



CHS Alumni Association, Inc.

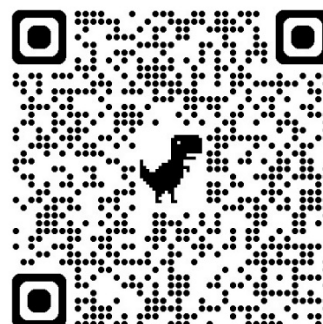
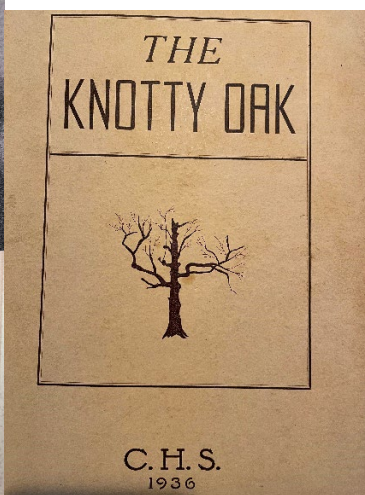
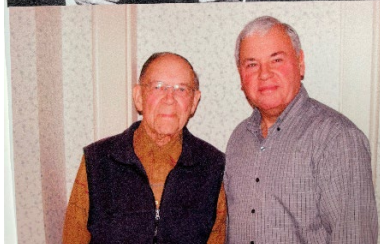
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2024

CHSAA Increasing Scholarships Amounts for 2025

The CHSAA will be increasing the value of at least three scholarships for 2025. A scholarship in memory of Barbara F. Champagne who taught art at CHS will be established in the amount of \$2,000.00. There will also be two, \$1,000.00 scholarships on Senior Awards Night by the classes of 1980 and 2004. These scholarships bring our tentative total to \$62,000.00 for 2025. Further increases are possible as our budget is prepared for next year. With the high cost of a college education, the CHSAA is committed to the support of CHS graduates.

The CHSAA to Host 90th Anniversary Party for CHS



Ernie DiMicc/Reuel A. Sheldon 1966 and 2009; First yearbook, 1936; 1979 Varsity Revue -Al Berard, Joan Robertson, Nancy Cyr, Jim DiPrete; Cast-signed shirt of Joy Reo 1985 VR

Coventry High School turns 90 years old this year and the CHSAA is holding a celebration on November 30, 2024, at Quidnessett Country Club. Tickets are available now with the following prices of \$60.00 with a table of 10 selling for \$550.00 until **October 31, 2024**. Reserve your tickets now. See our website at <https://www.oakeralumni.org> for details.

The Knotty Oak Room

CHSAA will again be hosting get togethers for committee members, donors, former faculty and interested citizens in the Knotty Oak Room. The purpose is to bring people together in a social setting, provide income for the culinary program and provide updates in our efforts to support CHS students.

We have received confirmation for lunch on October 10, 2024, at 11:00 AM. The other tentative dates are:

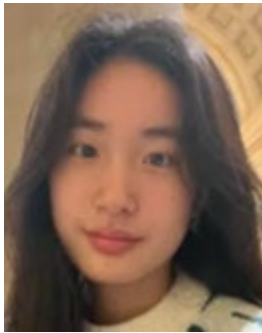
February 6, 2025	5:00 PM	Dinner
April 3, 2025	11:00 AM	Lunch
May 16, 2025	8:30 AM	Breakfast for scholarship recipients and donors.

Please email Ernie DiMicco at dimiccoed@gmail.com to reserve your seat for the luncheon in October as well as the other dates. Thank you in advance for your support of CHSAA and the culinary program.

If you are unable to join us, remember the Knotty Oak Room is open to the public for breakfast and lunch 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM usually Tuesday to Friday. Check out what else they offer at their website:

<https://sites.google.com/coventringschools.net/theknottyoakroom?pli=1>

Alumni Corner...



Going to college is a lingering thought in the minds of many students. It is important to note that the transition is always full of ups and downs no matter how prepared everyone tries to be. We tend to set expectations of what we want to get out of college and become disappointed when those expectations aren't met and instead are presented with the reality of life away from home.

Yu Pan '23

Having been in Rhode Island my entire life, I knew college was my chance to see more of the world. But I also knew that having never been away from family for more than a week at a time, I needed the security of being able to see family frequently. With those thoughts in mind, I looked to the city of Boston, as it is close to home, has a bustling city life and diverse people.

After being accepted into Boston University, I fantasized about college life. I dreamed about living in a dorm with my friends, spending time exploring the city, and finding my group of people. I thought I was ready to be independent, but reality wasn't like what I imagined.

Freshman year taught me the important lesson of being patient. It took longer than I initially anticipated to find the right group of people to call friends. It also took trial and error to figure out what I wanted to do. Not to mention the inevitable homesickness that always seems to catch me off guard. But eventually, I was able to find a community of friends who made the homesickness go away.

Going to college isn't just about studying your major, but it is about making connections that will help you through your hardest times and play a crucial role in the future. Having grown up in a predominantly white community, college was the gold chance I had been looking for in finding people to connect to culturally and having joined an organization focused on our mutual cultural connection certainly helped me feel like I had a home away from home. The connections I have made through clubs, classes, and other various campus activities have allowed me to adjust to my life away from home. Whether it is something simple like grabbing

lunch in the dining hall or going exploring in and around Boston, my college experience was improving with the company of friends.

To make the most out of your college experience, reaching out to different people, joining different clubs and organizations, and most importantly keeping an open mind are essential because the right people and opportunities may not always be what you expect, and different circumstances will force you to adapt quickly. I for one am incredibly grateful to have met the incredible people I now call my friends.

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 \$302,000 in scholarships including \$58,000.00 for this year. Over the last five years, \$15,000.00 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 \$20.24 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, Karen Shank Bookbinder '75, 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, Carol Harrigan '78, 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, Carlene Mills '75, Jo-Ann Passarelli '80, Susan Rainville '75, Diane and Robert Tremblay.

