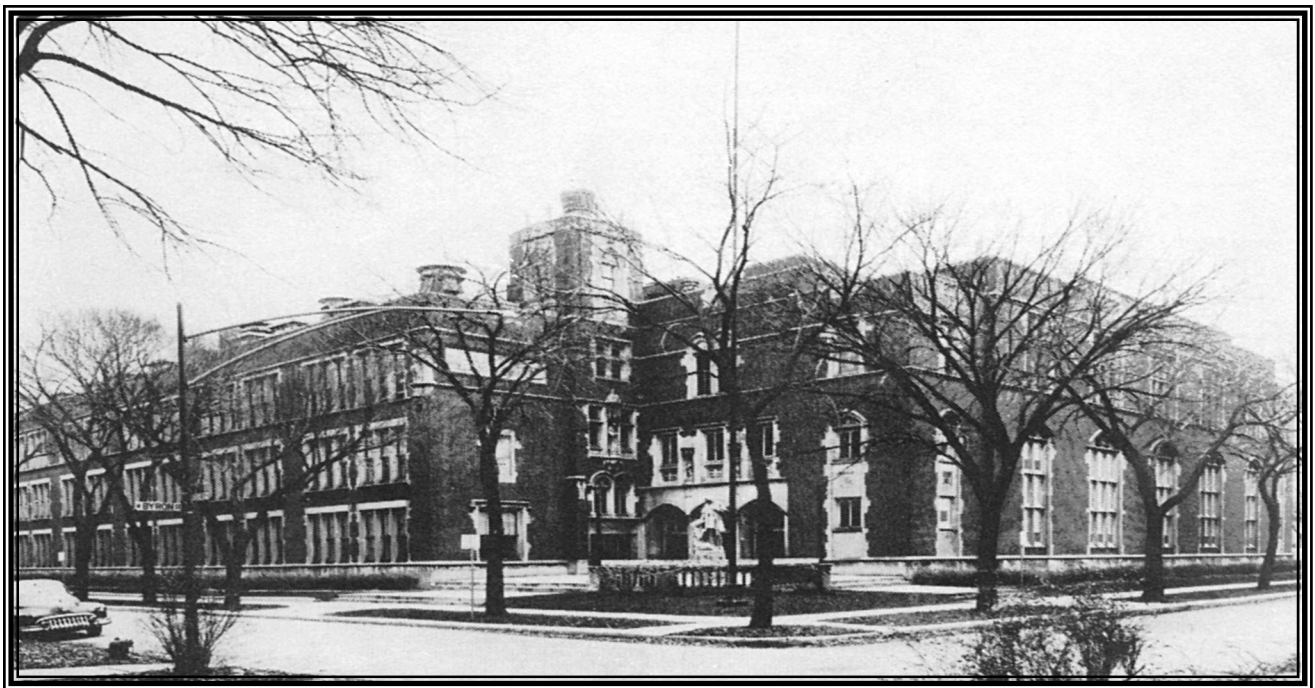


WINTER-SPRING 2021



"ALVERNIA ALIVE"



ALVERNIA HIGH SCHOOL
1924-1989

ALVERNIA ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

Website: www.alverniaalumnae.org

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE CHICAGO ADDRESS FOR YOUR MAIL. Direct your mail to the addresses listed below.
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*Newsletter also available on our website
www.alverniaalumnae.org*

2021 - Membership Dues - \$20.00

Please print:



Class of:	Last Name:	First Name:	Maiden Name:
Address:		City	State/Zip
Phone:		Email Address:	

Make check payable to the Alvernia Alumnae Association and mail with this form to:
Alvernia Alumnae Association c/o Pat Grimes, 3260 Rockwell Circle, Mundelein, IL 60060

Save the date!

Alvernia Alumnae Association

28th Annual Luncheon

October 17, 2021

Pending Illinois COVID-19 Guidelines

SWEET HOME



CHICAGO

Details in summer issue of Alvernia Alive

The Cotillion
360 South Creekside Dr.
Palatine, IL 60074

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

ALUMNAE

Marianna Oehm Broeker '40
Dorothy Muszynski '42 (2019)
Frances Rieger Tierney '42
Dorothy Mammoser Reif '43
Lorraine Keslinke Landelius '43
Mary Peifer Ciccotti '44
Kathryn Brefeld Larson '44
Dorothy Baumhardt Unger '44
Marie Spellman Kilroy '44
Mary Ann Van Driel Ripple '45
Marian McCormick Burns '46
Mary Therese Luecker Schaefer '47
Carol Weyrich Van Dyke '47
Donna Elwood Reardon '49
Mary Wienke Youngs '50
Mary Lou Bushbaum Zander '52 (1997)
Marlene Nowicke Files '52 (2012)
Joan McAdams Hawkins '52 (2017)
Margaret Weyers '54
Lorraine Schamberger Kurek '55
Mary Dolan Leveille '55
Sylvia Anichini Gaddini '56
Carol Ann Kolberg '56
Joanne Miller '56
Joan Pufundt '57
Marjorie Voss Zlotnicki '57
Kathleen Sheehan Antczak '58
Jacqueline Louise Wrout Kopolnek '58
Barbara Ferket Popp '59
Patricia Singelmann Vesper '59
Marcia Scarbeck Montgomery '60
Nancy Halik Bayne '61
Margaret Mary McGinn Iwanski '61
Dolores Obregon '61
Pat Cavallo Stack '61
Judith Holdway Peters '62
Valrie Lussem Doppke '63
Mary Ellen McEnroe Dearhammer '63
Patricia Nolan Kapton '64
Gloria Milosiewicz Litzo Ernst '64
Linda Jaskiw Rakiewicz '66
Harriet Piasecka Coffelt '66 (2018)
Christine Roslof Albiniak '70
Pamela Litz-Bievons '72
Patricia Hynes Waterman '72
Darlene Bach Connelly '78
Cheryl Jaglinski Diaz '80
Elizabeth Chesbro '80

HUSBAND OF

Shirley Malkowski Secondi '55
Miriam Niederer Droske '58
Marlene Rutkowski Mellor '61
Kitti Schaefer Miller '61
Linda Carlson Espinosa '63
Kathy Donahue Miller '63
Betty Carney Rymarsuk '63
Susan Mindak Ellinger '66
Late Linda Jaskiw Rakiewicz '66
Mary Cummings Breski '68
Nancy Conniff Ekstrom '72

MOTHER OF

Late Nancy Burski Josefchuck '60
Kathy Burski Cassert '66
Late Margaret Schaefer Sandfox '70
Joanne Tortoriello Bratta '71
Pamela Kolasinski Hirsch '71
Mary DiGiovanna George '71
Susanne Schaefer Santucci '71
Alice Neurauder Wocjik '71
Valerie Ofenloch Bardelas '72
Late Terri Mannion Smith '73
Bonnie Gawron Lauer '74
Mary Mannion Walsh '75
Christine Tokarz Passalacqua '77
Karen Kurek Stamm '77
Kathy Feller Kriz '79
Barbara Mannion McDonagh '85
Margie Mannion Garcia '87
Diane Cosentino Ferrazza (Faculty)

FATHER OF

Linda Johansen Schultz '68
Janice Ridgeway Dickenson '77

FATHER IN LAW OF

Yvonne Dionne Mundorf '82

SISTER OF

Late Dorothy Rieger Keller '37
Late Mary Louise Mammoser Burkhardt '39
Carolyn Luecker Stancil '40
Late Catherine Peifer O'Ryan '44
Late Rosemary Weyrich Maksa '45
Annette Weyrich Kaefer '48
Dolores Luecker Steffens '48
Late Doris Weyrich DeSmet '49
Late Sr. Marie McGinn, O.P. '50
Late Julia Barbara Spellman Vacala '50
Theresa Voss Burns '53
Florence Baumhard Biewalk '54
Sister Bernadette Luecker '55
Claudia Lussem Farrell '55
Barbara Voss Dowling '55
Donna McGinn Basso '58
Robertta Luecker Philip '59
Nancy Sheehan Lykowski '61
Bernadette Voss Malkowski '61
Barbara Milosiewicz Kunz '62
Suzanne Duschene Moritz '63
Laura Scarbeck Pogue '63
Late Gail Sheehan Szurdarski '63
Linda Opfergelt Halvorsen '65
Kathleen Litz '65
Late Catherine McGinn Manley '65
Suzanne Sheehan Parks '67
Paulette Litz '68
Kathleen Chesbro Naanes '71
Jeanne Miller Hartmann '71

SISTER IN LAW OF

Joanne Lovitz Wrout '58
Patricia Skupien Sheahan '68
Sally Mayerbock Usmani '71
Kathleen Morrissey Ferket '72

BROTHER OF

Eileen Droske Healy '59
Cathy Biedron Eckart '60
Sandra Cherwin Guarisco '60
Alanna Dore '61
Suzanne Duschene Moritz '63
Kathleen Breski '66
Gayle Getner Cichon '68
Sheila McMahon Dean '69
Mary Ann McKenna Kay '69
Florence Getner Vainisi '70
Sally Mayerbock Usmani '71
Late Teresa Getner Padilla '77
Jayne Nuccio Kornafel '78
Kathy Feller Kriz '79

BROTHER IN LAW OF

Late Kathleen Carney Lesiowski '52
Eileen Carney King '55
Dorothy Carney Johnson '56
Diane Niederer Seibert '58
Kay Carlson '59
Mary Carney Hammerl '65

DAUGHTER OF

Maryjean Crowe Kleisner '50
Carolyn Schier Lynn '59
Renate Hofgesang Schure '64
Christine Pollowy Kokorus '65

GRANDDAUGHTER OF

Cathy Bucaro Chapetta '63

SON OF

Late Maristelle Dalicandro Getner '48

UNCLE OF

Suanne Mrugacz Humbert '72

AUNT OF

Yvette Collins Story '71

UNCLE OF

Sue Nowiszewski '74

NEPHEW OF

Christal Heinosh Baldauf '69

COUSIN OF

Pat Polowy Somogyi '68

FACULTY

Robert Giosh
Joan Vaughan Splawski



**Eternal Rest Grant Until
Them O Lord!**

CORRECTIONS!

In our Fall issue we listed **Pamela Anderson '67** as deceased! We are happy to report that Pamela is **very much alive!**
Sincere apologies.

In the Memorials and Donations, the husband of **Esther Aiani Behnke '53** was incorrectly listed as David.
His name is **Daniel**. **Sincere apologies.**

Sister Barbara Kraemer who celebrated her 60th Anniversary as a SSSF
is from the **Class of 1959**. **Sincere apologies.**

MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS



In Memory of **Aunt Sister Vitalis Koester**, a donation of \$50.00 by her **Koesters family, Joe, Mae and Clara.**

In Memory of **Mary C. Sweeney '42**, a donation of \$100.00 by **Therese Sweeney '44**

In **Honor** of **Therese Sweeney '44**, a donation of \$50.00 by **Linda Kay Dominick Wirth '72**
and **Laura Rae Dominick Sobel '71**

In Memory of **Mary Anne Van Driel Ripple '45**, a donation of \$100.00 by **Catherine Ripple.**

In Memory of **Joyce Vanderhoof Ralston '48**, a donation of \$100.00 by **Rose Mary Wilcox Conlon '48**

In Memory of my daughter, **Kate Baba**, a donation of \$40.00 by **Maryjean Crowe Kleisner '50**

In **Honor** of **Sister Winifred Whelan '49**, a donation of \$40.00 by **Maryjean Crowe Kleisner '49**

In Memory of **Sister Vitalis Koester**, a donation of \$50.00 by **Mary Ann Dorgan Wiek '52**

In Memory of **Vivian B. Sodini Haughton '54**, a donation of \$50.00 by **Arlene Sodini '68** and **Loretta Sodini Mulatz '57**

In Memory of **Charles James**, a donation of \$50.00 by **Arlene Fonte James '57**

In **Honor** of **Sister Sandra Smithson (Maria Crucis) OSF**, a donation of \$50.00 by **Caren Basset Dybek '60**

In Memory of my brother, **Fred Biedron**, a donation of \$50.00 by **Cathy Biedron Eckart '60**

In Memory of **Marcia Scarbeck Montgomery '60**, a donation of \$50.00 by **Caroline Noel Disch '60**

In Memory of **my parents**, a donation of \$75.00 by **Jeanette Sarat Shust '61**

In Memory of **Jack & Linda Scott McMicken '63** and my parents, **Bill & Catherine Aiken**,
a donation of \$100.00 by **Marianne Aiken '63**

In Memory of **my parents**, a donation of \$25.00 by **Ann Curriere '64**

In Memory of **my brother, David Dudek**, a donation of \$200.00 by **Janice Miller '65**

In Memory of **Paul J. Wallace**, a donation of \$200.00 by **Nancy Konczyk Wallace '65**

In Memory of my parents, **Michael & Marian Parise and Joan Stroner**, former faculty, a donation of \$100.00 by
Michelle Parise Spanos '66

In Memory of **Sister Lourene OSF**, a donation of \$25.00 by **Marilyn Indovina Williams '66**

In Memory of **Lorraine Keslinke Landelius '43**, a donation of \$50.00 by **Annamarie Landelius Tracy '65**

In Memory of my mother, **Catherine Hildebrand Kennelly**, a donation of \$100.00 by **Kathleen Kennelly Martin '67**

MEMORIALS & DONATIONS

In Memory of my mother **Gladiann Urban Zandrow '39**, my aunts **Beatrice Urban White '32** and **Concetta Urban Davis '34** a donation of \$100.00 by **Mary Ann Zandrow Lillich '68**

In Memory of my mother **Anna Maria DiCosola Ofenloch** a donation of \$100.00 by **Valerie Ofenloch Bardelas '72**

In Memory of **Stephen Winet**, a donation of \$100.00 by **Jeanne Cecchin Fec '73**

In **Honor** of the **Class of 1973** a donation of \$50.00 by **Victoria E. Zickenheiner '73**

In Memory of **Cheri Oberg Hennelly '81** a donation of \$100, 00 by **Teresita J. Diaz '80**

In Memory of my parents, **Andrew & Ida Cosentino** a donation of \$100.00 by **Diane Ferrazza, Faculty**



Donations by the following to SSSF: \$2,260.00

Sister Carol Johannes, O.P. '49
 Caroljean Stutzman '52
 Sister Marcian Swanson '53
 Kathleen Maloney Gordon '53
 Kathleen Finerty Pater '55
 Pat Hesselberg Lovison Smith '55
 Mary Ann Minor '55
 Jeanette Marino Tanny '55
 Elsa E. Maestranzi '55
 Mary Maguire Hafertepe '55
 Susanne W. Donaldson '59
 Patricia Morrison Getz '59
 Carol Wisser Morris '59
 Patricia Murphy Bielick '60
 Lydia Cesario '60

Margaret Larsen Mahony '60
 Bernadette Davidson Pohlmann '62
 Patricia Lydon '63
 Patricia Steiner Mataya '63
 Rosalie Sulgit-Shay '63
 Corrine Herforth Stone '64
 Kathleen Giuliano Reyes '64
 Judy Grzeskowiak Swietlik '65
 Betty Baumgartner Bergeron '68
 Patricia Ryan Nelson '68
 Kathy Jackson Mandell '68
 Mary Hough O'Malley '72
 Mary Nash Kelley '72
 Ann Drapiewski De Bortoli '77
 Kathy Szalay Ross '77
 Tami L. Andersen '78

Prayer for a Time of Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
 remember those whose lives are at stake.
 May we who have no risk factors
 remember those most vulnerable.
 May we who have the luxury of working from home
 remember those who must choose between
 preserving their health or making their rent.
 May we who have the flexibility to care for our chil-
 dren when their schools close, remember those who
 who have no options.



May we who have to cancel our trips
 remember those that have no safe place to go.
 May we who are losing our margin money
 in the tumult of the economic market,
 remember those who have no margin at all.
 As fear grips our country, let us choose love.
 During this time when we cannot physically
 wrap our arms around each other,
 let us yet find ways to be the loving
 embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

Senior Class Plays of the 2021 Reunion Classes

1946—*Harriet*

1951—*Port of Chicago*

1956—*Before Her Shoes Were Old*

1961—*Friendly Persuasion*

1966—*Goodbye My Fancy*

1971—*Auntie Mame*

1976—*Rumpelstiltskin*

1981—*Music Man*

1986—*Cinderella*

SCHOOL SISTERS DONATION FORM

SSSF Ministries \$ _____ Retirement Fund \$ _____

In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____

Full Name & Class Year (First, maiden, married)

_____ Class Year _____

Total Check Payable to *School Sisters of St. Francis*

Mail to: **Alvernia Alumnae Association**
c/o Pat Grimes
3260 Rockwell Circle
Mundelein, IL 60060

Full Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____

Zip _____ Class Year _____

Have you moved? Are you moving soon? Have you cancelled your Landline and only have a Cell Phone now?

Maybe you changed your email address or your last name?

The Post Office does not forward bulk mail.

You might know an alum who would like to receive the Newsletter. Please use the form below for any updates.

Fill in the information below (please print) and mail or email to:

Judy Skotzko—jskotzko@outlook.com, 5306 W. Carmen Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630-2224

First Name _____ Maiden Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ Class _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ email _____

CLASS NEWS

Class of 1955

Even though this year was unforgettable, we could not let our **annual birthday party** pass without celebrating, especially since it was our 65th reunion. So we had a virtual birthday part hoping to attract more out of town classmates.



Pat Kubistal led the gathering and it was nice being able to see and speak with each other. We're hoping to again celebrate our reunion this fall in person.



Class of 1965

On February 12, with the help of Chicago Trivia Guys, **the Class of '65** organized an on-line **Trivia Night**. Thirty-five zoom sites, some with multiple players, organized in teams of 3-5, challenged each other on a wide range of popular trivia. Fun was had with the game, and the chance to see many classmates from across the country, chatting on a cold, pandemic evening.

The winning team consisted of '65ers **Janice Dudek, Dottie Fugiel, Mary Ann Pauley, and Barb Schultz**---a win some good-naturedly contested as all four had their husbands in the room! (More may have been made of this except we didn't know if they were a help or a detriment.)

The actual winners though, were our School Sisters, with over \$400 raised for them from the event. For more information on the Trivia Night, contact **Mary Grimes** at grimes.mary@att.net.



More Class News on Page 18

UPCOMING REUNIONS



At the time of this issue none of our classes have firm plans for their class reunions. We are happy to include your plans, list of missing classmates, and events August newsletter. Our 2021 Annual Alvernia Alumnae Luncheon is scheduled at The Cotillion for October 17, 2021. (Depending on State of Illinois Covid guidelines.)

Class of 1946— 75th Reunion—

Class of 1951— 70th Reunion— Class Rep Ann Kerrigan Tuohy, 846-647-8309, ann_tuohy@sbglobal.net

Class of 1956— 65th Reunion— Class Rep Sheila Duggan Dworak, 847-674-4251, shebru7@comcast.net

Class of 1961— 60th Reunion— Class Rep Peg Anderson Smykowski, 630-620-1777, pegsmy@comcast.net

Class of 1966— 55th Reunion— Class Rep Susan Mindak Ellinger, 773-775-3629, cell 773-469-3015, email sellinger9@aol.com. Watch for news in the summer issue of *Alvernia Alive*. Please contact me with any suggestions.

Class of 1971— 50th Reunion— Class Rep Eileen Lowery, eimmouse@aol.com

Class of 1981— 40th Reunion— Class Rep Angela Kordik, 847-902-4434, angelkordik81@gmail.com

Class of 1986— 35th Reunion— Class Rep Maria Balogh McElhone, 815-254-4075, dolly2502@hotmail.com

Tom Killoran will be providing photos at our next luncheon. More details in summer issue.

FROM THE EDITOR



The Fall issue of *Alvernia Alive* was a big hit with many of our alums. They loved hearing the stories of positive experiences during the pandemic. I think you will enjoy this issue too and I hope you continue to send your stories to share with our alums.

As you will notice we have not enclosed a **reservation form for the Fall luncheon**. We do have **The Cotillion** booked for **October 17, 2021**, and they are looking forward to welcoming us. However, we thought it wise to wait a little longer to assure that they will be able to provide the capacity we require. That will, of course, depend on state guidelines. We do hope that everyone will have been vaccinated by that time. If all goes well, the reservation form will be in the **summer edition** of *Alvernia Alive* and of course, on our **website**.

We have not heard from **Drury Lane** as yet so that too will (hopefully) be determined by the next issue. These have been difficult times for all theaters and their opening will also depend on capacity limits.

Our Finance Director, **Pat Grimes**, has moved from **Chicago to Mundelein**. **Please do not use any old forms** to send donations, reservations or any correspondence to her. The Post Office, as we all know, is having issues and forwarded mail can be delayed for months.

We welcome a new **Board Member, Lois Weiler Defelice, Class of 1968**. Just as with all organizations, our meetings have been via Zoom. We look forward to gathering again, sharing a hug, sharing food, and in person conversation!

Finally, please remember in prayer all our alums, their families and our School Sisters of St. Francis. Sadly many have been affected by Covid 19.

Stay Safe, Be Well, Get Vaccinated!

Barbara Stefan Annoreno '60
Director and Editor

SNIPPETS AND MORE

The Late Mary Ann Van Driel Ripple '45. Mary Ann was thrilled to attend Alvernia High School where all leadership positions were **open to girls**. She became newspaper editor and class president. She applied at the Chicago Tribune to be a copygirl but was told **“we only take copyboys.”** After marriage and 7 children, upon moving to Madison, WI, Mary Ann went back to school earning bachelor and masters degrees in Political Science at the University of Wisconsin.

She became the first woman in the state to be a lobbyist, working for a Milwaukee firm as well as volunteering her skills for Catholic causes. Over the decades she led multiple Catholic organizations in West Bend and Madison including raising money to build St. Francis Cabrini in West Bend. Mary Ann was asked to be the first woman lector at Queen of Peace Parish after Vatican II. Mary Ann started blogging in the 80's and read 3 newspapers a day until just days before her death in February 2019! (Information from Mary Ann's obituary.)

Mary Jean Crowe Kleisner '50, IL Thank you for putting together the *Alvernia Alive*. All 26 years in Florida I enjoyed it and continue to get it at my daughter's where I am living because of Covid. Planned to go into a Senior living facility in Crystal Lake, IL. **“People plan, God laughs.”**

Sister Winifred is a friend of many years ago when my husband and I lived in Waukegan, IL in a new parish, St. Damas. She came to help organize CCD classes. Two years ago when, Ken (my husband) died she reached out again with a beautiful note made from pictures she had taken.

Susan Herforth Lukas '55, Foley, AL Greetings from the Gulf of Mexico. I live in Foley, AL—10 minutes from the beach and we took a direct hit from Hurricane Sally, (which also happens to be the name of my shihtzu). Waiting for a new roof, but stayed dry and now I can say “I survived a hurricane”! So look forward always, to the Newsletter. Thank you for your hard work.

Janet Cosmos '58, Sturgeon Bay, WI Thanks for all your great work keeping us going! Hope you're keeping safe and are thriving. “The happiest days we knew!” Blessings.....

Diane Krenwinkel Nelson Roberts '59, IN All of you who spend untold amounts of time and effort so our Alvernia family can remain connected and strong are surely following the Franciscan model of service to others. Thanks so much. Although I am living in Indianapolis and really not so far from Chicago, it is sometimes difficult to get to the “Big City”. I do still miss my friends and fellow Alvernians who remain Chicagoans! (When missing my Alvernia Sisters, I try to plan a way to get to the luncheons and reunions—not always successfully!) It does help to receive the Newsletter—full of info and news of/about decades of Alumnae who walked the halls of Alvernia.

Mary Sulgit Mallon '60 IL I enjoy *Alvernia Alive* and appreciate those who put it together.

Pat Azzaline Wharry '63 NE Thanks for doing this for our association. All is well here in NE....but then nothing ever happens anyway. We're here, as our final move, because of our son and the grandchildren. God Bless.

Jane Rice Chew '64 IL Thank you for all you do. I love receiving the *Alvernia Alive* News. I appreciate your hard work.

Edie Rubilus Mazurek '65, IL My husband and sister (also a graduate) were so touched in many ways reading *Alvernia Alive*. Many thanks for all the wonderful memories and wishes to all the classmates that had taken the time to write. It was exceptionally appreciated! Great Pic of the social distancing patio gathering. In gratitude.

Joanne Barbaria Johnson '66, IL Thank you so much for all of your hard work and continual efforts in keeping us all together over the years. With our love and prayers to St. Francis, hopefully we all shall make it through and see each other in 2021. Many blessings to you!

Betty Baumgartner Bergeron '68 IL Hope all remain safe and that our regular activities, including Alvernia Alumnae events, can resume sometime in 2021! Blessings.

Vicki Kraft '72, IL Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Alvernia Alumnae. They are greatly appreciated.

SNIPPETS AND MORE

The Late Marian I. McCormick Burns '46. The son of Marian wanted to share some photos of his mother's Senior Class trip to Washington D.C. on May 20, 1946.



Marian to the right in photo above with her best friend at St. Andrew's Grammar School (Addison and Paulina).



God Bless
America!



SNIPPETS AND MORE



Ruth Hesselberg Lovison Smith, '55, San Diego, CA

Dear Alvernians,

2020 has been some year! For me I have been more active than ever. In August I put my house up for sale in Escondido, California. That meant clearing out 2 years of stuff. Then I moved 10 loads of other stuff to the new mobile home at **Lawrence Welk Village in San Diego, California.**

For an 83 year old broad I feel pretty good I was able to do this, mostly on my own. This was all in 90 to 100 degree weather in California. It's amazing what we can do. If you are thinking of downsizing go for it. I love mobile home living. I have an 1800 sq. foot home that was completely renovated. Before I had a 2400 sq. ft. home, not using two bedrooms but had lots of land and needed a gardener every two weeks. I was always working with him and telling him what to do so that was exhausting. I always worried the roof or air or other major repairs would occur. I love it now and try to keep things to a minimal and uncluttered. The people are so friendly and now no worries about major up-keep and gardening. I have a little go cart and go putt-putting around the park. They have everything you could imagine here, Bocce Ball, Tai Chi, Library, Pickleball and lots more.

This all happened with the grace of God since I streamed Masses and rosaries and chaplets with the Marians of the Immaculate Conception. It really increased my faith. I communicated with dear Christian friends every day. Now I am back to making quilts for those in need, which I have done for 25 years in the Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry. If you need a quilt just let me know, I'd love to hear from you.

Been busy baking bread, even though I don't like to bake. No Knead Bread is great and Beer Bread too. I am not a bread person but enjoy the no Knead bread especially and have enclosed the recipe.

Well, my dear friends, I hope all goes well with you and yours in the year to come. Wishing you a good life filled with contentment and gratitude. LOVE TO ALL ALVERNIA. HOW FORTUNATE WE WERE TO HAVE GONE THERE AND HAVE PLEASANT MEMORIES OF GOOD CHRISTIAN NUNS. GOD BLESS THEM!

Jenny Can Cook No Knead Bread (from Utube)



3 cups flour
1/2 Tsp yeast with
1-1/4 cups warm water
1 tsp salt

On parchment mix together and put in bowl with parchment. Sit on counter covered 3-5 hours.

Scrape and fold again; put in bowl on parchment for 35 minutes.

Put parchment and bread in pot (cast iron or stainless steel pot) for 30 minutes covered at 450 degrees

Take cover off and brown 10-15 minutes in oven. Cool and slice. Electric Knife works good.

Connie Kolssak Evans '56, N.C.

(Dear Barbara) I just read *Alvernia Alive* with thanks for your leadership and dedication. Sister Vitalis was my mentor, inspiration, and long-lasting friend. She insisted that we could all improve our lives through faith, hard work and perseverance. No matter her request, I complied. No matter her expectations in speech class, on the stage, as thespian president or a fledgling student she had confidence in me.

Thus I followed her example to become a teacher in order to mold students at all levels. Throughout my career, her messages popped into my head and heart to try my best, in leadership, with family, and in the community.

I have written about her frequently in my books because so often we forget the foundation she created. I'm sure each of us as Alvernia Alums can explain the significance of that special teacher who led us to comfortable fulfilling lives.

The Fall 2020 section on positive pandemic experiences was important for us all to realize we cope in different ways. Due to my writing focus I have written a daily blog for the past 230 days (as of Oct 15th) with contributions from friends/family. (No politics involved.) This collection takes hours daily to collate, compile, research, retype and distribute.

SNIPPETS AND MORE

(continued from page 12)

It actually is therapeutic, because I can understand those facing loss, low immune systems, depression, loneliness or days without purpose. Here are a just a few of my blogs:

Every year as I grew up in Chicago my mother planned a schedule for my dad on Saturdays to visit a butcher shop, Roser's Bakery, and specialty food stores. We lived modestly but we always ate well. In fact, my mother often prepared food for the bereaved family suffering a loss at our funeral home. It was her personal way to lessen their pain through her cooking skills. I became the expert clean-up queen, not quite like Cinderella, though.

Our son from DC with 2 of his daughters, came last week for various reasons. We loaded his car with 39 scrapbook albums compiled over 59 years of marriage. He kindly accepted a new home for these treasures. These sweet memories remind us of the roads we traveled, people we loved, and people in our lives.

These photo albums also remind us that kids are valued, respected and cherished. Their stages of growth are preserved through pictures. I spent hours, years, tears and time to capture those trips, events, holidays, and poses. Each reminds me that life was full, complete, eventful and meaningful. Yes, I was a "Scrapbookaholic", a compulsive parent who always found fun compiling memories to remember and document.

"The values we live by are worth more when we pass them on....."

The test of memory began when we paged through and couldn't remember names but the events always made a mark. Nostalgia is good for the brain and heart to grow and flourish. These pictures of experiences molded the future characters of our family. These albums are memories to be shared, at one point but at least they will remind the next generation of their rich legacy. These books visually show the foundation of family values. It may no longer be fashionable to document and decorate pages with pride, but they are tangible pages of the past family history.

Now, in isolation, no paper photos are taken. Instead, grab a phone to record an event. No time wasted on paper scrapbooks for trips down memory lane. Technology moves forward in another form. Still I did my part to preserve their heritage. Enjoy with LOVE!

P.S. What have you done with all your photos?

Connie Kolssak Evans
Front row on the right.



Jean Carlson Butler '60, Tucson, AZ Can't say I've accomplished much in the past year. "I'll do it tomorrow" seems to have taken a bit of my outlook. I did have some body parts replaced during 2020 which was good for recuperation. Couldn't go anywhere anyway!

Enclosed are my membership dues. Hope I can get to the luncheon in October, if it happens, that is. And yes, we did get snow yesterday (January 27, 2021) on our beautiful Catalina Mountains.

Maureen Hellwig '63, IL, As I perused my copy of the Fall 2020 newsletter, it occurred to me that some of my fellow classmates, and other alums from Alvernia, might be interested to know that I have written a book called *A Neighbor Among Neighbors*.

"It gave me great pleasure to write the story of a special place like Erie Neighborhood House that has been doing good work, and working for the common good these 150 years. I hope you will enjoy meeting the people that directed this work and those who benefited from it, as one immigrant or migrant group arrived in the Erie neighborhood, and then moved on, better for having engaged with Erie House."

(Continued on page 14)

SNIPPETS AND MORE

At various times in my career I volunteered, served on the board and worked as an employee of **Erie Neighborhood House**, becoming a first-hand witness of the good work done there in 50 of its 150 years. So, I wrote from that perspective, coming to believe that theirs was a story worth telling.

In this book, you will meet generations of Presbyterian church volunteers who came to help and were transformed themselves. You will learn about organizations Erie helped create and support in their early years that are, today, among the most successful among their peers. These include the **Erie Family Health Center**, **Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation**, and the **Erie Elementary Charter School**.

Born in Chicago's 33rd year as a city, **Erie Neighborhood House** has witnessed its home town prosper through the contribution of five generations of immigrants, who came here seeking a better life. Few institutions have had such a view from the same address for 150 years. But it was not just a passive witness. When neighbors were tired and hungry, Erie House fed them, not just with food-with knowledge. Through education Erie House empowered their neighbors to become citizens who take that privilege seriously. Numerous volunteers from Presbyterian churches throughout Chicagoland, motivated by the social gospel, came to Erie House to give and were constantly amazed at how much they received, because a settlement house fosters reciprocity.

Dutch, Norwegian, German Polish, Italian, African American, Puerto Rican, or Mexican—you were welcome at Erie House. From preschooler to elder, you had a second home there. How Erie House and so many immigrants and migrants struggled and prospered together is the story that unfolds in *A Neighbor Among Neighbors*, marking Erie's 150 years as a "home with no borders."

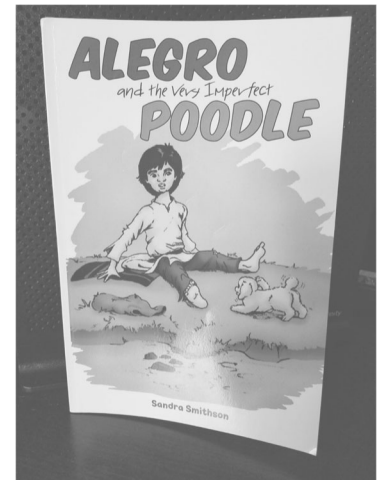
(For information on how to order this book in paperback or how to download it electronically, contact MIPJ Publishing at <http://www.mipj.org>)

Sister Sandra Smithson (Sister Maria Crucis) Nashville, TN, has written a book, *Alegro and the Very Imperfect Poodle*.

Left alone at age seven, having raised himself in a wild and isolated valley to the age of twelve, young **Alegro** sets out on a journey to find companionship and wealth in a city over the mountain. What he finds is a series of hard lessons that ultimately will change his life for the better in ways he could not imagine.

Sandra Smithson tells a tale of adventure and discovery in a world not always friendly but with opportunities in the most unlikely places with the most unlikely people—and one *Very Imperfect Poodle*.

The book is \$14.95 plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. It will also be available in our Gift Shop at the luncheon. Proceeds from the sale of this book will go to the SSSF.



If you wish to order now, please send a check for \$17.95 made out to the Alvernia Alumnae Association, c/o Barbara Annoreno, 212 Eric Avenue, Mount Prospect, IL 60056.

Sister Marian Abing, WI I just finished reading the latest publication of *Alvernia Alive*, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you for all your hard work and the many, many hours that you must have put into it. I read it from cover to cover and liked everything that was reported and shared, beginning with your "Reflections" and ending with the "Memories" and pictures. You (and your helpers) certainly put in a lot of hours and have a gift for organizing and writing and making it all quite enjoyable to read.

Even though I am not an alum of Alvernia, I am a School Sister of St. Francis and have always been interested in everything concerning Alvernia high School. May God bless you, and as you wrote towards the end, may you also "be safe, be well".

Koesters Family, Santa Barbara, CA, We enjoyed seeing the poem and picture of our dear Aunt Sister Vitalis Koester in the last issue of *Alvernia Alive*.

PIANO LESSONS

(True story by Mildred Honor, former elementary school music teacher, Des Moines, IA)

I had supplemented my income by also teaching piano lessons for over 30 years. During those years, I found that children have many levels of musical ability, and even though I have never had the prodigy, I have taught some very talented students. However, I have also had my share of what I call “musically challenged pupils”!

One such pupil being Robby, an 11 year old when his mother (a single mom) dropped him off for his first piano lesson. I prefer that students (especially boys) begin at an earlier age, which I explained to Robby. But Robby said that it had always been his mother’s dream to hear him play the piano, so I took him as a student.



At the end of each weekly lesson he would always say “my mom’s going to hear me play someday”. But to me, it seemed hopeless; he just did not have any inborn ability. I only knew his mother from a distance as she dropped Robby off or waited in her aged car to pick him up. She always waved and smiled, but never dropped in. Then one day Robby stopped coming for his lessons. I thought about calling him, but assumed that because of his lack of ability he had decided to pursue something else. I was also glad that he had stopped coming. He was a bad advertisement for my teaching! Several weeks later I mailed a recital flyer to the students’ homes. To my surprise, Robby (who had received a flyer) asked if he could be in the recital. I told him that the recital was for current pupils and that because he had dropped out, he really did not qualify.

He told me that his mother had been sick and unable to take him to his piano lessons, but that he had been practicing. “Please Miss Honor, I’ve just got to play,” he insisted. I don’t know what led me to allow him to play in the recital—perhaps it was his insistence or maybe something inside of me saying that it would be all right.

The night of the recital came and the high school gymnasium was packed with parents, relatives and friends. I put Robby last in the program, just before I was to come up and thank all the students. I thought any damage he might do would come at the end of the program and I could always salvage his poor performance through my ‘Curtain Closer’.

Well the recital went off without a hitch, the students had been practicing and it showed. Then Robby came up on the stage. His clothes were wrinkled and hair messy. I thought “Why isn’t he dressed up like the other students? Why didn’t his mother at least make him comb his hair for this special night?”

Robby pulled out the piano bench, and I was surprised when he announced that he had chosen to play Mozart’s Concerto No. 21 in C Major. I was not prepared for what I heard next. His fingers were light on the keys, and they even danced nimbly on the ivories. Never had I heard Mozart played so well by anyone his age.

After six and a half minutes, he ended in a grand crescendo, and everyone was on their feet in wild applause!!! Overcome and in tears, I ran up on stage and put my arms around Robby in joy.

“I have never heard you play like that, Robby, how did you do it?” Through the microphone Robby explained: “Well Miss Honor, Remember I told you that my mom was sick? Well, she actually had cancer and passed away this morning. And well...she was born deaf, so tonight was the first time she had ever heard me play, and I wanted to make it special.”

There wasn’t a dry eye in the house that evening. As people from Social Services led Robby from the stage to be placed into Foster care, I noticed that even their eyes were red and puffy. I thought to myself then how much richer my life had been for taking Robby as my pupil. He had taught me the meaning of Perseverance and Love and Believing in Yourself, and maybe even taking a chance on someone and you didn’t know why.

(Robby was killed years later in the senseless bombing at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in April 1995.)

Thank you, Jeanie Friedrichs Roller ‘57, for sharing this beautiful story!

November 26, 2020

Alvernia Alumnae Association

Dear Pat and all the generous members of the Alvernia Alumnae Association,

Thank you! The spirit of Christmas gloriously shines through your generous gift of \$15,000.00 from your faithful alumae who care so deeply for our sisters. Knowing that your luncheon was not able to take place this spring, this unexpected, but very welcomed gift means so much to our community! We are especially grateful that with so many challenges facing our world, you have chosen to be a beacon to our sisters that the incredible women of Alvernia always keep them in their thoughts and prayers! YOU are part of our life-changing ministries that flow from God's generous love.

By sharing your gift, you join us as *disciples of service* in the care of our retired sisters. These women have given the gifts of their lives as educators and healers, willing servants and effective agents of change, acting for good in local communities and in the world. Their legacy is found in the countless lives of people with whom the sisters have engaged, loved and enhanced by their presence. By compassionately caring for our sisters, you express gratitude for their years of faithfully being disciples of service to others.

We pray that God will bless you for your faithful service. May the King of Glory be present to you this Christmas, bringing you peace and filling your heart and home with joy!

Blessings,

Sister Mary

Sister Mary Diez
President

Pam Mueller

Pam Mueller
Director of Mission Advancement

Your gift of \$15,000.00 was processed on 11/24/2020. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution. Please retain this letter as your receipt for tax purposes.

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70 Mary Clark Bucaro
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70 Roberta Hajewski Busam

CLASS NEWS

Turning 70 in 2020

70 Anne Chambers
70 Patricia Rizzo Cicero
70 Gwen Burg Cooper
70 Roni Patterson Fannin
70 Susan Glas
70 Patricia Jennings Kuczwar
70 Mary Campanelli LaCorcia
70 Mary Fran Loftus
70 Sandra Griffin Lowery
70 Kathleen McGovern
70 Vickie Kryglewski Palici
70 Mary Schmitt Peters
70 Claudia Pierog
70 Kathy Swallow Samuel
70 Paulette Steiner Sowonik
70 Barbara LeComte Sweeney
70 Sue Tararo
70 Gloria Urbanski
70 Susan Schwartz Willis
71 Joanne Owens Leslie
71 Eileen Lowery
71 Kathleen Chesbro Naanes
71 Jan LaRocca Robertson
71 Nancy Quarles Steward
73 Maryann Hunsdorfer Boubel
73 Kathleen O'Connor Casey
73 Jeanne Cecchin Fec
73 Candy Fisher
73 Patricia Durkin George
73 Marianne Tuchscherer
Hardine
73 Linda Burgess Hehir
73 Nancy Olsen Manion
73 Char Scro Martin
73 Lisa Waldman Pometta
73 Susan Rutter
73 Donna Wozny Swanson
73 Karen Olofson Szejka
75 Judith Malarski Roszkowski
75 Elizabeth Skiba Slauter
75 Barbara Meger VanAuker
76 Margaret Goecke Alford
76 Patricia McElligott
76 Beth Schweda Murphy
81 Mary Bieze
81 Elizabeth Bigwood
81 Sylvia Kovacs-Langan
82 Yvonne Dionne Mundorf

Guest Sandra Wilson
Faculty Kay Moran
Faculty Carol Quagliano
VanDurme
Faculty Dulcinee Walsh
Faculty Adrienne Zader

Apologies for any omissions
or spelling errors.

The **Class of 1968** always looks forward to making memories with our friends of over 50 years. Sometimes this involves planning a trip with a group of our classmates, going to a play and dinner, playing Bar Bingo on Thursday evenings at Moretti's in Edison Park, or gathering for breakfast on the first Saturday of the month at Elly's in Arlington Heights.

Once March of 2020 hit and the pandemic and quarantine became the only language anyone spoke, it made our gatherings a lot more challenging. The trip we were hoping to have, celebrating birthdays in Nashville, got cancelled as the tour company went out of business. Dinner and plays stopped as the theaters closed, and dining was only outside with small numbers. Not to be undone, we looked for new ways to celebrate.

There were a number of "drive by" birthday celebrations. The first one we did had exactly 7 cars in line. Wasn't planned but we had one car for every decade. Breakfast became a Zoom call once a month to keep us connected, and of course doing it through Zoom allowed classmates from other parts of the country to join us.

For a few brief moments in the summer we were able to meet at a classmate's gazebo and visit with the swans. She had documented the life of these swans on Facebook so we were excited to see them in person, and have masked socially distant visits with friends.

70 was meant to be a milestone in our lives, little did we think it would be marked by a pandemic!

Looking forward to future times together.



Lois Weiler DeFelice '68

CLASS REPS

Our Alumnae Association has a two-fold purpose: to keep the Spirit of Alvernia alive within its members and to raise funds for the Sisters who guided us in our earlier years. A Class Rep helps to accomplish these goals by:

1. Keeping an accurate class list, establishing a network within the class to contact members.
2. Contacting classmates to:
 - a) Gather items for the newsletter.
 - b) Promote enthusiasm and class representation at the various functions.

Class Reps are NOT responsible for organizing reunions.

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Names in bold are on Facebook.

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**ALVERNIA ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
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SWEET HOME CHICAGO

28th Annual Alvernia Alumnae Luncheon

October 17, 2021

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