



Evelyn's Wishes

Newsletter of the MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation, Inc.

MacCurdy Salisbury Awards Reach Another Landmark

Once again, the Foundation held its Annual Reception at the Lyme Art Association for new High School graduates receiving awards. The June 4 reception for the students, their family members, school administrators, and Foundation Members is a festive gathering that rewards achievement and outlines the past and future of the Foundation.

For the upcoming 2019–2020 school year the Foundation awarded \$335,700, another record high, to a total of 104 students from Lyme and Old Lyme who will attend colleges throughout the United States. This award includes the \$104,300 in grants distributed at the June event to 28 graduating seniors from Lyme-Old Lyme High School, and two new requests from older students who are continuing their education.

At the reception, President Rowland Ballek thanked the Foundation Members, the Investment Committee, and the many local donors that enabled the Foundation to distribute a landmark \$3,000,000 to students over the past 11 years.

"We are fortunate to live in two unique communities that are committed to supporting education," said Ballek, "and our generosity reflects well on our shared values, and commitment to youth."

Foundation awards are based on the degree of financial assistance a student requires to meet their college expenses. If students keep a satisfactory grade-point level, and remain residents of Lyme or Old Lyme, they will continue to receive the same award for another three years of their undergraduate studies.

Applications for awards are available at the Lyme-Old Lyme High

School Guidance Office or the MacCurdy Salisbury Foundation's website, maccurdysalisbury.org.

Another Foundation tradition observed during the reception were two \$500 awards, one to class Valedictorian Kylie Hall and one to class Salutatorian Hannah Morrison. ■



The Annual Reception of the Foundation on June 2 awarded 28 students more than \$104,000 in support for their college programs. First row, left to right, are: Madison Babcock, Caroline Sagristano, Penelope Small, Danielle McCarthy, Andrea Kathe, Lea Neithamer, Noah Rumm, Anna Sather, Katie Reid, Hannah Morrison, Kylie Hall; back row, left to right, are Emily Grenier, Lila McAndrew, Paige Britton, Claire Britton, Marie Kane, Britney DeRoehn, Maya Johnson, Sydney Ogden, Grace Ames, Eli St. Germain, Sarah Kroes, Justin Shaw, Nick Myers, Lily Cox, Cara Cahill, Caroline Wallace, Jess Kegley.

Ned Perkins Steps Down as Secretary-Treasurer



Ned Perkins addresses students at the June 2019 Annual Reception.

MacCurdy Salisbury owes much of its success to the position of Secretary-Treasurer, a task undertaken with the full awareness that its duties reach back into time as well as provide a primary contact for students who are touched by our awards programs. Someone, indeed, has to keep track of the more than 100 students out there every year, answer their queries, and gently remind them of their obligations.

Such is the role of Edward "Ned" Perkins, a Foundation Member since 1988. Ned became Secretary-Treasurer in 2006, with the retirement of the late Ward Bing, who served for 20 years. Bing, in turn, had been preceded by Willis Umberger, who served from 1966 to 1986. Bill Griswold was President of the Foundation from 1965 to 1992 (a position now held by Rowland Ballek), and these management teams modernized many Foundation procedures.

Over those six decades, the three Secretary-Treasurers each had oversight of innovations in the Lyme-Old Lyme school system as well as the national-level trends in education and college funding. But they also became known for their focus on individuals and their meticulous record-keeping.



Four New Members Elected to the Foundation

MacCurdy Salisbury's long-term strength is based on deep community representation, and this year's Annual Meeting reflects this continuity. At its 126th year Annual Meeting—held in the Old Lyme Town Hall on September 12, 2019—four new residents were elected Members of the Foundation. They are Cyndi Miller Aird and Katie Gingras from Old Lyme, and Michael Ganey and Steve Olstein from Lyme.

Cyndi is a graduate of Boston College and has worked in the hotel industry for the past 30 years. After serving more than 14 years as the Director of Marketing for Meridien Hotels and Resorts in New York City, in 2001 she opened her own firm, Miller-Aird Destination Marketing. Now a leading marketing firm for boutique resorts in the Caribbean and Latin America, the company represents some 25 luxury hotels. Locally, Cyndi is an active volunteer who serves as Board Chair for the Lymes' Youth Service Bureau, a Girl Scout leader, and an Old Lyme Junior Women's Club officer. She has been a resident of Old Lyme for the past 18 years with

her husband, Steve, and their two children.

Katie is a graduate of Colgate University with a B.A. degree in English. After a brief stint in New York City she moved to Boston where she pursued a career in magazine publishing, working for *ink magazine*, *Forbes*, and most recently, Kingfish Media, a small custom-publishing firm. Katie currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Lymes' Youth Services Bureau and is pursuing a nursing degree—in between her daughter's hockey games. She has lived in Old Lyme since 2011 with her husband, Patrick, and their two children.

Michael recently retired from Pfizer in Groton where he was a Vice President in Pfizer Worldwide Research and Development. There he built global organizations related to research manufacturing, sourcing, regulatory interfaces, and portfolio management. Michael has served as a Trustee and Board Chair of High Hopes Therapeutic Riding. He and his wife, Patty, have lived in Lyme-Old Lyme for more than 25 years with their three sons.

Steve graduated from New York University and enjoyed a 40-year career in institutional real-estate investment before retiring in 2018. He currently serves as Chief of Service for the Lyme Ambulance Association. He also is a member of the Lyme Veterans Memorial Committee, the Old Lyme Beach Club, and the Hamburg Cove Yacht Club. Steve and his wife, Lin, and their daughter have lived in Lyme since 2002.

The Annual Meeting also elected Nicki Berry and Dr. Matthew Cantner to three-year terms on the Board of Directors; they replaced Matthew Griswold and Dr. Gregory Hack, whose three-year terms expired. Officers elected for one-year terms were: President, Rowland Ballek; Vice President, Mary Seidner; and Secretary-Treasurer, Judith Read. Judith succeeds Ned Perkins, who has retired from that position after moving to Essex. Ned assumes the new title of Administrative Manager of the Foundation and he'll continue to perform most of the duties he was handling for the past 13 years. ■

Ned Perkins Steps Down as Secretary-Treasurer (continued from page 1)

Ned quips that, "We are a staff of one," his smile reflecting the 1,000 or so hours per year he devotes to the assignment. "We are currently keeping track of 104 students, who each send back renewals, grade reports, questionnaires, and emails. I love working with the kids; you get to know them through their academic planning and occasional letters and notes to us."

After a B.A. degree from Brown and an M.B.A. degree from the University of Chicago, Ned spent his professional career in the financial world, primarily with Johnson & Higgins, a New York-based insurance broker. His professional background of some 35 years assists him with administrative oversight and accurate record-keeping. But MacCurdy's students live here, and reflect our local, and immediate, needs. For example, Ned notes that the nature and the amount of the annual awards can alter as family situations change.

"When I took on the job I was aware of the mass of details," he explains. "There are many files and records that I use and maintain—two full file cabinets, many notebooks, investment records, state and federal filings, check requests, and for the past 14 years or so, the steady migrations of information to electronic formats." A lot of the financial data is handled through Essex Financial Services, he notes, and there is a very good Investment Committee of David Kelsey, Andy Baxter, Tim Griswold, Chris Arnold, and David Speirs.

The Foundation started with a generous \$41,000 from Evelyn MacCurdy Salisbury in 1893, and has grown under prudent management into a managed group of funds that's able to help support hundreds of students in any given year, and has become cherished by alumni as well as their parents.

He wryly chuckles that, "When a family has two or three kids who are in the process of entering the program, they love me!"

"Just today at the groundbreaking of the additions to the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library, he recalls, "a resident thanked the Foundation for the support we gave to her three children, one now completing a Ph.D. She said the family could not have done it without our, and others', help."

Ned is a true "Old Lyme Guy." He moved here with his wife, Barbara, in 1972, raised three children (and now six grandchildren) on Academy Lane, and engaged in many town activities, notably Chair for 14 years of the Board of Finance, and various leadership committees of the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library, the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, Literacy Volunteers, and the Old Lyme Beach Club.

On the lighter side, he sings in the choir of the Congregational Church, enjoys sailing and cruising, "swinging a golf club," and playing trombone with a "big band," Tuxedo Junction.

In recent years, with his wife, Barbara, Ned downsized from Academy Lane to Lyme Regis and then, with her passing, downsized further to Essex Meadows, a community which he is enjoying as an "office cum residence." This relocation in turn led to the Foundation's election of Judith Read of Old Lyme to serve as Secretary-Treasurer, and to Ned's continuing duties in the role of Administrative Manager.

Ned has been grateful for his long-term perspective of Secretary-Treasurer, he says.

"I like being with people, helping people, and being busy," he says. "My role with MacCurdy Salisbury fulfills it all!" ■

MacCurdy Salisbury Collective Memory is Based on Personal Successes

Memory, of course, lasts a surprisingly long time, and that holds for institutions as well as individuals. It's vast, collecting achievement, experiments, successes personally and institutionally. In the best cases, individual and collective memory work together: the hopes of institutions can foster the dreams of individuals.

MacCurdy Salisbury, by fostering young people's potentials, offers concrete hope to provide that little push forward when it's most

needed—the transition from local schooling to broader training in the wider world.

Memory, we may also remember, is "The Mother of the Muses." But every recollection contains multitudes. MacCurdy Salisbury has a deep institutional memory—more than 125 years!—and it contains the memories of many hundreds of students which we've been pleased to support during their college days. The Foundation is built upon those individual experiences, those individual successes, and

that is how we measure our achievements and our goals for the future.

It's in that spirit that we welcome your own memories—and your continuing support. All we have achieved over the years has come from individuals in our communities whose donations have made these memories possible.

Rowland Ballek
President

Population, Economics Conspire to Affect School Choices—And Enrollment



Sean Martin, the Foundation's Financial Aid Consultant, provides an overview of national college applications versus the financial-aid resources to meet changing demands.

Sean Martin—the Foundation's Financial Aid Consultant—has often pointed out that financial aid is "an imperfect science" beset with many variables, some large, some small.

He's warned that "financial aid" itself is a broad term, since it includes loans and work-study which together reflect the actual aid received—measured in dollars—which is the sometimes-shocking reality of what a family sees, say, on an accounts-payable invoice.

"Yes, the cost of higher education is getting higher," Sean observes, "because institutions are undergoing a cautious balancing of their enrollment goals with the increasing demands on their institutional resources."

The "balancing" affects colleges' traditional competition model, which has been centered on attracting fine students by offering generous aid packages. But even the best schools have limits.

Thus, the effect of Foundations like MacCurdy Salisbury move to the forefront. "But," he observes, "Foundations like ours are becoming fewer and fewer, so the work that we do becomes more and more important. You must speak to a large landscape: the fewer the available students, and the lower the college population, the more the parents question whether it's worth it.

"With these harsh economics," he says, "it is little wonder, then, that the total number of students applying to college has continued to decline. Some of this decline can be attributed simply to national

demographics. When the national college-age population decreases—about 1 percent nationally—the number of students available must fall."

The other, perhaps most critical, factor, he observes, is the market value of education. "Students are weighing the perceived value of a college degree, and the rising cost of attaining it, against simply going out into the workforce and exploring what they can earn without a degree."

But the United States is not evenly populated, and its regional sections are not growing, or declining, equally. In some national regions, college enrollments are growing rapidly, he points out, while in some cases regional enrollments are falling off.

"So, though elite schools may not feel the pinch immediately, a number of other good institutions are beginning to face significant

"In a fitting legacy to Evelyn MacCurdy Salisbury, it was decided at a meeting in August 1918 to award the first scholarships to two women, Frances Saunders and Loretta Roche, both attending the Connecticut College for Women."

—2018 MacCurdy history, *One Hundred and Twenty-Five Years Strong and Growing*

challenges. Because of the population variables, New England and the Midwest are being hit harder than the West and Southwest."

"All schools are watching this trend," Martin emphasizes, "and are analyzing their responses to it. In the meantime, we in colleges and universities must serve our student populations with an educational experience of the highest quality, and do the best we can to attract students who will best fit the learning environment of a particular school." ■

MacCurdy PROFILE



Class of '85 . . . All Row! Russell Cone Still Rows with Life's Flow

There are those among us who are lucky—or persistent—enough to make a hobby, or a sport, into a lifetime occupation, one whose rewards extend beyond “play” into inspiration for others.

If you’ve ever pulled an oar in a racing shell, you know how pleasurable, and frustrating, the experience can be. But when it all comes together, and you are one of a crew of others seeking the boat’s elusive “lift” of perfection, there may be nothing like it.

When Russ Cone of Bill Hill Road was 13 he met the late Fred Emerson of Blood Street in Lyme and it set him on this lifetime path.

“The generosity of Fred Emerson had a huge impact on my life,” says Russ decisively. “He introduced me to the sport at a very young age and I’ve loved it ever since. My friend George Willauer—the son of Professor George Willauer—and I were at a neighborhood party when Fred himself offered to teach us how to row. We were 13 then. Russ was born in 1967 and so grew up with the Lyme-Old Lyme school system and its emerging crew programs.

“Over that summer he patiently taught us how to scull on Rogers Lake, home of the now-famous Blood Street Sculls. I must have flipped a hundred times in that first summer. But George and I had two summers of rowing under our belts before we even started high school!”

Thanks to Fred, and continuing support in the school and community, Lyme and Old

Lyme became seedbeds for great rowers. For Russ, competition at Lyme-Old Lyme was a central part of a curriculum which included successful rowing, great grades, and an academic and rowing career at Princeton and beyond, at the national-team level.

“My Senior year in 1985, I was recruited by Princeton, rowed throughout college, and I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering in '89. Getting there, as they say, was half the fun.

“One big influence on my young life was when Mr. Emerson hired Ric Ricci as a rowing coach. Ric was between college-coaching stints and we were lucky enough to have him for my Junior and Senior years. He introduced us to a whole new level of rowing. As a result, all four of us in the school’s varsity boat went on to row in college: Sean McTigue at Georgetown, John German at Cornell, and Neil Desnoyers at Princeton. We still are in touch and get together once in a great while.”

Despite a physical setback, crew for Russ did not stop at Princeton.

“Internationally, I rowed on the Junior National team in '85 in a pair with coxswain, and was on the Senior team in '89 in a fast quadruple scull. But after college and one year on the national team I was sidelined with a back injury.

“However, I continued to be involved with the sport. I still compete as a Master class row-

er and have won the Head of the Charles Regatta six times in my single scull.”

Professionally, rowing has brought him other rewards.

“I am in my 29th year as the Boatman for Boston University,” recounts Russ, “overseeing the operations and maintenance of the university’s 40-shell racing fleet. It’s also my 25th year as partner/co-owner at Stillwater Design, designers and builders of innovative, low-wake coaching launches.”

Russ gives a lot of credit to his family and community for shaping his growth and determination. And there is plenty of life off the boats, he says.

“I’ve been married to Karen Chenausky since 2001,” Russ recounts, “and we live in Watertown, Massachusetts. Off the water, I do like to backpack and I section-hiked the Appalachian Trail, finishing in 2017. It took me 16 years! I also do a lot of cross country skiing in the winter and I’ve finished the Canadian Ski Marathon 11 times; it’s a two-day 100-mile race where we sleep out overnight.”

“My father, Les, was born and raised in Lyme and after an early career in New York City moved back to Lyme with my mother, Marta, in 1970.

“Both my parents were artists (now retired). My dad worked for Field publications in Middletown. Mom had her own graphic design office in Old Saybrook, called 123 Design. “We had a wonderful house on Bill Hill surrounded by the Harding—now Ashlawn—farm and fields,” he recalls. “It was an awesome place to grow up, with lots of space for childhood exploring.”

At high school in town, the explorations continued, Russ discovered to his pleasure.

In addition to immediately becoming a member of the high-school crew, he says, “Mr. Peter Gadsby in physics and chemistry, with his British enthusiasm, gave me a love for science and problem-solving which extended into all university areas. Mr. Elias Hage, with his compassion, gave me respect and interest in other cultures and current events in other nations as well as our own.”

Later, at Princeton, MacCurdy Salisbury support was essential, Russ observes.

“At college, the annual awards provided me funds for living expenses and books. Without MacCurdy Salisbury I would have had to get a part-time job during the school year. The award allowed me to pursue both my studies and athletics.

“That combination turned out to be a blessing, since the linkage of science and athletics turned out to be my life.” ■





The Rev. Jane Shipman Stickney remembers a sense of vocation that was nurtured in Old Lyme.

It used to be called a "vocation," a calling to help others, for the good of all. What is not mentioned is the actual work that can go into the pursuit.

For the Reverend Jane Burr Shipman Stickney of the Old Lyme High School Class of 1964, that work has been a rewarding journey.

A Wilton, Connecticut, native, Jane now lives in Higganum with her husband, the Reverend David A. Stickney; they were married in May, 1970, in Old Lyme, and have a daughter, Heather Elizabeth (Stickney) Heubner, and three grandchildren.

Jane moved to Old Lyme with her family in 1961 when her father, Horace Shipman, accepted an engineering position at the "Sound Lab," or the Navy Underwater Sound Laboratory, in New London, and later joined the staff of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Her mother, Rita, was a talented dressmaker and designer.

Once situated in Old Lyme, she entered high school with the class of 1964, and her siblings, Reed and Nona, were to be in the classes of 1971 and 1973. Jane proved herself an excellent student who was named to the National Honor Society, and who was the Honor Speaker at graduation. Her extracurriculars included the school library and the drama club, and outside of school at the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme.

That church program was a formative experience.

"During the 1960's the churches in Old Lyme had active youth programs," Jane recalls. "I was a member of the First Congregational Church Pilgrim Fellowship. We chose our own leaders, planned our own activities, discussed the issues of the day, prayed together, and sang to guitars.

"Mr. Roger M. Grover—Principal of Old Lyme High—was a member of First Church and our adult advisor for part of that time. He encouraged us to take responsibility as we moved toward adulthood."

Likewise, she recalls learning and teaching opportunities which shaped her goals.

"In particular, I remember Mr. James Barnes' biology classroom—his teaching nurtured my interest in education! I also remember working with Mr. Reginald LaCasse for the Old Lyme Summer Recreation Program for children, when I taught arts and crafts over several summers. These were hands-on experiences

for a young person which were confidence-building."

When higher education appeared on the horizon, she aimed at degrees which could unite her interests in education and spirituality.

She chose Drew University, and received her B.A. degree in sociology in 1968, following up with graduate training at Moray House College of Education, Edinburgh, Scotland; Andover Newton Theological School and Boston College Master's Degree in Education, 1971; and her advanced Master of Sacred Theology degree from General Theological Seminary in New York, 1987.

As is often the case, MacCurdy Salisbury provided a bit of encouragement at a critical time in an academic career, she said.

"I was offered early acceptance at Drew, and I expect the scholarship played a part in that. It was an important step forward, and demonstrated an act of faith in the community for my field of study."

In roles as pastor and spiritual educator in our region, her assignments have been varied. They include Christian Education Consultant for the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ and Co-Pastor of the Higganum Congregational Church. As an Episcopal priest, she served as Associate Rector of Church of the Holy Trinity, Middletown; Vicar of St. John's Episcopal Church in North Guilford; and Coordinator of the Annand Program for Spiritual Formation for Berkeley Divinity School at Yale.

"Though I'm technically retired," Jane says, "I often fill in at Episcopal churches in the area. The sense of vocation that was nurtured in Old Lyme is still important to me." ■



Back in 1964 Jane Shipman, as Honor Essayist, second from left, was preparing for Commencement with Paul Spitzer, salutatorian, left; Walter Noris, faculty advisor, center right; and Andrew Lesick, valedictorian, right. (New Era news photo)



MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 474
Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

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The MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation has a long-standing tradition of providing financial support to local students going on to further their education at colleges and universities after their high-school years. Founded by Evelyn MacCurdy Salisbury in 1893, the Foundation was originally named the Lyme High School Association, and helped support educational activities in Old Lyme. It began giving direct grants to students from Old Lyme to continue their education beyond high school in 1918. In 1939, the name was changed to the MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation. In 1973 Berenice Brevillier started the Lyme portion of the fund at the Foundation so students from both towns—the majority of which attend the Regional District 18 school system—could participate. In 2016 the Old Lyme and Lyme funds merged to better serve the students from both towns.

This newsletter is funded by



MacCurdy Salisbury offers two special \$500 awards for student achievement every year. In 2019 the Willis Umberger Salutatorian Award was presented to Hannah Morrison, left, who will attend Oxford College of Emory University in Oxford, Georgia; and the W.E.S. Griswold Valedictorian Award was presented to Kylie Hall, right, who will attend Wellesley College.

MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation, Inc. 2019-2020 Membership

Officers

	Year Joined
Rowland Ballek, <i>President</i>	1975
Mary Seidner, <i>Vice President</i>	2000
Judith Read, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	2011

Board

Fred Behringer	2016	Kevin McGlinchey	2017
Nicki Berry	2008	Leslie Massa	2000
Dr. Matthew Cantner	2018	Thomas Richardson	2016

Board of Education Representatives

Winnie Bing Edmed	2015	Paula Gaudet	2018
Jennifer Burke	2009		

Members

Cyndi Miller Aird	2019	David Kelsey	2017
Steven Ames	2004	Kenneth Levin	2007
Christopher Arnold	2007	Scott Mahon	2017
Andy Baxter	2008	Steve Olstein	2019
Rev. Rebecca Crosby	2005	John Pfeiffer	2005
James Fairfield-Sonn	2013	Matthew Sharp	2013
Michael Ganey	2019	Thomas Sherer	1997
Rev. Carleen Gerber	1986	David Speirs	1981
Katie Gingras	2019	Ralph Sturges	1998
Leslie Gourlay	2011	Michael Walker	1996
Evan Griswold	2012	George Willauer	1976
Matthew Griswold XI	2015	Thomas McGarry, Esq.	1969
Tim Griswold	1975	<i>Legal Advisor</i>	
Dr. Gregory Hack	2003	Ned Perkins	
Jeffrey Hartmann	2009	<i>Administrative Manager</i>	
Susan Hessel	2005		