



St. Benedict Academy
Alumnae Association
Newsletter
Winter 2023

"we'll always come to thee again, when alma mater calls."

Have an address change? Story to share? Idea to highlight your class in the newsletter? Email:

sbaalum@eriebenedictines.org

Interviews form base of script

Mark Sunday afternoon, June 30, 2024, as a date when Alma Mater calls! On that afternoon, theater artist and Alum descendant Jenn Bokoch Gillett will present an original interview-based theatre piece, scripted from the dozens of interviews she has conducted with SBA alum, Benedictine sisters, and others. This particular style of performance tells a non-linear story built on the memories of interviewees as told in their own words. Jenn uses a combination of live actors and media to bring to life an experience lived in a particular time and place that continues to reverberate in those telling the story today.

"As I listen to so many diverse voices I am hearing common threads that weave through the many stories, and that together create a shared history of women who have had great, although often behind the scenes, impact on the lives of others. Families, like my own, were shaped by women who knew they had something special to give the world and passed that sense of purpose on to their children. Religious women who knew the strength of prayer and community used their voice to make a difference, not only at SBA but also in the local community and in the larger church and world," said Jenn. "The story I will tell through the script will simply do more of what the sisters and their graduates have done for decades: inspire those who hear it, invite them into a way of life that can bring good and positive energy into all our lives."

On a recent trip to Erie, Jenn conducted several in-person interviews and helped scout possible venues for the June 30 production. (The venue will be in the city of Erie but is not yet confirmed.) Use the QR code below to access our last eNewsletter that includes interview clips.



St. Benedict Academy a legacy of women's empowerment

Although St. Benedict Academy, the first school for girls in Erie, closed in 1988 its legacy lives on in the children of SBA Alumnae. "My mom went to SBA," or my aunt, my sister, my grandmother, is heard more often than one might think by the Benedictine sisters who made SBA the strong educational and formational experience that it was. In the doctor's office, when contracting with a local businessperson, at a meeting or other gathering, whenever someone hears "Benedictine" they often reference an SBA graduate. The legacy of women's empowerment lives on, then, in "SBA descendants" who bring the values of their mothers and grandmothers into their own families, social circles, volunteer and civic work, and places of employment.



Top photo: Jenn interviews Sister Pat Lupo, '61, former teacher at SBA. Bottom, theater students in New York City collaborate with Jenn by reading through initial drafts of the script for the June 30 performance in Erie.

Class of '66 and Class of '67



"With friends we never can forget."

Thirty-two members of the Class of '67 gathered for their annual summer picnic in August. They caught up on each other's lives, shared a meal, and enjoyed a 50-50 raffle. Class



members are looking forward to next year's picnic on August 14, 2024 (SAVE THE DATE!), along with this year's Alumnae Christmas Party on Sunday, November 26.



75th Birthday Absolute Blast

Wasn't it just yesterday that we walked the halls of the Academy? And now we are gathering to celebrate our 75th birthdays. We were a band of young girls in 1966 and 57 years later, as we sang "with friends we never can forget," we cherished how precious those years were and how they helped us to become a strong union of caring, kind and loving women. Lively chatter filled the air at our lakeside cottage site, decorated for our celebration. After questions about family, health, and travel, the talk turned to days spent at the Academy. Each of us related how our times at SBA had molded us in one way or another to become the women we are at age 75. A special thank you to Georgeanne Antalek, Cynthia Patalita, and Veronica Martin for all your wonderful help.

—Mary Margaret Pfister Joswig

Let us pray for our SBA alumnae who have passed into eternity—

- Frances Marie Hobeck Salorino '50
- Theresa V Bryce Millard '50
- Dolores "Emily" Radomski Malinowski '53
- Nancy Jackson Mozart '55
- Rose Mary Samulewski Chludzinski '57
- Dolores J Kowalski Corsi '58
- Madeline Giacobello Wolf '60
- Mary Ann Kanonczyk Denning '61
- Jeanmarie Puckly Pietsch '67
- Kathleen Ryan Irving '68
- Jean Merryman '74
- Cathy Cancilla '74
- Karen Opatich Finley '75

Class of '73 50th Reunion

The SBA Class of 1973 50th Reunion celebration included liturgy and coffee at Mount St. Benedict Monastery on October 8. Seventeen class members and three former faculty members, Sisters Dorothy Stoner, Phyllis Schleicher, and Rosanne Loneck, gathered for a photo in between the excited conversation and laughter. A photo display of deceased class members including a white rose for each added a touch of poignancy to the celebration. Left to right, first row Sisters Dorothy, Phyllis, and Rosanne. Second row, Kathy Glass Danch, Sue West Minarich, Patty Kunz Johnson, Allis Sullivan Guay, Donna Sowieralski Heaps, Marilyn Hoderny Amento, Mary Rita Horvath. Third row, Shirley Huegel Hendrick, Kathy Kaiser Klapthor, Cindy Belczyk, Mary Braeger, Kathy Zimmerman Schreiber, Ginny Sivak, Darlene Edwards Blanks, Mary Beth Whitby Veshecco, Joyce Double Wickles, Tina Krasinski Delio. Truly “friends we never can forget.”



Attention Class of '69...

We are planning to celebrate our 55th class reunion next summer. Details will follow via Facebook and emails.

Our class is also planning to attend the Christmas Luncheon on Sunday, November 26. See you there!

If any of your information has changed—address, email, cell phone or landline please call, text or email Kathy Anysz (814)403-1940 or kanysz44@gmail.com with your new information.

2023 Scholarship Winners

The SBA Alumnae Association is pleased to announce that 25 scholarships of \$250 each were awarded to relatives of alumnae who will be attending Catholic grade or high schools for the 2023-24 school year. Funding comes from monies raised at the annual Christmas Party and the Cash Bingos.

Brooke Taylor, St Mark Catholic School, Granddaughter of **Mary Przepyszny**; Lila Kitchel, St Joseph Catholic School, Great niece of **Susan Chase**; Juliet Jocuns, Mother of Sorrows School, Cousin of **Diane Lugin**; Kinsley Rowe, Our Lady of Peace, Great niece of **Janet Frazer**; Lucas Coeffler, Blessed Sacrament, Son of **Carrie Loeffler**; Jameson & Alaina Kaiser, St Luke, Nephew/Niece of **Kathy Klapathor**; Benjamin Markley, St Jude, Nephew of **Judy Ward**; Connor Wolf, Cathedral Prep, Grandson of **Joan Wolf**; Sophia Swanseger, Cathedral Prep, Cousin of **Mary Beth Graml**; Paige Belton, Cathedral Prep, Niece of **Anne Bolash**; Dylan Danch, Cathedral Prep, Great nephew of **Margie Tracy**; Julia Dieteman, Cathedral Prep, Daughter of **Anna Dieteman**; Noah Wagner, Cathedral Prep, Grandson of **Nancy Ruffa**; Kayley McCall, Cathedral Prep, Granddaughter of **Susan Clement**; Amariya Crosby, Mercyhurst Prep, Granddaughter of **Martha Foust**; Ella Hamilton, Mercyhurst Prep, Great niece of **Jane Kerr**; Lucas Kantz, Mercyhurst Prep, Grandson of **Kathryne Kantz**; Morgan Catherine Sigler, Mercyhurst Prep, Granddaughter of **Eleanor Sigler**; Josephine Kuzma, Mercyhurst Prep, Cousin of **Maureen Hubert**; Luna Leise, Mother Teresa Academy, Great niece of **Susan Koprowski**; Dane Stemmler, Blessed Francis Seelos Academy, Grandson of **Catherine Stemmler**; Liam Kraynack, St Barnabas School, Grandson of **Kristene Hart**; Katelyn Phillips, St Kilian Parish School, Granddaughter of **Judith Macko**; Kenley McElhaney, St George School, Niece of **Mary Drabino**; Madison Schouch Koff, St George School, Great niece of **Joann Woinelowicz**