The Echo



Vol. 13, Issue 1

Newsletter for Sacred Heart Academy Alumnae

March 2014

Dear Alumnae of Sacred Heart Academy,

Thank you to the 136 Alumnae who have made a dues donation to the SHA Alumnae fund. We use your donations to print and mail The Echo and the Homecoming invitations to our 600 Alumnae, and for the expenses associated with Homecoming.

You can stay current with the activities at the Monastery by visiting our website, <u>www.shmlisle.org</u>, or our Facebook page, <u>Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart</u>. The Sisters offer a schedule of spirituality programs, retreats and classes, and you will find the details at these sites. Send me your email address and I will add you to our mailing list - <u>jdoyle@shmlisle.org</u>

I hope to see many of you again at Homecoming, October 19th. At this time we will be at the Hilton, as there is currently no space to accommodate our group on the Monastery campus.

Jane Doyle Alumnae Liaison

2014 Anniversary Classes

Were you a graduate of the class of 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, or 1964?

Would you like help locating classmates to plan a special get-together on Homecoming weekend?

> Contact Jane Doyle jdoyle@shmlisle.org 630.725-6016 1910 Maple Ave Lisle, IL 60532

I will do my best to assist you in finding your friends.

SAVE THE DATE! HOMECOMING 2014 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19th

10:00am Mass Sacred Heart Chapel

11:00am Reception Noon Luncheon Hilton Lisle/Naperville

Please make plans to join us and your SHA classmates



Homecoming 2013

Thank you for your assistance

Sister Margaret Mary Schima '49 Sister DePaul Stava '49 Sister Irene Jasien '57 Sister Jo Anne Form '57 Gloria Caracello '61 Roseanne Carter Polich '61 Sister Mary Bratrsovsky

and special thanks to our friends for their generous door prizes

> an anonymous Alumna Country House Restaurant Hilton of Lisle/Naperville The Hyatt - Lisle Wheaton Religious Shop

~ ~ NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNAE ~ ~

We are happy to share the news gathered from SHA Alumnae at our annual Homecoming. If you are unable to join us for Homecoming, please send along your information to Jane Doyle. Your classmates are interested to hear about your life since Sacred Heart Academy. There's a form on the back of The Echo which you can use to send us your news, or include a note when you mail your membership dues.

This year, we asked the Homecoming attendees to tell us about their favorite extracurricular activity at SHA. We've included a few photos to help you remember.

Our first memory is from an unidentified Alumnae: walking to Lisle; sledding on the hills, midnight parties.

~ ~ 30s ~ ~

Florence Jana Hlava '39: starting as a voice student with Sister Electa (Omasta, OSB) I was

able to enjoy being a soprano in the choir at OLM for 65 years. Enjoyed every moment, even the rehearsals.

~ ~ 40s ~ ~

Phyllis Gonwa Zea '45: I enjoyed being a student at SHA and learning how to type in my junior year. I was an executive secretary and assistant to the sales manager of Warp Brothers (Flex-O-Glass, Inc) in Chicago for 38 years. I continue to be a Board Member of the Village of Franklin Park, Illinois Senior Citizens' Commission. Have been a widow for 25 years and an accomplished organist.

Gidia Basso Fiaoni '48: the after school activities will always be remembered. I truly miss Sister Alma (Bratrsovsky, OSB) and will always pray for her. Please return our luncheon back to Sacred Heart.

Mary Flaherty Clark '48: I have wonderful memories of Sacred Heart. We miss Sister

Alma (Bratrsovsky, OSB) Sister Celine (Laketek, OSB) and Sister Joanne (Williams, OSB). Bring the luncheon back to Sacred Heart.

Therese Mizerny Payne '48: taking Saturday afternoon walks to Lisle or Naperville. Playing tennis with Fr. Alcuin (Kasny, OSB).

Sister Margaret Mary Schima, OSB '49: midnight pastries in the dorm; Saturday walks to the town of Lisle; sledding in winter on the hills in the back of the property; fall bonfires and parties.

~ ~ 50s ~ ~

Carmela Vitullo Albachiara '52: Before we left for the Christmas holidays, the refectory was decorated and the nuns served us dinner. Caroling by the seniors on Christmas eve.

Mary Ann Yackley Walz '53: piano lesssons with Sister Electa who always knew where to find me when I ducked out of the conservatory. (She was) a good teacher. As a day student any other extra activities are best left unsaid.

Marie Shultz Skopec '53: being involved in all the sports, especially roller skating.

Dorothy Miller Garhan '53: sports - I participated in all of the intramural sports, basketball, softball and volleyball.

Anita Bosen Kvitek '55: the walk on Labor Day to the Morton Arboretum; a bakery treat after school; roller skating in the gym; learning to dance; making friends; choir. There was nothing like it - Mass in the beautiful chapel, a peaceful place.

Therese Buc '55: playing volleyball and basketball. Extra hours in the conservatory practicing piano to accompany the glee club.

Mary Pearson Fornatto '55: walks with Sister Immaculata (Bratrsovsky, OSB) in the surrounding area. It was so beautiful. Dancing in the (w)reck room. I remember the Latin Mass, <u>quiet</u> and beautiful. The chapel was extraordinary.

Carol Karvon '55: sneaking down to the 1st floor after lights out to get a Coke; playing

hide and seek on 2nd floor between supper and study hall; walking to the Morton Arboretum after school; jitterbugging in the rec room after school, before study hall and supper; wakes in the 2nd floor parlors - one Sister telling us not to be afraid of the dead, it's the living who can cause you harm.

Anita Tomassone Masters '57: being a day student, we were able to put on lipstick after school because we had to pick up the boys at Procopius. Four other day students were the first cheerleaders for Procopius' football team and we went to games to watch them cheer.

Patricia Karvon Leavy '58: I enjoyed art lessons with Sister Electa. She was an excellent teacher and lots of fun. I did some painting after SHA, but am very busy with family these days.

Donna Grimmelbein Misita '59: *volleyball in the gym. I did continue to play in college.*Now my granddaughter is playing in a league and it is bringing back fond memories.

Rose Feirtag Herlien '59: when I was a senior, couple sophomores and I climbed up in the grotto next to Our Lady. I took art with Sister Electa freshman year. I don't paint, but still draw. My mom said I could draw ever since I could hold a pencil. I make my own greeting cards, specific to each person.

~ ~ 60s ~ ~

Alice Nykl Sima '60: our walk to the Arboretum; singing at the competitions with Sister Electa; having Christmas banquet with Prof. Pinney.

Cynthia Steiner '60: taking voice lessons from Sister Florence (Jindrick, OSB); going to retreats; playing volleyball in the gym; cooking classes.

Donna Yackley '60: during a short recess I would go out and check nature and the beauty of the grounds. It was a powerful pick-up to stand and listen to what is going on outside from the inside. "not to forget"; "a simple prayer is said for you"; Peace.

Judy Beumer '61: the one that comes to mind is wading in the grotto pond - very memorable.

Jeanne Heinen '61: *G.A.A.*; sophomore class newspaper; writing notes back and forth in class.

Mary Filipkowski Lein '61: playing hide and seek in the grotto.

Gloria Caracello '61: some good memories, and some fun memories, but all worth it. I enjoy being a substitute teacher with the Catholic grade schools.

Irma Frank Conley '62: playing the piano. I was blessed to have Prof. C. C. Pinney for all four years. I did not pursue a career in the music world, but have followed music as an avocation. I have been a member of my church choir for 39 years - singing for 10 years, accompanying for about the same and directing and accompanying for almost the last 20 years.

Mary Catherine Gibbney Tomaso '63: choir; Sister Electa taught us well; I am still in the choir at my church.

Victoria "Vicky" Santos '63: decorating the gym with chicken wire and colored tissue paper for the prom; glee club practice with Sister Electa and the sweet music we made.

Rose Splendoria Braido-Hall '63: when we had a school spelling bee and I was the last senior standing; I lost to a freshman.

Mary Ellen Higgins Arndt '63: I loved the concerts we had especially when we sang with the St. Procopius band on Mother's Day. I continued with my love of music as did my youngest child. She was with the Glen Ellyn Children's Choir for nine years. She is a primary grade music teacher today.

Barbara Stalmach Hocking '63: working on the school newspaper - The Herald - and being entrusted with the responsibility of being the first editor of The Flame yearbook.

Patricia Dackiw Kemp '63: spending many hours with Sister Electa in the art room is one of my favorite memories at SHA. She played a big part in my life and in my joy of painting.

Aleena Shlikas Truby '63: singing in chorus class with Sister Electa. She was so precise and yet so gentle and loving. She instilled in

me a love of music that I have kept over the years. I have been singing in the St. Mary of Gostyn Church choir for 35 years and also serve as a cantor. Thanks, Sister Electa!

Carol Brummel Hinterlong '64: thanks to Sister Electa's excellent teaching skills in music, I enjoyed singing in the St. Procopius College musicals.

Maureen Lyons-Poulin '64: working on the newspaper.

Lois Ulrey Haglund '66: I still talk about our trip to Washington, DC. Great fun and fond memories.

Rose Roller Sodergren '66: powder puff football game, which I founded, and my niece participated in as a student at Benet Academy. Learning to sing harmony - I have continued to do this throughout my life with church choirs as well as with Sweet Adelines International.

Here are a few notes from Alumnae who were not able to join us on October 20th:

Mary (Corky) Wagner DeStefano '46 Very sorry I missed the Homecoming. While I'm doing well, I don't like to drive so far by myself. I cherish my days at Sacred Heart.

Lorraine Diederich Ward '50: Sorry I won't be able to attend Homecoming. My husband, Bill, passed away in 2010. I still live on the farm. I have five children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. My sister, Jean Diederich Davis, still lives in Hobart, Indiana. Hello to all my classmates.

Cynthia Steiner '60: *I am very happy; People are asking me for my art work. I am hoping to keep it up.*

Christine Koukalik Schuur '64: On May 6th, Tom and I celebrated our 46th anniversary. We have two granddaughters and five grandsons. We keep active and travel.

Sister Rosalie Marie Major, OSB was unable to attend Homecoming. "However," she wrote, "I will keep this special event in my prayers. God's blessings for a successful outcome."

Class of 1961

Here, in chronological order, are the events of the past year....some good and some sad.

We started the year with our annual dinner, which was held on the last Friday of April at Allgauers Restaurant, in the Hilton Hotel, Lisle. We had a very nice time and the food was excellent. Don't forget, if you are in the area and wish to join us, it is always held on the last Friday in April. Just let us know to include you. The more the merrier.

Pictured are those who attended: front row (l to r), Rosanne Carter Polich, Peggy Mosquera McCann, Patt Zientek Stanley, Gloria Caracello, back row (l to r), Georgia (Jean) Schloegel Mills, Judy Beumer, and Donna McNulty Cellini

Sadly, in June, we lost our dear **Sister Joanne Williams, OSB,** to cancer. She was in charge of the Alumni Association events and also our advocate in allowing us to add this page to the Echo.



Gloria and I had the opportunity to work with her on the Homecoming luncheons for the past few years and developed a wonderful friendship. Fortunately, we were able to visit with her a few days before she passed and told her how much she was appreciated by the alumni and how she touched our lives in the few short years we knew her. She was a very sweet and caring person and will be truly missed by us and all who knew her.



We also lost a dear friend and fellow classmate, **Angela Messino Swallow**, who passed away in July from lung cancer. She had attended SHA our Freshman year, then transferred schools. In that short time she developed many friendships from school, which was certainly evident at our 50th reunion where she is seen smiling and reminiscing with her old classmates. (l to r), **Adelia (Didi) Nuber Buttitta, Judy Beumer, Bonnie Pietrzak Wingert, Angie** and the late **Patricia Seyller Smyth.**

Soon after graduation, Angie married Ralph Swallow and had 4 wonderful children; Ralph Jr., Donna, Frank and Nicole and 9 grandchildren. Angie was active in all her children's activities plus owning and working a local pub in Berwyn for several years with her hubby. After Ralph passed away, Angie moved to Cicero and worked for a local school there. After she retired, she did some traveling and bought a trailer in Amboy, IL for her "second home". She enjoyed her mini vacations with **Patt Zientek Stanley**, who also had a trailer there. They and their families shared wonderful times together.

We were also notified last year of the passing of another classmate in 2012, **Jane Vesely Srotyr.** Since it was too late to include in last year's newsletter page, we are adding it this year. I spoke

with her husband Ed and he stated that she passed away peacefully in her sleep holding her rosary. The two had been dating since high school; he was a St. Procopius graduate (class of '61) and they married in 1964. They have one daughter, Debbie and 2 grandchildren, Ashley and Tony. Jane and Ed moved to Missouri fifteen years ago and they loved it. Their daughter and family also live near them in Missouri. Jane had been involved with volunteer work for their local food pantry and Meals on Wheels until her death. She is deeply missed by her family and friends.

Please keep these former classmates and Sister Joanne in your thoughts and prayers. May they rest in peace.



In July, some of us got together for lunch at the Emerson Tea Room in Oswego. Here is a picture from that day. Don't be fooled by Bonnie's apparent displeasure, she really had a good time. It must have been the sun in her eyes....back row (l to r), Jean Schloegel Mills, Judy Beumer, Front row (l to r), Bonnie Pietrzak Wingert, Rosanne Carter Polich and Peggy Mosquera McCann.

On October 20th, we had our Homecoming Luncheon, the last event

of the year, which was held at the Hilton in Lisle, IL. It was so nice to get together with our classmates again.

Pictured below are those from our class that attended (and this time, Bonnie made sure she smiled): Front row seated (l to r), **Bonnie Pietrzak Wingert, Mary Filipkowski Lein, Jean Schloegel Mills** and back row (l to r), **Gloria Caracello, Rosanne Carter Polich, Peggy Mosquera**

McCann, Sister Helen Jilek OSB, Jeanne Heinen, Judy Beumer and Rose Feirtag Herlien (class of '59)

Now, here are some highlights of our classmates that were kind enough to send some personal info on themselves.

Donna Thomas Green has 4 children, (2 boys and 2 girls), 9 grandchildren, (4 boys and 5 girls) and a 2 great granddaughters. Donna moved to St. Petersburg, FL in 1974 and spent the next 30 years in



the accounting field. She retired and now enjoys traveling and is very thankful to be able to do so. She described her trip to the Holy Land as a great experience and in 2013 she traveled to Ireland and Scotland with her 25 year old grandson. She also stated that the Christmas of 2012 she was blessed to have her entire family together at her house.

Judy Blatherwick Buck attended Moser Business College in Chicago and graduated with an Associates degree in Business. She then got a job for a Radio/TV Representative Firm in Chicago, which work with Ad Agencies putting commercials on their stations. Judy stated she loved her Michigan Ave. office, but a new way of life was calling her. She left Chicago and headed to Tucson, AZ to be with friends and work at a Radio Station there. She met her husband who was in the Air Force and they remained in Arizona for three years. Her hubby was being transferred to Turkey while Judy was expecting, so it was decided to leave the Air Force to be near each other when the baby was born. They moved back to Lombard, IL and their beautiful baby girl, Melissa, was born. After 10 years of marriage they divorced and Judy has been single ever since. As a single mom, she went back to work as a Buyer for a company in Des Plaines, IL that manufactured busses. She then moved to Rockford and acquired a job as a Buyer for a Chemical Company. She retired and stated her schedule has become very busy (and fun). She currently works at the Chaplin's Office in the Winnebago County Jail. "I really enjoy helping the Inmates - they communicate by an internal computer system - calling friends and families, getting the Christian Reading Material for them... we get about 1,500 requests a month from them and I'm the one who reviews all of them and assigns them to the right place. It is a very rewarding job." Judy volunteers at the Life Center Food Bank on Friday and Saturday mornings and she is also involved with a program called Mighty X, which works with people and their families who have been in jail or Dept. of Corrections. She works with other programs regarding those that need help, such as a Bible Class for the ladies at the jail. Judy states that she is busier than ever, but is having a great time.

Donna McNulty Cellini went to St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing (affiliated with Loyola) in Evanston, IL. She graduated and started working at LaGrange Memorial Hospital, first as a med/surgical nurse and then as an OR nurse. She married Bob in 1965 and he graduated Law School in 1966. In 1968, the first of their 3 children was born (2 girls and a boy). Donna retired from nursing and took up her new career....Mom. After the children left the nest, she decided to return to school. She started substitute nursing in different school districts for a few years and then took a part time job in a doctor's office. All of Donna's children graduated from Benet Academy and 2 of her 11 grandchildren are now attending Benet plus more to follow. Her children and grandchildren all live in the Chicago area and she is very happy to be able to see them frequently. All the holidays are at her house and she wouldn't have it any other way. "Life has been good to me."

Peggy Mosquera McCann attended Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, WI and acquired a B.S./El Ed and Soc. She then attended Concordia College in River Forest, IL and acquired her Masters Degree in Education. She went on to teach in Unit District 205 (K-8) in Elmhurst, IL. She married her High School sweetheart Brian, a St. Procopius graduate and had two children, Michael and Tracey. Peggy has 7 grandchildren, 3 reside in Phoenix, AZ and 4 reside in Winnetka, IL. Peggy's hobbies and interests are Design Landscape, Travel, Literature, Art and History.

On a personal note, in March, I was diagnosed with breast cancer again...second time in 11 years. I had a mastectomy and all that follows. I am so lucky that it was caught early and am so thankful to be a survivor. On a good note, my hubby Joe and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with dear family and friends. One of my bridesmaids, **Gloria Caracello**, was there too. We all had a wonderful time!

Well, this past year of 2013 was a milestone year for most of us turning the page to 70 (what???), which is very traumatic for those who have experienced it. Again, where has the time gone.... With that in mind, we are thinking of having another reunion in 2016 for 55 years. Any feedback??? Let us know your thoughts.

To all our classmates, we hope you are finding this an informative and interesting read, and would certainly appreciate your input. Even consider sending us a brief bio that we can add to our next newsletter. And, if you have any pictures that you would like to share, that will be great too! We would love to hear from you. Let's keep this going!!!! Best Wishes and God Bless,

Rosanne Carter Polich - rpolich@sbcglobal.net - 630.968.0464 Gloria Caracello - gjdc4@aol.com - 630.960.4830

SHA Class of 1963 Celebrates 50 Years!

It was a Labor of Love! There's no other way to describe the two years of research and organizing by the Reunion Planning Committee.... consisting of Judith (Barenbrugge) Carlisle, Mary Lou (Bellio) McLennan Pugliese, and Mary Ann (Althoetmar) McLoud....to coordinate the Sacred Heart Academy 50th Reunion weekend on October 18 – 20, 2013. And it was well worth it, as the weekend proved to be a very special gathering for the graduating class of 1963. The event brought together a group of 34 former classmates (and 20 guests), who hailed from 11 different states, at the Lisle/Naperville Hilton to reminisce, celebrate, and reflect upon those unforgettably great high school years at SHA. It also gave everyone a chance to catch up on what's happened in their lives over the past 50 years. A more diverse group there could not have been! Many success stories were told, laced with some heartaches... but all who attended expressed their appreciation for the education and spiritual foundation they received from the good sisters and teachers at SHA, and talked about how much they cherished this special time to reconnect with their school friends.

The weekend kicked off at the Hilton on Friday evening with a fun, relaxing "Meet & Greet" reception that lasted several hours, and ended up as an impromptu pizza party in the hotel lobby lounge. The evening was filled with loads of laughter, hugs, and photos galore.



On Saturday morning, several from the class got together for breakfast at the hotel, after which they joined the rest of the group at Sacred Heart Chapel for Mass. After Mass. and still in the blessed Chapel surroundings, fellow classmate Jean (Allen) Nickelman led the group in heartfelt prayers for the entire class of 1963, including the 10 classmates who were deceased. Right after Mass, group photos were taken outside in the monastery's sunken garden and the surrounding grounds; then some of the group headed to Naperville for a little afternoon sightseeing. Meanwhile, back at the Hilton, a group of committee members decorated the ballroom for the evening's reunion dinner.

That evening, classmates and guests gathered for the 50th Reunion Reception and Dinner in the Hilton's Cypress Room. The golden balloon

bouquets that filled the room (thanks to Mary Lou), and the candle centerpieces (thanks to Mary Ann) created a festive atmosphere for the entire evening. Everyone was greeted with a Dinner Program containing a current Classmate Directory (with biographical updates and contact information), and a DVD of the video presented at the dinner. Following the opening



reception, dinner blessings were offered by Deacon Ron Yurcus, the husband of classmate Kathy (Brummel) Yurcus; and after dinner, the three Planning Committee Cochairs greeted the group and thanked the on-site volunteers who helped with the reunion activities.

Kudos to Mary Ann (Althoetmar) McLoud who produced and presented the evening's video, which truly was a "Sentimental Journey" for all. What a spectacular job she did of gathering photos from our high school years,



including graduation, prom, and fun times at SHA...and adding other historical tidbits with background music from the 40's, 50's, and 60's! It brought all of us back to those "good ol' days" of our youth. During the evening program, the 10 deceased classmates were again remembered, and everyone was invited to view their photos on a special memorial display table in the ballroom. Also, plenty of reminiscing was heard from those who perused the SHA memorabilia items on a separate table.

The evening closed with a champagne toast and 50th reunion cake cutting...along with a reflective video about the Secrets of Old Age, accompanied by Don McLean's song "Starry Starry Night" in the background. There wasn't a dry eye in the place! As everyone said their good-byes, there were, of course, the usual promises to "stay in touch" till next time! But, to help keep this great reunion weekend's memories alive, we can all thank Mary Ann (again!) for producing a separate DVD with the weekend photos.



Post Script: Quite a few of our classmates stayed on through the next day to join graduates from all of SHA's past graduating classes at Sunday's SHA Annual Alumnae Luncheon (again, at the Hilton) and to take the tour of the Sacred Heart Monastery and residential communities. Many thanks to SHM's Jane Doyle who did a very fine job with the luncheon program (and also was most helpful in coordinating our 50th reunion details) and to Prioress Sister Mary Bratrsovsky, OSB, for her excellent and informative Sunday tour of Sacred Heart. It was a great way to end a wonderful reunion weekend!

Celebrating Anniversaries at Homecoming 2013



From the Class of 1943 - 70 Years Sister Mary Agnes Kallus OSB, Rosalie Hucek Bobal



From the Class of 1958 - 55 Years
Sister Judith Ann Heble OSB,
Patricia Karvon Leavy



From the Class of 1948 - 65 Years

Gidia Basso Fiaoni, Joan Hollerbach Schulthesz,
Therese Mizerny Payne, Mary Flaherty Clark



From the Class of 1953 - 60 Years

Alice Salata Kelly, Mary Yackley Walz, Marie Skopec Shultz, Mary Dudasko Saul, Dorothy Miller Garhan, Sister Lois Jean Jensik, OSB



From the Class of 1963 - 50 Years

Front row: Janet Bekielewski Srail, Victoria Santos, Rose Splendoria Braido-Hall, Mary Ann Althoetmar McLoud, Kamile Kalina, Sister Karen Nykiel, OSB

Row two: Barbara Hopp, Jean Allen Nickelman, Linda Stukalo Blanek-Novak, Joanne Fitzmaurice Kuttner, Mary Ellen Higgins Arndt, Ellen Simon Arnott, Sandy McWayne Mann, Patricia Dackiw Kemp, Aleena Shlikas Truby, Judie Barenbrugge Carlisle

Row three: Kathleen Brummel Yurkas, Joan Brummel Wiczek, Mary Catherine Gibbney Tomaso, Barbara Stalmach Hocking, Joanne Kardynalski Coutchie, Rita Shimek McIntyre



Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart Sacred Heart Monastery 1910 Maple Avenue Lisle, IL 60532-2164

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Please Stay in Touch

Let us know if you have changed your address and/or share any interesting news with your SHA Alumnae friends.

and/of share any interesting news with your sha Alumnae menus.			
Sisters, p	lease make note of my () change of address or () winter/summer address:
Name			Class of 19
(First)	(Maiden)	(Last)	
Address			
City		State	Zip
Home Phone ()	Email	
NEWS:			
Interesting photos of your SHA years to share? Send them along. We'll make every attempt to print them in future newsletters.			

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