

The Echo



Vol. 23, Issue 1

Newsletter for Sacred Heart Academy Alumnae

March 2024



Some of the Sisters remembered inside this issue, *clockwise from top left*: Sister Borgia Brisko, Sister Mary Immaculata Bratrsovsky, Sister Mary DeSales Frana, Sister Mary Joella (Sister Constance Ann Prather), Sister Electa Omasta, Sister Agnes Ann Svec (aka Sister Salome), Sister Roberta Knakal.

Center photo is SHA Library, with Sister DeSales seated at her desk.

~ ~ 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!

Lila Conrad Russavage '48

(Victorville, CA)

I was fortunate to be one of the first students in the 1st Grade in 1936. I especially remember learning to cross-stitch and tat from Sr. Borgia, RIP. I went on to become an RN and Director of a facility for the Developmentally Disabled. I have 5 kids and many grandchildren. I'm now 93 and live in a lovely Assisted Living facility. I love thinking of all the loving Sisters.

Terry Vesely Herzog '49

(Romeoville, IL)

One big event was a tour group outing to Mackinac Island. The best bus trip we ever enjoyed so much.

We have been going to weddings of "GRAND" nephews and nieces all summer. A couple of family gatherings too.

We are doing well, thanking God for every day.

† Bette (Elizabeth) Hayes '51

(Downers Grove, IL)

(submitted by sister Peggy Hayes)

My sister, Bette, passed away January 10, 2023. She had been ill but spirited for several years. She often talked of her years at Sacred Heart with great affection. She loved the friends she made there, the nuns, the studies, and the impact it had on her life as a young woman. Bette never married but filled her life with family, friends, flower gardens, beloved pets, music, reading, writing, art work, sewing, opera, symphony, lectures, and attended many of the theaters in the city. She never stopped researching subjects that interested her and attributed that ability to her studies at Sacred Heart. Bette worked in the city until retirement. She took care of our parents until they passed, in the meantime receiving her Associate Degree. She always prayed. She also loved shiny, glittery objects. She was loved and is missed.

Teddie Mroz Karczewski '52

(Chicago, IL)

Special memories: Advent season, Seniors caroling the night before we left for home, the rose & candle ceremony by the sunken garden, the chapel balcony, drying clothes in the attic, inspections of our dressers & lockers, "Benedictine" bread, gym suits, and Sunday visits from family ... so many more, thanks for the memories!

Joan Fender Pattermann '54

(Ellenton, FL)

We are now full-time residents of Florida. We will be living here 6 months, then 6 months in Arlington, TN where we are building

a home. On this property with us will be our daughter & husband, grandson & wife and five great grandchildren: four generations. They are building a Barn-dominium. One BIG happy family!

† Rosalie Bandura Struth '55

(Darien, IL)

(submitted by son Derrick Struth)

I am writing to inform you of the passing of my mother Rosalie Bernadette Struth on June 6, 2023. My mother always spoke fondly of the nuns, teachers and classmates at Sacred Heart Academy. From what I understand she lived there since she was about two years old, up to when she graduated. She always wondered what her father looked like, since he passed away before she was sent to the orphanage with her three sisters – Anne, Mary and Dorothy. She was the last surviving member of that family.

Barbara Zeiler '55

(Warrenville, IL)

SHA forever holds a special place in my heart. Here I found security and guidance providing a path out of a difficult life situation.

I graduated when I was 17; Sister Mary Immaculata, principal, offered me a summer job in the office to utilize my typing and bookkeeping skills. Sister Mary DeSales Frana, our librarian, gently urged me to re-think my plans for my college major. Noting that I was drawn to check out the books from the Sue Barton series on nursing, she asked if I would consider a nursing career. I protested that I would pass out at the sight of blood, but in her quiet manner she insisted we pray on this immediately. With her guidance and the power of prayer, I applied at St. Joseph School of Nursing just before the deadline for the entrance exam. Even as I started at St. Joseph, Sister Immaculata had an envelope waiting in my room with encouragement, wishes for the very best and a request to stay in touch.

Because of Sister DeSales, my nursing career involved working in surgical intensive care unit in a major teaching hospital in Chicago and 2 years with the US Armed Forces in Landstuhl, Germany. Yes, I did learn how to deal with the sight of blood ... AND SO MUCH MORE!

Judy (Judith) O'Hara '57

(Whitehall, PA)

I treasure the years spent at SHA. My favorite teacher was Sr. Mary Joella. She made learning fun. As a day student I made a life-long friend in Anita Tommasone Masters. Sadly, I lost my dear friend last year and miss her every day.

Patricia Karvon Leavy '58

(Oak Park, IL)

This year my husband Michael & I celebrated our 63rd wedding anniversary. We were married on September 10, 1960 at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago. We have been blessed with 5 children, 14 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. We are thankful for all that God has blessed us with!

Dr. Mary (Ann) Meyer Bobosky '59

(Naperville, IL)

Have lived in our home for 50 years. Still active on Boards of Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Naperville Responds to our Veterans, Kids Matter, and Wintrust Bank. 50-year member of A.A.U.W. Husband Brand practices law in Naperville, Notre Dame & BenU grad, founder of Century Walk in Naperville. For fun we go to Notre Dame games. 4 children, 11 grandchildren.

Shirley Schloegel Kuta-Utley '59

(Sun Lakes, AZ)

2023 was very busy for my husband and me. We moved twice in one year, which was very hard, but we've found the right fit for our later senior years. I am my husband's caregiver and will continue to be as long as I am able. We have a 2-bedroom apartment at Robson Reserve: luxury apartments, beautiful swimming pool, 2 gyms, therapy classes, massage parlor, and doctor & nurses in the building 24/7. We have a chapel on campus where Mass is held. Also included 3 meals/day in our beautiful dining room. We are blessed to be in such a wonderful place with so many new friends. They have activities all day long and offer rides to appointments, shopping and dining out. I probably sound like a salesperson for Robson – I guess you can tell we love it here. We had the hottest summer in Arizona history in 2023. It has finally cooled down and we are looking forward to 8 months of Arizona's greatest weather.

My sons live nearby in Chandler and Scottsdale and Ron's daughter lives in Tempe. It is so nice to have our children and 7 grandchildren close to us.

If anyone is out our way, please stop for a visit. I'm not able to attend class reunions because of the great distance to travel. Such a shame.

My phone number is 602-399-1562. Love and God bless!

Edith Hurtgen Wagner '60

(West Chicago, IL)

I'll be moving to a new house on October 17, 2023 at 910 Dunham Dr, West Chicago IL 60185.

Dick and I welcomed our new great grandson on May 31, 2023.

Our granddaughter Lauren Wagner and her husband Tim Wilder are currently living in Missouri.

Our grandson Kyle Wagner graduated in May from U of I, Peoria.

He is a doctor of orthopedic surgery in Madison, WI and his wife is an OR nurse there.

Alice Nykl Sima '60

(Downers Grove, IL)

I am currently the President of Friends of Imiliwaha. In July 2023, I traveled with 5 women (board members) to Tanzania for 3 weeks to see Sisters Beatrice, Afra & Fausta at Imiliwaha, Sumbawanga & Kilimahewa. FOI projects in Tanzania have included building a Surgery Center in Imiliwaha, constructing a school in Sumbawanga (celebrating 10 years!) and St. Gertrude Pre & Primary School. Visit our website friendsofimiliwaha.org to see all the great work the Sisters are doing. It was a tremendous journey and awesome visit!

Maureen C. Rightmire Brinkman '60

(Huntley, IL)

Memory: Sister Electa's Chorus Class - Sister placed me with the Altos and asked me "to sing quietly."

Have been living in Sun City, Huntley since 2004. Husband Dick passed in February 2014, and I have been very active in The Sun City Grief Support and Life Enrichment Group since that time - a group of widowed women and men who meet weekly with presentations and luncheons, offering understanding, empathy and social connection to those who have lost their spouses.

(Dorothy) Ann Sonnefield Bailie '60

(Prescott, AZ)

Suffered a stroke 2 years ago. Husband Bob passed July 22, 2023.

Helen Jilek, OSB '61

(Lisle, IL)

In December 2022 I became Treasurer for the international Benedictine organization Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum (CIB). I get to work with Benedictine Sisters from around the world. In September 2023 Cathy Cawiezel (accountant) and I traveled to Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Alabama to attend the CIB Conference of Delegates. The spirit of Benedict is all around us. (Sister Judith Ann Heble was the Moderator for CIB for 18 years.)

****** 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. We ask all of you to consider supporting the Alumnae Fund. Donations may be made at any time.

The Echo, including past issues going back to 2011, may also be viewed on the Sisters' website at www.shmlisle.org

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

... NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNAE ...

Barbara Rayniak Buri '61

(North Fort Myers, FL)

SHA brought forth many loving women. It is a pleasure to be part of SHA Alumnae.

I live at Six Lakes Country Club in North Fort Myers, a 55+ community. I am blessed to be among loving friends. We have many activities. Recently our chef made a Greek meal with lamb and prepared a booklet explaining many Greek dishes. We play Trivial Pursuit to the best of our ability, along with a delicious meal. I live with my faithful friend Daisy, a Shih Tzu. God bless all of you!

Mary Graff Bozek '62

(Downers Grove, IL)

Memories of SHA:

Freshman year – really enjoyed our ballet lessons with Mrs. Egge.

Miss Pacorny – we didn't appreciate her then, but the memory of her has stayed with me all these years. Our art class was very disciplined with leaving our books in the hall and just sketching with paper and pencil and not allowed to erase. It is surprising how that really did work. One of my best grades!! Sister Electa – our Chorus classes, again not appreciated then, but I find myself humming those tunes from time to time.

Linda Newell Vargas '62

(Buffalo Grove, IL)

I am sharing the news of the death on January 12, 2023 of my fellow-alumna and, more importantly, my dearest sister-in-law **Vera Victoria Vargas Gonzalez '62**. At graduation from SHA in 1962 Vera introduced me to her brother Carlos, who was studying at (and graduated from) IIT, after attending St. Procopius College. We married in Chicago on May 27, 1967.

We are blessed with two daughters and five grandchildren and live healthy and happily in Buffalo Grove. In July 2023 Carlos and I, along with our older daughter and her 3 children, enjoyed two weeks in Costa Rica, visiting family and introducing our grandchildren to their grandfather's beautiful country of birth. While in Costa Rica we were able to visit with Vera's 2 sisters. The older sister, dear **Angela Vargas Brenes**, now widowed, is doing well in her daughter's care, coping with some loss of memory, but has and shares good memories of her high school days in Lisle ... that's right – another SHA alumna, **class of 1951!**

Vera's and Angela's aunt, **Betty Vargas Sanger '48**, deceased August 7, 2020 (in Ohio) was perhaps the first of the Vargas females to attend Sacred Heart Academy. Our family, in the USA and in Costa Rica, speaks to our Lord many prayers of gratitude for the significant role the dear Sisters and Sacred Heart Academy have played in our happily blended lives. Thank you and God bless you ... with love, prayers and the fondest memories.

Shirlee Abrams Jasien '63

(Rockford, IL)

Have been very busy the last six years since my husband Ray passed away in November 2017. Adjusting to dealing

with all the upkeep of the house, I decided to sell the house at Lake Summerset and move to a 55+ community in Rockford called Wesley Willows. It is also a C.C.R.C. community, so this is my last stop. I'm living in a cottage right now and love it. It has all I need, and I decorated as I wanted. I'm still very active and keep myself very busy. See you at the reunions!

Mary Ann Althoetmar McLoud '63

(Bryan, TX)

My husband Buddy passed away in May. He had developed dementia and is in a better place. My son David is a critical care nurse. He and Janie live in Houston where my granddaughter is studying as a medical tech. Daughter Katie and family have moved to Idaho.

To think it's been 60 years since we graduated!

Joan Brummel Wiczek '63

(Justice, IL)

Hoping to see more of my classmates at our 60th reunion.

Wonderful memories we shared together at SHA.

I enjoy spending time with family & friends. Continue to volunteer at Brookfield Zoo & at SPRED at St. Fabian's. Like to read and spend time in my, much smaller, flower gardens.

My big sister **Margie, Sister Marietta Brummel, IBVM '56**, passed away in April 2023. Really miss spending time with her since she had many stories of our youth to share with us.

Patricia Dackiw Kemp '63

(Warrenville, IL)

All memories were happy ones, especially art class and chorus with Sister Electa.

St. Irene parish keeps me busy, especially St. Irene's Women of Faith with many fundraisers and activities.

Judith Erhardt Lang '63

(Braidwood, IL)

The best memory I have is going to San Diego, CA with my son Clarence and his wife Melissa, along with his son James and daughter Jessica, to watch his youngest son Justin graduate from boot camp and become a US Marine. Watching Justin graduate from high school and then boot camp have been my best memories of 2023.

Joanne Fitzmaurice Kuttner '63

(Lisle, IL)

In 2023 I have continued teaching Theology courses at Lewis University in Romeoville. This is my 20th year – how quickly time has passed. Also, I have been teaching the spring semester in Rome, Italy for 3 years in Lewis' Study Abroad Program. How wonderful it has been to share the sacred places of Rome with eager college students.

All is well with my 4 adult children & spouses, 11 grandkids, and now 3 great-grandkids. So much fun to have tea parties &



sleepovers with kids when busy sport schedules allow. And it has been quite marvelous to enjoy friendship and adventures with my daughters and sons!
I still enjoy time for tea and solitude, climbing trees, traveling, gardening, reading, connections with close friends and spiritual experiences. Thank you, God, for the many blessings in my life!

Marjorie Mikus Popper '63

(Treasure Island, FL)

My husband Bruce and I have been living in Treasure Island for 10 years now. We are both very active in our church, Christ the King in Largo, FL. We volunteer every Saturday afternoon at their amazing Food Pantry. On Sunday we do the Music, Sound and Screens; and Coffee/Sweets before and after services. We are active members at American Legion Post 158. We love to sing Karaoke and every Saturday evening we volunteer there running the 50-50 drawing for their SAL. We love going to the Gulf beaches during the week, less than a mile from us. Our 3 children and 4 grandchildren are doing so well too. God has been very good to us in every way and we are very thankful.

Aleena Shlikas Truby '63

(Downers Grove, IL)

Bob & I have been through a rough year health-wise. Bob had triple bypass in July 2022 and then a hip replacement 6 months later. Recovery went well. Last February I had a shoulder replacement which also went well. We are grateful to be moving around and getting back to normal activities. Our granddaughter Amber got married about a year ago. Our oldest grandsons Hayden & Lex are in college and our youngest Sawyer is 17. Life goes on! Our church St. Mary's is trying to get our choir back together!

I wish you all good health & many blessings!

Rose Splendoria Braido-Hall '63

(Island Lake, IL)

I have been widowed since April 2022, but keep myself busy in our parish's St. Vincent DePaul Society, Bible Study, Secretary to one local Seniors group and Vice President & Entertainment Coordinator to another.

I have been blessed with three sons: Rob & Jen live in Highland Park with Tommy, a junior at Columbia College, Chicago and Aly, a sophomore at Highland Park HS. Joe & Vanessa live in Steeleville, MO. Oldest son Joey & Bianca live in Addison with 1-yr-old Giada Rose, my first great-grandchild; Cara, Ismael (adopted from Ethiopia 15 years ago) and Julia. Peter & Jen live in St Paul, MN with daughters Emilia 13 and Gabi 12.

I enjoy my hobbies – stamping all my greeting cards and scrapbooking for all eight grandchildren and now for my great granddaughter – always a work in process!

Looking forward to a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November 2024 with a neighboring parish.

Prayerfully grateful for the gift of each day and wonderful memories with family and friends.

Still use Shorthand learned from Mrs. Myers' Shorthand Class as Secretary to a local Senior group and nearly daily as well for various reasons.

Barbara Stalmach Hocking '63

(Lombard, IL)

60 years for the Class of '63! So many memories, so many blessings. In this year of "Barbie" one special memory stands out. The 1960's were big for "Barbie" and a doll was donated to the Susie SHA Social, our big fundraising event of the year. As we were setting up the booths in the gym, Sister Salome (Agnes Ann), who was the freshman Anatomy & Physiology teacher, came to see how things were going. She was told that one of the



HOMEcoming LUNCHEON 2024

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

2024 Anniversary Classes : 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964

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 • tel: 630.725.6013

... NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNAE ...

(Barbara Stalmach Hocking—continued)

booths had a “Barbie” as a prize. She went over to the booth, picked up “Barbie”, studied her carefully, and set her down with the comment “anatomically impossible”. Until this day, every time I see a Barbie doll, I think of Sr. Agnes Ann. There are too many other memories and blessings to list.

On a personal note, it has been a year of blessings. John & I celebrated our 54th wedding anniversary in June. Our house has become a neighborhood destination. We have a Little Free Library, a bucket of sidewalk chalk on the driveway apron, and a “Plant Adoption” set up on our parkway. Passersby have adopted 97 plants that we thinned from our garden this summer. There were too many special moments to count, and coming to Homecoming 2023 adds another one.

Linda Stukalo Blane-Novak ‘63

(Western Springs, IL)

As I write this, my 78th birthday is just around the corner – let me tell you that is SO VERY HARD TO BELIEVE! Where has time gone? Also hard to believe – 60 years since graduation! 60 YEARS!!! Wishing for everyone many, many more years on these paths we have chosen.

Patricia Volp Sullivan ‘63

(Palm Harbor, FL)

Hello from down south, here in Florida. I miss SHA and the good ole days. We don’t travel the way we used to, because the golden years keep getting harder.

I still paint quite a bit. Sister Electa would be happy.

My husband Ed & I celebrated 55 years together.

Carol Brummel Hinterlong ‘64

(Somonauk, IL)

I am thankful for my Catholic education in both grade school & high school and for the devotion of the rosary taught to me at SHA.

My husband and I have celebrated the blessing of 55 years of marriage and the joy of becoming great-grandparents to 2 baby boys.

Kathleen Culligan ‘64

(Portland, OR)

Memory: playing “girls” basketball with arcane rules, dressed in 19th-century gym suits: one-piece, belted at the waist, “bloomers” to just above the knee. (They arrived as shorts, but we were required to remove the stitching so that our thighs were covered.) I think of this every time I watch a women’s college basketball game!

My husband, Jim Parker, and I have lived in Portland for the past 35 years. I retired from my work as a financial editor in 2009. I don’t get to Chicago often – just the occasional visit to see my mother, who is a healthy 97 years.

Greetings to all in the class of 1964!

Bernadette Shonka ‘64

(Knox, IN)

Such wonderful memories of my days at Sacred Heart with beautiful teachers who had a very significant impact on my life:

Sr. Mary Electa Omasta: 1st voice teacher who taught me the most important virtue – Integrity.

Sr. Agnes Ann (aka Salome) Svec: Physiology teacher – helped me thru some difficulties, also saying that God gives each of us a specific amount of time to be our best – our LIFETIME.

Sr. Mary Antoinette (Gloria) Tysl: Soph class advisor – significant discussion on Freedom vs Slavery. I recall saying there is no such thing as freedom. Her bottom line: Freedom is when our mind and well-formed conscience rule our concupiscence. But if our mind and conscience do not control our concupiscence, then we are slaves.

Sr. Roberta Knakal: told me about Fr. Columba Kelly from St. Meinrad, the Master of using the church modes with the English language.

Bernadette Thomas, IHM ‘64

(Scranton, PA)

I have been away from Lisle since 1966; I joined the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Mary (IHM) Order in 1966 here in Scranton and have been stationed in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. Mrs. Myers was my business skills teacher at SHA and because of her excellent teaching I was able to be a business skills teacher in high schools after receiving my BA and MS from Marywood College (now University) for 25 years; when machines began to take over the skills subjects, I went to Rutgers University and received my Master’s in Library Science. I had a wonderful education at SHA and remember many of my teachers with great fondness.

Margaret (Peggy) Weatherhead Guccione ‘65

(Fayetteville, AR)

I continue to be caretaker for my husband Doy Zachry. He is doing well so we drove to SW Montana for a fall vacation in our cabin. After 22 years without internet, we finally have fiber optic cable & cell service. Really going uptown! I also continue my historic restoration of buildings in Butte as my retirement hobby. To keep Doy & myself company we now have a large dog, part Great Pyrenees. He is a loving and stubborn companion.

Carolyn Delo Scutella ‘66

(Schaumburg, IL)

Life here at Friendship Village has been busy, active and interesting. I continue to help in the Craft room. Interesting paradox is that I became the “pop sale” cashier even though Math was my worst subject.

I am sorry that I cannot attend the Homecoming. I have a difficult time walking, but am grateful that I live in a place where I can get around easily and still stay helpful. These are the good positive values we learned at SHA. Thank you, Sisters and Alumnae!

Rose Roller Sodergren Sniegowski ‘66

(Sun City, AZ)

When my husband of 52 years died, I thought that I’d be alone the rest of my life. I thought that if I was lucky, I might meet a nice gentleman with whom I might enjoy an occasional dinner

or movie. I was totally unprepared for what God had in store for me! I know that when God closes a door, He opens a window. I just wasn't prepared to get shoved through it. My new husband & I came together because we were trying to help each other navigate the grief journey we were both traveling. We were stunned to discover at our age that we could fall head over heels in love. Some people never find a soulmate. I have been blessed with two. (Can't seem to fall in love with a Smith!)

Kathy Jankovic '68

(Naperville, IL)

Technically I'm a Benet graduate – 1st class as Benet. It's now 55 years later. I still consider myself a Sacred Heart "girl" as 3 years were at SHA. I remember the hot days when we would sit outside at lunch, putting our feet in the Reflecting Pond. A voice would come over the intercom telling us to remove our feet from the pond! Junior year I was a "lookout" for 2 classmates who decided to go for a swim in the north end ponds by the gym. We didn't get caught!

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

Marie Tesar Gray (aka Sister Mercedes) '42 (February 2024)
Bernadette Bicek Viskocil '49 (January 2024)
Bette (Elizabeth) Hayes '51 (January 2023)
Marcy Estiller Choinoski '53 (March 2023)
Anna Podest Skala '53 (April 2023)
Mary Ann Yackley Walz '53 (April 2023)
Beverly Slama Schimpf '54 (May 2023)
Rosalie Bandura Struth '55 (June 2023)
Mary Elizabeth Pearson Fornatto '55 (December 2023)
Sister Marietta (Margaret) Brummel, IBVM '56 (April 2023)
MaryAnna Burns Jurasek '57 (August 2020)
Sister Judith Ann Heble, OSB '58 (June 2023)
Karen Lipke Chase '61 (February 2020)
Joy Price Kacena '61 (November 2023)
Adelia Nuber Buttitta '61 (December 2023)
Charlotte Fischer Shaw '62 (February 2022)
Vera Victoria Vargas Gonzalez '62 (January 2023)
Mary Ann Niklas '64 (August 2022)
Fran Nelson LaRock '65 (March 2023)
Carol Costa Pelke '68-Benet (May 2023)

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

Homecoming 2023



Marie Tesar Gray '42
(aka Sister Mercedes)
deceased February 2024



(Above) Class of '53
Sister Lois Jean Jensik, OSB,
Alice Salata Kelly,
Dorothy Miller Garhan



(Above) Class of '60
Edith Hurtgen Wagner, Alice Nykl
Sima, Dorothy Mukenschnabl
O'Reilly

(Right)
Sister Margaret Mary Schima,
OSB '49, Terry Vesely Herzog '49,
Sister Christine (Helen) Kouba,
OSB '50, Sister DePaul (Theresa)
Stava, OSB '49



Class of '62
Marilyn Koukalik Sak,
Mary Graff Bozek,
Irma Frank Conley





Class of '61 (L to R) Gloria Caracello, Barbara Rayniak Buri, Carole Payne, Rosanne Carter Polich, Sister Helen Jilek, OSB, and Rose Feirtag Herlien '59



Class of '57
Sister Jo Anne Form OSB,
Sister Irene Jasien, OSB



(L to R) Carol Karvon '55,
Patricia Karvon Leavy '58, Patricia Vesely Hogan '58

Kathy Jankovic '68,
Sister Afra Mgwama
from Tanzania,
Carol Brummel
Hinterlong '64



Class of '63 (standing) Joanne Fitzmaurice Kuttner, Patricia Dackiw Kemp, Joan Brummel Wiczek, Shirlee Abrams Jasien, Janet Bekielewski Srail, Barbara Stalmach Hocking, Rose Splendoria Braido-Hall (sitting) Judith Erhardt Lang, Linda Stukalo Blaneck-Novak, Carol Bekielewski Mejdreich, Sister Karen Nykiel, OSB

Class of 1961

Hi Class of '61,

In 2023, Adrienne Pilot Garvey submitted the following pictures from her time at SHA as a boarder. Thought you would like to travel down memory lane. Thanks, Adrienne...



Do you remember our mock voting for Jack Kennedy back in 1960?

L to R: Barbara Rayniak Buri, the late Camille Magera, Betty Bosco, Maureen Vap Ruf, Mary Chang, Lillian Bonilla Kepler, the late Jeanne Vignola and behind her, Adrienne Pilot Garvey, and kneeling with newspaper, Margaret Zaremba



Our Christmas luncheon in 1960 in the gym.

As far as I can tell, pictured on left side of table, front to back: Mary Chang, the late Jeanne Vignola, the late Adelia (Didi) Nuber Buttitta, and Peggy Hill Yale. On right side of table, front to back: Betty Bosco, Adrienne Pilot Garvey, Pat Donlan Ryan and Laverne Duke Andriolo.

And, since we are traveling down memory lane: does anyone remember when a segment of the channel 9 TV science program "Mr. Wizard" was recorded at our high school? I don't recall details, but remember that both our school and St. Procopius were involved. I think it was just for the Seniors, so it was probably in late 1960. Any recollection? Let me know.



During a vacation trip in 2023 from her home in Tennessee to Illinois, Jean Schloegel Mills met with her SHA classmates for lunch. To the left is a picture of that day in June:

From L to R front row: Carole Payne, Judy Beumer, Donna McNulty Cellini, the late Joy Price Kacena, and back row, Jean Schloegel Mills, Gloria Caracello and Peggy Mosquera McCann.

It is with a very heavy heart that I share the following:

Joyce (Joy) Price Kacena September 23, 1943 – November 9, 2023

As you probably noticed in the picture I listed the late Joy Price Kacena. We were shocked and saddened to hear of her passing from cancer just a mere 5 months after our June luncheon.

Joy loved singing in her church choir, traveling to northern Wisconsin with her daughter and sister, and her rescued shelter dog "Charlie". Through the years, she would always be available to join her classmates for a lunch or dinner get together. She loved being with us and we sure loved being with her. We have many memories and pictures of our times together.

Adelia (Didi) Nuber Buttitta December 22, 1942 – December 19, 2023

We had to say goodbye to another dear friend last year. Didi had been a dear friend of mine and Gloria Caracello for all these years. She passed away from cancer just 3 days before her 81st birthday.

In May of 1962, Didi married the love of her life, Don Buttitta. They had 4 children, and the family moved to Herrin, IL as her pharmacist hubby pursued his job there. Later they moved to Evergreen Park, where Didi was able to join us for Homecomings, dinners and lunches. But then, Herrin called them back. We continued to correspond, but as we got older, seeing each other was not in the cards. For the past few years, Didi worked at the Herrin City Public Library, which she loved as reading was her passion. She spent special time with her grandchildren in IL, MO, TX and FL and a great grandchild in FL too. Back in 2011, Didi and Don drove here to be with us for our 50th class reunion as seen in this picture with her dear friend, the late Angie Messino Swallow (left in photo).



Karen Lipke April 20, 1943 – February 1, 2020

Judy Buemer searched for over 10 years and finally found information on our "lost classmate" Karen Lipke. It breaks our hearts that we were not able to find her earlier. Judy, Karen and I were pretty good friends during high school and Karen was also my Maid of Honor.

Karen had passed away in Covington, Ohio, where she lived with her daughter Melinda. She was married to (the late) Richard Chase and had 6 children and 6 grandchildren. Karen worked at the West Aurora Schools as a Secretary and enjoyed sewing, beading and quilting.



Frances Groesch Vocht February 24, 1943 – October 13, 2021

Frances was also on our "lost classmate" list and eventually located by her obituary on-line. After graduation, Frances worked at General Mills and retired after 30 plus years there. She is survived by 5 children, 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

In closing, please keep our dearly departed classmates in your thoughts and prayers.

Their lives were a very special gift and all those they touched is a gift that keeps on giving through heartfelt memories. May they rest in peace.

Blessings,
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The Echo

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Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart c/o Beth Hemzacek