

The HARVESTER

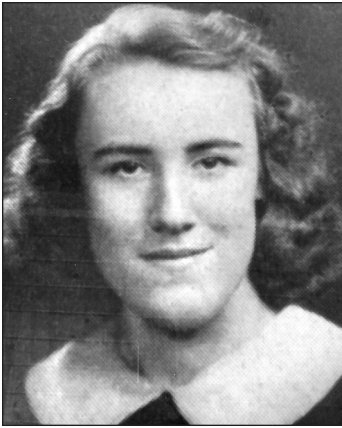
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Spring 2021

Farewell to Our Legendary Matriarch

Written by Peggy Ford Rhoades, '71



On Friday, December 4, 2020, heaven welcomed a special angel. **Margaret Porter**, from the great class of 1940, earned her wings at the age of 99. After a stellar 60-year business career at the Philadelphia Naval Base, Margaret was honored by the City of Philadelphia as the highest ranking civilian at the base.

Most importantly, we remember Margaret for her loving devotion to West Catholic Girls' Alumnae Association and West Catholic Prep. As matriarch of our Alumnae Association, Margaret, popularly known by many as "Miss West Catholic" was President of the Alumnae Board several times, founder and editor of *The Harvester*, chaired innumerable fund raisers for



scholarship monies for the school, as well as overseeing many Communion Breakfasts, which took place every October to gather the Alumnae together for the spiritual celebration of our Catholic womanhood.

Margaret's personal philanthropic generosity to West Catholic was second to none and it was her lifetime joy to give back for all that West Catholic Girls' had given to her. As a result, Margaret was named to the first Hall of Fame class of woman selected to represent all of us and our Alma Mater. In recent years, as an acknowledgement of her generosity, a scholarship was established in Margaret's name as a tribute to this outstanding woman.

We are truly blessed to have had Margaret in our midst for so many years as our matriarch, mentor and friend. Godspeed Margaret and let God get used to your being in heaven a while before you start running the show. With Love, Peg

Additional thoughts from Board Members:

From Kathleen Martin Fahey, Class of 1948...*Margaret was a loyal fan of West Catholic High School and the Alumnae. She truly loved our Alma Mater. Margaret and I worked together on the Executive Board for many years, exchanging offices for a long time. We always agreed on what was best for West. West Catholic lost a great supporter and I lost my good friend.*

From Rose Frank, Class of 1961...*When I arrived at our Communion Breakfast a few years ago, where Margaret was receiving an award, the board member table was already full. I turned around to look for another place to sit; Margaret who was seated at the adjoining table with her family asked me what I was doing. I told her I was looking for an empty seat. She immediately said "Sit here with me". I replied that it's her family's table and her response was "Sit!" (with a grin). I sat! I had the nicest time talking with her. I never forgot her kindness that day.*

From Pat McLaughlin, Class of 1961...*I remember how pleased and proud Margaret was when the Alumni Association initiated a new award, **The Blue and Gold Award** to recognize a female graduate. They selected Margaret as the inaugural recipient of the award. The following year the Alumni changed the name to **The Margaret Porter Blue and Gold Award** which pleased and flattered her greatly. She always referred it as her award.*

From Hannah Dougherty Campbell, Class of 1969...*Margaret Porter entered the doors of West Philadelphia Catholic High School in 1936, only 9 years after the school was opened. For the next 80+ years of her life, Margaret cared more, did more, shared more, and gave more than any one alumna. When I first met her 50 years ago, I thought she and the Board Members were "just old ladies" and now I am one. Those "old ladies" worked hard with Margaret to give West students a great education and support in many other ways.*

Alumnae Board

- 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, flynnonferne@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, betsysc1826@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, dthough2255@hotmail.com
- 1964 Anne Henry 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 Madalion**, 5 Eldon Ave, Lansdowne, PA 19050, (484) 437-0740, lucille.madalion@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 Caratura 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*

New Members

The Alumnae Board is looking for new members. We would like to expand and welcome any graduate to join us. There are several years that do not have a board representative. If you're interested, and there is already someone representing your class don't let that stop you. Several years have more than one representative.

Normally, we meet on the second Sunday afternoon of each month from September thru May. While we are in the "stay at home" mode due to Covid, we are currently meeting on the second Monday evening at 7PM via a Zoom call.

If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact Pat McLaughlin at 610-544-0708 or send an email through the Alumnae website, www.westcatholicgirlsalumnae.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Jasmine Mays

Jasmine Mays, graduate of the class of 2016 and Gates Millennium Scholar and currently a senior at Villanova saw a need and went into action. Jasmine, who has been involved in volunteering and giving back since she was a young girl, was concerned about safety with the Coronavirus on campus. Not a person to sit back when she thinks she can help, Jasmine came up with a plan, enlisted help of Villanova friends and administrators, raised funds, and networked. The result was Villanova's COVID-19 Prevention Pantry, a free resource of cleaning and other health preservation products for any student who requests them. Her efforts and results have been by recognized and praised by both students and faculty.

Jasmine also joined the college's Reach Program, in which Nova students mentor high school students of color. Jasmine works with West Prep students and is the program's liaison to the school.

Good work Jasmine, your Alma Mater and its Alums are proud of you.

We need your help!

We have received more than the usual amount of returned mail from our last 2 mailings. If you are moving, please put us on your list of people/ organizations to notify. We want to stay in touch with you and we know you want to continue to receive *The Harvester* to stay up to date on happenings with the Alumnae and the school. Also, if you are aware of someone who has passed away, please tell us so that we can stop their newspaper and recognize them in *The Harvester* and on the website.

You can email us from the link on our website, www.westcatholicgirlsalumnae.com or drop us a note at WCGAA, PO Box 805, Broomall, PA 19008.

Among us girls

The Alumnae Association Board Members would like to extend our sympathies and condolences to the families of our graduates who have passed away from the Coronavirus.

1935—Condolences to Marie Contreras, daughter of **Marie Chiappardi Contreras**, who passed away on August 17, 2020 at the age of 102. Marie shared how important her West Catholic education was to her mother. She was very fortunate to be one of only four in her class at St. Thomas Aquinas elementary school that was able to continue to high school.

1939—**Anne Nahm**, a former teacher at West Catholic Girls for many years passed away on December 31, 2020. Anne was fondly remembered by many of her former students. We extend our condolences to her family.

1939—We extend our condolences to Ann Bradley on the death of her mother **Helen Theresa Buck Bradley**, who passed away on January 15, 1990. Ann sent a letter describing her mother's work as a television film editor first at WCAU in Philadelphia and then at KGO/ABC and KRON/NBC in San Francisco after the family moved to California.

1948—Condolences to **Joan Martinelli Brunner's** daughter Anne Marie on the passing of her mother. Anne Marie wrote to tell us that Joan passed away in July 2020 shortly after celebrating her 90th birthday. She also said that her mother enjoyed reading

The Harvester and re-connected with a few of her friends through the newspaper.

1951—Condolences to **Regina Desmond Galanaugh** on the passing of her husband **James** on May 1, 2020. James was a member of West Catholic Boys class of 1947.

1953—**Rita Delraso Hillman** wrote to say Thank You for keeping her well informed through the *Harvester*.

1953—On a happy note, congratulations to **Joan Zardus Purvis**, on seeing her 9th grandchild graduate from college and welcoming her 2 new great grandchildren.

1955 and 1987—Heartfelt condolences to **Peggy Henry Glancey '55**, Alumnae Board member and to her daughter **Peggy Glancey Tregear '87** on the death of their granddaughter and daughter, Collen Moon this past summer.

1956—Condolences to the family and friends of **Jean Turner** who passed away on December 21, 2020.

1958—Thank you to **Winnie Sheridan Killoran** for letting us know that her sister **Helen Sheridan**, class of 1955 and a former President of the Alumnae gifted us with \$10,000 in her will for a scholarship. West Catholic has established the Helen Sheridan Scholarship in honor of this wonderful woman. The scholarship will be awarded to an incoming female Freshman in 2021.

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

Marie Teresa Chiappardi Contreras, '35
 Mary Hamer May, '38
 Helen Buck Bradley, '39
 Anne Scott Nahm, '39
 Frances Hamilton O'Grady, '40
 Josephine Polutro, '40
 Margaret Porter, '40
 Sr. Thomas Bernard, IHM
 (Teresa Volpe), '41
 Margaret Mary Warren Finnaren, '41
 Regina Temple Grandizio, '41
 Catherine Randall Cooper, '42
 Phyllis Lebano Dunn, '42
 Sr. Mary Agnes Loftus, '42
 Margaret Mary Callaghan Donohue, '44
 Mary Hughes Fitzsimmons, '44
 Glayds Hart McGovern, '45
 Marion Catherine McGrane, '46
 Helen Tygielski Morgan, '46
 Marie Ambrose Withrow, '46
 Regina Metler Grahill, '47
 Teresa McAvoy Monroe, '47

Joan Martinelli Brunner, '48
 Anne Quinn Buckingham, '48
 Dolores Coakley Kidd, '49
 Patricia Dempsey Lee, '49
 Margaret Coates McGinnis, '49
 Frances Lyons Teesdale Cleary, '50
 Anne Marie McCormick Dunn, '50
 Louise Frederick Kelly, '50
 Sr. Miriam Irene Keenan, '51
 Margaret DeLacy Andruszko, '53
 Ruth Green Brown, '53
 Lois Moffitt Ferry, '53
 Mildred McGarvey Connell, '53
 Margaret Mary McElwee Roussin, '54
 Marie McSorley Trainor, '54
 Eileen McConlogue Glinski, '55
 Sr. Virginia Hasson, '55
 Mary V. McGlinn, '55
 Carol McGoldrick Baldwin, '56
 Kathleen McGee Cantrell, '56
 Patricia Sproul Hickey, '56
 Kathleen McDonough Rennix, '56

Dolores Shelinsky Sminkey, '56
 Jean Turner, '56
 Carol McGinn McLaughlin, '57
 Mary (Pat) Roarty Pastore, '58
 Emma Krieger Dutton, '59
 Suzanne Shea Gallagher, '59
 Dorothy O'Connor Wilson, '59
 Geraldine Bonner DeFlavia, '60
 Rosemarie Shevland Marley, '61
 Maryann Liddy McCloskey, '61
 Maureen Kelly Moroney, '63
 Rosemary Reed, '63
 Sarah Louise Fagen, '64
 Lorraine Trawka Smiley, '64
 Helen Reed Reardon, '66
 Mary Lutz Izzo, '69
 Donna Jafolla Pepe, '70
 Ellen Campion Bamba, '74
 Barbara Jackson Kane, '76
 Joan Ann Eichinger Bevan, '77
 Margaret Di Valerio, '79
 Marla Yvette Booker, '88

CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 1966 55th Combined Reunion Plans are underway to hold the reunion on Friday, November 5, 2021 at the Springfield Country Club. Additional details will follow depending on any restrictions that may still be in place due to the Coronavirus.

Class of 1970 70th Combined Reunion This reunion rescheduled from last year is still being planned, however the final decision will be based on any restrictions still in place from the Coronavirus. The date is October 22, 2021 at the Springfield Country Club from 7PM to 11PM. Eleanor Gallagher Armstrong will communicate any changes as the date draws closer.

No decisions have yet been made for any other class reunion that were canceled last year or would normally be scheduled in 2021. Further information will be communicated by the reunion planners and will be in the Fall *Harvester*.

Reunion Planners...When you make arrangements for reunions, please email admin@westcatholicgirlsalumnae.com and we will post on the website.

Chance Drive

It will come as no surprise to anyone that we will not be having our annual Spring Luncheon and Fundraiser. Hopefully this will be the last event we have to cancel. But everyone's safety and health comes first and until the vaccine is widely available and we can safely meet we will not schedule any event. If the production of the vaccine continues to ramp up, we are cautiously optimistic that we will have a Communion Breakfast in October. We will of course address that in the Fall issue of *The Harvester*.

But as you saw when you opened the envelope our chance drive continues. We want to thank everyone for the wonderful response to our last drawing and hope you will see fit to again purchase the chances. Eight chances are enclosed. They are \$5.00 apiece and 8 for \$35.00. We will hold the drawing the last week of April and post the winners on the Alums Facebook page and on our website, www.westcatholicgirlsalumnae.com

You may return the chances with your check payable to WCGAA to our PO Box. The address is West Catholic Girls' Alumnae, PO Box 805, Broomall, PA 19008. Thank you for your ongoing support.

And congratulations to the winners of our last chance drawing. They are:

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1st Prize | Fran Marcelli D'Angelo, '67 |
| 2nd Prize | Mary Ellen O'Neill Quinn, '64 |
| 3rd Prize | Pat Carolan Rozycki, '70 |

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. 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.

2021 Dues

Below is the renewal form for payment of your 2021 dues. Dues are payable at the beginning of each calendar year. Please fill out the form and mail with your check for \$15.00 payable to West Catholic Girls' Alumnae Association to our mailing address, PO Box 805, Broomall, PA 19008. Thank you for paying your dues, which allow us to continue to publish this newspaper and maintain our website, as well as respond to any request for support of the school.

Several members paid their dues twice last year, if you did, we have you noted as paid for 2021. Dues are payable once a year, we include the form in the Fall *Harvester* for the convenience of those who have not yet paid. Thank you for your support.

2021 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