The Valley Echo

The St. Joseph College Alumnae Association, Emmitsburg, MD

Volume 16, No. 1 Fall 2024

A note from your

SJCAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Front Row: *(from left)* Maryann Lesso '70, Christine Wiberley Goglia '73, Kathy McNaney Younkin '70, Christine Roos Mehl '70. Second Row: *(from left)* Susan Stay Valenti '70, Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski '74, Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck '70, Karen Mattscheck '72, Maureen Hinke Hahn '73. Not Present: Jean Givens Denney '69, Ann Higgins DC '70, Mary Lou Ullrich Jones '64, Florence DeLessio Marchetti '67, Claire B. Maurer '64

The SJCAA Board of Trustees is pleased to bring you the Fall 2024 issue of *The Valley Echo*.

There are many volunteers associated with the publication of this issue of our alumnae magazine. The names of the contributors for this issue of *The Valley Echo* are printed below.

We hope you enjoy this edition.

The Valley Echo

St. Joseph College Alumnae Association, Inc.
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The Valley Echo is the annual publication of St. Joseph College Alumnae Association, Inc. and mailed to active members of the association. Its mission is to inform alumnae of the association's activities, programs, and plans and to provide class news.

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Cover: "Vincent" is from an original painting by W. James McGlynn of Hockessin, DE. Jim is well known in the Wilmington/Bucks County, PA area as a very fine artist whose specialty is local historic buildings and scenes. Mr. McGlynn's paintings are in many public, corporate, and private collections.

2024/25 SJCAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

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Managing Editor The Valley Echo
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Florence DeLessio Marchetti '67
Reunion Committee

Christine Roos Mehl '70
Reunion Committee / Co-Chair Reunion 2025

The Board meets twice a year – in September and in the spring during Reunion weekend.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to *The Valley Echo* 2024

Happy fall to the alumnae of St. Joseph College!! What a GREAT Reunion 2024 we had!! The class of '74 outdid themselves with their energy in celebrating 50 years since they would have graduated from SJC (and did not). This issue of *The Valley Echo* is full of photos of the alumnae celebrating their friendships from college and new friendships made after leaving the school.

We are approaching our final SJCAA Reunion before we begin our union with MSM--the dates are April 3-6, 2025. The final Reunion WILL be a little different from current Reunions, we will be celebrating our association and all our years together. You will be asked to register early as we are expecting high attendance and need to make sure we have everything ready to make it a successful Reunion. Please consider coming--and please register as soon as you can.

A big thank you to all of you who have continued to support our association with your dues. The dedication of the alumnae is so heartwarming to all the members of the board--and makes our jobs as volunteers so much easier and so much more meaningful. It is a joy to spend our time keeping the association going for so many people who appreciate it--and dues help keep us alive. You have been very very generous--2023 was the first year we went into the red, far later than we expected. THANK YOU AGAIN!!

And on an even more impressive note--thank you to the alumnae who have contributed to the SJC Lobby at the MSM School of Health Professions. We have met our goal. A subcommittee of alumnae is working on the SJCAA recognition in the school lobby. Tours of the school will be available during Reunion 2025, even though the school will not open until January 2026.

You should have received your dues envelope by now. We ask that you continue to pay your dues if possible, as the number of active alumnae continues to decrease. With your help, we are making it to 2025!

It has been in our hands to continue the life of the association--and you have come through in vast numbers to help continue our work. A heartfelt thank you to all the class agents who work to keep their classes together--and special recognition to the SJCAA Board. Without your volunteer efforts--working for free for over a decade now--this would NOT be possible. Thank you so much for your support.

To all alumnae--my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season for the winter 2024/2025. I hope to see many of you April 3-6 back in the Valley again for a final SJCAA Reunion.

All my best,

Karen

Karen Mattscheck '72
President, SJCAA

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SJCAA ANNUAL DUES

Active membership in the St. Joseph College Alumnae Association (SJCAA) guarantees an alumna will receive all association mailings, including *The Valley Echo*, the association's annual publication. Part of your dues contribution goes to produce *The Valley Echo*, which includes professional layout design, printing, and mailing costs. But that is only one of the items your dues support.

For several years, we have budgeted our dues income at $50,000 to cover our main expenses. However, our annual expenses have increased in the past two years. In 2023, they totaled $61,305 which include Charity ($16,000); Office Expenses ($8,418: printing, postage, office supplies, credit card fees, insurance); *The Valley Echo* ($11,000); and our Management Services Contract with Mount St. Mary's University ($25,887: Alumnae Liaison salary, telephone, Website support, computers and computer support, office space). As the number of our members dwindles, dues income has also declined. For calendar year 2023, dues income of $45,541 was $15,764 less than needed to cover expenses, requiring us to use cash reserves for operating expenses.

Dues are tax deductible as the SJCAA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our charitable contributions are targeted to support those in the Emmitsburg community: Scholarships for the Mother Seton School, which the Administration distributes so several families benefit, Catoctin Pregnancy Center, Seton Center, and Masses for alumnae at the Basilica.

Our challenge is to collect enough dues income for 2024 and 2025 to cover our expenses and have some funds to distribute to our charitable organizations when we dissolve the alumnae association. It is your generosity that will enable us to do so. We will continue to work to manage our finances as wisely as we can despite increasing costs.

- Claire Maurer '64, *Finance Chair*

The SJCAA sends bills or invoices for Annual Dues to all alumnae in October of each calendar year to provide operating funds for the coming year.

The invoice indicates

a. The year for which dues are being collected.
b. The date that the dues are to be received in the SJCAA office.

An example to explain the SJCAA's dues procedure:

In **October 2024**, the association will send invoices or bills to all alumnae for their **2025** ANNUAL DUES. Annual Dues for 2025 are due at the time the 2025 dues invoice is received by an alumna. **Dues for 2025 sent to the office as late as June 30, 2025 will also maintain active membership in the association.**

When you send a dues payment in December for the dues year beginning January 1, please note the following information:

In order to accommodate end-of-year tax rules, all donations written and postmarked on or before December 31st but received in the SJCAA office in January will be processed and receipted according to the ***date on* the postmark or the date of the electronic transaction.** The receipt date complies with best practices in accounting procedures for donations and/or dues received toward the end of the year.

2024 DUES PERCENTAGES

Class	TOTAL	FY24 Paid	Percentage
1946 Total	2	0	0.0%
1947 Total	3	1	33.3%
1948 Total	7	2	28.6%
1949 Total	9	2	22.2%
1950 Total	7	1	14.3%
1951 Total	13	3	23.1%
1952 Total	11	1	9.1%
1953 Total	7	1	14.3%
1954 Total	14	3	21.4%
1955 Total	12	5	41.7%
1956 Total	15	4	26.7%
1957 Total	19	5	26.3%
1958 Total	34	8	23.5%
1959 Total	35	7	20.0%
1960 Total	37	11	29.7%
1961 Total	48	14	29.2%
1962 Total	40	11	27.5%
1963 Total	61	22	36.1%
1964 Total	102	42	41.2%
1965 Total	85	33	38.8%
1966 Total	83	13	15.7%
1967 Total	96	16	16.7%
1968 Total	119	34	28.6%
1969 Total	144	37	25.7%
1970 Total	124	30	24.2%
1971 Total	98	17	17.3%
1972 Total	72	32	44.4%
1973 Total	94	19	20.2%
1974 Total	75	18	24.0%
1975 Total	27	2	7.4%
TOTAL	**1,493**	**394**	**26.3%**

Beginning with class year 1946 - Total solicitable base of alumnae (with good addresses): 1,493. *Please bear in mind this number fluctuates with updated addresses, dues paid, and deceased.*

394 alumnae have paid dues for a total of $41,467.00 from October 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024.

Decades of Impact: Celebrating the Legacy of SJCAA

For decades, the St. Joseph College Alumnae Association (SJCAA) has played a pivotal role in supporting education in Emmitsburg, particularly through the SJCAA Scholarship. As we prepare for SJCAA's conclusion in 2025, it's important to reflect on the remarkable contributions made by your alumnae and friends and to celebrate your enduring legacy that continues at Mother Seton School (MSS).

Although SJCAA is winding down, its established scholarship will continue to thrive at MSS as long as we receive donations. This means that alumnae can still contribute any amount to the SJCAA Scholarship, ensuring that future generations benefit from the gift of education. Furthermore, members have the opportunity to create a lasting impact by establishing a named scholarship at MSS, a tribute that honors the traditions of both institutions.

Several members are already leaving their mark through their generous planning. Some have designated Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) to MSS or included MSS in their wills, ensuring their legacy continues through Catholic education in Emmitsburg. This ongoing support underscores the shared values of the SJCAA and MSS communities and their commitment to providing students with the tools for success.

In addition to these scholarships, a special project is underway at MSS. Donna Fitzgerald Demmon, SJC Class of '71, and her husband TJ are working closely with the school to build a chapel in memory of their son, Christopher. This chapel will connect to the school building and is expected to be completed in 2025. This is a deeply personal endeavor for Donna, as both she and her siblings attended MSS, and so did Christopher. This beautiful chapel will stand as a lasting tribute to faith, family, and community.

As SJCAA approaches its conclusion, the legacy of St. Joseph College remains vibrant at MSS. Catholic education in Emmitsburg endures, sustained by your generous contributions and planned gifts. Thanks to your years of unwavering support and dedication, the values and traditions of St. Joseph College will continue to flourish for generations.

Although your community will look different in the future, we will always share a common history, and you will always be a welcomed member of our community.

For more information, please contact **Jennifer Buchheister, Director of Advancement**, at 301.447.3165 or by email: advancement@mothersetonschool.org. Online gifts to the SJCAA Scholarship can be made at bit.ly/SJCMSS.

MOUNT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The St. Joseph College Alumnae Association (SJCAA) is proud to fund the entrance lobby of the new Mount St. Mary's School of Health Professions. The new school will open in January 2026 with an initial degree program of Physicians' Assistant. MSM is exploring a possible Master's in Nursing as the next program to add to the curriculum, and SJCAA will sponsor that lobby also in honor of the SJC nursing students.

This partnership with MSM would bring the legacy of our foundress, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, full circle, from the start of our college in 1809 to a 2024 commitment to Mother Seton's ministry of education and healthcare at a site which views our old campus. The initiative of the new school to go beyond the fundamentals of clinical medicine to deliver healthcare education rooted in compassion for both students in the degree program AND professionals who are in the industry who need a rejuvenation of spirit speaks to Mother Seton and SJC's legacy. Participation in the school allows SJCAA to leave one final mark on the Valley long after the association joins Mount St. Mary's University National Alumni Association.

There will be three areas at the entrance to the school marking the SJCAA contribution. The first is a permanent marker in an outside garden near the front door. This marker will highlight the remarkable spirit of alumnae in keeping the association alive for 52 years after the college closed, continuing to leave our mark on the Valley with our spirit and charitable donations. The second is a painting of Vincent that was donated to the SJCAA office by Maureen McPartland Smith '65. This painting will be located in the entrance lobby between the two doors at the front of the school and will be explained in verbiage under the painting. The third memorial is a digital display screen by the lobby desk. This screen will have a continual display of SJCAA history from the opening until the closing of the school. The SJCAA donors will be listed on this screen. Information and photos for these memorials were developed by an SJCAA committee of classes from 1963 to 1974. Thanks to all committee members for their hard work over the past several months, including coming to Emmitsburg to go through the Daughters of Charity archives. The committee was headed by Kathy McNaney Younkin '70 and Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski '74 and included Susan Garner McNulty '63, Anne McAllister LaBoon '64, Jane Manning Brennan '65, Pat Gavin Wynne '68, Mary Louise Palm '68, Karen Mattscheck '72, Chris Wiberley Goglia '73, Kathy Kerns Raubens '74, and Jamie Lowe Huber '74.

◀ Exterior Wayside Marker

Vestibule ▶

◀ Interior Lobby

Touring the contruction site ▶

REUNION 2024

What an amazing Reunion!! The Class of '74 celebrated its 50th in grand style. For a class that didn't get to graduate from St. Joseph's College, members came to Reunion 25 strong. As Pattie LaNeve Mullaney put it, "I am still HUNG OVER with HAPPINESS!! It was a special event to be 'All Together.' Thank you to everyone!"

We predicted that the Class of '69, celebrating its 55th Reunion, was not going to have very many. Well, that prediction proved wrong as 31 showed up ready to renew old friendships. The Class of '64 not to be outdone had 27 alumnae return to celebrate its 60th anniversary. We also had three from the Class of '54 and one from the Class of '58 who had their children bring them. They got to see what special women our alumnae are.

At Saturday's Breakfast and Board Meeting, Karen Mattscheck '72 presented the SJCAA Scholarship at Mount St. Mary's University (MSMU) to Rachel Warren and Colin Long. They each received $6,851.00. The 2024 Legacy Award was awarded to Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski '74. Trudie has been on the SJCAA Board for many years holding several jobs from vice president, president, communications chair, and class agent for the Class of '74. She has been the glue holding her class together and bringing them to many Reunions and especially the 50th celebration this year. Congratulations.

Our Saturday evening started with Mass at the Basilica as we came together to celebrate our time at St. Joseph's and remember our deceased alumnae with the candle lighting ceremony. From there went to our Banquet and celebrated with our Golden Jubilarians who regaled us with their remembrances of Joe's. For the Class of '74 who did not get to graduate from our college they still remark, "here we are, 50 years later to reconnect and celebrate and laugh again as we honor our small school in the middle of nowhere and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton who had the vision and courage to start it all." The Class of '74 generously donated $8,824.63 to Mother Seton School and $11,785.00 to the SJCAA Scholarship at MSMU.

The evening was not complete without the presentation of our traditional Reunion Awards. The Hassell Cup awarded to the highest percentage of members in attendance went to our Golden girls from the Class of '74. The Sister Mary Ellen Award went to the Class of '69 who had the highest number of members in attendance. The Class of '52 Award, the Friends and Family Cup went to the Class of '54. It was a joyous moment.

As with past Reunions the weekend was over too soon. Our Sunday Buffet Breakfast was time to say goodbye to dear friends.

Our FINAL REUNION is April 3-April 6, 2025. It will be our **Last Hurrah** as an alumnae association. Come One Come "All Together" as we PARTY one last time.

- Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck '70
Reunion Chair

Members of the Class of '74 share lunch in the Student Center

TRUDIE MANGIARACINA GLAZEWSKI '74 HONORED WITH 2024 LEGACY AWARD

The St. Joseph College Alumnae Association (SJCAA) Legacy Award, established in 2014, honors an alumna who has made a significant contribution to the association. The SJCAA Classes Committee accepts nominations for the award from Board members and class agents. A candidate for a Legacy Award is someone who conveys tolerance, warmth, kindness, and optimism, as well as leadership and service.

The award for 2024 was presented to Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski '74. One nominator said "Trudie, graduated in 1974, a miracle in itself. Having the unfortunate experience of navigating the last days of St. Joseph College and that uncertain future, she responded with years and participation and activism as an alumna. As long as I can remember, she has been an enthusiastic, dedicated leader in the SJCAA. Because of her personal touch and energetic outreach, she has spread her love of SJC throughout many classes and acted positively both to unite alumnae and to ensure the success of the association. As president of the association, she immersed herself totally in those activities, guiding us through the changing times and participating in the planning for the 2025 deadline. She devoted generous time and outstanding effort. Trudie chairs the Classes Committee, and her letters to all reflect her positive outlook ending with her signature 'smiles and sunshine.' Trudie is a champion in every way, her loyalty, her activism, her energy, and her accomplishments on behalf of all SJCiennes."

Trudie was willing to serve as president of SJCAA when no one else would, to help keep the association going. She has brought energy and enthusiasm to the board and is always there with a smile during any discussion. She has served as vice president, president, and now as past president on the SJCAA board.

One of her classmates stated that Trudie has been the person who reached out to the splintered class of 1974, to keep them informed of the association and encouraging them to return to SJC alumnae weekends. This was no small feat as the class was scattered far and wide, with only 13 from the class actually graduating from SJC--and Trudie was not one of them. Many of the class had to leave after freshman year to pursue majors elsewhere--over 25 went to Catholic University's School of Nursing, which had a similar program. "Trudie brought the class back together, and it was her determination and devotion to SJCAA that inspired me to be involved again. Laughter, creativity, and love for SJC are evident in everything she does." Trudie surely exemplifies the words in our Alma Mater—"Friendship's links may ne'er be broken, bright is its chain."

Past winners of the Legacy Award include Maureen McPartland Smith '65, Claire Maurer '64, Betty Daly McFann '60, Karen Mattscheck '72, Mary Lou Ulrich Jones '64, Christie Damico Goles '64, Elinor Starr '53, Kate Graham '68, Maryann Lesso '70, and Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck '70.

SJCAA'S SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED FOR 2023-2024

Rachel Warren and **Colin Long** were awarded scholarships at Reunion 2024. The St. Joseph College Alumnae Association (SJCAA) Scholarship at Mount St. Mary's University (MSMU) is an endowed scholarship funded by alumnae and friends of St. Joseph College. This scholarship is awarded to a rising or transfer junior and/or senior who has a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0, who demonstrates financial need, and who is recommended by a faculty member at MSMU or another accredited college or university. Consideration is given to the students' career plans, community services, and academic awards.

We were delighted to honor Rachel and Colin Saturday morning at the Breakfast and Annual Meeting.

Rachel graduated this spring with an Elementary Education degree. She made the Dean's List every semester, became a member of the Honors College, and was inducted into the National Society of Leadership

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REUNION 2024 PHOTO *Gallery*

Alumnae enjoy box lunches in the Student Center prior to a Welcome from the FEMA Staff.

Members of the Class of '64 listen to the FEMA presentation.

(From left) Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski '74, Kathy McNaney Younkin '70, Christine Wiberley Goglia '73, and Karen Mattscheck '72 tour the lobby to be sponsored by SJCAA in the School of Health Care Professionals at the Mount.

Class of ’74 members gather at the Log Cabin.

(From left) Elizabeth Reaves Ellison ’69, Beth Dignan Blumer ’69, Kathleen O’Donnell Ellis ’69, and Lynn Koerner ’69 at their Class Dinner Social Hour

Members of the Class of ’74 gather before their Class Dinner.

Members of the Class of ’74 checking out yearbook photos.

◀ Centerpiece at the Class of ’74 Class Dinner.

(From left) Patricia Stanton ’69, Frances Butler Kresge ’69, Ron Spranzani, Jenny Bowlus ’69, and Margaret Small Spranzani ’69 chat at the Class Dinner Social Hour.

Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski ’74 carries the banner to begin the Alumnae Mass processional.

(From left) Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski ’74 receives the 2024 Legacy Award from Karen Mattscheck ’72.

(From left) Claire Kirchner Lawless ’54 and Roselyn McCarthy Borrosso ’54 with Guest are the first class representatives in the procession.

(From left) Bobbie Davis Speace '64 and Beverly Jones Wyatt '64 represent their class in the procession.

(From left) Barb Callan-Bogia '74 and Mary Ellen Kirchner Pleumer '74 represent their class in the procession.

(From left) Mary Pat Cohill '69 and PJ Heaven Reilly '69 represent their class in the procession.

(From left) Cyndi Mountford Ogulewicz '74, Liz Baldwin Ewing '74, Debbie Mitchell Kraponic '74, and Jean Connors Muhler '74 represent their class in the procession.

◀ Mary Ellen Kirchner '74 carries the roses to place at St. Elizabeth Seton's altar accompanied by other representatives of the Class of '74.

(From left) Paula Kozloski Swetley '74 and Becky Rutherford Dacey '74 serve as candle-bearers.

Fr. Harry Arnone, C.M. delivers the homily.

Fran Loreto Redman '74 delivers the first reading.

Rosemary Fama Waugh '74 lights candles in memory of deceased alumnae; Kathy McNaney Younkin '70 reads the names of those deceased in the past year as Fr. Harry reviews the names in the program.

Maureen Sommar Milde '74 delivers the second reading.

Patti Touhey Bargnes '74 reads the Prayers of the Faithful as Fr. Harry listens.

(From left) Gift Bearers Jane Davis Gallagher '74, Barb Wurster-Reiprish '74, Jamie Lowe Huber '74, and Pat Morel Murphy-Lynch '74 return after presenting the gifts.

(From left) Maryann Lesso '70, Claire B. Maurer '64, Leslie Henze Blackstock '70, Jackie Melroy Shiring '64, and Susan Stay Valenti '70 at the Social Hour before the banquet

(From left) Classmates Margaret Metz Flynn '69, Ann Mooney Kirmil '69, Elizabeth Reaves Ellison '69, Diana Callison Reing '69, and Micki Lipps Freeny '69 enjoy the Social Hour before the banquet.

(From left) Patti Rocks Earhardt (Guest), Frances Burkhart Kresge '69, and Suzanne Sullivan '69 at the Social Hour before the banquet

(From left) Mary Cook Purdy '64, Peggy Tofani Corrado '64, and Carole Sokolik Bourbannais '64 at the Social Hour before the banquet

(From left) Barbara Callan-Borgia ’74, Nadine Brainard Smith ’74, Cynthia Mountford Ogulewicz ’74, Judy Yowaiski Ricker ’74, and Kathy Whalen Quarles ’74 at the Social Hour before the banquet

(From left) Patricia Troller Seagreaves ’64, Patricia Higgins Brennan ’64, Mimi Ratke Cochran ’64, Chuck Cochran MSM ’62, Ellen Gegorec Potter ’64, and Dennis Potter MSM ’62 at the Social Hour before the banquet

(From left) Jean Connors Muhler ’74 and Fran Loreto Redman ’74 at the Social Hour before the banquet

Members of the Classes of ’54 and ’58 at dinner

Members of the Class of ’64 at dinner

Members of the Class of ’64 at dinner

Members of the Class of ’64 at dinner

Members of the Class of ’74 at dinner

Members of the Class of ’64 at dinner

Members of the Class of ’69 at dinner

Members of the Classes of ’65 and ’67 at dinner

Members of the Class of ’69 at dinner

Members of the Class of ’69 at dinner

Members of the Class of ’69 at dinner

Members of the Class of ’74 at dinner

Members of the Class of ’70 at dinner

Members of the Class of ’74 at dinner

Members of the Classes of ’73 and ’74 at dinner

Guests of the association and alumnae at dinner

Members of the Class of ’74 at dinner

Barb Callan-Borgia ’74 recalls college memories for the Golden Class.

Maureen Sommar Milde ’74 leads her class in singing a reworded version of *Both Sides Now*.

Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski ’74 accepts the Hassell Vase for the Class of ’74 with the highest percentage of members in attendance.

Merrill Sollenberger, our FEMA contact who, for many years, has arranged for our access to campus, displays the declaration that she is an Honorary Alumna of SJC.

Pat Zeigler Conley ’69 accepts the Sr. Mary Ellen Kelley Award for the Class of ’69 with the highest number of members in attendance.

Jennifer Buchheister, Director of Advancement at Mother Seton School accepts the Class of ’74 gift of $8,824.63 from Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski ’74.

(From left) Claire Kirchner Lawless '54 and Roselyn McCarthy Borosso '54 accept the Class of 1952 Award for the highest percentage of Friends and Family in attendance.

The Class of '54 Class Photo

The traditional singing of the Alma Mater, *All Together* to end the evening's festivities.

The Class of '64 Class Photo

The Class of '69 Class Photo

50th Anniversary
Class of 1974

Class News

1954

Claire Kirchner Lawless
9070 Belvoir Woods Parkway
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-2702
301.452.4167

Our 70th Reunion last spring was most memorable! Though there were only two of us, **Roselyn McCarthy** and myself, we had a wonderful time. As the oldest (by far!) legacy class we led the rose procession at Mass behind the school banner. At the reception and dinner afterwards fellow alumnae we didn't even know greeted us and complimented us on our longevity! We did also greet some with familiar names and/or faces. We had a nice chat with Jackie Melroy Shiring '64, who frequently attended Reunions with her big sister **Marie Paule Melroy Munkacsy**. Also, **Pat Fitzgerald Rocks**'s daughter Patty visited with us, as did Pat's sister-in-law Mary Rocks '64, who set up a FaceTime chat for me with Hugh, who sends regards to all.

After dinner and speeches, the awards were given out AND, just as five years ago, we won the Friends and Family Award, given to the class with the highest percentage of guests. Ro brought her daughter Karen and a friend, and I had my granddaughter Jackie (named for her grandfather!). So, we had three guests for the two of us--over 100%! On accepting the award, I mentioned that our class song was *Side By Side* that it's appropriate for all classes, and invited everyone to join us in singing it. So, to our sheer delight, the whole room erupted in a rousing rendition of OUR class song, led by Ro and me, and ending with thunderous applause. We were so thrilled!

Class news is hard to come by, as I get little response, but after some sleuthing I was able to track down **Marian (Honey) Christe Calcagni**. I reached out to her sister, Anne Christe Calcagni '56 and received a nice note in return, informing me that they are next door neighbors (they married brothers), so she sees Honey often. Honey, who had polio as a child, has had a recurrence as an adult (a common recent medical finding) so has trouble walking. She also suffers from some dementia, but is "OK" otherwise, all things considered. A daughter has moved back home to help care for Honey, and her husband which, as we all know, is a great help at our age!

Speaking of home care, **Mary McIntyre Gray** wrote that she and Bill now have help three days a week, which enables them to remain in their home. Bill has recovered rather well from the broken hip he suffered last year, and they look forward to their children's visits.

As for me, being the youngest in the class, I finally celebrated my 90th birthday in January (my actual Christmas birthdate was a hectic time!) with a dinner at Mount Vernon Inn, located at the entrance to George Washington's estate. Forty of my 46 family members attended and gave me a beautiful book in which each of my five children and 16 grandchildren filled a page with personal sentiments and pictures--a real treasure!

Besides my activities here, I keep busy with family birthday and holiday parties, as well as occasional weekend visits to my three daughters' vacation homes nearby. I also spend a couple of weeks twice a year visiting my youngest and his family at the "year-round vacation home" (as I call it!) that he had built on a lake in South Carolina when he retired four years ago.

My letter of last fall was returned undeliverable to **Edna Ruiz Perez**. It did, however, generate a response from **Beth Carter Gibson**'s son that his mother passed away November 20, 2022. May she rest in peace.

Reunion 2025 will be our last one. Ro and I plan to be there--God willin' and the crick don't rise! I hope to see some more of you there as well, as it will be our final chance to gather "Side by Side."

1955

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We are now only 12 but we can all claim to be members of the Octogenarian Sorority! Had I written this earlier we could have claimed 13. Sadly, my very first call in preparation for this column was to **Pauline "Pal" Lisella Raftopoulos**. One of her sons answered my call and calmly informed me that his mom had passed away just a week before on June 4. Pal shared her home with three of her four children. She was well cared for! Pal majored in nutrition at St. Joe's and later got a nursing degree. A memorial Mass card from the class was sent to the family. She will be remembered at the Shrine of Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, at daily Mass. May she rest in peace and may memories of her live in us.

Miriam Johnson Curnin called as she and Tom were preparing for their annual summer residency in Egremont, MA. She shared that she chose St. Joe's for college because her sister had graduated from there in 1951 and her brother had earlier studied at the Mount, Emmitsburg was very much a part of her DNA! Miriam and I often worked together on theatrical productions with Miriam directing and me tending the stage lights. What fond memories!

I am grateful to Miriam for helping me locate **Dolores "Dee" Nevy McMullen**. All my calls went unanswered but Miriam's call got a response! Dee recognized the caller! Dee and Jack had been at their Bethany Beach cottage in Delaware. Dee and Jack were thrilled to announce the arrival of their first great-grandchild. Congratulations!

Virginia Ohlmuller Rooney and Bill had just returned to their Delaware home after their six months in Florida. Virginia was preparing to lector at Mass the following day, June 24, the feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist. I enjoyed sharing with her the French-Canadian tradition of my youth. "La St. Jean Baptiste" always began with Mass and was followed by a parish festival. No lay person would have proclaimed the Scripture in the 1940s! Virginia and Bill realize how blessed they are to serve in this ministry.

Elizabeth "Betty" Barbieri McClellan celebrated her 90th birthday in February with 88 guests on her terrace, a Trad Jazz Band, and catering by her son Chip. Betty firmly believes that, "We need to celebrate life and living!" She certainly knows how! Her "living" included a granddaughter's wedding in Fresno, opera in Houston, and a two-week cruise from Barcelona to Lisbon with an opera friend which Betty labeled, "Two old ladies with walkers having a ball!" Betty still enjoys bridge, Bible studies, and working out. "Truly, I am afraid to stop doing," she wrote. Bill has some health issues and Betty had successful hip surgery in June of 2023. When Betty is away, Bill's daughters visit, and they delight in spoiling their dad! Assessing all the ups and downs of their lives, Betty writes: "We are truly blessed and very grateful for all of God's gifts!"

Sister Mary Martha "Mary T" Gardiner's email was full of life even though she wrote that she has slowed down considerably. She came through major surgery and is still teaching English to her Mexican student. She did make the move to the Our Lady of Peace Residence for retired sisters. She was blessed to have her sister Cathy, a nurse, visit her from Florida during her recovery from surgery. Later in May, they drove to Connecticut to visit their sister Susan. She looks forward to seeing family this summer, also. Mary T ended up at St. Joe's because her brother Hugh attended the Mount and on one of her family's visits to Emmitsburg they toured the St. Joe's campus and she was smitten! Lucky for her the four-year nursing program began that year, 1951, and she and Mary Ladden became the first to graduate with a nursing degree.

Maria "Mapy" Del Pilar Irizarry surprised me with a June phone call. She sounded wonderful but in spite of her enthusiasm, I learned very little about her life. She left me with a phone number that I could call her. Every attempted call was met with lengthy instructions in Spanish. I was never able to understand everything so every call failed! When I asked Mary T to try her linguistic skills, she did meet with some success but I was never able to match her skills even though I followed her detailed directions. Sorry!

Cathy Connolly Persons celebrated her 90th birthday in October 2023 at which time her five children and their families held a surprise party for her. When not involved with family activities, Cathy enjoys time at her local library.

Betty Brown Shea was preparing to celebrate her 91st birthday on July 12 when we spoke. Her daughter Meghan had organized her festive 90th in 2023. Betty is dealing with a variety of vision issues so driving is out and reading is difficult. Her activities are somewhat limited but her children are generous with their time and attention. The Jersey Shore is always a summer magnet for her children and their families and Betty loves it! "The family keeps me young!" she claims!

Though I was unable to reach **Barbara Henner Keogh**, I did learn of the loss of her 35-year old grandson Patrick in May 2023. Do keep Barbara and her large family in your prayers as they continue to grieve their loss.

Again, I was unable to visit with **Margaret "Jill" May O'Connell**. Phone messages left went unanswered. I pray that all is well.

Monalee Overdorf Welliver, Sue Garner McNulty '63, and I continue to Zoom weekly and whoever is visiting whomever also joins in. It's great fun! When I first met Monalee as a freshman, I sensed a level of maturity beyond the rest of us. Only recently did I learn that she already had finished a year of business school when she followed the suggestion of a Daughter of Charity to continue her studies at St. Joe's. Fr. Hugh O'Donnell CM arrived at the college just as we did in 1951. He came to our all girls' college from Niagara University which was then all male. He was not comfortable in his new assignment. Monalee was quick to notice and with a caring gesture offered to replace the few missing buttons on his long black cassock. Father did not take her offer kindly. I was impressed by her courage and generosity. Father quickly learned to appreciate his St. Joe's students. He was our chaplain and religion teacher. "His kindness, generosity and patient guidance won him many friends and captured many hearts." *Allegra 1955*. Monalee was only with us for one year, leaving to help care for her ill father. Her devotion to St. Joe's has never faltered!

The **Meadows** children and families surprised me with a grand celebration on the weekend of my 90th birthday in February. Their varied talents meshed perfectly, and I just basked in their love and joy. In May, Sue Garner McNulty '63 again joined me for my annual Women's Retreat and once again, Mary Jane Shaughnessy Beaulieu '58, Mary Liz Crenshaw Leitch '58, and, this year, Joanne Stalhut Coppolla '71 gathered during a "free" hour on Saturday for our St. Joe's Mini Reunion. The Dominican Spiritual Life Center has grown accustomed to our rendition of "All Together." Following the retreat, Sue and I road-tripped to Potsdam, NY--Sue's childhood home and my home for one year as a young bride in 1956. I started out as Sue's religious ed. teacher and remain her friend of 68 years! Sue and I will attend the Glimmerglass Festival in August and enjoy another road trip, presently in the planning stages. Watch for details in our last *The Valley Echo* in 2025! DO plan on attending our very last Reunion April 3-6, 2025. God willing, I will be there. My son Denis has already been booked as my chauffeur. I would love to see you!

1956

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In a phone call with Danny Pagano, I learned that his dear **Mary Ann Radzievich Pagano** died on February 20. They had been watching TV. Danny was helping Mary Ann into bed when she suffered a massive heart attack. They were together for "72 years and counting," he told me. Two daughters live near him in Media, PA and three other children are on the West Coast.

A mutual friend informed me that **Sister Nancy Meskill**, SFCC, Web Region, died March 20 at St. Elizabeth's Nursing Home in Baltimore where she had lived for the past two years. The day before she passed, Nancy was at Mass in the facility and sang Irish songs for the residents! I also found out that **Joan Kerr Benjamin** died on June 28, 2024.

Please keep the family and friends of these classmates in your prayers.

Anne Christe Calcagni is still enjoying gardening; she has tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, cucumbers, and thyme in her garden in Norfolk. Husband Tony celebrated his 90th birthday and keeps on working, though his son drives him to work. Anne had a bad fall in December and spent a month in rehab but is now walking as well as she did before the accident. She has one great-granddaughter who lives in Nevada and came to visit for a week. Anne does tai chi and goes to Senior Sneakers twice a week.

Betty Taylor Claypoole had a pretty bad fall but only

got a bump near her eye. She and her son Kevin had been planning to go to the yacht club for dinner, and since she had only bruises, she went! Kevin lives on Lake Hopatcong and Betty has a cottage 20 minutes away on Lake Shawnee. She has five grandchildren and was planning to go to Buffalo in the summer for the 5th birthday of one of her two great-grandchildren. Betty lives in Cranford, NJ across the street from a park. She exercises a lot and says "you gotta just keep going."

"Glory to God in the highest," said **Maria Arqueta De Armas-Carmita**–when she heard my voice on the phone. "And peace to God's people on earth," I responded. Then we had a good laugh. Carmita lives with her daughter in Miami. A few months ago, she broke her hip in two places. She is using a walker now and hopes to move on from that. Carmita has two great-grandchildren and expects to have two more by November. Carmita is so happy to hear about classmates. A few years ago, she visited **Fran Gillchrist Quitzau** who lives near Carmita's son Miguel in Houston.

Nona Murray Duvall moved to Gainsville, VA and was just getting settled when we talked. She says she is still singing--in the shower! Two of her children, Joan and Paul, live nearby and she sees them often. After a fall, Nona had surgery and rehab and now uses a motorized wheelchair. She has seven great-grandchildren, some of whom are nearby in Virginia and some of whom are in Colorado. Whenever we speak, she still has her hearty laugh and says she feels great. We always talk about politics!

Mary Fran Kane still lives in the house in which she grew up in Palatine Bridge, NY, except for the winter months when she flies to visit a very good friend in Cape Canaveral, FL. She just turned 90. Mary Fran has some trouble with her knees, but her mind is good. Because she uses a cane, her nephew just built "a Rolls Royce ramp" on the back of her house. It seats four and has made her life much easier. Mary Fran reads a lot on her iPad and often goes to the library. She also likes to go out to eat.

Fran Gillchrist Quitzau and Bob moved to Katy, TX after Hurricane Harvey destroyed their previous home. Fran reports that the new home is good for aging residents. Bob is on a walker and the floors are very safe. Fran and Bob walk every day with walking sticks. Fran and Bob have plenty of time to read; she recommends Kindle. Daughter Anne lives two blocks away and is their nurse advocate. Fran has 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren! "All is well considering our ages."

Chica Godbee Golibart celebrated her 91st birthday. Because Cape Charles, VA is small, the whole town celebrated with her. Her apartment building has an elevator, and she exercises Tuesdays and Thursdays. Her son lives four blocks away and takes her everywhere now that she has given up driving. Chica has five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. As a retired nurse, she is delighted that two grandchildren have health care careers. She reports that the Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg is gorgeous.

I still drive to a suburb of Columbus, OH to visit 12 members of my family including five great-grandchildren. In March I celebrated my son Kevin's 60th birthday in New Orleans with him and grandsons Devin and Michael. My nearby daughter Mary, her husband Kevin, and I cruised in July to Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, and Greece. I am blessed to be in good health and to be able to drive and fly. When I'm home I minister in my community and at the Church of Loretto at St. Mary's College.

Fran O'Brien Baldessarini recently paid dues, but I have been unsuccessful in getting more information about her. I have been unable to reach Noel Stewart Rupprecht. My calls and letters have been unanswered.

Paying dues keeps *The Valley Echo* coming. The address is St. Joseph College Alumnae Association, Inc., Mt. St. Mary's University, 16300 Old Emmitsburg Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

Stay well and remember each other in prayer.

1957

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Margaret Hayner Atkins and her lovely daughter Mary stopped by for a quick visit and lunch with Richard and me. They were on their way to a wedding ceremony in the state. Mary had flown into Phoenix from Oklahoma, met up with Margaret from Albuquerque, and took an Uber to our home in Scottsdale. Margaret keeps busy with tai chi on Zoom, and walking four or

five miles a week. Last October she accompanied her daughter and son-in-law and two grandchildren on a trip to Iceland. She and family members have just returned from another trip, this time to Portugal, where they toured Lisbon, the wineries, and cruised the Douro, called the "River of Gold." Plans for September include a trip to Machu Picchu.

Let me tell you about a girl from Brooklyn. Actually, **Lucille Marano** doesn't live in Brooklyn anymore. She and her sister sold their house and moved to their Setauket, Long Island, home where the family used to spend summers. Her sister told their pastor that "we do not mow our lawn, shovel snow, clean our house, and would like it if we had meals on wheels." They are a do-it-yourself couple, so when they bought a new TV table, the handyman wanted $125 to assemble it so they did it themselves. Lucille says they keep busy with food shopping, cooking, doctor and dental appointments. They also go out to lunch or dinner as often as possible, and sometimes to the hotel casino in Connecticut for a few days a couple of times a year.

I had the pleasure of talking with **Mary Elizabeth Lange Riscassi** recently. She and her husband Lou, aged 94, moved into assisted living at the McAuley in West Hartford, CT.

Carol Knauer Pastor is a good communicator. She sends me the magazine from Coronado, in which she writes about the history of the area and the people who settled there years ago. Carol spends time every summer in Vermont and will be including vacation tips for visitors to that state in her local columns. She has lived on Coronado since 1975 and raised seven daughters there with her husband Mort, who has passed away. One of her daughters, Olivia, found herself a wonderful Navy pilot and will be married in La Jolla, CA this July. Granddaughter Kaitlyn plans a wedding to a former Marine next March. Carol has been involved in the community over the years with Friends of the Library, historical resource committee, and the local police department. She shows no indication of slowing down.

Mary Elizabeth Bustamante Anderson sent a note to remind me that her husband had passed away in 2023. He died peacefully at home with three of their four surviving children present. He was interred at the Mount Cemetery in the St. Francis Grove. May he rest in peace. Mary Elizabeth says she enjoys the independent living at Ryderwood where she has been for at least five years. She described the facility, which has 300 acres, 2,500 apartments, restaurants, health and wellness clinics, and even a chapel as perfect.

It saddens us deeply to report that after multiple surgeries and hospital stays the Class of '57 lost **Betty Ann Kenny Sheridan** and her devoted husband Bill this year. We also received word that **Jeannette Sledz Moore** passed away peacefully in hospice on December 31.

For 30 years **Jean Gigliotti Kiernan** has had the pleasure of serving as a docent at the Philadelphia art museum. Jean often accompanied her husband John when his job took him on trips around the globe.

Kay Taggert Kane informed us that her husband had passed more than three years ago. She gets pleasure from her four children and 11 grandchildren. After majoring in home economics she went on to get her Master's degree in special education. She then taught for 21 years. "Life is good" she says.

Adelaide Burroughs Campbell says she really looks forward to receiving the class news. She lives in Newtown, PA and stays active with daily walks around the block. Reading is another favorite pastime. Her daughter Addie keeps her company and does most of the cooking.

It's been a whirlwind year for **Jacqueline Woelkers** and Richard. In May, we were in the "windy city" for our granddaughter's graduation from the University of Chicago. Instead of wind, we had a deluge of rain which kept us from attending the outdoor ceremony. However, since my sister Romaine, SJC '54, lives nearby we used the occasion to enjoy a family reunion with about 25 brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, etc. We regaled the young'uns with tales of family lore and history. My niece, Mary, dubbed us the "elder berries." In the past few months, Richard and I have travelled to Venice, Croatia, and Athens. I didn't exit the ship in beautiful Santorini because there were so many ships in the harbor and a three hour wait for the chair lift up the cliff. I always said I was leaving Alaska for my old age. Well here it is. So this July we are taking a cruise of the inside passage with stops in Seward, Skagway, and Juneau. We also added two days in Vancouver, Canada. Goodbye til next year—Jackie.

1958

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I attended the 2024 Reunion and it was very nice. Smaller than usual...maybe about 140 people. **Carol Redmond** and I were hoping to get together, but that did not work out. Next year for sure. The trip to Reunion affords me the opportunity to see my great-grandson in Poolesville, outside of Frederick.

I sat with the Class of '54...two ladies with their daughters/granddaughters. One was from Long Island, so we had a lot to talk about. On April 20 **Mary Liz Leitch** and I met with Marty Methot Meadows '55 and her friend Sue McNulty '64 at the Dominican Retreat House here in Schenectady. Joanne Stahlhut Capollo '71 joined us as well...we sang "All Together" and shared memories.

Two bits of info--Mary Helen's grandson died tragically recently...Prayers to her and her family. The second is that I am fighting my third battle of breast cancer--Mastectomy in 2006, lumpectomy in remaining breast at the beginning of the pandemic, and now there is something there again. Will find out the treatment plan soon. This will occupy my time this summer. Feeling fine now, but once treatment starts, it will not be smooth sailing. Keep me in your prayers. I am looking forward to seeing **Sister Claire Edwards** as she is in the area now. She had a visit with Helen on her way up north.

Summer rendition of "All Together" was sung again at Galway Lake with members of the Class of '67 and Mary Liz Leitch. I attended by phone. Explanation--when preparing for the Mastectomy, it was discovered that I had lung cancer. On August 2 I had one lobe of my right lung removed. All good there now. (Never smoked). On September 25 I will have the Mastectomy. All has gone well with the support of my family and friends.

Mary Liz Leitch and Bill and I attended the internment of Dick Burmaster's ashes nearby. Liz and her lovely girls were there, and we had a nice breakfast afterward. Mary Liz and Bill are moving back to town from their lake house.

1959

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[From the Editor] For the 2023 edition of *The Valley Echo*, Mary Lou Dingle Castellano was unable to submit Class News but wanted to remind her classmates that Reunion 2024 would be their 65th Reunion and please try to attend if possible. Mary Lou was ill and knew that working on the news was not going to happen.

As I started to put the 2024 issue together, I called Mary Lou to see how she was doing, and her husband Dr. James Castellano told me that she had passed away on June 13, 2024. She took great care of the Class of 1959 and was very diligent about gathering information on her classmates. I will miss our conversations. She was an accomplished woman and I know her classmates will miss her as well.

I did hear from **Helen Fitzgibbons Carmody** and **Barbara Knowles** that they were going to Iceland in September.

Maryann Lesso
Managing Editor
SJC '70

1960

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Liz and I are sorry we cannot provide any class news at this time. I recently moved to an assisted living facility in Montvale, NJ. I am doing well, have made very nice friends, and I am busy, busy, busy…too much so. Notice my new address above.

We did want to send a message to everyone in the Class of 1960 to make a super big effort to come to Reunion April 3-6, 2025. It will be our very last St. Joseph College Reunion. Come with your husbands, daughters, sons, and/or grandchildren. Some of us will need assistance travelling.

Some of our classmates who are planning to attend are **Gerri Gut Scarpa, Liz Phelan Burmaster, Sally Grabe Poux, Kathy O'Donnell O'Brien, Sue Anderson, Mary Crawford Beltran "Pudgy," Marty Spurlock, Sue Corcoran Bruswitz,** and **Pat Cannon Quinlan**. It will be great to see us "All Together" again.

Please make the effort to come back to the Valley. Remember our class motto, "To thine own self be true."

1961

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Thank you all for the tremendous response. Looks like the Class of '61 is very active and doing fabulous things.

Carol Rogers Beaugard writes that her news is probably like everyone else's! Getting old is not for sissies! She says that Ed has lost his short term memory but is cognitively ok otherwise. He still gets around pretty well but there are big changes. He will be 97 in January and she is grateful he is as well as he is! Carol has low pressure glaucoma in both eyes and wet AMD…she says that injections into the eye are less than pleasant, and she is losing her vision which is concerning. She and Ed enjoy living in the over 55 community and are grateful to still have their independence. She looks forward to hearing about our classmates.

Eileen Keefe Bonhag has been very busy with many family special occasions--grandson Justin graduated from high school and will attend Towson University and will study music. Granddaughter Abby graduated from West Virginia Univ. Also planned and organized an overseas cruise for family members in late June. She is active with the Salvatorian community, and between her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, she is always on the move. Still in her own home in Maryland, and has lived there for over 50 years.

Gail Commerford Callahan and Larry have been happily married for 62 years, and have four boys and one girl. They have 13 grandchildren. Their children live in Maryland, Ohio, Colorado, and London. In July, Larry retired after 62 years in Catholic education, and Gail has been retired for over 20 years. They are currently living in Catonsville, MD. Two of their children are in the health field, one in finance, one retired from brewery ownership, and one in the Secret Service. A year and a half ago, she lost her beloved sister, Dr. Christi Commerford. Christi was in the first coed class at Mount St. Mary's. Gail says that if anyone is in her area, they would love to see you. She looks forward to seeing everyone at Reunion.

Maureen Dugan Cocozza and Dick are very involved in maintaining themselves, home, and yard. Maureen still enjoys taking some classes through LLI and playing bridge with that group. She has recently read a few books that she highly recommends--*The Invisible Woman* by Erika Robuck; *Bright Young Women* by Jessica Knoll; and any of Louise Penny's books. They welcomed their third great-grandchild in February, and their youngest two grandchildren graduated from college this year. It is dawning on Maureen that we really are getting OLD!

Joanne McNally Downes--In June, Joanne and husband Pat moved to an assisted living facility in the Wyckoff, NJ area. Joanne said Pat was OK, but she was having memory problems. Their children felt that the move was going to be helpful for both Joanne and Pat. They had a recent trip to California to visit family and she sends her regards to all of our SJC classmates.

Rosie Aellen Dunning is dealing with some medical issues right now, like many of us. But she does spend weekends with her daughter Margaret at Rosie's Cape Cod home in Yarmouth, MA. Margaret is a gourmet cook, and helps to make Rosie's life easier. During the week, Rosie is at the North Attleboro, MA home with husband Rich. She sends regards to all her classmates.

Rita Werb Fasano--On a recent TC to Rita, she shared a comment with me about SJC—"I would like to be back there now!!" Rita resides in an assisted living facility in South Carolina. Her daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are very attentive. She said she is doing the best that she can. She loves to receive mail, so if you are inclined, send her a note, and be sure to include your maiden name and the SJC connection. Her address is Rita Fasano, 111 Generations Blvd. #109, Batesburg, SC 29006.

Ann Sheelan Gerwig still experiences good health and remains active. Most weeks, she plays golf three days a week, volunteers at a nursing home, is active at church and related associations, in several card groups, and in general has a very positive life. She has maintained very close contact with John's family, which now has expanded to five great-grandchildren, with the oldest five years old. (All five were with her Easter weekend which was lots of fun.) She plans to attend the Reunion and has already made plans to travel to Emmitsburg with her niece who lives in Hyattsville, MD. She's not too keen on driving alone on long distances at her age.

Ann Leahigh Grau reports that not much is happening in her life these days. She is still living in Kensington, MD in the house she and Pete bought 45 years ago. She does a little chair yoga, volunteers at church, plays bridge online, and reads all day if she can! Her boys still live nearby and so do the grandchildren… five of them, four girls and one boy. Everyone is quite busy so they don't see one another as often as she would like but in July they will all be in Bethany Beach, DE, for a week. Healthwise, she is in pretty good shape except for the arthritis which seems to be the usual thing for our age.

Aside from her years with Pete, her four years at SJC were the happiest of her life. "We had/have an amazing group of women!!" My love to our entire class.

Life for **Barbara Demott Holland** in Bayside, NY continues to be very good. Her husband Raymond passed away five years ago. They enjoyed a wonderful 50 years of marriage and the joy of raising three very nice children. They have four fun loving grandchildren. Julia, 26 daughter of Lorraine and Tim McNeill, is a computer programmer for the *New York Times*. Julia is engaged to Bela and the ladies live in Manhattan and will marry in June 2025. Mary Katherine, their oldest has three super active teens, Katie, Emma, and Ryan. They are all champion Irish dancers. Raymond their youngest lives in Manhattan where he has had a trading business for the last 20 plus years. Barbara continues to scrapbook and is very proud to say she has completed ten years and six albums since her return to this enjoyable and beloved project. Her daughter Lorraine, who is the family historian, did a few years of research and documentation and verified that Barbara's Dad's family came to America on the Mayflower. Thus they are all now members of the Mayflower society! She continues to be very much involved and active in a wonderful charity for young families. She also takes many frequent trips to New York City. She enjoys the theater, walking, and many great lunches with family and friends. Barbara says that it would be wonderful if many of us could make it to the 2025 final Reunion.

Ann Depenbrock Holmes and David are well, living in Williamsburg, VA where David went to Law School at William and Mary years ago. Their three daughters live in Washington, DC; Scottsdale, AZ; and Williamsburg, VA. They have the joy of five grandsons and one granddaughter in college/grad school. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, remembering that 1963 Thanksgiving Day wedding ceremony mourning the loss of President John F. Kennedy. They continue to be hopeful for our country during these troubling times threatening our democracy.

Joanne Fontana Kini continues to enjoy her life in San Francisco with three of her daughters living nearby and seven grandchildren. Her very active lifestyle has been altered since she had a freak fall while walking with friends in June 2023. Joanne suffered a fractured hip and femur. With a lot of rehab and therapy, she is mobile again, but using a walker and taking lots of care when out and about. She is hoping to travel to the east coast to visit family in August, accompanied by her youngest daughter. She is grateful that she can resume many of her activities and keeps in touch with her SJC classmates by some fun text chains.

Ginny Zebrowski Komar is still upright, so that is good news. Not without some medical adventures on her part, but she is sure I could fill the column with everyone's similar tales. On a happy note for the Komars, they had three college grads this year. Emma earned her M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Seattle U. and is completing required hours to obtain multi-state licensure as a therapist. Kate graduated from NC State--Criminal Justice/Psychology and has a job with the Defense Department in DC. She will do something in security when her top secret clearance is complete in about four months. Will graduated from Gonzaga U. majored in History/Poly Sci. Not too many offers for those majors, so he is living at home, and hoping to get something soon. Megan--a sophomore at Auburn, and Ben 16, in high school. They spent a week in Hawaii this spring. But the two places on their "go to list" (Kiev and Israel) are not safe now, so they will pull out their photo albums and relive their past adventures--63 countries and 43 states!

The Class of '61 is on her prayer list, so she hopes everyone is doing well and enjoying all the time that is left to

us. May it be many years, and let's try to get to Emmitsburg in '25. Of course you all have to bring your fur stoles.

Ann Fallon Lynch is doing well after hip replacement surgery in May. She has become an expert on the use and management of rollators. She no longer needs one indoors, but really appreciates having her outdoor rollator to prevent falls. It has a day pack for necessities like an umbrella or a canned gin and tonic! In May, she spent four days at Lake Chelan in Washington State with son Brian and daughter Sheila. They enjoyed great meals, winery visits, and the spectacular scenery of the lake. For the past year, she has lived in an apartment in a senior living community. It has been a good fit as she has had sinus and hip surgery. They have scheduled their annual family visit to Palm Springs for the fall, and she is looking forward to it. They rent an Airbnb with a pool and enjoy the sunshine for a few weeks before returning to the gray of Seattle.

In May **Mary Anne Britt Murphy** moved to the Saratoga Springs, NY area to live with her youngest daughter Laura, her husband, and grandson Aidan. Aidan graduated from high school in June and will attend Siena College, Brian's alma mater. From 2017-2024, Mary Anne lived in a Lutherville, MD condo near daughter Colleen and husband Tom. Brian died 3/13/23, and the loneliness plus her difficulty ambulating (arthritis) and not feeling safe alone caused her to make the move to Saratoga Springs. This arrangement is working out well... it is just what she needed! She is getting around, just moving more slowly and with great care. She is grateful to be with Laura and able to help with little things.

Last September **Mercedes Suarez Pfeffer** revisited Portugal and Spain after more than 50 years. This September, she will revisit the Balkans (former Yugoslavia)--Dr. Povsic's birthplace! In June, she attended the graduation of granddaughter Tess from H.S. and Tess will attend the University of Georgia. Grandson Nicholas from Virginia, just returned from spending a year at Malmo University in Sweden. Mercedes keeps busy reading, visiting friends, lunches, listening to music, travelling, enjoying life to the best of her ability, and reminiscing about the wonderful times we all had together at SJC.

Margi Weidner Phillips and Jim recently celebrated their 60th anniversary. Lots of fun with the family. And the family continues to grow--grandchildren getting married and there is another great-grandchild due in September. They are still golfing in a couple of leagues--but she is definitely slowing down. Her eyesight slowly keeps developing new issues--currently getting shots in her left eye, while she waits for her right eye to heal from her second cornea transplant. Life is "fuzzy" at the moment. They have a couple of camping trips planned before the snow flies--one in Michigan and one in Canada.

Mim Murphy Quaid and Pete are still toddling around, a little shaky but moving forward. Mim still drives locally. They have the usual aches and pains but nothing terribly serious at the moment. Mim meditates, gardens, does crosswords and genealogy, reads, and goes out to lunch with friends. She also has been working on doling out her prized treasures collected through the years. Daughter Molly visits from Long Beach once a year at least, and they keep in close touch by phone, FaceTime, Zoom, etc. Mim says that life is fine and we're very grateful. She is also grateful for her years at St. Joe's, the dear friends she met along the way, and life lessons learned. She greatly admires the officers of the alumnae association who fulfilled their pledge to keep going until all classes had celebrated their 50th Reunion. They did it competently, creatively, and successfully.

Barbara Redding retired in May, 2023 from the University of South Florida School of Nursing after 48 years in various positions. She taught undergrad and graduate students in the classroom and online. She was Director of Nursing Ed. Concentration on the master's level--so prepared nurses to become educators in degree programs. Barbara received the designation of Professor Emeritus at her retirement. She continues to live in the Tampa, FL area. Barbara also taught at SJC in the nursing program from 1963-1975. We think that Barbara may be the one classmate who worked full time longer than anyone else! Congratulations to you Barbara.

Muriel Cuddy Reeves and Dan celebrated their 65th anniversary on June 27. They are still trying to process the huge number!! They still live in a condo in Teaneck, NJ, and on warm evenings enjoy having cocktails on their patio. Muriel would love to attend next year's Reunion…will see how we're doing as the date gets closer.

Judy Sparrow and Ed spend six months in Florida in their Port St. Lucie home, which enables them to have good family times together as well as being available to

each other as they continue to age along with all of us! From June to early December, they are back in their Westford, MA home which gives them the availability to be with northeast family members. They continue to enjoy golfing, although indeed they are slowing down a bit!! If all goes as planned, in August they will be enjoying a few days in Paris and a Grand Circle Rhone River cruise from Lyon to Provence, Cote d'Azur, and a few days in Toulouse.

Mary Kable Stockman still does a little gardening, hits tennis balls with a pro, volunteers at the zoo, and eats a lot of ice cream. In 2023, visits from granddaughter Gwendolyn and husband, and daughter-in-law Cindy. They will be visiting again this summer. Mary is doing more travelling than anticipated--Safari to Kenya, Road Scholar adventure to Costa Rica, and maybe the Nile in 2025. She hopes to see us all at Reunion next year.

And as for me, **Elizabeth Strezeski LaFrance**,--I miss our SJC winter reunions in Florida which we enjoyed for many years, but I love staying in touch with all of you. Please contact me if you ever visit the Sarasota area. I have been full time on Longboat Key since 2016. In Sarasota, there are numerous performances (music, dance, opera, theater, etc.) available and I am able to attend many of these with friends. Glad I can still do this! Son Edmund and wife Stacey live in New Port Richey, FL, a two hour drive just north of Clearwater. So nice to have them close by. Daughter Jeanne-Marie and partner Eric live in Baltimore, MD. JM continues at Johns Hopkins as an MSW on a medical intensive care unit, and they visit regularly.

Living on a barrier island is always iffy when storms threaten--the price you pay for housing on the Gulf of Mexico! In October I will travel with five condo friends--cruising for 12 days on the Oceania line with stops in Italy, France, Malta, Croatia, and some Greek islands.

I miss my family and friends up north and Maryland blue crabs. I hate the politics in Florida…and I strive to keep moving and cogent!! Pray for our country in these troubled and tumultuous times. Love to all.--

1962

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Carol Vessel Auth and her husband Jim moved to a retirement community in Spokane after 45 years in Great Falls, MT. They are now located close to their son Jim and his family who live in the Spokane area. Their son Erick and his family live in the Las Vegas area. Both Carol and Jim are in decent shape but are afflicted by some of the common maladies of our collective age. She writes: "When winter hits we may… fly to a warmer place." She cautions: "This may serve as a warning for those in warmer climates to keep their doors bolted."

Your class secretary **Vi Barkauskas** has spent the past year recovering from a broken hip. The recovery was complicated by severe arthritis in the same hip, and she is scheduled for a hip replacement in late August. Thus, travel has been limited since the fall although she was able to take a lovely Viking cruise on the Mississippi with a friend. From the news messages received, many classmates are managing a variety of physical issues with grace and determination, but maintain vigor and interest in family, friends, and their communities.

Martha Beaudoin moved to Albany on May 24 from Emmitsburg. She moved to be closer to her sister who lives near Binghamton, and lives in an independent living situation at an order's house there. Her health has been going down for the last 18 months, and she is less able to do what she used to do. She stopped working in December 2022 and has been concentrating on getting strength back ever since. She is down to 103 pounds but can still drive and do all her daily activities. She hopes to keep going for a few more years!

Diane Belden Brooks spends her summers in Cape May, NJ, and the winter months in Florida. She and Del bought the South Jersey home in 1972, and she was tempted to sell it after Del died in 2020 but could not part with it. She is blessed with the best of two worlds, warmth in the winter in Florida with beaches, salt air, and the sound of seagulls during Jersey summers. Despite the normal physical complaints of an octogenarian, she is very contented and grateful.

Her daughter, Dawn, and son, Chris, both have beach houses at Cape May Point which is another gift because she gets to spend time with them frequently. Chris's blended family of six children, all of whom are energetic teenagers, is delightful. Andrew, 29, Dawn's son, lives in Manhattan and visits with his friends when he can. Michael, 26, their special needs grandson, is there off and on, but after a week begins to miss his classes and activities at his school, Stewart Home School, in Frankfort, KY. He is thriving there and growing in many ways.

She is in the process of applying officially for Dual Italian Citizenship through paternal descent. She has enjoyed doing genealogy research and has discovered and connected with delightful first, second, and third cousins she never knew. They had a memorable family reunion on Lake Ontario last summer with 75 attending.

Her grandson, Elliot, has had dreams of becoming a pilot since he was seven and is applying to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach for next year. If he does go to Embry, he will be just "down the road a piece" from her home in Florida. His brother, Lucas, will be entering his first year at the same high school, St. John's Prep., Danvers, MA, in September. He is her technology guru. But aren't they all these days?

Catherine "Kitty" Dignan Chrismer's husband Mike died on July 29, 2024 after a ten-year battle with Senile Dementia. He was still trying to crack jokes, and the family knew that he cared about them. Kitty and Mike were blessed with 11 grandchildren, seven girls and four boys, and two great-grandchildren, one girl and one boy! Kitty said it has been a great life! Lots of joy and laughs along the way.

Pat Ryan Donovan again had a lovely winter in Rincón, PR. And from there, with three friends, she launched a fabulous girls' adventure to an adorable colonial town in the Andes called Barichara. It's known as the most beautiful town in Colombia, and it lived up to its name! From their Airbnb that looked like a boutique hotel with a pool, to amazing artisans on every block, to three-course meals and drinks for six for $50.00, to tiny tuk-tuks for two that took you anywhere in town for the equivalent of a dollar, it was a most memorable week. But before anyone plans to go there, be aware that it took two flights and a four-hour van ride through the Andes to get there! She will not be going back.

Her children and grands are all doing well and "me, too!" But she is in PT now for a bad back--her own fault for allowing her core to become wimpy. But, hey, it is summer on Cape Cod and lots to look forward to with friends and family coming. Pat and Diane Belden Brooks talk occasionally and enjoy their conversations. They keep in close contact (talked on the phone for over four hours the other day), and she hopes to see her in person soon. She is the same delightful "roomie" that she remembers from SJC. Diane's concluding thought--"Wherever our friends may be, I pray that God's face will smile upon the SJC Class of '62."

Maureen Monks Fazio wrote her note while looking at the whitecaps on the ocean in Long Branch, NJ. Her daughters Chris and Kari were visiting her together at the time. For 4th of July, her son Tim invited the family to watch the fireworks from his boat on the Hudson--truly a jaw dropping experience! Her sad news is that Joe passed away on January 1, 2023. They had been together for 56 years, and she did not realize just how much she would miss him each day.

She claims to have the usual variety of ailments to keep medical professionals busy in addition to one particularly good knee replacement last fall. Her older grandsons are working, Ryan in Austin and Matt in Nashville, while Joseph, 16, is lifeguarding at the town pool in Bernardsville, NJ. Brooke, 13, graduated from St. Elizabeth's in June and is on swim team and practicing volleyball skills for tryouts at Bernard's High. Maureen feels truly blessed to have family and friends in her life. She prays that classmates are doing well, and that finally we will make the effort to see each other at the final Reunion!

Vivian Wojcik Kurilla had to stop online literacy tutoring the second year of COVID because poor hearing made it impossible to understand most of the students, especially those with face coverings or hands in front of mouths. Since then, she has been vegetating at home. In June she tripped and fell in her house and injured her neck. It was getting better, but then she went shopping and it got worse. After two weeks she got a CAT scan and fractures in C1 and C2 vertebrae were discovered. She is now in a large neck brace to hold her neck immobile until September at the earliest.

After 45 years **Eugenia (Jean) Brady Wrona** and her husband Dennis moved to a condominium near their children. She could not face another season of yard work! Their new address is: 10 Braeburn Ln., Ashland,

MA. They have been there since November and are still getting settled. Jean's health has been good except for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and arthritis. She has less and less energy every year but feels lucky not to have anything more serious. She hopes classmates are well.

1963

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SJC '63 united in spirit and in friendship…we have lots to report, from so many of our friends.

Richard and **Susie Boland Southwell** now live in an over-55 apartment in Clarksburg, MD. Every summer they take their entire family to Emerald Isle, NC for a week. The crew--their three grown children, Kim, Chris, and Jeff along with 11 grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. Carly is the oldest granddaughter and Oncology Nurse Educator at Holy Cross hospital. Victoria and Diana are the other two nurses, one at Children's Hospital in the PICU and the other a travel nurse.

Susie retired at age 70 after a career with the federal government working as a nurse. She was the Deputy Medical Director for the Peace Corps for 12 years and ended her nursing career working in a Family Medical practice.

Even after bilateral hip replacement, Susie goes to the gym three times a week and often returns to the family home to do some gardening. They are both blessed with good health, a wonderful family, and friends. She loved her time at SJC and credits the good sisters with preparing her for an amazing nursing career and life skills!!

Bill and **Sheila Degnan McCarron** were married in November of 1963, and settled in Washington where Bill started a career of public service in the federal government. Sheila still lives in the Springfield, VA home they built in 1968. Both were from Connecticut, and they met on a trip back to MSM/SJC. They were blessed with three wonderful and inspiring children: Bill Jr. a Mount graduate, married to Tammy, and the parents to two grandchildren. Colleen McKenna and Rick live in Boston where she is the national Sports Architect Director for Cannon Design. Michael owns Image Works Landscaping, is married to Cathy and the father of two McCarron granddaughters.

The focus of their family activities always revolved around the time at the family cottage in Guilford, CT, now being rebuilt after 89 years. From their earliest years, the same traditions were passed on to their four grandchildren: Joshua, an MSM graduate, Lauren, JMU nursing graduate, Lindsay, a senior at JMU School of Business, and Jenna, a junior at Longwood University in Criminal Justice.

Sheila credits SJC for the expansion of knowledge of our church and faith, encountering Christ in new ways that led her in lifelong roles of lay leadership. The memories and lessons of life she shared with **Sue Cairnes, Kaywood Fuqua,** and **Rosemary Marquette** are with her today.

An Army nurse, our dear Kaywood went directly to Vietnam after graduation. The war touched many others. **Kathy Johnson Raby'**s Tom served in the Air Force for six years. **Maureen Lynch Gucciard**'s husband Mike was in Vietnam from '68 to '69. A**nn Walsh Tedesco'**s husband, an Air Force pilot, flew dangerous extra combat missions. The Kristin Hannah book T*he Women* prompted our Zoom discussions.

Mimi Chesley-Cora has been a pianist in the Parish of the Resurrection in Wilmington, DE for 42 years. Her dear George passed away in 2014 after 36 years of marriage. Now Mimi has been adopted by the Graney Clan since she is "Companion on the Journey" with Joe, a co-parishioner and patriarch of a large family whose wife also had Parkinson's.

At SJC, Mimi followed the Jones family tradition--all five of her Mom's sisters attended the boarding high school. Sister Margaret Flinton encouraged her as a French major, then Mimi later received her MA and taught French for eight years.

At SJC she learned life lessons and making good choices. "Our loving God continues to care for us in new and surprising ways…I know that is true for those who have gone before us…they continue to be 'where we are' in new ways!!!"

Neal and **Jane Metze Freeman** live on Amelia Island, FL, escaping the brutal heat in the mountains of North Carolina on Lake Toxaway. Their oldest son Mac, recently retired as Chief Business Officer of the Denver Broncos. Daughter Lily, a University of Colorado graduate, works in Los Angeles. An engineering major, James will graduate from University of Colorado next year. Jack Freeman is at Chapman College in Los Angeles studying Art and Music.

Second son James is Assistant Editor of the Editorial Page of the *Wall Street Journal* with a daily digital column *Best of the Web*. Son Will graduated from Wake Forest University with honors and is finishing up first year of Medical School at Rowan Medical School, NJ. Neal B. Freeman II will graduate this December from Purdue University majoring in Engineering. Both younger ones are lacrosse players. Jane in freshman year at Johns Hopkins University on the university team, and Jack a sophomore at Summit High School in the New Jersey State Finals.

Jane's daughter Kate lives nearby in Florida and manages her own tutoring service. Harry will study engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. Brother Hank plays football and basketball in St. Augustine.

Jane has vivid, heartwarming memories of SJC. "The band of women who comprised our class continues, when possible, to gather at Reunion to show our faithfulness. But we gather together in our memories, in any case."

From **Ann Kirby Clark**, who was with us freshman year, comes the good news that "in my mind you all never aged a day since my last campus visit when Dave and I made a quick stop on our way to the Poconos after our wedding in 1962."

Ann volunteers at the local Historical Society, and enjoyed an April cruise on the Mississippi with daughter Beth from Memphis to New Orleans.

Youngest granddaughter Sydney is still in school; her sister graduated from Stonehill in May and began her career at an accounting firm. Beth's youngest graduated from Roger Williams with her Master's in Architecture and has a project manager job at Quinnipiac University. David, the only boy, is working for a credit union and acting.

"One year was all it took for a lifetime of memories. All Together!"

Ann Knowles Harmon reports that both of her children are happy, Patty in her single life and son John and wife Teresa blessing her with three grandchildren. Autumn, an honors OU graduate, teaches Spanish in Centerville, OH. Lorlei and Charlotte both compete in dancing events. Ann loves watching her granddaughters dance and develop into beautiful, responsible people.

Ann was always interested in the "why" of things, the reason she taught med-surg nursing, research, and leadership at the university level. After a serious auto accident in the '90s, she sought alternative treatment. Ann became certified in several energy modalities, but mainly as an Emotion/Body Code practitioner as well as a F.I.X. Code practitioner which she continues today.

"The time at St. Joe's gave me gifts that are priceless--critical thinking, perseverance, an ability to rise above the moment, a solid foundation of knowledge to build nursing and life on, and self-reliance. In addition, I found life-long friends and fond memories."

Eileen Nead Riley, her husband, and both children live in East Greenbush, NY. Her son and his family are only seven miles away, and her daughter is just a bit more. They feel so lucky that the families are close and get together regularly for picnics, dinners, and pizza parties at their pool.

Eileen has three grandchildren. The oldest will begin his clinicals in August for a doctorate in PT. Her granddaughter will be a junior at Western New England University as a biomedical student. And the youngest is going into his senior year in high school. Eileen works out at the YMCA and enjoys Mahjong too. Last year, she had a great trip to Hawaii with the Senior Group.

The mountain town Ruidoso in southern New Mexico, recently destroyed by wildfire, was a lovely town 90 miles north of Alamogordo where Una, Terry, and **Tobie Gibbons** would often visit when they volunteered there. This is where Tobie developed an intense love of the Southwest and her people.

Later, Tobie worked as a reporter for a small newspaper, moved to New York City, then came back to DC to work on the Hill as a lobbyist. Still unsure what she wanted to do, she decided to go to law school at age 40, at night after work and graduated six years later. One Christmas, she volunteered at an American Bar Association project in Harlingen, TX, on the southern border representing detained people who were fleeing persecution. Tobie knew her path--moving to Texas and becoming director of the project for three years. Until her retirement in 2014 and as a volunteer afterward, Tobie has continued in the field, and is so grateful to have found meaningful work, and such inspiring people through immigration law. "I thank St. Joe's for leading me to Alamogordo and for influencing my decisions throughout my life."

OTHER NEWS:

At Christmas Matt and **Alanna Higgins McHugh** sent a wonderful photo of their entire family. They renewed their family tradition, a cruise to Bermuda, with their three children, Kelli, Alanna, and Meg and all their Buckman, Stubblebine, and Klein grandchildren. Alanna's sister Pat (SJC '64) and her daughters joined them too.

Our record holder, **Maxine Wallish Gorman** has seven children and 25 grandchildren with great-grandchildren still coming. She hosts most of the family for the holidays and prepares the food herself.

Tina High Goldsmith's granddaughter Riley passed her instrument rating, and her goal is to fly with her dad, Rog, a captain with American Airlines. Mother of three, Tina has five grandchildren. Frequent travellers, Tina and her sister Brenda will meet in Milan in October for another travel adventure.

For our gracious Zoom hostess, **Sue Garner McNulty** biking is an Olympic endeavor. On a Road Scholars trip in the fall, Sue will bike the Katy Trail across Missouri, with more than 175 miles in five days. At home, Sue walks five miles daily and trains on her bike. Sue represented our class on the SJCAA Committee commemorating the college in the vestibule of the MSM School of Health Professions in the former provincial house. The monthly Zooms are an important, vibrant link for all of us, thanks to Sue.

Ronnie Carroll Donnelly's grandson Liam will graduate from the University of Kansas, return to Tulsa to prepare for MCAT exams before continuing his studies. She sent a great photo with her daughter Sarah, at Indian Wells watching all the tennis. Ronnie is back to her 65+ league after recuperating from an Achilles tendon tear.

Beth Hollander Williams commends her young granddaughter for adapting so well to the scoliosis brace she will have to wear for several years. Luckily, they live close by. Beth joins all our Zooms with that dazzling smile.

Andy Brophy Marchal and Bill spend the winter in Florida with frequent visits from their children's families. Their five children and their families live in Indiana, Massachusetts, Brooklyn, and Manhattan.

Claire Baril Green has 13 grandchildren in Ohio and Virginia. The whole family vacations in Surf City, NC every summer and spends several other holidays together.

Margaret Collins Ervin and all her family, 30 strong, will vacation again this summer on Ocracoke Island.

Ellen Caulfield White travels to son Danny's Virginia home twice a year at least to visit Casey and Addie. Ellen lives in Texas near her daughter Julie and family.

Cathy Parrott Kryzanauskas enjoys her two young granddaughters. Friends since high school, she and **Mariellen Halberstadt Marchione** keep in close touch.

Mary Lou Spurrier recently contacted **Claudette Coulon Thibodeaux**'s family. She is still in the memory care facility in Fairfax, VA. Her daughter lives in Fairfax and is able to visit frequently.

In June, **Susan Williamson Swartz, Mary Ellen Gill Purkis, Joan Codey Durkin, Maureen Codey Caputo** and I had a long-awaited lunch together. We were just so happy to be together! Mary Ellen's family visits often at Lantern Hill, and they will all spend summer days on Long Beach Island. Joan expects to retire in August, lives down the shore in Point Pleasant, enjoying lots of time with her large family. Maureen helps with Delaney and Shane, the youngest grandchildren, plays pickleball, participates in the food bank in her community, and enjoys lots of family activities. Susan's two oldest granddaughters, Alex and Sam, are engineers in New York City, and Matt just graduated from Scranton University. Recently Samantha was engaged with a wedding planned in October 2025.

An MSM/SJC friendship since graduation, Jim and I really enjoy our visits with Chuck and Mimi Ratke Cochran (SJC '64) when we are all in Ocean City, MD together. We have had so many happy days with our family--Laura and Sean, Matt and Lisa, and Karen and Vic. Our seven grandchildren are launched. Fortunately, we were able to attend Matt's wedding in Oklahoma City with the entire crew. Our oldest, he is an F-16 pilot with the USAF, recently stationed in Alamogordo. Livvy, James, and Ben are already college graduates while Kate, Tom, and Nick are still studying. We are close to them all.

We remember our dear '63 friends in our Prayerful Remembrance, and their loved ones as well. **Please Plan to Attend Reunion 2025! Time together enriches us all.** This final SJCAA Reunion will be a most memorable time to be together as the Class of '63, cherishing our friendships and honoring our legacy with all SJCiennes.

1964

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What a great 60th Reunion we had! Twenty-eight classmates were present for all or part of the weekend, and the memories flowed continuously. From the enthusiastic comments I received, everyone felt as I did--it was wonderful!

Heather Laird Martin put it well, "I just cannot express how beautiful and meaningful our 60th Reunion was. It was a gathering for the ages, and I'm sorry for those of you who were not able to attend. We missed you!" Heather and Howard are happy that they moved to a continuing care community and are enjoying the benefits of community living--healthcare, dear friends, more activities than they can manage, and no cooking. (That last idea works for me.) They love living vicariously through their kids and five grandkids. Hilary, their daughter who lost her husband last year, is doing rather well, and Heather thanks all who prayed for her family and sent loving thoughts during Nathan's illness.

Another Reunion enthusiast is **Jackie Jermyn Azzarto**. Among the things she most enjoyed were "…seeing all my classmates, having stimulating conversations, and touring our beautiful campus…" Jackie, still living in Florida, continues with the Treasure Coast Community Singers and also spends a lot of time and energy writing grants for the group. After putting together a 58-page document for that purpose, the state governor vetoed all arts and culture grants two days before the start of the fiscal year. Jackie and her team are understandably frustrated and were brainstorming other possible funding sources. She's in pretty good health except for balance issues, and she still does jigsaw puzzles, knits Christmas presents (socks this year), reads historical fiction, and hosts Italian dinner parties. She visits family and was planning a trip to Cape Cod, Hoboken, and Seattle later in the summer.

Also in Florida, **Cookie Kaheny Costanzo** and Joe have no news but are keeping a low profile in this time of political turmoil. She, as well as Jackie, sends love to all of our classmates.

Chuck and **Mimi Ratke Cochran** spent February and March in St. Augustine, FL and while there were treated to a wonderful Italian dinner at the home of Cookie and Joe. Mimi says that Joe loves to cook and is great at it! **Pat Higgins Brennan** visited the Cochrans during their time in Florida. Last fall Mimi and Chuck attended a family wedding in New York's Hudson Valley and on the way home visited with Jim and Ellen Krieger Smelas (SJC '63), and farther along stopped to see **Lee Ann Clement Frankel** and Bruce in their home in Belmar, NJ. In addition, the Cochrans are now great-grandparents to Griffin, son of their granddaughter Natalie and her husband.

Margaret Weld Whelan said that there's not much new except that she got a new knee in January. Her husband has some health issues with difficulty getting around, but as she says, age does that. I think we can all relate.

Marian Weld Oviedo's newest endeavor is to open an Airbnb in the building that used to house her husband's medical office. Mountain View Cottage was expected to be ready by mid-July. Skiing, a water park, and Shenandoah National Park are nearby. It sounds delightful! Marian and Raul have had lots of family visit this summer, which is always fun.

Rita Welty Bourke's oldest granddaughter graduated from high school, salutatorian in a class of 800, and is now off to college. Histria books accepted Rita's third book, *A Stone from the River Rhine*, which will be published in the fall of 2025, and which concerns the founding of the Welde family in America, and she's

working hard on her fourth, *Neptune's Journey*. The latter is based on the true story of a black man who undertakes a journey of nearly 500 miles to bring the body of his master, killed at Fredericksburg, home to St. Simon's Island. Before he reaches Savannah, the Emancipation Proclamation is issued and he is now a free man. Rita's daughters are all animal lovers: Allyson lives in Trout Lake, WA and owns a retirement farm for horses; Leslie lives in Portland, OR, builds web pages for businesses, and recently started an on-line store selling cat paraphernalia; and Kelley teaches at Auburn's veterinary school. In 2016, Rory wrote a song for Randy Travis called *More Life* that has recently been re-released, and Travis is now on what he calls the "More Life Tour." Unfortunately, Rory took a spill walking downhill in the park, but he is recovering slowly.

According to **Bev Jones Wyatt**, the Wyatt clan had an amazing year. Their son received an award for philanthropy in New York, and the family is justifiably proud. The grandkids have been studying around the world--Thailand, Rome, Poland. Jack graduated from UCLA (pre-med) and Raymond (pre-law). She says the "ole folks" are doing well.

Claire Maurer has been staying mostly at her condo in Ocean City, and despite the horrible heat inland, the beach has been comfortable due to good breezes. She's getting ready to leave for Iceland where she will spend two days in Reykjavik, then board a ship which will stop at locations on the north and west sides of Iceland and cross the Arctic Circle. Claire has finished editing the Reunion photos for *The Valley Echo*. She is also serving as the lead for a small committee working with a lawyer to manage the legal requirements for dissolving the alumnae association, a sad but necessary task. She is looking forward to the mini-reunion in September.

Mary Rocks' twin brother Tom died on April 1, 2024, the day after their 82nd birthdays. There was a funeral Mass for him in Portland, OR, where he lived, and there will also be a Mass for him on September 28th in Waynesboro, PA, and he will be buried in the family plot. Mary continues to live in the home that the Rocks family moved in to when Mary and Tom were four months old. She says there's always something there to keep her busy in addition to the numerous doctor appointments that come with this stage of our lives. Mary's sister Angela, who I believe is also an SJC grad, lives nearby in Nursing Home Village in independent living right now.

Anne McAllister LaBoon has had a challenging year so far. A problem with her foot sidelined her for six months but she is grateful that the issue has been resolved. She's waiting for her orthotic and new tie shoes that will allow her to be more active and return to her normal routine. Also this year, Anne lost her long-time friend Donna, who was like family. On the brighter side, she is still involved with the Walking With Purpose Bible study group. The meetings are interesting and friendships have developed, which makes it twice as rewarding. Anne has been our class's representative to the committee that has planned how to keep the legacy of St. Joe's alive in the vestibule, lobby, and street marker of the MSM School of Health Professions in the old provincial house. I saw a preview of their work, and they've done an outstanding job!

I recently was surprised by a delightful phone call from **Kathy Troilo Mawn**. On July 5th, Kathy and Rusty moved from St. Mary's, GA to Glen Allen, VA, near Richmond where their daughter Kathryn's family--including two grandchildren, ages two and six--live. You may recall that Kathy grew up in Culpeper, VA, and now she and her siblings are all within an hour and a half of each other. Her oldest son is a surgeon and EMT in Denver and was named one of the top ten docs in that city. Not long before their move, Kathy and Rusty travelled to Denver to attend a granddaughter's wedding. They also have two great-grandchildren, ages seven and eight, who live in Zurich. They still have three children living in Georgia. On the day of their actual move, while furniture and assorted boxes were being carried into the house, a neighbor walked in singing "All Together." It turns out that the Mawn's across-the-street neighbor is none other than **Patty McCartney Dotter**. Talk about a small world!

And from Massachusetts, **Kathy Smith Donovan** reported that she and Frank moved from their home of 49 years in Granby to the next town and are now living in a condo. Colleen and Michael, their daughter and son-in-law, live in Bristol, VT with no children but many rescue grands. Son Christopher and his wife Allison have two boys, Tyler and Chase. Tyler is a junior at Tufts and Chase is a junior at the Catholic boys' school in their area. Frank is no longer able to travel but Kathy still has the travel bug, so she and a good friend are going to South Africa in October.

Continuing with the "Kathys," **Kathy Flanagan Huber** and Jim are in Cincinnati near their son and his family but they still miss Louisville. They enjoy the family

that's nearby, especially the granddaughters who are into swimming, dance, tennis, and assorted other activities. Kathy said that their daughter-in-law, who we prayed for, had her one year MRI, and all is still clear. Thank God! The Hubers made a trip to Chicago for their youngest grandson's high school graduation, and that was a fun time. He will go to the University of Missouri, and his older brother will coach football at a school outside of Nashville. Their oldest grandson is in the Seals and is deployed to parts unknown, which is a worry. His brother is studying at the Baptist seminary in Louisville and is to be married next spring. Kathy and Jim haven't done any travelling besides the trip to Chicago but they keep busy reading (Kathy) and gardening and working puzzles (Jim).

Pat Troller Seagreaves had lots of good news. She has ten grandchildren, and most of them are over 20 years of age. (Beth's boys are ten and 16.) Grandson Charlie will attend Wilkes University in Pennsylvania. He ended his high school track year by taking New Jersey Group One first place on the relay team as well as the fastest score. Madison graduated with honors in nursing at Widener University, and her first job will be on the same oncology floor where Pat's Beth (and Maddie's godmother) received most of her treatments. Grandson Tom will be the first grandchild to be married, and that will be on September 1st of this year. Pat wrote that her mom reached the age of 105 in March and is as healthy and "still with it" as possible. A true Irish joy!

Muff Van Ogtrop Locraft says she is doing fine except for a bum knee which will be fixed up soon enough. She is blessed with her wonderful husband Matt and their five children and 12 grandchildren who all live within a half-hour of them. Muff also spoke glowingly of Reunion. It truly was a wonderful time!

As for the Jones family, Mike and I are doing well except for a reduction in mobility, which seems to be a common complaint among us octogenarians. Our son-in-law Jerry continues his fight against lung cancer, having chemo every three weeks. He is a real trooper and seems to be holding his own, but he's not out of the woods yet and so all prayers are gratefully accepted. Our oldest grandchild Susannah, an Episcopal priest, was installed as priest-in-charge (pastor) in her parish in April and is thriving in her ministry. Jack, our Marine, recently "re-upped" for another few years, and he's hoping to be deployed soon. He's the only one who's not nervous about that possibility. No graduations this year, which seems strange as we had so many last year.

Everyone who shared news with me sends their love to the class. Next year is our final SJC Reunion (April 3-6, 2025) before we become part of the Mount Alumni Association. PLEASE try to come so that we can be "All Together" one more time!!!!!

Much love to all! Mary Lou.

1965

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It's been a very hot summer in the southland with too many sunny days to dry out gardens and lawns. My poor tomatoes are half-cooked before I can pick them!

Sad news first: we lost another classmate in May. **Kathleen (Kathy) O'Brien Poplowski** passed away on May 24th in Boston. During our college years, she was one of the New Englanders who travelled home by rail for the holidays. Kathy, her husband Joe Poplowski MSM '64, and their family settled in New Jersey then retired to Aiken, SC. Joe passed away in 2010.

Jean Tierney Terza is looking forward to great-grandchildren now that her oldest grandson was married in May. She is planning to be at our 60th Reunion in April. Jean's daughter's fiancé was killed in a head-on crash after Thanksgiving. Her daughter suffered a mild stroke two months later and is still struggling to regain some skills. Jean asks for prayers for her daughter and family.

Margaret Keil Sottosanti and husband John travelled to the east coast to attend their grandson's graduation from Yale. They used the opportunity to visit Emmitsburg and Gettysburg. Margaret enjoyed seeing what had been done with SJC campus by FEMA. She was especially impressed by the monument honoring the 9/11 firefighters. A tour of the Seton Shrine brought back memories. "Back in the sixties, I didn't appreciate being in the place where the first American-born* saint lived and worked, but I sure do now."

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is the first American named Saint--St. Katherine/Kateri Tekawitha is the first American-born Saint.*

Ellen Pida Mathis plans to attend Reunion 2025. Ellen has made adjustments to her lifestyle now that she is 80+ and is decreasing her driving. She's been living in the Belmont Shore area of Long Beach for 45 years. She is close to a number of conveniences including a bank, hair salon, pharmacy, and an ACE hardware store. Ellen volunteers at three nonprofit organizations in Long Beach area during cooler weather. Her health is good with "no major complaints." She was looking forward to a family visit in Fort Worth, TX to celebrate her great-grandchild's first birthday during the summer.

Nancy Boemanns Fratini has "lots to be grateful for." Husband Al has adjusted well to Assisted Living facility, and Amy and Nancy visit almost every day. Amy continues to be a challenge but Nancy is hopeful they will find a more appropriate day program for her. Nancy "couldn't do it without the community that the Lord has provided for me...it definitely takes a village!"

It's summer and **Dede Koudelka Rogers** has guests galore. Grandson Noah graduated from Bible College in Milwaukee and family was gathered for the celebration. Noah and his fiancée Leah will be married on the 20th of July on Emerald Isle, NC. The couple will settle in Spokane. Family from near and far are expected for the wedding. Dede anticipated she may need some "blow-up beds" to accommodate everyone. She knows it is a blessing they are together for a happy time. A short email from **Sr. Carol Czyzewski** included plans to travel to her annual family gathering in Oregon. She had recently attended a very informative presentation at a Buffalo bookstore about Martin Sostre and Geraldine Robinson Pointer. She suggested we Google the names and learn about efforts being made to exonerate them from previous wrongs. Continuing classes in Polish are also part of her summer schedule.

Mary Beth (MB) Boisseree McDonell met **Didi Bremer Corrigan** for lunch in May. Didi was in Virginia for her granddaughter's graduation. She and MB met at an Irish pub in Fairfax for lunch. In June, **Betsy O'Brien Marron** drove out to Manassas and also met MB for lunch. They plan to meet at the National Gallery of Art (DC) in July. Mary Beth enjoyed a trip to California in the spring to visit son Brendan and family. An additional jaunt to Florida in March added to her travels. Her mantra: "You are not too old and it's never too late." **Noreen Collins Martin** summed up her busy life by sharing her family has "pitched their tents in Darien, Park City, Hingham, Ponte Vedra Beach, and Bethesda. She keeps her United Airlines card "at the ready" and is grateful "all is reasonably well."

Kathy Murphy Clarke is doing well and making adjustments such as "cooking for one." She walks two miles a day and leads a stretch class twice a week. She recently returned from a trip to Ireland. She and one of her daughters, a granddaughter, nieces, and spouses had an enjoyable tour. A bridge refresher course encouraged Kathy to take up the game again. She remembers "playing in the Pines with Msgr. Kline." She was off to Kansas City in July for the "white coat" ceremony for granddaughter Clare who will start medical school at Kansas University. Kathy is planning on Reunion 2025 "as long as the health god continues to shine on me."

Carolyn Walker Rathman and husband Gene are still RVing and travelling to visit or rendezvous with relatives and family. Husband Gene was thrown off a golf cart when visiting an RV dealership. She said the salesman got a "little over-enthusiastic" getting the car started and it started with a jolt which caused Gene to fall off the back and land with a jolt. A trip to Missouri is on the calendar for September.

Karen Langer Carr enjoyed a pre-Reunion warm-up when she visited her daughter and family in Maryland. The family lives in New Windsor and Karen's daughter teaches at Mt. Airy Middle School. Her entire family will be gathering in South Carolina later in July for a "family reunion." While in Maryland, Karen and her family members went to Emmitsburg where she prayed many of us would be "all together" for our special reunion. Unfortunately, she tested positive for COVID when she got home and ended up with COVID-induced pneumonia. "With much good care plus many, many prayers I am doing very well." She feels her visit to St. Elizabeth Seton's Shrine carried her through.

My class news partner **Mary Brandon Rummele** enjoyed two months in Florida earlier this year. Daughter Margo and granddaughter Frances drove down with them then flew back home. A former AFS exchange student from Costa Rica and his wife were visiting in Florida at that same time and they were fortunate to see them again when they came to Venice for an overnight. They enjoyed a pleasant visit from Mary's sister Pat and her husband Tom who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Tom is living in his own peaceful

world. Daily walks on the beach filled their days. Mary is recovering from hip replacement surgery; carpel tunnel repair is next. OH dear! It's patch, patch, patch time! Twin grandchildren graduated from college and are part of the working world. Granddaughter Libby is making use of her Graphic Arts major and working in Oshkosh. Another granddaughter Frances earned a degree in Wildlife Ecology and is working at Wisconsin's Peninsula State Park. Grandson Sam is a college junior this fall and was interning with the city engineer in his hometown during the summer. Mary and John's son Matt and his partner Mark were expected during the summer. They were warned they would need their Parkas because Phoenix is well above 100 degrees daily and the Wisconsin mornings are closer to 65 degrees!

There was earlier news from classmates at Christmas. **Judy McGrath Brenner** and Vince re-located and are back in Louisiana. It had been a challenging year for Vince at that time with multiple health issues. On the bright side, they are great-grandparents with a new little boy joining the family. The grandchildren are growing up with college students, college grads, and some "out in the world doing their thing".

Ann Smith Flynn and Pat were temporarily living in Hudson, OH where both of their daughters live. Ann had open heart surgery in August of last year and was "just about recovered" at Christmas time. Pat has developed some mobility issues. Ann wrote they were likely to be at the Hudson address through January. **Cindy Crawford Cannon** was on her way to Colorado to be with her "boys" during the holidays. She is looking forward to the BIG reunion in 2025!

Margo Honey Keesler sent a card filled with wonderful photos of Margo enjoying her family and the coastal outdoors. Didi Bremer Corrigan's entire family and close friends came together to celebrate Didi's 80th! "Four days in the Keys," and a fun party hosted by her three girls (Jen, Natalie, and Tina) made the celebration "a dream come true" for the Birthday Girl who wore a tiara in one of the pictures.

Barb Gaver visits Emmitsburg frequently to see her aunt Sister Mary Carroll Eby who is 95 years old. **Cathy Scovitch Walsh**'s Christmas card included a note "there are so many happy memories of St. Joseph... glad we had such a great experience." **Anne Nichols Gildea** and Jim are reasonably healthy and enjoying life at Harbor's Edge. She and Jim expected both daughter Sarah and son James for Christmas. She would "dearly love one more visit to SJC."

For **Mary Ann Dore Carlson** and husband Rick, 2023 had been a year of "ups and downs." Daughter Monica and husband are now in Herndon, VA after a four-year tour in Rabat, Morocco. Mary Ann's husband Rick had surgery in September and a serious medicine mistake set him back drastically. He needed additional time in the hospital and was still having therapy when she wrote.

There was some overdue news from one of our California Girls--(Patricia) **Patty Healy Goldman**. Patty bought a condo in San Jose del Cabo and was headed to Idaho for Christmas with her son, daughter-in-law, and their three children on their cattle ranch. The get-together would coincide with a special celebration marking grandson Wesley's engagement. "All is good with me and my family." She added "I remember fondly my college years..."

Karen Pingicer Rafalko is adjusting to a quiet house and missing Frank. She had a busy year travelling. She toured Paris with her daughter Heather then climbed Mont-Saint-Michel (a bucket-list goal!). Heather turned her over to Eric and they went to Madeira, a Portuguese island. She returned home for grandchildren's graduations and planned to travel again with a friend to Scotland, Ireland, and Iceland.

Kay Ehringer Mufalli had a wonderful trip to Spain and Portugal with Kim and her husband. She was anticipating another European jaunt to Italy later in the summer. She is still the Hollyhock Gardener and we both complained about the hot summer. As Kay shared earlier at Christmas: "we [all] have had good lives and hope they continue." **Birdie Garvie Hummell** has settled into her new Texas care community. Her daughter Gretchen is nearby and reports Birdie is happy and doing well. She enjoys getting out with Gretchen and making quick stops all over town. At this point, she loves Coffee Ice Cream, singing, and making people laugh. She has difficulties using her watch, her phone, or anything related to communication.

Barbara Wixted Hayes enjoyed a special 80th birthday treat. Her daughter and son-in-law took her to France and they had a grand time. Her husband has had two back surgeries and he simply could not do the walking required during the trip to France. She hopes to see everyone at our 60th! **Dee (Dolores) O'Connor Cosquer** is "going to try my diamond BEST to be there for 2025!"

Anne Sachett Payne sent a lengthy Christmas letter with family news as well as a reunion in Hagerstown. She celebrated her 80th in September with her sister Susan and brother-in-law Bruce. They and other friends enjoyed a splendid gathering at a historic venue. "The day featured glorious weather and we watched the sous chef gather herbs and veggies from the adjacent garden for a special meal." She's busy with Tai Chi classes and assists young hockey players (The Flames) with their academic subjects. The young players are working long hard hours in hopes of becoming hockey professionals.

Charlie and I continue to be blessed with reasonably good health. Two new great-grandchildren arrived in 2023 and a granddaughter's wedding is planned for fall 2025. I am keeping my fingers crossed about attending the SJC 60th. Let's keep well and continue praying for each other. Remember Mary and I want to hear from **you**!

1966

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Judy Brittingham Ward and husband Bill vacationed at their Bethany Beach cottage in the summer and marveled at the many new houses and additional traffic. Their youngest grandson who turned 13 visited with them. Although doing well, she and Bill--like most of us--have many doctors. As Judy said, "I think we have a doctor for each part of our bodies." A few years ago, they moved to the Lutheran Village at Miller's Grant in Howard County, MD, which is expanding facilities to include another wing, chapel, and memory care unit.

Last spring, **Diane White** lunched with **Mary Patterson Falchi** at the Barking Mad Cafe in Gaithersburg, MD. Mary was visiting her oldest daughter who had been in DC for a year while her husband was stationed at Ft. Myers. In June, her husband was transferred to Hawaii.

Congratulations to **Mary Furey Keenan**'s grandson, 15-year-old Jimmy Bianco, on his baseball team's winning Maryland's Cal Ripken and New York-Connecticut's Mid Hudson tournaments. Her granddaughter, 12-year-old Addie Devery, played the role of Elsa in Frozen in Newton, CT. In August, her 80th birthday present from son Chris and wife Lana was watching horse racing at Saratoga, NY.

Melinda Bloom and hubby John headed to Flagstaff, AZ in late August for the 50th wedding anniversary celebration of friends. After the party they drove to Winslow, AZ (headquarters of the Santa Fe Railroad) for a stay at the famous La Posada Hotel, considered by many to be the most beautiful building in the Southwest (see laposada.org). The architect, Mary Colter, gained prominence for combining Spanish Colonial and Mission Revivals with Native American and Rustic motifs, and considered the hotel, that opened in 1930, her masterpiece. August 6 was happy feet day for Melinda! She was able to wear sneakers all day on both feet for the first time in 2024 due to surgery. Thanks to daughter Sharon's generosity, Melinda, class Zoom czar, continues to keep us All Together. With monthly, online video visits in the comfort of our homes, Melinda is the mistress of ceremonies as we share musings about family, friends, books and challenges of aging. For the last four years, we have watched one another age (literally) while pondering the mysteries of life.

For **Mary Tarozzi Windley** turning 80 was a family affair with all of her children, spouses, and seven of her nine grandchildren celebrating in Williamsburg, VA. Then she journeyed to York, PA for more celebrating with her sister at her convent. Later in the summer, she rode to New Jersey for a mini reunion with high school friends. Back home to recuperate, Mary remained thankful for manageable health and the ability to drive the beltways in the DC, Baltimore, and Philadelphia areas.

Organizer extraordinaire **Kathleen Smith Franke** took time from gardening at St. Anne's and working with the food bank to arrange the 15th Class of '66 Beach Reunion. The first was in Salisbury, MD and the rest have been in Bethany Beach, DE. In September, **Betty Depenbrock Martin**, Judy Ward, **Jane Davis Marden**, and Kathleen hosted 12 more classmates in their Bethany Beach homes for three days of movable feasting and making memories. Kathleen is also committed to her Zoom exercise classes stressing cardio and strength. Her grandson Ryan graduated from Southern Illinois University in 2024. He currently has a summer internship at MAT Holdings near Chicago. Kathleen's granddaughter Alyssa is spending her junior year in Florence, Italy as part of her Fashion Merchandising degree at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. Another granddaughter and sister of Ryan and Alyssa, Cassie, is a sophomore at Columbia College in Chicago.

Maureen Mullin Klein is thrilled to be going to Granada, Spain in October. Maureen will be the guest

of Cosentino, cosentino.com, a purveyor of high-end, kitchen and home natural stone surfaces. As part of the Experience Japan Fair sponsored by the International Furnishings and Design Association that she coordinated, Cosentino hosted the closing party, Arigato Tomodachi. She wrote a follow-up, 42-page magazine (https://ifda.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Network_SpecialJapanIssue-min.pdf) for the fair, and, as a result, Cosentino issued her an invitation for a trip to Spain.

In addition to friends and family, Jane Davis Marden enjoys her dogs, tennis, and horses. She has been volunteering at a horse rescue near Leesburg, VA for more than a decade. She grows gardenias and other flowering plants at her townhouse in Falls Church, VA. Helping those in need with their resumes has been a gratifying and creative experience. Son Michael and grandson Davis live close by. Davis will be a senior at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA this fall, majoring in Computer Information Systems and minoring in Cyber Security.

1967

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Greetings to members of the Class of 1967. As we approach our final two publications of *The Valley Echo*, we suggested that you include memories of our college days in place of and/or in addition to your current news. We received some wonderful memories and stories of our days at St. Joe's, captured and related very well by a few of our classmates. No doubt, these will evoke some smiles and perhaps, some gentle shakings of the head for the "way things were" in those days. There has been great change in college life over the past 57 years. But, as we look back with the perspective of our years of living, many will agree that we had it *good*, despite some of the hilarious restrictions typical of Catholic girls' schools in those times. Due to our space limitations, we have mostly summarized with some parts related in quotes.

Mary Rosenberger Lynch wrote a wonderful letter, packed with what she called a "smattering of memories which come to mind." Those *smatterings* include: the Daughters of Charity and their coronets…getting up early to study…special meals planned and prepared in Freshman Foods class…living in the Home Management House—"*When you educate a woman, you educate a family!*"…getting ears pierced by an upper-classman (the ice cube method!)…walking the gauntlet for mixers at the Mount; "First boyfriend at the Mount; second boyfriend at the Mount; no boyfriend at the Mount!" A few years later, she "met the right one and it was great when it happened." Mary also mentioned knitting a sweater for a friend at the Mount who didn't last but her husband wore it…and...he still uses the Coffee Hound mug given to Mary by her big sister. Other memories included cherishing the lifelong friendships made in those years, especially with three of her roommates who stayed together for all four years.

Suzanne Geho Rymer shared the memories of JFK's assassination in our freshman year; riding the Rosensteel bus to DC to pay tribute to the slain president; listening on a small battery-operated radio about the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald and then, hearing of the gunshots delivered by Jack Ruby! Suzanne also wrote of fond memories of Fr. Rivers, Fr. Sleasman, and Fr. Hurley… the creek and cabin with its stillness…The Purple Onion (yummy steak subs!)…ironing in the basement in Rosary (with the roaches and maybe mice)…wearing caps and gowns (over pjs for most) when we went to Mass Sunday mornings…required study hours in the tiny "6-desk rooms" during freshman year…receiving demerits for a partially opened drawer and trash in the *trash* basket…learning to play bridge (watching **Chiqui Ardaya** play with Msgr. Kline)…Charity Fair, co-chaired with **Anne Marie Gillespie**, lots of work and lots of fun…Sr. Serena, who was our Dean of Students for nine months in freshman year (a treasure!)… Mount's concerts, especially Simon and Garfunkel. Also included in Suzanne's memories was "the evening when we walked through the snow to E'burg and back to campus with minimal footwear resulting in frost-bitten toes;" some had to soak those very sore toes in a bathtub filled with warm water. (***Ed.'s note--Thawing of Mary Alice Friede Mauser's toes required several days in the infirmary following a similar escapade--what were we thinking?*) Continuing with Suzanne's memories, there was sunbathing on the roof of the Home Ec House (and getting caught!)…mishaps in the kitchen producing rock-hard blue swirled rolls and "terrible" coffee. Little known fact: "The sisters were not allowed to eat in

front of us so Sr. Patricia took her plate to another room, tasted the food we prepared and returned to us with her comments." Great memories!

Ginny Werber Hartmuller shared her memories from the Home Ec House…a very limited budget with fantastic meals and guests…inviting "a classmate **Alice Ng** to dinner when I was the hostess and made a lovely Japanese meal set to eat on the floor in the living room. Only problem was that she was Chinese and wore a lovely ethnic dress that definitely was not meant to be worn for this plan, and that is how I learned there is a difference between Japanese and Chinese eating style." …making terrible yeast bread and rolls for the entire week because we were in chemistry lab and couldn't knead the dough…inviting our parents for a blazer or ring ceremony on campus but unfortunately left the turkey out unrefrigerated during the ceremony...providing a centerpiece for breakfast and every other meal… Dr. Antolin teaching Logic and Ethics…defending the working woman in speech class while **Ginny Greene Murphy** took the opposite view… Mary Ellen Sleasman (Class of '68) chartering a bus to New York City for our vacation home one Christmas…putting on teas complete with hat and gloves…staying up all night finishing projects…learning how to play bridge…lights out at 10 p.m. freshman year but getting up at four a.m. to finish homework and study.

Ginny and husband Roger recently returned from a cruise to Bermuda and a trip to California for their grandson's graduation from Santa Clara University. While on the west coast they took a helicopter tour of the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam. They stay active playing Bocce and bridge.

Mary Alice Friede Mauser has had a banner year with visitors (mostly family) since telling her children and grandchildren that "we are considering moving back to Maryland to be closer to family." Seems as if everyone wanted to get a last dip in the ocean while they had convenient accommodations! Mary Alice and Fred's plans are very fluid at this point but perhaps by the next (and final) *The Valley Echo*, they will be Marylanders once more. The highlight of the year was a wonderful week spent at Deep Creek Lake in July with family where Fred celebrated his 80th. As for most of us now, life is getting simpler and travel is mostly to family locations. "We're OK with that!"

As for memories of our days long ago, Mary Alice remembers: Dr. Antolin frequently saying (in his strong European accent) "It's all in *zee* book, Ladies"…under the cafeteria hangout (short-lived, as she recalls)… required convocations and workshops, one in particular where we were taught proper posture and other social graces…the Freshman Response at Tom's cabin… Religion teacher, Sr. Mary Agnes with her true/false quizzes…Sr. Robertine's rosary beads getting caught in the projector and flashed on the screen in silhouette… kneeling in a circle freshman year for night prayers… enduring friendships.

Rita Gisriel Cole remembers electing to take a Home Ec class with Diane Hyland Bowman because we thought it would be easy…we were so wrong…the death of Sr. Mary Ellen Kelly so soon after we met her… gathered around the TV in the student center when President Kennedy died…spending the night in the library at the end of freshman year…walking to town for ice cream but not signing out or in…proctoring junior year…taking the Mounties to breakfast after Mass… listening to the nuns sing in the chapel…Dr. Solomon, Mr. Shriner, Sister Serena…

The excitement for Rita's family this year has been the birth of their newest granddaughter four months ago. Vacationing with their children and spending time with their grandchildren are truly blessings and a joy. Den and Rita celebrated their 50th anniversary with a trip to London (where they saw the Abba concert!!!), Normandy, and Paris. Walking on the Normandy beaches where Rita's dad flew as a bombardier in the 8th Air Force was "unbelievable and emotional." *All of our parents truly were from the "Greatest Generation."*

As we recall so many fun memories of our days at Joe's we realize how simple life was back then and how much we appreciated the "little things." Navigating through the ups and downs of aging is a challenge for many, so let us stay "All Together" and continue to remember each other in our prayers each day. We look forward to hearing from you with more news and memories as we plan for the final SJC Reunion April 3-6, 2025.

Stay safe and God's Blessings on your families!
-- Mary Alice and Rita

1968

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We begin with the sad news of the death in January of our classmate, **Anne "Sparky" Coleman Neel**, who had been ill for several years. **Karen Paule Marinelli** stayed in touch with Sparky and talked with her about every six weeks. We both tried unsuccessfully to reach her this year on her birthday, March 4th, but ended up googling her name and found that she died on January 19th. Karen was probably the last one in our class to talk with her. When Sparky moved next door to her sister in the Pittsburgh area, she joined a book club. The group went on a sightseeing trip to Gettysburg and Sparky, whose father at one time was superintendent of the Gettysburg National Military Park, lived in a farmhouse on the battlefield. Being the daughter of the head of the Gettysburg battlefield gave her a lifelong love of history, and she created a tour of Gettysburg for her book club. I was hoping that she could do that for our class for our 50th Reunion but she was too ill to come to the Reunion. (There are more details in last year's *The Valley Echo*.) I think when they heard of the news of her death, everyone in our class had a "Sparky" memory come to mind.

In May, I got together with friends for our annual long weekend at Bethany Beach, DE where we've been going for 30+ years. I learned from Karen that after her husband, Gene (MSM '68) died, she sold their house in Wilmington where they had raised their children and bought a new house in Lewes, not far from Bethany. Karen's son is a builder and made sure that this house was built to perfection for his mom. One of my friends and I met Karen for lunch at a nearby garden shop/restaurant in Lewes. Afterward, we went to her lovely house where we chatted and raised a glass of wine to toast to Sparky's memory since that was the day of her memorial service. Karen keeps very busy with book club, movie club, and many other activities, including grandchildren. However, she plans to make time to come to our final Reunion next year, and may bring some former classmates with whom she has stayed in touch.

In her Christmas newsletter, **Barbara Wilt Morgan** said that around the end of 2023 she started to "crawl" out of her period of grief following the death of her husband Wally in June 2022 after ten years of suffering from colorectal cancer. She had been absorbed with the details of their estate, but finally decided she was tired of being in isolation. She returned to her former job as receptionist one day a week at her church, to the Eucharistic Ministry she had led for many years, and to serving Holy Communion to a shut-in woman. She doesn't know what she would do without her church community and her "light at the end of the tunnel is becoming brighter" as God is leading her to serve where she is needed. Her son, Mike, is her rock and visits her weekly. Besides working full-time at the School of Rock in Virginia Beach teaching music lessons, he plays in a few local bands. He continues his art work and has original works at local galleries.

Joanne Ekhaml and Jim are both retired and now spend much of their time visiting friends and travelling. They visited Spain in May 2022 where in Barcelona they were inspired by the beauty of Gaudi's Sagrada Familia basilica. As they travelled throughout the country, they enjoyed the architectural and multi-cultural riches of the Iberian Peninsula. July saw them at the Ekhaml family gathering in Seabrook Island, SC where family swapped stories and old memories. In August, they joined friends for their annual cultural tour of Western Massachusetts, where they attended dance, orchestral, and theater performances. They joined friends on Martha's Vineyard in September. In October their family--Alexandra, David, Katja, and their granddaughters Anna and Zoey--met in Italy and experienced how the ancient Romans lived as well as how today's rich and famous play on the Amalfi Coast. They visited in November with Joanne's 96-year old uncle and some of her cousins. Both Alexandra and David changed jobs in 2023: Alexandra left her law firm to become vice president, lead litigation counsel for Exact Sciences, a company whose products, such as Cologard, provide early cancer detection. David is head of brand communication and corporate design for Elli, a brand of the Volkswagen group.

Ruth Lynch Buchwalter and Stan planned an October 2023 trip to Israel, Egypt, and Jordan. Luckily, it was scheduled for about a week after the Hamas attack and the trip was cancelled. As a consolation, they spent a

week in Barcelona in early November. Just as Joanne Ekhaml and Jim found, Ruth reports that the Sagrada Familia basilica is incredibly beautiful. (It's a good thing Joanne and Ruth got their trips to Barcelona because in July there were anti-tourism protests in Barcelona. To show their unhappiness with the tourists, the residents spritzed them with water, something that probably felt refreshing to the hot tourists.) The activity Ruth enjoyed the most on this trip was a cooking class where she learned that she will never be able to make an authentic paella at home. In May 2024, Ruth and Stan went to a wedding in California and added a few extra days to travel to the Monterey area and visit with **Gisela Jurzita Hartman** who lives in a lovely development with gorgeous views. Gisela is doing well and enjoys spending time with her son and his family in the Bay Area. In July, they visited friends in New Jersey and while there, had lunch with **Marge Bertoni Barkocy**. Marge works full-time from home managing the administration and tax reporting of retirement plans for smaller employers. Her youngest grandchildren, a set of twins, completed kindergarten in June and her oldest granddaughter, a college graduate, was away performing in a dance recital in Berlin. Marge has no plans to retire but she is planning to come to the final Reunion next April. Also in July, Ruth and a friend visited Minneapolis for a few days, and then continued to Fargo, ND. Ruth had been to every state in the US, except North Dakota, so with this trip, she was able to check ND off her bucket list. When not travelling, Ruth volunteers with AARP TaxAide preparing income tax returns for lower income individuals, and in the non-tax season, she volunteers as a Medicare Counselor.

In October 2023, **Mary Louise Libby Palm** and Bill took a Viking cruise from Athens to Istanbul, a trip they viewed as finally being able to see many of the ancient sites they studied in high school. Fall is the best time to visit that part of the world weather wise, and the mild temperatures and sunny weather made the trip especially lovely. They visited Rhodes, Ephesus, Troy, and Istanbul. Istanbul is beautiful and very large and they were only able to see the old center and spend a little time in a huge market where they watched a demonstration of Oriental rugs being made and successfully avoided bringing one home. They highly recommend this trip but warn that since the ancient people built their cities on mountain tops to defend them from their enemies, there is a lot of climbing involved; the Acropolis, for example, is quite a walk uphill. Their nephew is getting married this fall and they are going to Baltimore for the wedding. They were anticipating a pleasant summer in Rhode Island--swimming in their local pond, gardening, and starting to clean out their house. She says, and I'm sure we all agree, that it's amazing how much stuff one accumulates over 50+ years. They are planning to come to our final Reunion in 2025. Mary Louise says that if the Mount has opened its School for Health Professions, it would be interesting to tour it as a Reunion activity.

Carol Healey Haran spent her summer travelling back and forth from her home in Lake Forest, IL to her cabin on Lake Winnipesaukee in New Hampshire. She planned "Cousins' Week," the highlight of everyone's summer and a family tradition in July at the lake. Most of the large family planned to be there--Carol's sister and her children and grandchildren who joined Carol and three of her four children plus their families for a week of swimming, boating, fishing, visiting, and eating. Carol can sleep 12 at her house--Carol, plus her crew of seven adults and four children; and her sister and her family planned to rent other houses. Luckily, everyone pitches in--her kids all cook and help with cleaning. They were going to have 23 for their Saturday dinner--the highlight of the week. With the extremely hot weather we were having this summer, Carol was praying for a rain-free week with pleasant temperatures so everyone could be outside. At the gathering, there were going to be a 13-year old, three ten-year olds, two eight-year olds, and two two-year olds, all making lots of noise. Carol anticipated that it would be exhausting but lots of fun. She looks forward to seeing everyone at our last Reunion.

In early April 2024, **Sheila Kelly and Al Vertino**, **Pat and Denny Wynne**, and I went to a banquet put on by the Gettysburg College Wrestling Team to announce the creation of an endowment in honor of, and to celebrate the life of Peter, the son of **Gina Shableski Crumbaker** and Greg. Pete, who took over Gina's business (Misty Mountain Mfg., that made our SJC canvas tote bags) when she retired, died in November 2022, of anaphylactic shock from an unknown allergy. While the occasion was sad, it was great seeing how Pete's team members loved him so much that they created this endowment and quickly reached and surpassed their goal, which will cover things like mats, travel, and maybe scholarships. Gina and Greg, Pete's wife, and their two sons, and Pete's older brother Matt were there. We enjoyed chatting with Gina for the short period of time at the banquet and were glad we went because we learned what a great guy Pete was. Gina plans to come to our Reunion if at all possible.

This year, **Mary Brown** welcomed her first grandchild, Ava Shyu McGlincy, the daughter of Mary's son, Sean and his wife, Serina. Mary and **Cathy Carroll Loy** get together occasionally either in Atlanta or for a week or so at Mary's cabin on Lake Rabun in North Georgia. Cathy is almost fully recovered from her back surgery although she still relies somewhat on a cane. With her older grandchildren headed off to college and her youngest grandchild just starting school, Cathy rented a cabin on a lake in North Georgia for the family to have an end-of-summer get-together swimming, boating, fishing, and eating. Cathy plans to be at Reunion.

Bev Eagan and Larry Tuteur live in an apartment in Paris with a view of the Eiffel Tower and enjoyed the crowds throughout the City during the 2024 Olympics hosted by France. They did not get tickets to those events but did purchase more affordable tickets for the Paralympics wheelchair basketball. The men's and women's marathons were a block from their apartment. One of the final events of the Olympics was the *Marathon Pour Tous* (Marathon for Everyone), a lottery to give 20,024 amateur runners from around the world a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to "follow in the fresh footsteps of their Olympic heroes on the same course where the world's top athletes will have competed just hours before." That marathon started at 9:30 pm! The organizers said it was "a symbol of Paris 2024's commitment to bringing the Olympics closer to everyone." It certainly was close to Bev and Larry!

We hope you will try to make plans to attend the 2025 Reunion, the last one to be held by the SJC Alumnae Association. Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 3rd through Sunday, April 6th, 2025, and contact your old roommates and buddies and talk them into going.

Our class has a private Facebook group of 69 members, most of whom are our classmates. (Some members are from other classes who wanted to get an idea of how our group is set up.) Mostly we use it to send birthday greetings and post cartoons about getting older. In February, Sheila Kelly Vertino posted a question on our Facebook page asking if anyone had read the recently published Kristin Hannah book, *The Women*, a fictional novel about a woman who is an Army nurse serving in Vietnam. Sheila wanted to know if the story accurately depicted what our approximately 20 classmates, who joined the military after graduation and served either overseas or stateside, experienced during their service. This started an online conversation as everyone raced out to buy and read the book. When we're at next year's Reunion, if we can find time and space, this might be a topic we may want to discuss, and we may want to include women from other classes who also served. The Vietnam era when they served could not have been easy for them, but it also was a time of upheaval for those of us at home. We have never, in over 50 years since we graduated, spent time talking about that period of time after graduation. **Mary Jo Rice-Mahoney** has some ideas about sharing and documenting the stories of serving during that era and will be reaching out to her fellow veteran classmates. More to come later.

1969

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Joanne Azzarello Letnauchyn, Pat Ziegler Conley, and **Linda Dumbroski Wivel** took a trip to Western Canada last year and had a blast. Pat Conley and Linda Wivel recently attended a family celebration for Tom and **Glenna McKay Pruitt**'s 50th wedding anniversary. Joanne and Steve Letnauchyn and Linda Wivel visited with Pat Conley in Bethany, DE for a few days in late July, and they plan to get together in the fall with several classmates.

Jean Murray Walker's news was a long-awaited trip to the part of France where her mom and family came from. Jean, her son, daughter, and two teen grands went to the town of St. Andre de Cubzac near Bordeaux and spent five lovely days in the town of ancestors walking the cobblestone streets in front of her grandparents' house, listening to church bells hundreds of years old and uniting with distant cousins who Jean had been pen pals with in high school and college. Her cousin made a family tree dating back to 1839 and they had a tour of the chateau in the family--500 years old with a wine cellar for the ages!

Jean's family is grateful that Grant continues to defy the odds of stage four melanoma, plays pickleball, gardens, and lives for the day. All four grands are now teens, one driving, one learning, one crazy about horses, and the youngest crazy about aviation.

Suzanne Sullivan wrote that she loved visiting with so many old friends at Reunion. "Since I live in Colorado, I enjoy the news many of you post on Facebook. Keep it up!" Jean Murray Walker moved nearby in Colorado

and they catch up over coffee every now and then. Sully's days are filed with exercise classes and local trips offered by the Rec. Center, where she serves on the Senior Advisory Board. She is also on the board of the local Unity church. Favorite summer activity is attending Boulder Community Band concerts with friends in parks around beautiful Boulder, CO.

Helen Bursley-Fournier and her daughter continue to enjoy Disney cruising--no hassles, no casinos, great food, and very relaxing. In May they visited Tortola, BVI and St Thomas, USVI--where they found an amazing coffee roaster: Virgin Island Coffee Roasters; and the last stop was at Disney's private island, Castaway.

They're heading out again in late August on a short three-day cruise and then going on a longer cruise in early November. Besides that, she's just trying not to melt when she walks their dogs in the morning during the hot summer.

It seems that **Mary Pat Cohill** has a trip almost every month. April--went to niece's wedding in Tulsa; June--ten days touring in Scotland with **Lynn Koerner** and Betsy, another Boston friend; August--a couple days on the North Fork, then weekend in Maine visiting friends, then visit with Lynn Koerner at her Westford cottage; October—Rhine River cruise (Basel to Amsterdam) plus three nights in Lake Como and extra three nights in Amsterdam with Lynn, Betsy, and Mary Pat's sister and brother-in-law. In between, there were doctor appointments, local family get-togethers, and New York City cultural activities, along with a Pilates class once a week. Her 13 nieces and nephews have now produced 15 great nieces and nephews, with two more on the way! "Needless to say, it's a challenge keeping track of them all."

Weekly Zooms with me, **Beth Dignan Blumer, PJ Heaven Reilly, Faye Stank Anson, Ann Mooney Kirmil**, Mary Pat Cohill, **Kathleen O'Donnell Ellis**, Lynn Koerner, **Liz Reaves Ellison**, and **Joan Dennery Casey** started in April of 2020 and are still going strong, keeping old friends close. I love the laughs and support of our SJC classmates and the fact that we are still "All Together." Eight of the nine weekly "Zoomers" have committed to an April week together on the beach at Isle of the Palms in South Carolina. Should be fun.

Beth Blumer is enjoying life with friends and family. Spends a lot of time on the golf course and took an amazing trip to western Canada in July.

Lynn Koerner summers at her cottage in Westford, MA. Travels to Aruba, Scotland, and Rhine River are making up for the COVID down time.

After three surgeries, Kathy O'Donnell Ellis (formerly known as OD) is improving daily and looking forward to travelling more soon.

Faye Stank Anson is still driving her one and only car every day--1993 (31-year-old) Lexus SC300 Coupe with a manual five speed transmission. It's still going strong at 300,500 miles! Must be a record!!

Joan Casey redecorated her whole house even though she put her name on a waiting list for a retirement community. She threw a bash for her daughter's 40th birthday, even hired a party bus and took everyone to a concert. She's now into making vegetarian meals which she finds on Instagram and looking forward to seeing *Oh Mary* in New York City with her family--a play about Mary Todd Lincoln.

PJ Reilly's summer is filled with activities with friends, planned trips to family, and visits from family. This fall her last granddaughter is starting college at the University of Dayton. PJ and Reil now have four grands graduated from college and five grands in college.

Liz Ellison attended her oldest grandson's college graduation in June in Chicago. Also went to her youngest granddaughter's fourth birthday party. It was a Taylor Swift party because Taylor is her "favorite girl." Liz and her husband David spent a few days in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and are enjoying summer on the Cape. Also planning to visit family in the Finger Lakes of New York and in South Carolina.

Ann Kirmil's youngest granddaughter is starting full-day preschool in the fall and her grandson is starting high school at the New York City School of Art and Design. Their eight-year-old sister will attend the School of American Ballet at Lincoln Center for the second year. Ann and her husband John travelled to Antigua in the spring and are spending a quiet summer at their home near Bethany Beach. She had a visit from Diana Callison Reing who joined them for lunch while vacationing in Bethany. They had a wonderful afternoon enjoying each other's company and catching up.

Diana shared the sad news that **Lindanne Hawkins Bethel** died in August 2021. She had adopted the name Skye and taught ballet in her home studio outside of

Manassas, VA and was involved in community theater. Diana had seen her in 2018 when she was living with her son Christopher. Diana stays in touch with **Emily McDonald Filippi** who is loving life in Tidewater, VA with water views from a new home after a tornado destroyed their original home in 2020. Diana's kids and grands live nearby--four will be in college this year. She enjoys visiting Solomon's Island, MD, where they used to live, for the water, kayaking, crabs, and many bird friends. Now in McLean, VA, she enjoys ushering at Ford's Theatre, doing deep water aerobics, writing blurbs on the environment for the church bulletin and doing a bereavement ministry among those with a recent loss. She also helps keep the gardens and grounds at the local inpatient hospice facility trimmed and free of weeds.

Dick and I took a great trip to the Azores in May--travelling to four of the islands. Each was unique and beautiful. We always like to stay close to home during summer months--the best time in New England--except for a couple Chicago trips to see Ashley and Peter. Lots of bike riding, pickleball, and gardening. Just finished canning 20 pounds of peaches and also made some peach jam. Loving our time with our grandson Beau who is an adorable and funny two-year-old now and occasionally spends the night with us.

Thank you to all who take the time to write and share what's going on in your lives. It makes my job easier. It's inspiring to see what others have been up to; so, please stay in touch! --Gerri

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Reunion 2024 was terrific and a few of us were able to attend--**Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck, Christine Roos Mehl, Leslie Henze Blackstock, Susan Stay Valenti, Maryann Lesso, Kathy McNaney Younkin, Arlene Seeber, JoAnne Cartagena Windle, Joanne Synder Caye**, and myself. We also welcomed back for the first time **Robin Davitt**.

In April 2024 eight classmates flew to France to take a Viking River Cruise from Avignon to Lyon. The group included **Carol Ervin Sharkey, Sue McKenna Clifford**, Christine Roos Mehl, Leslie Henze Blackstock, Susan Stay Valenti, Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck, **Alberta Johnson Baker**, and Kathy McNaney Younkin. They also had two SJCiennes from the Class of '73, Chris Wiberley Goglia and Shirley Brenner.

I'll let Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck take it from here—"Trip planning began rather informally at Reunion 2022 and took shape over two years and multiple ZOOM calls and emails. Once on board in Avignon we enjoyed a celebratory dinner and began to experience the itinerary of papal palaces, cathedrals, and endless beautiful landscapes. Some days we walked over five miles, climbed steep streets, and endured some windy, cold weather. Alberta got to find the home where she stayed in Avignon during her junior year abroad. We saw wonderful Roman ruins at Pont du Gard, lavender fields not yet in bloom, beautiful gorges, and the medieval city of Perouges. One morning we woke up to see a wet cement wall outside our room balcony: we were going through one of the many locks on the Rhone River. Viviers provided us with a vivid history lesson about the role of the Resistance in this part of France during WWII. Lyon afforded us the opportunity to shop for silk and chocolate and (of course) we visited a winery.

Cocktail hour each day found us in the bar reliving our adventures. With the upcoming 2025 Reunion in mind we diligently applied ourselves to sampling wines to make selections suitable for the wine social. After enjoying our evening meal, we ROCKED the after-dinner games and dance competitions; Team 'Joe's Girls.' People asked who Joe was!

Would we do it again? A definite yes! We found we are still great friends."

I am still in Emmitsburg and beginning my 25th year teaching at the Mount. I continue to love my work teaching one class each semester on Zoom. I actually like it!

Some very interesting things are in development for the Mount in relation to our "Charity Hilton" building. Briefly, the Mount is leasing a whole wing of our building to construct classrooms and labs for its new graduate program: the Graduate School of Health Services. The first MS program will be for Physician Assistants. Construction begins next month. Planned opening in the fall of 2026. In addition, the Mount Seminary is leasing another wing of our building to renovate it for a pre-seminary school--mandated world-wide by Pope Francis. That work began in October 2022.

I hope you will plan to join us for the last Reunion sanctioned by the SJCAA. It is also our 55th Reunion--April 3-6, 2025. We have a lot planned, and the Reunion Committee of the Board promises a spectacular, grand time. Hope to see you in April.

1971

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I received a nice update from **Anne Bohan Seil** stating that she and five other classmates met near Berkeley Springs, WV in late July to celebrate their 75th birthdays. **Debbie Rabbottini Thomas** flew in from Seattle, Anne flew in from San Francisco, **Nancy Synder Chambers** drove over from Gettysburg, **Kathy Broderick Denton** zipped down from Harrisburg, **Debby Zemanick Doyle** drove over from Ellicott City, and **Judy Caratenuto** came from Fairfax, VA. A good bit of the two evenings of dinner conversation revolved around some of their more madcap adventures at SJC during freshman/sophomore years, such as sneaking into the admin. building via a closet in the laundry room to TP the main offices just before Easter break. Never caught, they came back to a new set of rules but, by leaving a basement window open, hoping the admin thought it was a Mountie prank, and, based on the rules, it seemed they did.

Kathy Corley Murray wrote that she is doing fine and living at Fairhaven, an ACTS retirement community in Sykesville, MD. She is in the Chorale and playing mahjong, shuffleboard, bocce, and Wii bowling. She and another resident went to Paris last year and southern Spain last February. She said they are really encouraged to keep active!

On Sept 15, **Susan Roach Thomey** and a special faithful and loyal group will travel to Cape Cod--**Joanne Stahlhut Coppola, Dee Verrochi Cary, Almarie Shultz Walczak, Ann Connair Cunningham, Mary Schreckengost Martin, Debbie Neary Waters, Denise Fish Moxley, Barb Nichels Gordon**, and **Stephanie Slagle Shockites**. They started this tradition 20+ years ago when friend **Ann Harris Smith** died from ovarian cancer. The group vowed to enjoy their friendships and good times by meeting once a year. Destinations have been varied and well planned. Since then they have lost **Marge Shartle Kenney** and **Suzie Minsker Reid**. Susan writes, "We are grateful for the spirit instilled in us during our days in the Valley."

As for John and me, we are enjoying living in Middlebury, CT. Our children Jennifer and Matthew are both doing well. Both now live in New York! Jennifer in Manhattan and Matt in Westchester. Both have two girls, so we have four granddaughters…so cute ages eight, seven, six, and five. They certainly keep their parents and grandparents busy.

I can't wait for Reunion. I hope everyone will join us in Gettysburg April 3-April 6, 2025. This will be our last Reunion so let's make it the best one ever. See you then. -Marilyn

1972

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Since we are coming to the end of *The Valley Echo* publication, I am using our column to look back at *The Valley Echo*s of the past! Thanks to **Jo Ketner Gallagher** for compiling all these old VEs!! Thanks to the classmates who served as class secretaries--**Ro Maher Curran, Mary Ann Carter, Debbie Curley-Reid, Nancy Nugent Clapp**--for making this possible. Early issues after graduation were full of people moving, getting married, having children, getting graduate degrees, and travelling together!!

Memories of our Time at SJC from the '72 Yearbook: Freshman year--trip to the Wax Museum; the MSM mixers; get 30 names; "pray for the poor, the sick, the unemployed, the starving in Biafra;" bats in Marillac; water battles in Kelly. **Sophomore year**--water main break, no water for a day; class mugs and T-shirts; FIRST panty raid; new dress code (no more raincoats needed). **Junior year**--Kelly kegger; continuance committee for SJC and marches to the DC residence; little sisters; ring ceremony; nurses off campus; Home Ec House; shoe factory. **Senior year**--decorate the Christmas tree; pinochle; Anita's exercise sessions; Pizza House; bag lunches for the "professional" seniors; February 18, 1972--100 days; GRADUATION!!!!

The first ten years (through 1982)--**Getting advanced**

degrees, 16 of us. **Travelling in groups** on vacation, cruise to Bermuda, west coast. **Getting married**--nine reported. Many more were celebrated but not reported in *The Valley Echo*. **Having children**--38 reported, probably more had children. Some interesting notes--first child born post-graduation was to **Karen Haggerty Socha**. Karen had gotten married at the end of junior year, finished up in South Bend and came back to graduation VERY PREGNANT!!! Right after graduation, many nurses ended up spending time in the military. **Mary Pat Bohan Kelly** retired in 1976, she had worked in recruiting and retired as a major; **Peg Bonish** was a captain and served as head nurse in the emergency room at Fort Belvoir, VA; **Kathy Bryan Baldwin** served 21 months in Japan, was commissioned as a captain; **Jane Zeller** served at the Great Lakes Naval Hospital in Chicago while serving in the Navy. In other news, **Cindy Caldwell** taught in France, and when she returned to the states, she shared an apartment with **Sandy Cardella Speicher** and worked for Credit Lyonnais as a French-English secretary. **Maureen Maloy Biggers** and husband Bob got to live in Hawaii while Bob was doing his residency for the Navy. **Jane Ramsey Elfring** and husband Frank lived in Kodiak Alaska where Jane worked as a reporter for the *Kodiak Daily Mirror* and then became News Director for the Koak FM Public Radio Station! **Mary Ann Carter** spoke at the graduation exercises for students she taught as 10th graders at Walkersville High School! And I need to mention our TV star in Puerto Rico, **Awilda Arenas de Pla** who taught "Puerto Rican Cuisine" for English-speaking people. Two classmates spent time doing medical research--**Linda Ciborowski** at Tufts doing cancer research, then moving on to the Mayo Clinic and **Jane Clifford** in Virginia working on recombinant DNA. Debbie Curley-Reid reached a vice presidency position at West Point Pepperell, the first woman to reach this level there. And Ro Maher Curran got several articles for the official Preakness Yearbook and was published in the B*altimore Magazine* and *Lady's Circle*. Finally, there was a get together in November and the hit of the reunion was **Anita Codey** modelling her full-length raccoon coat! **Patty Perkins** was elected to the Harrisburg Horse Show Board of Directors, the youngest director elected at that point. And **Julie Lombard** already had her menagerie going--at this point she had two horses, two ponies, four dogs and a cat! **Marydale Drury Vasili** was employed as an intelligence analyst for Interpol. And at Reunion 1982, our class won the Sister Mary Ellen Kelley plaque for having the most graduates attending, BUT when the award was presented, most of the class had ducked out of the dinner and was in the bar at the hotel.

Our second 10 years (1983-1992) Classmates lost--**Mary Pat Dignan, Andrea Bittner** (don't know the year so I put her here). **Getting advanced degrees**--four reported. **Getting married**--four reported. **Having children**--22 reported. **Travelling**--Ireland, Europe, Switzerland, Austria reported. One amusing note in these births, **Mary Morel Ingram** arrived at the hospital ten minutes before son Colin was born. It was a completely natural delivery with Morel still wearing her dress and ski jacket!! Several mini-reunions, some at MSM '72 reunions, others at classmates houses--ten reported. Cibby got a job teaching at Harvard, a result of her research in the area of radiation biology. **Barbara Klein Mank** acted in the Long Green Valley Playhouse. **Cathy Homan Winslow** finally made it to the 15th Reunion, it was the first reunion she was able to attend since she was not delivering one of her five offspring!! Awilda had her 2nd cookbook published (on microwave cooking). Interesting living comments from Morel in Maine--her house was jacked up to fix it, and she drove around town with bricks in the back of her car to weigh it down. And a side note, **Kathy Jones**'s daughter, Kara, was elected as homecoming queen at her school. We had an inventive way to get news…a chain letter started by Kathy Jones titled "you breaka this chain, we breaka your face." Interesting news gathered--Kathy Jones ran a 5K, and her three year old son was kicked out of his day care center (no napping for Ben); **Chuck Tancin** was doing research in artificial intelligence (this is in 1988) and mentioned she was exercising three times a week at a fitness club (keeping up with the Joneses); **Noree Dolphin** was next and mentioned she saw Chuck running and couldn't overtake her in a car! **Karen "Biff" Stuck Johnson** wrote that she was sorry that the elementary ed courses at SJC did not include "riot control" to help her with her four active children. Bohan reported she received fame as a local heroine by successfully performing CPR on a four year old child visiting the area--his airway was blocked by an entire munchkin donut! Cardella wrote that her ten years of teaching were helping her be a great "Donna Reed" mother, with lots of running of children and activities with them. Curley reported that she was named one of the top 100 woman managers in business in *Business Month* magazine--she said it was a long way for a Home Ec major who still can't sew, to use her B.S. degree from a now defunct college.

Our third 10 years (1993-2002)--**Getting advanced degrees**--three. **Travelling**--Canada, Caribbean, New

Zealand, Vanuatu, Ireland, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Australia—three people visiting Awilda. **Get-togethers**--two reported plus Group get-togethers at Boucher's (Carriage House). We turned 40, felt like 20, just creaks more!! (Jo), several diagnosed with breast cancer. We recreated Kelly Beach at our 25th Reunion (picnicked by the creek, led by **Mary Leatherman Mindel**). Did the Joe's walk at the student center. Kathy Jones's daughter Kara joined the Peace Corps and Kathy got to visit her in Vanuatu. Jo Ketner Gallagher enjoyed staying at a cottage and an abbey in Ireland on their trip. Classmates were busy with children growing up, careers, and a start of some health issues, children getting married, and the grandchildren started to come!! I started to get news through email, which made life a LOT easier! We continued to get classmates to come back to Reunion for the first time. **Pat Bader Walsh** said, "I had a wonderful time at Reunion, I don't know why I waited 30 years to experience it!"

Our fourth 10 years (2003-2012)--Classmates we lost--Gerri Donnelly, Maureen O'Connor Evans, Peg Bonish Riley, Jane Zeller Strange, Rosemarie Hughes Uram. Travels--Ireland, Scotland, Panama Canal, France, Italy, Western Caribbean, Costa Rica, Austria, Hungary, Cambodia, Vietnam, Trinidad, Belgium, Holland. **Get-Togethers**--two reported plus the Carriage House annual get-together. **Jodi Youngstrom Henderson** returned to college to get her degree, and used all her credits from SJC toward the degree! Kathy Jones had a guest in one of her classes while teaching in Maryland--Ro Maher Curran was school shopping for her youngest daughter. She stayed in the class and actively participated, including disagreeing with Jones on a point about writing. **Jan Flanagan** and Jane Clifford met up at an exit on the Jersey Turnpike and weren't sure if they would recognize one another after 15 years…turns out, no problem! I learned through visiting that Jo Ketner Gallagher was into decorating for the holidays and had something "brewing" at home at all times! Some classmates related experiences from 9-11, which hit home for us both in New York and Washington. Maureen Maloy Biggers joined the Red Cross on 9-11 to help out locally, and to be on call for any national disaster. Ro reported her daughter had Kathy Jones for a teacher and Mary Leatherman Mindel for a guidance counselor! Steve Curran, Ro's husband, ended up with a contract at the National Fire Academy. He had to visit our old campus several times a year. This was the start of replacement surgery--several had knee replacement surgery during these years. And we had reports of other classmates breaking other body parts--wrists, ankles. Many children of classmates were serving in the military and were frequently deployed overseas. Bohan was the first woman grand marshal of the Somerville, NJ St. Patrick's Day parade. Children continued to get married and have children.

Latest Years – 2013 to Current--Classmates we lost--Jane Cardegna Bury, Jane O'Hara Caggiano, Mary Ann Carter, **Mary Mehl Doherty, Joann Deardorff Esham**, Jan Flanagan, **Susanne M. Palmer, Margaret Mary Kysel Venn Rubin** (still not sure who she is), **Antoinette (Toni) Josephine Deeb Wetzel. Travels**--England, Irish cruise. Get-Togethers--started getting together two times a year, wine trip to California, beach trip to Charleston, Wildwood at Speichers' motel. Greg and Barbara Klein Mank celebrated their wedding anniversary and Greg proposed to Barbara again--and she said yes!! Had a great time in Wildwood, Sandy and Joe closed the motel for the weekend for us! We had a "Pines," gathered around the pool, walked the board-walk, bicycled around, went to Cape May Winery and had a great time. Sandy and Joe joined us, and could relax for a change at the motel. Bohan put a sign on the balcony--(Out of the Zoo in '72). One quote from the weekend "not many people can brag about a get together with classmates 41 years later." The class continued its travels with a group going to wine country California, on a trip planned by **Jayne Bianco Cohill**. We spent a long weekend there, got to go to several wineries, and toured the area. Jayne also hosted us at a wonderful dinner at her then-home in Santa Rosa. What a great time we all had. Pat Bader Walsh proved we could still get an education, completing a doctor of nursing practice in 2013. And there was a professional performer in the group…**Mary Claire Curran** sang opera professionally. And Ro had a medical procedure, and when she met her doctor, it was none other than Dr. Jeffrey Mindel, Mary Leatherman Mindel's son!! At our 45th Reunion, we got to open up the pub at the old student center (having a "legal" drink) and did the Joe's Walk. Maureen Maloy Biggers was the best at it! We continued our celebrating back in our suite, drinking Awilda Arenas de Pla's mojitos! Mary Morel Ingram and husband Kevin got to move to Denmark for nine months for Kevin's job. We got lots of interesting posts from Morel about all her travels and experiences over-seas. And the first report of a great-grandchild was in 2019 from Karen Haggerty Socha. Then during the pandemic, we started some interesting email chains. One was a memory of the concerts we had during our college years. The one with the most comments was the *Jefferson Airplane* concert. There was an after-concert

party at Mr. Milbrath's where the Airplane showed up and did more jamming. We turned 70 during the pandemic and Mary Mehl Doherty was honored in a different way--**Mary Kay Hughes Clarke** decorated the front of their house with balloons and later in the day a caravan from church drove by to honor Mary. Many in the class had planned trips cancelled due to the pandemic, but spent a lot of quality time at home. Mary Leatherman Mindel spent time cleaning out her closets, tossing old clothes, and wearing what she considered her "work or good clothes" around the house just to look nice! **Linda Raudenbush** got to spend her first Christmas in many years in the US (she was typically in Australia over the Christmas holidays). In 2022 we got to celebrate our 50th Reunion!! All agreed it was our best time ever. We enjoyed time in the suite, had WAY too much food, and generally spent the whole weekend talking and celebrating 50+ years of knowing one another. Two memories of how we have aged… Debbie Curley Reed was trying to help **Pam Harrison Anderson** charge her cell phone. Deb called out to Pam who was in another room, "Do you have an apple?" to which Pam replied, "No, but I have a mandarin orange." And Scotch was getting dressed and said to me, "I can't find my shoes." Leatherman looked around the beds, under the desk, and everywhere on the floor she could reach. Scotch went into the bathroom and announced that she had found them…they were on her feet." One of the best stories from this time is Debbie Curley-Reid in a rehab facility while recuperating from her spiral fracture to her femur. One time they had her use the facilities, telling her they would be right back. After half an hour, and repeated phone calls, Curley called the desk and told them if no one was there in a couple of minutes, she would be calling 911…they came to release her! After Reunion 2022, Jane Clifford and **Ann Brummit O'Brien** organized a trip to Charleston, SC that several classmates went on. Both Jane and Ann hosted dinners at their homes, and the group also went on a dinner cruise. Right before the dinner cruise, another passenger had a medical emergency and **Jayne Bianco Cohill** called on her ER training to help. I heard rave reviews about the time in South Carolina. The past years have seen some serious health challenges for some classmates, but everyone has been there with prayers and best wishes. We have had a remarkable class which has just gotten closer and closer over the years after graduation, with many new friendships formed as we continue to come to reunions.

We have certainly fulfilled our class song spirit--"We'll walk with our heads held so high, through the years as they go passing by, we'll meet our all triumphs and failures with love for our class that won't die. With the yellow rose, hunter green and gold, we'll carry high standards wherever we go. We'll go on and on with Saint Patrick our guide, and '72 will come through with him right by our side. We dream of things that never were and we say why not. We're determined, heart-break, fear and despair are things we know not. And our hearts will be kind and content that we've reached all our goals set so high. And we'll make more goals, setting them higher, our limit will be only the sky!!"

Our years with SJCAA are coming to an end, however, there is no doubt in my mind that we will continue to stay close, continue our semi-annual get-togethers, and be there for each other in every way we can. I will continue to act as the class secretary for you…and look forward to many many years together as friends and SJC '72 family.

1973

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Maureen Hinke Hahn is still substitute teaching at St. Ursula School in Baltimore where she has taught middle-school math for 26 years. She can't say "No!" She continues to babysit grandkids and pets, and volunteers at church. She is hoping for a great Class of 1973 turnout at Reunion 2025 because our 50th Reunion was so great!

Congratulations to **Andie Miller Stewart** and her husband Robbie who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an amazing dinner at a nearby restaurant. "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be."

Sue Christman Williams has been "on the road" travel-

ling to Salt Lake City, UT to watch her grandson, Nathan, compete in the National School Archery Program National Tournament with his Argyle (Texas) Middle School team. She spent a weekend in Towson with the other Texas grandson, Thomas, to watch a lacrosse tournament. She has also been back and forth to Farmington Hills, MI to see her husband as well as to Richmond, VA to see the other two grands (baseball and dance). With all this travel, Sue is a member (and secretary) of a new Wild Ones (Chesapeake Bay) Chapter. It is a national organization advocating for planting native plants. She spends time passing out plants, educating gardeners etc. SOMETIMES she even gets to spend it in her own gardens. She is also looking forward to the last SJC Reunion next April and hopes many of the Class of '73 can attend. Our 50th was great!

Martina Sabo wrote about an exciting, wonderful time in her life. In April she had taxes to do, had her basement painted for new renters and travelled to New Orleans where her youngest son Phillip married his beloved Jen. It was a fantastic, flawless long weekend and the highlight of the year for her. A good friend and neighbor Sylvia went with her. She was fortunate to visit her grandchildren during the second week of June doing fun things like going to the parks, Dairy Queen, and other delightful outings. She also helped by cleaning the house, then returned home to finish the last week of school. With all the travel and family adventure, Martina was majorly exhausted, and it took until July 21st to finally begin feeling good again. July brought an anniversary of one year of being cured of breast cancer. She continues taking the herbal supplement Essiac. In August she will attend her 55th high school reunion in Pennsylvania. She always has fun times at her reunions ours included. September brings a major change. Martina will be semiretired. She is joyfully cutting her work week from six days to three days--two days at the school subbing if so inclined and will continue working one day a week at the Washington D.C. Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The only don'ts for her new status, don't move, don't get a pet, and don't do any long-term subbing. She is open to doing more fun wonderful things. She doesn't know what the next chapter will bring, but trusts the heavenly Father has good things planned. Remember you all are loved.

Kathy Krammer Callaghan's family is well and the grandkids are growing! She and Tim enjoyed taking a cruise on the Columbia and Snake rivers in Oregon in May along with her sister and her husband. Kathy is happy to be back travelling. However, upon returning home she fell and fractured her left wrist. Fortunately the ER doc did a great job of setting it and she is now out of a cast and doing PT. The fracture put a stop to her stitching, as she couldn't move her wrist to the right angle for hand stitching. Things are looking up now and she has started to do hand work again. She and Tim have a Coastal Maine cruise the end of September and hope to see some color starting to appear in leaves then.

Candy Long Hobbs wrote that she and Norm are forever busy. No one told them retirement is about relaxing. They keep thinking one of these days. They spent two weeks at Rehoboth Beach in June with their children and their families and will for the very first time spend the month of September there. They elected to do this instead of going on a big trip somewhere. They love the beach--walking in the morning and reading in the afternoon. When at home they are busy with the yard that seems to keep expanding. Every project they say this is the last one. Norm is in charge of finances at church and Candy chairs funeral luncheons with another lady. They have been very busy recently with the deaths of several founding members. Candy is looking forward to the final Reunion in April 2025 and hopes to see many of us there.

Nicky Young Rachin is now a grandmother of two boys (Harrison six and Everett nine months). They are living in northern England for three more years. She plans to visit next spring. For a couple of reasons, she is staying in Phoenix for the whole summer for the first time in 46 years. If Hell is hotter than Phoenix, she says she better clean up her act. She volunteers three times a week at a group home for elderly dementia clients. They do a variety of activities including baking different items such as key lime pie and upside down cake. Who said you cannot teach old dogs new tricks?

Toni Doherty Kellison is looking forward to our last Reunion. It should be great! She says Orlando is kind of quiet. Her son Matt, his wife Air and five-year-old granddaughter Maddie left for Thailand this summer. They plan to be there for several months. Matt works remotely and this will give Maddie a chance to get to know the other side of her family before she starts first grade here. Toni is going to visit in December. Her daughter Lexi is planning a summer 2025 wedding. They love Alan and are happy for both of them. Toni and Steve had a fun trip to Hawaii in the spring and then a nice Caribbean cruise with Toni's siblings.

Dotita Cartagena Kafka plans to attend Reunion next year. She also wants to remind all of our class Zoom talks and encourages all to participate. Information is emailed to all the week prior to the call.

Leah Rosenbroch Birch writes that life has thrown a few curve balls. As many know, Mike had a traumatic head injury five years ago. His deficits have been slowly increasing with both cognitive and physical changes. He was diagnosed as midrange Alzheimer's in May and in June, he had a stroke. Deficits from the stroke are really no worse than before. He no longer can drive or work at all. Leah is the sole transportation. It is very busy coordinating therapies but she hopes they can slow some of the changes down. Leah also still babysits a fair bit. Having the grandkids does brighten the day for both of them. At this point, Leah plans to attend Reunion but things could change. She hopes we will have a good turnout.

Gail Scavengelli will be going to Germany in October, not for Oktoberfest--although she will be there for Oktoberfest, but because she had been invited to teach pickleball players how to referee pickleball. Last December she and her husband were invited to referee the pickleball European championship matches in Austria. They spent the week prior to Christmas in Alberg, Austria officiating. They also caught a couple of Christmas markets. Life is good!

Marella Colyvas writes her life is pretty good. She visited Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia in July. It was a whirlwind trip (apologies to Martina, she didn't get to call!!!). She is planning to attend Reunion in April 2025.

Angie Neilan writes it's been five years since she retired from Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Her teaching, research, and extension responsibilities in International Agriculture and Watershed Management took her to Mongolia, Ethiopia, Armenia, Brazil, Colombia, the Caribbean, and many other places trying to help people produce more food crops. Recently she has been travelling for fun to northern locations including Iceland, Finland, Denmark, Canada, and Ireland. She enjoyed a Viking cruise down the Rhine River with ten shore excursions along the way and took a Northern Lights tour by ship in and around Iceland. This winter she will travel to Lapland to visit with the Sami people and ride through the snow on a sled pulled by reindeer. She took a class in Nova Scotia on the Irish drum (bodhran) and Acadian foot stepping. She is extremely thankful for the opportunity to experience other cultures and enjoy new foods but especially grateful for her ability to walk and get around independently as many of her friends and colleagues are facing mobility challenges! She does plan to attend the final SJC Reunion next April. She hopes to see everyone there

Darryl and **Marie Glynn Thomas** decided to celebrate their anniversary in Staunton and Roanoke, VA. They love going to the Shakespeare Center in Staunton, and saw an enjoyable play, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*. It was really funny, especially for an English major! After that, they drove to Roanoke, which showed up in several lists on best places to visit in Virginia. And they had a great time. They were there on a weekend in June and several streets in the center of downtown were blocked off for a car show. Being old car buffs, they had fun looking at the muscle cars and even the newer US and European cars. They saw some older trucks that looked like they came out of the *Smallville (Superboy)* TV show. They learned that Virginia has lots of competitions for women and girls to represent their counties and cities--as spectators at the parade of old convertibles and open-bed trucks carrying the winners in gowns, sashes, and crowns representing every area across the state. Of course, they had to visit the Roanoke Star, "an iconic symbol" of Virginia's Blue Ridge and a must-see spot when visiting the region. The star sits perched atop Mill Mountain. There is also a small zoo on the mountain with the Star, and they enjoyed spending a casual afternoon there. They explored other attractions in the area, e.g., the Basilica of St. Andrew, restaurants, Black Dog Salvage, and wineries. The anniversary trip turned out to be a lot of fun.

Jane Parrish Richard and husband Joe are still supporting grandkids active sports schedules. The three Maryland grandkids play hockey, baseball, and football. Most teams are travel, so Jane and Joe travel. Their oldest is 15 and plays on high school teams. They are anxiously awaiting HS for all, as the travel load significantly decreases. Only one of the North Carolina grandkids plays baseball so they try to make a trip down in fall and spring. Their next home project is repair/revetment to a very broken seawall at their river house. Jane says that the Potomac River is brutal and that she is praying for insurance!!!! Their youngest son Rob is retiring from the Army in October. How time flies!

In April, **Shirley Berrian Salzbrenner** and I, Chris Wiberley Goglia, took a Viking Cruise along the Rhone

River through Provence, France beginning with three days in Nice and including a day trip to Monte Carlo. We traveled with eight members of the Class of 1970, including my sister, Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck. We had a wonderful time. (See Class of 1970 news for more.) Two weeks later, Shirley took a Scandinavian Cruise with friends, returning home in time for her twin granddaughters First Communion. Her youngest son Brad got engaged in April and will be married next June. Shirley attends the opera in Santa Fe with friends and has a September trip to the Galapagos, Andes, and Amazon planned. In July, I spent two weeks in Twain Harte, CA, with my sister, Mary Ann, and family. It was relaxing, and very, very hot. I have spent the remainder of the summer spending time with my grandchildren, playing golf, bridge and mahjong as well as gardening at my church and in my own yard. In September, I will travel to Switzerland and Iceland with my sister-in-law, Angie.

Please consider joining us in Gettysburg April 3-6, 2025, as it is our last SJCAA Reunion. As you have read, many of our classmates plan to attend. A suite has been reserved for our use to socialize during the weekend. Registration will open November 1, 2024 and ends February 28, 2025. Please register early. We are hoping many of you will be able to join us. Attending Reunion in 2024 were Chris Wiberley Goglia, Maureen Hinke Hahn, Angie Neilan, **Monica Lech Rebovich** and Marie Glynn Thomas.

1974

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The 50th Reunion of the SJC Class of 1974 was attended by 27 of us, who met in the fall of 1970 in the Valley of Emmitsburg, MD. Including **Patty Morel Murphy-Lynch, Barb Callan Bogia, MaryEllen Kirchner Pluemer, Paula Kozloski Swetley, Jean Connors Muhler, Becky Rutherford Dacey, Jane Davis Gallagher, Mary Ann McWhorter Riley, Barb Wurster Reiprish, Maureen Sommar Milde, Rosie Fama Waugh, Jamie Lowe Huber, Pattie LaNeve Mullaney, Francine Loreto Redman, Patti Touhey Bargnes, Eileen McAlarnen, Anne Curran Shira, Debbie Mitchell Kraponick, Nadine Brainard Smith, Cyndi Mountford Ogulewicz, Kathy Whalen Quarles, Judy Yowaiski Ricker, Liz Baldwin Bangert Ewing, Elizabeth "Beth" Hurley Luers, Joanne Miller Genevish, Maureen Fitzpatrick Gonzales,** and **Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski.**

We had the most wonderful time at the wine social, and then we went to the Wyndham bar for dinner as a group and socialized even more. Our Class of '74 dinner on Friday night was an amazing time with activities, photos, a video, decorations, and great music that was organized by our wonderful Reunion planners: Mary Ellen Kirchner Pluemer, Debbie Mitchell Kraponick, and Barb Callan Bogia, who also did a wonderful job decorating our Presidential Suite. At the Saturday Banquet, Barb gave a fabulous speech reminiscing about our times at St. Joseph College more than 50 years ago, and it was followed up by a rousing performance of all the 1974 classmates attending, who sang the song written by Maureen Sommar Milde especially for this weekend. Shout out to Nadine Brainard Smith, who made the Class of 1974 flags we used in our suite and at our class dinner.

Other activities included touring our SJC campus and lunch in the sub, and the always wonderful Mass at the Basilica, where several of our classmates participated in the procession and carried roses that were presented to the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton altar, some read liturgy, some carried gifts to the altar. The class of 74 was honored since it was our 50th. Everything was just beautiful.

In June, those of us who transferred from SJC to attend Mount Saint Mary's College had another 50th Reunion which was another opportunity to gather 11 Joe's girls who are Mount grads! Those in attendance were **Mary Berens Regan**, Jane Davis Gallagher, Jamie Lowe Huber, **Kathy Kerns Raubens**, Kathy Whalen Quarles, Eileen McAlarnen, **Mary McFadden Molinero, Elaine Maddox, Belinda Lowry Jaffee, Pattie Holt Belleau**, and Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski. We had a great time at the Reunion Banquet, Festival, and Class of 1974 Dinner on campus, and even fit in some time to go to the Ott House!

Pattie Touhey Bargnes wrote that she and **Terry**

Fletcher Kern attended their 50th Reunion at Niagara University. I am sure many others attended their 50th at the colleges they went to after leaving our dear St. Joseph College. At our SJC 50th Reunion, some of us wondered how it would have changed the trajectory of our lives if we were able to graduate from St. Joe's back in 1974, but the fact that the school closed in 1973 made that impossible. Still, it's a sweet thought that we would have been able to have the honor of graduating all together.

Next year from April 3-6, 2025, will be the final SJCAA Reunion. Please try to make it if you can, it will be extra special, with more opportunities to be on the SJC campus. After 2025, we will be included in invitations to the MSMU Reunions, as SJC alumnae so there will still be "get togethers" but they will be planned by the Mount. Everyone who attended this year's SJCAA 50th Reunion vowed to come back, and we are hoping many more of our class will decide to feel the magic of friendship that we started so long ago.

Fran Loreto Redman shares that after 25 years as a family nurse practitioner she retired February 2024. "I gave it up for Lent" she jokes. Being sacristan for her parish and her seven grandchildren now help to fill her days. She says that it was great to see everyone at the 50th Reunion. It was "Like we never left!"

Barb Wurster Reiprish wrote that while teaching Home Economics for 40 years, she has spent 30 of her summers working at Knoebels Amusement Resort in the Alamo Restaurant. The motto is "Fun, Food, and Fantasy." She really enjoys managing and preparing enormous amounts of food daily. The Alamo has won the top award for park food the past few years. Their specialty is chicken and waffles among other homemade dishes. Barb says she wants to believe that this is helping to keep her young! She and husband Dennis have been married for (can you believe) 52 years and have five awesome active grandchildren.

Liz Baldwin Ewing expressed "what a wonderful 50th Reunion we had and so glad I went!! It was so good to see everyone." She loved the personal touch we experienced in our suite and class dinner with all the decorations and fun. She had lots of great experiences being back in Emmitsburg, like touring the campus (and the log cabin!!) with the fantastic fire academy tour guide, going to the Ott House for lunch, the beautiful Mass at the Seton Shrine Basilica, and especially being with old dear friends. It was such a wonderful time and she can't thank the SJCAA board enough for all the planning that goes into this event! Liz says that the highlight of the four days was the beautiful Legacy award presented to Trudie that surprised the heck out of her! "That was the best!!"

Liz says that she doesn't get to go too many places given home/husband needs etc. It was such a mental health release and it was so liberating to talk and be with friends from so many years ago when we were young. She had such a great time and looks forward to April 2025 (God willing)!!

In May, Liz went to Loyola's 50th Reunion for the 2 years after she left SJC…it was a Mass and luncheon and included any alums who wanted to attend. She saw Rosie Fama Waugh but that was it. Mainly sat with the old alums and discussed church changes (ha!).

Kathy Oliver Kadilak and her husband Steve celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary with a two-week European vacation in early May. They enjoyed a wonderful river cruise on the Danube followed by a few days in Bled, Slovenia.

Rosie Fama Waugh and Patti Touhey Bargnes rode back to DC the Sunday of the Reunion, and Rosie suggested they stop at Royal Farms for some fried chicken (world famous). "Touhey" said it was the best chicken she had ever eaten. Since there are many Royal Farms establishments on the eastern shore, Rosie goes there frequently so wasn't surprised how delighted she was. What a great way to end a fabulous Reunion weekend! Post Script: Afterwards when talking to her son Jason, Patti insisted that Maryland chicken was best while Jason said Washington, DC fried chicken was the best. "Royal Farms rocks! And their gas is cheap too" says Rosie.

Rosie and Becky Rutherford Dacey continue to enjoy our small book club, and Trudie is now joining them. "Love this!"

Rosie purchased the book *Creating Light*, which, as many of you know, was authored by our classmate Beth Hurley Luers. It is the story of three survivors of the Holocaust whom she interviewed. Rosie loved the book and wrote Beth about it. She told her that each year the fifth graders she taught would go to the Holocaust Museum and walk through "Daniel's Story," an age appropriate exhibit that allows children to gain a little understanding of what happened during those

awful days in Germany. It lead Rosie to read another book *Lucky Child* written by one of the survivors in Beth's book, Thomas Buergenthal. Wonderful read also! Thank you Beth!

Cindy Smith Kauffman, a former first grade teacher, and husband Skip former controller at Brooklane Health Services have both been retired now 14 years. Skip retired from being Mayor of Boonsboro, MD for 28 years in 2016. Cindy retired from the Mayor and Council in 2018. They have both been involved in the life of their church and in the community and she says that without having had children they made that their priority.

Cindy expresses how hard it is to believe that it's been 50 years since graduation. She transferred to Hood College and graduated from there in May 1974. Cindy and Skip got married on June 29, 1974 and they recently spent time in Ocean City, MD celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. What a blessing to have a mate for this long. They met in 1971 when she was still at Joe's. They celebrated by having an anniversary luncheon with friends at the Carriage House in Emmitsburg and touring the Seton Shrine, and they try to visit that area a few times a year. They lead a quiet life but are blessed with health and family!

Pattie Laneve Mullaney wrote that the highlight of the year was the SJC Reunion--a lovely and memorable CELEBRATION thanks to many who planned, delivered, and attended! It was a very special time. "P" says that the Mount St. Mary's alumni chapter of the Maryland and Delaware beaches is growing! The last gathering for Mass at St. Edmonds in Rehoboth and lunch to follow was well attended. She was happy to see Jane and Jimmy Gallagher who recently moved from Florida. Bill Healy was also there and Art Taylor who relocated from Arizona, who have all nestled in the area. "More fun times to come" says Patty.

Mary Berens Regan and Pattie have connected at St. Ann's in Bethany Beach where Mary facilitates a large and robust group of women through a nationwide program called *Walking With Purpose*. Check it out! Pattie says she really enjoyed her first 22 week session and will continue in the fall to the next series. Mary is one busy classmate! Pattie is anxious to share that the *Walking With Purpose* group is an online or small group faith enhancing Bible study--she showed up wearing sneakers thinking she would burn some calories! Pattie says that it has been so much more.

Paula Kozloski Swetley joked that she was late in responding to the request for news for *The Valley Echo*: "My only excuse is that I have been lazy! Haha I should say, 'retired.' As I sit on my couch today watching the Sunday sports with a margarita in hand, a little birdie, whispered in my ear and suggested that I write to you."

Paula continues, "Our St. Joe's history all began our freshman year in 1970, and continued to grow strong throughout the years. How blessed we are to be the Joe's girls who have timeless memories! Many thanks go out to our Joe's sisters who helped make this weekend so special. Trudie, our dedicated sister, was the leader over the years who helped us grow and continue our friendships. During the Reunion weekend, Trudie was honored by receiving the Legacy award. Other sisters like Barb Callum, Mary Ellen Kitchner, and Debbie Mitchell added the frosting on the cake by presenting stories of our time at Joe's. Barb spoke at our class dinner, sharing many stories of our time together. Mary Ellen and Debbie collected memories, and constructed videos and posters of our favorite times together. Thank you all for making this an exceptional Reunion. Don't forget that we can celebrate again, next year, **April 3-6th, 2025**.

Paula shared that Maureen Sommar Milde, Becky Rutherford Dacey, and Paula's husband Mark and she participated in a golf tournament for the foundation of Patrick Milde, Maureen's son, for a fun day on and off the golf course. Thanks for those who participated and supported the Milde family. "Joe's is love."

Barb Callan Bogia wrote about what a FABULOUS 50th Reunion we had this spring. Barb writes, "Make no doubt, Trudie made it possible. She has shepherded us all these years when she could have spent her time and energy with Mount St. Mary's alumni association instead of with SJC. The highlight of the night was when Trudie was awarded the **SJC Legacy Award** for her spectacular service, especially for a class that did not graduate from SJC. We always were a class to be reckoned with."

Barb expressed how wonderful it was to see and visit with classmates who we haven't seen since 1972! So many laughs and memories shared. Barb so enjoyed working with MaryEllen Kitchener Pluemer and Debbie Mitchell Kraponick on the speech, video, and decorations for our 50th. To say the least we had lots of fun and laughter pulling all that information together. Barb and husband Dave will be celebrating their 30th

wedding anniversary by renewing their vows at church on September 1, 2024. In October they leave on a trip to Scotland and Ireland and they can't wait.

Barb writes, "May all of us be together once again this coming spring for the last SJC Reunion. Please make it a priority-- it's so much fun with ALL of us there."

Mary Ann McWhorter Riley starts by saying that she and husband Matt arrived home from Jekyll Island, GA early June. They have a condo there to use January-mid June and then whenever! Jekyll Island has been a part of their lives for over 50 years. They arrived late August 2023 and ended up staying until early June 2024 as Mary Ann had contracted sepsis in her spine. Many days in the hospital and weeks of daily IV antibiotic infusions filled their "new life in their new condo." Pain was pretty incredible, but managed by drugs. They had incredible support from friends and family to get through it all. When Mary Ann began to walk again, gingerly, she started PT and realized that sitting for six months had stolen her endurance and strength. She is still recovering as her bones begin to heal but now they are back home as she continues PT and multiple doctor visits.

Happily, Mary Ann WAS able to make it to our Reunion….fantastic, fabulous, so special…loved every minute of it! Mary Ann asks our classmates to PLEASE try and come next spring for the last one-you won't regret it!!!

On a wonderful note, Mary Ann and Matt celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in May 2024!!! They celebrated with their three kids and their families on Jekyll Island for a long Memorial Day weekend. Mary Ann says that it was magical on so many levels and made so special by so many friends on the island who helped them celebrate. Filled with pool time, picnics, beach time, special dinners, a dolphin boat trip, and family pics on Driftwood Beach--truly an unforgettable celebration. Mary Ann and Matt head to Cape Cod for two weeks in August and plan to see Pat Morel and her husband for dinner! They will also see their son Brian, wife Dee, and grandsons who are just up in Cohasset and the Cape.

Mary Ellen Kirchner Pluemer shares that after retiring from Baltimore County Schools after 38 years of teaching and chairing several departments and projects, she was looking for a way to still use some of her skills while socially doing something she could enjoy! This came to life by joining a garden club to learn more about gardening, not her forte! In a short period of time she became head of a project at a local park, then became club president, and has become involved at the District III and the State level of Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland!!

Mary Ellen was one of a few from the Class of '74 who got to accelerate and graduate from St. Joe's and still counts her friends from that time of her life as some of her nearest and dearest friends ever!!!! She is hoping to see the biggest group ever returning to the final SJC Reunion in 2025!!!!

Eileen McAlarnen wrote that spring was busy with four trips to the east coast, St. Joe's 50th Reunion, family events, and the Mount's 50th Reunion. She writes that "It was wonderful to spend time with the ladies from '74! Hard to believe that it was so long ago that we were freshmen at St. Joe's." She thanks everyone who made our Reunion so special!

"Irish" played tourist in Washington, DC over Mother's Day weekend visiting museums and monuments. The National Mall was crowded with families taking photos--she offered to take photos of some tourists so that the "Mom" could be in the photo. In return a couple gave her a ticket to the White House Garden Tour scheduled for that day as a thank you. The White House gardens were beautiful to see and learn about their history. Irish hopes to visit Cape May, NJ in September to cool down after a hot summer in Phoenix, AZ. Maybe she will meet up with some Joe's girls for lunch while she is there!

Shirley Humbert O'Donnell writes that she was so sorry to miss the Reunion this year as she really enjoyed the chance to see so many of our class at our 40th in 2014. So much has happened, she says she is sure, to everyone and life seems to get busier, "or am I just moving slower!?"

Shirley and husband Denny just celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary! Thanks be to God! It is so hard to believe when she thinks of those early years at St. Joe's, when she just thought we would be "forever young!" "Not a news flash to anyone of us, but--we aren't!" Life has had its challenges and also its joys, as Shirley looks back she is so grateful for the beginning of our time in Emmitsburg. She, like most of us, did not want it to end, when the closing was announced and yet, she says as she looks back now, she can see that

"God opened new doors that would bring new blessings as well. Sometimes they were wrapped around a cross. Yet, Our Lord was with us (and still is)."

Shirley has moved several times since leaving St. Joe's in 1972 after finishing Nursing at UVA (Margee Crystal Koffler was her dear roommate there!).

Shirley and Denny have lived in Germany; Lexington, KY; Jacksonville, FL; Nashville, TN; and since 1992, Raleigh, NC. Those moves happened before emails and texts existed, so it was harder to keep up with friends. They have two adult children, son Sean (Joy) with four children between the ages of nine and one in Ohio, and daughter Katie (Miguel) with three children ages six, four, two, and baby brother due in October, who live a mile away. Needless to say, the past ten years have brought new joys and busyness beyond her wildest dreams!

So, as she sends this note, Shirley is also reflecting upon the blessings of her life, her dear husband, two living married children (two with God in Heaven) and eight grandchildren. They just returned from a beach vacation, and it was the greatest anniversary present! Sunday Mass together at the Cathedral of Charleston when the children brought up the Offertory gifts brought tears of joy and thanksgiving to God. Then, fun on the beach together! Shirley loved her work early on as a pediatric nurse, but she would pick motherhood and grandmotherhood over that any day!

In 2010, on a Pilgrimage to Fatima with Matthew Kelly and Curtis Martin (FOCUS--our daughter Katie was a FOCUS missionary), Shirley remembers Curtis Martin giving a talk and saying, "Being a Catholic is not about having the perfect life in our past, but about finishing well!" That touched her heart profoundly, along with our Blessed Mother's prayers and the children of Fatima, and she will continue to pray that we can all "finish well" for God's glory in this special season of our lives. Well said, Shirley, very well said.

Thanks to everyone who sent news for *The Valley Echo*, and we look forward to seeing as many of you who can possibly attend our final SJCAA organized Reunion April 3-6, 2025! Be there for the joyful celebration of our very special friendships that have lasted from 1970 to 2025--55 years to celebrate ladies! Let's celebrate the love! Even if you are anxious about seeing everyone again, just remember, it's just us! A few years older and a lot more fun!!

As Paula wrote at our 40th Reunion: JOE'S IS LOVE and as the theme of our 2024 50th Reunion that Mary Ellen, Barb, and Debbie wrote: "We parted too soon after our start, but we'll always be Joe's girls at heart!"

SJCAA'S SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED FOR 2023-2024 *continued from page 8*

and Success. A go-getter, besides succeeding academically, she was active on campus in many ways. Rachel kept a work-study job at the Palmieri Activities Center for all four years and was hired as an Activity Management Program leader. In this role she planned all of the campus activities. She served as SGA Committee Chair for student activities. Rachel intends to start her teaching career in either Frederick County or Montgomery County, to help a community she has come to know. While teaching she aspires to take evening courses toward a master's degree.

As a rising senior at MSMU this fall, Colin, our second recipient, also reaches academic heights. He is majoring in Political Science, with minors in Philosophy and History. He is consistently on the Dean's List and is a member of the George Henry Miles Honor Society. A professor wrote "Colin gave full attention to his assignments, often turning them in early, and never misses class."

This young man is very involved in campus ministry. He directs 12 sacristans and prepares for Mass on campus 11 times each week. Colin also serves as a bible study leader with six-seven students. He's received many awards for service on campus over his three years and has performed service for outside organizations, such as Homeless Outreach, Joseph's House, Camden, NJ, and the Inglis House for people with disabilities, Philadelphia, PA. Colin's desire is to study at Catholic University's Law School, and later practice family law. By the way, he is also discerning the priesthood.

If you would like more information about the SJCAA scholarship program at MSMU, please contact the Alumnae Office at sjcaa@msmary.edu or 301.447.5075.

IN Memoriam

Alumnae Deaths

1949	Helene Dragon Zaepfel	March 23, 2024
	Sheila Ward McPeak	December 30, 2023
1950	Elizabeth "Betty" Wood	February 24, 2024
1953	Geraldine "Jerry" D. Myers Becker	April 9, 2024
1954	Beth Carter Gibson	November 20, 2022
	Marguerite Bourdeau Byrne	July 16, 2024
1955	Pauline "Pal" Lisella Raftopoulous	June 4, 2024
1956	Joan Kerr Benjamin	June 28, 2024
	Sister Nancy Meskill, SFCC	March 29, 2024
	Mary Ann Radzievich Pagano	February 20, 2024
1957	Elizabeth Ann Kenney Sheridan	October 2, 2023
	Jeannette "Jeanne" Sledz Moore	December 31, 2023
1959	Mary Louise Dingle Myers Castellano	June 13, 2024
	Mary Jane Scott Foster	October 27, 2023
1960	Marie Gavin Dawes	May 4, 2024
1965	Kathleen O'Brien Poplowski	May 24, 2024
1968	Suzanne Currie Laird	September 17, 2023
	Anne "Sparky" Coleman Neel	January 19, 2024
1969	Lindanne Hawkins Bethel	August 2021
	Celeste Gelwicks Evans	March 7, 2024
1970	Pamela Hackley Howton	September 26, 2024
1972	Mary Mehl Doherty	September 21, 2023
	Kathy Bryan Baldwin	July 25, 2024
1973	Mary Anne Donohue	February 19, 2024
	Elizabeth "Libby" Strype Weidmann	March 15, 2021
1974	Kathy Bergin McCann	October 12, 2023

Family Deaths

- Thomas Rocks MSM '64, brother of **Angela Rocks '58** and **Mary Rocks '64** – April 1, 2024
- William Leo Sheridan MSM '56, husband of **Betty Ann Kenney Sheridan '57** – February 17, 2024
- Michael Peter Chrismer MSM '62, husband of **Catherine "Kitty" Dignan Chrismer '62** and brother-in-law of **Elizabeth "Beth" Dignan Blumer '69** and the late **Mary Pat Dignan '72** – July 29, 2024
- Joseph V. Fazio, husband of **Maureen Monks Fazio '62** – January 1, 2023
- Jane Purkis Kearney MSM '88, daughter of Raymond Purkis MSM '63 and **Mary Ellen Gill Purkis '63** – September 11, 2023
- Jack Swartz, husband of **Susan Williamson Swartz '63** – September 7, 2024
- Charles Carter, brother of **Johanna Carter Moore '64** – May 17, 2024
- Sister Germaine Fritz, O.S.B., sister of **Jocelyn Fritz Collins '68** – July 21, 2024
- Gladys Lynn Cartagena MSM '78, sister of **JoAnne Cartagena Windle '70**, **Maria Elena Cartagena DeCaire '72**, and Dorothy Ann Cartagena '73 – November 7, 2023
- Michael O'Connell MSM '70, husband of **Judi Siani O'Connell '70** and cousin of **Carol Healey Haran '68** – November 21, 2023
- Lyle Brown, husband of **Barbara Kest Brown '70** – December 29, 2023
- Stephen Curran MSM '72, husband of **Ro Maher Curran '72** – July 4, 2024

St. Joseph College Faculty Deaths

Thomas Michael Leonard PhD MSM '59 – February 15, 2023

Dr. Thomas Michael Leonard of St. John's, FL was an awarding winning author and much loved educator who taught History and Foreign Policy at St. Joseph College from 1966 to 1972.

SJC Reunion 2025 *April 3 - April 6*

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend our FINAL SJC REUNION 2025!

RETURN…RECONNECT…REWIND…RECHARGE…RELAX…REMEMBER…

This Reunion is for **All Classes**. The Reunion Committee is hard at work planning one last time. We invite you to come back to the Valley to be "All Together" again! Help us celebrate.

Here's the schedule.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025

Return - Register at the *beautiful* Gettysburg Wyndham Hotel. Check in at the Reunion Registration desk. The Reunion Committee will be hosting a Welcome Wine Social, followed by pizza and salad. Come visit with your classmates and join in the fun, it's just the beginning.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025

Reconnect - We are planning an entire day of activities starting with a Continental Breakfast. Then you can choose a boxed lunch to eat at the Wyndham or go out to lunch with classmates. An informal guided tour of the campus will begin at 1:00pm. After the campus tour, you can choose to tour the new School of Health Professionals or the Seton Shrine at 3:00pm.

Rewind - Dinner will start with a Cash Bar at the Wyndham followed by a Buffet Dinner. This is for all Alumnae.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

Recharge - Your day begins with a Buffet Breakfast including the Annual Meeting. Even if you decide not to participate in the breakfast you are still invited to attend the Annual Meeting starting at 9:15am. All are encouraged to attend to learn about what will happen when our alumnae association transitions to the Mount at the end of June. Class photos will be taken immediately following the meeting. A time schedule will be posted at Reunion.

A highlight of the weekend is the **4:30pm Alumnae Memorial Mass at the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**. Classes will participate in a rose procession and ceremony honoring our college, Mother Seton, and our deceased alumnae.

Remember - Return to the Wyndham for a Social Hour followed by our final Banquet and listen to memories of SJCAA, as well as the final presentation of the Reunion Awards.

SUNDAY APRIL 6, 2025

Our final event is a Continental Breakfast before bidding farewell to friends and classmates.

Making Reservations

Two (2) registrations are necessary, one with SJC, and one with the Wyndham. SJC registration forms will be mailed to you in early November 2024. Return your completed registration form to the SJC Alumnae Office or register online at **www.msmary.edu/sjcaa**

Make your hotel reservations by visiting the Wyndham Gettysburg website *(you can type the link below or scan the QR code with your phone)*
www.wyndhamhotels.com/wyndham/gettysburg-pennsylvania/wyndham-gettysburg/rooms-rates?brand_id=HR&checkInDate=4/2/2025&checkOutDate=4/6/2025&useWRPoints=false&children=0&groupCode=040225SAI&adults=1&rooms=1&loc=ChIJuctoabtUyIkRvu9zCUGp4HY&sessionId=1712754437
or by calling 717.339.0020 *(press 3)*
Ask for Saint Joseph College Reunion 2025 Group Block.

For More Information Contact:

Reunion 2025 Chair:
Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck '70
maryannshattuck@gmail.com

Co-Chairs:
Christine Roos Mehl '70
atthebeach89@comcast.net

Leslie Henze Blackstock '70
leslieblackstock1@gmail.com

SJC Alumnae Liaison:
Renee Hill-Goodson
r.hill-goodson@msmary.edu