

1912 - 1980

RE ECHOES

GOOD COUNSEL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

WE ARE PART OF A UNIQUE HISTORY

Who attended Good Counsel Academy are part of the rich history established through the years by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The SSND have done a wonderful job of recording their history since the order was founded. With the reorganization of the various provinces, a state-of-the-art space for archives and staff offices was established in 2018 for all the SSND provinces in the United States and Canada. With the help of a professional archivist on staff, plus two other full-time employees, the SSND archives are being forever preserved in a special climate-controlled room on the campus of Mount Mary University in Milwaukee - a Catholic women's institution with undergraduate and graduate degrees founded by the SSND. The sisters at Good Counsel have been moving their archives to the new space in Milwaukee over the past few years.

Through our association with the SSND, the Good Counsel Academy Alumnae are a part of the SSND history. But we were also able to create our own unique history. Collectively, the Good Counsel Alumnae hold a wealth of knowledge and experiences from our high school years. Much of our history is recorded in written form, through our high school issues of Echoes and since graduation through ReEchoes. Some of our history is reflected in items in our GCA archives: photos, donated school uniforms, award pins, plaques and trophies, class rings, books written by alums, class year books, reunion memory books created by various anniversary classes, etc. Both the SSND archivist from Milwaukee and a representative of the Blue Earth County Historical Society have viewed the GCA archives recently. Both were amazed at our collection. The SSND archivist said it is the most complete collection of any

SSND school that she has seen so far. And the Blue Earth County Historical Society rep indicated that they would like it all. We are actively working with the SSND archivist to see what would be best suited to be in their archives.

With the SSND's plan to sell their buildings on Good Counsel Hill, a day will come when we will no longer be able to have our alumnae office and archives at Good Counsel. We are working with Loyola Catholic School to obtain a place in their school (formerly GCA from 1965-1980). Loyola has recently purchased their portion of the hill and

The SSND archivist said it is the most complete collection of any SSND school that she has seen so far.

the Loyola building from the Sisters. Our intention is to move as many of the alumnae items in our collection as we can to a new home at Loyola. We know that some things in our

archives were acquired during the high school years, such as issues of Echoes, and are actually the property of the SSND. One copy of each issue of Echoes will be preserved forever in Milwaukee at Mount Mary University with the other items among the SSND history. The GCA student records will be among the GCA history that will also be preserved at the SSND archival room in Milwaukee.

We have many items in our GCA Alumnae collection which we acquired after the academy closed and we continued to operate, including the items mentioned above. These items belong to the GCA Alumnae Association. During the next year, we anticipate sorting through all of our items, making sure everything is catalogued, and moving these items to a secured location (a room for our use only) in the Loyola building. We look forward to working on this project to highlight items that represent a part of our history. We hope to have these items on display in the Loyola building for visiting alumnae.

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY IN THE FUTURE

For everything there is a season . . . and we realize that at some point in the future the time will come when, with the continued aging of our alumnae, the homecomings will cease. Even as we think about that, we are reminded it is utterly amazing that for a school that closed its doors in 1980 – over 40 years ago! – we still have an active alumnae association! Our Alumnae Association has been in existence for over 100 years! This would not have been possible without the never-ending support of the SSND. Up until a few years ago they provided financial and organizational support and our Alumnae Coordinator



Doors to Archive Office

was a SSND. Even with the GCA alumnae providing the coordinator for the past 20 years or so, the SSND still have provided the alumnae association with our own office space, furnished with a desk and computer, and generously offered space to display our GCA archives. We are able to access their internet service and have the use of a printer and copier at Good Counsel. All of this at no charge – a priceless gift! In return, the alumnae keep looking forward to the annual homecomings – a tribute to how much we valued our days at Good Counsel. Because of our cherished experiences and memories, we have a strong desire to have our stories – our history – shared and preserved. Forever.



Storage Information

With that in mind, we took a trip to Milwaukee recently to see where the SSND archives are located. We were extremely impressed! The archival room was not 'just a room' with

shelves – it was specially made with the purpose of preserving archives forever. The walls and ceiling were specially coated to resist moisture. There were two huge tanks for their fire suppression system that would emit a gas in case of a fire – the gas flooding the room to immediately remove the oxygen, causing the fire to go out. With this method, no water would be needed that could potentially destroy the archives. And taking it one step further, in case



Storage Boxes

of a fire, the doors would stay locked until the fire was out so no more oxygen could come in. It was evident that a lot of time, thought and financial resources were put into the design of this room. Even though this archival room and corresponding staff offices are located in a campus building, the doors to this area are locked at all times. Only the three employees and security/maintenance have keys. The items in the archives are very SAFE!

As we toured the archives room, we focused on the shelves dedicated to the SSNDs from the Mankato Province. There we found boxes from the schools where the SSND taught. We found our grade school archive boxes. And of course, we found Good Counsel Academy. Throughout our visit, we were continuously convinced that items were being cataloged on the computer and stored in high-quality



Mona Will, Dolores Portz, Mary Zellmer, Michele Levandoski at Archives in Milwaukee

regulation archival boxes and labeled as appropriate. We asked about a few former SSND teachers we had in grade school, and they were able to pull their file within seconds. Everything was well organized and safe. And in SSND style, it was immaculately clean and tidy.

We were assured that all photos sent to them in the future would be scanned before being archived and held in their computer program with a description. An electronic copy could be sent to us if requested for homecomings, etc. The staff there would also loan back to us objects if needed for a special event. We were also assured that alumnae could call ahead to make an appointment to view the archives if they were going to be in the area. The archives are stored in the climate-controlled room mentioned earlier – they are not ‘on display’ as in our GCA archives area at Good Counsel, or as you might expect to see items of historical value in a museum. As we visited and viewed what they have there, and the processes they used to achieve the preservation, we were confident that whatever was sent to them in the future would be well taken care of. When the time comes, our archived items will be available for storage with the SSND archives in Milwaukee. Parts of our GCA history – our personal history- would be preserved forever.

We know that the Blue Earth County Historical Society is also interested in our collection of GCA memorabilia. We have lots to think about, but that will be for a later time. For now, we are still going strong as an alumnae association.

Our sincere thanks to Michele Levandoski, the SSND Archivist who spent the time explaining their system to us and showing us the archival room. She is very knowledgeable about the contents of the archive room and what it holds for each province. Under her leadership, the SSND archives received the 2022 Governor’s Award for Archival Achievement! Congratulations to the SSND, Michele and her staff for this recognition.



Sister Mary Ann Kuttner, SSND, '58, Former Archivist for SSND Central Province, Michele Levandoski, MLIS, MA, Director, SSND North American Archives, Abbie Norderhaug, Wisconsin State Archivist

Michele has offered to come to a future homecoming and talk to the alumnae about her work and how it would apply to the GCA archives. We may very well take her up on that offer!


Open House Photos

July 9, 2022



Good Counsel Gardens



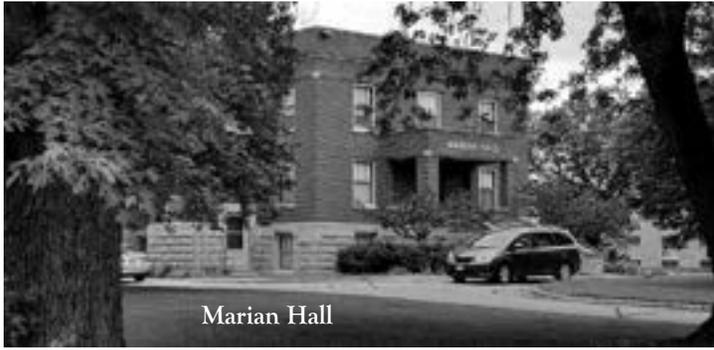
Open House – many gathered in the shade under the tents



Chapel Windows



Main Entrance



Marian Hall



Scheid Hall



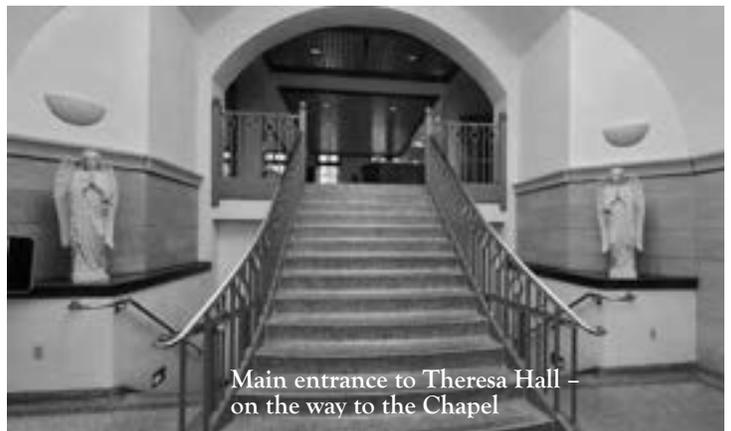
Mother Theresa and Children



Chapel



Chapel Altar



Main entrance to Theresa Hall –
on the way to the Chapel



Floral arrangements made
special for the Open House
Chapel Service



Musicians getting ready
for the Chapel Service



The Barn



Sister Lucille Matousek



Chapel Windows with Light Fixture



Registration table - viewed from St. Theresa Hall



Good Counsel Gym



Good Counsel Gym



Ceramic Haven



Reminiscing inside the beautiful Chapel



Schola



Steps

GOOD COUNSEL ALUMNAE FINANCIAL REPORT

We continue to be grateful for the generous support the GCA Alumnae Association receives. Below you will see a brief summary of the activity during this past fiscal year ending June 30.

Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Opening Balance	\$18,254.90
Total Receipts.....	\$6,245.00
Total Expenses	\$9,142.86
Ending Balance	\$15,357.04

Once again, we have spent more than we received. This has been the case especially during the years when we have not been able to gather for a Homecoming. The receipts so far reflect the following activity during this past fiscal year:

- 90 Alumnae paid their dues - totaling \$1,890
- 23 Alumnae paid towards dues for another alum - totaling \$480.00
- 19 Alumnae paid extra toward the Coordinator's Fund - totaling \$460.00.
- 52 Alumnae paid extra toward the Operating Fund - totaling \$3,300.00.
- 4 Alumnae paid an amount for 'other' - totaling \$115.00.

Thank you for your attention to our financial situation and doing what you can to help us address areas where we can be more efficient. As always, we would also like your email address if we do not have it yet. ReEchoes continues to be a major, but necessary, expense for the Alumnae Association. However, being able to email ReEchoes cuts down considerably on the printing cost and postage expense. Thank you for your continued support.

Thank you, Alumnae!

On July 9th, the day of the open house inviting GCA alumnae to return to The Hill, alumnae officers put out a donation box to allow alumnae the opportunity to help the SSND with moving expenses. Donations received that day, along with checks mailed in later, totaled \$3,973.00! Thank you for your generous donations! This money has been turned over to the SSND and they have started the process of relocating sisters to Shakopee. The move will continue until sometime in November. Anyone who would still like to donate to this cause can send a check to the alumnae association and mark SSND Move in the memo line.

Note: This money is not reflected in the Financial Report, as it occurred in the current fiscal year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023).



GOOD COUNSEL AUXILIARY REPORT

Dear GC Graduates,

It was truly a gift to have many of you return to the Hill for the Open House for Alumnae on July 9th. Memories of Good Counsel Academy days, attending chapel services, wearing of uniforms, sharing of humorous untold stories, and words of gratitude were expressed. At a time when many women had few opportunities for education, Good Counsel Academy provided women with strong academic and faith formation.

Now we enter a new chapter as we sisters will be leaving this sacred spot, but the legacy of the Academy and our SSND community here in Mankato will forever be remembered. This also brings to closure the Good Counsel Auxiliary which strongly supported the sisters in health care for over 35 years. The officers of the Auxiliary and we sisters express deep gratitude for your active or supportive membership for so many years.

As we move into the future may Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to counsel and direct each one of us!

Sister Marion Welter

Good Counsel Auxiliary Moderator

DECEASED ALUMNAE

1936	Louise Werbowski	1/21/2018
1937	Sister Rene Lorentz	4/2/2022
1937	Marie Sattler Lewanovich	7/10/2019
1937	Bernadette Brees	1/13/2018
1942	Elizabeth Markus	12/15/2020
1945	Dorothy Morehouse LeDuc	9/11/2022
1949	Sister Germaine Mulcahey	6/12/2022
1950	Sister Bernelle Taube	4/29/2022
1950	Eleanor Myhill Olinger	8/3/2022
1950	Anne Connor Frederick	9/4/2022
1950	Loretta Weingartz Sigafus	8/18/2022
1953	Marion Strobel Helget	3/23/2022
1953	Kathleen Hebbelman Schorer	9/28/2022
1954	Suzanne Sullivan Tillia	5/6/2022
1955	Sister M. Marcie' Elvekrog	8/19/2022
1960	Taylor (Marilynn) Heinrich Collins	?
1960	Judith Schoen Miner	6/4/2022
1961	Korrine Kunnerth Pawlitschek	2/21/2022
1963	Sheryl Haase Merriss	12/3/2020
1968	Mary Kaye Walter Kramer	10/5/2022
1969	Colleen Foster	4/15/2022
1969	Geraldine Fasnacht	8/5/2022

A Memorial Mass was celebrated at Good Counsel on November 2nd. Father Joe Fogal was the celebrant and we remembered our Deceased Alumnae and prayed for their families.

CAN YOU HELP WITH ECHOES?

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, we plan to send one copy of each issue of Echoes to the SSND Archives in Milwaukee. Unfortunately, we found that our collection is not complete. While in high school, Echoes was published eight to nine times a year. We have incomplete sets for the years 1942, 1943, 1956, 1974, 1975, and 1976.

If anyone has access to copies of Echoes from any of these years, would you be willing to donate them? Through the copies of Echoes, our activities during high school, our history, will be preserved forever. If you can help us complete our history by filling in the missing issues of Echoes, please contact Dolores Portz at gcalumnae@ssndcp.org.

HOMEcomings 2023

At this time, we are hoping to have a Homecoming next spring, but cannot provide information about it now. You will be notified as soon as we have the date and venue confirmed.

Mona, Nora, Elizabeth, Mary, and Dolores



HOMEcomings MEMORIES

1954

Betty Lu Mehr Prosser - Shoreview, MN

I have always loved the Good Counsel chapel and find comfort when I revisit it during Homecoming Mass. I enjoy reconnecting at our homecomings and try to attend, even bringing my daughter with me, to keep relationships alive. I also remember school days where my Good Counsel classmates would linger and talk at street corners where we would gather on our way to and from school.

I enjoy ReEchoes and make sure it is read each time it arrives in the mail. Thanks for keeping us connected!

1960

Mary Ann Wussow Stenzel - Denton, TX

I remember how nervous I was going to our class party before homecoming in 1965 when we gathered at the Saulpaugh room. I saw several ladies coming in near me and I did not recognize them at all. It was a wonderful party. I also treasured the memories made at the class party that homecoming year.

1980

Barbara Kelly Traxler - Mankato, MN

I liked celebrating our 35th class reunion with a dinner hosted at our house. Many good laughs and memories were shared.

July 9, 2022 Open House Comments

“THANK YOU for sharing your photos enjoying the afternoon with friends/classmates at the SSND Open House July 9th. Those photos and the wonderful comments make this a special edition of Re Echoes.”

“THANK YOU to the sisters for providing the opportunity to reminisce and appreciate the Chapel and The Hill one last time.”

THANK YOU THANK YOU

Five members of the class of 1947 had a 75th class reunion during the Open House celebration. It was both a joyful and sad day to recall memories. It was sad to realize it was our last meeting on the campus and given our ages, it may never happen again. The celebration in the Chapel that day will be a fond memory. Class members were Sr. Lalonde Hennen, Sr. Emma Buresch, Sr. Jacinta Simmons, Sr. Teresa Trembly, and Angela (Schlegel) Dahm. May the Sisters in their new home find happiness filled with many Blessings

Angela (Schlegel) Dahm '47



We had a great day visiting the Hill! Attached is a photo of Mary Peterson Fralish and Kathy Mans Solko. It was taken at the top of the steps. Minnesota River in background. Thanks for all you do!

Mary Hurrle Jonas '70

Good Counsel Academy, for me, was pure gift excellent teachers and good friendships, a safe space, filled with kindness, energy, challenges, questions, thoughtful conversations and laughter along with plenty of silliness, all of it a preparation that has served me well through my lifetime, through the simple, ordinariness of every day and through the highs and lows of joy and sorrow. I think that what I learned at GCA that has carried me through it all is respect, respect for myself and for each person I encounter - respect and mercy mercy for myself and for others. Thank you to all my

friends, my teachers, and the charism of SSND. I will miss that beautiful Hill and all the memories it holds. This goodbye to the Hill is painful, but I know that the excellent women who were our teachers and mentors have opened each of us to our own unique gifts and we in turn have done and are doing the same for others, and in that sense Good Counsel will always live.

Kateri (Cathy) Caron '68

Maureen Reedy Scholl and I attended the open house in early July for the alumnae. It was, indeed, a beautiful day in more ways than one. The chapel was my highlight, and we attended the first service. After the service, we spent time lingering as many others did soaking in the moments and taking pictures. I hope and pray the new owner(s) will leave the chapel intact. It would be a travesty if they did not. We took in the wood shop and the craft store where we purchased a few items. I would say it was a bittersweet experience. It is sad to see a change of hands and a change in the way things will be on the hill. Yet the nuns deserve, after all their hard work, to be assured of their care in the future. I hope and pray the move is a smooth one.

Thank you for all your efforts and hard work for our alumnae.

Barbara Saba Bormaster '74

I appreciated the opportunity to meet up with classmates and those in the senior year. I enjoyed reconnecting with many of the ladies that I had not seen since leaving the school in 1980. It was wonderful to be able to revisit the school, the dorms (they seem so much smaller now) and wander the grounds, especially those 214 stairs and yes, we did climb them! Many great memories were created there and many long lasting friendships have blossomed from that time. GCA was a wonderful place and I hope that many more memories are created on those grounds as it moves into its next era.

Elaine Delichte O'Keeffe '81



Cont'd on page 10

I can only speak for myself, but I am still filled with warm fuzzies after the SSND Open House Celebration for Alumnae to celebrate their life and work on Good Counsel Hill.

I had been in Mankato just weeks before and had not planned on returning. At that time, I was granted access to parts of the Motherhouse, and made a slide presentation of those areas, specifically the chapel, and the grounds. I was resigned that 'this was it.' However, recognizing there are no 'do-overs' with this one, I returned and joined my Classmates to celebrate our shared history with the SSND and each other and my 4 sisters! And am I ever glad I did. This event was soul satisfying on so many levels.

The Celebration began with the Land Acknowledgement Statement, which was at once powerful and poignant. It began: "We, School Sisters of Notre Dame, acknowledge that we stand on the traditional territory of the Oceti Sakowin nation...We have had the privilege, borne of their trials, to be living these 110 years on this magnificent land...and now as we prepare to leave this area to live on the lands of other Indigenous Peoples, we promise our heartfelt prayers for the descendants...We assure them of our efforts for their voices to be heard, their rights respected, and their well being improved." A straightforward call for us all to feel and do the same.

We all joined voices for one last memorable rendition of the Our Lady of Good Counsel Hymn, led by Sr. Joyce Kolbet and the Schola, and the magnificent organ accompaniment by Sr. Lucille Matousek. It was a truly joyful, hope-filled celebration.

The Class of 1980 had a small outdoor gathering the night before; on Saturday, more joined at a local restaurant, where members of the Classes of '51 and '60 were also in attendance! On the Motherhouse grounds we shared more laughter, pictures, and stories with each other. It is always the laughter that I take with me. (Looking at you, Ann Brockman!)

Last year I shared with you the extra ordinary 40-year reunion the 'Seniors' ('80) hosted for the 'Juniors' ('81), who were unable to graduate from GCA due to the closing; upon meeting up for this event in person, we picked up right where we had left off! Many of us, from both classes, re-joined for dinner after the event, and sang a rousing rendition of the Happy Birthday Song just like our Academy Sisters had done in the cafeteria at lunch for decades, table pounding and all! No, they did not kick us out, and yes, we all dissolved into laughter again!

Another moment of serendipity occurred. Elaine Delichte O'Keeffe, '81, had joined us from Winnipeg. We were talking about the slide show Mary Hack Radnich and I had created using the pictures I had taken and how I could not figure out a free, easy way to send such a large file out to the Alumnae. Elaine had the solution! I still marvel at how we reached out to the Juniors last year, and how they re-connected and traveled from all over North America to see each other this year, and we all joined together for food and song after the Hill celebration and how that connection led to the possibility of every Alumnae sharing a piece of history in the photos to cherish. What a full circle moment!

I will take the liberty to speak for everyone by saying we wish our beloved Sisters safe travels to their next destinations; congratulations on fulfilling the missions you were sent to accomplish on the Hill, and to express our heartfelt gratitude for your service and sacrifice on behalf of all of us. Your generosity in creating this event for the Alumnae, recognizing our collective need to be present and witness this transition and say goodbye to the property with each other, will be appreciated and treasured always. Our bonds will never be broken; they have only grown stronger.

While the number of days the Sisters remain on the Hill may be waning, have no doubt that everything they believed, stood for, and shared with us in service to their mission and countless others in the region will never be forgotten. They mattered. And as long as there is someone out there who gained from the privilege of knowing them, they always will.

Mary Drummer '80



It was a beautiful day and 6 out of the 7 McGraw sisters were there to reminisce. I will truly miss 'the hill'!
 Katy Hottinger-McGraw '82, Bridget Belknap '73, Anne McGraw '79, Molly McGraw '76, Mary Ellen Kenney '64 and Barbara McGraw '65



1960

Sr. Kathleen Mary Kiemen, Mary Joyce Fitzpatrick Beyer, Sr. Gloria Degele



Drummer sisters: Julie Schoettler '74, Peggy Mason '76, Janet Fasnacht '72, Jennie Adams '75, Mary Drummer '80



1960

Karen Cain Breitbarth, Nancy Wallin Schmidt, Mary Jo Thissen Garrity, Dolores Wanzek Portz, Kathy Salfer Winter, Rita Ross Oliver. Not shown Ann Weir



Associates: Dee Czech, Sr. Midge Breiter, SSND, Judy Schindler, Barb Garding,



1960

Rita Ross Oliver, Phyllis (Micky) Rooney Bement, Dolores Wanzek Portz, Kathy Salfer Winter, Mary Jo Thissen Garrity, Karen Cain Breitbarth, Alice Daly Seuntjens, Mary Drummer '80



Friends enjoying the Open House.



Dee Swanson, Sr. Suzanne Menshek, Helen Wallerich Hagell, Sr. Carmelle Malerich, and Eileen Welsh



1951
Sr. Anne Becker, Sr. Mary Edwin Lanners, Sr. Doris Welter, Maxine Embacher, Sr. Pat Frost



Sr. Francette Malecha & Sr. LaVonnie Krebs



Visiting under the tent



1980



1967



1965



1963



Mary Dauffenbach Zellmer '69
Sr. Doris Welter '51



1968



1972



1980 & 1981
Touring Loyola building (formerly GCA from 1965-1980)



Sr. My Nguyen, Sr. Mary Jo Welder '54



Sr. Marie Smith '56,
Jeanie Smith Hansen '75



Mary Jewison '61



Jane Traxler Weir '49,
Patty Weir Mehlhaff '78



1980



1980



Friends enjoying the Open House



Taking a Break: Sr. Kathryn Schoolmeisters, Sr. Audrey Lindenfeber, Sr. Kathleen Spencer, Kathleen Bednark, Eileen Welsch



Committee Members

Sr. Mary Kay Gosch, Sr. Francette Malecka, Sr. Marge Klein, Sr. Mary Ann Kuhn, Sr. LaVonne Krebs



1958

Margaret McClosky, Rosie Werner, Carolyn Breiter, Charlotte Scapenski, Barb Parisien



1961

1962

The class of '62 held its 60th class reunion in conjunction with the July 9th event on The Hill. We met under a canopy on the lawn near the entrance to the Motherhouse and continued the gathering later at The

Mankato Brewery in North Mankato. Margie Leiferman provided the sandwiches, chips, and dessert. Participants at one or both of the events were Marcie Mongeau Capelle, Sister Pauline Eischens, Nicole Rath Haugh Gretchen Butzer Jewison, Margie Hecht Leiferman, Karen Tacheny Lynch, Nora Keenan, Shirley Berg Payne, Maureen Leonard Sullivan, Noel Keane

Van Tol, Sister Monica Wagner, Susan Holzemer Weberg, and Bernadette Zimny Wolff. Our class gathered via Zoom earlier in the year and also plan on gathering in 2024 to commemorate 62 years for the class of '62.



Elizabeth King's Uniform & Medals



Tennequoit



1980 & 1981
Touring Loyola building (formerly GCA from 1965-1980)



Mona Will '73, Mary Degn'80, Jeanne Kelly '75

Mailbag

1942

Patricia Murphy Chambliss – New Smyrna, FL
Unable to attend Open House, regrettably, to say goodbye to GCA. Unbelievable! If you post a bulletin board, place for me, 98 years of age, using a walker for steadiness. I still drive to Mass and bridge-nearby. My older son lives with me and is incredibly good, efficient, and does most of the cooking. I hope there is SOMEONE left who knows me and cares! God bless GCA. Thank you.

1948

Rosemary Hub Petersen – Brooklyn Park, MN
My husband, Francis, died in January. We would have celebrated 65 years of marriage in April. I live at St. Therese Senior Apts. in Brooklyn Park and like it very much. Greetings to all my classmates of 1948.

1950

Madonna Marschall Larson – Hastings, MN
We are still on the farm and have a garden. We are still able to get around; we both drive but where I go is extremely limited. The Lord has blessed us generously! Alleluia!

1954

Jeanette Ulmen Kruse – Janesville, MN
My husband and I will celebrate our 62nd anniversary this spring. We raised three sons and one daughter on our farm south of Mankato. We have seven grandchildren and on February 2, 2021, welcomed our first great-granddaughter, Neva Victoria. (She was born on my grandfather's birthday). Throughout the years, I have enjoyed gardening, playing the organ (serving as a volunteer organist for more than 20 years in my parish), visiting with family and friends, and travel; one of our most memorable trips was to Vatican City in 1985, when I met Pope John Paul II.

Mailbag Cont'd on page 18

1954

Betty Lu Mehr Prosser – Shoreview, MN

After living in Hastings, MN for 55 years and raising four children, I moved to Shoreview, MN. I currently live in a lovely apartment in an Independent Living Community, just three blocks from my youngest daughter. I have been an avid gardener all my life. I now enjoy my balcony with flowers and enjoy a view with gardens and a wooded preserve with walking paths. I keep up with my three daughters (my son died of cancer in 2017) and my eight grandchildren and spouses. I enjoy book club, music, gardening, and travel when I can.

Irene Stevermer Nickkalsen – Burnsville, MN

Sorry no homecoming this spring! Thank you, all Board members!

1958

Jane Jansen – Maple Grove, MN

I am retired after teaching about 40 years. I have one daughter and five grandchildren. I enjoy reading and have good health as well as a lot of good memories!

1959

Pat Citrowski Buysse – York Springs, PA

Dear Classmates, especially all former Aspirants. That was quite a ride was it not!? My grandchildren cannot wrap their heads around it – restrictions and rules – they ask me “Why, Grandma? Why?” It certainly was a different time and age!

Don and I are in our eighties (LOL). Our four children love us, for which we thank God our Savior. Our fourteen grandchildren are spread around, some are married, for which we also praise God who ordains all things.

We like Pennsylvania, but sometimes I long for the flat fields of Minnesota, where the sky is always blue, and you can see forever. We have ‘tons’ of family there, since my mother had nineteen children. Don is Minnesotan too and has family there. But we do not travel anymore. We love our church, Covenant Reformed Church of the US, where the Gospel is preached. I teach Sunday school to four little lambs. May God be praised in Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for our salvation, paying for all of our sins. We cannot add anything to that.

Pat Buysse, 1959, the ‘dark’ ages.

1960

Rita Zimny Born – Waseca, MN

We retired from farming in 2018 and moved to Waseca from the farm in July of 2019. Our son and wife own the building site on the farm. He does not farm; we rented the land out. It is different living in Waseca, no open spaces. When we look out the window, all we see are houses. We are not able to see the beautiful sunrise or the sunsets. We take rides in the country a lot.

Two of our granddaughters are being married this summer. One

on May 21 and the other on June 25. Also, a farm neighbor is being married June 11 in Wisconsin and a grandniece is being married in Kentucky in November! The last granddaughter is engaged and plans on a 2023 wedding. Then all four of our grandchildren will be married.

Our grandson was married October 2018. They have a son who will be two in August 2022. He is our only great grandchild. They live in Topeka, KS, so do not see them often. Glad for text and videos.

I did not attend many of our class reunions, however, was planning to go to our 60th. Incredibly sad that the Sisters are selling The Hill but do understand their reasons.

1971

Theresa Weimert McLaughlin – Mankato, MN

I am truly blessed. My husband, Tom, and I will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary in 2022. We have two children, Elizabeth and Michael. We have six grandchildren. They range in age from three to 21.

I keep busy with volunteering at our church, at the adult fitness center (VINE) and sewing fleece seatbelt guards for the oncology patients at Mayo.

I am still playing softball on the Women’s over 40 league and golfing with girlfriends. I play with ladies in two different Bridge leagues. I enjoy reading, counted cross stitch, gardening and sewing.

Hopefully, soon we can all get together at GCA for Homecoming and visit with each other.

Joan Dauffenbach Nichols – Otsego, MN

Happily, retired and living in Otsego with my husband, Richard, and my dog, Sky.

1980

Barbara Kelly Traxler – Mankato, MN

Living in Mankato for 27 years and loving it. I am still working as an RN in the ever-growing Mankato Mayo Hospital in the Interventional Radiology Department. My husband and I enjoy growing a big vegetable garden on Good Counsel Hill. Other interests include mindfulness meditation practice, biking, cooking and being with our three adult children (who live in Minneapolis, Duluth, and Madison, WI)

Pamela Struck Harmon – North Branch, MN

My husband Dan and I just bought a trailer. Now we can take vacations together with the dog. Life is good. All things considered.



We Want to Hear From You...

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MAILBAG - Please share news about your life. Information will be printed in ReEchoes. (Attach paper if needed.)

HOMECOMING MEMORY - Please share a special Homecoming memory - no matter which anniversary! Information will be printed in ReEchoes. (Attach paper if needed.)

We reserve the right to edit submitted material as necessary for space and clarity.

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Questions?
If you have any questions regarding the ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION, please contact:
 Alumnae Office at gcalumnae@ssndcp.org
 Phone: 507-389-4279
 170 Good Counsel Drive SJH Suite 100
 Mankato, MN 56001-3138

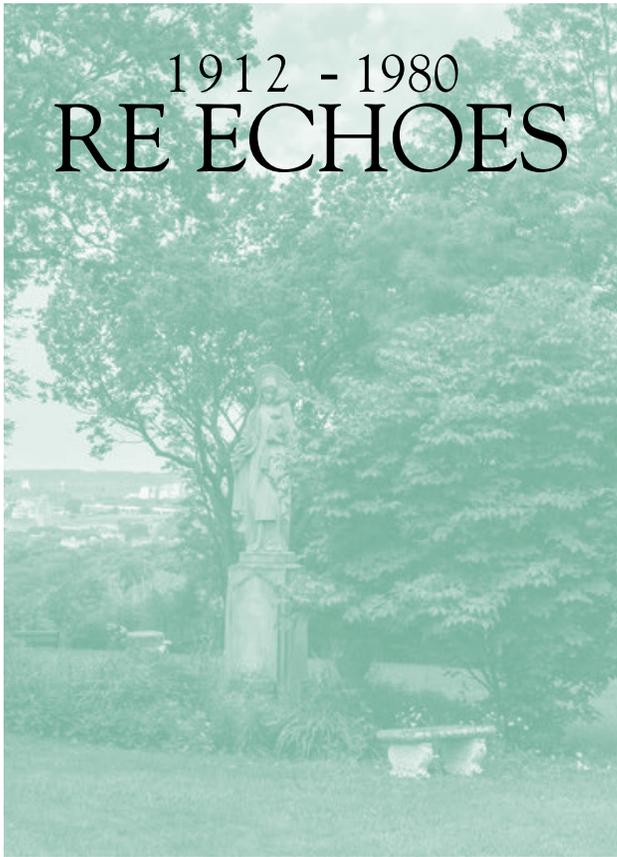
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Pat Rstom Sorenson '69 smiling because a freshman uniform still fits after 50+ years! Picture taken in the GCA Heritage Room at Good Counsel. The uniform was donated to GCA archives by her classmate Elizabeth King.