



Notre Dame Sisters

Women of faith, making a difference



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

2018 ALUMNAE BULLETIN



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Dear NDA Alumnae,

Greetings from your Alma Mater and all the Sisters. We enjoyed greeting so many of you at our Annual Alum Gathering on June 9th.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the first graduating class of Notre Dame Academy. Those in the class were Lillian Chapek Wagner, Joanne Dusik Dwyer, Margaret Foral, Anna Kotera, Agnes Kotrba Dolezal, Marie Pavlik, Kathryn Pohl, Pauline Polak, Margaret Talbot Reeves, and Virginia Tusa. Four members became Notre Dame Sisters and taught many of us: Sr. Veronica Kotera, Sr. Dolores Pavlik, Sr. Majella Pohl, and Sr. Immaculata Polak. We celebrate the memory of these pioneering women and those who taught them in their formative years.



Much has happened through those 90 years—the academy continued, grew, declined and closed. The building that once housed classrooms has had various uses, now 107 apartments for 118 residents, providing them a safe, comfortable and affordable home. Alums and parents or siblings of alums live among us today.

NDA's spirit continues at Roncalli Catholic whose students have a firm grip on both the NDA and LaSalle legacy. Each day at the end of their prayers they say: St. Peter Fourier, pray for us! Blessed Alix LeClerc, pray for us! St. John Baptist de LaSalle, pray for us! Live Jesus in our hearts forever!

The NDA spirit also continues in each of you as you live the Paschal Mystery of life, death and resurrection in the many cycles and seasons of your lives: making lifestyle choices, career choices, faith choices; raising children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews; being leaders in your parish, work and city communities; dealing with illness and recovery, loss of loved ones and celebration of new lives. You are women in our church and world, being a positive influence by using your God-given talents in the place and time you are called to be. No presence is insignificant, no act of kindness is done without having a ripple effect. Thank you for your witness and the beautiful ways you live our legacy of helping all and harming none. Your presence, our presence is so needed today.

Thank you for your presence in our lives and thank you for believing enough in the NDA mission to continue living it. Let's gather in great numbers in June to receive energy and strength from one another to be courageous women wherever we are. Know that we hold you in prayer each day. God bless you and see you soon!

Grateful for you,
Sr. Margaret Hickey, ND '58

Sr. Margaret Hickey, ND

Dear Alumnae,

I want to welcome you all to the 2018 Notre Dame Academy Alumnae Reunion. I share something with you good women: My high school, Archbishop Ryan High in South Omaha, closed a long time ago, too. While we have had an every-five-years class reunion, there have only been two all class reunions, and neither generated much interest. And so I applaud you all for continuing to keep the spirit and the values of the Notre Dame Sisters and the Notre Dame Academy alive. It's a special tradition.



Most of you are aware of the different ways the Advancement Department seeks to raise funds to support the Notre Dame Sisters and their ministries: Direct mail appeals occur in the Spring and at Christmas. The Sisters sponsor the annual Celebration of Spirit dinner – it will be March 24 in 2019, by the way. The Sisters are also beneficiaries of goodwill and hard work from the Knights of Columbus at Mary Our Queen and St. Philip Neri parishes at the annual Pork Dinner and from the St. Pius X Men's Club with a pancake breakfast – this latter event supporting the Safe Homes domestic violence project. We appreciate your support and attendance.

At the 2017 NDA Alumnae reunion, Sr. Margaret and I announced the Proud Legacy. Bright Future. Major Gifts Campaign with a goal of \$1.5 million. At that time, several of you stepped up and made gifts that night igniting a challenge among the classes. We received gifts in support of this friendly competition from over 17 class years. The winning class was 1972 (by the way, that's my graduating class year, too!). A plaque will hang in Notre Dame Housing recognizing the special support of this class to the Campaign.

Thank you to all who participated in the Campaign and especially in the class challenge. I am happy to report that the Sisters have been blessed with hundreds of generous donors and have received \$1,534,968.01 in pledges and gifts to the Campaign.

I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't mention that the Sisters set the \$1.5 million goal as the minimum threshold goal, always have more needs, and would be happy to accept any gifts to the Campaign from alumnae... We can always put up another plaque, right??

Scot L. Adams, Ph.D.
Vice President for Advancement

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scot L. Adams, Ph.D.", written over a horizontal line.

PROUD LEGACY. BRIGHT FUTURE.



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE NOTRE DAME SISTERS' PROUD LEGACY. BRIGHT FUTURE. CAMPAIGN.

Your generosity helped us reach the \$1.5 million funding goal, to plan for a future where the Notre Dame Sisters' past efforts and accomplishments will be transitioned into a legacy to last for years to come.

This campaign supports the Sisters as they continue their work for the good of all God's people, but especially the women, children and elderly. The success of this campaign ensures stability and a vibrant future of the ministries the Sisters have nurtured, empowering those with unmet needs. Thank you for making a difference for so many.

2018 EVENT INFO



On June 9th, the Notre Dame Alumnae gathered at St. John Vianney Parish to celebrate with their classmates from Notre Dame Academy. Around 100 alumnae, family members, and friends were welcomed into the parish center where there were handmade gifts and items for raffle.

Classes from 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, and 1973 celebrated their anniversaries. The 50th Anniversary Class, 1968, was awarded the Notre Dame Academy Alumnae Spirit Award. This class generously collected a donation for the Notre Dame Sisters, which will go towards the Sister's retirement.

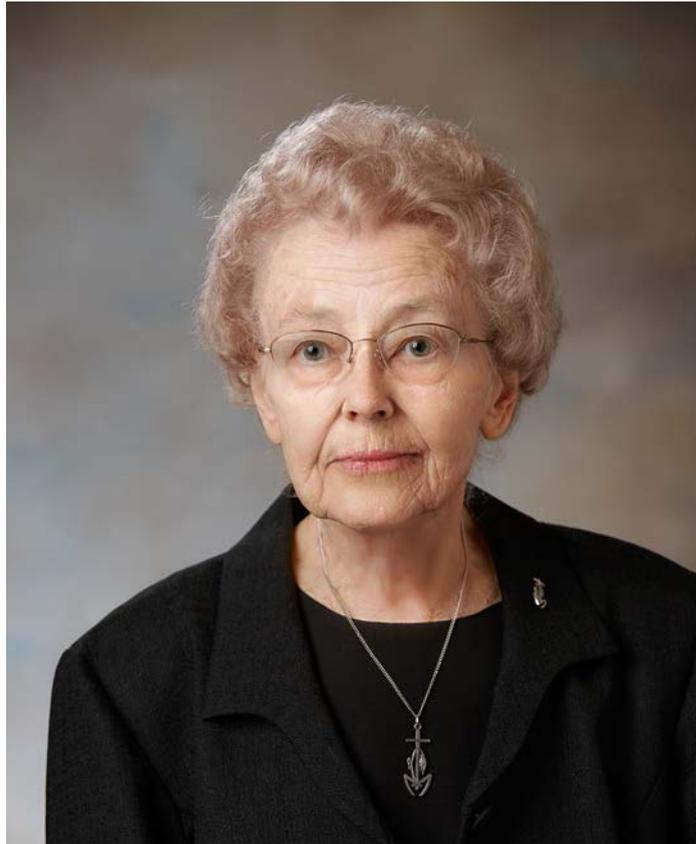
The event was catered from Hap Abraham Catering and the evening was capped off with a joyous rendition of the school song.

Thanks to all who attended. We look forward to next year!

Please keep in touch by providing updated addresses, emails, or contact information! Contact the Advancement Office (402) 455.2994 or email skoch@notredamesisters.org



SISTER BARBARA MEMORIAL



SR. BARBARA FICENECH, ND

JUL 25, 1928 - JAN 23, 2018

CLASS OF 1946

We remember Sr. Barbara with great dedication to her congregation, family, friends and all her students. We received many tributes which indicate she truly made a difference in many people's lives through her 89 years of life and almost 68 years of ministry as a Notre Dame Sister. We know that her same care for others will continue in eternity as she experiences the fullness of God's presence. She will be remembered with much love by all of us.

ALUMNAE UPDATES

1961

ARLENE MITCHELL DWORAK CLASS OF '61

I have been blessed with 5 children and 5 grandchildren and am now retired after 28 years from the school districts Pre-k Program. I enjoyed volunteering for the following 3 years for the Senior Program in the kitchen preparing lunches. I am happy to say that 'I am a 3 year survivor' from breast cancer and now do volunteer work at the Project Center. I am very healthy and continue to try and keep busy doing God's work.

1968

JOYCE SLIZESKI HANSON CLASS OF '68

Norm and I have been married 47 years this September. We have 5 children and 16 grandchildren. Norm and I are both retired and fill our days with family and many fun hobbies.

KATHY CHAP SCHNEIDER CLASS OF '68

Kathy retired from UPS in 2010. She has 4 daughters, a step son, 11 grandchildren, and 1 great-granddaughter. She loves to read and enjoys watching sports that her grandchildren participate in.

HELEN HEVRDEYS SMALLFIELD CLASS OF '68

My husband, George and I are enjoying our 9 grandchildren from our 4 children and their spouses here in Virginia. I retired from teaching elementary school and am fortunate to enjoy being with our "Grands" (ages 8 years down to 1 month) very consistently. I was finally able to visit Omaha (and Notre Dame) about a year ago, after being away for a quarter of a century! It was fun to see so many changes everywhere and still some things pleasantly the same. ...such wonderful memories!

ALICE VOTROBEK BLAZEK CLASS OF '68

I wish everyone from the class of 1968 a joyous celebration! I can't believe it's been 50 years. My wonderful husband James Blazek, passed away in April of 2000. I miss him every day!

BARBARA DALEY FREEMAN CLASS OF '68

My husband Hal and I are retired. We have three great children, two wonderful in-laws and five gorgeous grandchildren! I babysit for some of the grandkids part time and some full-time and love seeing life through their eyes. One of my favorite pastimes is spreading the devotion, "The Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary". Hal and I are also on the board for Hope Connecting Hearts Nigeria.

CONNIE KERWIN ALIANO CLASS OF '68

I have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. My kids all got married in their 30's and all had children the same year(s). So my oldest grandchild just turned 6 a couple weeks ago and the youngest is almost 3 1/2. My mom, Mary Kerwin, a Notre Dame alum, passed away in June 2013. I miss her dearly. She was so proud to have gone to Notre Dame and stayed active with her classmates for many years. In August, I will have been working at Creighton University for 30 years - in a variety of departments and I don't see retirement anywhere in my near future.

REJEAN BOGATZ JAKSICH CLASS OF '68

After raising our family of 2 daughters, I obtained a Cosmetology License and a Real Estate License. Fast forward 20 years and 5 grandchildren, ages 20-13 later, my husband and I are enjoying our retirement years. I enjoy gardening and quilting. We have traveled to Australia, Alaska, and visited many states in the USA.

SHARON SWOBODA SWANSON CLASS OF '68

I am retired. We sold our house of 32 years last July & moved to a 55+ apartment in Ralston. We are loving it!!! We have 5 adult children & 15 grandchildren so we are truly blessed. I love reading. I enjoy embroidering on my machine and playing "Mexican Train Dominoes" with friends and family.

KAREN KISICKI-REYNOLDS CLASS OF '68

My husband Michael and I live in Lake Placid, FL. We were blessed with 6 children, who have given us 12 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. A favorite past time we enjoy is traveling!

BARBARA MONJAREZ HEMMINGSON CLASS OF '68

Tom and I will be celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary this July! In those 50 years, Tom has since retired from his company and I am running my own business, Circle H Campers. We enjoy spending all of our free time with our 18 grandchildren, crocheting and travelling. One of my favorite memories that I cherish from Notre Dame Academy were the famous cinnamon rolls.

LOUISE WERNER COYLE CLASS OF '68

I am now living in Ida Grove, IA where I enjoy playing games with friends, flowers, and traveling to see my 2 daughters who live close by. A hobby I have taken interest in learning about is different cultures in the different states. I will be remembering all of our fond memories and classmates as you all celebrate this momentous evening!

MARILYN PREINER O'DONNELL CLASS OF '68

Jack and I have been married for 47 years, reside in Gretna and enjoy retired living. Our 3 children and 8 grandchildren keep us busy, but in my down time I enjoy gardening, going for walks, cooking and traveling. In October of this year, my sisters and I have planned a trip to Italy! I have nothing but wonderful memories from my time at Notre Dame and send my love to all!

MARY MILLS CLASS OF '68

Since my time at Notre Dame Academy, my 3 kids and I moved to Springvale, ME. I enjoyed reading Stephen King and gardening. John Denver is a favored musician of mine. While I like being close to the ocean, I am now on a search for a new travel destination.

JEAN BENDER LORENZ CLASS OF '68

John and I have been married for 45 years, have 2 grown sons and are both retired. In the past year, we have traveled to Arizona, Juneau, Vietnam, and Thailand. Some upcoming trips we have planned include Ohio and Omaha. While John, a Vietnam Vet, stays busy at our local Vet Center, I enjoy puttering around the house and getting out in the yard.

ANGIE BRUNO FERRARO CLASS OF '68

Since graduating, I married Frank, had 3 wonderful children and are now blessed with 6 amazing grandchildren. I have since retired from my business, Angie's Angels, a daycare that I provided to some lovely families. We moved to Texas to be closer to our daughter and her young family. We enjoy traveling to see our other family members and friends in Lincoln and Omaha. Painting, church activities, and being involved at the Daughters of the American Revolution have filled my days with joy and the opportunity to share my patriotic stories as Frank is a retired Army Major. I feel blessed and grateful for being a part of the Notre Dame Academy.

1973

Theresa Polley Bagley Class of '73

My husband of 42 years, Bill, and I have found residence in Garner, NC after The Marine Corps took us to such places as Virginia, California, and Okinawa. I am working as an admin in a real estate office and will retire at the end of 2019, so I hope! We have 3 children, Matt, Chris, and Angie and feel very blessed with 3 grandchildren. Wishing you all the best!

LaNell Miller Loftus Class of '73

My husband Tim was in the Navy when we married in 1981, which allowed us to travel to Virginia, Tennessee, and California and were blessed with our son Treygan. Tim passed away in 2013 after many years of illness from the effects of Agent Orange during his time in Vietnam. I worked as a teacher's aide for the Southbay Union School District and since taken up Zumba and yoga. I am looking forward to traveling with friends when my home remodeling projects are finished this fall.

PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY ADDRESS, EMAIL, OR ANY OTHER UPDATES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE.

SAVE THE DATE

25th Anniversary of the Celebration of Spirit Dinner
on March 24th 2019

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ALUMNAE MEMORIALS

Please pray for our beloved Alumnae and their relatives who have entered into eternal life. Those entered into the Memorial Association are remembered in the Sisters' prayer and liturgies.

Please notify Sr. Josita Hanus, ND in the Advancement Office at 402.455.2994 or jhanus@notredamesisters.org when there is a death in your family or of another alumna.

Agnes Kudrna France, '38

Jeanette Vrbas Polt, '57

Mary VanWynsberghe Rybacki, '38
sister of Margaret VanWynsberghe Hunt, '39 (d)

Anne Barna Ostronic, '58
sister of Julie Barna Lee, '69

Evelyn M Dynek Pokorny, '46
sister of Eleanor Dynek Storck, '46 (d)

Margaret Ann Rerucha Woita, '59
Joanne Paska Rosario, '60

Sr Barbara (Genevieve) Ficenc ND, '46
sister of Beatrice Ficenc, '40 (d)
sister of Mildred Ficenc Cherney, '44

Mary Jean Synowiecki Krueger, '64

Mary Louise Murphy, '66

Mary Ellen Leary Uphoff, '46

Jindra Hevrdeys Rinker, '65
sister of Helen Hevrdeys Smallfield, '68
sister of Sylvia Hevrdeys, '72

Henrietta Cahoj Spindler, '50
sister of Cecilia Cahoj Allen, '40
sister of Agnes Cahoj Sabatka, '44
sister of Mary Ann Cahoj Reinert, '54
sister of Carmelita Cahoj Berndt, '62

Barbara Ignowski Bryan, '65

Kathleen Buchan Snyder, '68
sister of Ann Buchan Etienne, '67
sister of Jacque Buchan Casey, '73
sister of Rosemary Buchan Schultz, Roncalli '75

Mary Ellen Connealy Tobin, '51

Rosemary Ferris Grotzke, '51
sister of Barbara Ferris, '57

Mary Margaret Gannon Baldwin, '68

Mary Markey Mangus, '51
sister of Sr Barbara Markey ND, '52
sister of Regina Markey McCulloh, '55 (d)
mother of Patti Mangus Grimes, '72

Catherine M Rosenthal Ryan, '68

Marcia Grant Blowers, '68

Dolores Krantz Fiala, '52
sister of Marie Krantz Follett, '34 (d)

Dolores Graskowiak Baumann, '68

Barbara Homolka Kammerer, '68

Virginia Thiele Anson, '52

Peggy Rentschler Johnson, '68

Kathleen Grimmond Krejci, '53

Mary Pat Sambasile Steckelberg, '68

- as of May 31, 2018

MEMORIALS, RELATIVES OF ALUMNAE

Susan Friend Hagemann, '69
sister of Nancy Friend, '70

Mary Lou Moss Costanzo, '72
sister of Marcia Moss McKean, '70
sister of Margaret Moss Grove, '74

Deborah L Charvat, '73

Theresa Smith Taylor, '73 Maurice Havlovic
son of Lucille Samek Havlovic, '30 (d)
brother of Clare Havlovic Schnase, '61

Richard "Dick" Frana
brother of Mildred Frana Poshusta, '34 (d)
brother of Frances Frana O'Brien, '44

Martin D Menousek
son of Rose Pavlik Menousek, '34 (d)

Edward A Ficenec Sr
brother of Clara Ficenec Janousek, '40

Raymond J Ficenec
brother of Clara Ficenec Janousek, '40

Donald W Konicek
brother of Ramona Konicek Barry, '40 (d)

Cihal, William H
brother of Henrietta Cihal Tripp, Class of 1943 (d)

Frank G Storc
husband of Eleanor Dynek Storc, '46 (d)

Ernest J Havlovic
brother of Sr Ernestine (Helen) Havlovic ND, '47
brother of Marie Havlovic Mielak, '57

Monsignor Stanley J Hayek
brother of Sr Michelle (Agatha) Hayek ND, '47 (d)
brother of Sr Phyllis Ann Hayek ND, '48 (d)

Georgia M Siragusa
sister of Sr Joan (Loretta) Polak ND, '47
sister of Rose Marie Polak Rosenberger, '52

John T Farrell
husband of Leone Sledge Farrell, '51

Kimberly Malone Gunia
daughter of Carmelita Kobza Malone, '53 (d)

Alyce M Cooney
sister of Sr Alma (Margaret) Janousek ND, '54

Leonard A Herold
brother of Sr Elaine Herold ND, '56 (d)
brother of Ruth C Herold, '58

Donald E Norman
husband of Jacquelyn Nicholas Norman, '56

Walter F Macaitis
brother of Mary Alice Macaitis Hicks, '58

Darin P Stevens
son of Kay Brutsche Stevens, '58

Kenneth H Kauffold
husband of Kathleen Schulte Kauffold, Class of 1959
brother of Patricia Kauffold Wisnieski, '54 (d)

Luke P Ranck
husband of Frances Ingram Ranck, '59

Joseph A Sypal
brother of Helen Sypal Koterba, '59

Alberta Lopez Alba
mother of Rita Alba Johnson, '60

Merrill R Johnson
husband of Rita Alba Johnson, '60

Bernard J Kalinay
brother of Bernice Kalinay Diggins, '60

Douglas E Miller Sr
husband of Marlene Mickells Miller, '60

Frank Kuthan
brother of Catherine Kuthan Dugan, '61

- as of May 31, 2018

MEMORIALS, RELATIVES OF ALUMNAE

Victor E Schlautman
father of Lois Schlautman O'Gara, '61

Jeanne Finken Lyman
sister of Linda Finken Shanahan, '62

Marjorie Catherine Sogard
sister of Carolyn Vesely Ohnoutka, Class of 1962

Paul H Baker
husband of Kaleen Petsche Baker, '63

Stephen F Manger
husband of Joann Gunia Manger, '64

John S Nebrigich, Jr
brother of Kay Nebrigich Kizzier, '64

Patricia Anne Harris
sister of Diane Sempek Widtfeldt, '66

Barbara J Hobbs
sister of Susie Stanek Mollner, '66

Jack L Huey
husband of Johanna Becker Huey, '66

Dr Bruce J Malina
husband of Diane Jacobs Malina, '66

Rosellen A McGrath
daughter of Ruth Stiles McGrath, '66

Richard "Duke" Sempek
brother of Diane Sempek Widtfeldt, '66

Mildred Ann "Millie" Zadina
mother of MaryBeth Zadina Flynn, '66
mother of Margaret Zadina Lane, '68
mother of JoAnn Zadina Zuerlein, '70

Margaret Ann "Peggy" Buchan
mother of Ann Buchan Etienne, '67
mother of Kathleen Buchan Snyder, '68 (d)
mother of Jacque Buchan Casey, '73
mother of Rosemary Buchan Schultz, Roncalli '75

Kathleen "Kay" Broгна
mother of Bonnie Broгна Madison, '67

Virginia M Chap
mother of Diana Chap Kirkman, '67
mother of Kathy Chap Schneider, '68

Joseph R Murphy
brother of Colleen Murphy Richardson, '68
brother of Mary Murphy Heath, '69
brother of Elizabeth Murphy Pitschka, '73

Salvatore A Sambasile
father of Mary Pat Sambasile Steckelberg, '68 (d)

Don "DJ" Conrad
father of Ann Conrad Therkelsen, '69

Jane W Coyle
mother of Patricia Coyle Rogers, '70
mother of Mary Coyle Robinson, Class of 1975

Phyllis S Cuva
mother of Debra Cuva Hendrickson, '70
mother of Sandra Cuva Tamisiea, '73

Michael A Steenson
brother of Margaret Steenson, '70

Leann R Karschner
mother of Linda Karschner, '72

Roy B Norris
father of Barbara Norris Steele, '72

Elmer C Beber
stepfather of LaNell Miller Loftus, '73

Dora Mae Bourrette
mother of Debra Bourrette Karwal, '73

Bennett H Gerken
brother of Michelle Gerken Wilcox, '73

Melissa Ann Jensen
daughter of Cynthia Smith Jensen, '73

Joyce Peterson
mother of Debbie Sullivan, '73

- as of May 31, 2018



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CLASS OF 1968

