

# Esprit de Coeur

*spirit of the heart*

SPRING 2025

AASH CALL TO CONFERENCE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
APRIL 3-5, 2025



ASSOCIATED ALUMNAE AND ALUMNI OF THE SACRED HEART



## **C♥NNECTI♥NS** through One Heart

Los Angeles welcomes the  
AASH National Conference  
April 3-5, 2025

### What's Inside:

Conference Information.....	3
Award Winners .....	9
In Memoriam.....	13
A Reflection on <b>C♥NNECTI♥NS</b> .....	15
Reunion Photos .....	19

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Kate Sawyer, 91st Street '86  
President

In my younger days, I remember making fun of adults saying, “where does the time go?” Now that the roles have changed, I understand the confusion. Two years may seem like a long time, but this biennium has gone by way too quickly.

I would like to thank the Board for always putting the financial health of the Association first, always choosing a fiscally responsible choice to adapt with the change of business processes.

We have signed an agreement with outgoing Board members to continue to produce the Esprit *pro bono* — saving the Association \$15,000 a year. We are so lucky to have these talented alums to support our contact with all of our members.

Our website is now being supported by Wolf Pack Marketing LLC, another Sacred Heart connection through Barb Lopicolo '62. We do not have to redo/recreate the website as thought; another fiscal win!

I have had the most fortunate experience working with a fantastic and amazing group of alums — men and women — whose participation keeps AASH going and reminds the Board of whom we serve: alums of schools that no longer exist and others who still can “go home”. When I try to explain what AASH does, I am asked “what are you doing with your high school? I don’t get it.” I have heard countless stories from Sacred Hearties about **C♥NNECTI♥NS** with a stranger, feeling like they have known one another forever, to discover that person attended a Sacred Heart school. I call it Sacred Heart magic — such an incredible gift!

The National Conference will return to Los Angeles April 3-5, and all are welcome! Some details are included in this issue and more can be found at [www.AASHconference.com](http://www.AASHconference.com).

The committees have been working hard to review nominations submitted and have selected a group that will continue the AASH mission of bringing alums together from all schools. Their participation reviewing and deciding the best combination of talents is critical to our success.

I was going to write about the fires that we experienced here in Los Angeles, but I realized that adversity is all around us. Health battles that we or our loved ones face, loss of long term friendships, loss of employment or residence. We are never ready for the loss, but can use inner strength to turn the other cheek and rise above the discord or turbulence.

I wanted to thank you, our membership, for trusting me with this special task of **C♥NNECTING** us all in One Heart. The honor and privilege has been mine.

**C♥NNECTI♥NS** of the Heart,

Kate Sawyer, 91st Street '86  
President

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be 'KS', written in a cursive style.

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



*Donna Davis, DASH '80  
Southern Regional Director*

It is hard to believe that my term as the Southern Regional Director is coming to an end. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve my region and AASH as it is so close to my heart. The **C♥NNECTI♥NS** that I have made are long lasting and I look forward to participating in different ways in the future.

One of my last **C♥NNECTI♥NS** as Southern Regional Director was with the Sacred Heart Schools in Houston. I am happy to report that both Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart and The Regis School are both onboard with holding the next National Conference in Houston, Texas in 2027. We are all excited about this decision and look forward to some great plans.

Also, as the current editor of the *Esprit De Coeur*, I want to announce that for the next 3 years, I will continue to edit the magazine with my coeditor, Lindsey Hill. We have agreed to do this pro bono, so that AASH will save at least \$15,000 a year on the overall production of the *Esprit De Coeur*. Lindsey and I have worked closely during the last two years and are looking forward to continuing our service to AASH in this capacity.

**C♥NNECTI♥NS** of the Heart,

Donna Davis, DASH '80  
Southern Regional Director

## CALLING ALL ALUMNI AND RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART AUTHORS



Have you published a book? We want to hear from you!

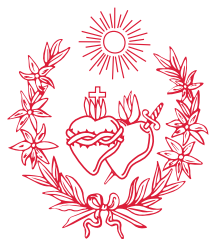
We would like to start a new section in the *Esprit De Coeur* that showcases our extraordinary writers and the process of getting their work published.

Your work and advice to others that might be contemplating the process would be extremely valuable. This will also give us the opportunity to see what our alums and Religious are up to around the world.

Please send us a description of your book and bios to [esprit@aash.org](mailto:esprit@aash.org). While we can't guarantee we will get your information into our issues, we will do our best.

The submissions will also be added to a new digital alumni/Religious bookshelf on the AASH website.

# 2023-2025 BOARD MEMBERS



**AASH**  
Connections

**AASH CONNECTIONS** ([www.aash.org/connections](http://www.aash.org/connections)) is the place for Sacred Heart alums to find the things they need, including products, services, employment opportunity internships, mentors, contacts in a new city, vacation rentals, assistance in a foreign country – or anything else you can think of!

These resources are offered to Sacred Heart alums by Sacred Heart alums. To access the list, you must be logged into your AASH account.

Log in here: <https://aash.org/directory>. If you are logging in for the first time, use your first and last names without a space as your username (FirstLast) and set a new password. If you do not have an account, contact the National Office ([nationaloffice@aash.org](mailto:nationaloffice@aash.org)) for a temporary password.

Our current range of listings include investment advisors, vineyards, realtors, vacation rentals and alums willing to be points of contact in various cities. The website is set up in a style similar to Craigslist; please add your listed [www.aash.org/connections](http://www.aash.org/connections). Please don't forget to add a contact method, along with any photos, prices or other income that you would like to include. Offering discounts is not required and there is no cost to post your listing. Remember, users must log in via the [aash.org](http://aash.org) website so only Sacred Heart alums will be able to access **AASH CONNECTIONS**.

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE



**45th AASH National Conference**  
**♥CONNECTI♥NS Through One Heart**  
 Los Angeles, California  
 Thurs., April 3, 2025 - Sat., April 5, 2025

**Conference Registration \$395**

AASH Conference Meeting and Cor Unum activities will take place April 4-5, 2025.

Registration includes:

- All meetings for the 45th National Conference
- Access to the Sacred Heart Boutique
- All Speakers
- General Conference Activities
- Friday lunch
- Conference Program Book
- Cor Unum Mass
- Cor Unum Luncheon

*\*Please note, lodging is NOT included. Visit [AASH.org](http://AASH.org) for the conference hotel information*

Register online at [AASH.org](http://AASH.org) or use this form and mail payment to:  
 AASH Los Angeles, 12400 Ventura Blvd. #548, Studio City, CA 91604

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Sacred Heart School Attended \_\_\_\_\_

Last Year Attended \_\_\_\_\_

**I plan to attend:**

- Early Conference Registration \$395 (before 2/28)
- Conference Registration \$495 (after 2/28)
- Virtual Conference Registration \$150  
*\*Conference Registration is required to log in and delegate voting is not available with Virtual Conference Registration*
- RSCJ Conference Registration \$300

**45th AASH National Conference**  
**♥CONNECTI♥NS Through One Heart**  
 Los Angeles, CA  
 Embassy Suites Los Angeles  
 International Airport North  
 April 3 – 5, 2025

*All times PST and may change slightly.*

**Thursday April 3**

- 1 - 5 p.m. .... Conference Registration
- 5 - 10 p.m. .... Shelagh O'Dwyer cocktail party

**Friday April 4**

- 7 - 9 a.m. .... Conference Check-In and Breakfast (hotel lobby)
- 9 - 9:10 a.m. .... Conference Welcome and Opening Prayer
- 9:10 - 10:30 a.m. .... General Session I
- 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. ... Break
- 11 a.m. - noon ..... Keynote Speaker  
 John Geary SH Prep 2011
- 1 - 2:15 p.m. .... General Session II and Credentials Review
- 2:15 - 2:30 p.m. .... Break
- 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. .... Regional Meetings
- 3:30 - 3:45 p.m. .... Break
- 3:45 - 4 p.m. .... RSCJ Update  
 Sr. Suzanne Cooke
- 4 - 5 p.m. .... **♥CONNECTI♥NS Through One Heart** – Jackie Gallo
- 5 p.m. .... Close of first day, dinner on your own

**Saturday, April 5**

- 7 - 9 a.m. .... General Session III - Call to Action Reports I Presentation of Slate
- 2025-2027 AASH Elections Introduction to new President and 2025-2027 Board
- 11 a.m. .... Close of Conference
- 11 - 11:30 a.m. .... Break
- 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. . Cor Unum Lunch at Embassy Suites
- 1 p.m. .... Bus leaves for St. Monica's and Cor Unum Mass
- 1:15 - 1:45 p.m. .... Rehearsal for Mass
- 2 - 4 p.m. .... Cor Unum Mass and Presentation of Awards

*Scan the code to access conference details and forms:*



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE



## Lodging information:

Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Los Angeles International Airport North  
9801 Airport Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90045 USA

*Scan code for discount  
hotel booking*



## Request for Delegates and Alternates

### Per AASH Bylaws Article VI: Meetings

SECTION 1. In person or electronically, there shall be a biennial National Conference of the AASH. The location of the conference shall be chosen on a rotating system among the four (4) regions, by the AASH Officers. Each member association shall be represented at the conference by two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates. These representatives shall comprise the Delegate Body of the AASH. The members of the Board of Directors and all delegates shall have a voice and a vote at the conference.

### And the 45th Biennial Conference Meeting Rules

1. According to the bylaws of AASH, each member association shall be represented at the conference by two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates. These representatives shall comprise the Delegate Body of AASH. The members of the Board of Directors and delegates shall each have both voice and vote at the General Sessions.
2. Delegates and alternates are appointed by the association they represent and cannot be self-appointed or asked to fill in unless the association officially notifies the Credentials Chair of the association's approval.
3. Each delegate has one vote and therefore cannot represent two or more affiliations.
4. In the event of a necessary absence of a delegate, an alternate may serve as delegate with voice and vote. A necessary absence is defined as illness or necessity to leave the Conference. When an alternate is to act in the place of a delegate, the alternate must first report to the Credentials Chair via email: [nationaloffice@aash.org](mailto:nationaloffice@aash.org).
5. Attendance at all General Sessions is obligatory for all delegates. Alternates are urged to attend.

**The Credentials Chair requests that each Association officially provides details about representation at the 45th Biennial Conference. Visit [ashconference.com](http://ashconference.com) to download the form.**



***Save the Date***  
***The 2027 National Conference  
will be held in Houston, Texas***



*John Geary, Atherton '11*

## Keynote Speaker John Geary

John Geary is a graduate of Northwestern University with a degree in Industrial Engineering. He is a graduate of the 2011 class of Sacred Heart Prep Atherton. In 2018 he founded Abodu, the largest provider of Accessory Dwelling Unit's (ADU's — similar to a guest house on an existing property) in California and Washington state building hundreds of homes per year. Abodu is headquartered in Redwood City, California with substantial operation in the Los Angeles area as well.

### Brief Personal Background:

- Sacred Heart Prep, Atherton class of 2011
- Northwestern University, Industrial Engineering undergrad class of 2015
- Management Consultant at Bain and Company, 2015-2018
- CEO, Founder of Abodu, 2018-present, Abodu is the largest provider of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in California and Washington, building hundreds of homes per year. ADUs are a type of housing that is essentially a guest hours on an existing property. Abodu is headquartered in Redwood City, CA with substantial operations in the Los Angeles area as well.



*Jacqueline Gallo, friend of the Sacred Heart*

## CONNECTIONS through One Heart Speaker Jacqueline Gallo

Jacqueline Gallo is a PhD researcher at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge. She performs ethnographic research at a Catholic girls' secondary school in Karamoja, Uganda.

Jacqueline's research explores how the unique education offered by an international congregation of women religious prepares young female students to transition out of secondary school into unknown and impending futures. Jacqueline's research

focuses on the unique cultural context of the agropastoralist Karamoja region in Northern Uganda. Her work explores how one congregation's unique theological praxis influences the religious education young women receive as they strive to achieve a sense of well-being and maintain family and cultural **CONNECTIONS**.

Outside of research, Jacqueline is the Head of School at The Presentation School in Sonoma, California. A life-long educator, Jacqueline has been a teacher and school administrator in public, charter, and independent schools in the United States, United Kingdom, and Italy.

Jacqueline has successfully defended her PhD in Anthropology of Education at the University of Cambridge. Jacqueline has a Master's Degree in Educational Research from the University of Oxford, a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Mercy University, and a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies from the University of Missouri-Columbia.



## Thank you Committee Chairs

*The 2023-2025 Board would like to thank the Committees for reviewing all the required nominations to ensure our continued success!*

We would like to thank:

Rhonda Raffi Meegan (NCD and Newton College)

June Donovan (Newton College)

Diane Tymick (Lone Mountain)

Jennifer Liddy Greene, (91 st Street)

Alicia Smith Hollins (Duchesne Omaha)

Becky Priour (Grand Couteau)

Frances Murphy (Montreal)

Megan Kepper (Rosary)

Sandra Chellel (Elmhurst)

Payton Denis (Duchesne Houston)

Kathleen Feeney (Greenwich)

Abby Chambers (Duchesne Omaha)

Christine Ahern Roberts (Sheridan Road)

Sydney Pomykata (Duchene Omaha)

Bella Kearney (Broadway)

Mikala Swanson (Woodlands)

Charla Dziedzic (St. Charles)

Larry Mahan (Stuart Hall)

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE



**AASH 45th Biennial National Conference**  
**Connections through One Heart**  
Thurs. **April 3, 2025** - Sat. **April 5, 2025**  
Opportunities for Sponsorship & Underwriting

## SPONSORSHIP

Mater Admirabilis	\$10,000 +
St. Madeleine Sophie's Circle	\$5,000 +
St. Philippine's Pioneers	\$1,001 - 5,000
Mother Janet Erskine Stuart Scholars	\$501 - 1,000
Blue Ribbon	\$301 - 500
Green Ribbon	\$201 - 300
Pink Ribbon	\$101 - 200
Red Ribbon	\$1 - 100
Cor Unum Mass	\$25
Conference Lunches for RSCJs	\$25, \$ 50 or \$100



## UNDERWRITING

- Printing, Parliamentarian and Video Production \$1.000
- Tech Support & Photography \$1.000

**Sponsorship & Underwriting support will be acknowledged in the Conference Program**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sacred Heart School Attended (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Name as listed in acknowledgement: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payment to: **AASH Los Angeles**  
Memo: **2025 Sponsorship**

*Payment by check may be mailed with this completed form to:*  
12400 Ventura Blvd. #548  
Studio City, CA 91604



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE



**AASH 45th Biennial National Conference**  
**Connections through One Heart**  
Thurs **April 3** - Sat **April 5, 2025**  
Conference Program Ads

**Deadline: MARCH 7, 2025**

**Advertiser Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_



**Specifications**

Magazine Finished Size 8½" x 11" Upright

All ads printed in COLOR

Photos must be 300 dpi

Please email ad in CAMERA-READY, HIGH-RES PDF format (include packaged fonts) to: [AASHLAChapter@gmail.com](mailto:AASHLAChapter@gmail.com)

\_\_\_\_\_ Full Page 7½" W x 10" H \$500

\_\_\_\_\_ Half Page 5¾" W x 4¾" H \$250

\_\_\_\_\_ Quarter Page 3.625" W x 4.875" H \$125

Make check payment to: **AASH Los Angeles**  
Memo: **2025 Sponsorship**

Payment by check may be mailed with this completed form to:  
12400 Ventura Blvd. #548  
Studio City, CA 91604

# COR UNUM RECIPIENTS



## **Stephanie Dunn Asheley**

Eastern, 91st Street

by *Jennifer Liddy Greene*

Stephanie Dunn Asheley's commitment to her hometown of Greenwich is unmatched. She has been a resident for over 25 years and worked and volunteered in the nonprofit sector for over thirty years. Currently, she serves as Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross Metro

New York North Chapter, encompassing Greenwich, CT, Westchester and Rockland counties and the US Military Academy at West Point. Prior to joining the Red Cross, Stephanie was the Director of Special Events for Greenwich Hospital for thirteen years. There she planned and executed over fifty galas, major fundraisers, cultivation events, and community events resulting in over fifteen million dollars in new funds for the hospital. Prior to her work in development and fundraising, Stephanie experienced firsthand how the funds raised for nonprofit organizations affected her community when she became a mother of premature twins. The support she received reinforced her desire to continue to serve her community in a volunteer capacity.

For the past twelve years, Stephanie has been a staple volunteer and advancing service member of the Cos Cob Fire Police Patrol and currently serves as President of the Board of Directors of the CCFPP. Stephanie has also chaired and participated in PTA fundraisers for her daughter's schools, is a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician with Greenwich Emergency Medical Service, the Greenwich Police Department, and the Greenwich Arts Council. Stephanie co-chairs the September 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Service at Cos Cob Park in Greenwich, is a member of the Town of Greenwich Alarm Appeals Board, a member of the Greenwich Hibernian Society and is also a Red Cross instructor in CPR/First Aid and AED training.

Previously, Stephanie worked at Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich, where she led alumnae advancement within the development office. She remains active with her alma mater (91st Street) as a former Board Member for the alumnae association for over a decade and a benefit committee chairperson for their annual Creative Arts Ball for more than 20 years. She has been our class rep since we graduated and keeps us all in touch with one another and up to date with school news.

Stephanie's dedication to her family, friends and community never fails to amaze me. She works tirelessly to support and raise funds for causes that are near and dear to her heart and might be overlooked by others. Her focus embodies Saint Madeleine Sophie's "for the sake of one child" philosophy, upholds all Sacred Heart values and traditions with integrity and HEART and we all benefit with her in it.



## **Sandy Cassell Farrell**

Western, San Diego

College for Women

by *Liz Korander Bradley*

Cor Unum - one heart. I could not think of any better words to describe Sandy Cassell Farrell. Our beloved Chapter President, Liz Korander Bradley, always knew that Sandy personified this

award and our Los Angeles Chapter nominates her this year in Liz's honor.

Sandy has been a tireless supporter of every and all communities where she has lived: San Diego/El Cajon, the South Bay, Palm Desert, Colorado, and Los Angeles. She has supported Rotary Clubs and every parish in which she is/was a member. Sandy epitomizes the values and traditions of the Society of the Sacred Heart in her commitment to the care and well-being of others and by personal promoting the University of San Diego and its programs through her own advocacy, volunteering, and financial support. Sandy is a graduate of uncommon and deep appreciation of the legacy of co-founder, Mother Rosalie Clifton Hall, and her cohort of fellow sisters who established the San Diego College for Women. She served as Student Body President and has remained actively engaged with the University since graduation. She helped raise over a million dollars for the School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) and has been recognized for this engagement by recipient of the 2009 Bishop Charles Francis Buddy Award for outstanding contributions to humanitarian causes.

Sandy has been a driving force to keep our LA Chapter on track with community service and philanthropic missions. Her selfless devotion to the projects that we have supported (the RSCJ while in Soboba, the Christmas flowers for Atherton and now museum memberships and the Mission for Life Campaign) has been an inspiration to us all. She never puts herself before anyone in need and will stop at nothing to raise money and awareness for the Sacred Heart Community in Uganda and Kenya as well as in her own community.

Her tireless efforts to support and encourage others with dignity, honor and respect make her one of the most admired women that I have the pleasure of knowing. She is amazing, wonderful and is of one heart with those who have the good fortune to call her "friend."

# COR UNUM RECIPIENTS



**Andrea Briefs Ferris**  
Central, Bloomfield Hills

by Barb Lopiccolo

“We must put our talents at interest, not bury them in the earth and the reason is sufficient, that they are God’s.” Janet Erskine Stuart, R.S.C.J.

Andrea Briefs Ferris

has lived this reflection in her career and life choices through numerous forms of service to her community and to our Sacred Heart family. As an Oncology Nurse Navigator to Breast Cancer Patients, Andrea has served with compassion for her patients’ struggles and her expertise alleviating their suffering and anxiety. She has given many presentations in the community and at medical continuing education events regarding health issues and advance care planning. In addition to her full time job and her three children Andrea still finds time to participate in cancer awareness community events and annual walks.

Andrea has served as president of our local Bloomfield Hills Alumnae/I association and before that other positions on our board. She served on the AASH National Board as Central Regional Director while also serving as president of our local association which required her to attend our school’s Board of Trustees meetings. Andrea has served an additional term on the AASH Board.

Andrea believes so strongly in the Sacred Heart mission that she enrolled her three children at our Bloomfield Hills school. She participated as a parent in the many opportunities in every section of the school and in the Parent Association activities. On a personal level, while holding down her full time health care position she made time to attend family members with critical health issues that required extensive travel time on the weekends. Serving others with compassion and expertise is Andrea’s example for us. “Above all, (Andrea) remember that you are the most cherished object of the Lord’s most tender love. May He convince you of that.” Janet Erskine Stuart, R.S.C.J. We are blessed to be able to honor you today.



**Ellen Helmsing Wunderlich**  
Southern, Villa

by Villa Duchesne parents

Ellen Helmsing Wunderlich is the heart and soul of the Villa Duchesne community. Her smile and energy welcomes students first thing in the morning and sends them on their way at dismissal. Her joy and grace have a unique way of making every child, parent, faculty and staff member at Villa feel seen, loved and cherished not just by her, but by God.

Ellen embodies everything it means to be a child of the Sacred Heart. Her mission to bring Jesus to the hearts of every child is seen in everything she does whether that be helping children experience mass, preparing students to receive their first sacraments, celebrating during Catholic schools week, teaching what it means to know and love Jesus every day, or spending time with the children on their walks across campus. Ellen speaks about faith in a way that resonates so clearly with the children that it becomes magical and alive to them. The love of God that Ellen is helping our children explore each and every day will stay with them the rest of their lives.

While Ellen manages all campus ministry life at Villa Duchesne’s Lower School with an energy that is contagious, what is even more of a testament to her faith is her commitment to serving others outside of Villa. Ellen is involved in a St. Louis organization that aids refugees and focuses on helping those that are in immediate need. Finding furnishings, donating items from her own home or serving dinner on Christmas night, Ellen cares for them as if they were her own. Ellen gives of herself in so many ways to so many people, but she does so quietly. It is clear that Ellen does these acts of service for the true purpose of helping others with no desire for recognition or praise. That is why it is so special for our community to honor Ellen with this award so that she knows we do see, appreciate and love all of who she is.

When walking into the doors of a Sacred Heart institution, parents hope their children will encounter an “Ellen Wunderlich” who instills the faith, hope and love of God. It is sincerely beautiful to see not only her impact on students, but also the members of the community she so selflessly serves. Villa would not be the same without her profound love of Jesus.



*Cor Unum recognizes an alumna or alumnus for excellence in one’s work, loyalty to Sacred Heart values and the gift of self in service to others. It is awarded at the Conference to one alum living in each of the regions.*

# WOMAN OF CONSCIENCE AWARD



*Irene Cullen, RSCJ*

**Woman of Conscience Award 2025 — Irene Cullen, RSCJ  
Sacred Heart Prep Atherton, 1957 and San Diego College  
for Women (now USD), 1961**

*by Sandy Cassell Farrel, San Diego College for Women*

Fellow students recognized early on that Irene Cullen would be a change agent in our world. When she entered the novitiate in El Cajon, we knew her life would have an impact...we didn't know it would be both domestic and international.

In the beginning, her influence was with young children. Serving as teacher, mistress of studies, and principal, Sister Cullen began her life of service in Sacred Heart elementary schools. However, after earning Masters Degrees in both Divinity and Sacred Theology from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, her attention for the next three decades was directed to the adult population.

Working for the San Diego Diocesan Office, Irene handled responsibilities that were wide and varied. In addition to teaching theology and scripture classes, she provided programs for parish catechists, deacons in formation, Catholic school teachers and local RCIA leaders. Her next assignment was at USD. She returned to her alma mater, leading the new Institute for Christian Ministries and offering additional programs for people in parishes. Moving to the University Ministry Department, she planned retreats and workshops, guided students through the RCIA program, and provided pastoral counseling for graduate students and staff.

Because her USD contract was a ten-month one, she was free to accept invitations for volunteer service. And, thus, her international ministry had its beginning. After experiencing a summer in Hungary teaching English to youth and Caritas workers, she began spending summers with fellow RSCJs in Uganda. Volunteering in multiple roles, she felt a growing awareness of the pressing needs and powerful potential of the mission undertaken. Her help in project planning, grant writing and fund raising efforts led to her establishment of a Development Office, now known as the "RSCJ Uganda-Kenya Mission Support Office" which she directs.

For the past 25 years, Sister Cullen has been a fund raiser and friend raiser, securing financial backing for RSCJ ministries in Uganda-Kenya. At its core, Development is telling a persuasive story to people of good will so they can share their resources to address worthy needs. With this purpose in mind, she took the lead in procuring funds for Sacred Heart Primary School in Uganda which now has 840 lively girls relishing their education. In addition, programs are continually being developed that support Sacred Heart education as well as vitally needed health care efforts. Furthermore, Sister has undertaken the mentoring and training of indigenous Sisters, enabling them to become point persons of Development to support their work among the poor of their own countries.

The ripple effect of her work is highly significant. So many lives have been influenced and enhanced by her efforts. In the early years, her touch was domestic – serving both young and college students, parents, parishes, clergy, staff, and laity. In the second half of her mission, the scope has been international – empowering young girls to be safe, educated, and able to forge futures never envisioned in earlier times.

Sister Cullen's fingerprints are visible at home and abroad, facilitating change, fostering goodness, and engendering hope ... All reflecting a moral compass of a true Woman of Conscience.



# MARYLIZ DEVITO LINCOLN AWARD



*Stephanie Chaczyk,  
Bloomfield Hills 2007*

## **MaryLiz deVito Lincoln Generosity and Service Award**

*Submitted by Andrea Briefs Ferris, Bloomfield Hills  
Awarded to Stephanie Chaczyk*

Stephanie is a graduate of the Class of 2007 Academy of the Sacred Heart (ASH), Bloomfield Hills, MI. She is an alumna who has given dedicated service to both the Bloomfield Hills Alum community and to the National Alum community. Stephanie served the Bloomfield Hills Alumnae/i Association for multiple terms initially as a member, beginning in 2015. She served the Alumnae/i Association Board as Vice President, Aug 2019 – Jun 2020, and as President, concurrently serving ASH Bloomfield's Board of Trustees, and Advancement Committee from Aug 2020 – Jun

2023. As a past president, she is part of the Alumnae/i Association Advisory Board, and is the current Wansboro Award Selection Committee Chair.

Stephanie served the AASH Board for two biennial terms; as Recording Secretary, Jun 2019 – May 2021 and as Corresponding Secretary, Jun 2021 – May 2023.

As a member of the Alum Board, Stephanie supported events sponsored or hosted by the Alumnae/i Association, and as President, took an active role in planning these events. Each of these events are representative of the commitment to Sacred Heart Tradition, and include Advent by Candlelight, Christmas Eve Mass, the Annual Alumnae/i Spring Reunion, and Candlelight Ball - where the President of the Alum Association announces the names of the graduates, and welcomes them to the Alumnae Community, known as AASH. During her term as President of the Alum Board, Stephanie organized details ranging from small tasks to larger event coordination, reliably, skillfully, and with love. Stephanie generously shared her time and gifts with the Bloomfield Hills Alum Association, and simultaneously with the AASH National Alum

Board. During her first biennium with AASH, Stephanie served as Recording Secretary. During her second biennium, she served as Corresponding Secretary. Stephanie's skills extended beyond keeping meeting minutes, which included the development of content for social platforms, as well as presentation, and print materials for the 44<sup>th</sup> AASH National Conference. Stephanie served both Boards while completing an MBA and Certificate in Business Turnaround Management from the University of Detroit Mercy, in addition to working full time for Absopure Company in sales and marketing. Current Bloomfield Hills Alum Board President, Bess Quick Walczak<sup>10</sup> has illuminated Stephanie's giving spirit; compelling this fellow alum to put her nomination forward, and thus demonstrating why Stephanie Chaczyk is a great candidate for the Mary Liz DeVito Award. Bess recently wrote: "Stephanie is a very special woman who is kind, very generous, a go getter and, above all, an amazing friend. I am forever grateful for all she has done to prep me for my position as Alum Board President, as well as the things she has done to help me along my journey to this position. Whenever I ask for guidance, she responds with love and care and amazing insight. She is always the first person to volunteer to help with anything alum related. Stephanie has gone above and beyond in her many roles within the Sacred Heart Network, and we are lucky to have her in our corner. We love Stephanie and she deserves this award very much!"

---

## **Past Recipients of the Maryliz deVito Lincoln Generosity and Service Award:**

*2007 - Amy Banna, Bloomfield Hills 1995*

*2009 - Karen Patterson, Forest Ridge 1993*

*2011 - Sara Burchell Kestner, Stuart Country Day 1996*

*2013 - Meghan Dowd Schlattmann, Duchesne Academy - Omaha 1997*

*2015 - Cristina Mas, Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart 2005*

*2017 - Christine Ahern, Sheridan Road 2002*

*2019 - Gabriella Almeida, Sacred Heart Greenwich 2007*

*2021 - Ani Haroian, ASH-St. Charles 2008*

*2023 - Alexandra Sanchez, ASH-St. Charles, 2006; Villa Duchesne, 2010*

# SISTER KARAM HONORED

*Caroline Waller, Communications Coordinator at Duchesne Academy, contributed to this article. Photos courtesy of Duchesne Academy and Regis School of the Sacred Heart.*

Many Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) have called the campus of Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart home since its founding in 1960. Sharon Karam, RSCJ, has resided in “the White House” on the school’s grounds since 1996. On Friday, January 17, many gathered to celebrate Sister Karam as she prepares to move to the RSCJ community in New Orleans this spring.

Sister Karam’s departure marks an historic moment in the life of the school and larger Sacred Heart community in Houston. The entire Duchesne school community, along with faculty and staff from the nearby Regis School of the Sacred Heart, and RSCJ from around the United States – Canada (USC) Province came together for a prayer service in honor of Sister Karam. Many wore red for the occasion, Sister Karam’s favorite color.

During the liturgy there was a special blessing of Sister Karam and a commissioning of the entire community — students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumnae and alumni— by Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ, Provincial of the Society of the Sacred Heart USC Province.

“We know with certitude that the significant work of manifesting God’s love through the service of education begun in 1960 in Houston will continue for generations to come,” said Sister Cooke.

During the service Sister Karam received a quilt handmade by Duchesne students and faculty and a book of letters from students, friends, and former colleagues. The Upper School Choir students sent off Sister Karam singing “For Good” from the musical *Wicked*.

Many former and current faculty and staff, alumnae, and parents of alumnae gathered to show their gratitude to Sister Karam during an evening reception following the prayer service. Former Duchesne faculty members shared stories about the impact Sister Karam has had on their lives. There wasn’t a dry eye in the house and Sister Karam said she was speechless.

“Her impact on the community has been immeasurable,” wrote Duchesne Head of School Hillary Feerick-Hillenbrand in a message to the Duchesne community. “We will continue to glean morsels of her wisdom when she visits us regularly after her move to fulfill her duties as a member of the Board of Trustees at Regis School of the Sacred Heart.”

Ms. Feerick-Hillenbrand added that Duchesne has been incredibly fortunate to have enjoyed the presence of the RSCJ since its inception and continues to be blessed by the participation of three RSCJ on its Board of Trustees.

Angela LeGrange Scott, co-chair of the Associates Leadership team and staff member at Regis, said of Sister Karam, “To know her is to know love. She has an incredible gift to be present and make you feel as if you are the most important person in the world. She has an unwavering commitment to those in need and an extraordinary ability to be still and open to the Spirit. I will miss her daily presence, and I am eager for her next visit!”



*Left to right: Regis Head of School Steven Turner, Sister Karam, Sister Cooke, and Hillary Feerick-Hillenbrand*



*Sister Karam receives a quilt presented by a Duchesne educator.*



*Angela LeGrange Scott shares remarks during Mass at Regis on January 26*



Dear 91st Street Community,

More than 350 members of our community recently gathered across generations to celebrate the extraordinary life of Angela Bayo, RSCJ, who passed away in May. The outpouring of love was remarkable. Cherished throughout the 91st Street community as an inspiring educator, mentor, and leader, Sr. Bayo served first as Head of Lower School and then as the Lower School's religious education consultant. She touched the lives of thousands of children and adults during her 47 years of service at 91st Street and beyond. She was renowned for her eloquence and elegance, her grace and her faith in God and love. She was, in the words of many former students, the essence of what makes Sacred Heart, Sacred Heart.

Everyone I spoke with talked about how Sr. Bayo radiated an unconditional love—a love that, like God's love, forgave mistakes, overcame disagreement, and uplifted everyone around her. Her profound love filled every moment of the service and reception, embracing each of us with a warmth that felt deeply personal.

For me, it was a powerful message. You may remember that in September, I shared that one of my goals was to keep 91st Street united during an election year. Sometimes, differing perspectives can make our world seem fractured. But we can stay united, despite our differences. How? Sr. Bayo's service reminded me that the answer is simple.

Love. Saint Madeleine Sophie once said, "Let your heart be more attentive than your head, for the Holy Spirit is love." God's love is at the core of our mission—a mission that unites us. As members of the 91st Street community, we can find strength in our dedication to our mission, and the love we have for one another. We can find hope in knowing we are all children of a loving God: children of the Sacred Heart.

With Love,

Kate D. Adams, Head of School



## Sacred Heart Legacy Society

AASH recognizes members of the AASH Legacy Society in the annual report published every Fall in the *Esprit de Coeur* magazine. With the member's permission, we will run a photo and brief bio in the *Esprit* and publicly thank them when the gift is first planned. In the following years, they will be noted in a special list of AASH Legacy Society members in the annual report. A complete profile/obituary along with photos will be run in the *Esprit* and posted on AASH's social media when we receive the gift. Legacy Society members should feel free to send high resolution photos they would like to be included in the magazine.



Did you know you can give money to AASH and lower your adjusted gross income (AGI) at the same time? Anyone aged 70½ or older who must take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from their traditional IRAs can contribute up to \$100,000 directly to AASH without it being considered a taxable distribution. Contact your IRA administrator or the National Office ([nationaloffice@aash.org](mailto:nationaloffice@aash.org)) for more information.

# IN MEMORIAM

“*May the angels lead Sister Chu into paradise, and may her soul rest in peace.*”



*Sr. Theresa Chu, RSCJ 11/7/1924 – 2/2/2025*

Dear Alums,

I want to share the sad news that Sr. Theresa Chu, RSCJ, has died. She passed peacefully in her sleep on February 2nd at Caritas Residence. As Campus Minister Moira Schrader noted, “Sister Chu was a remarkable, faith-filled woman; an educator, a mentor to many, and she lived to celebrate her 100th birthday on November 7th, 2024.”

You may wish to revisit the 2022 interview between Sr. Chu and Moira. It’s a wonderful reflection on Sr. Chu’s life and vocation. You might also appreciate the reflection that Sr. Chu wrote during the COVID lockdown.

Sister Chu’s funeral Mass in Halifax was held Thursday, February 6th at Caritas Residence, 215 Seton Road.

Miriam Regan, ‘80  
Director of Advancement & Alumni Relations



*Eleanor Fox, RSCJ  
3/1/33 – 2/3/25*

Dear members of the Sacred Heart community,

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Eleanor Fox, RSCJ, a beloved member of our Sacred Heart community. For nearly 30 years, the brilliant and inimitable Sr. Fox was a pillar of academic excellence at Convent of the Sacred Heart, serving as Head of the 91st Street History Department until 1995. Her reputation as a demanding and extraordinary educator was matched by her profound dedication to her students.

Sr. Fox’s classes embodied Sacred Heart’s commitment to intellectual values. She set high expectations for analytical thinking, rigorous argumentation, and lifelong learning. Her notorious New York Times class was not simply an exercise in reading the news—it was a masterclass in critical thinking, research, and public speaking, challenging students to engage deeply with current events. She had a dry sense of humor and commanding presence, beginning each class by striking a gavel against her desk.

Beyond her role in the classroom, Sr. Fox left an enduring mark on 91st Street. She designed the SH91 school logo in 1975, a lasting symbol of our institution’s identity.

In 2015, a group of her former students gathered at 91st Street to celebrate her influence, sharing cherished memories and reflecting on the impact she had on their lives. One alumna recalled her pride of finally “cracking the Fox code”— skillfully constructing a well-supported argument and the lifelong habit of reading *The New York Times* every morning.

A Mass of the Resurrection for Sr. Fox was held at St. Madeleine Sophie’s Parish at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, February 10.

We invite you to join us in honoring Sr. Fox’s memory and keeping her RSCJ family and former students in your thoughts and prayers.

In loving memory,

Kate D. Adams, Head of School



# A REFLECTION ON **CONNECTIONS**

## A Reflection on **CONNECTIONS**

by *Larry Mahan (CSH '57, SH '66)*

In 2017, I was honored to give a luncheon talk at the AASH National Conference in San Francisco. It was unusual, I believe, for a male alumnus to speak at the National Conference, however I was not the only male speaker – I was up against a combat sports athlete and a wine educator! My talk was titled **CONNECTIONS**, a consistent Convent of the Sacred Heart (CSH) theme. It described our unique family story and how I discovered 26 women and 4 men across 7 CHS schools who represented 260 combined years of Sacred Heart education and involvement. By way of background, I attended Sacred Heart for 11 years, having started in nursery school in 1955 at CSH Broadway in San Francisco and following my “graduation” from kindergarten for another 8 years at Stuart Hall. This story, however, starts in 2006 with my daughter, Kellyn, a “lifer” at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, MD.

### How It Began

June 2006 was Kellyn’s graduation and as was customary, she and other seniors were honored at Tres Bien, a dinner celebration of families, close friends, religious and lay teachers. At a particular point in the evening, each senior is escorted by their father as they walk the length of the ballroom to be presented to the Head Mistress, a ceremony very reminiscent of Primes. And as was also customary, any family member who graduated from a CHS school name was announced with their year.



*The author and daughter Kellyn, Tres Bien, Stone Ridge CSH, 2006*

My CSH family, as I counted then, included my mother, aunt, sisters, and a few cousins. This list was sufficiently long compared to others so we had to walk rather slowly which caused much embarrassment for Kellyn. Thankfully for her, I did not know then what I know now.



*Presenting flowers upon St. Madeleine Sophie’s visit.*

### The French Connection

My aunt Hélène Bernice Mathé graduated from CSH Broadway ('44) and Lone Mountain College for Women ('50), returning later to Broadway to teach for 15 years, finishing later in administration – a total of 40 years association. She was also our family “historian” keeping precious photos and other correspondence. One story she told me was particularly intriguing: one of our French ancestors, a young girl who attended a “CSH school in France” presented Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat a bouquet of flowers when she visited. Bernice told me she remembered being shown this in a letter when she was a little girl from her father. Unfortunately, despite all her “archives” she did not remember whatever happened to it. Knowing my aunt, however, there was no reason to believe it untrue. In my mind I imagined it not unlike a painting I found depicting such a scene with St. Madeleine Sophie visiting one of her schools. Here she is presented flowers by a young student in this painting depicting her visit to Jette-St-Pierre, Brussels, in 1908 the year of her Beautification.

My French grandfather, Dr. Charles Pierre Mathé was decorated in the French Legion of Honor, traveling to France and back treating patients and lecturing. He would often take some of the family including my mother Jeanne Irène who in addition to attending CHS Jackson Street ('34) and Lone Mountain ('38), at one time attended the CHS boarding school in Paris (rue St. Dominique). From one trip in particular in 1925, my mother received one of our family’s most precious **CONNECTIONS** to St. Madeleine Sophie: two authenticated relics of her habit (one shown below). I received them from my mother before she passed away in 1996 knowing only that she was given them as a little girl in France. I now wish I had asked my mother more about how they were acquired. But my enjoyment in getting them was also in part the jealousy of my two sisters, Jeannette ('60) and Suzanne ('56; San Diego CW'60), both CSH Broadway graduates in that they did not!



*My mother Jeanne with brother Guillaume (William), mother Beatrice and father Dr. Mathé, Paris, 1925.*

# A REFLECTION ON CONNECTIONS, CONT.



*Relic of St. Madeleine Sophie's habit, 1925*

When I later took these relics to one of my CSH archivist contacts, she pointed out that this particular relic (“Ex Indumentis” is Latin for “from the clothing”), originally created to commemorate the Beautification of Madeleine Sophie Barat (“B”) was hand corrected in the year of her Sanctification, May 25, 1925 as noted by the overwritten “S” on the label inscription. This corroborated with my family’s port of arrival records back to the U.S. from France later that year. The “signum” on the inside back is the sealing wax that the Cardinal in charge placed on the relic to certify and testify to its authenticity. It is approximately 3 cm x 4 cm. When I brought these relics to the 2017 San Francisco conference, many expressed that they had never seen anything like them before which made sharing them amongst the Sacred Heart community even more special.

Kellyn’s Tres Bien experience and our families Sacred Heart **CONNECTIONS** sparked an interest in my family’s genealogy years later. As we are literally one-half French and the other half Irish, searching genealogy archives while challenging, was at least straightforward as to



*Elisabeth Mathé*

where to look. I first started with what I knew. My French grandfather Charles Pierre Mathé, grew up to become a physician in San Francisco. His father Louis Mathé who immigrated from France to California at the age of 19 in the mid-late 1800’s. He became a physician, practicing in San Francisco and established one of the largest wineries in Sonoma County before he died of complications from tuberculosis at the age of 37.

Louis had four sisters, two of whom came to California with the family and two who stayed in France. One of those, Elisabeth, never married but became an established artist in Bordeaux, exhibiting at the Salon de Paris, and later a world traveler who journaled her experiences and other novelettes in self-published books. Her sister, Louise, married a naval surgeon, Jules Cédont, and traveled with him at the age of 22 on assignment to the French Penal Colony in New Caledonia. Upon their return, he died from an acquired tropical disease, and she remarried another naval medical officer, outliving him to later live the remainder of her life in Saintes. She was an accomplished poet, publishing a volume of her works. I am fortunate to have all my great grandaunts’ books as they portrayed very educated and independent women – exactly what I imagine St. Madeleine Sophie’s objectives were in founding the Society of the Sacred Heart and its schools throughout France and abroad in the 1800s. What I also found out is that this family of 5 siblings, father Charles Augustin and mother Marie (Chapparre) Mathé lived in Niort, a small town between La Rochelle and Poitiers in the early-mid 1800s where they operated a wool mill. And that is where my search began.



*Louise Mathé (1847-1929) and 1st husband, Dr. Jules Cédont*

I often traveled to Europe for business and conferences. One in particular brought me to Barcelona in March 2017, where afterward, I flew to Rome to explore the French CHS archives that had been relocated to the Villa Lante Sacra Coeur in Trastevere, a pleasant walk down along the Tiber River from the Vatican. I was able to stay in what was the old convent, with a little room where the nuns lived: a single bed, simple armoire, a chair and small bathroom. But for €50/night and 100 feet from the archives, it was worth it! With the help of archivist Alice Usai and Sr. Margaret Phelan, RSCJ, I spent two days combing through all the records of possible schools and finally to CSH Niort, combing through student lists, class notes, grade comments and records of St. Madeleine Sophie’s visits to the school. There were close matches, none perfect until I found the equivalent of an alumni post in “Enfants de Marie” (Children of Mary) Association about

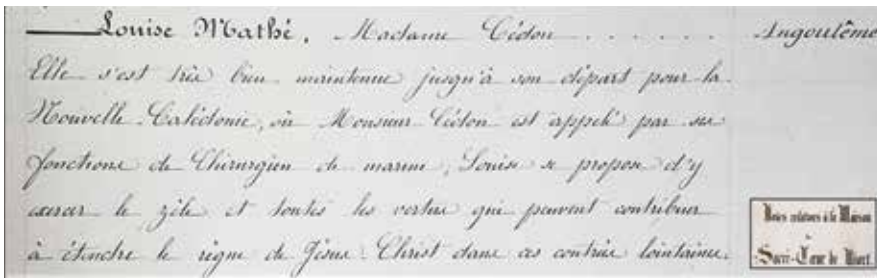


*Istituto Sacro Cuore Villa Lante, Trastevere, Italy*

# A REFLECTION ON CONNECTIONS, CONT.

Louise Mathé, now “Madame Cédon” (sic) listed in her upper school boarding years 1860-1865 (age 13-18). It reads:

“She has taken very good care of herself until her departure for New Caledonia, where Mr. Cédon is called by his function of Navy (&quot;marine&quot;) Surgeon; Louise proposes to exert there the zeal and all the virtues which can contribute to extend the sign of Jesus Christ in these countrysides.”



Excerpt from the *Enfant de Marie Association journals, est. 1872.*

Louise and Dr. Julius Cedont were married in April 1869, and they initially moved to Angoulême (noted as her residence above). He was later deployed to Noumea, New Caledonia in 1872 and she journaled the voyage. This would date the above entry to some 6-7 years after her graduation. St. Madeleine Sophie died in 1865 and her archived “Lettres du S. Barat, Cour te de Niort, I-III” speak of visits to CSH Niort in her last years. Thus, it is entirely possible that my great grandaunt Louise was the little girl presenting her flowers on one of those visits that my aunt Bernice spoke of. Given my aunt’s reputation, this was close enough for me. With only 2 days on this trip, I did not find records for Elisabeth, but it is very likely that she boarded at CSH Niort or Poitiers ... a good reason for a return trip to the archives!



Ladies boarding school of the Sacred Heart - Niort CSH Niort journals of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat



Jeanne Mathé (far left) and Eleanor Mahan (far right) perform in L'Hôtel Rambouillet, CSH Broadway, 1934

must add that my uncle, Charles Pierre (“Bud”) Mathé, Jr. married a Sacred Heart girl, Louise Greer (CHS '42) and their daughter, my close first cousin growing up, Jeanne Hélène “Dede” ('64) attended Broadway as well. From the French side of my family alone, my daughter Kellyn now had 7 CSH **CONNECTIONS** dating back to the mid-1800s.

## What about the Irish side?

This is a simpler story ... no relics, no visits with St. Madeleine Sophie, just this side of my family that left the potato famine in Ireland in 1850 for a better life. This half, being a good Irish Catholics, increased the CSH connection numbers considerably, and many of them “lifers”! My mother Jeanne Mathé attended CSH Jackson St. ('34) with another girl Eleanor Mahan ('35), and the families soon became friends. In the archives at CSH Broadway I found, amongst other treasures, a San Francisco Chronical article from 1934 featuring my mother (far left) and Eleanor (far right) starring in a school play “L'Hôtel Rambouillet”, about Catherine de Vivonne, marquise de Rambouillet and her renowned literary salon in Paris.



My mother would later marry my father, James Edward Mahan, whose father Lawrence Edward had numerous brothers, among them Eugene Mahan. Eugene was Eleanor’s father along with her two sisters, Mavis (CSH '40) and Jean or

# A REFLECTION ON CONNECTIONS, CONT.

“Jeanie” (CSH ‘44) who, like Eleanor, attended both elementary school and high school at Broadway.

Between Eleanor later marrying into the Tobin family and Jeanie marrying into the Barry family, they had between them a total of 9 daughters all of whom attended CSH Broadway: Eleanor (‘65), Cathleen (‘67), Jeannie (‘70), Annie (‘71), Shelia (‘74) and Lisa (‘77) Tobin; along with Rebecca (‘74), Maggie (‘76) and Alma (‘80) Barry). Many overlapped with my years and those of my older sisters. Nelson Barry, my cousin, attended Stuart Hall with me. All in all, this Irish side of my family contributed another 13 Sacred Heart **CONNECTIONS** to Kellyn!

## Last but not least

I remarried in 2000 with my two sons, Evan and Sean, and daughter Kellyn to a Sacred Heart girl, Susan Lee Trevisan. Susan (SR ‘70) had 4 children prior to her husband’s passing. The two boys, Tony (‘91) and Thomas (‘94) went to Stone Ridge for Jr. Kindergarten and Kindergarten, allowed in some all-girls school until required to leave for a boys school. Her daughters, Carrie (SR ‘01) and Sarah (SR ‘02), some years ahead of Kellyn, were Stone Ridge “lifers” just like Kellyn would become. Our children never refer to one another as “step-this” or “step-that”, only “brothers” and “sisters” having known each other through a strong common bond in a Sacred Heart upbringing. Susan’s two younger sisters, Nancy and Theresa, attended Stone Ridge as well, graduating (‘72) and (‘74) respectively. Thus, our union added 7 more Sacred Heart **CONNECTIONS** to Kellyn!

In retrospect, Kellyn got off easy at Tres Bien in 2006. With a revised count of 30 family members connected through Sacred Heart schools, spanning 260 years of education and involvement, the walk down the ballroom would have been agonizing. The fact is I see her connected to so many of her Stone Ridge classmates today, as well as volunteering for activities at the school – a testament to the lasting bond of the Sacred Heart community.

## Epilogue

I think it is clear that my aunt Bernice was a major part of not only this story but the one in our family with the most history with Sacred Heart. I arrived in San Francisco a week ahead of the conference because she had fallen ill and was hospitalized at St. Mary’s. Throughout that week I sat by her bedside, talking and reminiscing, yet watching her slip away. She did, being called by God early on the morning of Friday April 28, 2017, not so coincidentally the day of my talk. Bernice was born on May 25, 1927, the same month and day that St. Madeleine Sophie died in 1865 and each year her canonization is celebrated. In ending my talk, I dedicated it to Bernice, also adding that as the youngest of four, and having outlived my mother and her brothers, she was famous for getting her way and drawing attention. And I was just fine with that.



*Hélène Bernice Mathé*  
May 25, 1927 – April 28, 2017

## Acknowledgements

I would first like to thank the archivists and alumni staff who helped me along this journey: Sr. Margaret Phelan, RSCJ and Alice Usai (Villa Lante, Italy), Deborah Malone (Lone Mountain SFCW); Reba Sell and Jeanne Asdourian (CSH Broadway, SF) and Michael Anne Cullen (Stone Ridge, MD). Secondly, I would like to recognize all the Sacred Heart religious and lay teachers, and especially those Head Mistresses of the schools attended: Sr. Mary Gorman (Jackson St. SF); Sr. Louis Williams, Sr. Eleanor Deming and Sr. Mary Mardel (CSH Broadway, SF); Sr. Hellen Carroll (Stuart Hall, SF); Sr. Leonor Mejia (Lone Mountain SFCW, SF); Sr. Rosalie Hill (San Diego College for Women); and Sr. Odeide Mouton, Sr. Mary Elizabeth Tobin, Sr. Cathleen Collins and Sr. Anne Dyer (Stone Ridge CSH, MD).



# REUNION PHOTOS

Reunion weekend pictures from Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart in Houston held in October



# REUNION PHOTOS



Forest Ridge class of 1974



Forest Ridge class of 1984 with Sr. O'Dea



Forest Ridge class of 2014



30th Sacred Heart Prep class of 1994



20th Sacred Heart Prep class of 2004



Grand Coteau class of 1979



Grand Coteau class of 1984



Grand Coteau class of 1974



5th Sacred Heart Prep class of 2019

## REUNION PHOTOS



*Bryn Mawr class of 1983*



*Bryn Mawr class of 2019*



*Grand Coteau class of 1994*



*Bryn Mawr class of 2004*



*Bryn Mawr class of 1959*

## ANNUAL MEEETING PHOTOS



The Arizona Chapter held their annual meeting on Wednesday 1/22/25 . Following their commitment to support their local community, items were gathered for young families in need.

*Left: those in attendance from multiple schools around the country (both closed and still operational were Judy Ross, Francisca Sabadie (Rosary and Newton alumna visiting from NY.), Annie Ross Fitch, Sandra Chellel, Ann Mulroy, Betty Troilo, Mary Jo Mulcahy, Lee Bowman, Mary Thea Grebner, Kathy McCracken, Terri Logsdon, Pam Snyder, Fran Vitale, Mary Carroll Armstrong, Mary Maloney, and Mary Beth McGivern.*

*If you are local to the greater Phoenix area, please contact us at [aashazchapter@gmail.com](mailto:aashazchapter@gmail.com)*



The LA Chapter held its annual meeting on Saturday, January 25 at the beautiful home of Suzanne Branchflower. After the business was completed, the fun could begin. Fr. Eddie Siebert, of LMU, presided over the mass and a delicious lunch with Valentine's Day treats was enjoyed by all. It was wonderful to Connect with our fellow Sacred Hearties and had the honor of including Maggie Jones and Aida Kohn from Orange County graduates from Mexico City and Lima, Peru! Our chapter members include alumni from Maryville, San Diego College for Women, Duchesne Omaha, Atherton, Broadway, and 91st Street. We truly are One Sacred Heart.

*L to R back row — Kathy Purcelli, Sandy Farrell, Dottie O'Caroll, Andrea Burke, Fr. Eddie Siebert, Lindz Hill, Laura Braunstien, Maria Alcalde and front row — Suzanne Branchflower, Kate Sawyer, Maggie Jones, Casey McHugh O'Brien selfie photo taker Aida Kohn.*



10801 Conway Road, Second Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63131

Our mailing address is:  
P.O. Box 411821  
St. Louis, MO 63141

Nonprofit U.S.  
Postage  
PAID  
MLP

*Esprit de Coeur* is published biannually  
by the Associated Alumnae and Alumni  
of the Sacred Heart for all alumnae/i of Sacred  
Heart Schools in the U.S. and Western Canada.

To report a change of address or if you prefer  
to receive *Esprit de Coeur* electronically,  
please contact the National Office at  
[nationaloffice@aash.org](mailto:nationaloffice@aash.org) or 314-569-3948.

[www.aash.org](http://www.aash.org)



*The Associated Alumnae and Alumni of the Sacred  
Heart (AASH) was created in 1930, as a way to unite  
all children of the Sacred Heart and to further the work  
of the Religious of the Society of the Sacred Heart.*