

# EDGEMONT SCHOOL FOUNDATION ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

ENSURING AND ENHANCING THE VALUE OF AN EDGEMONT EDUCATION

—Volume 2— Published by the Edgemont School Foundation —Summer 2014—

## FOUNDATION SUPPORTS DISTRICT'S FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN

In March 2014, the Edgemont School Foundation announced its pledge of \$500,000 to the District to support its Five-Year Capital Facilities Plan, addressing the District's critical need to upgrade facilities and infrastructure. The pledge will be paid over fifteen years – the same period as a new bond offering that received overwhelming support from the community in a referendum in June 2014.

The capital improvements that the Foundation's pledge will help fund include enhanced security and accessibility, repairs of infrastructure, a new multimedia lab and substantial renovation of athletic fields. The Foundation Board was particularly excited about this pledge because the capital improvements will benefit every Edgemont student as well as the larger community for decades to come.

What's more, the Foundation's support for the capital improvements is easily its largest grant ever to the school district. Nevertheless, the Foundation expects to honor its pledge without reducing its endowment thanks to the generous contributions it receives each year and conservative estimates of returns on the Foundation's investment portfolio, which is professionally managed at UBS.

Thanking the Foundation for its pledge in March, *Dr. Victoria Kniewel*, School Superintendent, said, "a major component of a successful school district is a strong partnership with parents. In Edgemont, this partnership moves to an extraordinary level through the generosity of the School Foundation."



## CLASS REUNIONS

We would be glad to publish details about upcoming class reunions, assist with your planning or help the class in arranging a Class gift. Our website will be a centralized location to list all reunion websites. Also, send us photos of your reunions for future Alumni Newsletters. Email details to [alumni@edgemontschoolfoundation.org](mailto:alumni@edgemontschoolfoundation.org).

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# EDGEMONT AND THE CANDLELIGHT INN, A PERFECT MATCH

Who would have guessed that when **Jack Tracy** opened the doors to The Candlelight Inn in 1955 it would become a landmark to Edgemont residents? Almost sixty years later, adults and children of all ages still frequent the little red house on Central Avenue for the most delicious wings in Westchester.

Fortunately, Candlelight has expanded, and its take out and delivery service now makes it even easier to enjoy everything the Inn has to offer. **Peter Roth**, Edgemont graduate and current resident, states, "The Candlelight Inn has and always will be the "Cheers" of Edgemont. A

place where everyone knows your name and the food just happens to be off the charts."

Still a family tradition, The Candlelight is run by brothers **John** (Jay) and **Mike Tracy**, and it has become an Edgemont institution. It's a home for Edgemont sports teams to celebrate their seasons; many Panther pictures hang on the restaurant walls. EHS student, **Alec Simon** states; "We go to Candlelight for team dinners, especially for victories! It is also a general "go to" place in Edgemont for both eating there and bringing in. You are just always in the mood for it. It's a place for friends to grab a bite and watch a game, and it's a place

for residents of all ages to unwind and enjoy great food and drink in a casual, local setting."

Recently, the Edgemont Class of 1964 held a reunion lunch at Candlelight, and it was the perfect place to reminisce about their childhood and school experiences. **Andrew Falk** and **Ellen Litt**, co-chairs of the Edgemont School Foundation, met with the reunion class. As they answered some questions about Edgemont schools today, it became clear that the traditions in Edgemont that still remain are the ones worth celebrating. The Candlelight Inn is surely one of Edgemont's finest!

## MEET SUPERINTENDENT VICTORIA KNIEWEL

In July 2013, as long-time superintendent **Nancy Taddiken** retired, Edgemont welcomed **Dr. Victoria Kniewel** into our community as the new Superintendent of Schools. As **Victoria** nears her one-year anniversary in Edgemont, we sat down to discuss her thoughts on her first year.

**Victoria** came to Edgemont with many years of educational administration experience spanning several important roles. She started out as an elementary school principal in Ridgewood, New Jersey. From there, she held a dual role in Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey as Assistant Superintendent and Principal. **Victoria** then held the role of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in North Salem, New York and then in West Windsor-Plainsboro, New Jersey.

Bringing incredible knowledge and insight from the diverse school districts she has been a part of, **Victoria** felt very comfortable stepping into the top post in Edgemont and hitting the ground running. She immediately felt

energized by our small but vested community. It was abundantly clear to her that Edgemont residents are a caring group that "want the best for their most precious resource.... its children!" Quickly, **Victoria** immersed herself in our district's many components and groups, building relationships with administrators, faculty, parents and students. She became involved in the goings-on of the PTA, PTSA, Edgemont School Foundation, E Club, and Edgemont Scholarship Council, just to name a few, and is inspired by just how overwhelmingly active our community is.

**Victoria** immediately became entrenched with the School Board and Finance Committee and the needs they put forth. After tremendous research and work, a school bond was proposed that includes extensive improvements and renovations to our schools. As a supporter of the bond, it is very important to **Victoria** to "maintain and improve an excellent Edgemont education in a financially responsible way, in collaboration with the stake holders." **Victoria**



Victoria Kniewel

explained that the timing was right for Edgemont to move forward with the bond, and it certainly added another dimension of learning in the first year for her. The bond vote passed on June 17th.

Another main focus for **Victoria** this year has been around testing practices in the district. She is

developing an overall review process for test standards and results for use by our administration and faculty. It is important to **Victoria** that we continue to assess ourselves and use critical thinking to ensure the development of our children as “good people who are emotionally resilient, have interpersonal skills, are self-advocates and problem solvers.” She feels that this continual process and reviewing of results should be

ongoing. Hopefully moving forward, these processes can be applied to all academic areas in Edgemont.

**Victoria** concedes that one of the challenges she has faced in her first year is how to achieve more while living within the limited fiscal reality, and how to solve problems within those boundaries. The most important key to navigating this, she notes, is open and constant communication.

**Victoria** has managed to seamlessly transition into the Edgemont community, keeping the pace of positive change and managing the everyday issues of a school district, all while learning and growing. With Year One under her belt, it is clear that Edgemont has much to look forward to under the leadership of **Dr. Victoria Kniewel** for many years to come.

## FAREWELL TO FACULTY

**Christine Kovacs** - 24 years- Special education teacher who started a program at Seely Place for kids with special needs who had been in programs outside the district and could now be educated here in their home district. Helped to “mainstream” when appropriate. **Ms. Kovacs** feels “Edgemont is a special place, a real community where every child is known and cared about.”

**Debra Schulman** - 29 years- Taught multiple levels of math ( 7th-11th grade), cheerleading advisor, grade advisor, director of ninth grade camp, member of mentoring and cum laude committees, and math chair. **Ms Schulman** felt that special connection to students and the community of Edgemont “when they let you in to both their classroom and hearts”. She will “miss the expression on their faces when doubt becomes discovery and real learning takes place.”

**Lisa Singer** - 30 years- School nurse at Seely Place. Edgemont has been “a family enterprise” with her 2 kids (Jessica and Rachel) growing up in the school system, in addition to her husband (Larry) being on the Board of Education. **Ms. Singer** has enjoyed “watching 30 years of kids grow from start to finish, being a part of their lives, and keeping them all healthy and covered in band aids and ice packs”

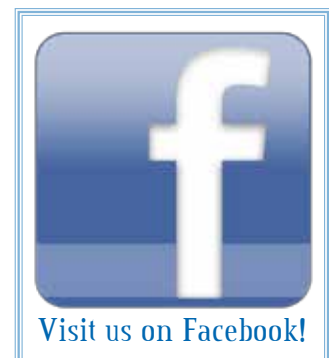
**Marcy. Cardarelli** - 32 years- Resource room teacher (7th – 12th grade) teaching small sections of math, science, english, and social studies, co-teacher in integrated sections of english, science, and social studies. Served on original committee introduced team structure to Jr high, member of various 7th, 8th, and 9th grade teams, mentor for new faculty, started as a reading teacher (4th – 6th grade) at Greenville. **Ms Cardarelli** was enthusiastic about the fact that “Everyone really cared about learning. Edgemont stayed committed to educating human beings and avoided a cookie cutter approach”.

**Monica Grey** - 24 years- Special education teacher who taught kids with language based learning disabilities. Worked with all ages in all three schools in many situations such as: self-contained classes, pull-out- therapy, push- in to regular classes, and co- taught classes. **Ms. Gray**’s instincts about Edgemont’s commitment to “ do it right” and provide a comprehensive quality education in a mainstream setting were validated in every aspect, venue, and circumstance she encountered.

## THANK YOU...

To our “Forever Edgemont” Alumni Capital Campaign Committee Members:

Sheila Asala, ‘58  
Alex Bernstein, ‘02  
Claire Brenna, ‘12  
Kim Stanley Brennan, ‘81  
Dale Brown, ‘64  
David Chao, ‘80  
James Glassman, ‘08  
John A. Griffin, ‘81  
Susan Melinette Haerle ‘63  
Emily Heineman, ‘11  
Lisa Anne Dunkle Januzzi, ‘85  
Sara Fineman Kamen, ‘93  
Rich LeFurgy, ‘74  
Jon Libman, ‘80  
Jill Libman, ‘57  
Tatiana Melamed, ‘10  
David Pyne, ‘69  
Dylan Pyne, ‘08  
Jared Simon, ‘12  
Hudson Smith, ‘72  
Lauren Stuzin, ‘13



# GROWING UP IN EDGEMONT *by Joan Costabell Austin '57*

Below are excerpts from a wonderful piece written by *Joan Costabell Austin*, who was in the first Edgemont High School graduation class in 1957. It combines a rich history of Edgemont School District set against the backdrop of US History and its political and cultural shifts. The full article can be found on the Foundation's website.

## Introduction...

It would be tempting to assume, in some child-like way, that Edgemont existed solely for us; that it came into being when we arrived in the fall of 1944 and entered the twilight zone when we left in 1957. Of course, such is not the case, so let's admit that the story did not begin with us and did not end with us and, indeed, will continue long after we have gone to that last great homeroom in the sky. It might also be comforting to think that Edgemont was a sort of Brigadoon that existed independently of and unaffected by the outside world. Again, that would be an illusion. The history of our school is inextricably linked to our community and to the larger world.

## There was an Edgemont before We Came

Of course, the earliest inhabitants of Edgemont were Indians. (I'm too old to be politically correct and say "Native Americans".) In the 17th century, our area was part of the huge block of land owned by a Dutch family, the Philipses. It was inhabited by tenant farmers and indeed the region was primarily agricultural until the early part of the 20th century..... The Philipses were Loyalists and lost their holdings after the Revolution. Much of the land was then assigned to the tenants who had been farming it..... The Greenville Church was built in 1842; they used the word



"Greenville" to distinguish themselves from a Greenburgh Reformed Church in Elmsford. The term Edgemont did not come into use until the 1890s... So, we lived in the unincorporated area (known as Greenville) of the Town of Greenburgh, attended the Edgemont Schools and our mailing address was Scarsdale. No wonder we were confused!

I think we can legitimately trace the origins of the Edgemont schools to a meeting held in December, 1858 at which time the Greenville Rural School District No. 10 was organized. A one-room school was built on Fort Hill Road and was used until 1884. Still another one-room school was built two years later, on the west side of Fort Hill Road a little south of Longview Drive. It was a "one-room clapboard house with heat supplied by a pot-bellied stove" and two outhouses out back. This was our school system as the United States plunged into the Civil War.

The Great Depression of the 1930s had an impact on Edgemont School.....The school was regarded, not always favorably, as "progressive" during this period. School Principal, William D. Moyle, assured parents in 1940 that, there was not "the

slightest suggestion of abandoning high achievement or lessening school discipline." Mr. Moyle, who figured in my nightmares for many years, was the chief administrator at Edgemont from 1937 – 1966 and he never struck me as a softie on discipline! It wasn't until much later that I realized that he was a kind man and a fine educator.

I wonder how our parents viewed the world on New Year' Eve of 1938. The world situation was unsettled. Hitler was in control in Germany, Mussolini in Italy, Franco in Spain, Chamberlain in Great Britain. Japan was controlled by militarists and had invaded China. At home, FDR was midway through his second term (no one had ever served more than two terms) and the country was pulling out of the depression.... By the time we were two, our own country was at war as well.

But outside this little world, there was a war on and this was in the background of many of my earliest memories. I remember rationing with coupons for gas, food, and clothing. Mom and Dad listened to the news every morning on a large "cathedral" radio in the kitchen. We collected newspapers and tin cans... There was a "Victory Garden" in a vacant lot on Argyle, and blackouts were an exciting nighttime distraction. There was a watch tower on Clayton Road, I think where the Schneiders' house was later built, designed to spot enemy aircraft. I went with my mother to pay condolence calls on families who had lost a son.

## WE arrive at Edgemont!

September, 1944. The world is still at war but we are going to kindergarten. The kindergarten room was large and sunny and it had a slide! We all remember Miss Hayes. She taught us many things, including how to be a snowflake and how to take off

a sweater without turning it inside out. One day in May, she had us sit quietly so we could hear the sirens and bells ring to celebrate the end of the war in Europe.

Throughout elementary school, the Cold War was in full swing and it did intrude on our consciousness I think. We talked about the Iron Curtain in Europe and the “fall” of China. Local Republicans-who were a distinct majority then-, were shocked when Truman defeated Dewey in 1948. The Korean War started in the summer of 1950. Our parents worried about polio, particularly in the summer. One of our classmates, Tracy Heany, died of polio. My mother wept for joy when she heard about Dr. Salk’s vaccine.

The old issue of a high school was still unresolved and rapidly becoming a crisis. Scarsdale, which had its own population boom, refused to extend our contract beyond 1954. Bronxville and White Plains offered to take our 11th and 12th graders as tuition students while we sorted things out, and a vote was held to determine which system would be chosen. It was hard fought and had ethnic undertones which I didn’t figure out until much later. ...on December 7, 1953, the residents (by a ten to one margin) passed a bond issue to build a Junior-Senior High School. There was going to be an Edgemont High School, and we were going to be the first graduating class!

As we grew older, life outside school became more complex. By the end of elementary school the girls began to look at the boys and at some point the boys concluded that girls did not have cooties and began to return the interest.....We started becoming interested in popular music. At first we listened to the singers, such as Perry Como, Eddie Fisher, Julius La Rosa, Patti Page, Teresa Brewer, etc. Do you remember a TV Show called Your Hit Parade?.....Later a DJ called Moondog became popular and Rock and Roll took over. “Rock Around the Clock” and “Earth Angel” were the first such songs I remember. As I remember, Elvis was associated with being “hoody” or “rocky” and wearing a “DA.”, but then some of our classmates were beginning to pick up on the image too.

The Cold War droned on. We now had air raid drills during which we dove under our desks to seek protection from nuclear weapons. Some things don’t change; now the schools have to worry about evacuation in case of a radioactivity release from Indian Point. The Korean War finally ended and Jill Libman’s brother came home.

### The New High School

Edgemont was a very odd arrangement for us when you come to think about it. We had kindergarten through tenth grade

in one building until the “new” high school opened in the fall of 1955. Because the class of 1956 did not spend its senior year at Edgemont, but continued at Bronxville, we were “seniors” in tenth grade, eleventh grade, and twelfth grade. A fair number of our classmates (mostly the boys) left for private school due to this odd configuration and it made for a bleak social life for the girls.

Edgemont High School opened its doors in September, 1955 and many of us went to a different school for the first time. Most of us still walked. The new campus had six buildings containing twenty four classrooms. It was not entirely finished. The grounds were a sea of mud (or dust, depending on the season) ....I remember being in class when two workmen marched in carrying a huge chalkboard and said, “Hey lady, where does this go?” There were no mirrors in the girls’ lavatories, a terrible deprivation for us.

By now most of us were driving, although we generally did not have our own cars. Remember the Pipeline? Cars did open up the world a bit.....We had a number of big open-house parties. There were dances at school and at the Scarsdale Golf Club. The Jewish kids were not invited to the Golf Club. Unfortunately, anti-Semitism was a persistent and troubling aspect of local life.

Nowadays many people tend to describe the fifties as a period wrapped in a warm cocoon of Eisenhower age security. I don’t remember it that way. *Brown v. the Board of Education* opened a new era in race relations. The Supreme Court decision led to demands for equality from African Americans and forced many of us to examine our own prejudices....We were aware of something happening in a place called Vietnam after the French left in 1954.

*(continue on page 6)*



The Dance Committee

(continued from page 5)

Our senior year was memorable.....As graduation approached, we all began to realize that our time at Edgemont really was going to end. Many of us had been in school together for thirteen years and had known one another for even longer than that. Our class grew closer together and our social gatherings were larger and sometimes became quite sentimental. Graduation was wonderful.... Unbelievably, Edgemont was over for us and we were moving on.



*The Dance Committee*

### There was an Edgemont after We Left...

As the vacant land in Edgemont filled up and the baby boomers continued to be born, enrollment rose. In the late seventies and throughout the eighties, school enrollments dropped throughout Westchester and much of the nation. School districts discovered that declining enrollment brings its own set of problems..... As schools got smaller, per pupil cost went up, and that was unpopular with taxpayer groups. Edgemont budgets were voted down twice in the early nineties [which is when the Foundation was started!].

The transition from the fifties to the sixties and seventies was turbulent in our country and of course Edgemont reflected this. In the mid-seventies, a large number of Japanese students came to Edgemont and at

one point constituted about 30% of the enrollment. As the Japanese economy ran into trouble, many of the companies brought their people home. Later a fair number of Indian students came to the area and the community remains far more diverse than it was in our time. (The microcosm reflects the macrocosm!) Today, at the Edgemont graduation, flags indicating the birthplace of the graduates are flown. Between thirty-eight and forty-two flags are normally displayed!

September 11, 2001 was a nightmare for Edgemont as it was for the nation. Many parents and families of staff members worked in the World Trade Center and nearby areas. School was open and most of the children stayed.

I asked **Nancy Taddiken** to share her feelings about Edgemont and her response was most interesting. She

had worked in several Westchester districts before coming to Edgemont and has found Edgemont to be unique. She said there is a very strong sense that the school is part of the community and, in fact, is the focal point of the community. She attributed this to several factors. It is a small district and people come there for the schools.

Edgemont has flourished. The District has a fine reputation in academics. Test scores are high, and the kids continue to get into good colleges.....Westchester Spotlight recently ranked Edgemont as the top high school in Westchester. (The Scarsdale folks had to be scraped off the ceiling!) Our athletic program (under the direction of a slightly younger alumnus, **Jim San Marco**) is outstanding. Our football team has won the state championship (1998, 1999, 2000). This is a far cry from the 50-0 loss the 1956 Panthers suffered at the hands of Bronxville at our first home football game. Clearly, we can be proud to say, "I was in the first graduating class of Edgemont High School"!

For the full article, go to [www. EdgemontSchoolFoundation.org](http://www.EdgemontSchoolFoundation.org). A History of Greenville/Edgemont, edited by **Barbara Buff** (1970) was cited as a reference for many historical items.



*The Senior Student Council*

# IN MEMORIAM

## Tracy Durkin

*Tracy Durkin*, 53, passed away Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013 at Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT. Tracy lost her valiant fight against the cancer that confronted her most of her life, but her sense of hope and acceptance was an inspiration to many. She went on to Holy Cross College, received her Masters from Boston College, and her Doctorate in Chemistry from Yale University. After closing the Maple Tree Gallery, her popular gift and frame shop in Pawling, Tracy found her real passion, teaching. She absolutely loved both her Chemistry and Science scholar classes at the Edgemont High School and her students.

## James "Jim" Hogan

*James J. "Jim" Hogan*, 76, of Hastings-on-Hudson passed away on January 25, 2014. He was born in Decorah, Iowa to James and Coletta Hogan. Jim graduated from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa and was inducted into the Loras College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000. From 1963 to 1965 Jim served in the Peace Corps in Turkey, where he married Elizabeth Field in Ankara in 1965. The couple settled in New York City where their sons, James and Justin were born. In 1968 Jim accepted a position teaching Middle Eastern and Global Studies at Edgemont High School, where he taught until his retirement in 2000.

## Arlene Luce LaBar

*Arlene Luce LaBar* died Saturday, October 26, 2013. Born on November 12, 1919 in Jenks, PA she was the daughter of the late George D. and Ethel Harding Luce. She was a 1936 graduate of Tunkhannock High School, received her BA in 1940 from Bucknell University and in 1945 received her Master's Degree from Columbia University. Arlene

taught at Edgemont High School and elsewhere. Edgemont students recalled her beloved Edsel car and her very accurate predictions of her students' Algebra Regents test scores.

## Judith Exman Kaess

*Judy Kaess* of Barnstable passed away peacefully at home on December 29, 2013 surrounded by her loving family. She graduated from Westtown Friends School, Westtown, PA in 1957, though was a friend to many in the Edgemont Class of 1957. She acquired her Bachelor's Degree in 1961 from Denison University and Master's Degree in Elementary Education from New York University. She began her teaching career in New Jersey and then taught at Rye Country Day School in Rye, NY. Judy was happiest when tending to her vegetable and flower gardens, or when making jams and jellies from the grapes, raspberries, peaches, and blueberries from her gardens.

## Bruce Loev '80

*Bruce Kevin Loev* and Ruth (Hubertus) Rowe and of Danbury, CT, died unexpectedly on July 10, 2013. Bruce graduated from Edgemont High School, and then attended Lehigh University where he studied engineering, receiving his BA in 1983. Bruce worked as a civil engineer specializing in aviation for over 25 years, most recently working for URS Corporation in Scottsdale, AZ. One of Bruce's great joys in life was skiing. Old flames, Ruth and Bruce had recently reconnected after losing touch for nearly 25 years. Ruth and Bruce celebrated their marriage on July 5, 2013, surrounded by family and friends in Bryn Mawr, PA.

## Rick Powell '63

Edgemont graduate *Rick Pollen* passed away on October 30, 2013 of colon cancer. After high school, Rick

went to the University of Miami. His career spanned at least three industries, Dictaphone Corp., Eastern Airlines and lastly as a commodities broker. A classmate reported that Rick was their class' answer to Don Johnson of Miami Vice. He leaves his longtime companion, Timianne (Timi) McCarthy and his sister, Jean Brandon.

## Leonard Stern '64

*Leonard Stern* was born in South Africa, and his family emigrated to the U.S. when he was 10. After graduating from Edgemont, he attended Colby College in Maine and earned a B.A. in Chemistry in 1968, then two Master's Degrees from the University of Oregon in Interdisciplinary Studies and Experimental Psychology. He earned his Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from the University of Oregon and became a Professor of Psychology at Eastern Washington University, where he worked for the remainder of his life. He married Barbara Gross in Spokane, WA, and they enjoyed a happy marriage for 28 years. He liked woodworking, making home improvements, playing the guitar and violin, traveling, skiing, and occasionally bodysurfing.

## Gregory Anania '03

*Gregory Anania* died June 18 after a long battle against cancer. Greg graduated from Edgemont in 2003 where he was a member of the varsity football and golf teams. He graduated from Babson College in 2007. Despite a rare form of cancer, atypical thymic carcinoid, he lived life to the fullest – traveling, playing golf, working out, and visiting with friends where his infectious grin brightened the lives of others.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## A Vision to Cure Blindness

Neuroscientist **Dr. Sheila Nirenberg** sees the brain as a giant math problem—one she wasn't always planning to work on. As a college student, **Dr. Nirenberg** envisioned herself not as a scientist but as a writer. Winning a short story contest when she was just a freshman in college seemed to validate her intended career path. "But then I realized that I was so young—what did I know about anything to write?" said **Dr. Nirenberg**, now the Nanette Laitman Professor in Neurology and Neuroscience, a professor of physiology and biophysics and a professor of computational neuroscience in the Institute for Computational Biomedicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. "So I started taking classes in everything so I could expand my breadth."

One of them happened to be a course in genetics, and she was immediately hooked. She switched her major to psychology, won a science award and set her sights on graduate school. She went on to earn a doctorate in neuroscience with an emphasis on molecular biology at Harvard.

Now, Dr. Nirenberg is developing a treatment for blindness after cracking the neural code that translates light received by the retina into the images we see. Having decoded the neural communication underlying the brain's visualization system, she is developing an artificial retina that could help millions of people who suffer from blindness due to degenerative retinal disease. "I've always known that if I understood this code I could make better prosthetic devices, but there was a limiting factor of how to send the information into the neural system," **Dr. Nirenberg** said.

"It's two components that you need: You need the code and you need a way to get the neurons to send the code up to the brain. The field of optogenetics offered a solution for the second part. Once the two parts were put together, it worked almost immediately, because the logic behind it makes sense." The prosthetic retina **Dr. Nirenberg** designed, which has shown promise in animal studies, doesn't require surgery. A combination of gene therapy and a wearable device, the treatment involves the administration of an eye injection containing the optogenetic component—a protein called channelrhodopsin that is sensitive to light. After they receive the therapy, patients would just need to wear visor-like glasses that interact with the protein through light pulses. The glasses contain a small camera and a computer chip. The camera takes in the images, and the computer chip converts them into the retina's code—the same code it normally uses to communicate with the brain. The code is then converted into light pulses to stimulate the light-sensitive protein that was injected into the eye, which tells the brain what the wearer is looking at.

This device, which **Dr. Nirenberg's** biotech company Bionic Sight is tasked with developing for general use, has earned **Dr. Nirenberg** national recognition. The MacArthur Foundation honored her work last fall by selecting her for the prestigious Genius Award, which carried an unrestricted \$625,000 cash prize. **Dr. Nirenberg** can still recall her reaction to winning the award. "I stopped moving and held my breath, because the reception on the phone was so noisy, and I wanted to be sure I was really hearing the amazing news this person was saying to me—that I won a MacArthur Award," she gushed.



*Sheila Nirenberg is a graduate of Edgemont High School Class of 1979.*

"It's an unbelievably thrilling thing." **Dr. Nirenberg** is already looking ahead and envisions her discovery helping people with other disabilities. The same approach, in principle, can be used to create better cochlear implants, as well as motor prosthetics to help patients affected by a stroke or paralysis, she said. "Once I had the idea, and the pilot experiments worked, it was no longer a science project anymore, it was real, and it became my responsibility to bring it forward" **Dr. Nirenberg** said. "I'm going to hit bumps and obstacles, but I won't quit, I promise."

*Reprinted with permission from Weill Cornell Medical College.*

## DONATE TODAY



To donate to the Foundation online or download

a donation by check form, visit our website at [www.EdgemontSchoolFoundation.org](http://www.EdgemontSchoolFoundation.org).



## BLOOM AIDS WOUNDED VETERANS

It is difficult to imagine the life of a severely wounded warrior recovering at Walter Reed. Wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan, many have had their lives blown up in every sense of the word. MusiCorps is an intensive rehabilitation program that helps them play music and recover their lives. Musicorps replicates “real world” music relationships so that injured veterans work on, and are motivated to work on, robust goal-oriented projects many hours a day. MusiCorps integrates individualized projects, regular visits by professional musicians, and the use of specially-assembled computer-based music workstations along with traditional instruments. Working in any musical style they prefer, wounded warriors are able to learn, play, write, record, and produce original material. MusiCorps also aids recovery from war-related trauma, including PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) and TBI (traumatic brain injury). Concussive blasts from roadside bombs cause TBI, and it has been called the signature injury of the war on terror. Learning, creating, and performing music involves so many aspects of brain function that it is believed to recruit uninjured parts of the brain to compensate for parts that have been injured, and help those parts that are injured recover. MusiCorps began when composer and founder of Renovation In Music Education (RIME), **Arthur Bloom**, was invited to visit a soldier recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The soldier, a musician who had been badly injured by an roadside bomb, was concerned about the effects of his injuries on his ability to play music. In conversations with **Bloom**, the soldier expressed his pain, frustration, and as the seed of an idea took root, enthusiasm

for a music program. **Bloom** and RIME committed to developing an unprecedented program that would not only benefit this particular soldier, but any who wished to participate, at any level, under any circumstance. Indeed, the program has successfully accommodated a broad variety of participants working in styles ranging from hardcore and metal to classical and rap, using instruments ranging from keyboards and software to guitars and native American flutes.

*Mr. Bloom is a graduate of Edgemont High School. He holds a literature degree*

*from Yale College, and music degrees from Juilliard and the Yale School of Music.*



### ALUMNI WALKWAY

**Buy A Brick, Leave a Permanent Legacy at Edgemont!**

In 1998 the Edgemont School Foundation sponsored the creation of an Alumni Walkway which has been built with the generous support of friends and families of Edgemont. The proceeds from the sale of personalized bricks help fund the Foundation's grants to the schools. It consists of clay bricks which can be personalized to honor graduating seniors, EHS alumni, faculty, administrators, and Board of Education members. Add your brick today. Find order forms at [www.edgemontschoolfoundation.org](http://www.edgemontschoolfoundation.org).

**2013 Alumni Walkway Donations were made in Honor of:**

Ruriko Araki '10	Susumu Araki '14
Molly Alyssa Breitbart '14	Mason Brooks '14
Nikhyl Jhangiani '10	Tasha Jhangiani '14
Maia Leeds '14	Josh Lefkowitz '14
Michael Lewy '61	Robert Lewy '63
"Snee" Prinesh Mistry '16	"Riki" Rikesh Mistry '14
Raj-Krishan Mistry '12	Caroline Newman '14
Gianna Porco '25	Kit and Anita (York) Sawyer '63
David Shapiro '09	Melanie Shapiro '11
Jonathan Shapiro '14	Paulette Spiegel '86
Gaby Susz '14	Emma Tames '12
Jackie Tames '14	

Class of 1964 Reunion In Memory of Burt Lefkowitz, Avid Edgemont Fan/Fantastic Father and Grandfather By: Ken Lefkowitz '76, David Lefkowitz '78, Bruce Lefkowitz '83, Andrew Lefkowitz '05, Rebecca Lefkowitz '09

# COLLEGE MATRICULATION CLASS OF 2014

**B**elow is a list of the institutions that the Edgemont graduates of 2014 will be attending. If more than one student is attending an institution, the total number of students attending is indicated in parentheses following the name.

The University of Arizona	Johns Hopkins University	Stanford University
Bard College	Keene State College	Syracuse University (4)
Barnard College	Kenyon College	Tufts University
Bates College	Lafayette College	Tulane University (3)
Berklee College of Music	Lehigh University	Union College (3)
Boston University	Loyola Marymount University	Vanderbilt University
Brigham Young University (2)	University of Maryland, College Park (2)	University of Vermont (2)
Bucknell University (3)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst (2)	Villanova University
University of California at Davis	Mercyhurst University	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
University of California at Irvine	Miami University, Oxford	Wake Forest University
Carnegie Mellon University	University of Miami	Washington University in St. Louis (4)
Case Western Reserve University	University of Michigan (3)	Williams College (2)
University of Chicago (2)	Muhlenberg College (2)	University of Wisconsin, Madison (3)
Colgate University	New York University (4)	
University of Colorado at Boulder	Northwestern University (2)	SUNY (State University of New York)
Columbia University (4)	Parsons, The New School for Design	Binghamton University (5)
Concordia College - Bronxville (2)	Pennsylvania State University, University Park	College at Cortland
University of Connecticut (3)	University of Pennsylvania	College at Oneonta
Cornell University (8)	Philadelphia University	College at Oswego
Dartmouth College (2)	Pitzer College	College at Purchase
University of Delaware	Plymouth State University	Fashion Institute of Technology
University of Denver	Polytechnic Institute of NYU	Stony Brook University (6)
Drew University	Pratt Institute	University at Albany (2)
Drexel University	Quinnipiac University	University at Buffalo (2)
Duke University (2)	Rice University	University at New Paltz
University of Edinburgh	University of Richmond	University at Plattsburgh
Emory University	Rochester Institute of Technology	Westchester Community College
Endicott College	University of Rochester	
Fairfield University	Sacred Heart University (2)	CUNY (City University of New York)
Fordham University	University of San Francisco	Hunter College
Furman University	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	John Jay College of Criminal Justice
The George Washington University	Skidmore College (2)	
Georgetown University	Smith College (3)	
Harvard College (2)	St. John's University (2)	
Haverford College	St. Lawrence University	
High Point University		
Hobart and William Smith Colleges		
Hofstra University (2)		
Indiana University at Bloomington		

## SCHOOL RANKING

**E**dgemont High School was ranked #58 in the 2014 US News and World Report rankings of best high schools in America. Edgemont was #9 in New York State, #1 excluding magnet schools. The Foundation plays a vital role in allowing such a small school district to remain competitive, a difficult in light of State tax caps, increasing pension costs and local commercial tax appeals.

## CLASS OF 1964 COMES HOME TO CELEBRATE 50TH REUNION

Sixty enthusiastic individuals from 17 states and France converged on Edgemont this past June to reconnect and celebrate their diverse life journeys. True to their theme “50 Years Comes Only Once,” the EHS Class of 1964 went all out celebrating their milestone reunion in style and producing an impressive Reunion Yearbook chronicling the lives of classmates following graduation up to the present.

Alumnus Dick Fraser and his wife Kathy hosted the group at their home in Riverside, CT for a “Welcome BBQ” on Friday. On Saturday evening the venue changed to the Renaissance Westchester Hotel, where the Class of ‘64 rocked the night away to 1960s music at a dinner dance. Bob Laughlin, who attended Edgemont elementary and junior high schools before matriculating from The Hill School, hosted the group on Sunday for a memorable “Farewell Brunch” at his home in Rye overlooking Long Island Sound.

For many classmates, the highlight of the weekend was an entertaining

bus tour on Saturday to their former Edgemont homes and neighborhood haunts, lunch at the Candlelight Inn and a private tour of the high school led by Principal Devan Ganeshanathan. They were particularly impressed by the state and national ranking of EHS and the improvements to school district programs, technology and facilities made possible by ESF Foundation grants. In appreciation for the education and nurturing they received in the Edgemont school district from kindergarten through high school, the Class of 1964 presented the Foundation with a \$1,000 donation.

The Class of 64’s 50th Reunion was co-chaired by Dale Brown and Scott Schroeder, along with Reunion Yearbook editors Sue Strong Fine and Janet Brown Klusza, and committee heads Jane Liberman, Jack Gordon and Jack Linville. For more information about the reunion events and yearbook, contact Dale Brown at [dbrown@andersonkill.com](mailto:dbrown@andersonkill.com) or 646-420-9748.

## CLASS OF 1973 40TH REUNION

Class of 1973 had over 75 people turn out and it was great fun. Our planning committee included **Larry Hughes, Randy Lloyd, Liz Claiborne Smith, Ellen Berman, Bob Jaffe, Brian Fitzgerald, Bobby Hennessy, Robin (Helman) Brown, Beryl Cowan** and **Mark Stevens**. Friday we all met at a bar in White Plains. On Saturday we had a memorial for the classmates who passed away which was very nice. **Mr. Gordon** joined us. Saturday night was our dinner at Rory Dolan’s in Yonkers. And Sunday we had a brunch at one of our classmate’s home. I think you can see from the pictures there was lots of catching up to do!



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## CLASS OF 2002 REUNION RECAP

On November 30th, 2013, Edgemont class of 2002 held its 10+1 year reunion at the Park Avenue Tavern in midtown NYC. Over 40 Edgemont alumni showed up to reminisce about

Panther memories over drinks and light food. The reunion was a huge success as it reminded everyone of how special and unique the Edgemont community is.

## SAN MARCO UPDATE

The Foundation is proud to report that renovation work to the Jim San Marco Gymnasium will commence this summer after the State approved the final plans. The foundation approved a grant of \$425,000, \$340,000 of which was raised from alumni and friends of San Marco at the dedication ceremony in December 2012. The renovation will include a new gym floor, bleachers, divider, windows, doors, and roof – much of this funded by the Foundation. Approximately \$75,000 is set aside to pay for state of the art physical education training and teaching equipment.

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## GRANTS FUNDED BY THE FOUNDATION

### TECHNOLOGY

iPad devices  
Mobil Computer Labs  
Wireless and Critical Network  
Infrastructure

### ART & THEATER ARTS

Auditorium Sound and Light  
Modernization  
Narrative Dance Program  
Photography Dark Room Renovation  
Stagecraft Workshop  
Jazz Band Program

### CURRICULUM

Foreign Language Technology  
English Department Library  
Music Technology  
Science Probes and PDAs

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Circus Arts Program  
Colonial American Fair Day  
Visiting Authors and Guest Lectures

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Elementary School Playgrounds  
Gymnasium Renovation  
CPR Training

### ENVIRONMENTAL

Campus Garden Project  
Hudson River Environment Project



## PYNE JOINS BOARD

**D**ylan F. Pyne, '08, has joined the Edgemont School Foundation Board of Directors. **Dylan** looks forward to expanding the Foundation's outreach to alumni. He hopes to engage the high school student government, where he was active while a student at Edgemont, in order to energize grant requests and student interaction. Both of **Dylan's** parents, David Pyne '69 and the late Dru Frackman Pyne '72 were very active and coordinated the Alumni Walkway for many years. His grandparents were Noel Stern Frackman '46 and Richard Frackman, were also very active in the Edgemont community. Don't be surprised if you hear from Dylan in the near future with great ideas for the Foundation!