

The HARVESTER

Vol. 91, No. 2

www.westcatholicgirlsalumnae.com

Fall 2024

West Catholic Girls' Alumnae Association 95TH Annual Communion Breakfast

The Fall season will soon be here and that means we will be hosting our annual Communion Breakfast. We hope you'll join us. The event will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2024 at Anthony's Restaurant, 865 W. Springfield Rd, Springfield, PA 19064 from 11 AM to 4 PM. Cost is \$40.00. Doors will open at 10:30 AM with coffee available. Mass will be celebrated at 11 AM by Father John Hand and the music will be provided by Anne Datte. The luncheon will follow.

Meal choices are Chicken Marsala, Broiled Crab Cake, and Potato Gnocchi with Ricotta Cheese. Luncheon includes Caesar Salad, Vanilla Ice Cream and Soft Drinks. A Cash Bar will be available after the Mass.

Our chairwoman for this year's Communion Breakfast is Rita Gaudet deVecchis, Class of 1956. Please mail your check made payable to West Catholic Girls' Alumnae Association along with the reservation form to **Mrs. Rita deVecchis, 1 Christian St. #48, Philadelphia, PA 19147**. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, October, 16, 2024. No payments can be accepted at the door. If you have any questions, Rita can be reached at 215-467-0484. or rita_devecchis@comcast.net.

The **Class of 1964** will be celebrating their 60th Reunion at the Communion Breakfast. If you wish to attend, contact **Anne Henry Organ**, annorg@comcast.net. Please note Class of 1964 on your reservation form.

Chances, which benefit the Alumnae Scholarship Fund, are included with this newspaper. You may return them with your reservation form. If you are unable to attend and would like to purchase the chances, you may mail them along with your check to our address, **WCGAA, PO BOX 805, Broomall, PA 19008**. If you wish to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund, please mail your check made payable to West Catholic Girls' Alumnae Association to the PO Box and note the check Scholarship Fund Donation. Thank You. And, of course, our gift items will be available for purchase that day. (See page 4 for information).

RESERVATION FORM ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST Sunday, October 27, 2024

Name _____
(first) (maiden) (last)

Street Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Class _____

Email _____

Chicken Marsala Crab Cake

Potato Gnocchi

MAIL FORM AND \$40.00 CHECK PAYABLE TO
WEST CATHOLIC GIRLS' ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
c/o MRS. RITA DE VECCHIS, 1 CHRISTIAN STREET,
#48, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147

Please enclose the names of those with whom you wish to be seated.

DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 16, 2024

Margaret Porter Blue and Gold Award



This year's Margaret Porter Blue and Gold Awardee was **Helen Deane Concannon, Class of 1953**. Helen has been an Alumnae Board member for the past 60 years. She has always been one you can count on. Helen has served in several Officer positions over the years and willingly chaired many fundraising events. She is also noted for sharing her home for monthly board meetings for over 20 years. Helen is a vital member of our board and always took time out from her busy life of raising 8 children to say yes whenever she was called on to do something for the Alumnae and West Catholic. Helen, the Alumnae Board thanks you and wants you to know how proud we are of you.

Alumnae Board

- 1948 Kathleen Martin Fahey**, 89 Saxer Ave, Springfield, PA 19064, (610) 544-4632
- 1950 Mary Maxwell Flynn**, 642 Ferne Blvd, Drexel Hill, PA 19026, (610) 623-6528, flynnnonferne@aol.com
- 1953 Helen Deane Concannon**, 257 N. State Rd, Apt 7E, Springfield, PA 19064, (484) 479-3454
- 1954 Dolores Driver Schnitzel**, 10806 Modena Terrace, Phila., PA 19154, (215) 637-1058
- 1955 Peggy Henry Glancey**, 100 Halcyon Drive, Apt B103, Media, PA 19063, (610) 325-8748
Patricia McGovern Gottschall, 585 N. Atlantic Ave, Collingswood, NJ 08108, (856) 858-8302
- 1956 Cass Jarrett Coakley**, 26 Evergreen Ave, Broomall, PA 19008, (610) 353-1017, casscoakley@verizon.net
Rita Gaudet deVecchis, 1 Christian St, #48, Philadelphia, PA 19147, 215-467-0484, rita_devecchis@comcast.net
- 1958 Sr. Claire Smith, SHCJ**, 1341 Montgomery Ave, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010, (610) 525-9900
- 1959 Sr. Rosie Hagan, IHM**, 8245 West Chester Pike, Upper Darby, PA 19082, (610) 998-5276, rosiehagan41@yahoo.com
Joan O'Connor Mullarkey, 10 Marwood Dr, Broomall, PA 19008, (610) 356-2726, joanmullarkey6@aol.com
- 1960 Frances DiStefano Ranieri**, 517 Blythe Ave, Drexel Hill, PA 19026-5215, (610) 789-1269, xoremusx@yahoo.com
Mary Maguin Small, 5095 Adrianna Court, Center Valley, PA 18034, (484) 995-3525, maryjls@aol.com
- 1961 Barbara Spencer Britton**, 123 W. Gardner Ave, Glenolden, PA 19036, (215) 917-1336, bbritton2108@yahoo.com
Rose Frank Brooks, 6945 E. Main St, Apt 3343, Mesa, AZ 85207, (610) 547-0731, auntrosie2002@yahoo.com
Betsy Gleason Cunningham, 1826 Meribrook Rd, Phila, PA 19151, (215) 879-3282, betsync1826@verizon.net
Pat McLaughlin, 304 N. Union Ave, Margate, NJ 08402, (609) 822-7047, patmc22@comcast.net
Rosalie Dugan McNeff, 5 Park Ave, Norwood, PA 19074, (610) 532-1827, mcneffr@yahoo.com
- 1962 Maria DiStefano Petolicchio**, 604 Heather Lane, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010, (610) 527-8592, mariapeto@verizon.net
- 1964 Anne Henry Organ**, 209 39th St, Sea Isle City, NJ 08243, (609) 263-8348, annorg@comcast.net
- 1965 Bette McGrath Diedrich**, 870 Spring Hill Rd, Secane, PA 19018, (610) 544-6295, boopscor@aol.com
- 1966 Kathleen Schultz Buchanan**, 2000 Huntington Ave, Apt 926, Alexandria, VA 22303 (215) 980-8855, copabuchanan@yahoo.com
- 1967 Roe Cipollone Mitchell**, 4001 Andiron Terrace, Downingtown, PA 19335, (610) 259-4486, roern98@hotmail.com
- 1968 Lucille Madalion**, 5 Eldon Ave, Lansdowne, PA 19050, (484) 437-0740, lcmadalion72@gmail.com
- 1969 Pat Bugey Nachbar**, 311 Dogwood Lane, Upland, PA 19015, (215) 479-6719, patnachbar@gmail.com
- 1970 Sr. Denise Ware, SFCC**, 353 Wenonah Ave, Mantua, NJ 08051, (609) 970-4371, dcwsfcc@gmail.com
- 1971 Cathy Healy Maugeri**, 485 S Andrews Ave, Glenolden, PA 19036, (610) 357-4037, c.maugeri@comcast.net
Peggy Ford Rhoades, 140 S. Easton Rd, Apt 205, Glenside, PA 19038, 610-659-1460, peggyrhoades1@gmail.com
- 1972 Kathleen Mulvihill Lunn**, 214 Blue Ridge Rd, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462, (215) 964-1561, lunn4@aol.com
- 1974 Kirsti Flemming Bradford**, PO Box 432, Secane, PA 19018, (610) 580-7588, kbradford565@gmail.com
Carol Caratura Cavallo, 170 Kingswood Ct, Glen Mills, PA 19342, (610) 719-7421, cclcc426@comcast.net
- 1975 Julie Pomante**, 1011 Glenn Rd, Wallingford, PA 19086, 215-715-0675, julia.pomante@longandfoster.com
Tina Spivey Randall, 1239 Marlyn Rd, Phila. PA, 19151, (215) 939-1458, tinarandall18@yahoo.com

Alumnae Spotlight

When we inquired about our sister Alumnae who were published authors, we received many replies. Below is a list of those that responded to our request. Unfortunately, due to the number of replies we received we can not print an overview of the works. If you wish any additional information on any of our authors or their works, send an email to our Alumnae mailbox, admin@westcatholicgirlsalumnae.com and we will attempt to make a connection for you. Of course, Google and Amazon are always good resources for getting additional information.

BOOKS

- Josephine Pasquarello Delaney, '67 – *Love and Loyalty and Life's Journey*
- Patti Gallo Stenman, '67 – *Diary of a Beatlemaniac: A Fab Insider's Look at the Beatles Era*
- Anne (Any) McCoy, '68 – *Homemade Perfume*
- Lucille Madalion, '68 – *Eco and Frenlee Visit the Bog*
- Janet Prudente McMaster, '72 – *Lucky Lily*
- Joanne Natale Spigonardo, '72 – *White Widow*
- Maryanne Kane, '74 – *Yellow Butterflies and Tattletales from School; Bullying in the 60's*
- Susan Peterson Lane, '75 – *Shattered Dreams: A Girl Named Silas and Me*
- Robin Farmer, '79 – *Malcom and Me*
- Lea Tran, '84 – *I Did Not Miss The Boat – Memoir of a Vietnam Hoa Refugee*
- Dr. Sheena Howard, '01 – *Academic Branding, Encyclopedia of Black Comics, Why Wakanda Matters, and Nina's Whisper*

ARTICLES

- Hannah Dougherty Campbell, '69 – Hannah has published over 100 articles. Here are a few she highlighted to be listed: *Chicken Soup for the Soul That's Funny*: "Ladybugs Get Poison Ivy"; *Good Old Days Magazine*: "Babysitting in the 60's"; *Green Prints Magazine*: "Dandelions"; *Philadelphia Inquirer*: "Mom Was Her Own Social Network"; "Memories of Easter and A Lollipop Tree"; "1929 Yearbook Offers Us A Vision"; and "A Family Comes Full Circle"
- Janet McMaster, '72 – In addition to her book, Janet has published two chapters in nursing textbooks and a chapter in a medical textbook. She also has written several journal articles in medical and nursing journals, as well as one in an international journal.
- Maryanne Kane, '74 – In addition to the books listed above, Maryanne has several published articles in *Newsweek*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *IrishCentral.com*, *CatholicPhilly.com*, *Borrowed Solace Journal*, and *Coffin Bell Journal*.

PLAYS

- Liz Amadio, '74 – Liz has forwarded two of her plays to be listed here: *The Hoodie Play* and *Guardian of the Field*, both of which were published in *The Best American Short Plays*. Liz is also a Theatre artist – Actor, Director, Producer, Playwright, Writer and Photographer.

Among us girls

Alumni Awards — At this year's Alumni Communion Breakfast held on Sunday, April 21, 2024 four Alumnae were recognized for their good works. The awardees were **Helen Deane Con-cannon, '53** who received the Margaret Porter Blue and Gold Award; **Sr. James Anne Ferrick, IHM (Anne Marie Ferrick), '60**, who was recognized with the Brother Anselm, FSC Award; **Kate Ward Gaus, '72**, who received the Brother Martin Strickroth, FSC Award; and **Dawn Chism Simms, '73**, who received the Bishop McCort Award. Congratulations, Ladies for your well-deserved recognition.

1942 — Madelyn Murray Daniels wrote to let us know 2024 is "her big year". She celebrated her 100th birthday on May 14th. Happy Belated Birthday wishes, Madelyn.

1947 — Condolences to **Dolores Lombardi McCabe** on the passing of her son Danny, this Spring.

1948 — Nora Denoncour wrote "I'm still here and kicking!" and wished us good luck with the Spring Luncheon and Fundraiser.

1952 — Our sympathy to **Anna Luciani Kelly** on the death of her husband, John. Anna shared that they were married just 3 months shy of 69 years.

1954 — Sr. Georgine Marie (Emily Williamson) wrote that she was happy to be celebrating her graduation from West 70 years ago on June 13, 1954. Sister entered the

IHM's on September 8, 1954 and is grateful to be so blessed.

1956 — Maureen Daly Smith, Class of 1959, wrote to make us aware of a major donation her sister **Eileen Daly Wallace, '56** bequeathed to the school in her will. Eileen generously gave approximately \$150,000 to be used for Scholarships over the years 2022-2025.

1965 — Plan are underway for the 60th reunion to be held in 2025. Any suggestions, please contact **Bette McGrath Diedrich**, 610-733-3949 or boopscor@aol.com or **Peggy Sheffield Panicelli**, 610-420-0987. Bette also would like to share that the Class of 65 Monahan's Mondays will start again after Labor Day.

1966 — Condolences to Marian Ciaccia on the death of her sister **Lucille Ciaccia, '66**. Lucille passed away on December 23, 2023 after a long battle with cancer. Thank you, Marian, for purchasing the chances in Lucille's name.

After each *Harvester* is mailed, we receive several notes from our sister Alums thanking us for our "good work" in keeping everyone informed. We appreciate your notes and thank you for taking the time to send them. Some of the notes we received after the Spring *Harvester* were from, **Patricia Harte, '59, Anne Smith Domino, '61, Janice Fahy McManus, '64, Vicky Duffy McLaughlin, '69, Maria Cipollini Densten, '67, Maryann Carolan Roszkowski, '69, and Maryann Fitzpatrick, '74.**

We extend our sympathy to families of our classmates who have passed away

Kathryn E. Crosby, '39
Anne McDermott Welsh, '40
Mary Frances Keane Ferri, '43
Margaret O'Leary Nilan Kennedy, '43
Lillian Duffy Reinagel, '44
Dorothy Elwell Weiserth, '44
Mildred Buchanan Raymond, '45
Florence Zarrilli Anastasio, '46
Mary Ellen Espinosa Robinson, '46
Marie Hopkins Bates, '47
Marie A. Ballantine, '50
Amelia T. Centrone, '50
Sr. Ann Marie Maguire, SSJ, '50
Patricia Kelly Brannan, '52
Joanna Joseph Winterle, '52
Loretta Germscheld Ford, '53
Mary Deacon Mensack, '53

Elizabeth Chiorazzi Dougherty, '54
Helen Gillen Higgins, '54
Madeleine Scanell Curley, '55
Isabelle Johnston, '55
Frances T. Marinari, '55
Jane Cavanaugh Robinson, '56
Joan McGarvey Everson, '57
MaryAnne Harte Lalonde, '57
Irene Caulder Walsh, '57
Ginny Valentini Crossen, '58
MaryAnn Hughes Hespe, '58
Lillian McGarvey Ideo, '58
Loretta Mount Savastio, '58
Sally Piccirilli Buonadonna, '59
Alice Oestreich Casey, '59
Sr. Hope Mary Costello, IHM, '59
Shirley Sprague Deininger, '59

Barbara Williams Driadon, '60
Rosalie Carey Hall, '60
Joanne McCallin Higgins, '60
Jane Ann Doyle McLaughlin, '60
Joan Marie Doyle Carbo, '60
Rosemary Kennedy, '61
Dolores Trawka Mock, '61
Joan Trybala Batory, '62
Mary White Quinn, '64
Agnes Murray Poznek, '65
Barbara Ann Hilyard Ravas, '65
Lucille A. Ciaccia, '66
Patricia McCallin Cunningham, '66
Donna Dven Jackson, '69
Patricia Van Sciver, '69
Patricia Flynn Mitchell, '70

CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 1964 60th Reunion – The reunion will be held at the 2024 Communion Breakfast at Anthony's in Springfield, PA, on Sunday, October 27, 2024. Cost is \$40. Questions may be referred to Anne Henry Organ at annorg@comcast.net.

Class of 1969 Girls' 55th Reunion – The reunion to be held on Sunday, September 29, 2024 from 12 Noon to 4PM at Anthony's Ristorante in Springfield, PA. Finalized details will be available on Facebook. For questions contact Pat Bugey Nachbar, patnachbar@gmail.com, Eileen Fleming Warren, warrenep@outlook.com, or Cookie Gagliardi Versino, cookiev1003@verizon.net.

Class of 1974 50th Reunion – Girls Weekend West Getaway – The weekend reunion is being planned for November 8 -10, 2024. At The Grand Hotel in Cape May, NJ. Additional details are posted on the West Phila Catholic Girls' Class of '74 Facebook page and our website. For more information, contact Carol Caratura Cavallo 610-719-7421.

Class of 1974 Combined 50th Reunion – This reunion will be held Friday, November 15, 2024 at the Springfield Country Club from 7 to 11 PM. Cost is \$75 and checks should be mailed to Michael Dietzmann, 17 Marlborough Ave, Marlton, NJ 08053

Class of 1984 Combined 40th Reunion will be held on Friday, October 4, 2024 from 6 to 9 PM at Teca's Restaurant in Newtown, Square, PA. Cost is \$80 and checks should be mailed to Rose Cassidy, 10 School Lane, Folcroft, PA 19032.

2024 Spring Luncheon and Fundraiser

This year our Spring Luncheon was held on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at The Oaks Ballroom in Glenolden, PA. We had chances for gift baskets donated by our board members, a 50/50 raffle, and a drawing for a special prize of Phillies or Flyers tickets. The first winner called for the Sports drawing got her choice of which team. The Phillies Package, valued at \$1000, included 2 seats in the Diamond Dugout behind home base, food and drink and free parking. The Flyers tickets were behind the glass and a reserved numbered parking space. The drawing of the winners for the Spring Scholarship Chance Drive was also held. Congratulations and thank you to our co-chairs **Roe Cipollone Mitchell, '67** and **Sr Denise Ware, '71** for another successful event.

The winners were:

- 1st Prize of \$1000--Catherine Kelly Hoban, '59
- 2nd Prize of \$500--Toni Pratt, '69
- 3rd Prize of \$300--Alice Gorman Logan, '52
- Phillies Package--Joan Lynch Bickel, '66
- Flyers Tickets--Fran Snell Borelli, '64

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone for supporting our event and the scholarship fund.

2024 Dues

We thank all alums who have paid their 2024 dues. For the convenience of those who have not yet paid, the form is below. Again, if you sent your dues with the form in the Spring issue you are paid for this year.

2024 DUES STATEMENT

Name _____
(if married, please include maiden name)

Address _____
(# and Street)

(City, State, Zip Code)

Zip _____ Class _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please mail your check for \$15.00 payable to WCGAA along with this form to:

West Catholic Girls' Alumnae Association
PO Box 805, Broomall, PA 19008
To receive a Dues Card, you must include
a stamped, self-addressed envelope

Alumnae Gift Items

Our Gift Items continue to be a big success. Presently, we are selling: Note Pad and Pen Set, \$5.00; Flashlight, \$3.00 or 2 for \$5.00; Combination Pen and Stylus, \$3.00 or 2 for \$5.00; Pack of 5 Note Cards with a drawing of the school on the front for \$6.00; Magnets with all 4 emblems for \$3.00; Blankets/ Throws for \$20.00; and 2 styles of Sweatshirts, Crewnecks for \$20.00 and Hoodies for \$30.00. If you are unfamiliar with any of these items, you can find a description and picture on the NEWS page of our website www.westcatholicgirlsalumnae.com. **Pat Bugey Nachbar, '69** is our Merchandise Officer and she can be reached on 215-479-6719 or patnachbar@gmail.com. Contact Pat if you are interested in any of the items but unable to attend the Communion Breakfast. Pat will advise you of the postage for the items and where to mail the check. Thank you for your support.