

# The HARVESTER

Vol. 87, No. 2

www.westcatholicgirlsalumnae.com

Fall 2020

## A Letter from the President

I hope when this newspaper arrived it found you in good health.

These are certainly challenging times. Life as we have known it changed overnight, and going to the supermarket became almost our only outing. The virus has caused a cancellation of almost all planned events, including graduation ceremonies, luncheons, parties, parades, just to name a few. We never imagined that the virus would still be around when we canceled the Spring Luncheon.

Now, sadly, the Communion Breakfast has joined the list. The Alumnae Board decided it would be prudent to cancel the event. This was not an easy decision but everyone's health is more important. This Communion Breakfast would have been our 92nd. But as the song goes, we will meet again. Hopefully we can start planning our 2021 events.



As we did in the Spring, we have decided to have our raffle, which as you know funds our Scholarship Account. The chances are included with this newspaper. Also, for this drawing we have decided to include 8 tickets instead of the usual 5. The chances are still \$5.00 each, but you can purchase all 8 for \$35.00. Hopefully you'll find this discount appealing. **Tickets may be mailed to PO Box 805, Broomall, PA 19008 by Thursday, October 22, 2020.**

We will hold the drawing by the end of October and will post the winners on Facebook and our website.

Thanks to everyone who continues to support our organization, which in turn supports the school and its students.

Stay safe and stay healthy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat McLaughlin".

Pat McLaughlin

## In Memoriam



The Alumnae Board sadly lost a longtime board member and past President in May when **Helen Sheridan** passed away. The following tribute to Helen was written by Sr. Ave Armstrong, SSJ, a dear friend of Helen's.

Helen Sheridan was a gentle, intelligent teacher at West Catholic High School for over two decades. A graduate of St. Callistus Elementary school and West Girls', Helen returned to her Alma Mater and taught history in both West Girls' and the combined school. This professional woman taught on Chestnut Street for three decades then moved on to Bishop Shanahan before retiring from the classroom. Helen kept her connection with West Catholic by faithfully serving on the Board for a number of years. In her professional demeanor, Helen always projected to her students a warm and positive presence. In addition to her academic commitments, Helen recognized her social responsibilities also.

Initially, she monitored the school newspaper, *The Reaper*, as a service to West. Also, this dedicated history teacher served as the department head for many years and initiated the World Affairs Club in order to introduce her students to a wider scope of traditions and cultures. Likewise, Helen trained future lawyers in the Mock Trial Club and loved deepening the students' perspective by taking them on various field trips. A world traveler, this cosmopolitan history teacher visited China, Australia, New Zealand, many European countries, and had a real love of Ireland, the land of her parents' birth. As a member of the faculty, Helen offered support and guidance not only to her students but also to new teachers. The students taught by Helen Sheridan experienced a wise and wonderful Catholic woman, and she will be remembered by her students and peers in this light.

## Alumnae Board

- 1940 Margaret Porter**, 1048 W. Baltimore Pike, M422, Media, PA 19063
- 1942 \*Phyllis Lebano Dunn**, Riddle Village, Media, PA 19063
- 1948 Kathleen Martin Fahey**, 89 Saxer Ave, Springfield, PA 19064, (610) 544-4632
- 1950 Mary Maxwell Flynn**, 642 Ferne Blvd, Drexel Hill, PA 19026, (610) 623-6528, flynnnonferne@aol.com
- 1953 Helen Deane Concannon**, 275 N. State Rd, Springfield, PA 19064, (484) 479-3454
- Peg Gallagher Riley**, 111 Leon Ave, Norwood, PA 19074, (484) 494-0918
- 1954 Dolores Driver Schnitzel**, 10806 Modena Terrace, Phila., PA 19154, (215) 637-1058
- 1955 Peggy Henry Glancey**, 314 Lewis Rd, Broomall, PA 19008, (610) 325-8748
- Patricia McGovern Gottschall**, 585 N. Atlantic Ave, Collingswood, NJ 08108, (856) 858-8302
- 1956 Cass Jarrett Coakley**, 26 Evergreen Ave, Broomall, PA 19008, (610) 353-1017, casscoakley@verizon.net
- 1957 Anna Melella Bruno**, 2-11 Bloomfield Ave, Drexel Hill, PA 19026, (610) 626-0606
- \*Marie Mulcahy**, 550 S. Lansdowne Ave, Apt 204, Yeadon, PA 19050, (610) 259-0082
- 1958 Sr. Claire Smith**, SHCJ, Daylesford Crossing, 1450 Lancaster Ave, Paoli, PA 19301, (484) 328-8254, csmith@shcj.org
- 1959 Christine Feeser Jackson**, 316 Freedom Blvd, West Brandywine, PA 19320 (610) 353-3956, wctinky@msn.com
- Sr. Rosie Hagan**, IHM, 8245 West Chester Pike, Upper Darby, PA 19082, (610) 998-5276, rosiehagan41@yahoo.com
- Joan O'Connor Mullarkey**, 10 Marwood Dr, Broomall, PA 19008, (610) 356-2726, hannaoc@aol.com
- 1960 Frances DiStefano Ranieri**, 517 Blythe Ave, Drexel Hill, PA 19026-5215, (610) 789-1269, xoremusx@yahoo.com
- Mary Maguin Small**, 5095 Adrianna Court, Center Valley, PA 18034, (484) 995-3525, maryjls@aol.com
- 1961 Barbara Spencer Britton**, 123 W. Gardner Ave, Glenolden, PA 19036, (215) 917-1336, bbritton2108@yahoo.com
- Betsy Gleason Cunningham**, 1826 Meribrook Rd, Phila, PA 19151, (215) 879-3282, betsy1826@verizon.net
- Rose Frank**, 79 Drexelbrook Dr, Apt 3, Drexel Hill, PA 19026, (610) 259-5481, auntrosie2002@yahoo.com
- Pat McLaughlin**, 838 Garrett Lane, Apt 1B, Springfield, PA 19064, (610) 544-0708, patmc22@comcast.net
- Rosalie Dugan McNeff**, 5 Park Ave, Norwood, PA 19074, (610) 532-1827, mcneffr@yahoo.com
- 1962 Maria DiStefano Petolicchio**, 604 Heather Lane, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010, (610) 527-8592, mariapeto@verizon.net
- 1963 Donna Livoy Houghton**, 1290 Allentown Rd, Apt 179 East, Lansdale, PA 19446 (610) 306-8432, dhough2255@hotmail.com
- 1964 Anne Henne Organ**, 209 39th St, Sea Isle City, NJ 08432, (609) 263-8348, annorg@comcast.net
- 1965 Bette McGrath Diedrich**, 870 Spring Hill Rd, Secane, PA 19018, (610) 544-6295, boopscor@aol.com
- 1966 Kathleen Schultz Buchanan**, 8613 Patton Rd, Wyndmoor, PA 19038, (215) 980-8855, nanandpop19@gmail.com
- 1967 Roe Cipollone Mitchell**, 322 Shadeland Ave, Drexel Hill, PA 19026, (610) 259-4486, roern98@hotmail.com
- 1968 Lucille Madalio**, 5 Eldon Ave, Lansdowne, PA 19050, (484) 437-0740, lucille.madalio@foxroach.com
- 1969 Hannah Dougherty Campbell**, 1325 Robinson Ave, Havertown, PA 19083, (610) 764-3249, hannahdcampbell@hotmail.com
- 1970 Sr. Denise Ware, SFCC**, 353 Wenonah Ave, Mantua, NJ 08051, (609) 970-4371, dcwsfcc@gmail.com
- 1971 Peggy Ford Rhoades**, 3704 Bonsall Ave, Drexel Hill, PA 19026, (610) 284-5820, peggyrhoades1@gmail.com
- 1974 Kirsti Flemming Bradford**, PO Box 432, Secane, PA 19018, (610) 580-7588, kbradford565@gmail.com
- Carol Carata Cavallo**, 170 Kingswood Ct, Glen Mills, PA 19342, (610) 719-7421, cclcc426@comcast.net
- 1975 Tina Spivey Randall**, 1239 Marlyn Rd, Phila. PA, 19151, (215) 939-1458, tinarandall18@yahoo.com

\* *Class representative*

## Andrew Brady Announced as Interim President



Andrew Brady has been appointed as Interim President for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Brady, a 2002 graduate of West Catholic, previously served as the Vice President for Institutional Advancement since 2016. He also was a faculty member from 2006-2010 and returned to West in 2013 as Director of Annual Giving for 2 years. He then took a position as Development Director for Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS) before returning to WCPHS in 2016.

We extend our congratulations to Mr. Brady and know the school is in good hands. He is committed to the success of the school and his leadership qualities will serve him well in this role.

Andrew is a good friend to the Alumnae and we have enjoyed working with him in the past and are looking forward to continuing to do so in the future.

## Welcome to Our New Principal Genevieve Torres

Mrs. Genevieve Torres has accepted the position of Principal of West Catholic Prep effective August 3, 2020. Mrs. Torres



comes to West from Saints John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School in South Philadelphia where she served as Assistant Principal of Instructional Transformation since 2015. Prior to Neumann Goretti, she was Principal of St. Helena-Incarnation school, an Independent Mission School. Mrs. Torres is a committed and passionate educator and will be a great addition to the West Catholic Family.

Mrs. Torres is a 2002 graduate of West Catholic. We welcome her back to her Alma Mater and extend our congratulations and wish her success in her new role. She succeeds Mrs. Kelly Lanza, Principal from 2017-2020. Kelly accepted a position with the Independent Mission Schools; we wish her well in her new position.

## Among us girls

**1941 – Marie Cox Tatu's** daughter wrote to let us know that Marie celebrated her 97th birthday on July 1. She shared that she is doing great and enjoys receiving the Harvester. Happy Belated Birthday Marie.

**1943 – Helene Beatty Martin** wrote to say how much she enjoyed walking with the class at last year's graduation and celebrating her 75th reunion.

**1948 –** Condolences to **Kathleen Martin Fahey**, Alumnae Board Member and former President on the death of her husband Dan, West Boys Class of 1947.

**1954 –** Apologies to **Pat Case Gilmore**, who is class of 1954 not 1964 as shown incorrectly in the Spring *Harvester*.

**1954 – Evelyn Powers Godshall** asked us to publish names of her classmates that recently lost loved

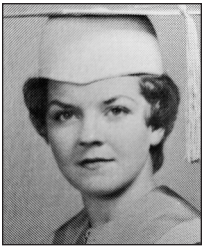
ones. **Nancy Sweeney Doyle** lost her daughter, Maureen Doyle Allen; **Frances Dever Poole** lost her sister, Sister Catherine Dever; **Patricia Reilly Chestnut** lost her sister, Mary Jane Huber; **Margaret MacDonald Houston** lost two sons, Jim and Kevin; **Patricia Carroll Jankauskas** lost her husband of 64 years, Leonard; **Lorraine Doran Irwin** also lost her husband of 64 years, James; **Joan Stevenson Flynn** lost her daughter, Joanne Flynn Stumm; and **Evelyn** lost her brother, Judge Richard A. Powers, III, West Boys Class of 1950.

**1955 –** Condolences to the family of **Helen Sheridan** on her passing. Helen was a former President and longtime Board member of the Alumnae Association.

**1959 –** Condolences to Alumnae Board Member, **Chris Feeser Jackson** on the passing of her husband, Frank (Sonny) Jackson, West Boys, Class of 1955.

### Joan Mullarkey's Bandstand Days

*Written by Hannah Dougherty Campbell, '69*



Joan O'Connor Mullarkey, Class of 1959, fondly remembers her time attending American Bandstand shows while a 9th grade student at St. Barnabas/West Catholic annex. She took the 36 bus to 49th & Woodland and got on the bus to Bandstand at 46th & Market Sts.

Joan remembers the show beginning at 3:30 and ending at 4:30. The nuns at West discouraged students from attending Bandstand. Nevertheless, rascal Joan put a sweater over her uniform and sat in a corner by Dick Clark's stand so the nuns watching tv in their convents wouldn't see her.

She once was selected to rate a record and the jitterbug and cha-cha were her favorite dances. Girls fast danced with girls back then and Joan was always willing to dance a slow dance when asked by the guys. She went to Bandstand 2-3 times a week and stood in line with regular dancers and first-time dancers. Joan knew the infamous Justine and Bob and Little Ro. Bob Horn was the co-host for a while and Joan spoke with Dick Clark many times and said he was very pleasant. Her favorite guest singers were Paul Anka, Dion, Jerry Lee Lewis and many others. Joan remembers being on camera among the usual 50 dancers and her family was watching the show from home. Joan met a lot of friends from various areas of the city and said it was an experience, a place to go, that she'll never forget.

### ***We extend our sympathy to families of our classmates who have passed away***

Peg Passanante Carey, '35  
Marie Pinti Pasternak, '37  
Catherine Callaghan Fadgen, '40  
Gertrude Holland Dever, '42  
Dorothy Speese Lordt, '42  
Evelyn Tiedeken Hosmer, '43  
Catherine Delaney King, '43  
Maria Louise Gale Rockwell, '43  
Rosemary Bradley Foster, '44  
Helen DiStefano Graziano, '44  
Eileen Weinert McDowell, '44  
Kathleen Murphy McHugh, '44  
Ernestine Maiden Parrott, '46  
C. Patricia Davenport Turner, '46  
Gloria Livingston Roberts Talone, '47  
Helen Grady Andrews, '48  
Mary Gallagher Everett, '48  
Dorothy Desmond, '49  
Regina O'Malley McFadden, '49

Sr. Marie St. James Nulty, IHM, '49  
Margaret Rooney McNicholas, '50  
Regina Angelini Fresolone, '52  
Elizabeth Rimmer McGee, '53  
Barbara Rolletter McClay, '55  
Sr. Dolores Penot, '55  
Edna Dougherty Savage, '55  
Helen F. Sheridan, '55  
Theresa Iampieri Laverghetta, '56  
Jean Soravia Moore, '56  
Mary Gallagher Daley, '58  
Carol Borowski Furlow, '58  
Jean Marie Hughes Glisson, '59  
Peggy Doyle Beckson, '60  
Clare Duffin Gerber, '60  
Denise Hodgins, '60  
Isabelle Shull Pinder, '60  
Eileen Gallagher Ferkler, '61  
Catherine (Kay) McLaughlin Gentile, '61

Charlotte Pizzi McLaughlin, '61  
Marylou Gibson Capella, '62  
Gail Donahue, '64  
Margaret Kerslake McMichael, '64  
Joan M. Traux, '64  
Tayna Peterson Hill '65  
Barbara Fagan Snyder, '65  
Elizabeth Flanagan Finkm '66  
Barbara Brown Brough, '66  
Mary Montagna Evans, '67  
Kathleen Mellon Shaw, '68  
Paula Horn Healey, '69  
Margaret (Peggy) Ward, '69  
Diane Fettes, '70  
Lorraine DiDonato Griffiths, '70  
Maureen Breslin Heistand, '70  
Janet Rosen Fantozzi, '71  
Marie Ward Forish, '71  
Kathy Grubb Trasatti, '78  
Sena Sebuabeh, '90



## CLASS REUNIONS

**Update: The classes of 1950, 1955, and 1960** have decided to postpone their planned reunions due to concerns regarding the Coronavirus.

**Class of 1965 55th Reunion** is still scheduled for October 3, 2020 from 1 to 6PM at the Clarion Hotel. For information, contact Bette McGrath Diedrich at 610-544-6295 or Peggy Sheffield Panichelli.

**Class of 1966 55th Combined Reunion** SAVE THE DATE November 5, 2021 at the Springfield Country Club. Details will be in the Spring 2021 Harvester.

**Class of 1970 50th Combined Reunion of West Boys and Girls** has been canceled for Friday, October 23, 2020. The new date is October 22, 2021. For information contact Eleanor Gallagher Armstrong at 215-779-0945.

*Reunion Planners...When you make arrangements for reunions, please email [admin@westcatholicgirlsalumnae.com](mailto:admin@westcatholicgirlsalumnae.com) and we will post on the website.*

## Class of 2020

This year's graduating class certainly experienced a very different graduation than they expected. However, they clearly were not forgotten. Both the Baccalaureate Mass and the Graduation were held as virtual ceremonies and were live streamed on Facebook.

Father Zaleski celebrated the Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Drexel Hill, PA. The Mass was attended by Mr. Collistra, Mrs. Lanza, Mr. Brady, the 2 Assistant Principal, Mr. Jazz Williams and Mr. Michael Field, and 2 students representing the class.

The graduation was filmed from the Cathedral. The presenters and speakers, Archbishop Perez, Bishop Fitzgerald, Paul, Kelly, Jazz and Michael were filmed in advance and then spliced together for the virtual ceremony. There were also remarks from the Valedictorian, Anna Nguyen and the Salutatorian, Julia Tran. As each of the 100 student's name was called their graduation picture was shown on the screen. It ended with the Student Council President, Javon Hitson flipping the tassel on his cap.

This class continued in the path of the previous classes with 100% being accepted to college with more the \$24,000,000 in scholarship dollars. The students were accepted by 389 colleges and universities and are attending 55 of the schools. 6 graduates elected to attend trade school or enlist in the armed services.

We congratulate these young men and women and wish them success in their chosen fields and careers.

## Spring Chance Drive

*And the winners are:*

**1st Prize**, A Week's Vacation at Lake Harmony; the winner was by Cynthia Geary Waring, Class of 1975

**2nd Prize**, A 3-day vacation in Townsend Inlet, NJ was won by Jean Picaud Sheehan, Class of 1960

**3rd Prize**, \$250.00 went to Anne Dampman Burt, Class of 1968

Thanks to everyone who purchased chances to support the Scholarship Fund.

## WCGAA Gift Items

If you haven't seen or purchased any of our West Girls' gift items, this is an opportunity to do so. We have:

**Pens** – Our pens are a light blue metallic combination pen and stylus with West Catholic Girls' Alumnae Association imprinted on them. They are \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. Shipping is \$4.00

**Note Cards** – White cards with a sketch of the school on the front with West Philadelphia Catholic Girls' High School written beneath the school. Packages of 5 cards are \$6.00 with \$4.00 shipping.

**Magnets** – These are dark green rectangular magnets with our 4 emblems. They are \$3.00 each and \$4.00 shipping.

**Blankets/Throws** – The blankets are light blue with our gold seal in the center. This versatile item can be used as a beach blanket or a throw. The cost is \$20.00 plus \$8.00 shipping.

**Sweatshirts** – These are available in 2 styles, crewneck or zippered hoodie. They are West Catholic Girls' blue with our seal in gold on the left front. The crewneck is \$20.00 and the hoodie is \$30.00. Shipping for either is \$8.00 and available sizes are M, L, XL, and XXL.

To order mail your check made payable to WCGAA to Mrs. Rosalie McNeff, 5 Park Ave, Norwood, PA 19074. Rosalie can be reached on 610-532-1827 or by email at [mcneffr@yahoo.com](mailto:mcneffr@yahoo.com). If ordering more than one item, please contact Rosalie first, as we will combine shipping costs and she will be able to tell you the correct amount.

## 2020 DUES STATEMENT

AMOUNT: \$15.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(if married, please include maiden name)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(include City, Town, State)

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your check for \$15.00 payable to WCGAA along with this form to:

**West Catholic Girls' Alumnae Association**  
**P.O. Box 805, Broomall, PA 19008**  
**To receive a Dues Card, you must include**  
**a stamped, self-addressed envelope**