

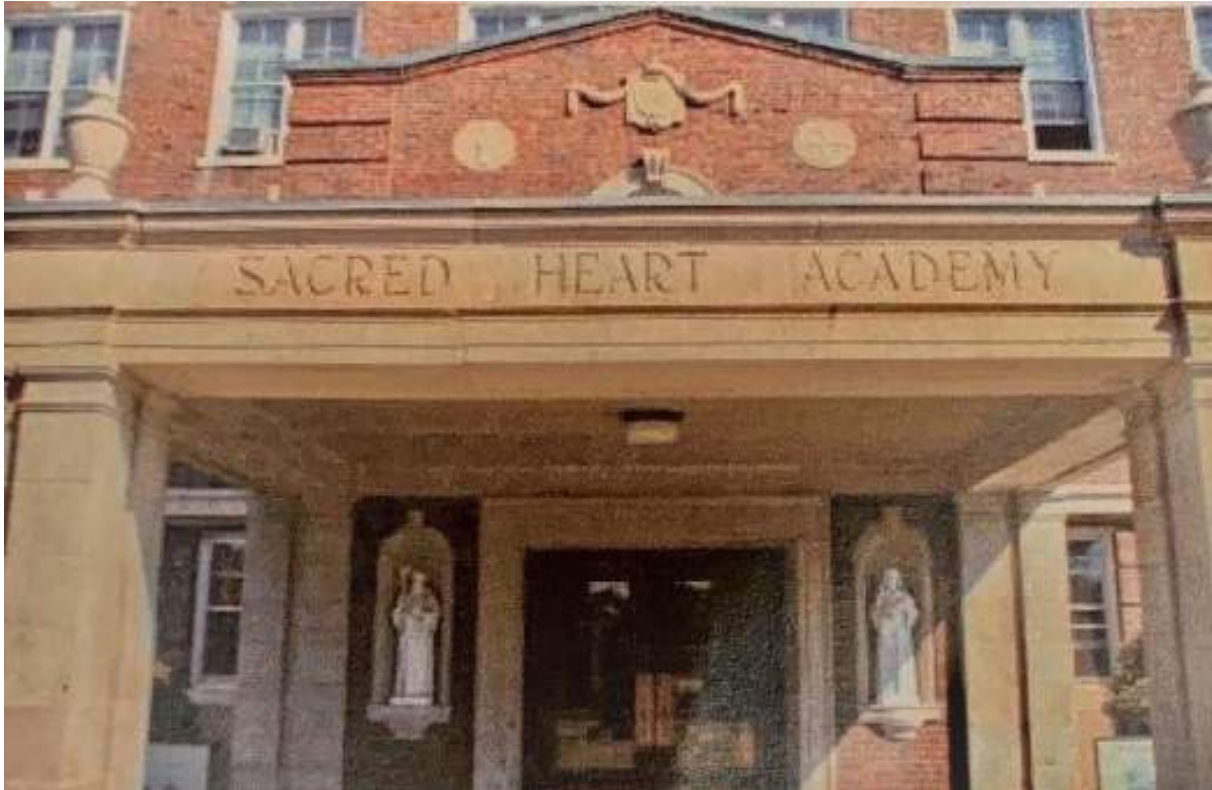
# The Echo



Vol. 20, Issue 1

Newsletter for Sacred Heart Academy Alumnae

March 2021



*Sacred Heart Academy, Lisle, Illinois*

## ~ ~ NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNAE ~ ~

We are happy to share the news gathered from SHA Alumnae. Many of you send notes throughout the year, and some update us when we gather at Homecoming. Please send along any information and photos. Your classmates are interested to hear memories of Sacred Heart Academy, as well as news of your life since. 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.

*A special thank you for reaching out and staying in touch this past year!*

### **Lois Justat Caprata '47**

(N. Aurora, IL)

Just celebrated my 91<sup>st</sup> birthday and am still doing ok. I had a bad year with my hip dislocating 3 times. After 3 surgeries it's finally set, I hope. I now live in Aurora, having moved from Florida four years ago. I miss the warm weather and all my activities (golf, Eucharistic Ministries and many more volunteer things.) Age catches up with us. Best wishes to any alumnae from my class of 1947.

### **Mary Flaherty Clark '48**

(Orland Park, IL)

A wonderful experience!  
Loved all the nuns, especially Sister Alma. All my memories of Sacred Heart I cherish. Friends many, most are gone but I'll always remember the good times. I made all the reunions and so enjoyed rehashing all the memories we shared.



*Sister Alma Bratrsovsky*

### **Therese Mizerny Payne '48**

(Burlington, WI)

I first attended SHA when I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I graduated June 11, 1944 along with eleven other girls. I begged my parents to allow me to return to SHA for an extra week as my graduation gift. I had a great time picking strawberries and visiting with

the foreign students who were also there.

When I graduated there from high school on June 6, 1948, I cried bitterly not wanting to leave SHA.

### **Sister DePaul Stava '49**

(Lisle, IL)

What more can I share than my beautiful photo! And guess what – as of this October I am 90 years young. I never thought this day would come.



### **Elizabeth Hayes '51**

(Downers Grove, IL)

Last year, I entered Hospice for about 10 months. I was released to Home Health in September of this year. I have a trach to help me breathe and I'm once again mobile. My sister, Peggy, has done everything for me – we live together. All my helpers have been wonderful – God bless them all. My days at SHA-SHA were fun and are a constant good memory of fine friends and good adventures. I hope all is well with all of them. Love, Bette

### **Rosemary Pelligrini Foley '51**

(Bridgeport, CT)

My memories are ones I have never forgotten. I loathed grammar school and adored high school. Sacred Heart was my salvation. It was filled with earnest, interesting students and devoted, amazing teachers. Their youth, their curiosity, their dedication to their students was far beyond any other school I have ever known. Some teachers, nuns, were almost saint-like and some were rascals, but whoever they were, they gave us – their students – all of their love, attention, advice and praise. What was so remarkable about Sacred Heart is their amazing love and caring for so many students, and the students were a rich mix of characters.

As for who I am: I am and have been a writer, a writer of plays – short and long. I must have written at least a hundred plays. I started acting at improve theater in Chicago, at Second City, and

went on to a number of theaters in Chicago and Connecticut. I taught theater – even teaching at Lincoln Center in New York. I am currently a member of a theater in Connecticut – TAW (Theater Artists Workshop) and at least a dozen of my plays have been produced there.

**Mary Ann Yackley Walz ‘53**

(Somonauk, IL)

Re: Covid-19 – My family encourages me to stay home, so I do for the most part. My parish livestreams Mass seven days a week so I can watch on my computer.

Please pray for Alice Salata Kelly (class of 1953) as she battles a blood disease.

A special hello to classmate Sister Lois Jean Jensik, a friend that I shall miss this year especially.

May God bless all of you at Sacred Heart Monastery.

**Dolores Boguski Balla ‘54**

(Venice, FL)

*(Remembering)* the many wonderful prayer times and devotions amidst peace and tranquility.

Right now we (my husband Bob and I) live at a Christian continuing care facility called Venice on the Isles for the past 3 years. He is in the nursing home right now and I live in an apartment. I continue to keep busy doing crafts and head our VOTI Auxiliary Group. Also just published a Christian Children’s book. No matter our age – we can still serve the Lord Jesus to His glory.

**Betty Dao Ku ‘54**

(Seal Beach, CA)

I am of class 1954, maiden name Betty Dao. Came to SHA as a foreign student. Had to learn English, etc. The 1<sup>st</sup> year was very tough, but the Sisters, teachers and fellow classmates were kind enough to help me succeed. Even earned a BS degree in Dietetics.

2020 has been tough too, but I am able to stay healthy (so far, so good). I live in California where we have had many wildfires and minor earthquakes this year. Thank God for all the blessings that give us strength to move on.

**Joan Fender Pattermann ‘54**

(Sugar Grove, IL)

We are now Great-Grandparents to three and another one due in May.

We will be moving out of Illinois. As of now, don’t

know when or where.

We spend our winters in our home in Florida.

**RoseAnn Sider Flowers ‘56**

(Lisle, IL)

We made a complete circle in our lives! We moved to Villa St. Benedict homes! We walk the grounds that bring back many memories!

**Judith O’Hara ‘57**

(Whitehall, PA)

Everyone keep well!

**Julie (Judy) Freda Cosentino Provenzano ‘58**

(Glen Ellyn, IL)

My best memory of Sacred Heart Academy was my last year of High School living the life of an aspirant. The Benedictine order has been part of my life since I was 4 years old. I was at St. Joseph’s Orphanage until I was 11 years old. So happy to have been in the care of these wonderful nuns. They have taught me about our Catholic faith, how to be kind and well-mannered and giving to others.

**Lillian Albarran Fleming ‘59**

(Huntley, IL)

My freshman year memories of dorm life were very memorable to me, since they would be the only ones I would have the privilege to share with 24 other girls at SHA. Dorm life with all the girls was all so different for me, having grown up with five brothers. I loved it!! I especially remember having to bathe in orange water! Yuk! But I got used to it.

Sophomore year dorm life was quite different. Apparently there was no room for Gloria Kure and me, so we were sent to live over by the Sisters’ side of the building in the Aspirants’ dorm room. This was supposed to be a privilege for us since we were class officers, but I really missed all the girls and the rowdiness of the big dorm room. Junior and Senior years, Gloria and I shared a private room, since there was no room for us again to be with the rest of the girls in a big dorm room. Even though this was considered a privilege, I feel I missed out sharing dorm life camaraderie with all the girls.

Gloria and I have always been best friends all our lives. She was even my maid of honor at my wedding ... but I still wish I had been able to share dorm life with all my boarder classmates!

**Midge (Madeline) Canfield Wolfla '59 and Sue Canfield Lewis '59**

*submitted by Midge*  
(Oklahoma City, OK)

Those were good years. Sue and I were both class officers at one time or another. Yet – we did get caught after hours in a housekeeping closet studying, and another time in the gym playing poker!

Sue passed away February, 2020. Sue was a speech & hearing therapist with post grad degree. I have an MSN in nursing. My husband, Tom, and I live in Oklahoma City, OK now. We have two children: Christopher (neurosurgeon in Milwaukee) and Susan who is now retired (Executive Chef of Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas).

**Patricia Hornick Krolik '59**

(Monee, IL)

My fondest memory, as a boarder, is the “fish eyes” we were served as dessert (tapioca pudding with grapes.)

I'm a widow living around the corner from my sister Bernie '64 (*Bernadine Hornick Rhein*). My children: Tom lives in Virginia and works for the government – Labor Statistics. Patty lives in Columbus with her husband David, a chiropractor. I keep myself busy sewing Memory Bears for VITAS Healthcare and alterations and repairs.

**Diann Kampmeyer Kohley '60**

(Naperville, IL)

I feel like I am writing a fairy tale about the year 2020 and now into 2021. I'm sure we are all doing our best to stay healthy and safe. By now we have the vaccine or are scheduled. I have done some traveling to see friends and relatives in Florida and Arizona and have several more planned for Florida, Wisconsin and Connecticut. Praying for a healthy summer to spend time with family and friends. I have a “Christmas in July” celebration at home for July 4<sup>th</sup> – a belated Christmas!

**Alice Nykl Sima '60**

(Downers Grove, IL)

I retired from Benedictine University after 35+ years as the Director of the Pre-Professional Health Programs. I continue to volunteer and be a Board member of Friends of Imiliwaha (FOI). I am blessed to have a wonderful and healthy family.

**CLASS OF 1960**

**60 years in 2020!**

**Save the 2021 date:  
Saturday, October 16  
Homecoming  
here at Sacred Heart**

Please forward any updates regarding classmates to:

Alice Nykl Sima

email: [asima@ben.edu](mailto:asima@ben.edu)

cell: 630-802-6762

**Gloria Caracello '61**

(Downers Grove, IL)

There are so many fond memories of Sacred Heart Academy, and I am proud to say “I am a graduate of this amazing high school.”

The education was excellent, and I have kept wonderful friendships all of these years. These are special gifts forever.

I continue to substitute teach in the Catholic elementary schools, which is my passion.

Although 2020 has been challenging for all, I thank God for all of his blessings.

**Mary Filipkowski Lein '61**

(Packwaukee, WI)

I still remember Sister Electa's strong advice to hang your ribs on the wall for deep breathing. I use that breathing advice every day!



*Sister Mary Electa Omasta*

**Adrienne Pilot Garvey '61**

(Winston-Salem, NC)

New grandmother of Ronan John Welborn.

Hello to all my classmates.

My mom was a resident of (*what used to be*) SHA when it first opened to seniors. What a wonderful last year of her life.

**Mary Ann Althoetmar McLoud '63**

(Bryan, TX)

Other than staying home a lot, we did have visitors in January – sister & brother-in-law. Visited the “Painted Churches” – Catholic Churches around this area. February, went to New Hampshire to visit daughter & family. Okay, it was cold – really cold. Friends came from Illinois to visit right when everything “locked down” in March. Thus here we are staying home. But do go out with masks. See y'all in 2021!

**Karen Bapst Ingram '63**

Thank you for the lovely bookmark—it will be used a lot, as I read a lot. I went to SHA 1959-1963, and my mother Gladys Yackley also went to SHA, with Sister Electa and Mother Louise.

**Joan Brummel Wiczek '63**

(Justice, IL)

I have fond memories of the beautiful outdoor investiture ceremonies for Seniors and Juniors. Also, sitting in the auditorium using our arm to keep beat to Walla, Walla, Washington in chorus class.

Like everyone, 2020 has been a tough year. After 18 months in a nursing home my husband, Chester, passed away on March 10<sup>th</sup>. He had a rare neurological disease, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. We were able to have a beautiful service with Mass and luncheon on March 16, the day everything locked down! We would have been married 49 years July 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Barbara Hopp '63**

(Santa Rosa, CA)

In 2013 I attended my 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion and reunited with 3 close friends from my high school years. Since then we have spent time together in one another's home towns, laughed much, cried a little and rejuvenated our friendships. It is such a gift to have friends who have known me for 55+

years and care about me and my life circumstances.

Thank you SHA, SHA – “Bobbi”

**Joanne Kardynalski Hepko-Coutchie '63**

(Seymour, MO)

My husband Steve and I continue to be blessed to be working with our Angus cattle ranch and Real Estate brokerage in Southwest Missouri. We have 4 grown children, their spouses and 8 wonderful grandchildren. Score is 6 boys to 2 girls, ages 5 to 23.

As a member of the 1963 graduating class, it was a privilege to have use of the grounds and grotto. Such innocent fun in those days, like tossing a classmate's shoe out the window, only to land on the arriving car of Mother Superior. Unfortunately, she did make her way up to our 3<sup>rd</sup> floor classroom.

**Barbara Stalmach Hocking '63**

(Lombard, IL)

I truly miss getting together at Homecoming. It is always wonderful to “come home” and catch up on all that SHA friends and classmates have been doing. Looking forward to Homecoming 2021!

**Carol Brummel Hinterlong '64**

(Somonauk, IL)

I still enjoy visiting and attending Mass in the beautiful Chapel at SHA.

Moving from farm to town, bike riding with my husband, gardening, canning and stitchery have kept me busy during Covid-19. A first great-grandchild is due in Fall of 2020!

**Christine Koukalik Schuur '64**

(Lecanto, FL)

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has restricted our 2020 activities, we are looking forward to family gatherings for the holidays and a trip to Williamsburg, VA to tour the many historic sites there.

**Marilynne Matt Kowalski '64**

(Baileys Harbor, WI)

Since March, I've had symptoms of pancreatic cancer, with digestive pains, low energy and hair loss. I've been going for chemo treatments, biopsies & scans since September into October,

*(Marilynne Matt Kowalski '64 continued)*

and they have been successful. My tumor is stable, meaning that it has not grown, spread. I am continuing with my treatments at our nearby Oncology Center in Sturgeon Bay, and the medical team is wonderful, very kind, careful and patient, and everything is good. My next C scan will be in February.

**Mary Pullam Fritz '64**

(Jordan, AR)

Like everyone, I have been “hunkering” down in Arkansas. This is a beautiful area, with lakes and rivers in the Ozark Mountains. Since my sons live up north, near Chicago, I have gone up and visited during this COVID year.

I have fond memories of SHA as a “boarder” and my day student friends. Would love to know if there are alumnae in Arkansas or Missouri!

**Michaele McDonald Adair '65**

(Janesville, WI)

Hello, I moved on 4/7. The house was misrepresented and to make a long story short – the basement got lots of water. What a hassle!! I continue to teach downhill skiing and operate my math tutoring service. Education took a major hit, and I have never been so busy.

**Carolyn Delo Scutella '66**

(Schaumburg, IL)

Memory: Sister Mary Florence in English class – her great joy-filled smile. For me: I sold my home and moved to Friendship Village Senior Living. Even though we are in Covid times, my needs can be met here. Also, to see people and not be so isolated!



*Sister Mary Florence Jindrich*

**Rose Roller Sodergren '66**

(Sun City, AZ)

From the 1966 yearbook: “Investiture is the most beautiful and most loved of Sacred Heart traditions. Seniors are ceremoniously invested in the graduation caps & gowns. Upper classmen exchange the symbolic candle & rose – the juniors offering the rose of friendship; the seniors passing down light & leadership.”


When this ceremony was held in the sunken garden on a soft, spring night, it was so beautiful! Due to Covid & brutal heat (over 50 days with temps above 110!) summer activities were severely restricted, so I spent a lot of time at my loom weaving. Just finished weaving a baby blanket for our 1<sup>st</sup> great grandchild due this spring. Hard to get my head around the idea of my “little girl” becoming a grandmother!

**Karen Maxwell Kuhn '67**

(Sycamore, IL)

Looking back to my time at Sacred Heart Academy, I always remember the peace I felt when in the chapel. On your 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it’s amazing to think of all the students and Sisters and community members who have passed through that chapel and felt that same peace. As for anniversaries, Ed & I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year (2020). Due to the pandemic, it wasn’t the event we had planned, but was memorable in a different way with a parade of well-wishers and a small gathering of family from near and far. I am sure we all have unusual memories from this year of 2020!





**Save the Date\***  
**Homecoming 2021**  
**Saturday, October 16**  
Mass 11:30am  
Luncheon 12:15pm

**\*Dependent on herd immunity and Covid precautions ...  
we are hoping and praying to be able to gather together this fall!**

**2020 (belated) Anniversary Classes -**

**Are you a graduate of 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960 or 1965?**

**2021 Anniversary Classes -**

**Are you a graduate of 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961 or 1966?**

Would you like help locating classmates to plan a special get-together on Homecoming weekend? I'm happy to do my best to assist you in finding your friends.

contact Beth Hemzacek  
ehemzacek@shmlisle.org  
630.725.6013

We certainly hope to see many of you again at Homecoming 2021!

We remember our deceased Alumnae ...  
May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Marie Mazour Wallinger '41 (January 2021)  
Clara Quattrochi Klasen '43 (June 2020)  
Margaret Vail Evans '47 (October 2019)  
Roberta Steinmayr Hundley '48 (March 2011)  
Betty Vargas Sanger '48 (August 2020)  
Elaine Bortman Snella '49 (February 2020)  
Gertrude "Trudy" Bowe Berg '49 (February 2020)  
Corinne Krygier Ross '51 (June 2019)  
Catherine "Cookie" Siebert Hofstetter '51 (December 2020)  
Teresa A. Doolin '56 (February 2020)  
Susan Canfield Lewis '59 (February 2020)  
Charlene Leahy Kelly '61 (December 2020)  
Donna Larney '63 (October 2020)  
Margaret Hudek Kovavic '66 (January 2020)  
Joellen Pullam Rosenquist '66 (July 2020)





## *Founding Sacred Heart Academy*



A milestone in the Benedictine Sisters' history was the enormous project of building Sacred Heart Academy along with the chapel, auditorium, and gymnasium. The Benedictine Sisters, besides staffing Czech parochial schools, had several young ladies interested in studying classical and college preparatory courses. This gave the Sisters the impetus to open a high school academy for girls. In the first several years it was a boarding school, but once

farmland in the Lisle area opened up for sale to developers, families with high school age children moved in and wanted to have a Catholic day high school. Gradually, Sacred Heart Academy enrolled both boarders and day students. In 1967 the Sacred Heart Academy girls were incorporated into St. Procopius Academy, which had been a boarding school and day school for boys. The school then became a day school for both boys and girls, adopting the new name of Benet Academy.



*Blessing of cornerstone — June 9, 1929*

# Class of 1961

Hi Class of '61,

Well, although we are in the worst pandemic of our time, we are still working on a possible class reunion to celebrate 60 years! There has to be some light at the end of this tunnel, right? And, we could use a little help from you.

**If Yes:** for those that are thinking of attending, which time of the year would be best for you, the summer months OR our October Homecoming weekend?

**If You Cannot Attend:** For those that cannot attend, but would still like to participate, how about attending virtually? If possible, we could work on providing a Zoom meeting, which would reunite classmates without having to leave their home. If we have enough gals interested, we can start working on it.

Please let me know what you think. E-mail your reply to [rpolich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rpolich@sbcglobal.net). Or, if you would like to send your reply by mail or phone, just use the address and phone number at the end of this article. Thank you.

## Sad News to Share:



Our dear classmate Charlene Leahy Kelly has passed away.

She had remained a dear and close friend to Donna McNulty Cellini since their years at SHA and some of the details below were provided by Donna.

Charlene met her husband Dennis soon after graduation and married in 1962. They then moved to Ithaca, NY as Dennis completed his final year at Cornell University. Their next move was back to Downers Grove, IL where Charlene made her mark as an active member at St. Joseph Parrish, volunteering at her children's schools, becoming a Girl Scout Troup Leader and Service Unit Director for DuPage County and a member/secretary of the Junior Women's League.

Dennis's job required a move back east to Buffalo, NY and then to Westlake, Ohio, where they remained and where Charlene also made her mark. She volunteered at the Westlake City Schools on numerous committees and also

was the PTA President. With her talent and love for art, she was known as the "picture lady" when assisting in the schools' classrooms.

Charlene and Dennis have six children and 14 grandchildren who were the center of her life. They all have very fond memories of their Mom and Grandmother. They remember wonderful holidays and her red cranberry jello for Christmas and green seafoam jello for St. Patrick's Day and Easter. Her cowbells and special sweatshirts she wore to cheer them on at their sporting events and also visiting the Lake Erie Nature Center to share her love of nature and animals with them. Charlene will always live on in their hearts.

Charlene also attended our 50<sup>th</sup> SHA reunion back in 2011 and we were delighted to see her again. What great memories!

One final note from Donna about her dear friend: "She was always popular because of her intelligence, energy and kind and loyal personality. She was the first to give comfort and stand beside me when my

father died suddenly. The first to bring dinners and care for my children when I was ill. The first I would laugh or cry with. I can't think of her without having a feeling of loss."

Charlene's final days were at a memory care facility where she was known for always having kind words and an upbeat personality. She passed away on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020, from Covid.

Her family remembered Charlene always saying, "Life is a gift to be treasured. Be kind. Make your mark."

And Charlene certainly did just that.

Rest in peace, dear friend and classmate.

Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

For 2021, stay healthy and safe and I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you and God Bless,

Rosanne Carter Polich  
614 Wilson Street  
Downers Grove, IL 60515  
630.968.0464  
rpolich@sbcglobal.net

### \*\*\*\* SHA ALUMNAE \*\*\*\*

A very sincere thank you to the 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 almost 500 Alumnae, as well as for expenses associated with Homecoming. I ask all of you to consider supporting the Alumnae Fund. Donations may be made at any time.

A suggestion was made to poll the Alumnae to determine if any might prefer receiving an e-version of The Echo, rather than the paper version. If you would rather have The Echo arrive in your email box rather than your mail box, please notify Beth by email at [ehemzacek@shmlisle.org](mailto:ehemzacek@shmlisle.org).

The Sisters are still hoping to schedule a presentation featuring the history of Sacred Heart Academy. At this time programs here at the Monastery are on hold, but we look forward to plans in 2022. We will keep you informed.



Stay current with the Sisters at Sacred Heart Monastery by visiting their website at [www.shmlisle.org](http://www.shmlisle.org) or on Facebook (Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart.)



# The Echo

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

Editor  
Beth Hemzacek  
*Development Administrator*  
*Alumnae Liaison*  
ehemzacek@shmlisle.org  
630-725-6013

## Please Stay in Touch

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class of 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Maiden) (Last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

News: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Do you have interesting photos of your SHA years to share?  
Send them along with your news and updates. Return this form to:  
Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart c/o Beth Hemzacek