many are involved in charitable work or work with youth. Nominations come from the general public, alumni members, or school employees. The inductees are chosen by a selection committee which is separate from the CHSAA committee. The inductees for 2023 include:

Thaylen H. Waltonen, a 1966 graduate of CHS, has a long record of community service including serving as president of the Coventry and Rhode Island Jaycees and serving for 26 years on the West Greenwich Town Council. Thaylen currently resides in West Greenwich.

Donna Tobin, an English teacher from Coventry's Feinstein Middle School and Coventry High School served in a number of positions in addition to her teaching duties. She has made an amazing difference in the lives of her students.

Megan Eddings, a 1999 graduate of CHS who founded a clothing manufacturing company in Houston, TX. She invented an anti-bacterial fabric and manufactures athletic clothing, personal protective gowns for healthcare workers, and is a major scholarship contributor to the CHSAA.

John F. Kowal is a 1987 CHS grad who earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He has worked for several medical device companies and is now President for the Americas for Varan Medical. His company has made many contributions to identifying and treating cancer. He is also a donor to the CHSAA. John resides in Dallas, Texas.

Congratulations to our most recent inductees!

Two New \$1,500 Nursing Scholarships to be Established in 2024

Thanks to the members of the class of 1973 and the work of Glenn Jennings '73, a donation has been made in the amount of \$6,580 to establish a scholarship in memory and honor of Cathy E. Bourque who was a member of the class and became a nurse after graduating. Sadly, Cathy passed away in 2002 and the members of her class decided to establish this scholarship at their 50th anniversary of their graduation from CHS. The scholarship will go to a CHS senior going on to study nursing.

The Iannotti family has established a scholarship in memory of Suzanne E. Iannotti which will also be awarded in 2024. Suzanne was a long-time nurse in the Coventry Public Schools and passed away last year at the age of 86. This scholarship will go to a student going on to study nursing in Rhode Island. Thank you to the Iannotti family and to Rosemary Dever (Iannotti) for her efforts to establish this scholarship.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the CHSAA is poised to donate \$56,000 in scholarships for 2024, having increased the Ardis Barbour Scholarship to \$3,000, increased the Margaret St. Pierre Scholarship (\$2,000 through the CTA and \$1,000 on Senior Awards Night to the same person), increased the Olde Theater Diner Scholarship to \$3,000, and added a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Richard Ceceri, Jr.

Since 2011, the CHSAA will have presented \$300,000 in scholarships and over \$15,000 has been donated to support school projects. The funds for these scholarships and grants come from donations, bequests, and funds earned through fundraising events.

Annual CHSAA Mini-Reunion Breakfast Fundraiser

The 6th Annual CHSAA Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at The Olde Theater Diner on Sandy Bottom Road. Tickets are \$20. Please join us to help the CHSAA continue to support CHS seniors. Tickets are available on our website at <https://www.oakeralumni.org> and can also be purchased by mail: CHSAA, P.O. Box 705, Coventry, RI 02816. We hope to see you there! Proceeds will be used to fund \$56,000 in scholarships for 2024.

CHSAA Hosting a Supper at the Knotty Oak Room

The CHSAA is inviting you to attend a supper on Thursday, February 1st at 5:00 PM in the Knotty Oak Room at CHS. This will give us the opportunity to highlight our culinary students and a chance to socialize. Tickets are \$20 and a link is available on our website and by mail as noted above.

The CHSAA to Host 90th Anniversary Party for CHS

Coventry High School turns 90 years old this year and the CHSAA is planning to hold a celebration on November 30, 2024, at Quidnessett Country Club. Tickets will be available starting in March, 2024. Reserve your tickets as there will be only 450 seats available! This is a perfect opportunity for classes who have not had reunions to get together. The event is open to current and former administrators and teachers and all members of the CHS alumni. Ticket prices and more information will follow. Plan to join us for a most memorable evening.

PV Rotary and CHSAA Hosted Funny4Funds Event



The CHSAA and the Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Raised \$4,400 at this event.

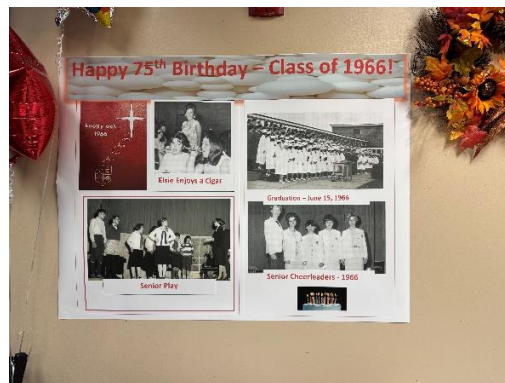
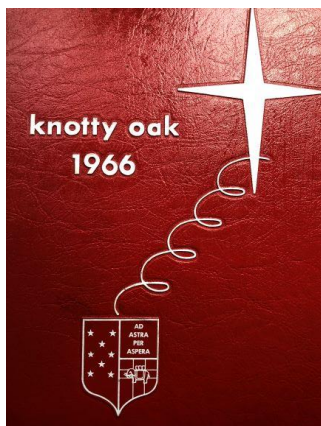
The CHSAA and Pawtuxet Valley Rotary teamed up at Club Jogues in Coventry on October 21 for a night of fellowship and comedy to raise funds for scholarships for Coventry High School students and community service projects. Approximately \$4,400 was raised at the event. Thank you to everyone that attended!

The Class of 1966 hosted a 75th Birthday Party as a Class Reunion

The Class of 1966 held a 75th birthday party for the members of the class on November 24th at the Olde Theatre Diner. Twenty members of the class were in attendance. It was great to see old friends and to spend time together.

The class will begin to plan their 60th year reunion this year and member of the class who are interested can join the committee by contacting Ernie DiMicco at dimiccoed@gmail.com.

Contact Ernie DiMicco at dimiccoed@gmail.com for more information.



Notes....

CHSAA is accepting volunteers to serve on various committees of the organization. If you can and would like to help, please go to our website at <https://oakeralumni.org> to sign up.

CHSAA is inviting all alumni to submit items that would be of interest for the newsletter. Please send your info to higchsaa@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance for your help in maintaining our organization and providing news you wish to share.

About our organization.....

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 have attended CHS, been employed at CHS, or who have been benefactors to the CHS community.

Since 2011, the CHSAA has awarded \$244,000 in scholarships including \$42,000 for this year. Over the last five years, \$15,000 has been donated for school projects. 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 number of donors have chosen to set up monthly donations of \$20.23 either by personal check, bill pay, or an ACH transfer. Some 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: Amanda Andrews '12, John Ball, Stephen Bestwick '80, Jean Boucher '68, Mary Ann Cantino, Sarah Charette '95, Karen Davie '71, Lori DiCostanzo, Ernie DiMicco '66, Kevin Dolan '80, Stacey Ferrara '83, Helen Gray '64, Kevin Harrigan '75, Andrea Hopkins '64, James Hopkins '58, Maureen Jendzejec '75, Jim Kuipers '85, Pat Johnson '81, Kathy Lavallee '83, Kate McCarthy-Barnett '85, Jo-Ann Passarelli '80, Susan Rainville '75, Mary Vandervelde '76, Diane and Robert Tremblay.

