

# The Echo



Vol. 25, Issue 1

Newsletter for Sacred Heart Academy Alumnae

March 2026



The Stately Beauty of Sacred Heart's  
Conifer-Lined Sunken Gardens

## ~ ~ NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNAE ~ ~

*We are happy to share 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!*

### †**Sherry Holec Michaels '49**

*(submitted by family)*

... loved Sacred Heart and had nothing but wonderful memories of her time there. She lived a long, good and healthy life. Her final wish was to go fast, and God granted her that. She is now very happy being with Him.

### **Theodora Karczewski '52**

(Chicago, IL)

Sacred Heart was a special place to make lifetime friends. Many lasted 70 years, presently just 2.

### **Joan Fender Pattermann '54**

(Ellenton, FL)

Sorry I cannot attend homecoming. October 18<sup>th</sup> is our 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we have plans with family.

### **Carlene Form Gerlich '55**

(Fort Worth, TX)

Carlene traveled to Sacred Heart Monastery in January for the wake and funeral service of her sister, Jo Anne Form, OSB '57. Her niece Carolyn and Carolyn's husband Shawn accompanied her.



Carlene has faced tremendous loss with all three of her sisters passing between July 2025 and January 2026.

It was very special to have Carlene among us here.

### **Judith O'Hara '57**

(Whitehall, PA)

I have many happy memories of my days at SHA. I made some life-long friendships, and, sadly, many are now no longer here. This is the year that my health has not held strong and I have mobility issues. However, with the help of my walker (who I have named "Old Paint"), I'm still getting around. God bless us all in 2026.

### **Mary Ann Morman O'Connor '58**

(Wheaton, IL)

My husband and I had 11 children – 6 girls, 5 boys. My husband passed away 3 years ago (Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>) of pancreatic cancer, and it was a big loss for the kids and myself.

I am living with my daughter Shannon and son-in-law Matt. Noreen is the oldest and an RN in Atlanta; Kelly was a dental hygienist in Florida; Coleen is a PT; Patrick works for McDonalds; Timothy works in sales; Kevin is in sales; Erin is an RN; Sharon is in sales; Shannon is a PT; Courtney is in sales; and Ryan a designer at local hospitals in operating rooms. All graduated from college.

### **Mary Ann Meyer Bobosky '59**

(Naperville, IL)

Dr. Mary Ann Bobosky married to Brand for 61 years. Live on Anne Road for 50 years. Still active in Naperville. On Board of Directors of Naperville Bank & Trust; on Board of Sunrise Rotary; on Advisory Boards of Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Kids Matter and Naperville Responds to our Veterans; Life Member of A.A.U.W; Communion Ministry at SS Peter & Paul.

### **Carole Piller Wall '59**

(Duluth, MN)

As of today, I am well and occasionally do "good." I send blessings to friends and classmates of Sacred Heart Academy of old.

Happenings I remember:  
 History class with Sr. D? – enjoyed  
 Great chemistry teacher & class ... much learned  
 Reading A Tale of Two Cities with Sr. ? – fun  
 Studying late at night with **Cindy Freund** in the  
 small room with the linen/waste chutes  
 Freshman play – Danny Didder? – with **Mary  
 Ann Meyer**



*Piller-Wall family photo—  
 Carol with 2 sons, wives and kids*

**Diann T. Kampmeyer Kohley '60**  
 (Naperville, IL)

I keep busy with family and friends. I was born and raised next to St. Joseph's Orphanage - next to what is now Benet Academy. My Dad worked the farm – dairy cattle, crops, and vegetable gardens & orchards. My Mom worked in the laundry. I learned most homemaking skills early – through home life and 4-H. After Sacred Heart I worked for Illinois Bell in Downers Grove and after 30 years retired from AT&T. My second husband Bill has been gone 7 years already. Time flies by! I like to cook, entertain, garden, quilting and enjoy time with family and friends. I'm always available for lunch!  
 (I'll be out town that weekend of Homecoming.)

**Gloria Caracello '61**  
 (Downers Grove, IL)

I will always remember the good education I received. I am blessed to have made many friendships, and I have kept those friendships even today. God bless our Alumnae.

**Helen Jilek, OSB '61**  
 (Lisle, IL)

This has been my year of travel. In June I spent 2 weeks with my family in Namibia, AFRICA. I visited the Benedictine Sisters of Oshikuku. We traveled in a small bus to a safari in the Etosha Animal Reserve; went to Swakopmund at the west coast of Namibia where we saw the Pink Salt Lake. We rode 4-wheelers in the Sand Dunes of Namibia. When my family left to come back to USA, I traveled to South Africa for a week to visit the Benedictine Sisters of Twasana. Both of these communities have a Sister(s) studying in the USA (Benedictine University – S. Alberta from South Africa, Midwestern University – S. Hyacintha from Namibia, and Catholic University – S. Celestine from Namibia.) We host these Sisters, so it was a wonderful opportunity to meet their communities. In September I was in Montserrat, Spain for the C.I.B. conference – the international organization of Benedictine communities. Wonderful, enriching opportunities for which I am grateful!

**Barbara Rayniak Buri '61**  
 (North Fort Myers, FL)

I look forward to 2025 Homecoming. Each visit has brought great memories including good food and conversation.  
 This is the year for change for me. I am selling my home in Florida and will be residing in Beach Park, Illinois. I will be closer to family and have the opportunity to create more memories.

**Maureen Vap Ruf '61**  
 (Lee's Summit, MO)

Always thankful for the wonderful memories and education I received at SHA.  
 Today I enjoy my three grown children & their families. I remarried last May to W.R. Ames. (John – my spouse of 52 years passed away 8.5 years ago.) We are traveling & keep our journeys filled with activities.

**Jean Allen Nickelman '63**

(Beavercreek, OH)

Sewing class comes to mind as I repair a shirt for my 11 yr. old grandson. I had the "talent" for tying a knot at the end of a machine-sewn seam, no matter how short the available thread was. Many of my fellow seamstresses benefitted from that "talent."

15 grandchildren, aged 29 to 9, my 6 married children & spouses, and countless friends keep life meaningful. Many family members & friends spend time with me during my 4-month winter stay in Mexico.

**Carol Bekielewski Mejdrich '63**

(Crest Hill, IL)

We have had a very busy 2025. Our youngest grandson graduated from high school this past June. We had a granddaughter who got married on June 27 and a grandson who got married on July 12. Not to mention the 6 birthdays in July and 3 more in August. In September we flew to Texas to see our oldest granddaughter get pinned as a Chief in the United States Navy.

I think my fondest memory was retreat. In this crazy world it sure would be nice to be able to slow down and experience the peace & calm of a retreat.

**Joan Blossfield Spore '63**

(Virginia Beach, VA)

Jim & I have been in V.B. over 30 years, after moving around the country as Jim served as City Manager in several cities. Our daughter Amy & her husband live in Glen Ellyn. We have 2 granddaughters – Aubry, 18, is a freshman at Illinois and Hannan, 15, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader. So proud of them. Jim is retired and we try to stay as busy as we can. Thankfully we are both healthy.

**Joan Brummel Wiczek '63**

(Justice, IL)

The most precious thing as I grow older is spending time with family & friends, especially since I've lost many in the past few years. It was a special blessing to see my great-granddaughter, Alicia, baptized in August. In September my children gathered family to

celebrate my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. I'm looking forward to my gift – a hot air balloon ride!

I still volunteer at Brookfield Zoo, SPRED program and attend Senior meetings with old & new friends.

The Investiture Ceremony in the sunken garden is a fond memory. I attended many, since my three sisters Margie, Joyce & Nancy also attended SHA.

**Aleena Shlikas Truby '63**

(Downers Grove, IL)

2025 started with an aortic valve replacement & a pacemaker for me. All went well and I am grateful. I had 3 months of rehab at Good Sam. Granddaughter Amber is married and living in Chicago. My 2 grandsons will be graduating college soon. Husband Bob is enjoying a part-time job. I think often of the wonderful Sisters & great friends I had at SHA! May the Lord give you all many blessings!

**Rose Splendoria Braido-Hall '63**

(Island Lake, IL)

For those alumnae from the 1963 graduating class, 2025 was the year most of us turned 80. My gift for this Milestone Birthday from my three sons was a trip to Italy. I was accompanied by my youngest son, Peter, his lovely wife, Jen, and my two granddaughters, Emilia 15 and Gabi 13. We spent five days in Rome touring some of the most historic sites and five days in Bari, my Dad's birthplace. Despite the near-oppressive heat, our days were both memorable and challenging, walking the unforgiving cobblestone streets and enjoying fabulous food and gelato.

Once home, I resumed my usual routine of fitness classes, volunteering with my parish's St. Vincent DePaul Society, taking Minutes (yes, still using shorthand from Mrs. Meyer's Shorthand classes) in two neighboring Senior Clubs, stamping my greeting cards and scrapbooking for the events in my eight grandchildren's lives as well as for my two great granddaughters, Giada 3 and Giuliana 1. My oldest son, Rob, and his wife Jen, live in Highland Park with their two children, Tommy 23 and Aly 18. They are nearest in proximity to me should I need help, which I do...

## ESPECIALLY WITH TECHNOLOGY!!

Next oldest son, Joe, and his wife, Vanessa, live in Steelville, MO, so my Island Lake home is most convenient for family gatherings which I am happy to accommodate.

Of Joe's four children, three are still in the Chicago area: Joey, Julia and Ismael (adopted from an Ethiopian orphanage 19 years ago). Cara is in Lexington, KY.

Joe's oldest son, Joey, lives with wife, Bianca, in Addison, IL. They have gifted me with two beautiful GREAT granddaughters, Giada and Giuliana, mentioned above. Fortunately, they are still close enough for fun visits.

Youngest son, Peter, and his wife, Jen, live in Wyoming, MN with their two girls, Emilia and Gabi. Although Peter and Jen are both U of I grads, MN will be their forever home.

I praise the Lord for the gift of each day, for the precious gift of fairly good health and mobility and for the joy of family and friends which He has blessed me with throughout my lifetime.

Looking forward to Homecoming 2025 and catching up with classmates as much as I can!

### **Barbara Stalmach Hocking '63**

(Lombard, IL)

2025 absolutely flew by. I remember Johnny Carson repeating the quote "Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer you get to the end, the faster it goes." It seems to be true! John and I

celebrated 56 years of marriage.

Homecoming was a wonderful, welcoming event once again. It is always special to attend Mass and then share a meal with women I have known for over 60 years. Homecoming 2025 was extra special for me, as it was my 80th birthday! The more time passes, I think back to wondering, while in high school classes, "When am I ever going to use this stuff?" And as days and years pass, I realize that what was learned, even in Latin and Anatomy and Physiology classes, has proved to be very useful. SHA set me on a path to college, graduate school and a wonderful career. Coming up the driveway from Maple Avenue really feels like coming "home" to an alma mater. And I would just like to say hello to all the classmates reading this who couldn't attend this year. As the Chicago sports teams say, "Maybe next year?"

### **Patricia Volp Sullivan '63**

(Palm Harbor, FL)

I will be traveling quite a bit! Going to see Terry Heeney (from Proco) with **Mary (Graff) '62** and **Katie Bozek** in October in Nashville.

September – going to see my son in Boise, Idaho ... he and his wife Diana moved from San Diego. On Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> I will fly to San Antonio til New Year. A nice long visit.

## \*\*\* 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 450 Alumnae, as well as for expenses associated with Homecoming. We ask all of you to consider supporting the Alumnae Fund. Donations may be made at any time.

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, including past issues going back to 2011, may also be viewed on the Sisters' website at [www.shmlisle.org](http://www.shmlisle.org)

... NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNAE ...

**Christine Koukalik Schuur '64**

(Lecanto, FL)

SHA years bring to mind caring teachers who instilled life's most valuable lessons, friends I met during my four years, and the beautiful building and campus.

During the year 2025, I joined a parish Sewing Ministry. I brought my mother's sewing machine out of storage and started sewing some items for the Citrus County Pregnancy and Life Center and other organizations, which donate these to needy families.

In July, my husband and I traveled to CA to visit family in Orange County. This included a side trip to Santa Barbara and the historic Mission Santa Barbara. The mission was founded in 1786, and called the "Queen of the Missions." It has beautiful grounds and rose garden.

Also, in the spring we were blessed with our first great grandchild.

**Sister Bernadette Thomas, IHM '64**

(Scranton, PA)

I am continuing to work in the Archives Office of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Hearts of Mary, Scranton, PA office.

**Michaele McDonald Adair '65**

(Janesville, WI)

When I think back to the years of 1961 – 1965, I remember the formal gardens and the ladies in long formal dresses as such a special event. I wonder if we will ever get that dressed up again!

After SHA, I attended college and got married. I have been single for more than 30 years now. I chose to live and fled from an abusive husband. I continue to downhill ski and swim. Twenty-six years ago I started a Math tutoring service. I was going to do that for five years. When I announced that I would close the business, the parents said: "NO!" They told me that they knew where I lived and would just drop the students off and drive away. So Adair to Learn continues in business.

As I look back on things, I am so grateful to have been in the Janesville area for over 50

years. I enjoy the quiet open space, yet I am close to many big cities that offer great medical care and wonderful entertainment.

**Dorothy Winckler Ball '65**

(Brookfield, IL)

Disappointed that I'll not be able to attend the SHA Homecoming on 10-18-2025.

**Carolyn Delo Scutella '66**

(Schaumburg, IL)

Hi! It is good to keep in touch.

I live at Encore Village Retirement Home. I continue to keep busy here with Arts & Crafts. I am a member of the Craft Committee and the Spiritual Comm. I also lead a group in the Rosary every week.

Thank you for this service. It brings back many precious memories of SHA.

**Karen Maxwell Kuhn '67**

(Sycamore, IL)

We had a wonderful trip to Spain recently. Special memories include a Gaudi day in Barcelona. Seeing the Sagrada Familia Basilica and Park Guell was amazing. We also visited the 1000-year-old Benedictine Abbey in Montserrat, which was another must-see. In Madrid I saw a sculpture of Homeless Jesus outside the cathedral there. It's very thought-provoking. I credit Sacred Heart Academy for laying the groundwork to appreciate some of these spiritual experiences.



*Note: Alumnae are identified with the year they would have graduated, even if they did not complete their education at Sacred Heart.*

## *In Loving Memory*

*Rosalie Hucek Bobal '43 (March 2023)*  
*Ruth Kraus Maicke '43 (December 2025)*  
*Marie Schima Berger '46 (November 2023)*  
*Rosemarie Gatto Turner '47 (August 2025)*  
*Gertrude Veronica Kidd Burton '48 (July 2025)*  
*Joanne Bekielewski Liberato '49 (November 2024)*  
*Sherry Holec Michaels '49 (April 2025)*  
*Arlene Cerven Sypniewski '51 (February 2025)*  
*Elizabeth Svehla Kosin '52 (April 2020)*  
*Lois Jean Jensiĳ, OSB '53 (July 2025)*  
*Loretta Zak Diard '53 (February 2023)*  
*Anita Bosen Kvitek '55 (May 2024)*  
*Sister Joseph-Marie (Joan) Bedard, O.Carm. '56 (September 2025)*  
*Jo Anne Form, OSB '57 (January 2026)*  
*Sharon Mocny Schipiour '59 (December 2024)*  
*Sandra McWayne Mann '63 (February 2025)*  
*Ann Shimek Harris '65 (April 2023)*

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

*Note: Often we are not notified of an Alumna's death, or we receive word much later.  
Please help keep us more up-to-date.*

# Homecoming 2025



*(left)*

Sister DePaul (Theresa) Stava, OSB '49,  
Terry Vesely Herzog '49,  
Sister Christine (Helen) Kouba, OSB '50 -  
**75 years!!!**  
Sister Margaret Mary Schima, OSB '49

*(below)*

Therese Buc '55 (**70 years!!!**) finds  
herself on the cover of last year's Echo



*(above)*

**Class of '57:**

Sister Irene Jasien, OSB and  
Sister Jo Anne Form, OSB (*deceased*  
*January 2026*)

*(right)*

**Class of '60 - celebrating 65 years!**

Edith Hurtgen Wagner, Donna Yackley,  
Alice Nykl Sima



**Class of '58:**

Pat Vesely Hogan  
and Mary Ann  
Morman O'Connor





*(above)*  
**Class of '61**  
*(standing)* Peggy Mosquera McCann, Carole Payne, Sister Helen Jilek, OSB, and Barbara Buri  
*(seated)* Gloria Caracello, Rosanne Carter Polich, and Rose Feirtag Herlien '59

*(left)*  
**Class of '62:**  
 Irma Frank Conley, Mary Graff Bozek

**Class of '63:**  
 Rita Shimek  
 McIntyre,  
 Rose Splendoria  
 Braido-Hall,  
 Joan Brummel  
 Wiczek,  
 Barbara Stalmach  
 Hocking



## ... Homecoming 2025



### **Class of '65 - celebrating 60 years!**

*(standing)* Michaelae McDonald Adair, Diane Hepler Applehoff

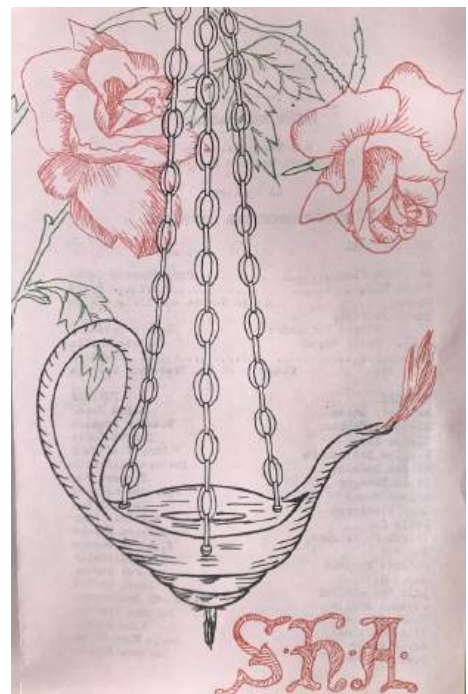
*(seated)* Sharlin Nasharr Reynolds, Cathy Curtin Kaye, Janet Cook Wilmoth, Mary Anne Reiter Gernand

One of the most impressive ceremonies of the school year was the traditional torch ceremony and cap and gown investiture, which took place in the sunken garden just at twilight. The girls marched to the sound of trumpets, drums and an appropriate song, to assigned places in the sunken garden. The Freshmen and Sophomores wore blue choir robes and the Juniors and Seniors wore pastel formals. During the ceremony the Seniors presented the Juniors with a lit torch, the symbol of Sacred Heart ideals, and the Juniors gave the Seniors a rose, a symbol of friendship and of the ideals cherished through the four years they spent at Sacred Heart.

Senior Pledge: "I give to you this torch. For us its flame has meant the Sacred Heart ideals we have tried to cherish. With this candle we entrust these ideals to you as our heritage."

Junior Pledge: "As a symbol of our friendship, I give to you this rose. May its fragrance bring memories of the four years you have remained here and of the Sacred Heart ideals that have become yours."

After the pledge, the students assembled at the Sacred Heart Statue where the Seniors were invested with the cap and gown. Then they proceeded to the Chapel for Benediction.





***SAVE THE DATE***

**HOMECOMING  
LUNCHEON  
2026**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17**

**MASS 11:30AM  
LUNCHEON 12:00 NOON**

**2026 Anniversary Classes: 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 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 • email: [ehemzacek@shmlisle.org](mailto:ehemzacek@shmlisle.org) • tel: 630.725.6013



# The Echo

Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart  
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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.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

News: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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