



Evelyn's Wishes

Newsletter of the MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation, Inc.

Covid Waters Were Choppy . . . But We Sailed On!

WE ARE STAYING the course, and it's been well worth it.

The MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation—now in its 128th year—continues to help meet the financial needs of students from Lyme and Old Lyme who are going on to college, despite the complications created by the coronavirus pandemic.

Administratively, most meetings were held via Zoom teleconferencing, including our key May 26, 2021, Directors' Meeting where, after adjustments, we awarded \$111,200 to 26 graduating Seniors from Lyme and Old Lyme for the 2021 academic year.

Another \$358,000 went to 105 continuing students, making the total grants approved come to \$469,200.

Yes, the covid virus did prevent the Foundation, for the second year in a row, from holding its annual reception for the graduating seniors receiving awards. It's usually a happy occasion when students, their parents, school and town officials, and MacCurdy volunteers can mingle, and students receive well-deserved accolades.

Whether or not people were actually ill, national prevention

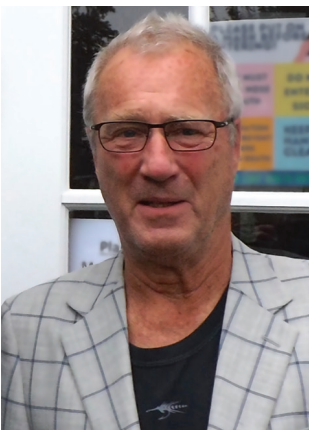
policies took their toll at colleges, requiring many extra hours of work by our Administrative Manager Ned Perkins and Financial Aid Consultant Sean Martin. They stepped up by adjusting and recalculating awards for students who had changed programs or schools, and by responding to the individual needs of families who had suffered additional hardship from changes in income caused by the virus.

Foundation awards are based on the financial assistance a student requires and continue for the four years of their undergraduate studies, provided they maintain a satisfactory grade level and remain residents of Lyme or Old Lyme.

As the effects of the virus subsided during later 2021, the Annual Meeting of the MacCurdy Salisbury Foundation was able to be held in person on September 9, 2021, in the Old Lyme Town Hall. At the meeting, Directors Kevin McGlinchey and Thomas Richardson were elected for a second three-year term and President Rowland Ballek, Vice President Mary Seidner, and Secretary/Treasurer Judith Read were reelected for another one-year term.

On to next year! ■

Andy Baxter, Finance Stalwart, Retires from Investment Committee



AFTER SOME 12 YEARS of dedicated service, most of them on the Foundation's Investment Committee, Matthew A. "Andy" Baxter has stepped down from that committee, but will remain on the Foundation. His acumen proved itself immediately in the stock-market's instability in the rocky years after 2008, when he joined MacCurdy, and he helped steer our portfolio clear of hazards.

A 1965 graduate of Yale and a 1973 M.B.A. degree holder from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, his business career spanned several prominent positions in the financial community. In retirement he's continued to serve the Florence Griswold Museum, the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Vista Innovations, the Cuniff-Dixon Foundation, and the Amos Tuck School.

MacCurdy Salisbury thanks him! ■

Andy Baxter's financial wisdom was a major asset to MacCurdy Salisbury for 12 years.

New Leadership Award Named for Retiring President Ballek

REFLECTING Rowland Ballek's interest in student success and community participation, the Foundation created the Rowland Ballek Leadership Award for a graduating senior in honor of his 47 years of Foundation service. A lifelong resident of Lyme, Rowland was first elected to the MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation in 1975, becoming Vice President in 1992 and then President from 2002 to 2022. He guided MacCurdy on the path of a classic, "long-view" institution, and during his 20-year tenure as President, the MacCurdy team worked to raise the Foundation endowment from \$4 million to more than \$10 million. During Rowland's tenure, the foundation awarded some \$5,021,000 to students from our towns.

After excelling in academics and sports at Nathan Hale-Ray High School in East Haddam and serving as President of the Class of 1955, Rowland studied at the University of Connecticut in the School of Business Administration, graduating in 1959 with a major in Industrial Administration and Finance.

Rowland married Connecticut native Nancy Linderson in 1970, and they have two daughters and two grandsons who live in Lyme and Old Lyme.

As a young businessman, he joined the advertising and marketing firm Dexter Associates in 1972 as a partner and, later, as the owner until selling the company in 2000. His firm assisted a wide variety of clients, and also provided consulting services to several Southeastern Connecticut banks.

As his business perspective expanded into banking, he was elected to the Board of Trustees at Essex Savings Bank in 1975, and then elected to the Board of Directors in 1992. He became Chairman of the bank in 1995 and then Chairman of Essex Financial Services in 2000, holding both of these positions until his retirement in 2008.

Rowland's local community service includes 19 years as a member and then Chairman of the Lyme Planning and Zoning Committee, 46 years as the Moderator of Lyme Town Meetings, 40 years as Chairman of the Republican Town Committee, as well as many years on the Lyme Public Library's Board of Directors.

Regionally, Rowland served for 25 years on the State of Connecticut's Property Review Board as a member and then as Chairman, and is a member and former President of the Southeastern Connecticut World Affairs Council. He was also a member of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra's Board of Directors, and is a member and former President of the Old Lyme Beach Club. ■



New President Fred Behringer, left, congratulates Rowland Ballek on his years of service to MacCurdy Salisbury at the Foundation's annual meeting on September 21.

Jon Goss Named New Regional District 18 Representative on MacCurdy's Board

BACK IN 1973, when the towns of Lyme and Old Lyme created Regional District 18 to unite the towns' schools under one school board, MacCurdy responded by adding three Board of Education representatives to its governing body to be sure that each town had input into the foundation.

This year, Winnie Bing Edmed stepped down as a District representative and rejoined the MacCurdy membership board where she's served since 2015.

In her place, Jonathan Goss, a veteran 27-year technology and engineering teacher, adds his hands-on education perspective to MacCurdy's goals. He joins Jennifer Burke and Paula Gaudet in the Board of Education role.

Jon is no stranger to our schools—his entire teaching career has been in Lyme and Old Lyme. Though he's an East Haddam native, he points out that his great grandparents and one grandfather were from Old Lyme! His own family has lived in Old Lyme since 2017; he and his wife, Amity Goss, have two boys, Woody at the Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, and his brother, Gig, at Mile Creek School.

Outside the classroom, Jon has been busy as a leader of the Old Lyme Cub Scouts as well as a volunteer merit-badge counselor and leader with the Lyme-Old Lyme Boy Scouts; a 24-year lead mentor for the high school robotics team, the award-winning Techno Ticks; a co-advisor for the high school's WLYM news team; a head co-advisor for the Class of 2026; and a co-advisor for the high school's Electrathon electric-vehicle race team. ■

MacCurdy PROFILE



For Chelsea Evankow, World Health and Individual Justice Work Together

CHELSEA EVANKOW OF LYME received a MacCurdy award when she graduated from Lyme-Old Lyme High School in 2014. Guided by curiosities she'd developed over her youth, she went on to the University of New Hampshire to develop her emerging interests in Biology, Women's Studies, and Africana Studies.

"I wanted to put those skills to work right after graduation," Chelsea said. "My advice for students heading off to college is to join every club, go to as many events as you can, and challenge yourself to try new things—the four years fly by quickly so take advantage of every opportunity."

And, for her, there were many opportunities.

"I took an Africana studies class as an elective and it was that one professor who changed the trajectory of my career. Professor Golonski opened doors for independent studies, fellowships abroad in Uganda, presentations at research conferences. These yielded many letters

of recommendation, mentorships, and university awards."

In particular, she said, "the opportunity to join Peace Corps Zambia for two years, and to become a Rural Education Teacher, was an excellent opportunity to grow and utilize skills learned in the classroom. I was able to conduct a variety of programs focusing on literacy rates, youth empowerment, gender equality, capacity building, and more.

"I can recommend the Peace Corps, living abroad, and learning a new language to any young person!"

Then she decided that more study was in order to build her credentials further. "Each community—Lyme, Zambia, New Orleans—has had such a great impact on who I am and where I am headed. My happiness and success would not be possible without all of them challenging me to grow in different ways. And I had never been to New Orleans prior to moving here for graduate school. It is an incredible city with so much energy, creativity, and resilience."

Chelsea recounts that "I am now in my second year of graduate school at

Tulane University in the school of Tropical Medicine and Public Health. On top of plenty of research at school, I work full time at Planned Parenthood as a Health Educator. When I get my graduate degree, I hope to move back to Africa to continue fighting for reproductive health and justice for all."

Chelsea gives deep credit to other experiences growing up. "Camp Claire in Lyme, inspirational women, and my relationships with the Lymes' Youth Service Bureau have been large motivators in my success, creativity, and endeavors. Camp Claire provided teamwork, connection with nature, self-esteem, lifelong friendships, leadership," she recalls.

"As these efforts once gave me, and even continue to give me, fresh outlooks on life, I will always pay forward to others. MacCurdy provided the opportunity to study at my university, challenge myself, explore the world, and continue on to higher education.

"The world is a big place, and there's so much community organizing to do!" ■



Appreciative "peer leaders" at a Rural Education School school in Zambia cheer their teacher, Chelsea.

Inspiring Old Lyme Teacher Pointed Frank Roche in the Right Direction



Franck Roche

WE ALL NEED wake-up calls. For Frank Roche, of the Old Lyme High School Class of 1954, that call came in the form of a Seventh and Eighth grade teacher in town, Philip Ramsdell, who was “a disciplinarian, but who had imagination—it was an epiphany!”

Frank recalls, now these many years later, quickly moving “from being a ‘so-so student’ to the top of my class. I didn’t really care about

education until I met Mr. Ramsdell. He made me a reader—he opened my eyes!”

Frank’s eyes had previously been opened to the hands-on world of the construction trades by working for his father, John Roche. John’s grandfather, James, was a “railroad man” who had “gotten off the train in Old Lyme” and James’ son, Francis, was a carpenter who started a business here that built the Memorial Town Hall in the early part of the 20th century. Later, Frank’s father, John, formed his own company whose work included renovations of the Memorial Town Hall, the construction of St. Ann’s Parish church in 1955-1956, and many private homes. The company often worked with other town standbys like Speirs Plumbing.

And, of course, then-young Frank got to try his hand with hammer, nails, shovels, and heavy lifting under the eye of his father. Frank vividly recalls being lifted aloft in a bosun’s chair and putting the cross atop the new steeple on St. Ann’s—“It was a big day!”

“My own father paid me 75 cents an hour when I was 15,” Frank recalls wryly. “When a minimum wage of \$1 an hour was established, I got a raise and I was in heaven!”

“Old Lyme was great when I was a kid,” Frank continues, “From where I lived at Rogers Lake, you’d ride your bike all around, you knew everybody, you had a lot of friends. My father built many

buildings, and my first job was the Town Hall’s big renovation.”

As he approached graduation in 1954, his high-school building was headed for a major rebuilding, and Frank remembers holding information meetings for its funding and having a spirited debate with one of the senior Griswolds—who later donated funds toward the project. The Class of 1957 was the last high-school class to graduate from Old Lyme High School; at the time it was based in what is now Center School.

He recalls that he did fairly well and had good pals in high school, playing soccer and basketball. He also picked up a few bucks on cars: one of his triumphs was a 1933 Ford “three-window” coupe which he fitted out with a monster Oldsmobile engine. Later, when he sold it for \$1500, the transaction, along with MacCurdy Salisbury support, “made my college career financially secure,” he jokes.

Frank goes on to say that he was “steered to MacCurdy by his aunt, Alice Roche Kiernan, and her husband, former Selectman Charles Kiernan.

“Willis Umberger, later to become MacCurdy’s Secretary/Treasurer for 20 years, was our superintendent of schools—a great guy; he had my vote,” Frank said, adding that “the help of MacCurdy was central to my career at Rhode Island School of Design. I’m very appreciative; I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

Still, he had, like many young Lyme-Old Lymers, a desire to see the world.

Once out of Old Lyme High School, Frank went on to the University of Connecticut for a brief stint in engineering, he remembers, but the large, impersonal classes left him cold. The Rhode Island School of Design, on the other hand, offered small classes, lots of design work, and goals which dovetailed with his construction experience.

At RISD, a junior-year internship at the global firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill brought him to Manhattan. SOM was a good experience, among other things teaching him that he wanted the direct client interaction that he’d had with his father, rather than “a room with 300 other designers, re-drawing plans by hand. So the thing I learned from going to New York was not to work for a large firm,” he chuckles.

Upon graduating from RISD in 1960 with a fresh Bachelor

A Father’s Bet, and a Debt Repaid

Frank Roche likes to tell a story about college tuition that emphasizes his appreciation for MacCurdy’s college aid. “When I went to school, tuition and fees came to about \$3600 a year. My father, John, said he’d help make up some of my tuition at RISD, but only if I paid for my own kids, sometime out in the future. I thought that was a pretty good deal. But he got back at me when I turned 40 and I found out what school costs!”

On the way to responding to that “pretty good deal,” Frank had married the former Nancy MacVane, who became his wife of 60 years before passing away. They had three girls, Lesley Roche Lowe (1964), the late Lynne Ellen (1966), and Suzanne Roche Morelli (1969). Each had faced daunting tuition needs—but Frank and Nancy did their part in fulfilling his dad’s wishes, he smiles.

Adaptability, Sustainability Are Parallel Virtues

TRUISMS FROM THE NEWS—*Sustainability. Diversity. Inclusiveness. Affordability.* Unity. If the biggest of the big governments has a hard time meeting these noble criteria, can it be up to the private sector to demonstrate solid progress, and stellar successes in the direction of progress?

Well, yes.

Years ago a distinguished speaker reflected, at an alumni gathering at his smallish, private, century-old, elementary school, that small schools could not do or be everything for everyone. But what they could do, and well, is to point the way, to conduct “experiments” on the pathway toward excellence. Society at large allows the schools to exist because they are indeed small, he said, and they are able to take risks without causing large-scale ripples in the social fabric if they make mistakes.

The learned speaker asserted that these well-documented, and graceful experiments in education can and do show major successes—yet their real test comes when the schools share their positive achievements with society at large. That is, he asserted, how their privilege of being small, and agile, is paid back to the world.

In our case, at MacCurdy Salisbury, a measure of success is our support of determined and educated students, one-by-one, who we help to blaze independent trails for themselves as they find their own futures. Seemingly it’s a simple process, but a lot goes on in the background.

The original Foundation, established in 1893 by Evelyn MacCurdy Salisbury, had aimed at building a single high school in Old Lyme that would serve both towns and replace several smaller schoolhouses and private academies with a comprehensive curriculum at one location. But that unified system did not come to pass a century ago; instead, the towns maintained their independent systems for many years. But because that separation moved Lyme apart from Old Lyme, MacCurdy established a parallel fund for Lyme students to balance Old Lyme’s awards.

In the early 1970’s, the Foundation had to adapt to another new circumstance. Our two towns—at an April 24, 1973, referendum—found advantage in “regionalizing” the disparate town-owned systems. The new Regional District 18 began its first year in 1973-1974, uniting Lyme Consolidated School, Mile Creek School, Center School, Lyme-Old Lyme Junior High School, and Lyme-Old Lyme High School.

MacCurdy, however, was ready. Over the years, as MacCurdy’s Lyme and Old Lyme funding components became population-equalized, the funds were merged and now support the needs of both Lyme and Old Lyme applicants. Students from both towns can move directly into varied higher-education opportunities, and the program even recognizes a few who re-enter academe and continue their education after interruption—a very relevant option in the covid-confused years.

Overall, the system appears to be sustainable—especially with the generous help from community residents through our Annual Appeal.

And Evelyn, doubtless, would approve. ■

of Science in Architecture degree, he signed on with the San Francisco firm of Jonathan Bulkley and Associates, whose blend of residential, commercial, and neighborhood-sensitive development appealed to him. “There, at last, my construction background gave me a leg up,” Frank recalls, “with designing, drawing, getting permits, heading up crews, getting the jobs done.”

Returning to Connecticut in 1963, he joined Schoefield, Lindsay Liebig Architects, and in 1968 became a principal in Lindsay Liebig Roche Architects of New London. From 1975 to 2006 he was sole proprietor, when he sold the business and retired.

Architecture and construction is a satisfying career, he reflects, and one that allowed him to enjoy the towns of Lyme and Old Lyme . . . and, as a sort of hobby, lets him contemplate with appreciation the work of the architects of history and prehistory.

“We’ve had cultures here in North America for far longer than 10,000 years ago,” he ruminates cheerfully. “I’ve often thought that I’d like to take a look at construction technology that went on before the Egyptians.

“And, more recently, we have that local guy, Hiram Bingham up in Salem,” Frank smiles. “You have to give him credit for re-discovering Machu Picchu in the Andes. That is great architecture, done long ago, with stones the size of bulldozers . . . how did they do that?” ■

Dawn Patrols: Pre-Regionalization Life in Lyme

IN YEARS PAST, many Lyme students remember, their high-school experience included a choice of high schools, before Lyme and Old Lyme regionalized their town’s educational systems in 1973. Some alert students remember talking the 8:15 a.m. bus to Hale Ray; others hitching rides in carpools with parents or friends to Norwich Free Academy or New London; some continuing at other high schools or even heading—at a dark 6:30 a.m. from Hadlyme—way downtown to Old Lyme.

Early bus or car rides required a certain determination on the part of students: “It was a privilege and a hope to someday qualify for the later high-school bus,” quipped one former student from Lyme, who recalls looking enviously at seniors de-busing in the languid morning hours after dawn at the high school.

Aspirations do matter! ■



**MacCurdy Salisbury Educational
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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.

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MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation, Inc. 2021-2022 Membership

Officers

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

Board

Cyndi Miller Aird	2019	Michael Ganey	2019
Nicki Berry	2008	Kevin McGlinchey	2017
Dr. Matthew Cantner	2018	Thomas Richardson	2016

Board of Education Representatives

Winnie Bing Edmed	2015	Paula Gaudet	2018
Jennifer Burke	2009		

Members

Steven Ames	2004	Kenneth Levin	2007
Christopher Arnold	2007	Scott Mahon	2017
Andy Baxter	2008	Leslie Massa	2000
Fred Behringer	2016	Steve Olstein	2019
Rev. Rebecca Crosby	2005	John Pfeiffer	2005
James Fairfield-Sonn	2013	Matthew Sharp	2013
Rev. Carleen Gerber	1986	Thomas Sherer	1997
Katie Gingras	2019	David Speirs	1981
Leslie Gourlay	2011	Michael Walker	1996
Evan Griswold	2012		
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		
David Kelsey	2017		