

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON 2024

MARCH 4, 2024

River City Casino & Hotel Event Center

St. Louis, Missouri

WOMEN



PEACEMAKERS



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province



“Love is the bond that unites us with one another and with God.”

*~Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger
Letter #949, December 8, 1850*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I welcome you to the 2024 Women’s Leadership Luncheon, I am forever grateful for your friendship and ongoing support of our sisters. Your continued prayers, generous financial support and the many ways you serve our sister communities fills me with abundant joy, and I share with you today the blessings of our sisters in the Central Pacific Province and around the world who are impacted by your gifts. We have just celebrated 190 years since our founding and so much has changed, but the ideals we are rooted in remain the same. We can continue to serve our communities because of you.

These luncheons are our opportunity to recognize the unique impact and contributions that women make to our community and the broader world. Our Province celebrates strong and empowering women leaders in Dallas, Milwaukee, St. Louis and St. Paul, Minnesota, and we are thrilled to welcome so many of you here today.

As you embrace the fellowship of those around you, we ask that you also keep this year’s theme *“Women as Peacemakers in a Fractured World of Violence”* in mind as you visit with one another. Now more than ever before, our world is an ever-changing place where communities and entire nations are facing challenges, strife and discord. Let us do our part and help make our communities more peaceful, one smile, one small gesture, one act of kindness at a time.

I want to give special thanks to our individual and corporate sponsors who made today’s free event possible while also supporting the ongoing urgent needs of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

With peace, blessings, and gratitude,

Sister Debra Sciano, SSND

Sister Debra Marie Sciano, SSND
Provincial Leader



Joy Garavaglia
Notre Dame High School Senior

Notre Dame High School is a sponsored ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame

Joy came to Notre Dame High School (NDHS), St. Louis, as a freshman from St. Margaret of Scotland/St. Francis Xavier College Church. Joy has demonstrated through her four years at Notre Dame the importance of understanding and appreciating differences. She has demonstrated her passions through leading, educating and executing opportunities to teach her peers about diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

Joy embodies living with justice, celebrating differences and supporting marginalized individuals. She is compassionate, confident and advocates for students with diverse backgrounds. Joy's impactful experience on a Solidarity Trip to the Border reinforced the importance of gaining knowledge and serving those seeking safety in America.

Joy actively participates in DEI activities at NDHS, serving on the Student Diversity Committee and as a Kairos leader. She promotes leadership among young women by emphasizing their unique leadership qualities and importance in the world.

She is a humble leader who prioritizes empowering others through service and education. She has dedicated over 150 hours to serving her community and school, showcasing her commitment to justice. She desires to become an educator in the future to continue to share her passion for justice with others.

She was awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King Model of Justice Award for being a living example of justice, promoting allyship and celebrating diversity.



Program

Welcome **Sister Debra Marie Sciano, SSND**
Provincial Leader

Prayer **Joy Garavaglia**
Notre Dame High School Senior

Introduction of SSND **Roy Wunsch**
Who We Are Video Women's Leadership Luncheon
Committee

Who We Are Video

Introduction of Speaker **Roy Wunsch**

Keynote Speaker **Rabbi Susan Talve**
Founding Rabbi, Central Reform
Congregation, St. Louis, Missouri,
Founder and Chief Executive Officer,
Ashrei Foundation
“Radical Nonviolent Peacemaking
Strategies – Secrets from the Women
of the Torah”

Q&A

Closing Remarks **Debbie Rohrich-Tyler, NDHS '87**
Manager of Donor Relations and Events



**Rabbi Susan Talve and the community
of Central Reform Congregation**

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(SSND) as Peacemakers who defy divisions and
bring us all closer to Shalom for all.



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Speaker



Rabbi Susan Talve

Founding Rabbi, Central Reform
Congregation, St. Louis, Missouri,
Founder and Chief Executive Officer,
Ashrei Foundation

Rabbi Susan was ordained by Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in 1981, where she earned a master's degree in Hebrew Letters and a Doctor of Divinity. She was honored with the college's Stephen Levinson Award for community service after founding the Jewish Early Learning Cooperative, Ohio's first licensed infant childcare program in the workplace.

She was the first non-Christian to receive an honorary doctorate from Eden Theological Seminary in 2011 for a career of visionary and bold leadership and supporting interfaith relations in the St. Louis community. She was awarded honorary degrees from Washington University, St. Louis and at St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York, and has received many awards for her efforts on behalf of the Jewish and non-Jewish community.

Rabbi Susan Talve is the founding rabbi of Central Reform Congregation (CRC), the only Jewish congregation located within the city limits of St. Louis. When other congregations were leaving the city for the suburbs, Rabbi Susan joined with a small group to keep a vibrant presence in the city and to be on the front line of fighting the racism and poverty plaguing the urban center.

Rabbi Susan has led her congregation in promoting radical inclusivity by developing ongoing relationships with African American and Muslim congregations and fostering civil liberties for the LGBTQ community.

continued on next page

The core value of radical hospitality has made CRC a safe home for many marginalized individuals and groups.

Access to quality affordable health care has always been a passion for Rabbi Talve. In 2007, she became a founding member and president of Missouri Health Care for All, a statewide grassroots advocacy organization that built a strong coalition for groups and individuals working to bring healthcare access to all Missourians. Rabbi Susan attributes her success to the relationships she has built by showing up; from street corners where violent crime has taken lives to rallies for worker’s rights, gun control and access to health care to the bedside of the suffering regardless of religion or membership in her community.

In 2022, Rabbi Susan founded the Ashrei Foundation, a non-profit created to empower and activate the St. Louis community and partners throughout Missouri to promote economic justice, relieve suffering, and interrupt cycles of poverty.



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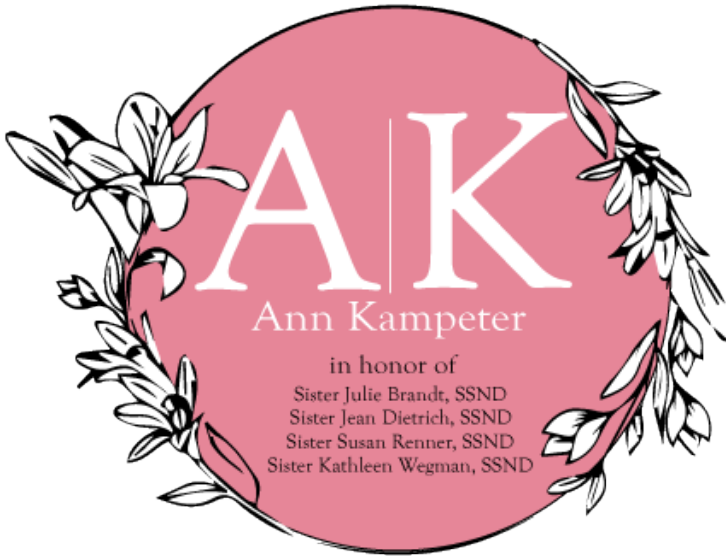
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Women Honorees



*Patty
Morrow, MA, LPC*
**Vice President –
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Mercy is proud to honor Patty Morrow, who currently serves as Vice President of Behavioral Health Services for the Mercy Health System. Patty began her career in the mental health and social service field 33 years ago after graduating from St. Louis University School of Social Work (1990) and Webster University’s Graduate Counseling Psychology Program (1995). Patty has worked in professional and clinical roles as a community-based social worker and therapist, largely with women and families impacted by mental illness and substance-use disorders.

Over the last 24 years, Patty has served as a behavioral healthcare leader, developing and implementing a broad range of services to increase access to mental healthcare, including the launch of Mercy’s technology-enabled virtual behavioral health program that is now serving 32 Mercy hospitals across 3 states. In addition, Patty led efforts to start up an integrated behavioral health program within Mercy’s primary care network, which delivers access to behavioral healthcare to 300 primary care clinics. Patty is very grateful for the many colleagues that have contributed to her professional fulfillment and development over many years. She is particularly indebted to the people with behavioral health challenges, whom she has served over the years, that have enriched her life in countless ways.



**Thank you to all of our anonymous donors who
helped to make this event possible.**



Women Honorees



*Sister Janice
Fennewald, SSND*

Transportation
Coordinator, School
Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Jim Butler Auto Group



On behalf of Jim Butler Auto Group, we are pleased to honor Sister Janice Fennewald. To know Sister Janice is to know love, peace and God's grace. Her commitment to Christ and his children along with her undeniable sacrifices are to say the least, exemplary. She brings laughter and joy to all around her. With all our love, we thank you, Sister Janice. You are a beautiful light in our lives.



Jami Waldron

SVP, Treasury
Management Services
Midwest BankCentre



We enthusiastically nominate Jami Waldron to be recognized at the 2024 Women's Leadership Luncheon. Jami's commitment to exceptional customer service in Treasury Management is unparalleled. She truly cares about her clients and it shows — taking a hands-on approach to onboarding new customers and giving personalized attention to each one. Her dedication to her customers extends to their financial protection as well, proactively educating them on detecting, preventing, and navigating fraud. Within the organization, Jami's successful efforts in negotiating a key service provider contract have significantly enhanced the Bank's returns. Jami's contributions to the Bank and the community extend beyond her role. She is a linchpin in our Commercial Team, embodying the essence of a great leader and true peacemaker through her ability to build bridges and foster success.

Women Honorees



Lauren Mueller

Board President

Notre Dame High School



Lauren Morrison Mueller is 2007 alumna of Notre Dame High School. In the spirit of being ever loyal to her alma mater, Lauren has jumped in wholeheartedly as the President of the Notre Dame High School's Board of Directors these past two years. Lauren has done an exceptional job organizing and streamlining roles and responsibilities of those serving on the board to further enhance its work. Prior to her term on the board, Lauren was a consistent donor, volunteer, and supporter of Notre Dame High School. Lauren can be found helping with school productions and dance recitals, working a booth at the school's annual Fall Festival, and attending various school events and functions. In addition to serving Notre Dame High School, professionally Lauren is employed by FORVIS, LLP as the Senior Manager, HR Shared Services. Lauren is also a wife and mother of three young children. Lauren truly embodies the mission of Notre Dame High School of being a confident, compassionate Christian woman leader, and we are thrilled to recognize the contributions she has made to the school.



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Sister Honorees



Sister Rose Ann Bacak †

Honored by Jack and Georgie Gibbs

The Bacak family was a prominent family in St. Elizabeth's Parish in Alice, Texas, in the 1950's. I went to school with the Bacak children at St. Elizabeth's Catholic School, staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame at that time. Rose Ann was two years ahead of me in school, and her brothers, James and Hank, were before and after me. I remember Rose Ann was an excellent student, a very pretty girl, and active in church. Her sister, Barbara, was several years younger and the baby of the family, and also a very pretty girl, and favorite with the sisters.



Sister Margaret Berghold

Honored by Bruce Meredith & Mary Niederehe

Sister Margaret is my aunt, and it is difficult to imagine a better aunt. She is thoughtful, kind and so much fun. Recently, Sister Margaret celebrated her 100th birthday and our whole family was able to describe how Sister Margaret's intellect, kindness and good humor had enriched our lives. We were able to hear how Sister Margaret's teaching, tutoring and compassion had done so for others. Today we celebrate, as Jesus did, the peacemakers and Sister Margaret is truly a peacemaker. Her smile is given to all. She holds no grudges, always seeks to include, never exclude. She is passionate about teaching and education because she believes the more people understand about the world and each other, the more they would love both God and their neighbors.

Blessings on all Women
who Serve as Peacemakers!



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Sister Honorees



Sister Barbara Geers

Honored by Honorable Andrew J. Gleeson

We all hold the memories of our Catholic grade school education dear. Mine are at Holy Angels school in East St. Louis, Illinois and began in the classroom of Sister Barb Geers, who I knew as Sister Marie Rosaire at the time. Sister Barb encouraged us to master reading and we excitedly accessed the SRAs that were in the back of that first-floor classroom. I love reading and words to this day. She was a kind but firm teacher who loved the St. Louis Baseball Cardinals. That makes the year 1967 happy and memorable for she and I and for the 1967 World Champion Cardinals. Thank you, Sister Barb, as your contribution to my life that year has literally lasted a lifetime.



Sister Patricia Gravemann

Honored by Joan C. Harris

In honor of my dear cousin for her dedication and extra efforts to support the SSND retired sisters. She is always uplifting!



Sister Clarea Hotze †

Honored by Jack and Georgie Gibbs

Sister Clarea taught 7th and 8th grade at St. Elizabeth's Catholic School in Alice, Texas, in the 1950's. I attended her classes in 1953-54 and 1954-55. She was a very inspirational teacher and expected the best from her students. She was a joyful and cheerful person, but a strict disciplinarian. She gave me the love of learning and the mastery of good study habits that carried me easily through public high school, college and later in life. Aside from my parents, Sister Clarea was the first major influence on my life.



Sister Honorees



Sister Rosemary Hufker †

Honored by Gerry Hufker

In memory of my big sister who meant so much to the family and to the SSND. We are grateful for all the work that she has done.



Sister Linda Jansen

Honored by Jack and Georgie Gibbs

In honor of Sister Linda Jansen and her 62 years of service with the School Sisters of Notre Dame. My wife and I traveled from Texas to attend the signature event in 2019, at the Motherhouse and Sister Linda hosted us for several days. She took us to visit the grave of Sister Clarea Hotze, who taught me in Alice, Texas. She also took us to The Sarah Community to visit Sister Mary Helen Hotze, Sister Clarea's sister. Since that visit, Sister Linda has kept us informed about SSND activity through her continued contact with us.



Sister Carla Koestner †

Honored by Catherine Weide

Sister Carla had a huge impact on my life. I took private piano lessons from her from 2nd grade until college. She also taught me to play the organ in church. Through those years, she and the rest of the sisters were a place of refuge, encouragement and love. She helped me be a strong person and confident in myself. I moved on to college and found a wonderful man to marry. My husband and I lived most of our life on the East Coast and then Florida. On our summer trips to Iowa, we would often stop in Burlington and then St. Louis to see her. At first she was disappointed that my husband was not Catholic, and he was not converting. But after several trips to St. Louis, she told me that he has been, and is, a good husband and father. He cares so much about me to go out of his way to visit a convent on our vacation.



Sister Honorees



Sister Grace Marie Mueller

Honored by Loyce Williams

I have known dear Sister Grace for many years. She was a lay teacher at the Academy of Notre Dame in Belleville, Illinois, when I was a student in the early to mid-fifties. The parishioners at St. Luke Parish in Belleville, were blessed with her presence from 1991 to 2014. It is difficult to put into words how she was always there in good and bad times for each individual. She encouraged everyone, regardless of age, color, background or situation. She supported the Inner Faith Council, those living with AIDs and HIV, The Homeless Coalition, the parents of gay and lesbian children and more. She saw possibilities for growth and spiritual development for everyone, including me. It's a blessing and an honor to know Sister Grace Mueller.



Sister Geraldine Neier

Honored by Mary Frey

As a child I remember Sister Geraldine attending our family reunions. My cousins and I were always in awe of her. She wore a habit, taught school, played the organ for mass and she was fun to be around. I had an extra privilege as Sister Geraldine was the flower girl in my mother and father's wedding. Later, when Sister Geraldine was in Africa, my mother (always a great letter writer-she knew cursive) corresponded with her. Mom always looked forward to her letters. Mom and Sister Geraldine's brother Carl shared the letters and adventures in Africa. They always prayed for her safe return. God must have heard their prayers, as she was able to escape a very unsafe situation and return home. I am happy to say Sister Geraldine is a relative of mine and I am privileged to honor her today.





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Sister Honorees



Sister Frances Padberg †

Honored by Rabbi Susan Talve

I would like to honor Sister Frances of blessed memory who inspired many to live and laugh and love more fiercely as she worked for justice as a peacemaker. She was a religious woman of deep faith and a friend.



Sister Dolores Shea †

Honored by Jean Buchana, SSND Associate

Sister Dolores was my mentor in guiding me as I studied to be a School Sisters of Notre Dame associate. She was always gentle and kind. We remained friends while she lived at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, and at The Sarah Community, Bridgton, Missouri. I miss her.



Sister Dorothy Venhaus

Honored by Sister Barbara Neist, SSND, Mary Pancella and Claudia Wright

In honor of Sister Dorothy Venhaus, who enriched the lives of many as a music educator and organist both here and for many years in Japan.





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We would like to thank our volunteers from
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