

The

# Valley Echo

The St. Joseph College Alumnae Association, Emmitsburg, MD

Volume 17, No. 1 Fall 2025



# *A note from your* SJCAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Front Row: (from left) Florence DeLessio Marchetti '67, Mary Lou Ullrich Jones '64, Anne Higgins DC '70, Leslie Henze Blackstock '70, Christine Wiberley Goglia '73.  
Second Row: (from left) Maureen Hinke Hahn '73, Claire B. Maurer '64, Maryann Lesso '70, Kathleen McNaney Younkin '70, Ellen Krieger Smelas '63, Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck '70.  
Third Row: (from left) Trudie Managiaracina Glazewski '74, Christine Roos Mehl '70, Susan Stay Valenti '70, Karen Mattscheck '72. Not Present: Jean Givens Denney '69.

## The SJCAA Board of Trustees is pleased to bring you the last issue of *The Valley Echo* - Fall 2025.

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.  
Mount St. Mary's University, 16300 Old Emmitsburg Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727  
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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.

#### **Managing Editor**

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Karen Mattscheck '72  
Claire Maurer '64  
Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck '70

#### **Designer**

Alyssa Siford, Gateway Printing, Inc.

**Cover: "All this and Heaven too"** – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Artwork by Rebecca Pearl, well known artist in Frederick County and the state of Maryland. Her work has a distinctive style of impressionism, mainly conveyed in watercolor, pastel, and oil. This painting was commissioned by the Mother Seton School in 2003 partly to commemorate St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's coming to Emmitsburg to start the first Colloquial school in America.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                               |    |
|-----------------------------------------------|----|
| President's Letter                            | 3  |
| Financial Report                              | 4  |
| A Letter from<br>President Gerard Joyce       | 5  |
| A Letter from<br>Patty Hill-Callahan          | 6  |
| Philanthropies -<br>Mother Seton School       | 7  |
| Honoring a Legacy of Care                     | 8  |
| The SJCAA Journey                             | 9  |
| Reunion 2025 Summary                          | 10 |
| SJCAA Board Honored with<br>2025 Legacy Award | 11 |
| Scholars Announced                            | 11 |
| Photo Gallery                                 | 13 |
| Class of 1975 Story                           | 40 |
| Class News                                    | 43 |
| In Memoriam                                   | 86 |



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### Welcome to *The Valley Echo* 2025

 On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the St. Joseph College Alumnae Association (SJCAA), I want to THANK YOU, the members of the association, for keeping our dream alive through the past 20 years. You were challenged through an association restructuring, taking us from the umbrella of the Daughters of Charity to an association managed completely by alumnae, more recently with the help of Mount St. Mary's University (MSM).

You paid your dues, you came to Reunions, you supported charities like Mother Seton School in Emmitsburg, and you gave to initiatives to remember SJCAA long after we disband--the Scholarship at MSM and the lobby of the School of Health Professions at the Mount. In all, close to three quarters of a million dollars contributed by alumnae in the past 20 years for Emmitsburg. What a wonderful legacy to a fantastic group of women--keeping us going for over 50 years after our college closed. Your generosity and devotion to our association have been the driving forces to keep the board working for you all these years. Thank you for the inspiration--our work has been a labor of love and friendship for alumnae of an organization that has meant so much to all of us.

Now we must pass the torch to the Mount to keep our alumnae together through their association. You will see welcoming introductions from the MSM President, Dr. Gerard Joyce, and the Vice President for Advancement, Patty Hill-Callahan, C'87. All your contact will now be through Mount St. Mary's. The new phone number to use is 301.447.5362 and the email address for the Mount Alumni office is [alumni@msmary.edu](mailto:alumni@msmary.edu). Legacy years will be invited to Reunions on their five-year anniversaries. The Mount will plan an event for alumnae to celebrate together and will work with FEMA to continue the campus tours. You will also be included in all other MSM alumni activities, such as prayers on All Souls Day, and invitations to regional events. You will not be paying dues, but the Mount will ask you to donate to the University. Your continued gifts to the SJC Scholarship at MSM will count as a donation to the Mount. You can also opt out of information from the Mount if you want, but then you won't learn about continued Reunions. The Mount has my name as a contact in case there are questions they aren't sure how to answer.

Your class agents will be key in keeping your class active, as they have been under SJCAA. Please give them all your support, they welcome it, as well as any ideas you have for your class.

And now, we are passing the torch forward to the Mount. They have been so supportive of us during our last 17 years, and we look forward to being able to stay in touch through their alumni office and activities.

Again, thank you for all your support through the years. It has been a pleasure to work with you and keep SJCAA alive to 2025! God bless all of you.

All my best,

*Karen*

**Karen Mattscheck '72**  
President, SJCAA

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Our financial focus in 2025 was to care for our expenses and to donate any remaining funds to our charitable causes, as the dissolution process requires. With membership dwindling, as expected, over the past few years, our dues income has declined. As a result, we have used cash reserves to fund operating expenses.

Our expenses in 2025 included our normal expenses: Charity (contributions to Mother Seton School, the Seton Center; Masses at the Seton Shrine); Office expenses (printing, postage, office supplies, credit card fees, insurance); Management Services Contract with Mount St. Mary's University (Alumnae Liaison salary, telephone, website support, computer support, office space); *The Valley Echo*; Reunion expenses, and Legal expenses for the dissolution process.

As of June 30, 2025, the effective date of the dissolution, our cash assets were \$192,727. Anticipated expenses yet to be paid totaled \$32,883, leaving \$159,844 available for distribution to those charities designated by the Board in the official dissolution process.

The Board has designated the Mother Seton School and the Seton Center as the charities for the final distribution of remaining funds, to be distributed equally between them. Also, prior to dissolution, arrangements were made with the Seton Shrine for remembrance at daily Masses at the Shrine for all living and deceased alumnae for the next ten years, through 2035.

It is your generosity which has made these charitable contributions possible. Because your support of the School of Health Professions exceeded our commitment, the association did not have to make the \$100,000 contribution as planned to that effort. As a result, each charity will receive over \$79,000 as our final contribution to their work.

We are grateful to you for your support over the years which have enabled us to not just continue to exist but to make a difference in the Emmitsburg community, helping to educate students at Mother Seton School and helping those needing assistance through the Seton Center. Your generous support of the SJC Alumnae Scholarship Fund at Mount St. Mary's has created a fund currently valued at \$334,630, enabling awards of \$7,250 per student, more than triple our original award in 2015 of \$2,200.

Although we will no longer contribute to these worthy charities as an association, all are worthy of your consideration for personal charitable contributions.

Thank you for your responsiveness over the years to our requests for dues and support for our charitable efforts.

*Claire*

Claire Maurer '64  
Finance Chair

## 2025 DUES PERCENTAGES

| Class        | TOTAL        | FY25<br>Paid | Percentage   |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1946 Total   | 2            | 0            | 0.0%         |
| 1947 Total   | 3            | 2            | 66.7%        |
| 1948 Total   | 5            | 2            | 40.0%        |
| 1949 Total   | 5            | 2            | 40.0%        |
| 1950 Total   | 7            | 1            | 14.3%        |
| 1951 Total   | 11           | 1            | 9.1%         |
| 1952 Total   | 9            | 1            | 11.1%        |
| 1953 Total   | 6            | 1            | 16.7%        |
| 1954 Total   | 11           | 3            | 27.3%        |
| 1955 Total   | 12           | 6            | 50.0%        |
| 1956 Total   | 10           | 5            | 50.0%        |
| 1957 Total   | 19           | 5            | 26.3%        |
| 1958 Total   | 33           | 13           | 39.4%        |
| 1959 Total   | 33           | 10           | 30.3%        |
| 1960 Total   | 37           | 15           | 40.5%        |
| 1961 Total   | 46           | 18           | 39.1%        |
| 1962 Total   | 40           | 17           | 42.5%        |
| 1963 Total   | 61           | 30           | 49.2%        |
| 1964 Total   | 96           | 47           | 49.0%        |
| 1965 Total   | 84           | 41           | 48.8%        |
| 1966 Total   | 85           | 21           | 24.7%        |
| 1967 Total   | 95           | 26           | 27.4%        |
| 1968 Total   | 118          | 43           | 36.4%        |
| 1969 Total   | 143          | 39           | 27.3%        |
| 1970 Total   | 116          | 43           | 37.1%        |
| 1971 Total   | 99           | 34           | 34.3%        |
| 1972 Total   | 69           | 46           | 66.7%        |
| 1973 Total   | 94           | 41           | 43.6%        |
| 1974 Total   | 79           | 30           | 38.0%        |
| 1975 Total   | 31           | 10           | 32.3%        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>1,459</b> | <b>553</b>   | <b>37.9%</b> |

**Beginning with class year 1946 - Total solicitable base of alumnae (with good addresses): 1,459.**

## A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT JOYCE

*D*ear Alumnae of St. Joseph College:

It is an honor to offer a few words in this final edition of *The Valley Echo*. As the St. Joseph College alumnae become formally a part of Mount St. Mary's National Alumni Association, I want to extend my warmest welcome to each of you.

Since arriving in Emmitsburg in the summer of 2024, I have met many St. Joe's alums--women of strong faith, character, intellect, and accomplishment. Through your stories, I have learned about the college's traditions, its distinguished origins, and its incredible living legacy of our nation's excellent parochial schools. This proud history of the college thrives--through you, your families, your careers, your parishes, and your communities. You have used your path-breaking education to enrich and improve everything you touch. In truth, it is easy to see why decades of Mount St. Mary's men flocked to the St. Joe's campus whenever possible and eagerly awaited your arrival at weekend dances at the Mount.

Of course, our two institutions have been thoroughly intertwined since their beginnings. In the modern era, joint student social committees planned extensive event schedules, resulting in too many lifelong friendships and marriages to count. Later, the institutions worked in tandem in academics, with coed classes on both campuses. And the Mount was strengthened immeasurably with the smart, self-possessed St. Joe's women who transferred to Mount St. Mary's in the early 1970s.

St. Joe's alumnae also have been exceptionally generous in their engagement with and financial support for Mount St. Mary's. I want to acknowledge with gratitude the alumnae association's philanthropy for the university's new School of Health Professions, linking St. Joe's storied nursing program with the university's growing health sciences degree programs.

This past spring, I had the privilege of speaking at the final annual meeting of St. Joe's alumnae. Your passion for your alma mater was clear and well warranted. I made the group a promise that day, which is this: As you join our alumni association, I will make sure that the Mount is an excellent steward of St. Joe's legacy.

Please know of my enduring gratitude and my excitement about our shared future.

Sincerely,

Gerard J. Joyce, PhD  
President  
Mount St. Mary's University



Gerard J. Joyce, President,  
Mount St. Mary's University

## A LETTER FROM PATTY HILL-CALLAHAN

Dear Alumnae of St. Joseph College:

What a privilege to share a few words with you as we officially welcome you to Mount St. Mary's Alumni Association! Though our institutions formally joined decades ago, this marks a special and meaningful step forward as we unite our alumni communities in intentional, lasting ways. Through joining forces, we will be a stronger, more effective organization working on behalf of our shared values and purpose.

St. Joseph College holds a proud and cherished place in both my own family and in the Mount's history. Four women in my family are St. Joe's graduates, and I was shaped in profound ways by their unceasing faith and their creative and critical thinking skills that were forged at the college. To a person, these women--and all the alumnae I've had the good fortune of meeting through the years--have known their minds well and have been crystal clear about their life's purpose. St. Joe's legacy of academic excellence, spiritual growth, and service inspires the Mount's current educational approach and service--today and for generations to come. We are grateful to carry forward your traditions and stories as integral members of the Mount family.

As we move ahead together, we are excited to honor the legacy of St. Joseph College by fostering meaningful connections, celebrating shared traditions, and creating new opportunities for engagement. Whether through regional events, volunteer opportunities, or Reunion Weekend celebrations held every first full weekend in June, your presence will enrich our alumni community and strengthen the enduring bond between our institutions. We are already planning a special section devoted to celebrating and welcoming St. Joe's alumnae to our alumni association in the next edition of the *Mount Magazine*.

Please know that your history, your accomplishments, and your spirit are deeply valued here. We are excited to welcome you home--to a community that is more vibrant because you are part of it. I am eager to build relationships with you in the years to come.

With gratitude,

Patty Hill-Callahan, C'87  
Vice President for Advancement  
Mount St. Mary's University



Patty Hill-Callahan, Vice President  
for Advancement, Mount St. Mary's.

# PHILANTHROPIES - MOTHER SETON SCHOOL

## The Legacy of SJCAA

Since 1998, the generosity of the St. Joseph College Alumnae Association (SJCAA) has touched the lives of more than 125 families, providing nearly \$150,000 in scholarships to help their children attend Mother Seton School. As the SJCAA closes this chapter of its history, we are full of gratitude for the countless ways you have carried forward the spirit of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and her devotion to Catholic education. Because of you, her legacy continues to thrive.

Even as 2025 sees this era come to a close, another beautiful beginning is unfolding. Construction is nearly complete on our new chapel, lovingly made possible by TJ and Donna Fitzgerald Demmon, SJC '71 in memory of their son Christopher. This sacred space will bear the name of St. Joseph, honoring Mother Seton's deep love for St. Joseph's Valley and her devotion to the saint. With the gift of the chapel's chairs and steeple bell, the SJCAA leaves an indelible and faith-filled mark on this historic milestone, strengthening the connection between your story and ours.

Today, more families than ever are seeking the blessing of a Catholic education for their children, and tuition assistance remains our greatest need. We are deeply thankful for the ways SJC alumnae have stepped forward to make this possible, both individually and through named scholarships such as the Dorothy and

Fred Mattscheck Scholarship and the Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck and Christine Wiberley Goglia Scholarship. These gifts ensure that Mother Seton School remains accessible to every child, regardless of financial means.

There are many ways to carry this legacy forward. Named scholarships create a lasting impact for generations to come. Planned gifts, such as a simple amendment to your will, living trust, or retirement plan, allow you to leave a gift that costs nothing during your lifetime yet blesses students and families for years ahead. Designating Mother Seton School to receive your minimum IRA distributions is another great way to help sustain the future of Catholic education in the Valley. We would be honored to walk alongside you in making sure your hopes and goals are reflected in a gift that continues your story in the Valley. Together, we celebrate a bond that time cannot break—a shared heritage of faith and education. Whatever the future holds, please know that you will always have a home at Mother Seton School. Our doors and our hearts remain open, and we look forward with joy to continuing this special partnership in the years to come.

For more information, please contact **Jennifer Buchheister, Director of Advancement**, at 301.447.3165 or by email: [advancement@mothersetonschool.org](mailto:advancement@mothersetonschool.org).



# HONORING A LEGACY OF CARE

## Mount St. Mary's University School of Health Professions

by Mary Jackson, MMS, PA-C

When the Mount St. Mary's University School of Health Professions welcomes its inaugural cohort of physician assistant (PA) students this coming January, it will not only be launching a new academic program, but it will also carry forward a tradition deeply rooted in service, compassion, and a commitment to the common good. That tradition lives on today in part thanks to the incredible generosity of the St. Joseph College Alumnae Association (SJCAA), whose support made possible the beautiful and welcoming lobby that now greets every student, faculty member, and visitor who walks through our doors.



Mary Jackson, PA Program Director discusses the facilities of the School of Health Professions.

Located in Emmitsburg, MD, just a short distance from the original St. Joseph College campus, the School of Health Professions stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of Catholic healthcare and education. The lobby, named in honor of the SJCAA, is more than a physical space; it is a symbolic threshold between past and future, between the pioneering women who trained as nurses, educators, caregivers, and other professions at St. Joseph, and the new generation of health professionals preparing to serve an ever-evolving world.

Outside in a garden, is a marker honoring the SJC alumnae who kept the organization alive for 53 years after the closing of the college. Just inside the vestibule, guests are met with a striking painting of the historic St. Joseph's building, an image that captures both the grandeur and the heart of a cherished institution. As visitors enter the lobby, they are invited to view a moving video that chronicles the powerful history of St. Joseph College and the remarkable alumnae who shaped it. These stories, full of purpose, service, and often heroism, are deeply emotional. I'm struck by how often visitors pause to share their own personal ties to St. Joseph's. Many have friends, family, colleagues, or mentors who studied there. The lobby has quickly become more than an entrance; it is a gathering place of memory, connection, and heartfelt tribute to an extraordinary community of distinguished and inspiring women.

The School of Health Professions is home to both the PA program and the Blue Peak Center for Applied Behavior Analysis. The Center serves the region's children and families navigating autism diagnoses and reflects the St. Joseph's mission of compassionate service to the most vulnerable among us. In the PA program, students are immersed in rigorous academic preparation

and hands-on clinical experiences designed to foster not only competence but also compassion, the same values that defined the St. Joseph experience. The School of Health Professions is just beginning and aspires to grow to meet the evolving needs of patients, communities, and learners. Future planning will explore the possibility of offering other high-demand healthcare specialties, such as nursing, which speaks intimately to the St. Joseph's legacy of care, service, and advocacy in health and education.

The presence of the St. Joseph name within the School of Health Professions is a reminder to students and faculty alike of the legacy they are now part of. It speaks to a lineage of women who placed the dignity of every person at the center of their work. It also sends a message that excellence in healthcare education begins with community and is sustained by those who believe in its mission.

Your contribution, both financial and spiritual, helps Mount St. Mary's cultivate a generation of healthcare leaders who will carry the light of St. Joseph's legacy into hospitals, clinics, and underserved communities across the nation. The lobby stands as a daily affirmation of that legacy. It is where students gather to study, connect, reflect, and begin their journey toward becoming compassionate and skilled health professionals.

We are grateful for your trust in this vision and are proud to carry your legacy forward. Together, we are building something that is not only academically strong, but also morally grounded, a place where faith and healing walk hand in hand.

# THE SJCAA JOURNEY

by Claire Maurer '64

Although this is a Final Reunion, it is also a celebration. We are celebrating not only the 128th Reunion of the St. Joseph College Alumnae Association (SJCAA) but also the girls who lived and learned together on our beloved campus and became women of substance. It is a celebration of women who cherish that experience and have taken what was learned there to become educators, health care professionals, wives, partners, mothers, board members, entrepreneurs, holders of advanced degrees, volunteers, community activists, and the list goes on. What better time to reflect on the beginnings of the journey that we have been blessed to share.

In reviewing the history of the association, the threads of much that we have done in this century were present in the early years. The alumnae association was born in 1897, 88 years after St. Joseph College began. The founders, from the classes of 1865, 1868, and 1871 were ambitious. A simple constitution was developed, graduates from previous years contacted, and the association came together. At the first meeting in June, 1898, "Miss Stella McBride," learned the risk of volunteering. She was appointed Secretary for life! She served 25 years in that role. In the ensuing years, many board members and presidents would follow her example and serve multiple years as Board members.

Of course, an organization can't exist long before it wants to collect money! So, right after the turn of the century, an Alumnae Building Fund Campaign was begun to build a "clubhouse" where alumnae could gather when visiting on campus. Although \$3,100 was raised (\$113,000 in today's dollars) by 1903, it wasn't enough for the clubhouse. So what to do with the money? Deliberations and discussions ensued over several future annual meetings, with proponents to build a gymnasium, establish a scholarship, or continue to save for the clubhouse. For five years there was no real progress on the matter. Then, in 1908, the SJCAA president announced that with the following year being the SJC Centennial, the amount on hand would be donated to the Sisters to establish an Alumnae Scholarship, to assist prospective students. It isn't the one we support today although, certainly, we have continued the tradition.

In 1909, 88 alumnae attended the SJC Centennial, a celebration of the oldest Catholic college for women. As Sophia used to say on *The Golden Girls*, "Picture this!" Emmitsburg, 1909: No telephones, email, or texts

available to each class to help them organize who was coming; who would room with whom; what activities they would attend. Without those modern communication tools, we would not have 331 alumnae here for our final Reunion.

At the 1912 meeting, a suggestion to organize alumnae around the country in "sewing guilds" was made. The original eight "sewing guilds" began in 1912 and eventually grew to 23 chapters around the country which enabled alumnae to gather in the area where they lived and not just at the Annual Meeting. By 1920, the continued growth of the association required a new constitution and the establishment of by-laws. And although the gymnasium idea lost out to the Alumnae Scholarship for the Centennial, it had not been forgotten. The first act of the new association was to present to the Sisters a proposal to erect a gymnasium and swimming pool for the SJC students along with \$6,000 in cash and Liberty Bonds for the Gym Fund. And if you thought that the Buy a Brick plan with which we are familiar was a modern fundraiser, think again. There was a "buy a brick" campaign to raise funds for the Gym in the early 1920s. Of course, these were bricks to actually build the building, not the commemorative ones that we have purchased. The construction was delayed during World War I but resumed thereafter and the gym was ready for use in September, 1923.

*The Valley Echo* magazine which we enjoy today had a rather interesting origin. In 1919, a newsletter was created to share chapter communications and news of graduates. To reduce costs of producing it, in 1922 the senior journalism class was charged with the alumnae news. Every week, a column entitled *Valley Echoes* appeared in the *Emmitsburg Chronicle* and later in both the *Gettysburg Times* and *Frederick News*. There must have been a news drought in those days in order for SJC Alumnae News to be published weekly in three newspapers! Perhaps this was the 1920s version of Social Media. Over the years, the Newsletter became the Alumnae Quarterly which contained Class News. Today, of course, *The Valley Echo*, with photos and color, is a huge improvement over the four-page newsletter begun in 1919.

In 1926, the song that has ever since linked us, *All Together* was written by a student, Dorothy Graham, while in music class. How pleased she would be to know that 99 years later the words she wrote still mean so much to so many. As the organization grew, in order to

## REUNION 2025

*How* do I summarize our last Alumnae Reunion? It was the biggest and the best! There were 318 Joe's girls in attendance, one from the Class of '54, two from '55, and then representatives from every class from 1958–1975. We were "All Together" again.

The Board kept their promise to the Class of '75 and gave them their 50th Reunion. Thirteen came to the Wyndham to celebrate. For a class that knew they would never graduate from SJC they have become a united group.

Friday, we toured campus with our wonderful guides from the National Fire Academy. Jody Wilt and her staff allowed us to reconnect and remember our time at Joe's. We also toured the completed School of Health Professions and the Seton Shrine Archives.

At Saturday's Breakfast and Board Meeting, Karen Mattscheck '72 presented the Articles of Dissolution of our Alumnae Association to the members for a vote. With this we will transition into Mount St. Mary's University National Alumni Association. A Legacy Award was presented to all Board members and Ellen Smelas '63 for their years of service keeping the association alive until 2025.

Saturday Evening started with Mass at the Basilica. The Class of '75 participated in the Rose Procession along

with all members of the Board. The candles were lit in memory of our deceased alumnae one last time.

At Saturday's Banquet we listened to two different speeches. The first was delivered by Pat Creel Baltzley '75 summarizing a long history of her family and its association with St. Joseph College. The second, delivered by Claire Maurer '64 summarized the long history of St. Joseph College Alumnae Association. It was a fitting ending for our association.

Of course, our Reunion is not complete without the presentation of our traditional Reunion Awards at the Saturday Banquet. The Hassell Cup awarded to the highest percentage of members in attendance went to the Class of '72. The Sister Mary Ellen Kelley Award went to the Class of '70 who had the highest number of members in attendance. Were we surprised! The Class of '52 Award, the Friends and Family Cup also went to the Class of '72. Our final Hurrah!

With tears in my eyes, this is the last Reunion summary I will write. My committee and I thank you for all your kind words, your wonderful spirit, and generous hearts.

*Mary Ann*

Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck '70  
*Reunion Chair*



Alumnae at the Saturday Evening Banquet

## SJCAA BOARD HONORED WITH 2025 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.

These qualities and contributions have been exemplified by the 2025 recipient of the SJCAA Legacy Award--the SJCAA Board of Trustees. These board members have been in place for more than ten years, a few serving longer than 20. Without them, we would not have had *The Valley Echo* after we closed our office at the Provincial House many years ago. We would not have had all the wonderful Reunions that have taken place. We would not have had the SJCAA in place for all these years. With them we started a scholarship at the Mount, funded the lobby of SOHP, closed the association, and turned our alumnae over to the Mount.

Members of the 2025 SJCAA Board of Trustees include **Karen Mattscheck '72, Kathy McNaney Younkin '70, Claire Maurer '64, Sister Anne Higgins '70, Mary Lou Ulrich Jones '64, Florence Delessio '67, Maureen Hinke Hahn '73, Leslie Henze Blackstock '70, Christine Roos Mehl '70, Susan Stay Valenti '70, Maryann Lesso '70, Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck '70, Chris Wiberley Goglia '73, Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski '74, and Ellen Krieger Smelas '63.**

Each board member has brought her unique perspective to each meeting and has enabled us to continue the good work of the SJCAA for all these years.

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, Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck '70, and Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski '74.

## SJCAA'S SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED FOR 2024-2025

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. Since July, 2019, alumnae and friends have generously contributed over \$317,000, and \$71,555 has been awarded. It is our legacy that the fund

will continue to help students for many, many years. The first scholarship was for \$2,200. It has increased to \$7,000 and will continue to grow. We have had ten student recipients, most of them receiving the award for both their junior and senior years. The team of St. Joseph College alumnae who award the scholarships annually will continue to choose the recipients until they deem it time for MSMU to assume the process.

It was announced at Reunion that Elijah Jumper and Michelle Nkansah-Okere were awarded scholarships for 2024-2025.

*continued on page 12*



**Elijah Jumper** majored in Business Finance, and he plans to use his degree to become a financial advisor or analyst. He took his education seriously. As a bright spark in the classroom, he never missed a class! In his first year, Elijah was a recipient of the Mount's Maguire Scholarship for students from low-income families.

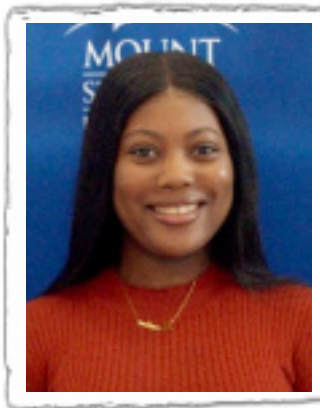
As a part of that group he volunteered around campus and performed community service. He was then granted a Presidential Scholarship and has earned a spot on the Dean's List every semester of college, with an invitation to join the Honors Program.

His PhD professor in the Business School wrote, "Elijah has a keen mind, absorbs new information easily, and loves to learn. He earned a solid A+ in a course where the average grade was a B-. It is no surprise that his cumulative GPA is now 3.95. He has a quick smile for everyone, and the other students look up to him. He is an incredibly articulate young man. He has a rare mind and spirit as a young scholar."

Remarkably, Elijah has put himself through college, holding multiple jobs such as a financial services rep at a bank, a clerical position with Pennsylvania State Commonwealth, a UPS package handler, and a deli associate at a grocery store.

Elijah's appreciation letter to the association states, "I want first to emphasize my gratefulness and overwhelming excitement to be the recipient of the prestigious St. Joseph's College Alumnae Scholarship. Coming home after a tiring Monday at my internship to receive the letter that I had been awarded the scholarship sent a bolt of joy through me. Receiving this scholarship will take a great deal of stress away from this upcoming school year. Because of your generosity I was able to focus more of my time on academics, athletics, and preparing for life after graduation. The scholarship's impact has been significant for me financially, as well as professionally and socially. Thanks to all involved in awarding the scholarship and keeping the legacy going. I am very blessed and can't express my gratitude enough!

Thank you all.



**Michelle Nkansah-Okyerere** is originally from Ghana, and at the Mount she majored in Cybersecurity and Business. She received the Dean's Scholarship and made the Dean's List. To supplement her income she worked on campus at Patriot Dining Hall, the Alumni Office, and during summers in a nursing home as both a reception-

ist and a dietary aide. Michelle is intent on the betterment of her local communities. Back in Ghana she joined friends to found an organization to bring aid to orphans and others who were struggling. She was also an advisor for the Student and Youth Travel Organization, supporting underprivileged children with school supplies and basic needs. At the Mount she helped launch the International Cultural Club, a student group focused on celebrating diversity. Through food tastings, cultural dress days, and open conversations about world traditions and issues, they created a welcoming space for students from various backgrounds. She volunteered at a cybersecurity conference, where she helped with registration and setting up technical equipment. Michelle also supported the Mount's \$1 million fundraising campaign for community outreach. And she volunteered weekly in the children's ministry at BridgeWay Church. Michelle's PhD professor writes, "Michelle continues to make outstanding contributions to the community and college. She is an asset to our program and institution and is well-deserving of your recognition."

After graduation Michelle is interested in being a leader, working on the online systems in hospitals, schools, or government offices keeping their information secure and helping people stay safe online. Michelle expressed her hope for the scholarship: "This scholarship would really mean a lot to me if I am awarded. I'm a rising junior who would be studying in Italy for the fall semester. During that time, I would not be able to work to take care of my expenses. I also do not have direct support because both my parents do not reside in the U.S. This puts a lot of pressure on me during the school year. I would appreciate the scholarship to help lessen my financial burden and achieve my academic goals."

Michelle thanked the association with this letter, "Receiving this award means so much to me, not only because it helps me afford college, but also because it makes me feel seen, supported, and encouraged. When I first learned about the scholarship, I was touched by the long history and deep love that the alumnae of St. Joseph College have for education, faith, and

*continued on page 42*

# REUNION 2025

## Photo Gallery



Campus Tours Begin



Heading onto Campus.



The Chapel



Walking familiar paths.



FEMA Tour Guide explains Chapel Renovation.



Inside the Chapel



Where's my brick?



Alumnae Bricks outside the Chapel



Looking for familiar names.



Touring the Gym.



Another stop in the Gym

◀ Explaining how things have changed.



Outside the Gym and Pool building



The School of Health Care Professions



The SJC marker outside the School of Health Care Professions



The SJC Alumnae Lobby at the School of Health Care Professions



Introduction to the SJC Lobby at the School of Health Care Professions



A new tour group gathers.



Mary Jackson shares an amusing anecdote with tour group.



Mary Jackson (back to camera) explains the features of the lecture hall.



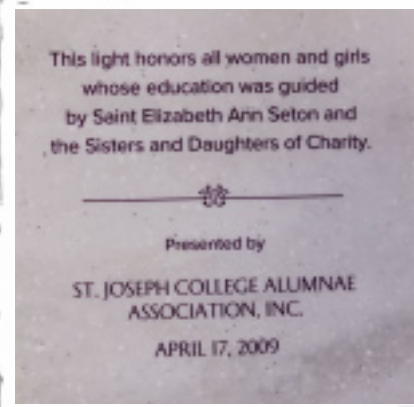
Another tour group learns about the School of Health Professions.



Learning about the patient care curricula.



The Last Candle, a gift of the SJCAA for the Bicentennial, mounted in the Seton Shrine Museum.



Plaque with dedication of the Last Candle



Learning about St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's history.



Tour begins in Seton Shrine Museum.



Presentation of Army Nurses participation in Vietnam



Mother Seton's Road to Canonization



Renee Hill-Goodson, Alumnae Liaison, is introduced to the gathering.



Viewing a different part of the Museum.



Alumnae gather for the Annual Meeting to vote on the dissolution of the Association.



Trudie Managiaracina Glazewski '74, assists with the voting process.



On the balcony at the pool



Discussing the voting choices.



Jeanne Homan Pyzik carries the banner to begin the Alumnae Mass.



◀ (From left) Maureen Hinke Hahn '73 and Christine Wiberley Goglia '73, Board members, lead the rose procession.



(From left) Claire B. Maurer '64 and Anne Higgins DC '70, Board members, in the rose procession



(From left, front row) Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck '70, Leslie Henze Blackstock '70;  
(From left, back row) Christine Roos Mehl '70, Trudie Managiaracina Glazewski '74, in the rose procession



(From left) Peggy Dorsch McDougall '75 and Susan Stay Valenti '70 place their roses in the vase to be placed at Mother Seton's statue.

(From left) Rita Pino Surface '75, Beth Weaver Maslowsky '75, (hidden) Peggy Dorsch McDougall '75, and (back to camera) Carole Wyllie Blakeslee '75 place their roses in the vase.





Roses placed at Mother Seton's statue.



Maryann Lesso '70, Altar Server, carries the cross followed by Deacon Patrick Goles MSM '64 and Celebrant Fr. Harry Arnone, CM.



Alumnae, family, and friends attend the Alumnae Mass.



Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck '70  
delivers the first reading.



Arlene Seeber '70  
delivers the second reading.



Fr. Harry Arnone CM delivers the homily.



Carol Ervin Sharkey '70  
reads the Prayer of the Faithful.



◀ (From left) Peggy Dorsch  
McDougall '75 lights candles  
as Kathy McNaney Younkin  
'70 reads the names of  
deceased alumnae.



(From left) Pam Fuchs Jacobs '75 and Carole Wyllie Blakeslee '75 present the gifts.



(From left) Deacon Patrick Goles MSM '64, Fr. Harry Arnone CM and Altar Server Maryann Lesso '70



◀ (From left) Jackie Melroy Shiring '64 and Arlene Seeber '70 (hidden) distribute Communion.

(From left) Debby Neary Waters '71, Barb Nickels Gordon '71, Ann Connair Cunningham '71, Almarie Shultz Walzak '71, Denise Fish Moxley '71, Mary Schrecengost Martin '71, and Steph Slagle Shockites '71 at the Social Hour





(From left) Nikki Norris Lingg '67, Susan Stay Valenti '70, Christine Roos Mehl '70, and Jody Snyder Caye '70 at the Social Hour



Carol "Casey" Kakalec Kohn '68 (middle) always takes care of her little sisters JoAnne Cartegena Windle '70 (left) and Maryann Lessa '70 (right).



Members of the Class of '63 at dinner



Members of the Class of '63 at dinner



Members of the Class of '60 at dinner



Members of the Class of '67 at dinner



Members of the Class of '74 at dinner



Members of the Class of '74 at dinner



Members of the Class of '74 at dinner



Members of the Class of '74 at dinner



Members of the Class of '70 at dinner



Members of the Class of '68 at dinner



Pat Creel Baltzey '75  
shares family memories of life at SJC.



◀ (From left) Renee Hill-Goodson,  
Alumnae Liaison, being recognized  
for her efforts by Karen Mattscheck  
'72, SJCAA President.

(From left) Karen  
Mattscheck '72 joyfully  
accepts the Hassell Vase  
for the Class of '72 with  
the highest percentage of  
members in attendance,  
announced by Claire  
Maurer '64.





◀ (From left) Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck '70 is excited to accept the Sr. Mary Ellen Kelley Award for the Class of '70 for the highest number of members in attendance from Karen Mattscheck '72.

(From left) Trudie Managiaracina Glazewski '74 and Kathy McNaney Younkin '70 lead a toast to Karen Mattscheck '72 after Kathy delivered a message of appreciation for Karen's leadership. ▶



◀ Karen Mattscheck '72 accepts flowers after the toast to her service to SJCAA.



◀ (From left) Claire Maurer '64 presents the Class of '52 Friends and Family Award to Joe Doherty MSM'70, representing '72 Friends and Family.



Jubilant Class of 1970 receives Sr. Mary Ellen Kelley Award



Class Agents gather for a group photo.



Class of '63 Table Decorations  
for Friday Class Dinner



Class of '64 Table Decorations  
for Friday Class Dinner



Class of '70 Table Decorations  
for Friday Class Dinner



Class of '72 Table Decorations  
for Friday Class Dinner



Class of '73 Table Decorations  
for Friday Class Dinner



Class of '75 Table Decorations  
for Friday Class Dinner



◀ (From left) Claire Kirchner Lawless '54, Monalee Overdorf Welliver '55, and Marthe-Marie Methot Meadows '55 join for their class photos.



Mary Frances Kelly Dillon '59 represented her class at the Reunion.



Class of 1958 Class Photo



Class of 1960 Class Photo



Class of 1961 Class Photo



Class of 1962 Class Photo:  
(From left) Germaine Ralston and  
Virginia Lardner Lindes



Class of 1963 Class Photo



Class of 1964 Class Photo



Class of 1965 Class Photo



Class of 1966 Class Photo



Class of 1967 Class Photo



Class of 1968 Class Photo



Class of 1969 Class Photo



Class of 1970 Class Photo



Class of 1971 Class Photo



Class of 1972 Class Photo



Class of 1973 Class Photo



Class of 1974 Class Photo



Joining All Together

# *50th Anniversary*

## *Class of 1975*



# SJC CLASS OF 1975

by Pat Creel Baltzley

*We* are the last freshmen class to enter St. Joseph College. We thank you for the invitation to come to this last Reunion. This would have been our 50th Class Reunion if Joe's had remained open. We are the babies!

We all have our stories about how we arrived in 1971, ready to start our journey. Some, like **Deb Denning**, received a brochure and visited with her parents in October of her senior year in high school. She didn't know anyone who would be there or who had gone there but she felt Joe's was so beautiful (and she liked the fact that she wouldn't know anyone!). She was offered admission to the nursing program on that visit and she accepted. She felt a connection when she came on campus.

For others, it was family connections. For **Jean Homan**, it was her sister who would be a senior the year she would be a freshman. For **Peg Dorsch McDougall** it was her mom and her mom's three sisters who all attended SJC. For **Carol Wylie Blakeslee** it started in 1960 with her sister Mary Ellen Wyllie's venture to Emmitsburg. In 1963, her sister Ann followed. Then, in 1971, she was accepted. Her prayers had been answered; however, she later learned that the school would be closing in two years. Her sister Ann worked hard on the continuation committee to keep the college open--unfortunately, to no avail. So in August of '71, she headed off to Joe's. She remained on campus until her junior year when she travelled down the road to the Mount. Fortunately, she has remained friends with the girls she met in her freshman year!

For me, **Pat Creel Baltzley**, it was my sister (1972), my mom (1942), my mom's cousin (1943), my aunt (1939), another of my mom's cousins (1938), a great-aunt (1916), another great-aunt (1912), my grandmother (1907), my great-aunt (1904), my great-great-aunt (1883) and my great-grandmother (1877).

For a lot of us, it was CONNECTIONS. Maybe family, maybe a feeling, maybe a major. Whatever it was, we arrived at Joe's anticipating four years of education and memories. It was sad for us that most of us from the Class of 1975 only got that one year of a Joe's education and memories and then went on to finish our education elsewhere. Some of us continued on for that last year and then either transferred to the Mount or went elsewhere. But...the memories and the connections had been formed. The values formed that year have followed many of us through the years. We experienced a beautiful campus, some fabulous "social events," personal growth, spiritual growth, and so much more. Our connections grew!

Connections are what made us Joe's girls. Friendships-- Nine of us transferred to the College of Notre Dame, which was similar but different from SJC. Another group of 11 transferred to UVA and maintained their connections as well. These amazing friendships were formed at Joe's and have lasted all these years.

You can see by looking around that many of us feel the strong connections that started at St. Joseph College. It was meant to be for those of us who arrived at SJC in the fall of 1971--we were where we were supposed to be for that moment to make the connections that have kept us together all these years.

The Class of 1975 thanks you for waiting to hold this one last Reunion for our 50th and for letting us have this one more opportunity to be together and to be Joe's girls. We have felt 18 again. We so appreciate our short time together and are glad to celebrate this one last time with you.

Here's to our lifetime of connections! "All together, all together still, still we meet." Until we meet again. Thank you from the Class of 1975.

## THE SJCAA JOURNEY continued from page 9

encourage attendance at the Annual Reunion, the 1935 Alumnae President, May O'Brien Hassell, established the Hassel Cup awarded to the class with the highest percentage of members in attendance. In the late 1930s, the alumnae established a campaign for a Lecture Fund which evolved in the 1950s to be a Student Loan fund that provided \$500 loans at 2.5 percent. By 1972, the fund had assisted 43 students in completing their education.

After the 50th Anniversary celebration in 1947, changes continued to come. In 1953, the idea of class organization began with a class secretary now known as Class Agent, a newsletter, and class news published in the *Alumnae Quarterly*. Remember the phrase, "Show me the money?" In 1955, certainly phrased more delicately, such a request came again. In advance of the College's Sesquicentennial in 1959, the current president of SJC, Sr. Hilda Gleason, approached the alumnae to raise the funds for a Student Center, estimated to cost \$150,000. Using a variety of fund-raising methods, the alumnae raised \$93,000 by the Sesqui toward the building of the Student Center. Continued contributions by alumnae covered the entire cost of the Student Center and Rosary Dorm.

In 1956, a very different but significant effort was undertaken by the alumnae: the cause of the beatification and canonization of Elizabeth Ann Seton. Committees were formed across the country to distribute literature, pamphlets, and prayer leaflets that raised awareness to the life of Mother Seton and the cause of her beatification. Her beatification took place in Rome in March, 1963; many alumnae and students attended that ceremony. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized in 1975.

Perhaps those of you who toured the Shrine yesterday saw the Last Candle in the Children's Chapel in the Museum. It was donated by the Alumnae Association and installed during the Bicentennial celebration in 2009, to ensure that the memory of SJC would shine always, as near to the campus as possible. The inscription reads "This light honors all women and girls who were educated by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and her Daughters of Charity."

After the Daughters decided they would be closing the wing of the Provincial House in which our office resided, it was clear that we needed a new plan. In 2010, with the help of a professional management consultant who donated her time, the existing Board members participated in a comprehensive planning exercise to help us define goals and how to achieve them. The result was a 15-year commitment to keep

the organization going, manage Reunions, and produce *The Valley Echo* until the last class could have its 50th Reunion in 2025. And, of course, this weekend is testimony to the fulfillment of that commitment. Another aspect of the plan was entering into a contract with Mount St. Mary's to provide office facilities and alumnae liaison staff to manage our activities which they have done since 2011. One of the constants throughout the life of the alumnae association has been the generosity of the members: to enable the campus to grow, to provide scholarships, and to leave lasting imprints of SJC in the Valley. Alumnae donations have built the gym and swimming pool, Student Center and Rosary Dorm; assisted others to complete their educations; and helped the Seton Center and Mother Seton School in serving their missions to the Emmitsburg community. Our impact on the Valley will also live on in the Mount students who benefit from the SJCAA Scholarship Fund and our history shared with those who enter the lobby of the School of Health Care Professionals at the Mount.

From the first members who were on campus during the Civil War to those who were on campus when we learned that SJC was closing, tonight we celebrate all the alumnae of St. Joseph College, women of substance, whose friendship's links will ne'er be broken.

## SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED

continued from page 11

community. I admire how you continue to lift young students like me, even years after your college closed. That shows the strength of your sisterhood and the power of your legacy. More than financial support, what touches me the most is the feeling of connection. Even though I never had the chance to attend St. Joseph College, I feel welcomed and included. I know this scholarship was created by women who believe in helping others, and that gives me so much hope. I hope to carry on the spirit of the scholarship by giving back to my community, being kind, and helping others, just like you helped me. Thank you for believing in me. Your support gives me strength, and I will always be grateful.

If you would like more information about the SJCAA scholarship program at MSMU, please contact the Alumnae Office at 301.447.5362 or email [alumni@msmary.edu](mailto:alumni@msmary.edu) or visit [www.msmary.edu](http://www.msmary.edu), click on "Support" then "Give Today" and follow directions to St. Joseph College Scholarship Fund.

# CLASS NEWS

1947

**Sr. De Chantal (Mary Fran) La Row**  
St. Louise House  
96 Menand Rd.  
Albany, NY 12204-1499  
518.462.1811 sdlarow@yahoo.com

**Cecilia (Celie) Gallagher Pascuzzi's** youngest son Bryan writes that Celie turned 98 years young on January 29, 2025 and celebrated with mini golf, arcade games, dominoes, and several dinners with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She still drives (during daylight hours) and spends a lot of time at the "Cheer" Senior Center with friends and participates in games and bus trips. Celie still lives alone, but has many visitors to assist and has recently signed up for Meals on Wheels. Celie has been eating an orange every single day of her life for breakfast and attributes this one meal as a key to longevity. She also stays busy by going to different bingo halls, on day trips, and beach visits in Bethany Beach, DE. Celie continues to enjoy a good piece of cake, a steak, and even a hot dog here and there, but her favorite is ice cream and you'll always find a few gallons stashed away in her freezer. She continues to spread her love and giving nature to her extended family, and is a fan-favorite at the Senior Center and in her neighborhood.

1954

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

I attended our final Reunion, the sole representative of our class. The only others from our era were Martie Methot Meadows and Monalee Overdorf Welliver, both of the class of 1955. We sat together at dinner so had a nice visit and shared memories.

Like last year, my granddaughter Jackie brought me for the day, taking time from her busy schedule of plans for her wedding six weeks later.

The only other people I knew were the same as last year. **Marie Paule Melroy Munkacsy's** sister Jackie Melroy Schiring '64 once again made a special point of seeking me out to greet and chat for a while, which I greatly appreciated. She is such a sweet person!

Also, Mary Rocks '64, sister-in-law of **Pat Fitzgerald Rocks** visited with me again, this time with another of Pat's daughters, Patti, from whom I learned that Pat and Hugh had nine children--five girls and four boys!

A note from **Ann Chamberlain Tibiletti** brought me up to date on her family. She still enjoys playing cards every week, as well as baking just as often! Her two sons, a doctor and a lawyer, are still working, but her two daughters--also a doctor and a lawyer--have retired. Her family numbers 23, and all live within 40 minutes of her.

A note from her daughter-in-law informed me that **Romaine Smith Burelbach** caught the bride's bouquet at the recent wedding of her grandson in Des Moines! Romaine is doing well with some help. Her son and daughter-in-law live next door to her so check in on her often.

As for me, life goes on, but I am slowing down. My family has now grown to 49, with another wedding and three more babies coming this year. So, family celebrations keep me busy, as well as the community activities where I live.

Since this is the final issue of *The Valley Echo*, let me wish each of you good health and happiness for the rest of your days, and remember--as members of the class of 1954 we will always be "Side By Side."

1955

**Marthe-Marie (Martie) Methot Meadows**  
61 Maple St.  
Oneonta, NY 13820  
607.432.2852 marthemarie82@gmail.com

It has been 70 years since we graduated. There were 26 of us in 1955. Now we are 12. As we mourn the loss of so many of our classmates, we also celebrate the memories that have remained positive influences in our lives.

For **Sr. Mary Martha "Mary T" Gardiner** the very first day at St. Joe's was an answer to her prayer. She had always wanted to be a nurse but when she graduated from high school at 16 she was too young for nursing school. Her parents urged her to attend St. Joe's for two years then head to nursing school. That was the plan! Upon arriving on campus, she learned that a four-year nursing course was beginning that very year! Her dream was coming true! They were only five that first year and only two finished the program--**Mary Ladden** and Mary T. The "two Marys" remained friends until Mary Ladden's early death from a heart condition. Mary T entered the Congregation of Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) in Scranton, PA. She is grateful for the support of her community in her various ministries in the USA and in Peru. Besides her nursing career she taught primary school for ten years. She had a taste of two professions! "God has truly blessed me 100 fold!" she wrote.

**Cathy Connolly Persons** shared a "fun" memory of trapping classmate **Barbara Henner Keogh** in a high closet in their dorm. Barb's good humor at this prank has remained with Cathy all these years and continues to warm her heart. Cathy lost her husband Bob in 2018 and she is now dealing with Parkinson's. Thanks to a wonderful aide during the week and her children on week-ends she is still living in the family home. Her five children and nine grandchildren bring her much joy! "There is nothing like family!" she says.

My persistence paid off! After many months of unanswered phone calls, I can announce that all is well with Barbara Henner Keogh. On the day before Mother's Day 2024, she fell, hit her head, and suffered a brain bleed. After much rehab and the care of her loving family, she is now home and thriving. She no longer plays Bridge only because she can't find a partner! Her memories of St. Joe's remain vivid. Chatting with her was like leafing through our *Allegra* yearbook together! Welcome back, Barbara!

Daily Mass in the college chapel was a wonderful gift! One of the Sisters was usually responsible for leading the Mass responses. At some point Sister Clare Francis invited some students to fill this role. **Monalee Overdorf Welliver** already knew the Latin responses so she was a natural for this special ministry. She and the other servers were not allowed at the altar but knelt in their assigned space to respond clearly in their best Latin. Monalee was only with us for one year but the memory of this experience stayed with her when she joined the Altar Society of her parish in Staunton, VA.

**Virginia Ohlmuller Rooney** and Bill are celebrating the power of prayer after Bill's recent hospitalization. With her heart filled with gratitude, Virginia continues to serve her church as lector. She celebrates her "awesome" children for their supportive presence. Granddaughter Meghan is now a successful architect, and Virginia finds joy in remembering all the family's Lego purchases! Virginia is very grateful for her two wonderful years at St. Joe's. This past winter, she and Bill attended a Mount St. Mary's event in Naples, FL and had the pleasure of meeting the Mount's new president.

**Dolores "Dee" Navy McMullen** and husband Jack are blessed with children, grands, and great-grands living nearby. "The family keeps us young!" she says. Her St. Joe's memories are of class friends most of whom she has outlived. Dee also remains grateful for Dr. Wasilifsky, our English professor for instilling in her an appreciation for literature.

**Margaret "Jill" May O'Donnell** has been found! After years of my searching and wondering, a phone call from Jill's son Stephen brought me news. Jill's husband John passed away in 2003 from Alzheimer's disease. Jill, also, is struggling with mental issues but is thriving in a Benchmark living facility in Hanover, MA. I will contact her so that she knows she is not forgotten. I am certain that we all have happy memories of Jill!

**Maria "Mapy" Del Pilar Irizarry LaPetina** surprised me with a delightful phone call from her senior housing in Puerto Rico. She is happy and well and celebrates the happy memory of having married Larry, a "Mountie" soon after college. Her six children and many grands and great-grands bring her much joy. She is grateful to God for her many blessings.

**Betty Brown Shea** returned home on "the 4th" after a month in Virginia celebrating a number of family events with her gathered family. Betty shared a memory of

riding down the "A" in a covered wagon--a part of some pageant, she thinks. Aside from that vague memory, the "A" always meant a warm welcome to her and to all of us when we returned from time away. Betty was with us for only one year but she remains grateful for her St. Joe's friends.

**Miriam Johnson Curnin** offers a tribute to her classmates. "My memories are of classmates. We were a varied lot in so many ways, it tickles me that some classmates were ready to assume positions in governing organizations, others in journalism, academics, theater, sports, motivated by their own confidence and innate talent. I guess some were aided by faculty guidance, but I believe the self-motivation carried many of our classmates to choose their own path and achievements. I congratulate them all!" From all your classmates, I thank you, Miriam.

**Betty Barbieri McClellan's** Christmas letter brought the sad news of the loss of her "wonderful Bill" in November. February 26, 2025 would have been their 25th wedding anniversary. To the grandchildren he will always be their "PopPop." She was grateful that she had healed from a fall in Hawaii and was able to care for Bill. She continues to enjoy Bridge, Bible study, friends, and opera. She leads a well-balanced life. She works out at the gym two times a week and follows that with Mass. I treasure Betty's words of wisdom from one of her letters: "I pretend I am still able to do the things I want and need to do!"

I remain grateful for Sr. Margaret Flinton, Sr. Mary Agnes, and Miss Fitzpatrick who urged me on and helped me to apply for a Fulbright Scholarship. During my year in Paris, I met a fellow Fulbrighter, Paul O. Meadows. We married and were blessed with five children. Though a widow since 2001, I have had a rich and blessed life. My children are happy and successful and supportive of me in my "old age." I taught high school and college French and even a bit of Spanish. I credit St. Joe's for deepening my faith and for helping me develop skills I could draw on in service to my parish where I have been active for 68 years.

We are the oldest alumnae! Let us treasure our stature! Though we say farewell to our alumnae association, our reunions, and our *Valley Echo* let us not forget each other. With your help, I promise to do my best to keep us "All Together." God's blessings on all!

## 1956

**Veronica (Ronnie) Merrill Malone**  
P.O. Box 839  
Notre Dame, IN 46556  
302.381.2781 vmalone6161@gmail.com

What a joy to report that there are **TEN** of us--alive and in various stages of wellness! And you are all happy to learn news about each other. I feel very fortunate that I was able to speak with eight of you!

**Fran O'Brien Baldessarini** and Ross are tip top according to Ross. He still works for Harvard Medical School doing research on his computer from home in Waban, MA. Fran has had a difficult situation with COVID which is almost chronic. Their daughter is in Baltimore, and their son is nearby in Framingham, MA. Four grandchildren still use their cottage on Cape Cod. They are basically okay according to conversations with both of them. They have good memories of keeping in touch with classmates when Fran was class agent for some years. They said, "How blessed we are that we can still tell stories and laugh."

**Anne Christe Calgagni** and I chatted on a day when it was 100 degrees, and she had just come in from the heat in Norfolk, VA. Husband Tony still works every day, driven to work by their son. Her family is close: two sons in Virginia Beach, two sons in Norfolk, and a daughter in Richmond. They have 11 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter who lives in Nevada. Still a gardener, Anne grows yellow squash, tomatoes, eggplants, cucumbers, and hot peppers with which she makes hot pepper jelly to serve with cream cheese. She and Tony are thinking about a trip to Italy in September with their daughter.

**Betty Taylor Claypoole** turned over her car to a niece. Son Kevin who lives nearby is her caretaker. She still has a cottage on Lake Shawnee, and Kevin's cottage is on nearby Lake Hopatcong. A very pleasurable activity is to ride on her son's boat taking in all the activities around the lake. Lake Hopatcong has its own museum showcasing how things used to be. Betty has another son and a daughter, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Betty loves her 30-year-old knees and says she feels terrific and is not doing too badly. When she turned 91 last November, three young neighborhood boys sang Christmas carols and gave her flowers and candy. Betty lives in Cranford, NJ across the street from a park where she especially enjoys watching girls play

soccer. She is delighted we have an American pope.

**Maria Arqueta DeArmas-Carmita** now has four great-grandchildren with another on the way in December. She lives with her daughter Carmen Rosa in Miami. Carmita has four children and eight grandchildren, all of whom are bi-lingual. At home Spanish is spoken so the youngest generation learns Spanish as soon as they begin to talk. Carmita still needs a walker or a cane. We had many laughs remembering when we were freshmen and popcorn was made in my dorm room. Many classmates were there. A knock came to the door, and everyone piled into my closet. Someone stepped on Carmita's foot. She said, "Someone stepped on the fingers of my foot" (that day she learned they are called toes). We all burst into laughter, were caught, and got demerits. Her heart is full of all the good memories of our days together.

**Nona Murray Duvall** is so excited to have lived long enough to have seen an American elected pope. Nona thinks it is pretty wonderful that we are all alive, and says we have to thank God for that. Daughter Joan and son Paul live nearby her assisted living residence in Gainesville, VA and look out for her. Nona has four daughters in Colorado, two daughters and one son in Virginia, one son in Maryland, and one son in Rhode Island. There are three grandsons, two in North Carolina and one in Virginia. We decided we can never have a conversation without talking about politics! Nona still has the great laugh she had when we were in school.

**Mary Fran Kane** still leaves Palatine Bridge, NY every winter for Cape Canaveral, FL from early January to early May. When she turned 91 in June, her family celebrated with a small dinner party. Mary Fran says we are lucky to be here, thinking back to our days when Eisenhower was president. Her knees require the use of a rollator or a cane. Mary Fran lives in an area with two different Amish communities which she finds of interest. She enjoys their fresh peas. She reads a lot and likes to go out to dinner and see plays. The house in which she lives was built by her grandparents in 1910 and housed her parents and an aunt and uncle. The double house now houses Mary Fran and her niece and her family.

**Fran Gillchrist Quitzau** and Bob use walking sticks for their daily exercise in Caty, TX. Fran said they have been married for 69 years, so she plans to keep Bob around longer. They are walkers daily using walking

sticks. When we chatted, some of the children had been visiting for the weekend. Fran and I discovered that we were both born in White Plains, NY. I still hear that strong New York accent in her voice. They have 16 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. If we were awarding prizes for progeny. I think Fran and Bob would win!

**Chica Godbee Golibart** is presently in Cape Charles, VA near her son and daughter-in-law who are farmers. Chica recently celebrated her 92nd birthday. She reflected that it is amazing that we are all still around. She is expecting another great-grandchild and was looking forward to the wedding of a grandson. In the fall she plans to move into an assisted living facility in Frederick, MD close to another son and daughter and grandchildren and close to Emmitsburg where she and her husband have roots. Son Mark has restored Chica's orange VW bug, and she loves to be driven around the Emmitsburg area.

**Connie Ersham Hollowell** lives in Cape Elizabeth, ME and has paid dues but I have been unable to reach her--no phone or email and my letter has not been answered.

I celebrated my 90th birthday in May with a party/family reunion. It was so much fun to have the gang come to Notre Dame, IN, some for the first time. My health allows me to stay involved as a volunteer. I especially like registering new voters with the League of Women Voters--in schools, parks, and in the courthouse after naturalization ceremonies. I have three children in Ohio, California, and Indiana, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Three grands and all the greats are all in Ohio, so I visit there several times a year. Reading, travelling, and cooking are still my hobbies.

As I had conversations with each of you, so many memories emerged, and you expressed such delight in hearing about each other. May those feelings continue to keep us "all together." God bless.

### 1957

**Margaret Hayner Atkins**  
abqphx@yahoo.com

I have sad news to report. Our wonderful class secretary **Jacqueline Smith Woelkers** passed away around Easter. Jackie and husband Richard had moved to an independent facility this past spring. They had three children—two sons and a daughter. I haven't talked with the family but tried several times. If you would like to send a card or personal note to the family, Richard's address is:

Vi at SilverStone  
23005 N. 74th St.  
Unit 1059  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255  
580.526.8524

I talked with **Lucille Marano** who now lives on Long Island with her twin sister.

I also chatted with **Carol Knauer Pastor** who lives on Catalina Island, CA.

Recently I visited St. Joe's. Two of my daughters were with me. A trip down the past--it was lovely but I was teary-eyed. It's so beautiful.

### 1958

**Mary Jane Beaulieu**  
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Reunion was a wonderful event. Missed those not in attendance. Our table at the banquet included **Sr. Claire, Joyce McNamara McKenna** and two daughters, **Bernie Maucher McKay** and granddaughter Anne Meyer Feeley, my daughter, and myself. We were joined for lunch at the Carriage House (Bucher's) by **Marcy Calhoun Hearn, Carol Lewis Redmond, Angela Rocks Shriver, and Faith Hawkins Welsh**. Faith's charming son dropped by to say hello. **Mary Liz Crenshaw Leitch** was not able to join us...the long trip was too difficult due to her Parkinson's. But, we did telephone her from lunch and all were pleased with that. Cell phones are wonderful!

I had gotten an extra room for a gathering spot, so we could gather there with refreshments and visiting. I also brought my memorabilia and have donated much of it

to the Archives of the Daughters of Charity in Emmitsburg. They are planning a big display at the Seton Center next year. I even discovered my cap and gown...saved for possible use as a Halloween costume!!!

Back to Reunion--We attended dinner Friday and came back to my hospitality room. Two members of our little sister class...Liz Phelan Burmaster '60 and Sally Grabe Poux '60 stopped by. Dinner was attended by about 400 people. Good speakers about past, present, and future. All legal requirements were taken care of at breakfast. There was one member from the class of 1954, two from the class of 1955. And we were next!! Very special time...not a dry eye in the house after the final singing of "All Together."

In May, the Schenectady alumnae--Mary Liz, myself, and Joann Stahlhut Coppola '71 joined Marthe Marie Methot Meadows '55 and Sue Garner McNulty '63 at our local Dominican Retreat House for a visit and the singing of "All Together." What comes next? Love and good health to all. --Mary Jane Shaughnessy Beaulieu

### 1959

**Mary Fran Kelly Dillon**  
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Hello SJC Class of 1959. I attended the final Alumnae Reunion in April and it was just terrific! There were several people I saw from other classes, and everyone was so delighted with the outcome.

I am sending along my contact numbers and would love to hear from you. We could keep a class newsletter going in the future, and I would be more than happy to take care of the project. Let's try to keep in touch.

## 1960

**Elizabeth Phelan Burmaster**  
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It is with a heavy heart that Gerri and I write the very last newsletter to you, our dear classmates of 1960. We have enjoyed being in touch with you over the years, and we will continue to hold onto all your addresses, phone numbers, and emails so please keep in touch.

Well the Class of 1960 was represented by eight of us and two daughters for the last Reunion and it was also our 65th reunion.

**Maxine Hansen Olsen** deserves an award for the effort to be there for the weekend. She drove cross-country from Mesa, AZ with her friend Verna for eight hours a day for four days. A walker and O<sub>2</sub> did not deter her. They called it their "Thelma and Louise" trip. Thank goodness they had a more leisurely trip going home. I was glad to have that nice visit with her Thursday night. Maxine summed up the weekend as "sweet remembrances."

**Sally Grabe Poux** and her daughter Katie arrived late Thursday night, they met at the airport in Baltimore. Sally flying in from Michigan and Katie from Seattle. Another long trip. My daughter Kathleen and I enjoyed breakfast on Friday morning with Sally and Katie, it was good to be with my "old roomie" again. Talking to Sally, just recently, she summed up the weekend as "historical and inspiring."

**Vickie Gomez Scott** flew to Baltimore from North Carolina. **Sue Anderson** picked her up and they spent the night at Sue's home and drove up to the Wyndham on Friday afternoon. Vicki's family lives within driving distance at home so they have lots of family gatherings. Sue is looking forward to her granddaughter's wedding, which will be coming up soon. For Vicki the weekend was "happy memories." Sue said "I love being with everyone on campus."

Shortly after Sue and Vicki arrived **Kathy O'Donnell O'Brien** arrived driving herself from Macungie, PA. Proud that you drove yourself, Kath. By then our little group was gathering and we had lots of hugs and laughter. Kathy's daughter Kathy gifted us a luxury SUV for Friday evening. We went to a quaint restaurant in Gettysburg. We had our own dining room and talked about the old days. Texting me on her way to Cape Cod, Kathy said the weekend was "memorable and unforgettable."

**Pat Gannon Quinlan** arrived later in the afternoon on Friday. Joe drove her up from their home in Georgetown, MD. They both looked great and it was nice to have a visit with Joe. Jeri, is still working in Joe's office. Pat said her "great expectations" were met by the weekend together. Please keep the family in your prayers as they wait for a kidney transplant for their son Chris.

**Kate Saunders DeSilva** joined us on Saturday night for dinner only, a family commitment prevented her from being there earlier. She told me later, by phone, that it was a pleasure to be there at Reunion and the highlight of the weekend was getting to know Maxine and regrets that she didn't get to know her better 65 years ago.

I had a nice telephone visit with **Linda Ryan Healy**. She was feeling better from a fall that she had taken in February. We reminisced about our anniversary dinners for almost 40 years. All three of her granddaughters are doing well, in graduate school and in the working world.

**Mary Crawford Beltran** was very disappointed that she could not be with us. However, she did manage a trip to Davison College, in North Carolina, where her grandson is a goalie on the men's soccer team. She also drove to the Grand Canyon with her granddaughter.

**Marty Spurlock** originally planned to attend Reunion, but her granddaughter was expecting the arrival of her first great-grandchild. Not wanting to keep her due date, Abigail Margaret arrived early, much to the delight of everyone. Congratulations Marty and enjoy every minute. Marty and **Sue Corcoran Bruswitz** see each other quite often.

**Gerri Gut Scarpa**, just to get a little formal with my partner over the years is enjoying her new residence at Thrive, the independent home that she moved to not that long ago. Her family is all-well and is presently on a family trip to Italy. Thanks again Gerri for being my "techie" person all these years.

## CLASS NEWS

For me, I was delighted, grateful, and excited to be at Reunion, flying in from Florida and meeting my daughter Kathleen who flew in from South Carolina. Another rental car headed to the Wyndham. She too enjoyed being with the girls from the 60s and reacquainting herself with Katie, Sally's daughter. The weekend for me was a "simple" happy to be together one more time.

For 28 years I have been writing about our special granddaughter Katie. I wanted to let you know she went to heaven on March 24th of this year. She was not supposed to make it through her first night after birth but she gave us all those years of joy and happiness. Her laugh was contagious, her wonderful mom and dad, Mary Beth and Shaun, gave her a piece of heaven here on earth. We are all missing her. Grateful for my other grandchildren--four are in the medical field, one working for JP Morgan, one a teacher, another starting a job in England and will eventually be back in the States, four are still in college, and one is still interviewing. This keeps me busy sending them thoughts for the day.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all the wonderful gals on the Reunion Committee. Every event for the whole weekend was perfect. Thank you again for making it so special for all of us.

Vicki and I ended our weekend with one more overnight at Sue's lovely home before leaving for the airport on Monday morning. We had a nice breakfast in Sue's warm and cozy kitchen sharing a few more memories.

And so it's time to say goodbye, always remember our class motto "to thine own self be true."

### 1961

**Elizabeth Strezeski LaFrance**  
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The final SJC Reunion was a great success with large numbers in attendance. From the Class of '61--**Mary Kable Stockman, Eileen Keefe Bonhag, Ann Sheelan Gerwig, Margi Weidner Phillips** and husband Jim, **Barbara DeMott Holland**, and myself. I was very impressed with the MSM new School of Health Professions, and attended an excellent presentation offering information about the initial degree program of

Physician's Assistant to start in 2026. Hopefully a Master's degree program in Nursing will also be added.

**Monica Deihl Anello**--Remembering classes with the many SJC professors was very gratifying for me. Those were wonderful days and most particularly, we had the dearest, richest friendships with our classmates, continuing to this day. My 2010 retirement from the fields of Education, grant writing, and Hospital Quality Improvement gave Joe and me a chance to do some cruising on the Caribbean and Mediterranean seas. We also kept busy with three children (living in Florida, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee) and six grandchildren ages nine to 15 years. After Joe's death in 2017, I took a group tour to Ireland in 2018 and the Holy Land in 2022. Now my hours are filled with reading, knitting, and crocheting. Also playing the Yamaha Clavinova and teaching a CCD program to 1st and 2nd graders. I like to watch the news and the History Channel and hunt for sharks teeth on our southeastern beaches. Carol is right about being older is not for sissies. Along the lines of age and sissies, if you like the song "Don't Let the Old Man in" by Toby Keith inspired by Clint Eastwood's film "The Mule," google the video. Sending all the love and prayers my heart can muster to each and every one of my classmates, SJC Class of 1961. God hold you in the Palms of His Hands!

**Carol Rogers Beaugard**--Ed and I moved to an independent living apartment in Peconic Landing, Greenport, NY the week before Christmas. We decided to do this while we could make our own decisions! It is a lovely community with lots to do, wonderful people, and located in our old and favorite neighborhood, the North Fork, where we have spent so many wonderful years. It felt like going back to college!! So many classes and activities to sign up for, and new people to get to know! We still both enjoy good health with the exception of Ed's short term memory failing and my eyesight slowly getting worse. A number of us have formed a retired nurses group here and are planning ways to use our many skills in the community! Our best wishes to all of my college buddies.

**Eileen Keefe Bonhag**--I attended the last SJC Reunion and helped Strez with transport from BWI to my home. Thus, she was able to visit with family and old friends before heading to Reunion. I spend five days at my beach house in the Outer Banks of North Carolina with son Michael. Granddaughter Caitlen is expecting #two in November. That will be my fourth great-grandchild. Granddaughter Abby is a forensic investigator in North

Carolina. Recently she worked on a big raid at a tobacco manufacturing company. Apparently, they were importing drugs and pot from California and making cigarettes and other drugs. The warehouse was as big as a Costco store! Grandson Nicholas will marry Katy in Cambridge, MD in December. Granddaughter Haley will marry Gordon in October 2026. Daughter-in-law Lisa (Mark's widow) now lives closer to me. Sending my love to all the classmates.

**Maureen Dugan Cocozza**--Fortunately, Dick and I keep busy with house and yard projects, which keep us on our toes. He still enjoys short walks most days and spends much time on his computer. I'm still playing bridge with Lifelong Learning group, connected with NOVA. I'm trying to keep brain cells functioning. At last count, we have three precious great-grandchildren. Can't believe we're old enough for this. Recently read Geraldine Brooks *Memorial Days* and Doris Kearns Goodwin's *An Unfinished Love Story* which I highly recommend. I cherish my many memories of sharing my four SJC years with you and our many reunions and special gatherings, especially at LBK since our graduation in 1961.

**Joanne McNally Downes**--Greetings and love to all classmates. Pat and I moved to a rental apartment at Brightview Senior Residence in Wayne, NJ about a year ago. One of our daughters lives nearby and is available to help out when needed. We have 13 grandchildren and one of them graduated from college this year. We still visit our lake house and enjoy spending time there.

**Rosie Aellen Dunning**--Grandson Jonathan got his Master's from Tufts. His Mom Cathy and Dan arranged a nice dinner at an Italian restaurant at Patriot Place to celebrate. Grandson Jacob continues to sell replacement and installation of doors and windows. He is doing well, and likes it. He also continues with his music, organizing different venues, and enjoying that. Daughter Margaret is recovering from hip surgery. Daughter Marie will spend a week at my house in Cape Cod in September. Daughter Cathy recently did flowers for a family wedding. She used peonies for the tables from plants I had given her years ago. They were lovely. I am dealing with several medical issues now, and will have several tests coming up to decide course of action. Husband Rich is having a hard time being aware of happenings here and everywhere. Our friendships have been a steadying factor in making it to our golden years. We have been blessed.

**Ann Leahigh Grau**--I am fine, a little creaky but still

going. I help count money at church, do a chair yoga class, and play bridge once a week. Really enjoyed meeting with classmates in Virginia for lunch in April before Reunion. Most of my time is spent reading and doing crosswords. I had a visit a few months ago from **Marti Spadinger Kasnic**'s son Paul Bogenrieder. Marti passed away on July 25, 2025. I send my love and best wishes to all of the Class of '61.

**Joanne Fontana Kini**--I continue to enjoy my wonderful apartment downstairs from my daughter Tara and her family. I have now lived in San Francisco for 15 years. I remain active with exercise classes and outings. I enjoy my volunteer work at St. Martin de Porres soup kitchen. I share in many special events of my eight grandchildren, who are nearby. The youngest is Eleanor Ann, nine months.

**Ginny Zebrowski Komar**--I'm sure that all of us could fill a medical journal if we reported all our medical stuff, and probably stock a pharmacy with all the meds we take. I will resist. I'm not yet an antique, certainly vintage, and maybe a collectible, since all the parts are still original, some wearing better than others. All the "grands" are fine--moving along through school and now careers for the grads. Emma is a practicing psychologist in Seattle, doing mental health therapy. Kate and Will are starting new jobs, Megan is a junior at Auburn, and Ben is starting his senior year of high school. I'm still doing volunteer work with the Auxiliary for Stanford Children's Hospital. Our group runs a thrift shop, and I'm responsible for all the antiques and "good stuff." Just got my 25-year pin. I work two days a week and really enjoy what I do. I'm also a lector for parish Masses. Our great adventure travel days are pretty much over--after having visited 63 countries and 43 states, we're glad we did it while things were not as crowded as they are now. Our "bucket list" included both Israel and a Kiev to Black Sea cruise, both of which are obviously impossible now. So we're enjoying all our pictures from earlier days. Enjoying our splendid California weather--which is lovely for these "Golden Years." Blessings to all.

**Ann Fallon Lynch**--As I think back now, in my "twilight years," on the treasures that I received from SJC--a solid nursing education and, most of all, wonderful friendships that have remained such a joy. God bless.

**Mary Anne Britt Murphy**--Spent a few days with daughter Laura on Cape Cod in Chatham. Enjoying having my grandson Aidan home from college for the summer. Will be off to Baltimore for two weeks in July

for some medical appointments. That will be extra fun because I am going to meet our third great-grandson, eight-month-old Kieran, for the first time! Still having some tough days missing Brian. Have to focus on the 60 plus years we were blessed to share. I know many of our classmates have experienced the loss of their husbands. Love to all my classmates.

**Mercedes Suarez Pfeffer**--This summer has been busy with graduations. The twins graduated this year from high school. The twins and their cousin Dean will all attend Ohio State University in the fall. So they will have fun besides studying, of course! I was in New York for the graduation. In early August, I will go to Detroit for my grandnephew's wedding. In September, will revisit the three Stans again which I visited in 2007. I thought Samarkand and Uzbekistan were magnificent. Still going to the Gym every am, active in my book club which is now a semi social club since we are still the same nine folks. Now a few wheelchairs and canes and lots of grandchildren stories and pictures. We have been together 15 years and meet once a week at a restaurant for lunch. Love to all my classmates.

**Margi Weidner Phillips**--So glad to have gone to Reunion. It was a fun time. From Reunion, we travelled to Tampa to see our youngest grandchildren in their graduation recitals--piano and flute. The family is growing--great-grand baby #four due in October. Everyone is delighted. Jim and I "marched" in the "No Kings" rally and were very impressed with the numbers and polite behavior of everyone there. I am still golfing two to three times a week, enjoying it very much, but I wish I was better at it! My eyesight remains a challenge, I am being treated with eye injections every two months now. Not sure if it is helping but I will keep at it. Generally speaking, life is good.

**Mim Murphy Quaid**--I look back on those days in the Valley from the vantage point of 2025 with great pleasure and a shocking realization of our naiveté. We lived in a beautiful bubble where our biggest concerns were getting back from town in time to sign in so not to get demerits to ruin our weekend plans or worried about handing in an assignment on time. Somehow or other we received a solid education and a core of beliefs and friendships, to see us through life--it's miraculous really. Profound gratitude to all those who enabled it to last so long and to accomplish so much.

**Muriel Cuddy Reeves**--Life has been quite hectic these past few months due to Dan's numerous health issues.

Don't want to dwell on the negatives...we have been blessed with sharing a wonderful journey together since our marriage 66 years ago and have been fortunate to have reached the ripe old ages of 86 (me) and 93 (Dan on 7/14). So sad, however, to report that Dan passed away on August 7, 2025. Choosing to attend SJC was one of the best decisions of my life, and I will always cherish the time I spent there and the wonderful friendships I made. May God bless all of my classmates and their families...they continue to be remembered in my daily prayers.

**Judy Sparrow**--Hard to realize that we are in the last stretch--1957-2025! These have been wonderful years enjoying the treasured SJC friends. Hopefully, we will continue to stay in touch. In late spring, Ed and I returned to Massachusetts from our six month winter stay in Port St. Lucie, FL. We hope to return again in early December. These days are challenging ones in that we know and feel our slowing down, physically. We may find ourselves on "one more" river cruise this fall. As we often say, "Time will tell us as we get close to the departure...will we be up to it?" We do enjoy a bit of golfing, especially in Florida. What better time and place to say: "Thank you for your friendships over the years."

**Mary Kable Stockman**--Last Christmas, I went to Florida for a reunion of daughter-in-law's family. This included her three daughters, their spouses, and five little ones. For Christmas the girls gave their mom the gift of a photo shoot of all of us--300 pictures! Besides the Christmas trip, I attended the SJC Reunion, visited **Bet Van Over Gilligan** in DC, and went on a road trip to Florida with a former coworker and skier. It was great fun to reunite with classmates and former students (from SJC Nursing program) and alumnae from other classes. The future looks bright for the MSM new School of Health Professions located near the SJC campus. It was nice to see that the SJC nursing students are honored in the lobby of that building, and **Phyllis Mack Gillespie's** name pops up on the video. After Reunion, I spent a few fun days with Bet Gilligan in her new assisted living apartment on Connecticut Ave. in DC. We walked down a side street every day to make sure my car was still there! Also had lunch with Maureen Dugan Cocozza in Virginia. In March, right before Reunion, I drove to Florida with a friend who lives in a retirement community in Ohio that also has 60 places all over the country. She arranged for us to stay at a few at no cost for lodging. It was like a cruise on land, as all places upscale, with many amenities. On our way home, we

stopped at Longboat Key, where Strez extended her usual fantastic hospitality to both of us. Thanks Strez for a great relaxing time. It was nice to see that everything was almost back to normal after the hurricanes. I am working at staying in shape by doing water aerobics for arthritis, hitting tennis balls with a friend and a pro weekly, occasional Silver Sneakers, and home PT exercises. I am still volunteering at the zoo once a week for two to three hours. Oh, and I have been trying to learn Spanish on Duo Lingo for over a year--not getting very far at all! Other than arthritis and limited walking ability, I am doing well and so is my family. And wishing the same to you all.

Barbara DeMott Holland--Hello and a wonderful 2025 to all! I very much enjoyed seeing my classmates and other fellow SJC alumnae this past spring at the Reunion. The turnout was a testament to such a special school. To this day, I feel privileged that I enjoyed four years there and had the luxury of getting a college degree. I brought my daughter Lorraine and she enjoyed and found interesting meeting my classmates and touring the campus. The food was delicious, the Mass well done, and the Mount representatives so welcoming. I enjoyed catching up with the happenings in my classmate's lives. 2025 has been a busy but exciting year. My granddaughter Julia married her girlfriend Bela, and we had an amazing celebration where I got to catch up with many family members and friends who attended the wedding. Later in the summer, I watched my three grandchildren Katie, Emma, and Ryan perform at the Irish Dance National Competition in Washington, DC. A loving and most sincere thank you to Strez for all of her years of service to our Class of 1961.

Elizabeth Strezeski LaFrance--Last fall, I survived two hurricanes and two mandatory evacuations. Lots of damage in our area. For some, recovery slow, but others have completed their restoration. Living on a barrier island does have drawbacks as well as advantages such as the beauty of the nearby Gulf of Mexico. And that is NOT the Gulf of America!

Two of our classmates have died recently—**Betsy Hutchinson Kirkpatrick** (4/12/25), Betsy met Joe Kirkpatrick, MD at Providence Hospital in DC in her student nurse days. They married in 1962 and raised seven children, settling in Lancaster, OH in 1964. Their family included 20 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Rita Werb Fasano** (5/11/25) was a dear friend of mine.

She distinguished herself as an athlete and leader during her SJC years. Rita's husband Larry died several years ago. They had a successful home building business among other previous ventures. They raised four daughters and had six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. The families were most attentive to Rita during her last years in an assisted living setting in South Carolina. She remained upbeat all her life no matter what challenges were presented to her.

I am so glad that John and I were able to travel as much as we did because now I am satisfied to stay in the US and not deal with any travel issues. In late August I will head to Bend, OR with both children and their mates. We will visit with a Maryland friend who now resides in Bend. Our children grew up together in Silver Spring. I miss the Maryland blue crabs and the Maryland blue politics!!

God bless all of you and I treasure the long lasting friendships made at SJC.

### 1962

**Violet H. Barkauskas**  
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This is the last issue of *The Valley Echo* and consequently the end of my job recruiting news from the Class of '62. Such a long time since graduation and so many life events over the plus 60 years since. Recent news has been about children and grandchildren, travel, moves from large homes to retirement facilities, deaths of spouses, and illnesses. Unfortunately, only two class of '62 alums were able to attend the Reunion. Thanks to Geri and Jay for sharing their impressions of the Reunion with our classmates.

**Diane Belden Brooks** was very disappointed not to be able to attend the last SJC Reunion and the disappointment still lingers. She and **Pat Ryan Donovan** had several phone conversations about their plans, and had even reconnected with **Kitty Dignan Chrismer**, **Jay Lardner Lindes**, and **Karen Krieger Kirk**. Though Karen and Kitty could not attend, Jay did attend. Then, the evening before travelling to Emmitsburg, Diane began to run a fever and was laid low for a week with an intestinal bug. Both Diane's daughter and hubby Dawn and Roger, and son Chris and wife Jennifer have sum-

mer homes in Cape May, NJ within biking distance from her house, where Chris and Dawn grew up. They come frequently, despite the long drive from Boston. Their visits make her heart sing. Chris's house is fun when the six teenagers (five boys, one girl) are all there at once.

In May Diane spent two weeks in Boston, attending two graduations. Chris's son Elliot will be attending Purdue, majoring in Aeronautics. He has a car detailing business and is paying for flight lessons to get a head start on his college courses. He has wanted to be a pilot since he was four years old and is finally realizing his passion. Chris's other golden boy Lucas is a sophomore at St. John's, with nebulous dreams at this point.

Dawn's younger son Michael attends a wonderful residential school for intellectually challenged students, Stewart Home and School in Frankfort, KY. He came home to Wellesley for a visit while she was there in May. He is very happy at Stewart and is thriving in so many ways. Dawn and Roger bought a home in Frankfort a few years ago to be able to visit Michael and have him enjoy weekends with family. Of course, his Dad really likes it there--it's on the 16th hole. Kentucky is just beautiful. Her oldest grandson Andrew is in digital advertising and lives in Brooklyn. She has no clue what that job is, and he has given up explaining it to her.

Diane will be returning to Florida in November for one more winter. She says that it is very thought and energy consuming to manage two houses now that Del is gone. He did everything so seamlessly and Diane's "executive function skills" are challenging these days, so she may be deciding to sell that house and learn to be frigid up north again.

Diane participates in a civic organization in Cape May and facilitates a nonfiction history book club. One of her projects this summer has been assisting a Belgian historian establish a museum in the Ardennes area that honors the 82nd Airborne Medical Unit. Her uncle was a surgeon with the 82nd and participated in many WWII war theaters, including North Africa, Normandy, and the Battle of the Bulge. The historian wants to make sure history and individual stories are preserved. It has been wonderful researching and digging through family archives and reconnecting with cousins. She remembered Dr. Otto, the history professor at St. Joe's.

Diane wishes all classmates happy, healthy years ahead, filled with lovely memories of our youth in that very special place and time. "May the Lord make His face

shine upon you, and be gracious to you, and give you peace."

Kitty Chrismer will be moving to Norfolk, VA--probably in August. She will be near another daughter and a granddaughter. Plus, she will be a lot closer to her sister and a bunch of relatives. Grandkids are spread all over--from a navy veteran engineer in Bellingham, WA to a graduate student in Cambridge, England. "It is mind boggling." Kitty's new address is 4801 Pretty Lake Ave. 204, Norfolk, VA 23518. Her apartment is in an independent lifestyle building.

Pat Donovan had been travelling and was lucky enough to get home before she came down with COVID once again! In early summer she and a dear friend, Phil, had just returned from 18 days in France. They drove around the gorgeous rural countryside of southwestern France for ten days, staying at remote chateaus, eating at a few One Star Michelin restaurants (gaining back all the weight she took off in preparation for the trip!), and seeing charming sites that would be hard to find in guidebooks. Then they headed to Bordeaux for a week's riverboat cruise taking in the beautiful surrounding wine country. They caught Bordeaux during its annual Wine and Music Festival. There were about 200 passengers on the cruise. They met lots of people but were the oldest: "sigh." Pat is not sure how many more of these trips she has "in her," especially with seven hour plane rides.

Pat's oldest, Christine, is retiring. Another nod to how old she is! Her oldest granddaughter, Delaney, has moved to Sand Point, ID for her dream job. Hooray for her but that sure is a long way from the east coast and grandma! Her other granddaughter, Grace, starts grad school in Epidemiology at Berkeley in September. But it's summer now, a happy time on Cape Cod with friends and family visiting. "If any classmates get anywhere near Eastham, please, please stop by. I would love that!"

This summer I will travel to visit my huge, extended family in Lithuania. I have not visited them in seven years because of COVID and my fall and related rehabilitation. I am looking forward to seeing four new little cousins for the first time.

Thanks to all the classmates who have provided news over the past few years. It was fun to hear from you, and I appreciated your well wishes and thanks for my service in the role of Class Secretary. May God continue to bless you all! Signing Off --**Vi Barkauskas**, Class Secretary

## 1963

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The final Reunion of the SJC Alumnae was fantastic! More than 300 alumnae attended, with 23 from our class, and we loved every minute. In her remarks, President Karen Mattscheck singled out SJC '63 as an example of remarkable spirit.

Sincerest appreciation to Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck and the amazing Reunion committee for organizing such a heartwarming event, and to all the members of the SJC Board, especially Karen, Trudie, Claire, and Mary Lou. Of course, Kate Graham and Maryann Lesso for the magnificent *The Valley Echo* over so many years.

That the college itself closed in 1973 and the SJCAA flourished over so many years to unite us, organize all reunions, publish the treasured *The Valley Echo*, contribute to Seton Center, the Mother Seton School, establish the Mount Scholarship Fund--is a miracle made possible by the current Board, and so many other dedicated members over the decades.

What a welcome! Upon arrival, we found our Wyndham suite beautifully decorated and supplied. The Codey sisters, **Joan Durkin**, **Maureen Caputo**, and Anita '72 had beautiful welcome posters all in calligraphy both on the door and the walls. Also, we each received a sparkling SJC pin and a personalized journal, with our senior portrait and our iconic senior class photo on the fire escape. **Maxine Wallish Gorman** brought back our SJC '63 collage which dated from our 50th, courtesy Maureen and Joan. We spent lots of time looking at the three components--S, J, C--remembering each and every classmate in our conversations. **Susie Boland Southwell**, **Mary Ellen Gill Purkis**, and Max supplied us with lots of goodies, and the supply grew

with each arrival over the weekend.

On Thursday, **Sue Garner McNulty** and **Tobie Gibbons** picked up **Beth Hollander Williams** and **Jo Barkley Cornelison** at the DC airport, while **Maureen Lynch Gucciard** met **Jane Metze Freeman** and **Eileen Nead Riley** at BWI. Once again, Mary Ellen arranged for a welcome dinner that night at the Dobbin House Tavern in Gettysburg.

Friday was a busy day--some of us went on the campus tour and others the Shrine Museum or the School of Health Professionals. The first was a walk through the past; the last a step into the future, especially acknowledging the contributions and history of the St. Joseph College graduates. We all enjoyed our class dinner that night and our photos attest to that. Maureen, Joan and Anita decorated our tables beautifully with Class of 1963 daisy table runners, and fresh daisies arranged in lemon cups--such a lovely surprise!

Off to our suite for the evening with Jane's champagne toast, albums, yearbooks, photos, and memories. Time disappears as lifetime friends gather.

Saturday morning after the SJCAA meeting, we had the Prayerful Remembrance in our suite. **Sheila Degnan McCarron** and **Mimi Chesley-Cora** composed "Woman Saying Yes to God" as we honored and remembered our classmates and all the women who touched our lives starting 62 years ago. We sang "to the mountains and sang to the sea" for our 27 deceased friends, each recalled by name and on a prayer card. We prayed together for the past, the present, and the future.

Another tradition--Tobie's esteemed 50th "Reunion Reflections" read by the author herself which becomes more powerful with each occasion.

All of the returning alumnae filled the Basilica for Saturday Mass, then the Reunion Banquet. The speeches, tributes, and history of the association were touching and informative. Singing "All Together" hands held across the tables brought tears and smiles. We have **Kathy Johnson Raby's** daughter Margie's video to recall that, as well as wonderful photos of the campus and our friends.

Back to the suite with everyone there. Good friends, **Joy Schaub Kim** and **Mary Lou Spurrier** came together from Chestertown. **Cathy Parrot Kryzanauskas** and **Mariellen Halberstadt Marchione**,

lifelong friends, brought their daughters. **Susanna Molinari** was unable to come at the last minute. As was **Andy Brophy Marchal**. **Alanna Higgins McHugh** called with regrets too. Coming from Florida with mobility issues, Beth was accompanied by Diana. Kathy and Margie flew in from Florida also. **Susan Williamson Swartz** had come with Mary Ellen, Maureen, and Joan on Thursday. On Friday my granddaughter Kate (now an honorary class member) and I arrived in time for the campus tour, featuring Jo on the basketball court in terrific form.

Others who wished to attend sent greetings and join Sue McNulty's monthly Zoom. **Claire Baril Green, Margaret Collins Ervin, Ann Knowles Harmon, Ronnie Carroll Donnelly, Mary Lou Murray, Tina High Goldsmith, Ellen Caulfield White, Linda Carr Kenny, and Maryanna Freiburger Keller.** We missed a visit with **Sister Judy Parkin**, but talked with her the next week to wish her better health. We lovingly remember our friends suffering from memory issues--**Pat Lieb Mudd, Mary Ann Krastell, Yahn, and Claudette Coulon Thibodeau.**

Here are excerpts from Final Reflections, submitted for this edition: "Words cannot express what my years at St. Joseph's have meant to me--meeting Ray, great education in the nursing field, and I cannot thank God enough for the wonderful friendships I have made and still have." Mary Ellen

Mary Lou--"I also cherish the friendships that have grown over the years. Getting to know the nurses has been one of the best parts of Reunion. I particularly remember a conversation we had during our 60th Reunion and as we were leaving Mary Ellen said, 'It's never too late to make a new friend.' It sums up the Reunion experience so well."

"My mother and sister went to St Joe's before me. I knew I wanted to be a nurse, and SJC had a BSN program. My college experience at St. Joe's formed the rest of my life. The amazing Catholic education, the friends I made for life...thanks to all the Sisters and people who educated me and made me who I am today wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. The lasting friendships will carry me into eternity." Susie B

Eileen--"We just had our 62nd Reunion and it was wonderful. Everybody was so happy to see each other. I wish it was not ending. St. Joe's was always such a welcoming

place, and I want it to go on. I wish all my friends a happy, healthy life, and I would love to see all of you in person again."

Ronnie--From letters written in September 1959. "This place is really fabulous. I'm so glad I came here. The girls are so friendly and considerate...Yesterday we had a tour of the campus and walked into town where we had sodas. Tonight, we have a picnic supper at the cabin down at the creek...First impressions from letters written as a freshman show how much care was given to make SJC as welcoming as possible. What stands out is the innocence and simplicity of the times we shared. Impossible to duplicate which makes our shared experience so special."

"I knew I was meant to attend St. Joseph College. The first time I drove down the "A" in the spring of 1959, besides the beautiful entry, I first smelled the newly mowed grass. That sealed the deal. Even though I couldn't take math classes because they conflicted with my nursing major, I switched right then to math. My gratitude overflows for the time with my classmates ... and for the good sisters, lay teachers, and Msgr. Kline. Each and every one of us contributes to the spirit of the class of '63." Susanna

"My four years at SJC were some of the happiest years of my life...At SJC we were all sisters, but especially those of the class of '63. We had a bond that still remains tight. The classes were not always easy, but getting to them was pretty enjoyable because our campus was so beautiful. Add to that the fact that we were walking in the footsteps of our class patron, Elizabeth Ann Seton. I thank God daily for guiding me to St. Joseph College." Beth

Sue McN--"So many memories...where to begin...My thoughts are of deep gratitude for the excellent preparation provided by the nursing faculty at St. Joseph College. Four-year nursing programs were beginning to be established at the time, and our small college was at the forefront of this change. My favorite faculty of all time was Sister Aloysia Dugan, whom we referred to as "The Al." She was instrumental in showing us the way to practice our profession. Her teachings on the care of the poor were an everlasting life lesson."

Sheila "Bless Our Lord who in September 1959 called the Class of 1963 together. Over the four years the seeds were planted for lasting relationships and unforgettable memories. Class members are in their eighties, but the

friendships continue, support for one another is given freely and the bonds shine brightly. I am blessed to have been called to this school and this class."

Jane who named us Band of Sisters--"I often think of those years in the Valley. The sights of those beautiful mountains and the sounds that were omnipresent...the hushed tones as we gathered for Holy Mass or the triduum with our rosary beads, the clanking of the wooden rosaries of the Daughters of Charity against the bicycles on their way back to the Mother House. I too think of those first few weeks on campus when we seemed almost seamlessly to elide into 'Joe's Girls.' So much more comes back when I least expect it."

For me Ellen, SJC is at the very heart of my life, a dream come true: a superior education under Sr. Margaret Flinton, lifelong friendships, a foundation in faith, and above all my dearest Jim and our happiness with our loving family, our grandchildren, and now, Noah Alexander, the next generation.

We will keep our friendships alive and memories warm, our promise as friends. Jane sums it up for all of us "I may have left the Valley, but the Valley never left me." And never will.

### 1964

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While reading through the news that you sent for this, our final issue of *The Valley Echo*, I noticed a recurring theme--Gratitude!!!! Gratitude for our most recent reunion (we missed all of you who couldn't make it!); for our time at Joe's; for the education we received there and, most of all, for all of the friendships that have endured over the past 60 plus years.

Pat Troller Seagreaves put it beautifully. "Life has us all in our 80s, for better or for strained. My Mustang days are over; my families are my Ubers! But I wanted to praise our last reunion in April, '25. It was wonderful to be surrounded by so many Joe's girls who all walked the A, played at the Pines, and let loose at Tom's Creek over so many years...It's a bittersweet acknowledgement that all good things come to an end...Take care of yourselves; keep in touch; be ever thankful for what gift we had in September, '60 meeting our dear friends who will

remain even dearer friends in the dwindling years ahead."

Mary "Cookie" Cook Purdy echoed that sentiment and referred to it as a "huge, never to be forgotten four-year-long experience beginning in 1960. I'll remember it, and so many '64 girls, for the rest of my days." Cookie said that she and Bob have been married for 58 good years and have five kids and ten grandkids. She is thankful that she, **Judy Brown**, and **Muff Van Ogtrop Locraft** have remained good friends through the years.

I also heard from Muff, and she reported that their five children are doing fine--all married with great spouses--and they all live within a half-hour of Muff and Matt and each other. The Locrafts have a total of 12 grandchildren. The oldest grandson just became engaged so that wedding is coming up. Two granddaughters just graduated together from Clemson, and Muff and Matt made the trek down there, and she said it was spectacular. Their second grandson is starting his fourth year of medical school at Georgetown and is inundated with school and more school but he loves it and is striving to be a neurosurgeon. Muff loves talking medical things with him. Other grandchildren are in school here and there--college, high, middle, and elementary schools. Matt has had a few falls, some due to medication he was on, but hopefully that is straightened out now. Muff has knee and rotator cuff issues and is facing possible surgeries down the road. However, she is able to do the basics of what she needs to do for now. They keep busy with appointments and volunteering with a few liturgies at their local church, "and the days just fly by."

Anne McAllister LaBoon reflected on our time at SJC. "The SJCAA may be dissolved, but our memories and friendships will last a lifetime. Reflecting on our years: Freshman/Kooksville/senior dorm privileges...Sophomore/blazers...Junior/class ring...Senior/Daisy chain and graduation...I'm so happy that **Chrystie Damico Goles** and I 'Left a Footprint' in front of the chapel--Chrystie and Anne Forever friends 1964." Anne was thrilled to be a member of the committee that put together the video display in the lobby of the School of Health Professions, assuring that the legacy of Mother Seton and SJC remains alive and visible for generations. Anne is still participating in the Walking with Purpose bible study along with a group of caring ladies in her parish. Anne closed by saying that it is an honor to be a graduate of St. Joseph College Class of '64.

Beverly Jones Wyatt, who designed and put together

the wonderful centerpieces for our Friday night dinner at Reunion (we sat by classes), sent a short but sweet message. "Our happiness is building a family and basking in the accomplishments of our children and grandchildren. Even at 83, life is full. The math: two 'ole folk'; three children; eight grandchildren; one house for 56 years--much joy, party place, B&B for out-of-towners, rest stop for locals. At last count--four college grads (three on to grad school), three still in college, and one soccer coach." Bev added "Thanks to the SJC class of '64 whose influence made me what I am today."

**Renee Peters Stalter** said that there's not much excitement there, but she guesses that's good. Renee has five children, all of them married, and 12 grandchildren, and most of them are close by.

**Jackie Jermyn Azzarto** wrote that "all is well in scorching hot Florida!" Her family is great---graduations and lots of brags for her grands. Jackie does daily water aerobics; makes Italian dinner parties; and she knits, beads, reads and goes to doctor appointments. (The last item is something that we all seem to do a lot.) The joy of her life is the Treasure Coast Community Singers. (You should check them out on YouTube! They're fabulous!!!) Jackie has stepped down as chair of their grants team, something she has been doing for 12 years. The state and federal governments are no longer funding the arts, and the new chair has lots of experience with private foundations.

Also in Florida, **Cookie Kaheny Costanzo** stated that she, Joe, and "Oscar" are holding their own and are still upright, but Cookie shared some very sad news. Her brother John M. Kaheny MSM '66 died July 2 following a lengthy illness. There will be a full military funeral on August 19 and he will be interred in the Miramar Military Cemetery in San Diego. We are so sorry, Cookie!

**Mary Olivia Duffy Bowers**, another Floridian, had a lot of exciting news to share. Their first grandchild John Bowers who graduated from the Naval Academy in 2022, married Lucy, a girl he met at the academy. It was a lovely wedding, and they are both in Texas learning to fly E-2 Hawkeyes. Their oldest son Bill, a Marine Corps Officer, will be getting his third star as Lieutenant General this month (July). Teresa, their daughter, has lived in Boulder, CO for the past 20 years. She loves it, works at the Nature Conservancy, and recently has been teaching classes at the University of Colorado. Olivia and Steve are both retired and play duplicate bridge

every week with good friends in Ponte Vedra Beach. They live a mile from their son S.P. who is a surgeon at the Mayo Clinic. Bradley, their youngest son, is staying with them, and they love having him there.

And from Colorado, **Ginny Pittman Boschen** reflected—"The Valley echoes the last notes of 'All Together' and the sun sets on our amazing journey from 1960 to 2025. There is an angelic Honor Guard along the A murmuring approval of all we did at St. Joseph College and in the years following. Over the years we shared in the joy of classmates loving-so-much and painfully losing-so-much. We felt the other's changing circumstances which made us all more generous and compassionate. I had the best good fortune to have been with the Daughters of Charity, visit the Mother House in Paris, and grasp their historic purpose: ones that were carried through their programs at SJC: nursing, teaching, social work. I have a small yet mighty core of support: Emily/daughter, Mia /granddaughter, Enzo/grandson, and Ail /son-in-law. I leave you with this quote by Eleanor Roosevelt--'Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art.'"

We have three classmates in South Carolina who actually don't live far from each other. **Lola Forns Reilly** recently was in Pensacola, FL for the wedding of the last of her grandsons. It was great having the family together; her daughter even flew in from Sonoma, CA. Lola said it was an 11-hour car trip, and even though her granddaughter Isabella, who is living with Lola for a while, did most of the driving, she doesn't think her arthritis can endure long car trips anymore. She's having total knee replacement on July 30, so hopefully she'll be fully mobile by the time this reaches you. Lola said it's nice having **Pat Giblin Wolman** across the entrance to their Hidden Lakes community and **Mary Edna Sullivan** in Charleston. They got together for lunch recently and hope to do that more often. Pat Wolman said that she has good news and bad news. The sad news is that her husband Melford died in November 2024. On the happy side, Pat has moved to a continuing care community in Mount Pleasant, SC, and she is "loving it." She said that she was able to have lunch with **Lee Ann Clement Frankel** when she was in New Jersey. Mary Edna retired two years ago as curator for Middleton Place Foundation in Charleston after 25 years and finds that time just flies. She has become politically active along with Lola and Pat. She also adores spending quality time with her late brother Fred's family which includes his widow Polly, a wonderful

woman, and three adult nephews Tate, Kirk, and Ricky, a niece Katie, a grandnephew Charlie and two grand-nieces.

**Heather Laird Martin** said that all in all life is going well for the Martin/Chaney families. Heather and Howard are still upright but their motto has become, "Don't fall down!" Like a lot of us, they have decided that travel, with the exception of short excursions, is beyond their reach. Heather is active in the resident council in their retirement community as well as the foundation board, and both have been rewarding. However, she thinks that 2026 will find her less involved, and she's looking forward to that. Heather is grateful to report that Hilary their daughter in Arkansas who lost her husband two years ago, is doing quite well as are two boys (17 and 13). Heather's two wonderful sons and their wives live in the area as do their three children, although two of the grands are in college and the third will be joining the next year. Like so many of you, Heather said how much she cherishes the memories of St. Joe's--wonderful friends, nuns, and teachers as well as our campus and all the special places on it.

Paul and **Jackie Melroy Shiring** are enjoying life at Ashby Ponds. Paul is into music (you may remember that his group from their parish led the music at our Mass at our campus chapel for our 50th reunion), and Jackie is into liturgical "stuff" again. She's on the Catholic Leadership Committee, the Interfaith Council, and she does EM duties for assisted living and those in independent living who can't get to Mass. She's reading for two book clubs, does needlework and tries to exercise each day.

**Claire Maurer** spent a great deal of time this year on the Reunion as well as the dissolution of the alumnae association. After Reunion, she had the job of editing the photos for the VE. Otherwise, Claire is still president of her beach condo, and they had a major renovation project over last winter. She's also involved in Catholics in Conversation, a group in her retirement community. They began three years ago to develop their own response to the synod and when the process was completed, they didn't want to stop meeting. They bring in speakers, videos, and have various discussion topics. They have also sponsored Days of Recollection for the entire community. This summer Claire is enjoying her time at the beach, although the weather has been erratic.

All is well with their families in Vermont and Los

Angeles, according to **Kathy Smith Donovan**. Their daughter and son-in-law Colleen and Mike live in Bristol, VT and enjoy music and the outdoors. Son Christopher and his wife Allison as well as sons Tyler and Chase live in Los Angeles. However, Tyler is a senior at Tufts in Boston, so they have more frequent visits. Kathy said they have the usual issues of time flying by and the physical deterioration that goes with it. They are blessed to have good family and friends.

**Mary Rocks** had her left knee replaced in May and was blessed to have three nieces and a nephew who took turns staying with her for the first three weeks. Good friends are taking her to outpatient PT and she expects to drive in the second half of July. There is a new baby in her extended family with three more on the way.

**Bobbie Davis Speace** finally officially retired on March 1st after 61 years of nursing. She misses it but knew it was time to go. She keeps busy at her growing parish and does other volunteer work. Bobbie, daughter Lee, and a close friend are going to Portugal in September to walk part of the El Camino from Porto. She's trying to train but the heat has been brutal. Her five grandkids range from age seven to 25. The two oldest in Frederick are out of college. The New Jersey twins are going into their junior year of high school, and Huck will enter second grade in Nashville.

**Rita Welty Bourke's** third book *A Stone from the River Rhine* will be released on February 7, 2026. It's the story of an immigrant who came to America in the mid-18th century, and a descendant who, unable to fulfill a promise she made to her dying brother, returns to the land of her ancestors with a portion of his ashes. Her fourth book *Neptune's Journey* is the true story of a slave who accompanied his master to war and later goes through a great deal to return his master's body to St. Simon's Island, GA. Rita has three wonderful daughters: one owns a horse retirement facility in Trout Lake, WA; one who teaches in the veterinary school in Auburn, AL; and one who is a web designer and very much a free spirit in Portland, OR. She has one granddaughter who has finished her first year of college and two others who are going through adolescence.

One of **Kathy Flanagan Huber's** grandsons got married in May. He is an Auburn graduate and is now studying to be a Baptist minister at their seminary in Louisville. It was a lovely wedding in Springfield, KY. While there, Kathy and Jim visited Gethsemani, a special place for Kathy. Their granddaughters in Ohio, ages eight and

## CLASS NEWS

ten, are on a swim team. Two Nashville grandsons are continuing their education, and their oldest grandson is a Navy Seal.

After the passing of her husband Raul in March, **Marian Weld Oviedo** made the decision to sell her home and move to a retirement community. Her new address as of August 19th is Sunnyside, 1130 Highlands Pl., Apt. 325, Rockingham, VA 22801. Marian has five children, all married, and 11 grandchildren. One grandchild has graduated from college and in September five of them will be in college. She broke two vertebrae in her back on February 28, and the grandchildren have been a big help. Marian says she's healing nicely now.

**Marge "Maggie" Donahue Stauffer** and her husband have moved to Willow Valley, a large retirement community in Lancaster, PA. For the most part their health is good, and that has allowed them to do a lot of travelling. In July they are off on a Canadian Rockies train trip, followed by Costa Rica with a granddaughter, and then a walking/hiking trip in Morocco. Wow!

**Barbara Tansey Bush** has certainly had a full life since college! She served in the Peace Corps in Nigeria; moved to Boston, where she continues to live, and taught school briefly, then became a programmer and a data base administrator. She ran for office, has served on some condo boards, and has done some tutoring. Barb was widowed in 2007, and although she never had children of her own, she's always had children in her life. She said her life has been full and she's grateful.

**Mimi Ratke Cochran** and Chuck spent two months in Florida during the winter. While they were there, **Pat Higgins Brennan**, Lola Reilly and Pat Wolman visited them, and Mimi said it was a "pajama party." They also spent an evening with Cookie and Joe Costanzo at the Costanzo's home in Ormond Beach. The Cochran's grandson Ben, a Marine officer, was recently promoted. Ben and Anna, his fiancée, will be married next April. Their grandson Luke is an officer aboard the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford. We are blessed to be able to visit with Chuck and Mimi whenever they visit their condo in Ocean City.

I did hear from **Kathy Meyer Auro**. Although she didn't share any news, she sent greetings and says she enjoys reading about our class.

My old roomie **Jo Carter Moore** recently returned from a trip to France with her son and a group of friends.

After two and a half days in Paris, they went by bus to Lyon where they boarded the boat and went on a river cruise down the Rhone, with many stops including Viennese, Tournon, Viviers, Port Louis, and Arles. It was a wonderful trip but exhausting. On the home front, Jo still volunteers at a nursing home, and every Monday she and a friend do a Rosary and Communion service there. Her grandson Matthew is getting married in September and Stephen, her other grandson, is a student at Catholic University.

As for the Jones clan, we keep moving along. Mike and I have had some health challenges, but nothing we can't handle. Our daughter Pam returned to school two years ago and is now an RN working in hospice care. Beth is the Director of Assessments and Effectiveness at Worwic Community College. Mary Susan is the sales director for a small but growing local hotel group, and Tricia is the new managing editor for Ethics for the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Pam's twin boys are recent college graduates, so it's been a busy year all around. I've slowed down considerably, but I still train and coordinate the lectors in my parish. This is our final issue of *The Valley Echo*, but I'd still like to do a gathering of news once a year, if you're willing to contribute. Meanwhile, please take care of yourselves!!!! Mary Lou

## 1965

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Well, we made it! However, to be more accurate, I should say **YOU** made it and had a wonderful time at Reunion 2025! The accolades from classmates who attended the April SJC Reunion have filled my email since April. What a gift to have so many classmates "all together" for a grand send-off! Regret I and others were not able to attend but we were with you in heart and spirit.

**Jane Manning Brennan** and **Mary Brandon Rummele** did an outstanding job welcoming everyone to our

Hospitality Suite where classmates' chatter and laughter reigned. Thanks to all who made certain there were snacks and a variety of drinks to share. Once again Mary, Jane, **Janet Welaj Klaer**, and others made certain everyone was comfortable and well-hydrated.

In addition to Jane, Mary, and Janet, the following classmates enjoyed Reunion 2025:

**Maggie Quayle Bellew, Charlotte O'Donnell Fedders, Mary Beth Boisseree McDonell, Kathy Murphy Clarke, Antoinette (A) O'Neill Ashburn, Kay Ehringer Mufalli, Cynthia/Cindy Crawford Cannon, Jean Tierney Terza, Marlene Brown-Strattan, Ellen Pida Mathis, Barbara Hogan Sullivan, Jane Currie Sutton, Karen Langer Carr, Barbara Wixted Hayes, Nancy Boemanns Fratini, Sr. Carol Cryzewski, and Marsha Martindell Moffitt.** Sister Carol described it well as a "heartwarming gathering...<and>... a memory treasure."

A special addition to the gathering was a visit from Katie (Kathryn) Sullivan, daughter of our friend and classmate **Sally Callahan Sullivan** who passed away January 14, 2025. Katie spent Saturday evening hearing Sally or (better yet!) Sally and Nancy stories from the group. Other classmates who had hoped to attend but were unable to travel to Gettysburg were there in spirit. **Didi Bremer Corrigan, Mary Ann Gillotti Kelleher, Judy McGrath Brenner, Susan Flanigan Conrad, and Sharon Callison Brady** were missed.

Jane Manning Brennan especially enjoyed "gathering in the suite...and hearing about our life experiences after St. Joe's. So many amazing careers!" Sally Callahan Sullivan's daughter Katie "was so appreciative of hearing the stories of our years at Joe's. It really added to her memories of her mother." Other highlights were a campus tour—"we even got to see the old gymnasium and swimming pool!...<and> the talk by the nurses who had served in Vietnam was memorable." Special thanks to the Hospitality Committee of *the Janes* (Jane Manning Brennan and Jane Currie Sutton), Barb Hogan, and Janet Welaj Klaer! "Parting was bittersweet as we were keenly aware that this might be our last time together." Jane Brennan was sure "hearts and voices really were *light as ever* for the weekend."

For Mary Brandon Rummele, the weekend proved to be somewhat of a surprise and lots of fun. "The feeling of being together with classmates, even those I never knew well, was special. During my first two years at SJC, I was so shy that I tried to be invisible – with great success!

I felt I met some classmates for the first time at Reunion...(and) a bond was in sight at first sight. Our shared experiences of being college students before the emergence of women's lib in the mid-1960s left us tolerating requirements such as having to attend every meal and prove it with a punch in our meal ticket and wearing skirts and nylons every day but allowed jeans or slacks only on Saturdays, sounds quaint to our children and like a fairy tale from the olden days to our grandchildren." Mary adds "it has been a joy to be in touch with so many of you in person at our Florida reunions or through email and *The Valley Echo*."

Christmas news indicated some of us are on the move. There are new addresses for **Nancy Shepard Long** (2 Alpine Court, Orono, ME 04473) and **Constance (Connie) Coman VanDine** (302 Dorset Court, Doylestown, PA 18901). The Pennsylvania/New Jersey lunch group might want to contact Connie next time you meet.

Mary Beth (MB) Boisseree McDonell's plans after Reunion also include "mini reunions" in the future. In May, she had lunch with Didi Bremer Corrigan in Virginia. Didi was not able to attend Reunion and the photos and updates were appreciated. In early June Mary Beth had lunch with Karen Langer Carr when Karen was visiting in the area. Karen drove over from Westminster, MD to meet her. They were roommates second semester sophomore year and need a few more lunches to catch up on their sixty-year "break". Mary Beth also meets with **Betsy O'Brien Marron** who resides in the DC area. They met at the National Gallery recently. It was Pride month and there were demonstrations and LGBTQ celebrations on the Mall. During the past December, she had "great luck" connecting with former SJC roommate, **Noreen Collins Martin**. Noreen has a son who lives in Maryland, north of DC, and they are hoping for more opportunities for visits in the future. Mary Beth is pleased with her "northern" move from Florida back to Virginia, familiar territory for her. She'd love to start mini reunions for classmates who live or visit the DC/MD/VA area.

Nancy Boemanns Fratini was "still basking in the good memories made" at Reunion 2025. After returning home, she had time to visit with her son Andy's family in Chicago. Sr. Carol Czyzewski was very grateful for all the travel assistance Jane Manning Brennan helped with during Sister's time in Maryland. The Daughters of Charity provided fine hospitality in what we called the Provincial House. Sister reconnected with some of the

sisters she knew during her ministry in Thurmont. Barbara Hogan Sullivan was Sister's roommate during her freshman year, and she was happy to have time with her and other classmates. Sister Carol is busy in retirement and participates in many of her Franciscan community's social justice initiatives remaining a peace and justice activist whenever and wherever she is needed.

**Anne Sacchet Payne** sent a message in July. She is dealing with some mobility problems and had one knee replaced last July. She anticipates having the second knee replaced later this summer. She spent some time with her late husband's family in April and met with her sisters in Michigan earlier in the summer. Her brother passed away last year "as did my faithful sheep dog." She found an old English Sheepdog puppy and, at the time she sent her email, she confessed the new puppy had turned her family room into a puppy palace! Calgary has been a very busy place, and Anne hopes the trade issues between the US and Canada will be settled satisfactorily and soon! She still coordinates tai-chi classes even though she can't do the movements, keeps trying to learn Spanish on Duolingo, and takes guitar lessons. "Even though I am at a distance, the class of '65 is close to my heart."

Received a newsy update from **Diane "Dede" Koudelka Rogers** in "steamy North Carolina"! She was on the road during the early summer for her granddaughter's graduation. Son Peter and wife who have been in Spokane have returned to Mozambique. Next June they will be coming home for good after doing mission work for 20 years. Son Bruce is doing well but Dede is concerned about her daughter Jennifer's husband who still has "no diagnosis" for his neurological problems. Dede takes Communion regularly to several nursing homes in her area and she feels "blessed to share our Lord with so many wonderful people." She does have a question for us "does anyone know what is to become of the St. Joe's campus now that the EMT/Fire Academy has closed?" Any information about this at Reunion?

**Patricia Marra Pelner's** husband died several years ago and her two children are living in different parts of the US. Her son, his wife, and two sons live in Southern California and her daughter lives in the DC area. She makes frequent trips to Los Angeles to visit and was looking forward to this August when family gets together at Hilton Head. She retired three years ago and enjoyed a trip to southern Italy last October with six family members. Pat, let's hope next time you're at Hilton Head some of our Carolina classmates might

work out some options to get together.

Christmas 2024 messages and the New Year brought some updates. Nancy Boemann Fratini's husband Al (Albert) passed away January 21, 2025. Al was a frequent attendee at Reunions and also at the "mini-reunions" along the Connecticut shore during the summer. **Maggi Mullahy Yates** and **Dolores/Dee O'Connor Cosquer** were part of those shore meetings and luncheon dates. **Patricia Taylor Conroy's** husband Dave sent a short message at Christmas time. He thanked us "for keeping my Bride posted over the years. Connections are important." Pat was having some health and other issues a while ago. **Cathy Scovitch Walsh, Barbara Gaver, Maureen O'Flaherty Wylonis,** and **Pat Brunning Martin** also sent holiday greetings. Barb Gaver was doing fine. Son Sasha lives with her. **Anne Nichols Gilda** "would have to see about traveling to Reunion". **Ann Smith Flynn** and husband Pat travel between their homes in Shaker Heights and Hudson, OH where three children live. The arrangement works well when there are medical or other health-related needs. They "could not promise" to be at Reunion. **Margaret Keil Sottosanti** and John and their son Wayne enjoyed a Keil Family reunion in the Berkshire Mountains (Massachusetts) during the summer of 2024. Two grandchildren are at Yale in New Haven, CT.

In closing, I am exceedingly proud of **all** the SJCiennes who have been very faithful to our association through the years. I remember clearly the day when a consultant came to assist the SJCAA Board figure out how a 50th Reunion could be celebrated by the last SJC class--the Class of 1975. The consultant came with a big pad and sheets of paper were hung around the Emmitsburg meeting room. We left with a very long list of "goals". We just needed to add **how we were going to get there!**

Well, **YOU** did it and we should all be very proud. We also need to remember a big thanks goes to Dr. Tom Powell, former president of the Mount. He literally rolled out a red carpet for us, and he and the Mount were huge supporters.

Of course, I have left *the best of the best* until last. The best of the best is the "Joe's girl" -- we are a small but mighty group of women, immensely talented and tenacious. When we have a goal, move over--we are coming through! And every single class "came through".

Our history is rich with hands reaching out All Together to family, to friends, to one another...to our classmates,

“little sisters”, “big sisters”, other alumnae, and, yes, to the good Sisters from the Valley and all their charitable works. Pat yourselves on the back--WE are the best of the best!

Let's not let those friendship links slip away. Keep in touch...

Maureen and Mary

### 1966

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**Maureen Mullin Klein** will be sending her two grandsons, Thomas and James, off with their Uncle Bobby (who lives with her), to experience a shorter version of the 500 mile El Camino del Santiago hike in Spain that Bobby did a few years ago. Hard to believe it was ten years ago this month that she and her husband Bob, (who is deceased) suddenly lost their first child Tom when the boys were in 3rd and 6th grades. She is so happy that Tom's wife Lily and the boys stayed close by so that they can all play an active role in their activities. Maureen is keeping busy with her new position as Editor-in-Chief of the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) Manhattan Chapter monthly newsletter (<https://linktr.ee/nkbamanhattan>). Heading to the city a few times a month, Maureen says, helps her get her steps in, and gives her the opportunity to see the latest in the world of kitchens, baths, and all the "smart home" trends.

**Barbara Kennedy Hudak** and her sister had made reservations months in advance for the SJC final Reunion, but her granddaughter chose that Saturday for her wedding and they celebrated with family instead. With seven grandchildren--six of them close in age--she's looking at five straight years of graduations ahead.

Barbara delights in seeing her grandchildren thrive in academics, athletics, and the arts. Frankie earned a crew scholarship to Catholic University in Washington, DC and convinced five high school friends to join him there. Summer will attend Stockton University in New Jersey to study theater; she's won multiple state vocal competitions and once sang behind the curtain in *The Sound of Music* when others couldn't match her range. She especially enjoys villain roles and maintains an

excellent GPA. Emma travels nationally with her AAU basketball team. In spring and summer, Barbara transforms her yard into a personal botanical garden, delighting visitors to the Virginia Beach ocean boardwalk.

Barbara returns to New York City once a year for ongoing health concerns connected to witnessing the collapse of the World Trade Center. She receives a substantial settlement from New York Workers Compensation, covers her own treatment and medication, and frequently navigates Medicare complexities. Interestingly, she finds that COVID booster shots noticeably improve her health, enabling her to make and keep plans--something she couldn't do for 24 years. She now enjoys attending events and even takes long drives. Life is better now than it has been in decades. Her children are healthy and thriving. Her daughter in South Carolina, now cancer free for three years, visits often and is back to work.

**Kathleen Smith Franke ("Smitty")** enjoys life in Bethany Beach, DE. Last September she organized the final Class of '66 beach reunion--her 16th! With three classmates owning homes nearby, the three-day "movable feast" was a joyful farewell. Future reunions may move to Wilmington, DE, a travel hub for many. She and husband John have grandchildren aged ten to 23. This summer, they reunited with four of the seven at a Florida family reunion attended by 160 relatives, ranging from ten months to 94 years old.

They plan to join a Cruise America trip along the upper Mississippi this September following the Mark Twain Trail--similar to one they enjoyed last year along the Lewis & Clark Trail. She highly recommends it and sends warm wishes to all her classmates.

**Carol Sheehan Pappas** proudly attended daughter Venetia's graduation from Michigan State University in May, where she earned a BS in Animal Science. This summer, Venetia is interning with a vet before applying to veterinary school. Carol's husband Harry is slowly declining and is now bedridden. Their son John-Frank works part time and helps at home.

In early June, **Karin Fischl Rennert** and **Melissa Hanscom McDivitt** organized a mini Class of '66 reunion in Bridgeville, DE. Attendees included **Susan Kaiserski Keller**, **Sally Gwynn Evans**, **Melinda Bloom**, and Melissa, who travelled over the Chesapeake Bay to meet Kathleen Smith Franke and Karin for lunch at Heritage Shores, followed by dessert at Karin's home.

## CLASS NEWS

Conversation never slowed. True friends may grow separately, but never apart. Melinda Bloom continues to connect classmates by hosting Zoom get-togethers every few months. Originally a gift from her daughter, Zoom has become her way of giving back. She and husband John are heading to a family reunion in Bethlehem, PA soon.

Susan Kaiserski Keller and husband Pat recently moved to the Charlestown Senior Living Community in Catonsville, MD, where she's met fascinating new friends--including a former White House secretary from the Ford era. They joined the Ballroom Dance Club last summer and occasionally substitute for the professional instructor. This fall, they will return to Lifelong Learning courses. Susan teaches and plays American Mahjong, and despite the delicious meals, has avoided weight gain! Her massage therapy practice has expanded more than expected, and she's learning to say, "No." She also volunteers in hospice and continues learning from her clients.

Susan enjoyed the SJC final Reunion and hopes to attend the 60th--if she can find a companion. She thanks all who organized the event and treasures her SJC friendships.

**Mary Furey Keenan** reports having had many health issues but that the last procedure has been accomplished. She thanks all her SJC friends for their prayers. She reminisced about all the years of shared friendships, teachers, and experiences--both professional and fun! Her 50 years of nursing from 1966-2016 included wonderful memories of all of SJC classmates and friends. Offering the following saying because it summarizes it all, Mary says, "Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them, but you know they're always there!"

**Jane Davis Marden** splits her time between Falls Church, VA and hosting family and friends at her cottage in Sea Colony, Bethany Beach, DE. Her life is full with family, pets, tennis, and longtime friendships. Next week, she'll meet travel friends of 35 years--colleagues from her days at the American Gas Association--at the Cosmos Club in DC. Their plans include visits to the Hillwood Estate, the Phillips Collection, and the National Zoo to see the pandas. Next year will be a trip to Yosemite National Park then the next year perhaps overseas to Croatia! Jane still offers pet care services, which she began in 2009, and volunteers at a horse rescue an hour away on Sundays. She'll soon testify before the Fairfax County Planning Commission

to advocate for preserving mature trees and curbing pollution caused by overdevelopment. She deeply appreciates the SJC final Reunion and gives heartfelt thanks to the organizing team. Jane remains ever grateful to the Blessed Mother for her four years at Emmitsburg.

### 1967

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Greetings to you, Class of 1967. Here we are with our final publication of *The Valley Echo*. Thanks again for those of you who have written and sent pictures. Here we go:

**Rosa Diaz Schmid** writes from the Woodlands. She and her husband are both retired and stay busy with painting and playing games. Rosa travelled to her home country, Bolivia, a year ago. Although she did not see Chiqui, she reports that she is well.

**Maggi McGrath Yerkes** and her husband Tony spend the best months of the year in Minnesota. They enjoy vegetable gardening in spring. Summertime is spent on the lake having fun with the grandchildren and enjoying the fruits of the garden. Fall is a time for canning and enjoying the beautiful colors of nature. They winter in Mazatlan, Mexico to escape the bitter cold and snow. Despite mobility issues and loss of vision in one eye, Maggi continues with activities in her church community. Maggi closes with "I wish you all good health and the many blessings that God has for you."

**Sue Albin Watson** registered for SJC 2025 Reunion but had to cancel due to thyroid surgery. Thankfully, she reports that she is now cancer free. She regularly sees **Kathy Kelleher Sohn (KAK)** who recently moved to a retirement facility.

**Marg Cloney Wood** and her husband John are staying close to home, enjoying living in their town house for now. They continue to downsize inventory as they look for a one-level dwelling in the area.

## CLASS NEWS

**Carol Newstead Palmer** and her husband Cliff continue to travel annually to Capon Springs, WV for family sporting fun. Their two children, Megan and Mike, and four grandchildren spend a long weekend together with them. They enjoy tennis, pickle ball, shuffle board, ping pong, badminton, swimming, and golf.

**Kathleen Sullivan Stolzenberger** filled us in on the “last 58 years of living.” She was married for 32 years and had four children in five years. She now has four grandchildren as well. Kathleen taught nursing in New Jersey and eventually ran a nursing program there. In 1992, the family moved to Connecticut where she took over as Dean, and then President of a small health science college with a nursing program. Once the college closed, she became Director of Professional Practice at a local hospital, giving her an opportunity to hone her clinical practice skills after her many years in academia. During that time, Kathleen earned a PhD in nursing and became involved with the ANCC Magnate Hospital program. Her side job is consulting which she still does today. Sadly, Kathleen lost her daughter in 2018 but she finds great solace in strong relationships with her sons, her three amigos. Kathleen spends six to seven months in Bonita Springs, FL but her Jersey shore house is still “home” to her. Every few years, Kathleen meets with **Jane Roth** (Frothy), **Ann Boley McLamb** (Balls), and **Eileen Ball Cerne** (Ferdie), enjoying “never-ending memories of our Joe’s days.” Kathleen ends with, “Be well, everyone. Perhaps we will be ‘All Together’ again swinging on a cloud someday.”

Ann Thompson Hogg sent her “58 years of news encapsulated.”

1967-1977 THE NOBODY TOLD ME YEARS\*\*\*10% of married couples have trouble conceiving. Every teacher is a teacher of reading.

1977-1987 LEARNING\*\*\*Lightning strikes twice-- Sam '82 and Julia '85. Motherhood over MBA, classroom over administration.

1987-1997 TRYING SOMETHING NEW\*\*\*Remodeling 150-year-old house, middle school teens, teaching AP courses, exam reader.

1997-2007 HIGHER EDUCATION\*\*\*MSM grads '02 and '07 (Mom and daughter have same anniversary years), AP teachers are teachers of writing.

2007-2017 NEW PERSPECTIVES\*\*\*Retired and put

on my travelling pants and shoes, became “grAnnie”, trained to become a docent at Walters Art Museum in Baltimore.

2017-Present\*\*\*Adapting to post COVID world, vacation with all my Hoggs, keeping up with four sisters, keeping up with WAM friends, exhibits at National Gallery.

**Mary Alice Mauser** and **Rita Gisriel Cole** recently went to the home of **Jean Suelau Allman** where **Mary Carroll Ebaugh Fox** was visiting for the day. Jean still substitutes at the Catholic Elementary School where she taught kindergarten for over 30 years. Mary Carroll continues to be active with social justice programs and is currently helping foreign immigrants adjust to life in the States. Mary Alice is now living at Riderwood, a Senior Living facility in Silver Spring, MD and is happy to be back in the area. Rita continues to enjoy vacationing with her family, spending time with her grandchildren, playing pickle ball, and rooting for the Orioles. We are compiling lists of alumnae by region and will happily share that information with anyone who is interested. The SJC Alumnae Association is now dissolved and all correspondence henceforth will be coming from MSM. However, we have thoroughly enjoyed being your class agents and will continue to disseminate information about our class through email as we receive it from you. “Friendships may ne’er be broken.” God’s blessings on the Class of '67 always.

Rita and Mary Alice



(From left) Kathleen Sullivan Stolzenberger, Ann Boley McLamb, Jane Roth, Eileen Ball Cerne, and Susan Albin Watson

## 1968

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As we write this, we've been hearing about and experiencing extremely hot, humid temperatures, lots of rain, frequently with flash flooding, especially with the Guadalupe River in Kerr County, TX, that caused the deaths of many people, especially young campers. We are praying for the families of those who drowned, as well as those who survived the terror of the flooding and its destruction. Those who survived will probably suffer from PTSD for many years.

The news of the Texas flooding reminded **Mary Alice Baker Baish** of a time a few decades ago when she tubed down the Guadalupe River where her cousin was a state park ranger. When she heard about the flood, she called her cousin and learned that another cousin in San Antonio has a 12-year-old granddaughter who was evacuated by air from the floodwaters at Camp Mystic. The family worries about her being able to recover from such a horrific experience.

Mary Alice wants her '68 classmates to know that she could not attend our final Reunion because of a brain aneurysm that had just been discovered, requiring her to have immediate surgery. The surgery was simple and painless--the surgeon went through a wrist vein to take a picture of the aneurysm and then filled it with coils through a wrist artery. She mentions this because she had NO symptoms! Its discovery was a blessing. She adds that the most common symptom is excruciating headaches that are often ignored. She is warning us because she does not want this to happen to any other SJC alumnae. She had her five-week brain MRI just before she sent us her news and was scheduled to see her brain surgeon's physician assistant the same week to ensure the coils were still in place.

**Karen Paule Marinelli** sent news about the death of our classmate, **Ann O'Toole Van Leuven** on July 7th. Her obituary can be found at [dignitarymemorial.com/](http://dignitarymemorial.com/)

[obituaries.com](http://obituaries.com) under the name Florence van Leuven. Ann was at SJC for only two years. She left in sophomore year to care for her dad when he got cancer.

**Mary Brown** reports all is well in Atlanta where she and **Cathy Carroll Loy** get together frequently, often-times at Mary's cabin at Lake Rabun in North Georgia. Mary lives within a half-hour of her twin sons, Sean and Michael McGlincy. Sean and his wife Serina had a baby girl Ava last year, making Mary a grandmother for the first time. Sean works at Georgia Tech where he oversees their cyber security; Michael is a senior broadcast engineer at CNN. Mary enjoys her retirement, which gives her lots of time to exercise, read, and travel; and she hopes our classmates are enjoying their retirement as much as she enjoys hers.

**Jocelyn Fritz Collins**, who attended our last Reunion in April, said she and Mike were happy they went. Throughout the course of the weekend, she said her emotions ranged from feeling grateful and happy, to sad and old, but the dominant emotion she felt was pride. She toured the old campus and said it was good to see that the buildings we knew so well when we were there were being repurposed. The Central House, where the new MSM School of Health Professions is located, is very impressive with its SJC Alumnae displays. Jocelyn hopes FEMA continues to exist and to maintain its training facility on our former campus. (The National Fire Academy had been told to cease all training earlier in the spring, during the massive federal layoffs, although they were later funded for training.)

Jocelyn and Mike are doing well in their seventh year in Needham, MA. The decision to move there after 42 years in the same house in Trenton, NJ has proved to be a good one. Two of their three children have homes in Massachusetts, and there are daily direct flights between Boston and Denver, where their youngest daughter lives. Time will tell what their next move will be; Jocelyn says they probably should be investigating retirement communities in the area.

Meanwhile, they booked a river cruise on the Rhine River for spring 2026 to celebrate not only their 80th birthdays, but also two college and two high school graduations among their nine grandchildren. She notes that while Reunion was about looking back with love and gratitude, there is still a future to anticipate!

Jocelyn has been in touch with **Joanne Ekhaml** who also lives in the Boston area, and the two of them and

their husbands planned to meet for lunch the week after she sent her news.

**Diane Ball Cooper** says yet another chapter of our lives is closing with the end of the alumnae association. “Even those of us at a distance, who could not physically participate, enjoyed the connectedness and the stories and photos. Many thanks to all those, particularly Mary Anne and Ruth, who kept it going for the Class of 1968. It feels sad to wrap up that incredible part of our lives, but the memories will linger on.”

Diane and Charlie have lived for 15 years in St. Louis, MO, where they originally moved after she retired as Head of School at Columbus School for Girls in Columbus, OH. They moved there to be a support for their daughter and her two small children. Diane found a position as an Associate Professor at Webster University and taught full time for about four years and then became Principal of St. Joseph Academy, an all-girls high school in St. Louis. She was there for two years, but when Charlie was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, she gave that up. She became an adjunct supervisor of student teachers for a couple years. When the pandemic happened, she stopped working to care for Charlie. She continues to do volunteer tutoring in a local elementary school, working on English with immigrant children. She also bakes cakes for an organization that provides birthday cakes to children in foster care and has started making decorated sugar cookies as a side hobby.

Charlie struggles with his disease progression, so most of the time, Diane is at home with him. They were fortunate to take two major trips to various places in Europe in 2016 and 2018, spending nine weeks each time exploring different areas, including living for six weeks in Montpellier, France.

This year, their son moved from Orlando, FL to St. Louis, where he is Director of Development, Special Events, for the Scouts. They are thrilled to have him closer, and to have all the family together. Their daughter is a full professor of social work at St. Louis University and works with the criminal justice system. Their oldest granddaughter will be getting married August 8, 2026, Diane's 80th birthday, and Diane is thrilled. She is the director of K-12 religious education for her synagogue. Their second granddaughter is beginning her PhD in criminal justice analytics. Their grandson is a senior at St. Louis University, majoring in Communications and Computer Science.

Other than Charlie's illness, Diane is doing as well as can be expected in the circumstances. She is grateful to have a strong family and excellent medical care available. She misses the freedom of travel that she and Charlie used to enjoy, but they are blessed in many ways. Diane wishes each of us health, happiness, and a lifetime of happy memories of SJC and the Class of 1968. Those were the days when we were all together!

**Celia McCarthy Wendel** thought our final Reunion was a great success and found it amazing that the alumnae still remember our school song after all these years. Her time at SJC was special because that was where she came into her own. She said that “the warmth of the students, the depths of the professors, and the good food jump-started my life as an adult.”

Mr. Miller was ahead of the times with his discussions of “charged” words and “planned obsolescence,” as well as the cinema; and Dr. Leonard opened her eyes to the underlying and insidious reasons for war. She was moved by the picture in our SJC 1968 group on Facebook of our nurse classmates who were stationed in Vietnam. She is proud to be associated with a place where service and sacrifice are expected and says she and her husband Dan have always believed in service and sacrifice.

Celia and Dan have five children, 19 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren (!). She believes her children are making this world a better place. Without her four years at St. Joe's, she would not have had the wisdom and dedication needed in these complex times. She has almost completed her memoir about people who have stayed with them over the past fifty years and hopes to publish it within the year.

Finally, as she turns 80, prayer has become an integral part of each day for her, with Mass several times a week, rosaries on Thursdays, and pilgrimages to honor Mary, all of which help her connect with Jesus in a meaningful way.

**Sheila Kelly Vertino, Carole Dorenzo Shores**, and I text on Facebook Messenger, usually about the news, until we get tired about talking about the news. Sheila and Al took a trip to the Canadian Rockies, which made all of us want to add that trip to our bucket list. She says that **Anne O'Regan Brolley** and Jim are on a cruise around Iceland, which I think I might want to add to my bucket list, as long as the ship stops at various ports of call for the passengers to go sightseeing.

**Ruth Lynch Buchwalter** added a new role to her volunteer activities when she became the training coordinator for the AARP Tax-Aide Program for Central Virginia. Ruth is strong on tax facts, but, she says, not very knowledgeable on training techniques. Somehow, she managed to deliver the training--even when the first day had to go online because snow closed the local community college. She will keep this role through the tax season for 2025 returns, after which she will pass the baton to someone else. She urges others to volunteer as the demand for free tax preparation significantly exceeds the capacity to provide it.

After our Reunion, and almost at the end of tax season, Ruth and her husband Stan toured northern Italy. She is now searching for the perfect ricciarelli recipe to replicate what they enjoyed in Milan. So far, the recipes she has tried lack something. Ruth and Stan were planning a trip to the Canadian Rockies and a short train trip to New York City to see some shows and visit museums. In between, she volunteers as a Medicare counselor and participates in Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) classes at UVA. She is also looking for a recommendation for an online cake decorating class for her granddaughter and her.

Ruth and **Marge Bertoni Barkocy** met recently for lunch. Marge continues to work in the administration of pension plans. She's an avid gardener, but she also leaves time for her four elementary school granddaughters who live nearby. Marge is searching for a facility into which she can place her adult son who has Down syndrome.

My life revolves around taking OLLI classes, walking my dog, gossiping with the neighbors, enjoying all the young children on my street, and looking forward to my next trip, currently, a Viking River Cruise on the Rhine River in October. I finally decided to get rid of my '98 manual-transmission Saab that I've been driving for 23 years and buy a new-to-me car. I bought a three-year-old bright red Mazda CX-30 (a small SUV), and I'm now relearning how to drive automatic. So far, I've been driving it on little errands, but I'm looking forward to a longer road trip some day. One benefit I've noticed is that my bright red car is easy to find in the parking lot.

The day after I bought my bright red car, I heard from Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge (WCBR), a local continuum-of-care retirement community, that an apartment had become available and my name was at

the top of the list to look at it and decide if I wanted it. A few years ago, I made a five-year plan to move into a retirement community while I was still healthy and active, and before I turned 80. WCBR's waiting list is called the Compass Club. "Dues" to join give the future resident a place in line for a unit (apartment or cottage). While members wait to "get the call," they can take advantage of various activities--online offerings or events onsite for members and residents. I accepted the small apartment and will move in at the end of August, after it has been updated. Once I'm moved in, I will put my house on the market. From the time I first joined the Compass Club, I've been trying to downsize. There's so much stuff! I'm sure we are all going through downsizing or have already moved into our new home.

### 1969

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Grant and **Jean Murray Walker** are getting used to calling Colorado home. Their first grandchild is off to college at U of Oregon in the fall and then there will be one grandchild graduating and moving on for each of the next three years. The graduate is spending eight weeks doing environmental research in Costa Rica. Jean had the trip of a lifetime last June and reconnected with her French cousins outside Bordeaux, "I communicated and functioned in French to my two granddaughters' shock. You must really work at it to impress teens." They visited the town where her mom's family came from and spent a day with cousins at the chateaux that has been in the family for one hundred years. The wine cellar is a museum! Jean is trying to keep her French skills going with a group of mostly retired University of Colorado women but there is a teacher for pronouncing and reviewing text. Boulder holds a large Bastille Day celebration at a historic house in the city. Grant is going on four years surviving stage 4 melanoma and is beyond any stats of the oncologists. He is playing pickle ball most days and they managed a getaway to Caribbean waters in the winter. **Suzanne Sullivan** and Jean get together for coffee or lunch every couple of months as Sully lives very close by.

**Terry Perry Horney** didn't make Reunion as that was her parish's Pre-Cana day and she and Fred are team leaders, and the date had been set for over a year. They are still in the house in Fair Haven that she grew up in,

bought from her parents, and raised their boys in. "Hard to believe I've lived in this house for 74 years so far!!" She reports that "except for a few aches and pain from minor damage to joints and back issues, I am very fortunate to have good health and mobility. Believe me, I appreciate it and exercise nearly every day to keep my mobility! We are blessed with two grandchildren--a boy who is four and a half and a girl who is 14 months old. We babysit for our granddaughter on Mondays and Wednesdays and enjoy being able to have the time with her. Our grandson lives in New York and although we see him quite often and do *What's app* calls regularly with him, it's not as often as we'd like, of course!! I am still our son's business manager for his Physical Therapy clinic and that keeps my brain engaged!! I have asked him if he wants to get a real business manager and his response was—"Mom, no one will watch my back the way you do." I guess that's enough said! We have continued to go on the Medical Mission to Ecuador each year and figure we probably have about two more years before we have to seriously consider retiring from that. We're doing it year by year! Kansas is our next big trip for Fred's Class of '65 high school reunion. We're looking forward to seeing old friends and some family as well. A friend and I embroider baptismal bibs for the babies who are baptized in our parish, and that number has seemed to grow this year--a very good thing!! I still volunteer at our town's Fireman's Fair each summer. I'm either a hostess or a cashier as my days of carrying heavy trays are over!! I love getting to see so many people that I only see during that week! Nothing very exciting, but I keep busy and am grateful for health, happiness and family."

After 13 years in Delaware, Tom and **Fran Olsen Markowski** are back in Harford County, MD. They are closer to family but do miss friends from Delaware. So far, they have been back to visit four times. Fran continues to sew placemats for Meals on Wheels and charity quilts. Their oldest grandchild is a senior at Utah; her brother is a senior at Ft. Collins High School doing college visits and football camps by invitation. Their cousin is a senior at Muhlenberg in Allentown. They all have milestone birthdays this summer turning 21 and 18! After years without a basement, they have one in their current home which is finished as a guest area complete with a table set up for puzzles or games. She is learning Mahjong and plays Hand and Foot when visiting with family. Fran is working with a physical therapist for her vertigo and can now easily walk without losing balance. Tom enjoys his TV shows on WWII and science. He also enjoys interacting with the wait

staff at their local eateries sharing his latest dad joke.

Tom and **Glenna (GAM) McKay Pruitt** stay busy travelling to Virginia and Texas to spend time with grandchildren ranging in age from six to 14. All are very involved in sports from baseball, basketball, football, soccer, swimming, volleyball, and horseback riding. Last year they spent their 50th in Yellowstone and Grand Teton and are soon heading to Glacier National Park to hike and enjoy the beautiful mountain scenery. GAM joined a few of our classmates (**Angie Zappacosta Sheerer, Joanne Azzarello Letnaunchyn, Linda Dumbroski Wivel, and Diane Asselin Thompson**) at **Pat Ziegler Conley's** Bethany Beach home in late June, and they had a great time just hanging out. **Ann Mooney Kirmil** and **Kathleen O'Donnell Ellis** were able to join them one day for lunch.

Suzanne Sullivan writes, "I'm continuing to be happy with my choice to live in Colorado where we have so many activities designed to keep older people engaged and healthy. If we had a beach it would be perfect. The community rec center is where I work out and also volunteer. In July, I'll visit my brother and nieces and nephews in Canton, CT. I'm very excited to be graduating from beginner tap to intermediate this fall. I've been attending a Unity Church and find the message uplifting and connected in many ways with Catholicism."

I was amazed to learn that **Barbara Crouse Banaszynski** is still a full-time employee for Volunteers of America. She does a lot of travel with them working on projects to establish treatment programs around the country for opioid-using pregnant women and their children. She writes that she "remains in good health and enjoys living in Hilton Head full time. Lots of beach time on weekends. Tom and I leave for vacation next week. Starting in Switzerland, then Italy to see my sister who lives in Vicenza and then on to Croatia, Kotor Montenegro, and end in Athens. Back to work August 4th. When I get back, then begin work travel trips to California, DC, and Seattle and get home for Labor Day."

**Micki Lipps Freeny** has been struggling with arthritis in her hip, but oddly, she can take ballet five days a week but can't walk without limping. A new PT has helped her immensely. Micki shares that "ballet classes bring me immense joy; I take class with teens, kids, and other adults. I also preside over our nonprofit that supports our studio. I continue to present a baby/toddler story time once a week. Talk about providing me joy! My

children, son Devon and daughter Kyle live in Chicago and Washington, DC respectively. Kyle and I hope to travel later this year but don't yet have firm plans. It's hard to compete with our last trip--to Antarctica in 2024."

**Wendy Cran Newcomer** has been a widow for almost twenty years. She lost her husband to CJD, the human form of mad cow disease. Wendy now lives with her daughter and her family in McKenney, VA, a small town near the North Carolina border. She has six grandchildren and one great-grandson who just turned five in July. She retired from nursing in 2016, enjoys travelling, reading, follows the political scene, and "is a proud Democrat."

Jim and **PJ Heaven Reilly** have filled the year with family time. They have seen their three kids and their spouses in the last six weeks--in Philly, Cleveland, and Dallas, so some travel has been involved. They are finally taking their 50th Anniversary cruise in October and looking forward to that. PJ is still on the local library's Guild, which she enjoys. Reil continues working on the Board of the theatre company he ran for twelve years.

**Mary Pat Cohill** has been on the move in 2024 and 2025. She took a nice break from winter weather in Florida's Gulf coast for two weeks each February to visit her sister as well as a niece outside Tampa. In 2024, she had a family wedding in Tulsa in April, a trip to Scotland (with **Lynn Koerner**) in June, Maine in August, and then a visit to Lynn at her cottage in Massachusetts. October was a Rhine River cruise (with Lynn) from Basel to Amsterdam with pre and post stays in Lake Como and Amsterdam. 2025 has brought some medical issues--shoulder tendinitis and meniscus tear in left knee so she spent some time doing PT but did manage a trip to Isle of Palms with the SJC Zoom group and to Grand Rapids with Lynn to visit a friend. She has two weddings coming up in August and September in Greenport, NY and outside Philadelphia. She tells me that "in between I always seem to be busy with family activities, with two sisters, two nieces, and a nephew just outside of New York City. My 13 nieces and nephews have produced 17 great-nieces and nephews, with another on the way! And I'm pretty sure they're not done yet. I'm considering a spread sheet to keep track of them all! Then of course there are the New York City activities--museums, movies, occasional theater, and concerts, dinners. Interspersed with the MD appointments of which there seem to be far too many.

Oh the joys of aging, but at least we're still here! So grateful for all I have..."

As Mary Pat mentioned, in 2024 Lynn Koerner travelled with her to Scotland and took a Rhine River cruise from Basel to Amsterdam with a pre-trip stop in Lake Como. Lynn also travelled to Norway with some friends in June.

**Liz Reaves Ellison** writes that in January, she and David and their two dogs escaped winter in New England and drove to South Carolina, visiting family and friends along the way. In February they left the dogs home and went on a wonderful two-week trip to Rome and Southern Italy. They travelled the Adriatic and Amalfi coasts and were able to go through the area outside of Naples where David's grandparents emigrated from. In Rome, they celebrated the Jubilee Year. At the end of March, Liz left David and the dogs home and had a fun trip to the Isle of Palms, SC with our SJC Zoom group. We had a good time exploring Charleston and living together 60 years after first entering the dorms at SJC. David and Liz enjoy visiting their children and grandchildren more often now as he retired from teaching a year ago. Their oldest grandson is 23, loves living and working in Manhattan. Three grandchildren are in high school, and the youngest is excited to enter kindergarten in September.

John and **Beth Dignan Blumer** just moved from Williamsburg, VA, to Kent Island, MD. They are near their daughter and closer to Baltimore friends.

**Faye Stank Anson** has discovered the benefits of Tai Chi and would love to find a good online class if you know of one. She tells me, "Although Tai Chi is slow and gentle and doesn't leave you breathless, it addresses the key components of fitness--muscle, strength, flexibility, and balance."

**Joan Dennery Casey's** big news is that her 40-year-old daughter Bridget finally found the love of her life and got married at Love Park in Philadelphia in June. Joan says, "They are perfect together, and as an extra bonus, Alex fits right into our family. The happy couple bought a house in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia where Bridget easily catches a train to her law office. I may become a grandparent yet!"

Kathleen O'Donnell Ellis continues to live at the beach enjoying the ocean and mild weather. She and Steve recently went to South Africa and totally enjoyed the

## CLASS NEWS

wildlife and the people. "Spending time with grandkids is definitely the best part of getting older."

**Helen Bursley-Fournier** is still doing Disney cruises with her daughter. They are off to Vancouver, BC August 1st and then a seven-day Alaska cruise. She stays busy walking their dogs, keeping the house and yard up, does some volunteer work, and enjoys reading and keeping in touch with family and friends.

Pat Ziegler Conley is spending most of the summer in Bethany and has had LOTS of company including the five classmates Gam mentioned. They spent most of the time indoors because it was so hot but did try a new brew pub in Ocean City that Gam's nephew, who is an MSM grad, has invested in.

Pat went to part of the Reunion. Heard the new Mount president speak. "He said all the right things about the SJC alums rolling into the Mount. We also toured the new health profession wing at the Provincial House. It's pretty amazing."

Pat hopes to get to Arizona and California with her daughter Elli in November to see family and may travel to Italy next summer with her family when her oldest graduates from high school. She flew to Florida in February to meet a high school friend spending a few days in Pompano Beach. Also had lunch with Gam and Tom Pruitt and visited with Charley Prunkl, Patsy's husband.

Her six grandchildren range in age from 16 to eight. Patrick and Bridget have four and they reconfigured the house in Kensington where Maury and Pat raised their four. She now has an apartment downstairs and they have the three top floors. Her two bachelor sons still share a house in Kensington. When she is in K'town, they still do family dinners once a week depending on the grands sports schedules!

There are ten of us (PJ, OD, Mary Pat, Lynn K, Beth, Joan, Faye, Mooney, Liz, and me) who continue to Zoom on Wednesday evening at 5:00 pm if we are available. It's been a regular activity for over five years. We somehow managed to pull together a group trip, renting a large home on the Isle of Palms in South Carolina the first week of April. Tours of Charleston, dinners out, beach walks, pool swims, spa days, and lots of laughs. It was so wonderful to all be together in person. A few months ago, **Mary Martha McNamara** visited with us on Zoom. She and her husband recently moved to Bluffton, SC.

Dick and I try to stay active--skiing in the winter, pickle ball year-round, gardening, biking, tennis, golf in the summer. We were thrilled to welcome our second grandchild in January--Natalie. She is adorable and there have been more frequent trips to Chicago since her arrival. Our grandson Beau lives nearby, is three, and he keeps us busy and laughing during his many visits. We travelled to Amsterdam and Rome in November and have a two-week trip planned for Japan in September to celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

This is the final edition of *The Valley Echo* and I want to thank all of you who have sent news to me over the years. It really helped to make this job easier. I'm happy to occasionally send out updates if there is something you want to share with our classmates. I don't have email addresses for everyone so just send your contact info to me at gmhawn@gmail.com so I can be sure I have the most up-to-date info. Let's continue to stay "All Together."



South Carolina reunion. (From left, top row) Lynn Koerner, Joan Dennery Casey, Faye Stank Anson, Beth Dignan Blumer, Kathleen O'Donnell Ellis, Mary Pat Cohill (bottom) Gerri McGuire Hawn, Ann Mooney Kirmil, Liz Reaves Ellison



Bethany Beach reunion. (From left) Linda Dumbroski Wivel; Angie Zappacosta; Pat Ziegler Conley; Joanne Azzarello Letnaunchyn, Diane Asselin Thompson, Glenna McKay Pruitt

## 1970

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We had a tremendous showing at the final Reunion and to celebrate our 55th anniversary. We were all surprised and honored to win the Sister Mary Kelley Award for the highest number of members in attendance. Those present were **Kathie Robinson Moritis, Janet Orsini Kelly, Sue McKenna Clifford, Maryann Lessa, Christine Roos Mehl, Rebecca Greene Fellows, Jeanne Wilson, Donna Young Farley, Arlene Seeber, Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck, Connie Mauro Barnett, Mary Lavin Whittaker, Carol Ervin Sharkey, Judy Siani O'Connell, Jody Snyder Caye, Carmen Richardson, Patty Doyle Kemezis, Rosalie Ayres, Jean Pelletier Sanna, Helen Burke Rasmussen, Alberta Johnson Baker, Kathleen McNaney Younkin, Leslie Henze Blackstock, Leslie Zelles Calvelli, Barbara McCune, Kathleen Walsh, JoAnne Cartegena Windle, Ginny Hammond Conmy, Susan Stay Valenti, Robin Davitt, and myself.**

Leslie Henze Blackstock received an email from **Rosemarie Aulisio Garcia** hoping that we all were having a wonderful time at Reunion. She was volunteering all week at the Lakeland Sun n Fun Aerospace Expo. This was her 15th year with the fun loving group and unfortunately it prevented her from joining us for this last time. She wanted to say she loved the farewell video, thought it was a great production, and it brought back many fond memories. She sends her love to her fellow classmates and offers an open invite to visit Lakeland, FL.

Christine Roos Mehl wrote that Reunion 2025 was "extremely special" because of all the Joe's girls from the many different classes who chose to attend. It was a wonderful experience to look around the room during the class dinners and our final banquet dinner and see such camaraderie being shared by all of us. Our Class of '70 was well represented, and we were all thankful to be together once again! Christine and her daughter Kate had a wonderful trip to Spain in May and she is looking forward to travelling in 2026 with both her son and daughter.

Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck was thrilled at the response of our class to Reunion. She said that we

finally got the Presidential Suite for our get-togethers. Sue McKenna Clifford brought her coffee pot and had the suite open and available for early risers. Everyone brought snacks, wine, and beverages that were available all weekend. We enjoyed visiting, remembering our time at SJC, and catching up on our last 55 years. It will not be the same but Mary Ann is going to try to go to our first reunion at the Mount next June. She hopes to see many of us there. In the meantime, Mary Ann and husband Paul continue to travel. In 2026 they will be in Nepal and India in February and March then Alaska and Denali National Park in September.

Pat Doyle Kemezis retired in June after 24 years at Walter Reed in Bethesda. That was a second retirement after she retired from Arlington County, VA. She was in Arlington on 9/11 and spent her military work at Walter Reed with battle injured OIF and OEF service members. Pat is looking forward to new horizons, lucky that her two children and five grandchildren live in Anne Arundel County, MD with her. Post retirement she travelled to Greece in June with two granddaughters and her daughter and in July on a Viking Scandinavian cruise. God is good.

Susan Stay Valenti has been busy. In April, she was lucky enough to travel to Japan. She went with two retired teachers. They flew into Tokyo and started the adventure. They were not with a tour group, their travel agent planned 12 wonderful days exploring Tokyo, Kawaguchiko (Mt. Fuji), Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Osaka. They walked, rode the subway and buses, and best of all several times on the bullet train. They used luggage forwarding in every city so they were free to put on their backpacks and go! Susan said that Mount Fuji was just like it looks in any picture. Thankfully they were there on a beautiful sunny day. Hiroshima was a very emotional day. Their guide grew up in Hiroshima and was born a year after the bomb. She invited them to her home to meet her husband who was ten months old during the war. His family lived in the country so they were safe. She performed an authentic Japanese tea ceremony, served them some delicious Japanese treats, and when they departed, she had many special gifts for them. They visited for several hours learning so much about the bomb and its aftermath and the country today. Susan says that very special day with their guide will always hold a special place in her heart. Japan is a very clean country, and the Japanese people were so friendly and helpful, which they needed because they were constantly getting lost.

Ginny Hammond Conmy writes that Reunion was fab, and many thanks to those who made it possible.

"Here's to you!!

May your dreams come true!

May old Father Time never be unkind!

So here's to you

May your dreams come true!

And may God bless!

That's our BEST to you!!

Such a great gift to have been with all of you and those always in our hearts!! All together!!"

Kathie Robinson Moritis enjoyed reconnecting with everyone at Reunion, even though it will probably be the last time for many of us. She had hoped to visit the Monocacy National Battlefield on Sunday on the way to Baltimore but it didn't work out. The book that details the Monocacy battle is the novel *Valley of the Shadow* by Ralph Peters. Kathie stopped reading Civil War history a number of years ago, as she realized she was spending a lot of time in the 19th century. This was the first Civil War book she had read in over ten years, and to some extent she feels like she is having a relapse! Anyway, she enjoyed the book so much she ordered the first book in the series *Cain at Gettysburg*. Instead of Monocacy, they had an appointment to visit the Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue in Mt. Airy, MD. She has been a donor for a few years, and thought it would be nice to take a look at the place. Kathie has a soft spot for draft horses, ever since her Dad put her on *Big Red* back when she was about three years old. That was the horse, along with another one whose name she forgot, who moved the lumber around in the lumber yard on the Baltimore Inner Harbor where her Dad worked. It was the time before forklifts! She doubts that *Big Red* and his companion wound up on a rescue farm!

Kathie and husband Alan are pretty much back on west coast time and mentally preparing for their next trip, which will be to Provence. Given the current political turmoil, they are wondering what kind of reception they will get from the French. They hope things won't be worse than they are now.

Alberta Johnson Baker has been having fun with friends and family. However husband Stan has been having more medical issues. She was able to visit with friends in Georgia in March and to enjoy our final Reunion in April. In May she attended her niece's graduation from the University of Scranton Master's program for Occupational Therapy. She also spent a few days in Ocean City, MD with her two special Spanish teacher friends.

June brought a wonderful week with her California family visiting and the kids getting to reacquaint with their cousins. In July Alberta rode a bike in Chincoteague three days and moved on to kayaking at Assateague. Lots of family and friends activities are planned for August. She is going to visit her brother and his wife in Wisconsin in September and then off on another Viking cruise with Kathy McNaney Younkin in October! This time it's Normandy and Paris. Alberta is still able to enjoy Jazzercise six days a week.

**Lea Verta** is living in Rhode Island, which allows her to be closer to many of her family members. She wanted to let us know that **Mary Wickless Stover** passed away last November. Lea has gotten involved with her local Senior Citizens committee and her local American Legion. She joined the choir at her local Episcopal church also. She says that those things, medical appointments for both herself and her husband, and keeping up with family and friends keep her busy.

JoAnne Cartegena Windel has been travelling. She spent Easter vacation with her daughter Kristen her husband and her three grandchildren in Puerto Rico. The grands were very excited to see where JoAnne grew up. Since her niece lives in her childhood house, the kids slept in her bedroom! They all had a marvelous time. In June JoAnne went on an MPTV trip to the Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park. She said the trip was breathtaking...the mountains, the lakes, and glaciers--words and pictures cannot capture the beauty. In September JoAnne is going to Italy on a Perillo trip with two of her sisters and one of the husbands.

I did a little travelling as well! I was one of three sisters from the USA at a 22-day meeting at the Daughters of Charity Motherhouse in Paris in May. There were 70 sisters at the meeting, which was for Daughters who had been in the community 40 years or more. Many interesting talks, with language groups and translators. I enjoyed meeting sisters from all over the world and spent several days before and after the meeting visiting the gardens of Paris--the Luxembourg Gardens, the Tuileries, the Jardin des Plantes, etc. My favorite was a trip to Monet's garden at Giverny. I went with Beverly Eagan '68. Beverly and her husband have been living in Paris for about four years. Otherwise, I have spent the last six months working in the courtyard garden in Emmitsburg.

1971

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In honor of the last issue of *The Valley Echo*, I asked classmates to share memories or thoughts about our life at SJC. Here are our thoughts:

**Marlene Giorello Johns**--As I write this, I am enjoying the beach at the Outer Banks in North Carolina. Butch and I rented a house and have been having a wonderful time here with our children and grandchildren! Our final SJC Reunion was great! It was wonderful to see so many of our classmates, share fond SJC memories, and see where life has taken everyone. As several people mentioned during Reunion, hopefully, we can keep getting our class together!

**Sharon O'Keefe O'Brien**--I remember my trip from Pittsburgh to SJC in 1967, worrying about not knowing anyone and being homesick. It didn't take long to make friends and realize that SJC was where I was meant to be! It makes me smile when I think about all the memories made by our class. I had some amazing friends, and I hope you know who you are! My favorite memory has to be the Freshman Orientation Picnic at the log cabin with the MSM guys on September 19, 1967. I met Bob O'Brien and the rest is history! After almost 58 years together, three children/three spouses, and nine grandchildren, life is good. We have been truly blessed.

**Chris Poth Tanner**--I am inspired to write because I very often think about my four years at SJC in Emmitsburg. I truly treasure the friendships that I had and wish that I would have been able to stay connected to you all. Life happened and I moved away. But, the one thing that had a lasting impression on me, and it might sound weird to everyone else, but, when I went to college and stayed "put" for four years it was the longest I had ever been in the same place in my life. My father worked for JCPenney Company, and their policies back then were to move families every two or three years. It was always a promotion and if you said no, you were passed over. Your career stopped there. So, it was hard making friends when you were always the new kid in school. I felt like my college friends were "really" friends. So, I thank SJC and all of you for some of my four best years, 1967 to 1971. I am still working in real estate and

am currently converting my RE/MAX Flagship brokerage to a new brand. After 35 years with RE/MAX we are rebranding Flagship Real Estate Advisors, Forbes Global Properties. I am excited to blaze new territory in Rhode Island real estate. With over 45 agents to coach and manage and still trying to sell a few homes every year, I am busy and LOVE my work. No husband, no kids led me to my real estate family! Love and prayers to all as we quickly move into our late 70s.

**Jane Garrett Nolan**--My husband and I are both retired, living in my old family home in Deer Park, MD (where the water comes from). We have three grown children and seven grands! They keep us hopping. My years at SJC were truly some of the best of my whole life. Not a day goes by that I don't remember that time in some way. I am so grateful to have been able to go there! Looking forward to the next *Valley Echo*.

**Steph Slagle Shockites** provided this great picture of our last reunion.



Returned to the "Valley" for our final St. Joseph College Reunion. (Left to right) Almarie, Joanne, Debbie, Steph, DeDee, Mary, Denise, Super, Ann, and Barb. Great being "all together" as if no time has passed since our college days in Emmitsburg.

**Joan Durante Beaury**--Friends for life, walking to the Mount, pestered by townies, Goldfinger, Seton Shrine, Tom's Cabin, Summer Session, maxi coat, Sister Aloysia, Mass with Father Hurley, bus rides to DC, an eventful bus ride to DC when the back end blew up, talking birds and the bees in Rosary, being packed around on a trip back home, weekends in Southern Maryland with Twin Kiss Pinning, Choir, all around, a wonderful experience!!

**Susan Roach Thomey**--I fully expected the final Reunion to be overly sentimental but instead it was filled with the warmth of camaraderie, "youthful" laughter, and a spirit of gratitude. I was so happy we could be "All Together" once more in the Valley. Besides the fun-filled Retro Happy Hour, I treasured the tour of the campus. Our group enjoyed a walk to the Cabin even though we couldn't go inside the space.

**Kathy Broderick Denton**--The final Reunion of SJC was flooded with fun, future directions, and vivid memories! Everything was tucked between two special stops on the campus tour. Almost like a set of cherished bookends! The first--our initial meeting, as the Class of '71, down at Tom's Creek for the welcome picnic. I saw each one of us--so young, happy, anxious, and putting on brave fronts...and each of us sporting those hysterical Freshman Beanies! Last--our graduation ceremony in that beautiful auditorium. Seniors who were older, ready, proud, sad, and beautiful...all wearing smiles, tears, "academic attire" of course with mortarboards. Those bookends continue to hold tight precious friends, memories, many more years, and gratitude for our beloved Alma Mater.

**Patty Murray Shultz**--I remember in freshman year when we had to get in our "academic attire" and line a pathway for Elizabeth Seton's bones to be moved from one place to another. As the casket came by it was only about three feet long. Murphy turns to me and asks, "Was she a midget?" Struck me funny and it started us laughing. Ah the uncontrollable giggles of youth.

**Marilyn Caruso Burlenski**--I can't believe we are all in our mid 70s...how did that happen?? My memories of SJC began with "I can't believe my parents dropped me into the middle of nowhere," but what a nowhere it turned out to be. The years were filled with an excellent education--that continues to impress me 'til today, great friends, and wonderful memories. Our last reunion was especially memorable and fun. We will continue to celebrate in the years to come. I'll be in touch.

## 1972

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For the last issue of *The Valley Echo*, I asked classmates to think about the alma mater's wording "friendships links may ne'er be broken," and give me some memories of SJC and our class.

**Mari Elena Cartagena DeCaire**--"The first thing that came to my mind for memories was **Mary Ann Carter** holding me up on the icy sidewalks at Joe's because I couldn't walk on ice [Mari is from Puerto Rico]. Also going to Mary Ann's house for Thanksgiving and making my first snow angel in the snow. That's what happens when you live in warm weather yearlong!"

**Jo Ketner Gallagher**--"With one exception my truest and closest friends are Joe's girls and the other friend is the wife of my husband Richard's best friend from MSM. So those friendships that started in the Valley and on the Mountain have endured the test of time and life's many challenges."

**Chris Mele**--"The California trip was special to me." [Class planned trip to visit Jayne Bianco Cohill in Santa Rosa, CA in 2015.]

**Sandy Cardella Speicher**--"My major highlight memories include: freshman year on third floor Marillac making lifetime friendships with **Mary Bohan Kelly** and **Pat Walsh Bader**; painting and hanging our infamous sign OUT OF THE ZOO IN '72 from the window facing the cafeteria (which resulted in Mary's sister's car being hit on the A; keggers; getting caught being AWOL from the Home Ec House one night since my mother had sewn my name in my panties and a panty raid occurred and the panties were used; and finally making such wonderful friendships in the Class of '72."

**Pat Walsh Bader**--"The most memorable times for me are so special, I could never forget them. Ray and I were married on campus in the chapel, so that chapel is a most special place. The most special gals are Sandy Cardella Speicher who was my maid of honor and Chris Mele accompanied by **Peg Bonish** who played all the music most especially "Color My World" as we walked down the aisle! We finished our finals on Friday May 19 and we got married on Saturday May 20... honey-

mooned for a week at Sandy's house in Wildwood and returned to campus for our graduation ceremonies...the best time ever!! My Aunt Teresa (Sr. Teresa Walsh) taught me in the Nursing program. She is buried in the cemetery at the Provincial House. Whenever I visit SJC campus, I can visit her grave and leave a bouquet of flowers."

**Joan Deardorff Kane**--"Friendly, welcoming spirit of all students; Rose ceremonies; late night talks in the dorms; listening to music in the student center for a break from studies; crashing before dinner after a day of clinical in Pennsylvania; ice skating at Tom's Creek; hearing stories about role playing in El Ed classes."

**Jane Ramsey Elfring**--"At our Reunion Mass, the priest reminded us that we are Elizabeth Seton's legacy. I thought about that and reflected on how much Emmitsburg influenced my life and how much I love the farms in and around Emmitsburg. That small town in Maryland has had a generational impact on our family. I first crossed paths with the Daughters of Charity as a young child when my mother took me to St. Ann's Infant Home in Washington, DC in the 1950s. We would feed and help with the infants in the home. Many years later, my brother attended the preschool at the home (now in Hyattsville renamed St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families). Frank and I married in Emmitsburg at the Mount chapel in 1972 then headed off to adventures in New Jersey, Alaska (where I met a Joe's alum), and North Carolina (met a member of the class of '75 and another alum in my parish). While in Elizabeth City in the late 1970s, we ran into Sr. Barbara Gerwe, DC, then assigned to Catholic Charities in Hertford, NC. She helped us adopt both of our children. Daughters were also the ones working magic in the background before each placement to try to match us with children who would look like us. They knew their genetics because people often say that Will looks just like Frank and Erica looks like me. Sr. Barbara was able to attend Will's wedding after her diagnosis of dementia. I made numerous trips to Emmitsburg to see her, including right after the birth of Will's first child. The sisters notified us when she died, and Frank was able to go to her funeral. My children also had contact with Emmitsburg. Our son briefly attended MSM and met his wife there. Our daughter attended emergency management courses on the campus where she met a woman who became her bridesmaid. We are indeed Mother Seton's legacy scattered around the country. I am hopeful that our relationship with MSM will keep that legacy going."

**Gloria Hammel**--"Jo Ketner Gallagher was my roommate freshman and sophomore years. After graduation I attended her wedding and visited her at her first home with Richard, and subsequent homes. It wasn't until my early 30s that I finally acknowledged to myself that I was a lesbian. I was afraid Jo would not be accepting of me and I pulled back. I was so wrong about Jo and am so grateful she continued to reach out to me. In 2011 Jo spoke at my wedding and it was then I realized how much our friendship meant to Jo, to us. Thank you, Jo. **Patricia Kimble Snyder** was my roommate junior and senior years. After Pat completed her dietetic internship in Cincinnati, we became roommates, sharing an apartment and later buying a house together. I was Pat's maid of honor when she married Fred Snyder. Also, I am godmother to two of her children. I was honored by these events. Now that I am recently retired, I plan to see Jo and Pat more often as we navigate what life brings our way."

**Mary Morel Ingram**--"Karen, first I want to thank you for all the years of love and dedication that you have given to our alumnae association and to our class. You are such a hard worker, and such a fine example of a strong, resilient, loving person, who is always ready to take on a challenge, and to be responsible, and to care about all of us. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I remember the day my parents accompanied me to meet our state senator, Goodloe E. Byron in Westminster. I had gotten a senatorial scholarship, many of us did. I was planning on going to the University of Maryland in the fall. My parents piped up that they always dreamed I could go to St. Joe's. I was horrified. They broke that news in his office. I knew we couldn't afford St. Joe's, and I did not have the grades that **Kathy Jones** and **Mary Leatherman** had, so I never thought it would happen. He suggested that since St. Joe's was so close to Westminster, why didn't we just drive up and see what they said. Oh, God! Could this get any more embarrassing? So, up we drove, unannounced, and met Sr. Aloysia in Dodd Science Center. This was May 18th. My 18th birthday. After all three of us sat with her for a while, we left, and on the way out she said, 'See you Valley Home Weekend.' What the heck was she talking about? A few weeks later, right after graduation, I was in Rehoboth with Jones and some other classmates and got a call from my parents that I had been accepted to Joe's. You could've knocked me over with a feather. Funding would still be a problem, but Senator Byron found me a two-year full tuition scholarship that was unused by someone who had been awarded a four-year one, and only went for two years. That's how

I got to Joe's. I was nervous that all these girls would be rich, snobby, all A students with whom I could never be comfortable. What a surprise and delight to find the nicest, normal, friendly girls, who I just fell in love with. Every last one was excited to be there and so outgoing. My first roommate was **Maureen Maloy Biggers**. We had a great freshman year together in Kelley. Living away from home, surrounded by all these wonderful girls, opened my eyes to the magic of friendship, the close bonds that can form in such a short time. When my father died suddenly, shortly after finishing our freshman year, I heard from so many of our classmates. Many of them worried that I may not be able to return in the fall. I felt so much love from all of you. It gave me the strength to get through that summer. Sophomore year was very difficult for me, but I made it through surrounded by my Joe's family. I treasure all my friends from those days, and find that as the years go by, they mean more and more to me. I love how we all watch out for each other and support each other through all of life's many challenges. As soon as any one of us, or a family member is ill, the calls go out, the cards start coming, offers of help and acts of kindness abound. It makes me proud of all of us. No matter where we are in our journey through this amazing life, I know that we can feel secure in the love and acceptance of our friendships forged in the Valley. What a precious gift."

**Hope Heaven Hatch**--"I had a wonderful visit from **Jayne Bianco Cohill** while I was in rehab last summer for a screwed-up knee replacement. What should have been a week or two ended up to be three months. My second day in rehab I fell and crushed my shoulder! What a wonderful surprise to see Jayne at my door after 50 plus years!!! We had a lot of catching up to do! She looked beautiful!!! It was a wonderful visit!!!"

**Jodi Youngstrom Henderson**--"I remember when classmates threw me in the shower in my baby doll pjs and set a card table with dishes as a gift for my wedding. **Kathy Trzeciecki Beecher** was a dorm friend at Joe's. Harry and I were present when Kathy and Gordon were married."

**Cathy Homan Winslow**--"My memories are TNTC (too numerous to count in nurse speak). But I will say that my life decisions--some good, some not so good--include the decision to attend Joe's. I had planned to attend URI, but promised a nun who taught me to visit Joe's first. As soon as I arrived on campus for a tour I changed my mind, and I loved it from beginning to end,

even those philosophy classes!!! Some of my longest and dearest friendships started at Joe's when I was 17 and are just as strong now as they were during freshman year. Our class, in particular, had a spectacular collection of young women, some of whom have sadly now left us. What a blessing it has been."

**Debbie Curley-Reid**--"First I had the most incredible alliance with my Home Ec majors, and what I learned most in my four years was to listen! I heard so many stories about our classmates backgrounds and trials, no need to mention who. That came into great part in my business success (sewing definitely didn't). As I look back to August 1968, we were blessed to connect and still do and to this day I am so grateful."

**Kathy Trzeciecki Beecher**--"Dr. Leonard was my counselor and when I told him I wanted to work in Human Resources he said women can't do that but you would be great so let's map out a game plan!! He told me to go into admissions and get my Master's, and I got a job at McDaniel College after tons of rejects all over the east coast. Back then admissions people came from the college they attended. McDaniel actually gave me room and board and a free M.Ed!!! Then equal rights happened and I got a job at Westinghouse on a training program and was in HR for 40 years...have been helping tons of people get to their dreams!!! The joy of a small college!"

**Mary Bohan Kelly**--"Of course it was all the memories we have of our four years at Joe's that kept us together but the real SUPERGLUE has been the wonderful gatherings post-graduation. With Matts as our catalyst so many fun trips we talked about turned into reality, thanks to the generosity of several of our classmates. Shout out to Sandy Cardella Speicher for closing her beachfront motel in New Jersey one June weekend and inviting SJC '72 for a weekend of fun including one room reserved as 'The Pines,' bicycling on the boardwalk, dinner party, and beach walks. Thank you Jayne Bianco Cohill for arranging a trip for SJC '72 to the California Wine Country. She hosted a dinner at her lovely Santa Rosa home and arranged visits to several wineries. Most recent was a wonderful trip to Charleston with two '72 cohosts. **Ann Brummit O'Brien** opened her awesome Southern home for a lovely afternoon 'home and garden party.' Along with sightseeing we then enjoyed an Italian dinner party at **Jane Clifford's** home in Folly Beach located in-between the marsh and the beach. What fabulous views from their top deck bar! Matts has also spearheaded yearly

'72 lunch parties either in Baltimore or Princeton areas. We can usually count on 20 classmates to make it. We have all lived through many of life's ups and downs. It is always heartwarming to share these times with our '72 loved ones ALL TOGETHER!"

**Mary Kay Hughes Clarke**--"Wow, I would be so incomplete without Joe's. For my entire life I've had a pit crew of women (and **Joe Doherty**) who have been there to fix my transmission when it broke down, pull me out of the weeds, replace the spare parts I've dropped over the years, and generally keep my mind and soul in working order. My friendships have shaped my life, and I am forever grateful."

For my part, I have been very fortunate to make good friends during my years at SJC and make new friends from the class (and other classes) during the years after graduation. The highlight for me--for many reasons, the only people at my mother's funeral were her children, one spouse, and one grandchild--EXCEPT a contingent from SJC showed up for the Mass--fellow classmates and one board member. And I was short a pallbearer, so Jo Gallagher's husband Dick stepped up to help. That support, plus all the cards, meant so much to me and made me proud to be a member of SJC '72. I have five siblings--and NONE of them is connected to their school or class from college. We certainly shared something special at SJC.

I want to close our final article in *The Valley Echo* with our class song (appropriately set to the music of *The Impossible Dream*) written by **Paulette Dudley**, "We'll walk with our heads held so high, through the years, as they go passing by. We'll meet all our triumphs and failures, with a 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 St. 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, heartbreak, 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!!"

## 1973

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My Dear Friends--as I write this last class news I look back fondly at my years at SJC, the education I received, and the friends I still cherish. Read on...

**Pam Hull Reilly** wrote that she and her husband Pat still live in Jim Thorpe, PA. She works as an Independent Sales Director with Mary Kay Cosmetics and plans to continue for as long as possible. She has been in a leadership position for 32 years and loves its philosophies and values of God first, family second, and career third. She loves empowering women to feel confident and change their lives for the better. Her husband is President and CEO of a local community bank, and plans to retire next year after 50 years in banking. Their three daughters are doing well. Elizabeth is a CPA with an international HR firm in Philadelphia, married to John, and they have three of their grandchildren, Leah 26, Harrison 14, and Genevieve 10 with them in New Jersey. Meghan is a nurse in the Emergency Dept. of Lehigh Valley hospital in Allentown and is married to Chris and has the other granddaughter Olivia 16. Kathleen, their youngest, is the Graphic Designer for the Pocono Mountain Visitor's Bureau and is engaged to Shane. They plan to be married in October 2026. Pat and Pam are also planning a celebration for their 50th Wedding Anniversary in October 2025. Pam wishes our fellow classmates and their families much happiness, blessings, and celebrations in the future too!

**Leah Rosenbrock Birch** said the last SJC Reunion was bittersweet. It was wonderful to see old friends, remember fond memories, and have a walk down the Avenue. Her time at SJC will always be one of her fondest memories. Retirement is also bittersweet. She misses the friends at work and the productivity. She is now a full time caregiver for Mike and helping with grandchildren. Mike's health waxes and wanes but he can still make her laugh. They also share 52 years of

memories. She is so lucky to have all four grandchildren close by. She sees them often and stays involved in their many activities. They are so special. She remembers at Reunion our discussion to get together again in the future. That would be amazing. She hopes other classmates are healthy, happy, and willing to travel as well.

**Andie Miller Stewart** wrote, "In the fall of 1969, we came 'all together' for the first time. Mostly strangers, we had much to learn about each other, academics, and our world. We all grew through our time in the Valley and then scattered to continue our lives." Life for Andie has been a joy and a challenge. Because of the support received at St. Joe's, she endured the death of her mother during her first semester freshman year. She wanted to stay home then, but her mom insisted she go to school even knowing of her impending demise. She was a wise woman. Being away, having to study hard, and having a great roommate got her through that time. She and Robbie have been married 51 years and raised two wonderful children. Both have PhDs. Their son is a chemist living in California with his wife and dog. Their daughter is an Applied Behavioral Analyst, the clinical director at a program for autistic children and their families. She lives about an hour away so they get to see their two grandchildren often. Andie worked as a nurse for 42 years. This was a blessing and a challenge. Seeing other's hardships made her appreciate life. She passes this quote on to us: "Dear sisters, I hope that we can experience bliss. I want us to sense how big life is-- how intense, joyful, painful, complicated, and beautiful our lives can be. Let us embrace everything. This can be our rescue as we navigate this last stretch of the river with its treacherous quicksand, deep clear waters, and silver sunsets."

**Sue Koch Corwin** writes shortly after graduation she was lucky enough to marry her high school sweetheart. They had 50 beautiful years until he passed from lung cancer. They were blessed with three children and nine grandkids. Sue is still working very part time as the Parish Nurse for local Catholic Hospital. Her favorite day is the Monday afternoon Support Group for family members who have a loved one with Alzheimer's. She moved to New Hampshire 30 years ago with easy access to Boston, the New England seacoast, and Maine. Sue will always have fond memories of SJC.

**Marella Colyvas** recently visited family and friends in Washington, DC and rural Pennsylvania. After 41 years she still enjoys living in Boulder, CO. She travels east at least three times a year and may move back east in a

few years. She is involved in the Boulder Writers Alliance, a group that gets together monthly to write. She has joined a dance group and enjoys walking around her neighborhood. She loves going to Rocky Mountain National Park and plans to visit Bear Ears National Monument in Utah this fall. She and four friends from high school started a nonprofit for girls near her former high school in Suitland, MD to be educated in STEM. They are actually live! They are now recruiting girls to participate in the activities offered. Marella also belongs to a spiritual group that studies the Western Esoteric Tradition.

**Maureen Hinke Hahn** had a great time at the final SJC Reunion. She also attended the Mount Reunion in June with a friend from the Mount. It was very different from Joe's Reunions but nice. It's been seven years since Maureen retired from teaching middle school math, and she continues to do a limited amount of subbing at St. Ursula's in northeast Baltimore. She enjoys staying in touch with teacher friends there as well as the school families. She volunteers at St. Ursula Church, as well as babysits grandchildren occasionally. She visits Emmitsburg--the Grotto and the Seton Shrine and loves the Living History program for visitors. Finally, she is getting serious about moving out of her five bedroom house into a nearby retirement community...just needs to talk her four grown children into taking the rest of their "stuff"!!! She will miss our Joe's Reunions and hopes we can continue to meet at the Mount!

**Sue Christman Williams** keeps busy with her native plant gardens and as secretary of Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay (WOCB), a nonprofit organization providing education about adding native plants to residential and community gardens to increase biodiversity. Her son RJ and family live in the Richmond, VA area so that is easy for them to get together. They visited for the 4th of July weekend. In addition, Rachel (Drew's wife) and Thomas (grandson) were able to visit briefly on their way to a Lacrosse tournament in Bel Air, MD. They reside in Texas, just north of Dallas. But she often sees them in summers when they are east for tournaments. She now has three grandkids in high school and one in 8th grade. Sue continues to live in her "happy place" right on the Chesapeake Bay. This allows her to indulge in being a nature nerd, with the gardens and wonderful birds available to watch. She is a happy retiree for sure.

During a visit with her daughter Katie, **Dotita Cartagena Kafka** attended **Jane McDonough Milne's** funeral Mass in July. She saw **Jane Parrish Richard** and

husband Joe and **Mary Fran Lombard Vissalou**. Twelve police on motorcycles led the funeral procession to the cemetery. This was a great honor for Jane, commemorating all the years she gave to the police department. May Jane rest in peace! She had her stepson Evan, her daughter Sara, and their families visit over the July 4th week. The grandkids enjoyed hanging out, as there are a lot of activities in Lewes. Dotita is going to Italy with her sisters JoAnne, Teri, and her husband in September for two weeks. Though life has had its challenges, Dotita feels very fortunate to have her Catholic faith and belief in God. She wishes all of us many blessings and courage as we continue our journey in life with our ups and downs. Peace and love.

**Martina Sabo** remains in Virginia and has been retired for one year. She accomplished her "do not" goals including not moving, not getting a pet, and not going on a church mission. What's on her "to do" list--treating herself with more kindness, maintaining her habits of scripture study, walking, and enjoying serving others. She volunteers two days a week at the Washington, DC LDS Temple and it suits her fine. She looks forward to hosting people at Martina's Marvelous Manor. She remains grateful for her education and the bonds she forged there. Remember you are loved.

**Toni Doherty Kellison** can't believe it has all come to an end! She is glad she attended the final Reunion. Since then she and Steve travelled to Alaska and finished seeing every National Park in the state. They also celebrated the marriage of their daughter Lexi to Alan Lytz in Vermont. **Helen Osowski Morella** and her husband Ron were among the guests. Their son Matt and his family returned from a year in Thailand and will be living nearby in Orlando. Former classmate **Pat McIntyre Seetin** and her husband Robert recently moved from Colorado to the Tampa area in Florida. Toni is hoping to see them more frequently. She sincerely hopes that any classmates visiting in the Orlando area will contact her. Let's stay all together!

**Cathy Adams Nace** writes that she and her husband are well. He has some health issues but other than lymphedema Cathy is fine. Her stepson and his wife have twins that are 18 and going to college this fall. One is going to Washington and Lee to become a lawyer, the other to Millersville University to study art/education. She is very talented and has won several awards. Their daughter and family live about an hour away. The oldest granddaughter is 15, a talented singer who participates in high school musicals and is in an auditioned

group! The younger one is 13. She has autism so life is a lot different for her but she is doing well. They all keep Cathy and her husband busy with events during the school year. Their son is still single, lives near Dallas, TX, and has been very successful. He has risen from a branch manager to a VP at a large credit union! They have visited several times in the four years he's been there. Cathy said that even though she did not complete four years and graduate from St. Joe's, she cherishes the memories and the lasting friendships she made there! It was a special time and place.

**Sally Sharpe Simon** writes that she and husband Herb moved to a Continuing Care Community--Riderwood Village in Silver Spring, MD two and a half years ago. It's like going to college again--new people to meet (over 2,000 independent residents) and classes and clubs to join (over 250). She is in a Ukulele group, sings in Riderwood Rocks, a rock & roll chorus, volunteers with the resident-led food scrap composting and is a Call to Community Coordinator on their floor. After 25 years of Hospital Nursing, she became a massage therapist and continues to do massage work in their apartment. Her daughter Sarah has a wonderful 10-year-old son (Sabian), her little buddy! They live near Scranton, PA and visit with Sally and Herb every few months. Herb's son Nathan lives in Denver with his daughter Samantha, a sweet, talented nine year old. They often video-chat. Sally cherishes the women from St. Joe's who have been a part of her life. She has so many fond memories of life in the Valley. She sends her love to all! May God bless you and hold you in the palms of His hands.

**Barbara Pios Werschkul** writes that it was a real delight to catch up with classmates and to see SJC again. Such memories! How lucky we have been having such a good steward of our school! Since our last Reunion she has been busy with her yard and garden. She travelled to Idaho to see her children and grandchildren a few times. They live close to Boise and one another. Her fraternal twin grandsons are growing up too fast and are more than ready for kindergarten next month. The twins and their parents will visit Barbara just before they start school. Won't be long enough. Her younger son visited too! Barbara keeps busy playing Mahjong, some golf, and trying to keep up with her 16-year-old dog, a shitzu/maltese mix and a great companion! Wishes she could turn back the hands of time and keep him with her forever! Hoping all are well and enjoying their summer.

It has been a busy summer for **Candy Long Hubbs**, and August will be the same. She and Norm were in Rehoboth Beach, DE for two weeks in June. Their two older children and their families joined them the second week. Next year they will be there for the entire month. They will be in Rehoboth for the month of September, Candy's favorite time. The beach is their happy place. Their older two children and families will join them again for Labor Day weekend. Rebecca, their youngest, and her family live in Dayton, OH. Norm and Candy spent a week with them in July. Her girls, Savannah and Sydney, are seven and six. They do soccer and gymnastics, and Savannah is cheering for football in the fall. Their son Norman IV and his family live in Gaithersburg, MD. His children are Leyna 13 and Norman V (yes there are five Normans!) who is eight. Leyna plays the bass in the orchestra and Norman plays soccer and basketball. Their oldest Kathryn and her family live only five minutes from them. Her son, Shane is 16 and learning to drive. He has asked Norm to teach him to parallel park. He works with the maintenance man at their church, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, for the summer. He plays soccer and his team will be part of the MLS this coming year. He is looking at colleges and attending soccer exhibitions where college coaches evaluate the players for scholarships. He really likes MSM, which is making Norm very happy and proud that he might attend his alma mater. Danielle is 12, plays soccer, and loves to cook and bake. Kathryn and her husband are both CPAs and work together. Kathryn loves to exercise and workout. She is now learning to be an exercise instructor for various types of classes and to do personal training. Candy and Norm enjoy attending the grandkids' different games and events. Sending hugs and prayers.

**Jackie Wajc Gibney** had a wonderful time at Reunion catching up with everyone and the changes that surrounded us. During the campus tour, she was able to see her name corrected on the brick walkway, successfully documenting her time at Joe's. Her grandson Joey, five, was going to be a big brother. Her son Brian and wife Jen are expecting twins this fall. Jackie will be making blankets in the colors Joey decided would be the favorite of the twins--green and yellow. Earlier this year, Jackie contributed several recipes and helpful hints for a fundraiser to support her Parkinson's group. It was fun recording the demonstration of her grandmother's recipe, Palacsintas, for the cookbook. *In The Kitchen with Mission PD* was published through Amazon. Jackie spoke of how much her time at Joe's meant to her as she remembered the people, the Valley, the good times, the

support she received, and learning early how to make lemonade out of lemons. One final memory she wanted to share--the morning after the Rose ceremony most of the roses on our floor were dead. Just a few of the roses lived. Those whose flowers lived graduated from Joe's. Being one of the few that accelerated to graduate before Joe's closed. She is grateful to all who supported us to be able to graduate. Joe's will always hold a special place in her heart.

**Marie Glynn Thomas** wrote that things are relatively uneventful because it's so hot in Williamsburg! They stay indoors as much as possible. They have also had heavy rain and thunderstorms--which have tested their new roof! So far it's come through without any issues. When the weather cools, they plan a road trip including Georgia and Massachusetts. They'll be tourists but also visit family so it should be a lot of fun.

**Kathy Krammer Callaghan** said she is doing well, just a few aches. She had her six-month checkup post mastectomy and all looks fine. She and Tim are working back into travel mode again. They had a wonderful trip to Europe to visit friends and an extended cruise on the Rhine and Mosel rivers ending with a bus trip to Switzerland. Their friend now has a great-grandson. How time flies. California weather has been mostly cooler than usual and Kathy is enjoying it. The vegetables are growing nicely with lots of beans and tomatoes. The whole family is enjoying! Her grandkids are almost nine and six now with school soon to resume around mid August. Kathy has definitely enjoyed time with them. Kathy finished the last big kid quilt recently and gifted it to the youngest granddaughter. It's nice to see the kids enjoying their quilts and using them. I have some memory quilts to work on as well. She is exploring some new techniques since joining the art quilter group of her quilt guild. Their Dalmatian Red is 13 1/2 years old. She still wants to go for walks albeit with some difficulties. Wishing good health and happiness to all.

**Marge Zrebiec Shearer** enjoyed going to Reunion and seeing everyone! She especially liked going on campus. It elicited so many wonderful memories of our time there! She and Ted celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year by going on a safari to Africa. It was phenomenal! Best trip ever! At home she does what many of us do--reads, (yea book clubs!), goes to grandchildren's many events, lunches with friends, volunteers, and does water aerobics. Retirement is great! Thinking of all of you and wishing you well.

**Nicky Young Rachin** writes that she retired her nursing license this year. Her son Danny, the oldest, is in northern England with his wife and two children. They will be returning to Baltimore in two years. Mike, the youngest, is still in Phoenix working for the state department of transportation. She has only travelled to Reunion. Danny invited her to England to experience an English Christmas. She accepted his offer. During the summer, she stays indoors (112 high today). Things get done early morning or evening. The rest of the year she is outside. She hopes to visit Glacier National Park, MT to hike and make it to Alaska. She volunteers at a group home doing activities. She is learning to bake. She has learned so much from her ladies. She never thought when she graduated from SJC, she would be writing us. Life has had plenty of ups and downs but she is still here, and so are we.

As for me, **Christine Wiberley Goglia**, I travelled to Albuquerque, NM in June to visit **Shirley Berrian Salzbrenner**. We spent four days in Durango, CO for the wedding of her youngest son, Brad and his wife Hannah. It was a lovely ceremony, held outside on the mountaintop at Purgatory Resort. Now all three kids are married. Hurray! During this time I was able to get to know Shirley's daughter Becky and husband Connor and son Jeff and wife Christina. Shirley has seven wonderful grandchildren aged seven through 16. I had a most enjoyable visit. Shirley was in Ireland in April with Becky. It was very green and rainy. She has just returned from England and Scotland. She will travel to Santa Fe in August for their outdoor opera. She also bowls and does line dancing. I am off to France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands next week with my sister Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck Class of '70 and our sister-in-law Angie. In February 2026 I am travelling with Shirley to visit Mexico and see the Monarch butterfly habitats. Travelling the world is still exciting and enjoyable. I have wonderful travel companions. I still take ballet lessons, play golf during the summer, and garden at home and at my Church. I play bridge occasionally and mahjong weekly. My grandchildren, Annabella 20 and Benjamin 16, are a joy to be with. They are both rising juniors (college and high school) and good students. I see them and their mom Beth often. I am finally retiring again--this time from a very part time job. I have spent 47 years as a dietitian and it is time I retired.

Thank you for your letters over the years. This has been a labor of love. It is a tribute to our class and alma mater.

## 1974

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The final Reunion planned by the St. Joseph College Alumnae Association (SJCAA) was held at the Gettysburg Wyndham on April 3-6, 2025. It was an amazing weekend filled with so much fun and friendship that it filled all of our hearts with love and thankfulness!

The Class of 1974 was represented by 32 of us including **Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski, Jamie Lowe Huber, Barb Wurster Reiprish, Kathy Kerns Raubens, Pat Morel Murphy-Lynch, Jane Davis Gallagher, Paula Kozloski Swetley, Sue Arn McCarthy, Jean Connors Muhler, Anne Curran Shira, Mary Ann McWhorter Riley, Pattie LaNeve Mullaney, Joanne Miller Genevish, Barb Callan-Bogia, Mary Ellen Kirchner Pluemer, Debbie Mitchell Kraponick, Kathy Whalen Quarles, Nadine Brainard Smith, Cyndi Mountford Ogulewicz, Becky Rutherford Dacey, Rosie Fama Waugh, Maureen Sommar Milde, Mary Berens Regan, Lori Quinnan McCormick, Maureen Fitzpatrick Gonzalez, Fran Loreto Redman, Eileen "Irish" McAlar-nen, Connie "Lani" Johnson Bersch, Elaine Maddox, Jackie Wajcs Gibney, Pat "PB" Noto, and Pat Thornton Boulay.**

We had the most wonderful time at the wine social and pizza party on Thursday night! We continued partying in the Class of 1974 Suite and stayed up until all hours each night!

On Friday some of us went out to lunch on our own and some enjoyed the box lunch at the Wyndham. Then many of us travelled to Emmitsburg to enjoy tours of the SJC Campus as well as tours of the new School of Health Professions, and a tour of the newly renovated St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Museum. All were amazing and fun! Back to the Wyndham and we prepared for the all class dinner where we enjoyed a buffet and sat at four

tables that were decorated for our class by members of our class. Most memorable was the table that honored **Rosie Gattuso**, loved and remembered by all of us in the class of 1974. There were flowers and a photograph of Rosie that we all enjoyed. Other decorations were the coolest special cookies that were designed and contributed by none other than our own sweet Mary Ann McWhorter Riley. They had the seal of St. Joseph College and JOES IS LOVE on them--PERFECT!! Jane Davis Gallagher brought some lovely balloons which made it even more festive!! Also on the table were some Class of 1974 pens that said, "St. Joseph College Class of 1974-1970 Freshman Class Member-50 Year Reunion-Forever Friends" from last year's 50th reunion of our class. Afterwards we went back to our suite and socialized--lots of laughter and partying!!

Saturday was the beautiful annual Mass at the Basilica where members of the classes celebrating their milestone reunions and Board members carried roses for the procession. I forgot to mention that a few of us made signs and participated in the HANDS OFF rally in Gettysburg while others did various local activities or stayed in the suite catching up or reminiscing. That evening we had a fantastic time at the Annual Banquet where all classes celebrated together. A vote was taken for the dissolution of the SJCAA organization. We presented flowers to our wonderful and enthusiastic leader of the SJCAA, Karen Mattscheck and afterwards we all toasted her! Karen showed her gratitude to members of the St. Joseph College Board of Trustees by giving each of us an award stating, "St. Joseph College Alumnae Association--Dedicated Award Member." Finally we ended the night with our college song "All Together" which was sung as we all held hands. Always so special!! This gathering was so meaningful as it was the final SJCAA organized Reunion. On Sunday we said our goodbyes for now, but with lots of plans for future small and large reunions and lunch dates!

OK! Now for some class news. I am going to leave your entries mostly in your own words. I feel like it best represents what each person has to say and your true feelings.

Barb Wurster Reiprish--It has taken me over four decades to reconnect with one of the happiest times in my life! The past three reunions have been filled with love and laughter shared with many lost, but never forgotten friends. St. Joe's is surely special and will continue to live on in my heart. Thanks a bunch for the memories!!

Nadine Brainard Smith--Romans 12:15 "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." Joe's girls have exemplified this teaching through the years. We have remained true friends since the beginning. We supported each other in good times and difficult times. We are sisters forever. St. Joseph College was retired but not in our spirits or our hearts. It will live forever. I am proud to say I once was a Joe's girl.

**Kathy Oliver Kadliak**--In honor of our final issue of *The Valley Echo*, I wanted to reflect on the halcyon days of our early college years. For me, it was a time of discovery--living away from home and parental "oversight" for the first time, lounging in the student center or out on the lawn with my newfound friends, dreaming of what my future might hold. Unlike today's college experience (which I don't envy), we had a "dorm mother" to supervise us, curfews, and prayer/meditation rooms. We also had panty raids, and I delighted in describing that experience to my daughters who were both enthralled and appalled! Was it a more innocent time? Maybe. However, the Vietnam War was waging, Nixon was President and had his enemy list, women's rights protests continued to rage, and there was a dawning awareness of climate change. We didn't have the burden of technology and mass communication. I'm grateful for that. We weren't connected 24/7 and had space to breathe, relax, and ponder. We spent more time actually talking on a phone or in person rather than "talking" via text message. When I think back on my early college days at St. Joe's, I smile and feel gratitude for having that beautiful and safe space to blossom amidst the Blue Ridge Mountains. I hope you do, too. Blessings to you all.

Barb Callan Bogia--Life is full here in South Hadley, MA. Wonderful spending time with family--our grandchild Tafari is three and a half now. Celebrated my oldest brother Tommy's 80th birthday when he came back east to visit from Reno, NV. Crafting time with my sisters and nieces, etc. I'm serving my last year as Board President for my HOA and looking forward to getting time to do other things, that's for sure. Debbie Mitchell Kraponick is Executive Director of the Collingswood Crafts and Fine Art Festival August 16-17 and Mary Ellen Kirshner Pluemer and I plan on volunteering again this year. SO much fun! Have a busy fall planned--heading up the Stewardship campaign for my church, officiating at my nephew Ben's wedding in October, and in November taking a trip to Thailand and Cambodia with my sister Kathi. My time at Joe's was blessed with a great roommate Paula Kozloski Swetly,

and many friends. Being a part of the RWC group is a life affirming experience with St. Joe's women-- Cyndi Mountford Ogulewicz, Mary Ellen Kirchner Pluemer, Debbie Mitchell Krapnick, Nadine Brainard Smith, Kathy Whalen Quarels, **Judy Yowaiski Ricker, Rita Harvey Pinedo**, and the late Rosemary (Rosie) Gattuso. RWC has held us steady over all these years. Getting together for weekends in different places and homes is so wonderful. We have held each other up in good times, offering prayers and support during surgeries, life events, and sending our precious Rosie off. Trudie, this must be a bittersweet time for you--ending of St. Joe's alumnae, being on the Board and committees. My heart goes out to you as well as my deep thankfulness that **YOU** are who you are. A woman of substance!

Mary Ellen Kirchner Pluemer--My education at SJC prepared me for a long (38 yr.), enjoyable career as a Home Economics teacher in Baltimore County. It was all meant to be!! Because of my career and the different middle schools I worked at, I met my husband of almost 50 years, was able to take leave and then work part time for a bit when the kids were young, was given growth opportunities beyond my expectations, worked very hard with colleagues who have become lifelong friends, allowed me to retire comfortably, helped me develop planning and organizational skills that have been applied to my retirement involvement in a garden club, and now help me succeed in my role as District III Director of Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland!! AND, the friends I carry with me from SJC enhance my life to this day!! Even though I graduated with the Class of 1973, my heart is part of this dynamic Class of 1974! "We parted too soon after our start but we'll always be Joe's girls in our hearts"!!!

Mary Ann McWhorter Riley--Matt and I celebrated 50 years last May 2024. We were married in the chapel at the Mount by Father Dan Nusbaum, in May 1974. It was attended by 125 of our nearest and dearest family and college friends!!! Our three kids and their families--six grandkids seven-13, all came to celebrate our 50th on Jekyll Island, GA, a state park where Matt and I have a second home. Jekyll has been a part of our lives for about 55+ years. We decided to become almost full timers there on this lovely little island where everyone, about 1,000 full-time residents, think they live in paradise! Biking, golf, tennis, beach, fishing, dolphin cruises, a vibrant Art association, a turtle rehab center, a few hotels, homes to rent, campgrounds, and the world-famous Driftwood Beach where many movies have been filmed--think of *The Walking Dead*. There is

a historical district of the Gilded Age when 100 of the wealthiest people in the world made Jekyll their private winter club retreat. It is truly a slice of paradise. Matt and I look forward to seeing many of you at future Mount/St Joe's reunions!!!

Patty LaNeve Mullaney--Oh my goodness, what a memorable weekend!! A HUGE Thank You to all of the SJCAA Board members and class agents for a top notch, well organized and orchestrated closure event, and for all the efforts to see us to the end. I feel a bit sad but grateful for President Gerry Joyce's spirited speech and welcoming invitation to join the Mount reunions to continue to celebrate our days in "the Valley!" A very big tribute to you, Trudie, for really keeping our class "All Together"...YOU have given us many reasons to SMILE with a whole lot of sunshine in our hearts!

**Liz Baldwin Ewing**--Oh wow! Loved those pictures and looked like such a good four days!! All those memorable events you all shared! What a wonderful time and it's YOU all the way, Trudie, with the success of that 2025 and all get-togethers in the past. What would they do without you! Thought of you all the whole four days! Sure wished I had been there but just loved seeing all those pictures and all activities shared! In April, husband Mark had triple bypass and the kids and grandkids have all been good about encouraging him. Thanks again. Just great seeing all that info and pictures. Such good friendships from special years--sure warms the heart!

Pat Morel Murphy-Lynch--Thank you for all you've done over these years to bring us together and for making this past weekend so wonderful. It truly was a gift to be together with so many amazing women from our class and other years too! Your dedication and hard work made this happen!

Rosie Fama Waugh--Mary Berens Regan and I reconnected at the Reunion and learned that we have lived in the same archdiocese for years and didn't know it! We both participate in *Walking with Purpose*, a bible study for women, and enjoyed sharing our experiences. We hope to get together this summer at the beach and agree that it is wonderful to have old and great friends back in our lives! I'm looking forward to sharing beach time with Maureen Sommar Milde in Ocean City, MD in August when we take the ferry over from Cape May, NJ to Lewes. This annual event is grandkids-free!

Pat Noto—I am now retired after a long and varied

career that covered several professions as a university academic advisor, professor at Old Dominion University, Assistant Director of Temple's MBA program. Being a caretaker for my mom since 1974 a setback required that I switch careers to spend time with her on Long Island so I joined Piedmont Airlines in 1987 at Newark Airport. Fortunately my mom improved and I was able to come back to Philadelphia to be a sales manager for what now had become USAir/USAirways. I had many exciting experiences handling international product launches, government, and civic projects. Thank you SJC for my coursework in French, Art History on my way to a History major that allowed me to travel to Paris five times including one trip with the first lady of Philadelphia and others to present an economic development seminar at the Musee D'Orsay. That led to working with Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Barnes Foundation on exhibition sponsorships. This unfortunately all ended due to 9/11. Like thousands of others my career was derailed by this tragedy. Thankfully because of my civic relationships I found a job as the event planner for Philadelphia Housing Authority. Where for 15 years I worked on the demolition, ground breaking, and ribbon cuttings as the Authority changed the Philadelphia skyline providing low income housing to thousands of Philadelphians. We were also able to provide scholarships for first generation college students of any age. An on the job injury led to my retirement. Retirement has allowed me time to enjoy my condo with a view of the river, go on church bus trips organized by fellow Joe's girl Jackie Gibney, have reunion lunches with dorm mates from 3rd Seton and other friends from throughout my career and travels. My most significant contribution is that I serve as a Health Mentor for Jefferson University. In my fifth year I mentor two groups of diverse first and second year health profession majors on dealing with senior (I prefer having them address us as mature) patients and teaching them teamwork skills (from my SJC and university experiences). Recently featured in the Collaborative Healthcare Newsletter Health Mentor Newsletter my mentor author highlighted that I am always stressing to stay connected to your classmates, develop trusting relationships, positive interactions and maintain them over the years. Because you never know when you may know the person who has the skills you need. My students are very impressed that I still am connected with Joe's girls for over 50 years. This year's Reunion proved that!!!

Debbie Mitchell Kraponick--Two years at St. Joe's set the stage for a lifetime of happiness for me. I left home to be on my own for the very first time, received the

foundation that helped shape a cherished career as an elementary teacher, and made lifelong friendships with eight women who accepted me with open arms and unconditional love. How lucky can one young girl from New Jersey be! And as witnessed at every Reunion, it is clear that the closing of a school did NOT hamper the determination, strength of character, skills, love, and dedication to do for others as the "Joe's Girls" have shown the world! How lucky have we all been!

Jackie Wajcs Gibney--Now I am happy to share that my five-year-old grandson has announced to the world that he'll be a big brother to twin boys this fall. Joey even has picked out the colors for the blankets he wants me to make for them. Also, have been involved with the Leisure Club at church planning lots of overnight and day trips. In the past we went to Mackinac Island, my favorite, to cruising around Maryland, eating crabs, seeing plays and murder mysteries, etc. This year we toured the Lake George area and of course we had to stop at the casino. Enjoyed travelling down to Joe's for our last Reunion. But it was hard also. I have treasured keeping my friendships alive throughout the years. We have bonded more whether we graduated from Joe's or not. We will remain ALL Together.

Eileen "Irish" McAlarnen--Happy summer! This spring was another busy travel time for me. St. Joe's Reunion was a wonderful weekend seeing everyone! I was back on the east coast (Northern Virginia) celebrating Easter with my brother Joe and his family--four nieces and nephews (and spouses) eight great-nephews and great-niece, and six great-great-nephews and great-great-nieces. It was definitely a busy and fun week. **Donna McCarthy Feld** and I flew from Dulles to Dublin, Ireland on April 24th for a week. We visited Dublin, Cork, Killarney, Kinsale, and Kilkenny. The weather was perfect and countryside beautiful! I flew from Dublin to England on May 3 and met friends from Arizona and Montana. We explored the southeast coast of England, the Cotswolds, and Lake District for two weeks! In July, I headed to Montana to visit friends and hike in Glacier National Park. The cooler weather was appreciated since Phoenix was 118 when I left. Bears, deer, eagles, mountain goats, bighorn sheep elk, and moose were viewed from a distance and up close and personal! Escaping the summer heat in Phoenix is always a goal - maybe a visit to Cape May in August/September will help!

Trudie Mangiaracina Glazewski--Well I guess that's it for the Class of 1974 final entry for *The Valley Echo* 2025.

I have loved being class agent for our class all these years, and it has been so fulfilling to get back in touch with the original Class of 1974 St. Joseph College students who started our college careers together in the wonderful year of 1970. It was the best of times, my friends. We were all so young and innocent, and no matter how our paths changed due to the closing of our sweet Alma Mater, St. Joseph College, we have come together to celebrate in the years that followed. And may I say it was amazing and a dream come true to see so many of us together once again at our Reunions! Friendships that can last a lifetime!! Let's try to keep in touch, ok? Although April was our final Reunion planned by the SJCAA, we will be invited to future Reunions as part of the MSMU alumni chapters. We look forward to giving them input and helping them get started in planning events for our SJC alumnae and hope to see as many of us as possible in the future! Until then, as always, wishing you Smiles and Sunshine every day!!

## 1975

Patricia Creel Baltzley  
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What a bittersweet weekend we had at the last ever SJC Reunion. It was so sweet for the alumnae group to invite what would have been the Class of 1975 at St. Joseph College 50th Reunion year to celebrate and be honored at this event. We felt so special and loved as we walked down memory lane and what might have been.

Those of us who gathered for this event--myself (Pat Creel Baltzley), Jean Homan Pyzi, Carol Wylie Blakeslee, Debbie Denning, Beth Weaver Maslowsky, Ann Smercak Hickey, Pam Fuchs Jacobs, Peg Dorsch McDougall, Bernadette Sullivan, Karen Murphy Kreiner, and Rita Pino Surface--appreciated the opportunity to gather together and relive some of our favorite memories from our year at Joe's. The opportunity to visit the campus and tour through the buildings was awesome and enabled us to experience once again that special feeling that only SJC invokes for us. Our tour guide graciously "snuck" us into the former Rosary dorm, and we quickly ran around the first floor to try and place where our rooms were. There were squeals of joy as we regaled each other with some of that year's most signifi-

cant events for us in the dorm. (There might have been a mention of panty raids, late night study fests, weekend shenanigans like filling someone's room with newspaper, and Mrs. Goff (dorm mother) calling us in from last-minute-before-curfew smooching on the patio of the dorm...good times!) As we walked around the campus refreshing our memories of building names and purposes and viewing the changes that have occurred since the closing of the college, we were struck by the unique opportunity we had to at least have had one year in this special place.

We appreciated the opportunity to tour the Shrine and be reminded of the history of Elizabeth Seton. The Mass was so special as many of us in the Class of 1975 participated in the processional, the presenting of the roses, and Eucharistic gifts, and just able to be part of this SJC community again.

As we gathered at each of the Reunion events and talked with one another (by the way, we loved the opportunity to "flap our lips" and gab for hours to catch up), we recalled receiving the letter in the spring of 1971 that informed us of the potential closing of the college and shared why we still decided to come. We all concluded that we made the right decision, if for nothing else to be part of what St. Joseph's provided us as far as foundational college experiences and, most importantly, to find the people we remain connected with from that one year together.

Preparing for my speech at the Saturday banquet representing the Class of 1975 gave me the chance to reflect on my many connections with St. Joseph's from family to friends to experiences. As I delivered that speech and looked out at the many faces of those alumnae who had gathered for one last time as a unit to celebrate their own connections to SJC, I was struck by the legacy that Elizabeth Seton established. We were fortunate to be a part of this legacy even if it was for a moment.

Thank you again for inviting us to celebrate as members of the St. Joseph College community. We will not forget this experience and what it meant to gather one more time as SJC alumnae.

# IN Memoriam



## ALUMNAE DEATHS

|      |                                          |                    |
|------|------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1948 | Patricia Hultberg Hyde                   | September 15, 2024 |
|      | Marion Schueler Werner                   | August 8, 2024     |
| 1949 | Ida Lutz Jones Brown                     | March 23, 2023     |
| 1951 | Nancy Johnson Koerwer                    | September 19, 2023 |
|      | Avita "Veetsie" Frick Ryan               | August 8, 2024     |
|      | Mary Carr Shea                           | October 1, 2023    |
|      | Marie Cleary Kleber                      | August 15, 2025    |
| 1952 | Dolores Mary Falco                       | September 27, 2024 |
|      | Irene "Renie" Pierce Miller              | February 11, 2025  |
| 1953 | Joan R. Billerbeck                       | November 1, 2024   |
| 1954 | Catherine Jeanne Hines Craig             | April 29, 2011     |
| 1956 | Noel Stewart Mahoney Rupperecht          | November 26, 2024  |
| 1957 | Jacqueline Smith Woelkers                | April 2025         |
| 1961 | Rita Werb Fasano                         | May 11, 2025       |
|      | Elizabeth "Betsy" Hutchinson Kirkpatrick | April 12, 2025     |
|      | Marti Spadinger Kasnic                   | July 25, 2025      |
| 1964 | Martha Lou "Marty" Kuehneman             | June 19, 2024      |
|      | Cynthia "Cyd" Zimkus Coppola             | November 4, 2024   |
|      | Joyce Hillner Rigney                     | December 30, 2024  |
| 1965 | Barbara "Birdie" Garvie Hummell          | July 21, 2025      |
|      | Sally Callahan Sullivan                  | January 14, 2025   |
| 1966 | Ann Roberta Spencer                      | January 16, 2024   |
| 1967 | Joan McCathran Mahaffey                  | April 10, 2025     |
| 1968 | Ann O'Toole Van Leuven                   | July 7, 2025       |
| 1970 | Mary Wickless Stover                     | November 13, 2024  |
| 1972 | Carmel Kenney                            | June 9, 2025       |
| 1973 | Jane McDonough Milne                     | July 2, 2025       |

## FAMILY DEATHS

- Bill McClellan, husband of **Betty Barbieri McClellan '55** – November 2024
- Katie, granddaughter of **Elizabeth Phelan Burmaster '60** – March 24, 2025
- Dan Reeves, husband of **Muriel Cuddy Reeves '61** – August 7, 2025
- Colleen Andora, sister of **Mary Ellen Gill Purkis '63** – April 5, 2025
- Hall L. Moore, Jr., MSM '62, husband of **Johanna Carter Moore '64** – March 31, 2024
- Stephanie Ridenour Resetar, daughter of **Karen Coss Ridenour '64** – November 28, 2024
- Robert Reilly, husband of **Lola Forns Reilly '64** – October 12, 2024
- Melford A. Wilson, Jr., husband of **Patricia Giblin Wolman '64** – November 1, 2024
- John M. Kaheny MSM '66, brother of **Cookie Kaheny Costanzo '64** – July 2, 2025
- Margaret "Peggy" Ratke, sister of **Mimi Ratke Cochran '64**, sister of the late **Ceci Ratke Homan '64**, and daughter of **Cecelia McIntyre Ratke '37** – August 7, 2024
- Helen Troller, mother of **Pat Troller Seagreaves '64** – September 2024
- Raul Oviedo, husband of **Marian Weld Oviedo '64** – March 21, 2025
- Albert Fratini, husband of **Nancy Bormanns Fratini '65** – January 21, 2025
- Rosemary Horne, sister of **Kathleen Flynn Gaffney '67** – November 7, 2024
- John A. Friede, brother of **Mary Alice Friede Mauser '67** – July 26, 2025
- William J. Mauser, brother-in-law of **Mary Alice Friede Mauser '67** and brother of Fred L. Mauser MSM '66 – July 19, 2025
- Daniel Judge, husband of **Therese Kenney Judge '67** – August 8, 2024
- Duncan G. Macpherson, brother of **Beth Macpherson Rowe '67** – January 4, 2024
- Michael P. Sheehan, brother of **Kate Sheehan Home '67** – April 19, 2024
- Annie Grzelecki, sister of **Mary Kay Wall Oliver '67** – October 24, 2024



## *Lessons*

PATRICIA HORN O'BRIEN '59  
PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN E. RAYFIELD

Speech was not an elective.  
Notwithstanding that, we sat  
mute in our seats, Mr. Water's ablutions  
pouring over our uncertain selves.

Never mind, he said, that you know no one  
and days unfold in a whirl of unknown  
corridors and unfamiliar rooms. Never mind  
winter seems to be coming so soon.

Never mind you all are strangers. Before you can say  
it had been your intention, one day you'll hear  
a laugh down your dormitory hall and you will  
know whose laugh it is. One day you'll hear

footsteps behind you on the stairs and know  
whose feet tap just that way on stairs. You'll know  
her shoes and how she keeps a pack of Winston's  
in her blazer pocket. How well she plays bridge.

You'll know she's been homesick and how she  
writes home more than once a week. From the end  
of the "A" you'll spy a dot on the horizon and know  
with certainty her name. Her major. Her way

with a hockey stick. But we never thought  
we'd know these row-upon-row of faces,  
so different and yet so like our own: women  
just beginning. How could we know anything

but what we brought: our own history.  
Our fears. Our dreams. How could we know  
what true friendship means. Or how friends  
turn into family. But winters' lessons at last

brought it all home: we learned to know  
one another as directly as we began to know  
ourselves, our reflections in the mirror somehow  
now reflections of our friends as well.

Sixty-six years have passed since that day in June  
we said Goodbye! By now there's barely a lesson  
life hasn't given us to learn. And now, one more: how to  
live with silence where friends' voices used to ring.

But even where the silence reminds us of our loss,  
we remember our four years together, sometimes as if  
just yesterday we were headed for the Pines, sometimes,  
as if a dream, with its echoes of laughter. Of voices in the hall.



MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

# REUNION

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JUNE 5-7, 2026



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IN FEBRUARY**

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