



From the
Director
By Ann Comstock, Oblate

*“We’ll always come to thee again,
when Alma Mater calls”*



SBA ALUM SHARE THEIR MEMORIES

The following are the last two SBA memories that I received. I thank every alumnae member who contributed memories; they show that the spirit of SBA is alive and well.

SBA fashioned not just my formation, but that of four generations of women in my family. “Making life sacred” through the Benedictine philosophy of work, study, discipline, prayer and hospitality continues to shape my life every day. Lifelong friendships and a spirit that simply cannot be duplicated still sustain and nurture me, for which I am forever grateful.

I’m a successful realtor and work for a RE/MAX franchise—I’ve been a realtor for 34 years. In 2016 I served as President of Washington REALTORS, and in 2013 had the honor of being chosen Realtor of the Year. I am also a Servant Leader because of my background—the Catholic education I received at SBA seems to follow me wherever I go.

RE/MAX offers charitable support to Seattle Children’s Hospital and as Chairperson of the RE/MAX organization I have planned Charity Auctions for the past 20 years. We have raised over \$1,000,000 for uncompensated care at Seattle Children’s. And for more than 20 years I have donated a portion of my commissions in my clients’ names to the same charity.

I have two wonderful sons, a daughter-in-law, a six-year-old grandson and a granddaughter who is 19 months. Seeing my children “give back” to their communities brings my life full circle. My oldest son coaches his son’s teams in every sport imaginable. He has grown into a beautiful man who cares for all the kids on the teams and takes to heart his volunteer positions. My youngest son is a district manager of a local franchise restaurant who works hard to train his employees to be the best they can be in their jobs and personal life. He is amazing.

I would not have accomplished any of this if it were not for having been a student of the Benedictine Sisters. I thank God every day for my roots, my “sisters at SBA” and all the beautiful sisters that have contributed to my success. They helped me to become a proud and accomplished woman. *Diane G. Murphy Ph.D. ‘67*

I am a 1968 graduate of St. Benedict Academy. My four years at SBA were not always easy, but it was the right place for me to be. I received life from the sisters in ways I didn’t know until I rediscovered the Benedictines after graduation.

Two years after graduation, I was working while attending evening classes at Gannon College. One evening, walking down the hall, I found Sister Barbara Ann Karznia looking for her camera. She was Dean of Women at the college. I stopped and helped her, and it was the beginning of our friendship and eventually of my time at L’Arche Erie which was founded by Sister Barbara and Father George Strohmeier in 1972. I joined them as an assistant and eventually became a home coordinator for over 30 years. I am still a part of L’Arche as a friend. They will always be a part of my family and it all started with Sister Barbara Ann walking down a hallway.

I am happy to also be an oblate of the Erie Benedictines. I have learned and received much. The sisters’ welcoming spirit, joy, faith, and wisdom have been gift to me. I walk with them as they walk daily with the poor of our city, keeping women’s issues at the forefront and serving as a reminder of the need for prayer and an end to violence in our city, as well as the never ending need to work for justice in all forms. I am on a journey of love that began at SBA and that keeps me moving forward as I follow the Benedictine way and listen with the ear of my heart for all the ways I can help to make this world a better place. *Charlene Serfozo ‘68*



About SBA

WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO?

During the past year there have been questions regarding our alumnae events and how the monies raised are utilized. Here are answers to your questions.

From our SBA Association bylaws:

The purpose of the Saint Benedict Academy Alumnae Association is to promote and maintain the bond of the members, support the ministries of the Benedictine Sisters, promote Catholic education and support and encourage its members in their involvement in service to ministries that promote Benedictine Values and traditions.

Each year we provide three or more social events for alumnae members to reunite and continue those friendships created during years spent at the Academy.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our main social event is the annual Christmas Party which draws upwards of 325 to 375 attendees. Funds raised at this event come from the Theme Basket Raffle and a 50/50 drawing. We occasionally add a special drawing. The money raised is split among our Catholic Schools Scholarship Program, a specific Benedictine Sisters inner-city ministry such as the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House or the St. Benedict Child Development Center, and the Alumnae Association to cover expenses for the Christmas Party.

We ask for donations of Theme Baskets or cash from classes or individual alumnae members to add to the number of baskets raffled. Classes and individuals have always been very generous; however, the number of baskets donated has been steadily declining. These baskets are a big draw for the party and we try to provide attendees with a large selection. If the number of baskets donated falls below a certain number, board members contribute one personally and are asked to create an additional basket, for which they are reimbursed up to \$75. Board members often exceed this amount, at their own expense.

Until five years ago we had over 400 attendees at our Christmas Parties. Each year since then the number of people attending has decreased while our expenses continue to increase.

PURSE BINGO

A second yearly fundraising event is our annual Purse Bingo. This event is sponsored by the Alumnae Association and is open to the public. The monies raised are for the Catholic Schools Scholarship Program and the Alumnae Association.

SPRING LUNCHEON

A third event is the Spring Luncheon. This is not a fund raising event although we do hold a 50/50 drawing. All the money raised from the drawing goes toward the Catholic Schools Scholarship program. It is at this event that we award \$5,000 in scholarships to relatives of alumnae members attending Catholic schools in the upcoming school year.

CASH BINGO

Beginning in November 2018 we will sponsor a bi-monthly cash Bingo Game at the Polish Falcons Club. It will be open to the public. Monies raised will help defray our yearly expenses, such as printing and mailing, as well as the Scholarship Program and any financial support for the sisters that we may be asked to contribute.

We held three events this past year. The following is a breakdown of the events:

Christmas Party 2017

Income: \$18,660.00
Expense: \$13,754.43 (Includes \$2,000 given to St. Benedict Child Development Center)

Spring Luncheon 2017

Income: \$2,100.00
Expense: \$2,806.11

Purse Bingo 2017

Income: \$7,568.46
Expense: \$3,735.00

Total Income: \$28,328.46

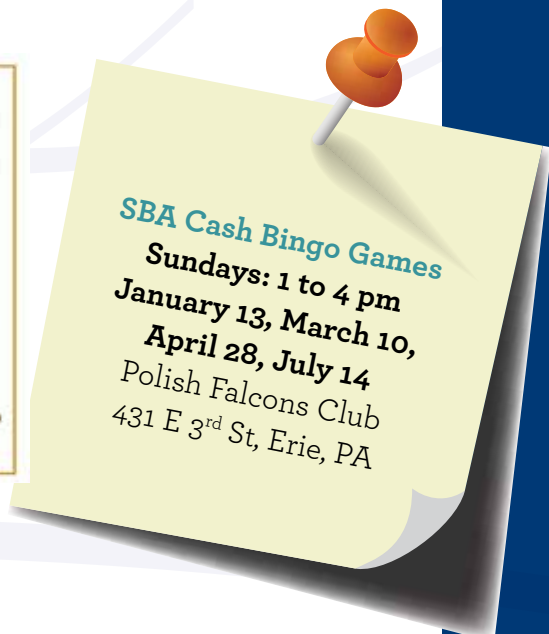
Total Expense: \$26,295.54

(Scholarships: \$5000; Sisters: \$1,000)

Gain: \$2,032.92

I am very thankful for all the past support given to the Alumnae Association by its members. I ask that you continue to offer support by attending one or more events. Please feel free to invite relatives, friends and neighbors to join you. I guarantee they will have a great time while helping the SBA Alumnae Association to support the Benedictine Sisters and their inner-city ministries.

Mark Your Calendars



Keep in Touch...

We want to hear from you! Class reunions every five years are a tradition with SBA alumnae. We will gladly include information regarding your reunion on our website. Send us the facts and we'll post them as soon as we get them. Please provide us with any follow up stories and photos (digital, please) you might wish to share and we will post them on our website (ErieBenedictines.org/sba-alum). Call Ann Comstock at 814-899-0614 ext. 2573 or contact by email: sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org

REUNIONS

Classes planning reunions next year are eligible to receive a \$35 check to help defray mailing costs. We will also provide an updated class list from our database and a set of labels. We ask that you provide us with new or updated addresses for the database. It is one of the best ways we have to keep in touch with friends and classmates. Please contact Ann Comstock at 814-899-0614 ext. 2573 or email sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org.

Please visit our Website

Visit ErieBenedictines.org/sba-alum for event updates and to download sign-up forms, or send your email address to Alumnae Director Ann Comstock at sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org to receive electronic reminders and sign-ups. If you don't use email, write to Ann at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie, PA, 16511. Whenever you see or hear about SBA alumnae being honored or highlighted for their achievements, let us know. Clip an article or jot down the details then call, write or email us the information so we can share the news with all our members.

Let us pray...

For our SBA alumnae who passed into eternity—

- Charlotte T. Toczylowski Mankowski.... '41
- Genevieve "Gene" Sienkiwicz
- Skrzypczak '45
- Marianna Martucci Zambroski '47
- Jean Marie Steger Bernatowicz McKee .. '48
- Irene Catherine Zelazny McClellan '48
- Christine Dymski Brzozowski '51
- Joan Edna Yochim Kilmurray Bowers ... '52
- Geraldine Krasinski Irwin Martin '54
- Dorothy Ann Osiecki Falzone '55
- Nancy Jo Wisinski Quinn '55
- Marlene Jarusiewicz Church..... '60
- Cathleen T. Quirk '61
- Ruth Kaschak Crosby '62
- Carol Lee Huck Smith '62
- Elizabeth Mistrzak Reisenweber '64
- Susan Marie Lewandowski
- McGloin-Lentulay '65
- Carol Kupniewski Winschel '66
- Ruth Spiegel Gray
- Josephine H. Gora Zukowski



*Spirit of SBA
is alive and well.*