



St. Benedict Academy  
Alumnae Association  
**Newsletter**  
Summer 2026

# St. Benedict Academy: a legacy of women's empowerment

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

With Friends We Never Can Forget  
**ST. BENEDICT ACADEMY  
OPEN HOUSE**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 26**  
**1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Celebrate 170 years of  
the Benedictine Sisters  
in Erie at our  
SBA building on  
East 10th Street!



**Class Reunions—let us know when  
your class is gathering and we will  
help you share the invitations!**  
**Email [Iromey@eriebenedictines.org](mailto:Iromey@eriebenedictines.org)**

**Class of 1966 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion is June 6,  
2026, at the Lake View Golf Club in  
North East. Contact Mary Joswig,  
[mezjoswig@aol.com](mailto:mezjoswig@aol.com)**

## Class of 1976 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion

The Class of 1976 is planning a 50<sup>th</sup> reunion on Saturday September 19, 2026, at Lake Shore Country Club in Erie. Classmates only for this reunion, Lassies! We'll have cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 pm followed by dinner at 6:30 pm. Please email Nancy Szczutkowski Cross, [ncross120@gmail.com](mailto:ncross120@gmail.com), or Karen Kuchcinski Sonney, [ksonney@roadrunner.com](mailto:ksonney@roadrunner.com), if you or your group can offer a sponsorship for the hors d'oeuvres.

On Sunday, September 20, we will go to Mount St. Benedict Monastery for liturgy followed by coffee, sweet breads, and conversation with some of the sisters who taught at SBA. Help us spread the word, and please forward updates of emails or addresses. Let's make it the most attended reunion in our history!

**SEE BACK COVER FOR MORE INFORMATION!**



The **Class of 1982** gets together multiple times throughout the year. If any classmates from 1982 would like to be added to our contact list please email Sue Chase at [skryp63@gmail.com](mailto:skryp63@gmail.com)





## SBA Spring Luncheon

The St. Benedict Academy Alumnae Spring Luncheon brought a banquet-room full of alum together to once again spend time with “friends we never can forget.” In addition to reconnecting with friends and classmates, nearly fifty creative, generously-filled gift baskets were raffled to raise funds for the SBA Alumnae Association to support the Benedictine Sisters, their inner-city ministries, and provide scholarships for Catholic education for family members of SBA Alumnae.

Thank you to SBA Board members and Board co-chairs Darlene (Harkness) Kerstetter '82 and Valerie (Joint) Purzycki '88 who did a phenomenal job making sure the event was a success.

This year marks 170 years that the Benedictine Sisters have been in Erie and a special SBA event is part of the anniversary lineup. Michelle Basista of the Benedictine Sisters Development Office distributed save the date cards for the special St. Benedict Academy Open House on Sunday, July 26, from 1 – 4 pm in the former Academy building on East 10th Street, currently home to St. Benedict Education Center.

Musical entertainment was provided by a Benedictine Sisters' table and drumstick ensemble directed by Sister Charlotte Anne Zalot that included SBA Class of 1970 alum Dianne Sabol and Sisters Anne Wambach, Colleen Leathley, and Susan Doubet. We won't tell Villa girls that Villa alum, teacher, coach, and principal Sister Susan is an SBA alum wannabe!

When the sisters started drumming to the tune of Locomotion, alum Jane (Fuhrmann) Wagner, '79, started a Conga line that danced around the large ballroom—although the years have flown by, the spirit is as young as ever.



Alumnae enjoyed a photo op at the luncheon.

**Alum  
legacy  
gift  
increases  
impact**



Susan Senger Bayliss, '58, seated, approves the stage plans of her classmates. When Susan died in 2022, she left a generous gift that is now the Susan E. Bayliss Memorial Empowerment Fund to support educational efforts of the Benedictine Sisters. See page 24 to learn more about planned gifts and how they can help you continue to seed positive impact in our world.

## In Erie? Have fun and and raise funds for the SBA Alumnae Association and Benedictine ministries

Put these dates on your calendar: July 11, September 13, and October 11. Bingos are held at the Polish Falcons, 431 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Erie. Doors open at noon, bingo starts at 1 p.m. EXCEPT July 11 which is our Christmas in July event to benefit St. Benedict Child Development Center—bring a new toy for a child and receive a free bingo pack with your paid admission; doors open on July 11 at 5 pm and bingo begins at 6 pm. Food and drink are available for purchase at all bingos.

*Let us pray for SBA alumnae  
who have passed into eternity.*

Marlene Whitby Bowen '71  
Clara Schwab '47  
Patricia McGreevy, OSB '52  
Regina Orlowski Rutkowski '52  
Rose Paszko Pastewka '46  
Kathleen Kinem Koscielniak '70  
Maureen Hunter Berarducci '59  
Rosemary Radziszewski Jorgenson '64  
Catherine Winiarczyk Rieger '79  
Linda Wardzinski Cubbon '80  
Therese Schroeck Rhineberger '82  
Nancy Bardroff Cherry '74

Diane Paris Miller '65  
Eileen Bundy Schaaf '41  
Arlene Merski Rick '81  
Rita Kaveney Kaveney '63  
Suzanne Riddle Selleny '64  
Helen Zimmerman '54  
Simone Mish Dietz '58  
Carol Witkowski Muse '67  
Allene Schroeck Kraus '49  
Diane Gerlach Yeager '68  
Ann Marie Wildes '58  
Marianne Coughlin Hetzel '61