



St. Benedict Academy
Alumnae Association
Newsletter
Summer 2024

"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:

Iromey@eriebenedictines.org

St. Benedict Academy a legacy of women's empowerment

Women's stories are largely missing from recorded history—it is only in our lifetimes that women have become the authors of their own story and that efforts are being made to recover women's perspective on history, to tell the experience of women in women's voices. The new interview-based theater production,

Class of 1977 celebrates 45th reunion



The Class of '77 gathered for a photo at Calamari's Restaurant in Erie after a reunion dinner last year. Back row: Christine McCloskey Eacho, Clare Luddy, Lori Bush DiPlacido, Bernie Bagniszewski, Diane Kowalik Lugin, Linda Lubiejewski Turner and Rene Filipowski. Middle row: Karen Jaskiewicz, Kathy Bailey, Tina Austin, Becky Hiegel Grab. Front row: Chris Palotas Bowler, Kathy Belczyk Burik, Michele Schroeck Carneval, Pam Daugherty Hawryliw.

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

- Sandra Barth Orzechowski '65
- Carol Moritz Gallagher '57
- Mary Pietrzak Filipkowski '48
- Claire Kraus Weber '47
- Jill Figurski Bengel '69
- Grace Piorkowski Earl '59
- Janet Herman Cole '56
- Gloria Saunders-Shotwell '83
- Mary Reynolds Lamary '49
- Eileen Chalupczynski Richter '65
- Beverly Harvey Buziewicz '60
- Dolores Nowakowski Kaluzny '56
- Lucille Sanfrotello Pluta '55
- Mary Louis Eichenlaub, OSB '48
- Helen Styles Behringer '57
- Ann Duda '84
- Mary Grace Hanes, OSB '45
- Cecile Weiser Horstman '47
- Mary Lou Burick Wardanski '59
- Sally Constantine Rettew '60
- Barbara Sebald Redlecki '66
- Eileen Hoffman '68
- Ann Michalski '81
- Jane Helen Dippe Heidt '52

SBA Alum Jennie Hagerty addresses sold-out luncheon

Members of the Benedictine Sisters Communications and Development team heard SBA alum Jennie Hagerty, '83, Executive Director of the Mercy Center for Women, deliver the keynote address at the Impact 2024 Women in Leadership Luncheon on March 14. The luncheon was held at the Manufacturer & Business Association in Erie, sponsor of the leadership luncheon. Left to right, Michelle Scully, Michelle Basista, CFRE, Jennie Hagerty '83, and Sister Linda Romey.



Where Hope Is: Stories of Benedictine Influence is one such effort to tell a story whose impact continues to reverberate in Erie and beyond. It was written by playwright and SBA descendant Jenn Bokoch Gillett who interviewed more than 60 St. Benedict Academy alumnae, Benedictine sisters, and others whose lives were shaped—and are still shaped—by the Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

The play tells the story of lives changed by Benedictine sisters and opens doors for the changing of young lives today by immersing them again in Benedictine community and spirituality.

It is a story of faith and meaning that has influenced and empowered others, notably young women during the 120 years the sisters ran St. Benedict Academy. The play reflects a snapshot-in-time of that influence, the 1960s to 1980s, decades that include the era of anti-war protests, grape boycotts, civil rights, and the women's movement. The Benedictine sisters were present speaking

up, speaking out, and in so doing shaping the lives of the young women at SBA as well as the city of Erie. Their story is one of community and faithfulness that has raised questions and empowered others. It's a story of prophetic voices and passionate commitment to justice for those denied a place at the table. It's a women's story of ongoing potential for new generations seeking connection and meaning today.

Join us on Sunday, June 30, at 2:30 p.m. at the Hirt Auditorium, Blasco Memorial Library, in Erie. Tickets are \$10. Scan the QR code for more information and to purchase tickets, or visit www.eriebenedictines.org

Jenn's interviews will also be archived online as a way of preserving these women's stories that have shaped our history. Watch for more information!



Class reunions planned for June

Class of 1974 will celebrate 50 years on Saturday, June 29

Lawrence Park Country Club, 3700 East Lake Road, Erie
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Breakfast Buffet includes: scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, fresh fruit, pastries, bruschetta chicken, tossed salad, vegetable medley, coffee, tea, juice, soda. Cash Bar.

Cost: \$40.00/person, payable in advance.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

RSVPs limited to 200. Call Lisa Manendo at 814-440-7608 or Mary Catrabone Tabatcher at 814-218-8068 with questions. If you are unable to attend, please email Lisa at lisaminerie@gmail.com and fill us in on your last 50 years.

RSVP by June 15.

Download an RSVP: www.eriebenedictines.org/SBA1974



Class of 1979 will celebrate 45 years on Sunday, June 30

Calamari's Squid Row, 1317 State Street, Erie
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Celebrating 45 years since our graduation with a brunch.
Cost is \$20 per person.

RSVP by June 10 by contacting a committee member (below).
Download an invitation: www.eriebenedictines.org/SBA1979

We will not have a mailing. If you know someone from our class and they are not on Facebook, please share this information with them. Questions? Contact a committee member through Facebook Messenger: Lisa Batkiewicz, Kathy Bruno Grisier, Anne Kuna Shiel, or Jane Fuhrmann Wagner.

