

Raymond High School Alumni Association

Volume No. 22

November 2020



What a year!

The Pandemic forced your Alumni Association to cancel the annual Golf Tournament, our one and only fund-raising event each year.

Seniors were impacted because graduation was split into two parts – a Class Night where scholarship winners were announced and then an outside ceremony where diplomas were awarded, plus there was no Senior Breakfast.

Other alumni were saddened to learn that the Deerfield Fair was a no-go which meant they could not visit “The Little Red Schoolhouse” and meet their friends there.

What’s more, many classes that would have celebrated a milestone reunion found themselves unable to get together with their classmates.

But your Alumni Association has still been busy – selecting scholarship winners, receiving donations, and preparing this newsletter. In anticipation of the return to “normal” we are already looking ahead to 2021.

If you plan to hold that postponed reunion please let us know. We will be happy to report the details (and pictures) about your reunion in the Alumni Newsletter next November.

Send questions, details & photos to:

PO Box 745, Raymond, NH 03077
or e-mail jams0531@comcast.net



ATTENTION RHS CLASS of 1970

The Class of 1970 was unable to celebrate their 50th class reunion due to Covid 19. If you would like to hold a class reunion in 2021, please contact Carol Martin Levesque at clevesq@metrocast.net or call 603-463-7120.

RHSAA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The story of the current scholarship awards actually has its beginning in the early 1930’s, when an Alumni Association was formed.

In those early days the Association held a yearly banquet, the first one being held in the Pilgrim Inn in downtown Raymond. Even then the emphasis was on helping Raymond students by providing scholarship money to further their educations.

But by the mid-1960’s things in town had changed. There was a lot of growth and lots of changes, and the Association disbanded after nearly four decades serving the students of Raymond High School.

Then in 2000 several graduates decided it was time to revive the Alumni Association and pick up the mantle of scholarship awards. These original members included

*Shirley (Holt) Dodge, *Sally (Guptill) Paradis,
Terrie (Brackett) Dolan, Andy Maloney,
Charlena (Littlefield) Thompson, Romeo Levesque, Jr.,
Paul & Edna (Severance) Berry, *Elayne (Ingalls) Clark,
*Kip Mataragas, Mary (Hayes) Hrycuna.

One of their very first acts was to organize the All-School Reunion, held on July 9th of that year. The reunion was a huge success with over 700 former students and teachers in attendance.

In 2003 the Annual Golf Tournament became the fund-raising event of the Association, and has been held every year since, except for this year.

From its humble beginnings of two \$500 awards, to the current awards of \$2500 each to deserving students, your Alumni Association Committee has been hard at work to assist RHS students who go on to further their educations. We are proud that since 2001 a total of \$165,500 has been awarded to RHS seniors.

**Note: These people are still serving the RHS Alumni Assoc. after 20 years. Their hard work and leadership are truly appreciated.*

President: Ann Thompson Harris, '67
Vice President: Carol Martin Levesque, '70
Secretary: Sally Guptill Paradis, '58
Treasurers: Carol Levesque & Ann Harris
Members: Shirley Holt Dodge, '49
Elayne Ingalls Clark, '65
Judy Waterhouse Foley, '66
Chris "Kip" Mataragas, '67
Barbara Stetson Reczkowski, '68
Michael Foley, '68

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED THIS YEAR EQUAL \$12,500

It is with great pleasure the RHSAA awarded five scholarships this year at the Virtual Class Night on June 12, 2020 to the following college-bound seniors.

Jeremiah Audette
Aliana Braley
Sheridan Nicole DeLeo
Janessa Pilotte
Hannah Reardon

Despite this pandemic, and the cancellation of the RHS Alumni Association Scholarship Tournament, we felt it was very important for us to award these five most deserving seniors.

Congratulations and we wish you the best as you continue your educational journey!

You can help us continue this work by planning to join us in 2021. Our hope is to hold next year's golf outing on June 29, 2021.

GENERAL & SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS CONTIBUTORS

- Gemini Valve
- I.C. Reed & Sons, Inc.
- Sally & Roger Paradis
- Joel Morin
- Marion McBride Guthrie
- Lydia Farr Peak
- Deanna Harney
- Judy Bouchard Sullivan
- Raymond Council of Business Leaders for Public Education

THANK YOU SO MUCH.
YOUR SUPPORT HELPS US CONTINUE THIS
VITAL WORK.

HIGHLIGHT YOUR FAVORITES

In this issue we featured two men who taught at RHS and who are remembered fondly by students.

Is there someone you would like to tell us about - a teacher, principal, coach, other member of the staff?

If so, let us know your thoughts.

We would be happy to honor them with articles in future newsletters.

WILBUR G. HIXON TEACHER & COACH 1929-2020

News of the passing of Wilbur G. Hixon, former RHS teacher and coach in the 50's, reached us in early September. It was no surprise that in his obituary there was mention of his successful teaching and coaching experience in Raymond, which included one state basketball championship and a baseball state championship as well. He moved to Andover, Massachusetts in 1959, where he worked as teacher, coach, and principal for 31 years. During that time, he received many accolades for his teaching and coaching excellence and as a mentor to his many students and athletes.

For those RHS alumni who remember the 1955 Raymond victory as Class "B" state champions (although we were a class "C" school), the name of Bill Hixon will forever be enshrined. RHS also captured the 1955 Class "C" baseball state championship with Coach Hixon at the helm.

Today, members of his team still on the rolls as RHS alumni have expressed their sorrow at his passing.

Melvin Cross, '55, gives Coach Hixon credit for his attending Plymouth State and becoming a teacher, coach, and athletic director that resulted in Melvin's 30 successful years in that role at Newmarket High School.

James MacBride '58 writes, "Bill Hixon was both a superb basketball coach and an excellent teacher. In 1955 he took the five starting seniors and an inexperienced second string and guided the team to the Class "B" title. His civics class was a political science class, and his history classes opened our eyes to the past. It is great that he lived to be 91 and led a good life."

To the Hixon family, we send our sincere condolences. To teacher and coach Bill Hixon, we would say, "Thank you for touching so many lives in our town of Raymond many years ago. May you rest in Peace."

CLASS, FAMILY & MEMORIAL SPONSORSHIPS

- ❖ Jocelyn Callaghan Whitworth in memory of John Callaghan
- ❖ Carol Levesque in memory of Leo Plante, Class of 1975, Deceased members of the Class of 1970, Deceased students from Deerfield, NH, Girls Class of 1970
- ❖ Susan Shepard in memory of Buzzy Shepard, RHS '60
- ❖ Emily Porter Schlecht, in memory of her sister Thelma Porter Beckett, Class of '47 and brother Roy Porter '48
- ❖ Siblings of Marge McGall Desjardins in memory of Arthur and Norma McGall, class of 1961
- ❖ Marge McGall Desjardins in memory of Deceased Members of the Class of 1965
- ❖ Edward & Donald Thompson and Ann (Thompson) Harris, in thanksgiving for their parents, Edward and Charlena
- ❖ James Mandile for the Mandile Family

Please consider making a class, family or memorial sponsorship next year.

Teacher News - RICHARD THOMPSON

Some of you will remember Richard Thompson who was the science teacher at RHS in '60's. He was the only teacher of that subject and was therefore responsible for educating high school students in General Science, Earth Science, and Biology, plus Chemistry/Physics which alternated years and was a combined class of juniors and seniors. In addition, he taught all the lab classes associated with these subjects.

Mr. Thompson left teaching to become the Assistant Superintendent of SAU 15, of which the Raymond School District was a part, so his connection with Raymond was a long one.

The Alumni Association Committee has recently learned that Mr. Thompson has some health concerns at this time. By law we cannot give out his home address without his permission. Therefore we would like to extend this offer to you.

If you would like to send a note or card of well wishes to him please mail those to: **Mr. Thompson, c/o RHSAA, PO Box 745, Raymond, NH 03077.** We will gather all the cards we receive and send them in a package to him. Deadline for receiving these will be December 15, 2020.



**YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
NEEDS YOU**

HELP US CONTINUE THIS GOOD WORK

For more information or to volunteer, write to **RHSAA, PO Box 745, Raymond, NH 03077**, or e-mail jams0531@comcast.net.



The Association extends its sympathy to the families of Alumni who have lost loved ones since the publication of the last newsletter.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Luie Desilets Santry '42 | Betty Bearisto Daykin '46 |
| Thelma Porter Beckett '47 | John Lyons '52 |
| Beulah Tracy Bailey '56 | Olive Reed Turner '58. |
| Karl "Buzzy" Shepard '60 | David Clock, '70 |
| Sharon Callaghan Dugas '71 | Mona Paquette Nesbit, '73 |

Please send us news of RHS alumni who have passed away so the list in each newsletter is complete for the preceding year.

OTHER PASSINGS OF NOTE

Gregory J. Sevinsky. The RHSAA sends its sincere condolences to the Sevinsky family upon Greg's recent passing. He was the first general manager of the Wal-Mart 6030 Distribution Center in Raymond and served in that capacity for the last 30 years. His fervent civic interest and generosity to our annual RHSAA Golf Outing to fund RHS scholarships will always be remembered.

Dot Callaghan, widow of long-time Principal John J. Callaghan



**ATTENTION
PLEASE!**

It's that time again!

Your support is greatly needed to keep this organization going.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES

Annual dues are only \$10.00

and cover the period from
November 1, 2020 to
October 31, 2021.

Save Time & Hassle!

A LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

is only \$100.00.

Name at Graduation

Year of Graduation

Have A New Address?

Clip this form and mail along with your check to:

**RHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
PO Box 745
Raymond, NH 03077**

The Raymond High School Alumni Association is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In accordance with IRS Requirements, we will provide you with a written receipt for contributions that are \$250 or more, when no goods or services were provided by the organization in return for your contribution.



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SAVE THE DATE
18TH RHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
GOLF OUTING
TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021
CANDIA WOODS GOLF LINKS

Shotgun start, buffet luncheon, prizes & a raffle



PLAN TO COME AND ENJOY A DAY OF GOLF
FOR A GREAT CAUSE!