





December 2023 • Vol. 42 • No. 3

James Thering '89, Alumni Director Earl Hartman '66, Assistant Director Paulette Andres '64 Green, Newsletter Chairperson

A PHOTO REVIEW OF 2023 Homecoming

HEART



HOMECOMING COURT-Representatives from each class were: (from left) Freshmen Sarah Predum & Nathan Siler; Sophomores Maddie Anderson (grandmother Cathie McCann '74 Cluley, great-grandfather Tom McCann '50, great-great-grandparents Eleanor Marthey 1913 & Al McCann 1911) & Noah Zeien (Danielle Radawski '89 Zeien); Junior Erin Judge; Seniors King Connor Stempky, Queen Molly Siler, Ella McDonnell, Aiden HallIday, Leah Smith (Stephany Straight '93 Smith, grandparents Mary Campbell '68 & John Straight '67), Jacob Reid, Kate Liscomb (Lauri Myers '90 Liscomb, grandmother Jo Ann Campbell '67 McManus) & Sergey Collings. Missing from the photo: Junior Brody Cherry.



COACHES HALL OF FAME—Several long-time coaches were recognized for their contributions to the success of SHA Athletics, including (from left) Mark DeNoyelles, Rick Roberts, Damon Brown (who was also the Homecoming Grand Marshal), and Keisha Brown (standing in for her is daughter Angel Brown '23). Next to Angel is Bill Myler '76, who presented the awards. Not pictured, but recognized with this first group of coaches for his many efforts was Mark Zitzelsberger.



2023 HALL OF FAME: (From left) Jeff Gepford '79, Lisa Zitzelsberger '99 Roebke, and Jamie Carter '95 Kauffold were inducted into the SHA Athletic Hall of Fame. For more information on the 2023 Homecoming honorees, visit the SHA web site.

Photo credits to SHA grad Sue Ellen Dení Owen (1985)



Reunion reports

Class of 1958 celebrates 65 years

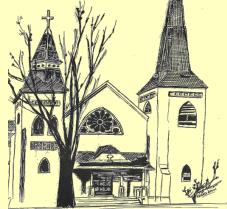
The members were enjoying one another's company so much and reading notes from absent classmates, that they completely forgot to take a picture.

The following classmates were present during the Homecoming weekend gettogether: MaryAnne Neyer Woltz, Sue Hovey Schafer, Larry Dalrymple, Ruth Landwehr Smolenski, Sue McQuaid Graham, John Wejrowski, and Elaine Hackett Salisbury. Those who reached out by phone, email, or letter, but could not attend because of health or distance, were Diane Percha Whitehead, Jeanette Smith Grnya, Jo McCracken Funk, Julie Hartman Klein, Margie Thering Gaudard, Patricia Codden, Patricia Wentworth Brown, Patricia Murphy David, Sue Courtright Fanning, and Terry Grisdale.

In lieu of a class picture, Alumni News editors decided to use artwork from the

1958 Cor Jesu Yearbook. The cover was embossed with four (Latin) words: *Veritas, Laudare, Benedicere,* and *Praedicare;* meaning truth, praise, bless, proclaim. The artwork on the inside front and back covers, shown here, was illustrated by Renato Rocci, an Italian exchange student who

joined the Class of 1958.



Inside the yearbook, Editor Mary Murphy Nolan wrote a dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary, noting the state of the world in 1957-58. Her message seems relevant today: "With the conquest of outer space comes a new and startling age, the age of satellites and missiles and the control of a new frontier. National boundaries widen to embrace the whole world. World citizenship rises above race, color, and creed. To guide the pattern of tomorrow and to chart a sure and safe way to a better world, we need Mary, a weapon of truth and an absolute defense on the new frontier. If our missile age becomes a Mary-age, there will be a better world."





60-YEAR REUNION—Classmates from 1963 met Homecoming weekend at Cheers Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant. Pictured at the gathering are, from left to right: Kathy Anton Ervin, Ron Ervin, Mary Peltier Paisley, Sandy Duffy Schafer, Jim Cain, Jackie Campbell Fitzsimmons, Sandy Fortino Falsetta, Tom Horgan, Jodi Theisen Hura, Denise Theisen Carroll and Jessica Hartman Janego.

> If your class is planning a reunion, contact the Alumni Office at **(989) 772-1385** for assistance and information



CLASS OF 1983 CELEBRATES 40 YEARS— Classmates met November 4 at Freddie's Tavern in Mt. Pleasant to catch up on recent years and reminisce on high school days. Pictured at the get-together are: Front row (four ladies), left to right: Laurie Schafer Moscardelli, Angie Quinlan McCann, Lisa Gepford and Patty Ahlers Schafer. Second row, left to right: Kim Epple Hire, Sue Carter Lowe, Mary Frick Haering, Karen McCormick Mead, Missy McFarlane Townsend, Jamie Hovey Majewski, Beth Coles Jones and Jerry Neyer. Back row, left to right: Tom McNamara, Jeff Fussman, Jerry Heintz, Dana Rudoni, Terry Coughlin, Paul Janes, and Alan McCoy.

More reunion gatherings

Class of 1973 gathers for 50-year reunion

Has it been 50 years already? Members of the Class of '73 celebrated throughout Homecoming weekend. They are pictured here at the Soaring Eagle Resort, where a dinner event was hosted.



Use this "map" to help identify the people pictured above.

1—Pat Heintz, 2—Mr. Fred their 6th grade teacher), 3— Lisa Pollard, 5—Lynette Hall, pard Allan, 7—Ellen Myler, Vance (a grade school class-McCann Baderschneider, denstein (a grade school Hedy Frick, 12—Linda Cluley



Hebert (one of Gary Henry, 4— 6—Kim Shep-8—Bev Goffnett mate), 9—Pattie 10—Dave Breiclassmate), 11— Cotter, 13—Mary

Trainor Page, 14—Ray Rzepecki, 15—Tom Lannen, 16—Mary Anker, 17—Lucinda Doneth, 18—Pam (spouse of Marie P), 19— Marie Pollard, 20—Bob Fox, 21—Roger Goenner, 22—Joe Sunderman (a grade school classmate), 23—Jim Cole, 24—Joe Wohlscheid, 25—Tim Neyer, 26—Jerry Thering, and 27—Jack Nowland (a grade school classmate).

55-YEAR CLASS REUNION--

It might not be the best photo, but boy, did the Class of 1968 have fun. This picture was taken at the group gathering at the Soaring Eagle Casino &



Resort. Seated, from left: Rita Hackett Maddox, Pauline Theisen Thomas, Maureen Murphy Rondy, Jeanne Theisen Goheski, Kathleen Pollard Boyd, JoAnn Swetz Bingham, and Diane Scully McConnell. Standing, from left: Tim Hart, Joe Heintz, Pat Schafer, Connie Quillen, Sue Sweeney Steele, Sue Harris Moggenberg, Barb Breidenstein Elmore, Mike Quillen, Susan Duffy Onstott, Mike Kostrzewa, Maxine Klumpp Kent, Yvonne Lobsinger Jackson, Mark Simons, Pat Swetz Maeder, Mary Rheinhart, Jim Breidenstein, and Steve Doerr.





Lisa Roach, Admissions Director

Students respond to recent events

Veterans Day Celebrations

This year, we were thankful for the opportunity to honor our Veterans with a special Mass and celebration afterward. Sarah Chaffee, 1st through 12th grade art teacher, and I collaborated to ensure our Veterans would feel the Sacred Heart love! Elementary students and teachers spent the November days leading up to Veterans Day in preparation of honoring the men and women who have so bravely served our country. From golden stars displaying the name and rank of our special Veterans, to personalized posters which the elementary students helped create, we wanted to be sure every student & teacher with a special Veteran received an opportunity to participate.

On Thursday, November 9, we invited our Veterans to Mass followed by refreshments, generously donated by the family of Kevin and Melissa Langlois, in the Parish Hall. There, "thank you" posters, created by each elementary class, and the golden stars displaying the names of Veterans with relatives at Sacred Heart Academy, decorated the venue.

During the Mass, Mrs. Nikki Taylor and our fourth-grade choir led the congregation in uplifting and patriotic songs and Father Loren recognized all Veterans in attendance. Next, our Veterans and their SHA students headed to the Parish Hall for the celebration. Once there, the sixth graders and kinder-prep students recited the Pledge of Allegiance while the sixth graders simultaneously signed (American Sign Language) it. They ended with both groups of students signing "Thank you for your service." Our guests enjoyed donuts, muffins, juice, and coffee before the conclu-

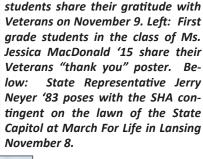
sion of the celebration. It was a very special day, and we are already planning next year's celebration!

March for Life

Interacting with our students and building relationships on a daily basis brings me an incredible amount of joy and rein-









forces the fact that I was led to Sacred Heart Academy by the Holy Spirit. It is truly my vocation!

On Wednesday, November 8, I had the pleasure of chaperoning Mr. John Sira's sophomore religion classes to Lansing so we could attend March for Life! As we arrived at the rally, you could feel the excitement as many speakers shared their stories. State Representative SHA Alumnus **Jerry Neyer '83** was also in attendance at the

rally, showing his support for LIFE, and we were thankful he was able to join us for a photo-op! As we peacefully marched through the streets of Lansing, I was simply in awe when 10th grader Brendan Ervin (James '85, grandfather Bill '65) began to lead the crowd in Catholic prayers. THIS is the SHA difference!



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Mary Kay Yonker, Principal

Kay Hauck to join leadership team

Sacred Heart Academy's new assistant principal and academic advisor is no stranger to SHA or Sacred Heart Parish.

Kay Hauck has been an SHA parent and volunteer for more than 20 years. Although Beal City by birth, she married into a family which wholeheartedly supports the IRISH, and it was a natural decision to send her daughters to SHA because of the family's Catholic values.

Kay is a practicing Catholic and has been a lector at Sacred Heart Parish for many years. She has volunteered at the parish fall festival and has also been very active in SHAgala, organizing classroom baskets from 2013 to 2019 and coordinating and as-sisting with the online auction since 2018.

Kay was a member of the Sacred Heart Academy School Board from 2011 to 2017, serving as secretary and president. She served on the SHA Athletic Association from 2017 to 2023 and created the online volunteer process for signing up workers for the gate and concessions. She has greeted patrons at the Fri-day night Lenten fish fry take-out station, where she has volun-teered for countless years.

Kay brings a wealth of experience to the assistant principal and academic advisor position. For the past 20 years she has been an instructional technology specialist working with schools at Clare-Gladwin and Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service Districts. For 10 years prior to that, she was a math and business teacher at Chippewa Hills High School. Kay's commitment to her Catholic faith, her knowledge, work ethic, communication skills, and organization make her a perfect fit for this position.

Kay grew up in Beal City, 12th in a line of 14 children in the Norman & Margaret Gross family. She and her husband Neal have four daughters who attend(ed) Sacred Heart Academy: Rachel '16, Jodi '17, Allison '21, and Sophie, who is a current junior at Sacred Heart Academy. As each daughter progressed through school, and with each milestone sacrament and graduation, Kay gained familiarity with the teachers, staff, other parents, volunteers, and supporters of SHA. Kay is excited about her new role, saying she looks forward to being [back] in a school environment. She said, "I am looking forward to working directly with students again, especially in a Christ-centered environment. Attending weekly school Mass occasionally over the years has always been a special experience, and I'm thrilled that I will now get to do that every week. I am honored to be part of this awesome team of educators."

Please join me in welcoming Kay to Sacred Heart Academy. She begins her new role January 3, 2024.



Above, the Hauck family at a recent wedding, left to right: Allison '21, Neal, Rachel Hauck '16 Briggs, Austin Briggs '15, Kay, Jodi '17, and Sophie, a current SHA 11th grader. Below, in In 2021, Kay was featured in a volunteer profile with her niece, Lisa Hauck '89 Williams, a kindergarten teacher at SHA.

VOLUNTEER

A salute to SHA Volunteers

A "dynamic duo"

People may not know that these two super volunteers are related. "She is my partner in crime," Lisa says, "and my Aunt Kay!" Lisa and Kay team up together

says, ond my here (a): Lisa and kay team up togener to feature them together. They have worked Lenten Friday Fish Fries side-by-side and volunteered for other athletic association events such as gate tickets and concessions. For years, Kay helped with the SHAgala online auction and Lisa worked on the silent auction. Together they coordinated the Live auction classroom baskets for seven years. This year, Kay and Lisa uploaded each and every SHAgala auction item into the new digital auction software, driving the success of SHA's first-ever virtual event.

Kay's advice

Kay and her husband Neal have four daughters. Rachel and Jodi are SHA graduates, while Allision (12th grade) and Sophie (8th grade) are currently enrolled. Kay says it is difficult to choose a favorite event at SHA. "What makes all the activities enjoyable," she says,

"Whether you are all dressed up for SHAgala, working at the fish fry, or sitting in the bleachers cheering on the IRISH teams, is the people you are with All of the activities are fun and memorable because you are surrounded by great people." She suggests "finding a buddy" to get involved. "Volunteering is a great opportunity to spend time with a friend," Kay says.

Lisa says volunteering doesn't feel like work at all

"The best thing about volunteering at Sacred Heart is the feeling of community which comes with it," says Lisa. "People say 'it takes a village' and Sacred Heart is a great village! When parents who become friends work together for a common goal, it doesn't feel like work at all." Lisa, a 1989 graduate of SHA, has three children. Her youngest, Olivia is in 10th grade at the Academy, while sons Joey and Zach graduated in '17 and '19 respectively. Lisa and her husband, Jack, enjoy attending Olivia's athletic and school events and all family activities. Lisa says her favorite event each year—by far—is SHAgala. "It is amazing," she says. "Year after year! You have to see it to believe it!"

We are grateful for you and all the volunteers who make SHA special.

Thank you, Kay & Lisa!

Kay Hauck &

Lisa Williams

SHAgala Committee

Class Notes

1951—**Theresa Cashen Corless** died peacefully at her sister's home in Mt. Pleasant August 6, 2023, surrounded by family and loved ones. Theresa was a lifelong parishioner of Sacred Heart Parish and attended St. Mary's University Parish on the campus of CMU. She was a schoolteacher who retired after devoting 38 years in classrooms in the Grand Rapids area. Her siblings are also SHA grads: Leo Cashen Jr. '52, Fred Cashen '54, Thomas Cashen '56, George Cashen '58, Mary Jean Rodenbo '59, Rosemary Hartley '61, and Catherine Jarman '65.

1957—**Paul Deni** passed away October 2, 2023, at his home in Lawrenceville, Georgia, as the result of a brain stem stroke he suffered in May. Paul was a gifted athlete, lettering in four sports during his high school career, including four years of football. His love of children and teaching led him to 33 years teaching 6th grade, including 29 at Beal City Public Schools. Paul enjoyed small game hunting, fly fishing and deer hunting. He was also a student of military history and was well-versed in World Wars I and II, and the Royal Air Force. Paul is the brother of **Louie '50, Frank '53,** and **Roseann Bommarito '61**.

1956—**Phyllis Brock Williams** passed away peacefully on November 14, 2023. in Denver, Colorado. After graduation from SHA, Phyllis attended Central Michigan University. She married and was blessed with two sons, **Jeff '79** and **Tim '80**. Her husband, Bob, her boys, and their families were always the center of her life. Both Jeff and Tim were accomplished jockeys, which allowed her to travel to racetracks across the United States. Her obituary said she "was the perfect boy mom."

1960—David Moore died July 28, 2023, in Ocala, Florida. David served in the U.S. Navy for four years then attended Northern Michigan College in Traverse City where he received his nursing degree. He worked at the old State Hospital in Traverse, and the Veterans Hospital of Grand Rapids. His father John Moore graduated from SHA in 1935, and his sister Marilyn Standley is a 1965 alum.

1961—David Neyer died peacefully September 3, 2023, at the Isabella County Medical Care Facility with his family by his side. Dave married a Beal City girl, Carol Schafer, and they worked side-by-side on the family farm, where they taught their children teamwork and the value of a hard day's work. Dave was a lifelong member of Sacred Heart Parish, a lifetime member of Farm Bureau, an Isabella County Commissioner, and, an involved Fair Board and 4H member. Dave's children attended SHA: Jerry'83, Brenda O'Brien'84, Bryan'86, and Ron '88. Dave's siblings are Mary Ann Woltz '58, James '62, Virginia "Ginny" Withey '65, Bill '70, and George "Tim" '73.

1978—Daniel Quillen died unexpectedly at his home August 21, 2023. After graduation from SHA, Dan received a degree and license as an auto mechanic from Ferris State College. He worked for more than 20 years at a Buick & GMC dealership in Grand Rapids. Dan loved a good garage sale, enjoyed talking about politics, and discussing his Irish ancestry. Most im-

portant to Dan was time spent with his family, especially his grandchildren. Dan was 1 of 11 siblings to graduate from SHA: Carol Quillen '67, Mike '68, Connie Miller '68, Mark '70, Barb Crandall '72, Deborah Predmesky '74, Elizabeth Judge '75, Brian '78, Heidi Quillen '80, and Julie Gross '84; their father Pat Quillen also graduated from the Academy in 1938.

1988—Kevin Hartman accepted a full-time position as Associate Teaching Professor of Marketing at the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business this year after spending the last 11 years working at Google in a variety of roles, including a stint as Google's Chief Analytics Strategist. Kevin and his wife Sandra have four children. Kevin's oldest two children Benjamin (23) and Aidan (20) attend college at the University of Notre Dame and University College Dublin (Ireland), respectively. His youngest two, Evan (17) and Cecilia (10) are still home.

2006—**Corey Ley** and Britni Buesking welcomed their second son September 18, 2023. Ledger Beckham was welcomed at home by his brother Lennox, who is 18 months old. The family resides in Mt. Pleasant. Ledger was also welcomed by his grandmother **Rose Martin '79 Beebe**.

2007—**Erin Coughlin** married Todd Schorle on October 22, 2022, at the Felt Mansion in Saugatuck. Erin and Todd have moved back to the Mt. Pleasant area and reside in her family home. Erin graduated from Florida State University in December 2013, receiving her certification as a licensed funeral director. After several years in that profession, Erin pursued another career passion. She is now employed by the Isabella County Sheriff Department.

2009—Jimmy Cardon and his wife Taylor welcomed their first child, a daughter they named Piper May, on September 6, 2023, in Grand Rapids, where the family resides. Baby Piper's oh-so-proud grandmother is Carolyn Strauss '79 Cardon and her great grandmother is Anne McConnell '54 Strauss.

2014—**Cole Younger** and Diedre Cooper were married September 16, 2023, at the Tobacco Ranch in Clare. The newlyweds reside in Saginaw, where Cole is a project manager for Wolgast Construction.

2015—Elizabeth "Lizzy" Ervin married Andrew Hubbard October 14, 2023, at the Cross in the Woods in Indian River, Michigan. They celebrated their union with a reception at the Bay Harbor Yacht Club. Lizzy is a Neonatal Nurse at St. David's Medical Center in Austin, Texas, where the couple resides.

Austin Briggs and Rachel Hauck (2016) were married October 6, 2023, at Sacred Heart Church in Mt. Pleasant. Austin is in Business Development at Eydent Insurance Services in Mt. Pleasant. Rachel is an Audit Senior at Deloitte in Midland. The couple resides in Sanford.

2017—**McKenna Younger** married Christian Benson October 14, 2023, at the The Venue in Clare. The couple resides in Grand Rapids where McKenna is completing her education degree in early childhood development at Grand Valley State University.

Classmates gather







(Above) Girlfriends from the Class of 1981 gathered in South Haven to commemorate their 60th birthdays and submitted a "Hello, Sixty" photo to the Alumni News. In front, front left, Deb McDonald Fox, Pam Thering Hansen and Carol Brandell O'Connell. Back row, from left: Patti Gepford Olson, Connie Veit McCann, Sandy Mankowski Britten, Kathy McNerney, and Lisa Baumann.

(Above, left) Friends from the Class of 1991 gathered at the Riverwalk Spa in Gladwin to celebrate the start of another halfdecade. Seated, from left: Andrea Campbell Tuttle, Betsy Balogh O'Malley, Heather Faulkner Engel, and Wendy McConnell Endres. In back, from left: Melanie Siuda Knight, Trisha Pieratt McMillan, and Stacy Larrance Finnerty.

(At left) Additional members from the SHA Class of 1991 climbed Pike's Peak in Colorado to celebrate The Big 5-0. From left: Denise Vogel, Jennifer Zeien, Ann Hovey Kenyon and Patty Pacholka Carson.

Farewell to everyone's friend, Fr. Don

"Obey your leaders . . . for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." (Hebrews 13:17) This scripture is a reminder that God puts people in leadership roles for a reason.

He certainly sent Father Don Henkes (Honorary Alumnus) to Sacred Heart Academy, St. Henry's in Rosebush, St. Charles In Leaton, and Sacred Heart Parish in Mt. Pleasant for a reason. The incredible person who served nearly 57 years in the priesthood, including more than 35 at Sacred Heart, died November 21 at the age of 83, leaving a legacy of kindness and service in every way imaginable.

Born and raised in Chicago, Fr. Don was ordained to the priesthood in 1966. His extraordinary Catholic life trained him in education, brought him to the priesthood, to ministry in seven U.S. states including Alaska, and to an assignment in prison ministry. Thankfully, in 1987, he arrived at Sacred Heart Academy, where he taught secondary religion and was also the priest assigned to weekend Masses at St. Henry's and St.

Charles. When he retired from Sacred Heart after 30+ years, he had also held the roles of SHA Transportation Supervisor and Senior Priest. Fr. Don was the last religious-order faculty member to teach at SHA. There have been no others since he stepped away from teaching in 2015.

He was always a strong supporter of youth and life—from conception to natural death. In countless ways he worked to seek social justice for marginalized people in our society. Over the years, he adopted eight sons to give them a better life. In 2020 he started a fund within the SHA Foundation which benefits tuition assistance each year called the Henkes Tui- Give tion Assistance Fund. If you wish to memorialize Fr. Don with a donation to this fund, visit www.sha.net and click on the Naw "Give Now" icon pictured at right.





Sacred Heart was blessed to have him serve our parish and school community. Upon his passing, the social media community was filled with memories and tributes for him. The impact he had is far-reaching and long-lasting. *RIP, Father Don, until we meet again.*



ALUMNI SACRED NEWS

Sacred Heart Parish 302 S. Kinney Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 www.sha.net | 989-772-1385 FIRST-CLASS PRESORTED U.S. POSTAGE **P A I D** Ithaca, MI Permit No. 35

Alumni News For:





<u>30th annual dinner/auction event</u> SHAgala happens February 10

From "Castles & Crowns" in 1995 to "An Evening of Romance" in 2004, right through 2019's "Silver Jubilee" and a pandemic event—"SHAgala With a Twist"—in 2021, Sacred Heart Academy's annual dinner/auction is building on 29 years of history. The 30th annual event happens Saturday, February 10, 2024, in the SHA gymnasiums from 4 pm to Midnight.

Since 2021, the event has featured online bidding, giving alumni and friends from across the nation the opportunity to participate in the auction parts of the program. Special events, ticket sales, and on-line donations are also available through the internet-based platform.

Happening live at the school, in the transformed gymnasiums, is the traditional and elaborate—sometimes unbelievable!—SHAgala Live Auction, dinner, entertainment, and other "extras." The event is typically a sell-out each year, and has become the longest-running event of its kind in the central Michigan region.

SHAgala is the school's single largest

<u>2024 Event Co-Chairs:</u> Taren Fabiano Barberi '05 Meghan White



fundraiser, benefitting every teacher and student at the Academy each year because proceeds are dedicated to school operations. SHAgala's success keeps Catholic education affordable for local families.

In recent years, records have been set for special collections accepted for the teachers at SHAgala time. The donations made specifically for the teachers, then matched by the **Family of Lee & Jim Fabiano '61,** are paid out to the teachers, continually helping the Academy decrease the pay gap(s) which exist in comparison to local public school teacher salaries.

Here's how you can get involved with SHAgala 2024:

• The Fabiano Family has issued the match for giving To the Teachers again this year; please donate!

• Purchase a cash raffle ticket in support of the event—watch for details about 30 Alumni selling 300 Tickets, which is happening soon!

• Visit the school website or the SHAgala Facebook page for connection to the 2024 auction site once the site goes live after Christmas. There will be opportunities to participate in the auctions and other events!

For information about tickets to attend the event, donating an item or gift certificate from your business, or sponsorship opportunities, contact:

Lindsay Ley Sacred Heart Development Director (989) 772-1385 or LLey@sha.net