



ST. PAUL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER



October 2009

'Tis the Season for Reunions!

Class of 1959 - 50th Reunion

The Class of 1959 celebrated its 50th reunion on August 29th at the Embassy Suites in Burlingame, with 41 members attending. [Ed. Note: this was their third as Golden Belles in a year] Margie Costello Renault provided this account: "Oh, what a night it was! It was a warm summer evening filled with nostalgia, endless conversation and laughter, and reconnecting and discovering new facets of our classmates' lives since graduation. We were honored to have Sister Maureen and Sister Karen of our Alumnae Association with us. Father Jack O'Neill, who grew up in St. Paul's parish, said the Mass before dinner and entertained us with his Irish wit and great storytelling skills.

"Sister Betty Avalos, BVM, our classmate, served as M.C., handing out awards to Angie Barberini Johnson for the most grandchildren (14), Mary Bremner Burke of Texas for coming the greatest distance, and Tessie Browne Sullivan for residing the longest in her Eureka Valley neighborhood in which she grew up and where she still lives. We were treated to a musical number from the "Garvey Girls" production by some of the same classmates who sang it in our high school operetta. There was an impressive memorabilia table covering all aspects of our four years at St. Paul's. Alice Matheron

Some of the organizers, Nancy Borgia Singleton, Margie Costello Renault, and Angela Barberini Johnson, who were clearly pleased with their great reunion.



Two class members were at a reunion for their very first time since high school: Jeanine Datzman Robertson and Mary Bremner Burke. They are joined by Class President Anne Anderson Zarate (right).

Gillibert's mother saved multiple items from high school, and Tessie Browne Sullivan even provided a uniform! And there was identity theft in the form of name tags being exchanged by two creative classmates to test the rest of us.

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Nancy Laherty, Kathleen McGowan Urmini, Maureen Kelleher Lennon, Mary Bremner Burke and Mary Hanifin King gave a rendition of "Garvey Girls," their high school operetta.

PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

Dear Alumnae,

Katy O'Shea '48 and I have just returned from Mt. Carmel where we attended the 75th Jubilee Celebration of Sister Mary Ann Shea '33 (Katy's cousin) as a BVM Sister. It was also our honor to present to Sister Mary Ann Zollmann, the current President of the BVMs and former teacher in our high school, a check in the amount of \$6,000 from the proceeds of our April Fundraiser. Sister was most grateful for our gift and said how amazingly devoted and loyal our Alumnae Association is to the Sisters - and we certainly are!

Saturday, November 7, 2009 is our Annual Homecoming Mass and Luncheon and the Class of 1960 are our Golden Belles and honored guests. It's a wonderful day to come together to renew friendships, to make new ones, and to celebrate coming home to St. Paul's. Hope to see you all there.

One of our most beloved traditions is Candlelighting. This year it will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Paul's Church. It is truly a beautiful way to usher in the true spirit of Christmas with Alumnae, family, and friends. Mark your calendars.

I am looking forward to seeing you and celebrating with you at our Luncheon and at Candlelighting. These are times when we can all sing "For you, St. Paul's, we loudly cheer with loyal hearts today" -- and really mean it!

Marilyn Highlander-Pool '63
Alumnae President

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT SISTER ROSEMARY SAGE...

I was so sad to hear of Sister Rosemary Sage's death. She was very good to me during school and in the years following. I can still vividly see her, arms under cape, standing at the door to Room 9, herding us down the hall with just her eyes. **-Pat Kennedy Jewett '65**

Editor's Note: You can read the funeral reflections by going to the website of the Sisters of Charity, BVM (www.bvmcong.org), then go to What's New (on the left) and then to Obituaries. Scroll down to Sister's entry from August 24, 2009.

SR. ROSEMARY (MICHAEL DAVID) SAGE DIES MEMORIAL PLANNED



She told her sisters that she hoped she would die on her 95th birthday, but it was a few days later when **Sister Rosemary Sage, BVM '31** was born into eternal life on August 24, 2009. Her frail body was no match for the pneumonia that had set in. One of her great blessings was that her mind was fully functional until the very end.

For twenty years Sister Rosemary, better known to many as Sister Mary Michael David, taught at St. Paul's High, and many are the students who speak of the writing skills she helped them develop. She was the moderator of "The Spires" and her journalism students will remember working in the "Belfry" to do the work. To all other students, the "Belfry" was just a cloak room on the landing outside room 19. To the staff of "The Spires," it was where it all came together.

The school came into possession of an old printing machine called a multilith and Sister Mary Michael David learned how to print our school paper. Photographs were burned into stencils on a "Violite" (sp?) machine. Sister's preferred name for the multilith was "The Beast" because the chemicals needed to make it print were so harsh on her hands. (This might be a good time to look through your old memorabilia and find a copy of "The Spires.") She was the kind of woman who never sought attention for herself but always worked hard to have her students achieve.

The Alumnae Association has decided to honor her by modifying the annual Mass for the recently deceased held in January of each year. This year the Mass will be celebrated in the church at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 9, 2010 and will be followed by a reception in the parish hall. All are invited to come and share their stories. We are hoping that Sister Rosemary's two sisters and possibly other relatives will be able to join us. If any alumnae are interested in doing a reading at Mass or helping in any way, please get word to our president, Marilyn Highlander-Pool, by January 1, 2010. Thank you. **- Moderator, Sister Maureen O'Brien, BVM**

1959 Reunion... *continued from p. 1*

“So many awesome success stories of personal, career, and professional accomplishments and also true grit in meeting the challenges of serious health and life issues and losses were shared. Here’s to you, St. Paul’s, a debt of gratitude for empowering us to achieve and to navigate life’s storms!”

Nancy Singleton, one of the main organizers, received this lovely message from Mary Bremner Burke who came from Cypress, TX: “I just wanted to take a minute and thank you for the wonderful job you did getting us altogether. Jeanie [Datzman Robertson] and I enjoyed ourselves very much. I am so glad the Alumnae Association got in touch with me. It meant a lot to see all my classmates again. I think I was in awe the whole time I was there. The whole reunion was like magic. I hope to be able to get back before another 50 years. Give everyone my warmest regards.”

And some of the class stayed up talking until 2:30 a.m. Oh, my!

Class of 1969 - 40th Reunion

One of the lead organizers, Rosalie Michael Gonsolin, wrote ahead of the event: “A few of the gals and I went over to the Sausalito Cruising Club for drinks, dinner and dancing and it sure was a lot of fun. It is a very informal barge with a lot of personality right on the water. One of the gals will be docking her personal boat (2 bedrooms and a kitchen) behind the barge and she will host a champagne brunch the next day for whoever wants to come. We are all looking forward to it as many of us are staying over at friend’s homes or hotels.”

After the event, she wrote, “I can’t tell you what an incredible success our reunion was. We didn’t stop



partying from 6:00 p.m. when people started arriving until 1:30 a.m. when we all stopped dancing. It was a wonderful evening and one that many of us didn’t want to ever end.

We all thank St. Paul’s for playing a big part in us becoming the strong, independent women we are today. I don’t think I have ever heard one negative comment about our school, as all of us have the fondest memories, and we have you and the other wonderful nuns who taught us to thank for this.”

Class of 1984 - 25th Reunion

Planning began nearly a year ago when Gladdie Ocampo Contreras graciously took on the roll of chair. Everyone pulled together to help make the reunion a tremendous success. Cira Gonzalez Bauer and her husband opened their restaurant/bar Azul in San Francisco for the festivities. On Saturday, 8/1/2009 at 6:30 p.m, as alumnae and guests arrived at Azul, everyone greeted each other with hugs and a genuine “I’m so happy to see you.” Lorraine Chan Whitley and team assembled keepsake name tags with a graduation picture for each alumnae.

Gladdie opened the evening by welcoming alumnae and guests, and introduced Jude Blanco Wolf, Student Body Vice President, who led a prayer, Audrey Konkle Villyard, Student Body President, who offered some inspirational words, and Emilia Alarcon, Class Vice President, who led a toast to the Class of 1984.

Generous alumnae donated items for a fundraiser to benefit the SPHS Alumnae Scholarship Fund. This event was spearheaded by Bobbie Cuaresma Galang and raised nearly \$1,000. [Editor’s Note: The Alumnae are especially grateful for the efforts toward supporting the tuition assistance program!] The Grand Prize winner was Audrey Konkle Villyard with a weekend accommodation at the Windsor Worldmark Resort in the Sonoma wine country, donated by Bobbie C. Galang.

Mid-evening, all alumnae members gathered for a group photo but the assembled crowd was larger than the camera could capture. A rousing rendition of the St. Paul High School song followed. Dancing continued through the night for some alumnae and guests who couldn’t bear to leave. Congratulations to the class of 1984 for having a successful and memorable 25th Reunion! (See photos, p. 5)

Organizer Rosalie Michael Gonsolin of the Class of 1969 reunion (second from right) is joined by her sister as guest (on right) and two of the other organizers, Lizette Alfaro Collins and Gladys Ramirez Aquino.



THE PARTY LINE

[Ed. Note: Interesting news and tidbits about alums, their families, endeavors, moves, work, etc. will appear here. Births and deaths will continue to be gathered into the traditional "ALUMNAE NEWS." Contact the

Alumnae with items for publication.]

Frances Carroll '32 (dec) made a \$500,000 donation to the St. Vincent DePaul Society in her will to establish a permanent home for Rosalie House, the Society's emergency shelter for 30 women and children, victims of domestic violence. Her generosity was recognized in the Summer 2009 issue of the Vincentian News. She and her sister **Julia '32 (dec)** were constant supporters of this project since its beginning in 1983.

Gertrude O'Connor Stopper '49 works as Account Representative at the Blood Centers of the Pacific in Millbrae.

Pat Driscoll Jordan '52 has been an enthusiastic volunteer at St. Anthony Dining Room in San Francisco's Tenderloin for eight years. Monday, 9/22, she met **Nancy Barrett-Faculty**, now Assistant Principal at Holy Names High School in Oakland, as she accompanied some of the sophomore girls on a service-learning day.

Lydia Sharp Cass '53, out of touch since 2002, contacted the Alumnae. She married her high school sweetheart, Tom Brian, after graduation. He died in an accident, leaving her with four small children. She remarried a few years later and had more children. Her husband passed away last year. She lives in Santa Rosa.

Eileen Brosnan Weston '58 is Assistant Archivist at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA.

Linda Stanfield Erb '65 is an RN working as Medical Audit Coordinator for Kaiser in Stockton, CA.

Mary Stock Greppi '68 is the Assistant Director of the Willie Lopez Emergency Assistance Fund at Men's Warehouse, Inc. in the East Bay.

Silvia Pomposo '69 works at the Sullivan Funeral

Home on Market Street, and lives upstairs! She met several alums, including Sr. Maureen O'Brien, BVM, at the wake of **Gertrude Walker Winter '36** in August.

Nancy Fray Welton '74 is Safety Manager at Schwan's Shared Services, LLC.

Avelina Gamino Blankman '81 lives with her husband of 20 years, Dr. Robert Blackman, a chiropractor, in Cathedral City, near Palm Springs. They have two children (Joseph 18 and Natalia 7). She is an instructor in the Medical Assisting Program and credits her classroom management to teachers like Sr. Margaret Prussing and Sr. Anne Marie McNamara who did not put up with any "antics" from students.

Shirley Olmedo Interiano '82 and husband Ernesto live in Rodeo, CA. They just celebrated 25 years of marriage, have two sons and a daughter and a granddaughter, Layla Marie Interiano, born 11/29/2008. Shirely has been employed by the US Postal Service for 25 years.

Xiomara Downing Mendoza '82 has been married for 23 years to her high school sweetheart, J. Carlos. They have two children, a son Carlos (21, attending UC Davis) and a daughter Xio (who just celebrated her quincenera).

Veronica Heze Bambrick '82 is an independent jewelry consultant.

Elisa Murguia Sullivan '83 is the Audit Manager in the Office of the Controller of the City and Country of San Francisco.

Yessenia Fuentes-Ganga '84 is Purchasing Agent for Bay-Tec Engineering.

Annabelle Lindo Anido '89 is married with 2 children (a boy 13 and a girl who is 5 in kindergarten). She received a Masters in Science in IT Managment on December 2007 from Golden Gate University and works for Wells Fargo as a Business Systems Consultant in the Technology and Operations Group. She says, "It is a really great job with the flexibility I need as a parent. My life keeps me pretty busy and I love it."

Jessika Garcia '94 wrote that her daughter Jeza is friends with Noelle Atkins, the SM Carlita Scholarship winner. They both attended St. Paul Elementary and are beginning high school at Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep.

Michelle Gaggero-Chamorro '95 wrote: "I was blessed that Fr. Tom [Seagrave] baptized [our new baby] Eva following his last Mass on April 26, 2009. Fr. Tom married my parents in 1976 and baptized me in 1978. Eva wore the same dress that my grandmother made for me for my baptism. It was an extremely special day! And all of my closest St. Paul HS sisters were there to help me celebrate. I am truly blessed and it is in part because of the extended family I have at St. Paul's!"

CAN YOU FIND A HOME FOR A LOVELY DOG?

Dolly Shisler '83, who lives in San Francisco, needs to find a home for her dog Patches, a 5-year old female medium-sized short-haired mutt, all white with brown ears and polkadots, who is great with people and kids, has a torn knee but walks just fine; all her shots are current. Please contact Dolly at dolly_shisler@rocketmail.com if you know of a good home.

MASSES for	Nov 11	Wed	8:30 a.m.
ALUMNAE and	Dec 18	Fri	8:30 a.m.
BENEFACTORS,	Jan 10	Sun	9:15 a.m.
LIVING and	Feb 13	Sat	4:30 p.m.
DECEASED	Mar 19	Fri	8:30 a.m.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Jeanie Datzman Robertson '59 had knee surgery in early July and requests prayers.

Noelle Valladares, daughter of Jill Wilk Valladares '71, had a bone marrow transplant in July as treatment for AML leukemia.

Karen Hart Davis '74 has a recurrence of cancer.

Pat Hart, mother of Jill Hart Alcantar '71 and Karen Hart David '74, had surgery 7/25/09 for a recurrence of cancer and will face chemotherapy soon.

Eartha Cook Aragon '89 had surgery 8/4/09 for breast cancer and requests prayers and support.

Mary Bremner Burke '59 asks prayers for her husband Jim who is in the hospital.

Sr Karen Conover, BVM – Faculty requests prayers for her father whose condition is deteriorating and has spent much time in a convalescent hospital.

Carmel McDonnell - Associate was in a serious auto accident in early September and is still in intensive care with multiple injuries.

Dolly Shisler '83 is facing tests regarding a newly discovered cyst on her kidney and a lesion on an ovary.

Class of 1984 (left & lower) had a great time at their gathering, with a fabulous raffle benefitting the Alumnae Scholarship program.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Nov. 5 Alumnae Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Rectory

Saturday, Nov. 7 Annual Mass and Luncheon
Mass at 11:00 a.m. St. Paul Church
Lunch follows in the Parish Hall
Class of 1960 Golden Belles

Thursday, Dec. 10 Candlelighting
7:00 p.m. St. Paul's Church

Saturday, Jan. 9
Memorial Mass for Sr. Rosemary Sage
11:00 a.m.
Reception following

New Arrivals: ...Eva Amaya, born to **Michelle Gaggero-Chamorro '95** and husband Carlos, on 2/13/09

Congratulations: ...**Darlene Robles '79** married Tom Hensing on 8/30/08

May They Rest in Peace:

Alumnae Members: ...**Lorraine Grondona Clifton '37**, on 11/26/08; ...**Sr. Elizabeth Murray, SHF '50**, on 7/3/09; ...**Margaret Karp '37**; ...**Mary Jane (Maureen) Collins '46**, on 8/8/09; ...**Gertrude Walker Winters '36**, sister of Lorraine Walker Rapp '37, on 8/18/09; ... **Sr. Rosemary (Michael David) Sage, BVM '31**, sister of Bernardine Sage Washburn '33 and Barbara Sage Russell '36, aunt of Louise Wehser '64, on 8/24/09; ... **Barbara McCall '63**, sister of Bernadette McCall Proulx '58, former sister-in-law Mary Charbonneau Livermore '56, on 9/26/09

Extended Family: ...**Romilda Ida Zucconi**, mother of Tina Zucconi Celi, on 5/14/09; ...**Rosa Lopez**, mother of Marta Lopez Bayol '76, Sylvia Lopez '77, Maria Lopez '80, Elsa Lopez '81, Maritza Lopez '83, and Raquel Lopez '84, in 8/09;...**Edward Gonnella**, father of Barbara Gonnella Dilts '68, Madeleine Gonnella Licavoli '70, Regina Gonnella '71, and Marian Gonnella Leos '72 (dec), on 9/22/09; ...**Pauline Aquilina**, mother of Mary Ann Aquilina Shepard '74 and Rose Aquilina '76, on 9/22/09

Correction: **Katherine Ruane O'Malley '67** (whose death was reported in the March 2009 issue) was incorrectly listed as Kathleen; **Denise (Gail) Valmore Price '80** (incorrectly reported as 1981 in July 2009 issue)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please send information about birth of children, degrees earned, and death of fellow alums and immediate family members of alumnae so that we may pray for one another. It is also very helpful to indicate all immediate family members of the deceased who are alumnae of St. Paul High School (and year of graduation, if possible). This information and these connections are not always known unless we are informed. Send information to: SPHS Alumnae, 221 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131 or via email to <sphsalumnae@yahoo.com> Thank you.

Thank You, Sister.

...a letter campaign in support of women religious

As many of you know, last January, the Vatican launched an apostolic visitation of institutes of women religious in the United States. Headed by Mother Mary Clare Millea, superior general of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, this study is meant to examine the "quality of life" of communities of women religious and look into ways in which women religious "contribute to the welfare of the church and society."

Now is the time for those of us who have been served by or served with women religious to stand in support and express our gratitude for these women who have given us so much.

All are invited to write letters in support of women religious which will be posted at www.thankyousister.com and sent to Mother Mary Clare Millea, Cardinal Franc Rode, Cardinal Francis George, and Pope Benedict XVI as well as leadership teams of communities of women religious in the US. In these letters, you are invited to share personal stories about how women religious have impacted your "quality of life," express messages of gratitude and/or convey general messages of support.

As November is the month of giving thanks, the letters will be posted on the site throughout the month of November, but please start writing now.

Here are the steps to contribute your message of support

and gratitude:

- . •Go to www.ipetitions.com/petition/thankyousister
- . to make your commitment to write a letter.
- . •Write your letter in 700 words or less.
- . •Send your letter to www.thankyousister.com before November 1, 2009. Please include your name, city and state in the message or indicate if you would like your message to remain anonymous.
- . Read your message and messages from others at www.thankyousister.com from November 1 through November 30, 2009.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Kate Childs Graham at thankyousister@gmail.com

ALUMNAE CANDLELIGHTING

The traditional annual Alumnae Candlelighting will take place Thursday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. in St. Paul Church.

The program will include familiar hymns and carols. If you read music, are choir material, and would like to come at 6:00 p.m., we'll again practice the "Hodie" and a couple of other special hymns. Just meet in the church.

Invite family and friends, if you would like. We hope you will be able to join us for this lovely evening of song, prayer, and anticipation of Jesus' birth.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON REQUIRES RESERVATION

The Alumnae Board has discussed the recurring problem of people showing up for the luncheon without having made and paid for reservations by the due date.

This creates embarrassment and has even caused the caterer to run out of food.

Please note: In order to give the caterer an accurate count and to insure that sufficient seating is set up for everyone, RESERVATIONS AND PRE-PAYMENT ARE REQUIRED for the luncheon.

NO WALK-INS can be accommodated. NO payments will be handled at the door.
RESERVATIONS NOT RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 30th CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.



The Alumnae appreciate your cooperation, as this helps the planning committee to make this a special event for the Golden Belles and for all the attendees.

••ANNUAL MASS & LUNCHEON RESERVATION••

Saturday, November 7, 2009 •• 11:00 a.m. Mass - Luncheon follows

Name _____ Class of _____
First Maiden Married

Address _____ Phone () _____
(only if different from reverse) Street address, City, State, ZIP

SERVED LUNCHEON..... \$ 35.00 \$ _____

(please indicate)

Entree: _____ Herb Roasted Chicken with a Sauteed Mushroom & Wine Sauce

_____ Vegetable Lasagne with Fresh Fruit Garnish

Green Salad, Cheesecake, Wine and Beverages



DUES (2009-10)\$ 15.00 \$ _____

TOTAL enclosed \$ _____

NOTE: ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. NO WALK-INS WILL BE ACCEPTED and NO payments will be received on the day of the event.

We MUST have an accurate pre-count for the caterer and for those setting up!

Make check payable to: St. Paul HS Alumnae Association
221 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131

PLEASE POSTMARK NO LATER THAN UESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2009
MUST BE RECEIVED by FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2009 TO SECURE A RESERVATION.

CONTACT US

For newsletter items: newsletter@sphsalumnae.org
 For general information: info@sphsalumnae.org
 For information about posting class business or linking
 your reunion site: webmaster@sphsalumnae.org

And you can also send a message via sphsalumnae@yahoo.com which will reach the Newsletter Editor.

And don't forget to visit our **ALUMNAE WEBSITE** at www.sphsalumnae.org for all pertinent items for the St. Paul High School Alumnae Association.

St. Paul High School Alumnae Newsletter

is published three times a year: March, July, and October.

- It is sent to all alumnae, faculty and staff of St. Paul High School, San Francisco, for whom current addresses are available.
- Printing and mailing costs are provided in part by annual dues and supported from proceeds of the Annual Fundraiser.
- Deadline for submission of articles or information is the first day of March, July, and October.

• Editor: Sr. Karen Conover, BVM

ANNUAL DUES . . .

. . . A SMALL PRICE TO BE CONNECTED!

It's that time of year again! Annual dues, a mere \$15 per year, help defray the cost of printing and mailing the Newsletter. Each of three editions costs about \$3,600 (for printing and stamps).

The dues reminder was omitted by mistake from the July 2009 issue, so we have a lot of catching up to do!

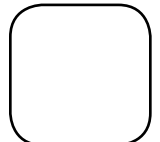
Please know that each person's contribution is valuable in keeping the Spirit of St. Paul's alive!

**2009-2010 Annual Alumnae Dues
of \$15.00 are payable now.**

**Please make checks payable to
SPHS Alumnae Association.**

You may include dues with your Luncheon Reservation – see p. 7. Thank you!

**ST. PAUL HIGH SCHOOL
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221 VALLEY STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94131-2320
www.sphsalumnae.org
newsletter@sphsalumnae.org
sphsalumnae@yahoo.com**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

RESERVATION FORM ENCLOSED

Annual Mass and Luncheon

**Saturday, November 7
11:00 a.m.**

**Golden Belles of
Class of 1960 Honorees**

