



# Evelyn's Wishes

Newsletter of the MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation, Inc.

## Keeping up support for Lyme-Old Lyme students

The MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation held its annual reception for grant and achievement award recipients on June 17 at the Lyme Art Association. Twenty-four graduating Lyme–Old Lyme High School students were awarded grants—4 students from Lyme and 20 students from Old Lyme. This year's average award of \$4,921 is a 6.5% increase over last year's average award. Students are supported throughout their college years provided GPA and Lyme or Old Lyme residence requirements are met. We continue to see our supported students doing well. The average GPA was 3.4 for the past spring semester. For the 2025–26 academic year, the Foundation will support 93 students with grants totaling \$439,100. This may increase slightly if applications are received this fall.

Along with announcing this year's grant recipients, the reception also honored three graduating seniors with achievement awards: Simon Karpinski received the W. E. S. Griswold Class Valedictorian Award, Ryan Shapiro received the Class Salutatorian Award, and Caeli Edmed was recognized with the Rowland Ballek Leadership Award.

W. E. S. Griswold guided the Foundation as President from 1965 to 1992. Willis Umberger served as the Secretary Treasurer from 1966 to 1986. Rowland Ballek was the Foundation President from 2002 to 2022 in addition to taking an active part in other community leadership.

This year saw another change in leadership at the Foundation. After six years serving as Treasurer, Jude Read stepped down from the position at the Annual Meeting held on September 10. Her long association with the Foundation and her contributions are featured on page 3. Matt Cantner also completed the maximum six years of continuous board membership. The Foundation welcomes Michael Ganey as the new Treasurer and Michael Walker to the Board of Directors. Three new members joined the Foundation at the Annual Meeting: David Cavicke (Lyme), Nancy Mesham (Old Lyme), and Marcia McLean (Old Lyme). In addition to the election of the new Treasurer, Fred Behringer (President), Mary Seidner (Vice-President), and Leslie Massa (Secretary) were re-elected. ■



**Class of 2024 Award Recipients:** Standing, left to right: Manu Geronimo, Caleb Todzia, Mason Freer, Simon Karpinski, Ryan Shapiro, Micah Bass, Chloe Datum, Thomas Kabel, Tabitha Colwell, Erin Durant, Lily Esposito, Samantha Fiske, Paige Phaneuf. Seated, left to right: Abigail Greene, Abby Griffith, Audrey Spiegel, Nola Slubowski, Ada LaConti. Award recipients not pictured: Gloria Conley, Caeli Edmed, Grace Ferman, Christopher Gibbons, Lana Lopes, Elias Sahadi, Kelly Sheehan, and Charlotte Tinniswood.

# MacCurdy PROFILE



Winnie & Caeli Edmed

## Three generations of involvement with the MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation

The Foundation has touched the lives of numerous Lyme and Old Lyme residents over its 132-year history. With one of this year's awards going to Caeli Edmed, Lyme-Old Lyme High School Class of '25, that relationship now extends over three generations of the Bing/Edmed family: Ward Bing, his daughter Winnie Bing Edmed, and Winnie's daughter Caeli Edmed.

It all began soon after Ward Bing moved to Old Lyme in 1984. Two years later, Ward became a member of the Foundation and then the Foundation's Secretary Treasurer, a position he held for 20 years until 2006. Winnie remembers him being "up in the office where he had an old typewriter and stacks of envelopes and letterhead. He typed out all those letters by hand." Ward remained a regular member of the Foundation through 2011. At that year's Annual Meeting, he was elected

to the position of "Director Emeritus" in honor and recognition of his many years of service to the Foundation.

Winnie's direct connection to the Foundation began in 1991 when she received a MacCurdy Salisbury award which helped her attend Keane State in New Hampshire. As she was a competitive soccer player at LOLHS, Keane State offered Winnie the opportunity to play Division II soccer. Unfortunately, after a successful first year, she was sidelined from playing soccer for several years because of an ACL tear and later a broken ankle. Winnie transferred to Eastern Connecticut State College, graduating in 1997. Despite injury, Winnie managed to stay involved in the sport she loved and coached the women's soccer team at Connecticut College from 2006 to 2010.

After marrying her husband Josh, having two children, and moving back to Old Lyme, Winnie returned to school for her master's degree and served as the Athletic Director for the Stonington Community Center before moving to LOLHS as the Health and Physical Education teacher. This led to her appointment in 2015 as one of the Regional School District 18 representatives on the MacCurdy Salisbury Board of Directors, no doubt in part because of Winnie's and her father's history with the Foundation. When a full-time position of Assistant Director of the Old Lyme Park and Recreation program opened up, it was "a perfect fit" for Winnie. No longer part of RSD18, Winnie became a regular member of the Foundation and continues to support the Foundation as such.

This brings us to the third generation of the family to be involved with the MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation. Winnie's daughter, Caeli Edmed, was awarded a Foundation grant as well as the Foundation's Rowland Ballek Leadership Award. She was an AP Scholar at LOLHS this past year and received a Certificate of Achievement from the Society of

Women Engineers. As a team leader and coach in the FIRST Robotics program, she coordinated drivers, programmers, and human players in competition on the field, using her abilities to communicate, cooperate, and strategize with teammates and competitors.

Caeli is studying mechanical engineering at Yale this fall and participating in the robotics engineering program. She is on Yale's Bulldog Racing team, helping to build a Formula SAE race car for competition, including all manufacturing and welding. Caeli aspires to have a career in robotics, working on projects like internal medical devices or bionic limb development.

The support that the Foundation has been able to provide Caeli (as well as her academic success!)



Ward Bing during his time as Secretary Treasurer of the Foundation

and Winnie's participation in the Foundation's mission would have gladdened Ward Bing's heart. We hope similar interweaving of generations—both benefitting from the Foundation and strengthening it—will continue to be a theme in our Lyme-Old Lyme community. ■

## A Note from the President

### A year of both continuity and change



First, many thanks to our supporters. The MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation is but one of the many wonderful charities and civic organizations that contribute to making Lyme and Old Lyme a great place to live. Continued support from

residents (and some former residents) is vital to keep the Foundation part of our community. Support in any amount is greatly appreciated.

As the newsletter details, the Foundation continues to assist just under 100 students and is keeping up with rising costs, with annual grants for this year's class ranging from \$1,600 to \$7,500.

Change has come with the departure of Jude Read from her role as Treasurer. A big thanks to Jude for being an active member for twenty-two years, including the past six years as Treasurer, and for continuing as a Foundation member.

Other changes came about at the Annual Meeting in September. I thank Michael Ganey for filling the Treasurer position, Matt Cantner for six years on the Board, and Michael Walker for joining the Board. The Foundation welcomed new members David Cavicke, Nancy Mesham, and Marcia McLean.

Thanks again for the community support and for the time that many of the Foundation's members contribute. The Foundation is on solid ground as we look ahead. ■

### Thanking Judith Read for six years of service as Foundation Treasurer

At this year's Annual Meeting, Judith Read stepped down from her role as Treasurer for the MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation. "When I became an Old Lyme selectman, and got involved in other volunteer duties, I thought it was time to step aside and make room for someone who could help more with the financial duties like reports and budgeting. I'm looking forward to staying on as a member, but taking a less active role."



Jude has lived a busy life in Old Lyme for over 40 years. Along with raising a son and daughter with her husband, Sloan Danenhower, she has run her own business. She has also been active on several town boards (Selectman, Finance, and Education) and the Old Lyme Historical Society.

A Foundation member since 1999 with a four-year hiatus, Jude has served on the Board and the outreach and investment committees. She observed that there have been many changes in the ways things are done. A new website was completed this fall. Financial records now reside in a computer accounting program instead of in folders full of paper. And now there is also a system for making donations online.

When asked what people might not know about the Foundation, Jude said that applicants and their families should be aware that scholarships are awarded on the basis of family need, not on the basis of grades. "The family contribution to the total might be lacking some support. Families with a second child going into college should definitely apply, even if the first child applied and didn't receive a reward. Two kids in college will change a family's financial circumstances, as can other events in the family, and the Foundation takes these into account."

In the next few years, Jude hopes to take some time out of her busy schedule to travel. First up is a trip with her husband in December to visit their daughter in China. ■

### UPCOMING DEADLINES

**December 1: Spring semester applications due**

**May 1: Fall semester applications due**



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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 whom attend the Regional District 18 school system—could participate. In 2016 the Old Lyme and Lyme funds merged to better serve students from both towns.

MacCurdy Salisbury Educational Foundation, Inc. 2025-2026 Membership			
<b>Officers</b>		<b>Year Joined</b>	
Fred Behringer, President			2016
Mary Seidner, Vice-President			2000
Michael Ganey, Treasurer			2019
Leslie Massa, Secretary			2000
<b>Board of Directors</b>			
Cyndi Miller Aird	2019	Thomas Sherer	1997
Ramzi Dagher	2022	C. Michael Walker	1996
Ben Merris	2022		
<b>Board of Education Representatives</b>			
Jon Goss	2022	Christie Williams-Kahn	2024
<b>Foundation Members</b>			
Steven Arnes	2044	J. David Kelsey	2017
Christopher Arnold	2007	Kevin McGlinchey	2017
Arnanda Baker	2023	Marcia McLean	2025
Rowland Ballek	1975	Nancy Mesham	2025
Nicki Berry	2008	Steven Olstein	2019
Matthew Cantner	2008	John Pfeiffer	2005
David Cavicce	2025	Judith Read	2011
Rev. Rebecca Crosby	2005	Tom Ressler	2024
Winnie Bing Edmed	2015	Tom Richardson	2016
Mark Fader	2024	Matthew Sharp	2013
James Fairfield-Sonn	2013	David Speirs	1981
Rev. Carleen Gerber	1986	Kathryn Wayland	2023
Leslie Gourlay	2011		
Evan Griswold	2012	Ned Perkins	
Timothy Griswold	1975	<i>Member Emeritus</i>	1986
Mary Guitar	2022	Thomas McGarry, Esq.,	
Gregory Hack	2023	<i>Legal Advisor</i>	1969
Day Halsey	2024	Katie Gingras	
Susan Hessel	2005	<i>Administrative Manager</i>	2019