THE CHALLENGE

St. Cyril Academy Alumnae Association, Danville, PA 17821-1699 Summer 2018

**FROM THE MODERATOR**

Dear Alums,

The date is getting closer and I am looking forward to seeing you at Homecoming on the 20th of October. Father Heintzelman is planning to celebrate the liturgy.

Several grads were at our Summer Festival where they enjoyed the “best ever” waffles, corn, and lemonade at our Snack Shack stand. It was like a mini-reunion!

We just completed our 40th year at the St. Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten. Does time fly, or what? Our 50 three-, four-, and five-year-olds keep the Academy alive and keep me hopping! Sr. Gloria Marie is joining me this year.

Get your voices in tune, circle the date on your calendar, contact your friends, and start packing for Danville. I’ll be waiting for you!

Sister Donna Marie Ivanko, SSCM (’52)

Moderator

**FROM THE EDITOR**

Dear Friends,

As I am, generally, as tightly wrapped as a well-made cabbage roll, I’m already stressing over what to wear to Homecoming and hoping to see many people I know. I’m also looking forward to meeting the alumnae who have been mailing in news over the past few issues.

Sr. Teresa was so well acquainted with all of you and your families! As I label envelopes, I say each name to myself and try to tie it to its geographic location. I’m flummoxed by married names; I knew you when you were “you,” not “we.” I’ve been assured that, eventually, the fog will lift (Really?). Right now I am keeping track of every piece of paper you send to backstop my reporting. But mistakes creep in, for which I hope you will be understanding and forgiving. Note, in particular, an amendment in spelling to the name of Alfonsas Radwill, beloved husband of Martha (Bensko) Radwill (’49). I also call your attention to the item Cindy (Gelinas) Al-Qawasmi (’81) sent in for the last issue.

Thanks to those who returned their questionnaires for educators and nursing professionals. Numbers of returns were quite good! If you haven’t replied yet, you can still do so. Watch for the report in the fall. I had planned to put out another questionnaire with this issue but decided to concentrate mainly on information surrounding Homecoming activities as the schedule has been revised and there are some important business items.

See you in Danville in October!

Mercy Kowalczyk (’64), Editor

**ALUMNAE NEWS**

Apologies to Cynthia (Gelinas) Al-Qawasmi (’81) who welcomed a new grandchild, Lillian Nicole Jones on 11 October 17. In the previous issue I mis-reported daughter-in-law, Ashley, as Cindy’s daughter. In fact, proud Dad Christopher Jones is Cindy’s son.

Additional good news from Cindy is that her daughter, Rachel Jones, has married Joah Hendrix. The happy couple are living in Ft. Bragg, NC, where Joah is stationed. Rachel and Joah are expecting their first child in November.

Yvonne (Kopecky) Comito (’64) welcomed a new grandson on 19 January 18. Dean Charles Coffaro joins his 10-year-old twin brothers, Nick and Max. The parents are Yvonne’s daughter, Marissa, and her husband, Colin.

Susan (Litavec) Gagne (’63) and her husband, Gerard, are delighted to report they welcomed their first grandchild, Benjamin Isaac Gagne, on 6 February 18. Parents are Elijah and Sarah Gagne.

Best wishes for a very happy retirement go to Catherine Kane (’67). After 26 years of teaching psychiatric nursing, research and theory, Catherine departed from the University of Virginia School of Nursing as Professor Emeritus of Nursing. Retirement date was 24 May 18.

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**

Please remember in your prayers the deceased and their families.

Sister M. Janet (Matlak), SSCM—12 May 18

**Alumnae:**

Bernadette (Sudol) Kitchen (’65)—19 November 12

Sr. M. Patricia Woll, IHM (’50)—28 December 13

Rose Marie (Hvisc) Dzurenda (’46)—16 June 17. Rose Marie was the aunt of alumnae Audrey (Morrison) Sexon (’56) (d.7 July 17) and Aileen (Morrison) Dellacato (’56).

Frances (Reilly) Mayan Cesarano (’44)—22 January 18. Frances was the sister of Mary Reilly (’46).

Mary (Havas) Lazar (’41)—23 February 18

Helen (Komoda) Sabo (’49)—26 May 18

Gail Marie (Bassett) McGlinn (’75)—12 June 18

**Family Members:**

Alfonsas Radwill, husband of Martha (Bensko) Radwill (’49)—18 April 17

John W. Reckless, husband of Joyce (Bryer) Reckless (’65)—18 January 18

Rachelle Marie Quick Rivera, daughter of Roseann (Zawistowski) Quick (’64)—11 May 18

Elizabeth P. Dzurnak, sister of Sr. M. Thomas More (Marianne) Dzurnak, SSCM, (’61)—

7 June 18

Michael J. Dean, son of Marie (Sofianek) Dean (’60)—23 July 18

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

The special intention of Susan (Lechner) Shwed (’64).

The special intention of Margaret (Vitko) Turi (’47) on the death of her brother-in-law, Tom Fremature.

**HOMECOMING DATE AND ARRANGEMENTS:**

**THE DATE IS 20 OCTOBER 18. Invitations will mail mid-August.** Please contact Joanne Stahura directly if you don’t receive your invitation by the end of August or if you are aware of a classmate or friend who would like to receive one. Please review the schedule and respond before your RSVP card has a chance to go astray! It might be fun to bring your family or friends to acquaint them with the Academy and its beautiful campus. Internet chatter indicates that this Homecoming will be an especially enjoyable and well-attended event. I hope as many jubilarians as possible will attend. The honored classes are:

1938-1939 80 years 1952-1953 65 years 1977-1978 40 years

1942-1943 75 years 1958-1959 60 years 1992-1993 25 years

1948-1949 70 years 1967-1968 50 years 1997-1998 20 years

**A block of rooms has been reserved at the Pine Barn Inn.** Please make your reservation as soon as possible and **prior to 18 September 18** via [www.pinebarninn.com](http://www.pinebarninn.com). Use **promotion code SCA18**. The discounted rate for a single room is $125/night+tax.

**Rooms in academy dorms will be available Friday and Saturday nights, 19 and 20 October 18.** If you would like to stay at SCA, please e-mail Sr. M. Michaelette: [smisscm@hotmail.com](mailto:smisscm@hotmail.com), or write to Sister at Villa Sacred Heart, 1002 Railroad Street, Danville, PA 17821.

**HOMECOMING SCHEDULE:**

**This year there is a new schedule.** Registration will be held in the Study Hall, concurrent with a continental breakfast buffet in the Dining Hall, starting at 9:00 AM (travelers don’t have to stop at a restaurant *en route*). Registration will be followed by the group photo and the business meeting. A reception and dinner will begin at 1:30 PM and the (Sunday) Eucharistic liturgy will be celebrated at 5:00 PM in the Basilica.

**HOMECOMING INVITATION RESPONSE:**

It’s **extremely important** **that you respond to your Homecoming invitation this year** **even if you are not planning to attend.** These responses will be used to verify the Master Mailing List of alumnae and can affect your future mail from SCA, including whether or not you receive this newsletter in print. The matter of mailings will be discussed during the Business Meeting in October. Please RSVP. This summer issue of The CHALLENGE is mailing in hard copy to everyone for whom we have a valid address to assure that you know about this important action on your part.

**HOMECOMING BUSINESS MEETING:**

**Nomination and Election of Officers:** One agenda item at the business meeting will be the election of Association officers. The current officers are listed at the end of this issue and are eligible to be re-nominated for another term.

The duties of the **President** are to represent the Association, to develop the business meeting agenda, and to run the business meeting.

The **Secretary** keeps a record of meetings, produces minutes for the record, and presents minutes of the previous meeting for approval.

The **Treasurer** maintains the accounts of the Association, provides archiving for certain financial and membership records, collects dues and donations and disburses monies as appropriate.

Self-nomination is appropriate. Typically, candidates for nomination are present at the business meeting. However, if the nominee cannot attend, she must provide a statement in writing of willingness to serve if elected, must agree to be active in the post to which she is elected, and must attend the next homecoming.

If you plan to nominate someone by mail, please make sure you have contacted that person first to determine they accept your nomination. If the answer is “yes,” and if they cannot attend this year’s business meeting, they must provide, in writing, a simple statement saying they are willing to be nominated and will serve if elected. Nominations and acceptances should be sent to Mercy Kowalczyk who will act as the collection point for this material. Any nominations received by mail will be raised at the business meeting and must be seconded by a member present in order to be placed on the ballot. The nominations will then be acted upon by the members present.

**Discussion of Alumnae Communications:** A discussion is expected to take place about how the alumnae and the Association communicate. This means all forms of communication including information about homecoming and other Association activities; distribution of homecoming invitations; publication and distribution of The CHALLENGE; electronic communication including the website; and other communications in various forms that are relevant to the alumnae. Those who will attend the meeting—usually about 100 alumnae—will be making these decisions through their votes. If you cannot attend and have any ideas you want to share, or anything you feel strongly about, please send a note to Mercy Kowalczyk who will act as a collection point for your correspondence.

**DUES:**

By our numbers alone, we alumnae form an exclusive “club.” In the school’s 73 years it graduated approximately 1550 students. The graduates form the membership of the SCA Alumnae Association for which we are asked to pay dues. Our dues support the website, publication of The CHALLENGE, expenses related to homecoming activities including supporting attendance of our alumnae religious, and a host of aperiodic expenses. Dues have been $10 per year for many, many years, and payment is a matter of individual commitment to the SCA Alumnae Association. This means no bills are sent and there is no requirement to pay dues in arrears.

At this time, approximately 1160 Association members are eligible to pay dues. It may trouble you to learn, then, that only about 130 alumnae are regularly meeting that commitment. Attendance at homecoming seems to bring in dues, particularly from those who plan to attend. But there is an imbalance between our numbers and the source of support for benefits derived by all.

Please re-commit to payment of your dues. Mark it on your calendar or do it in conjunction with another annual activity so that you don’t forget to pay your annual dues. If you want to save a stamp this year, you can insert your dues check (a separate check from your Homecoming registration check, please) in the same envelope as your Homecoming RSVP. You do not have to pay dues in arrears but if you wish to do so, they will be gratefully received. Please write your dues check to: SCA ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION, and **mail directly to Joanne Stahura**. In the memo portion of the check please write: “ Dues” and the year(s) covered by your check.

**THE WEBSITE:**

The official website for the SCA Alumnae Association is: [www.stcyrilacademy.org](http://www.stcyrilacademy.org). Join the website and take advantage of the significant amount of password protected information it contains. You are encouraged to use the Facebook page, rather than individual pages for each alumna, to post messages and share personal news. You can access the Facebook page directly from the Association home page. Be sure you’re accessing the **official** SCA website as noted above as there are a number of sites out there on the web that are incorrect and inaccurate.

**HAPPY TRAVELERS:**

Yvonne (Kopecky) Comito (’64) and husband, Tony, traveled to Alaska in June 2017. They visited Denali National Park and cruised to Glacier Bay, then took a “skiplane” up to a glacier. Soaring through the skies in this six-passenger plane provided access to spectacular views denied most visitors because weather conditions obscure the mountains. Did you know that Juneau is the only U.S. state capital not accessible by road? Yvonne and Tony learned these and other facts as they moved from city to city; Yvonne, a former educator (yes, she responded to the questionnaire), wanted to share this info. They also spent time in Victoria, BC, Canada, visiting the amazingly beautiful Buchart Gardens. In Vancouver, they crossed the Capilano Suspension Bridge. At 495 ft. long and swaying 230 ft. above the river, it proved a test for Yvonne who is not a fan of heights—or bridges! After crossing, our travelers entered a rainforest where they were able to access the canopy via smaller suspension bridges. Yvonne reported her relief that these did not sway. Yvonne and Tony also visit their second home in Boynton Beach, FL, several times a year. They often meet up with Rita (Miccio) Foglio (’64) and her husband, Domenick.

**SUBMITTING NEWS:**

Please include your full name, class, mailing address, phone, and e-mail (we will use this to keep mailing lists current as well as confirm receipt of your item and contact you with any questions/clarifications).

If you are reporting a death, please give the full name of the individual, their connection to you and/or other alumnae, the date of death, and any other salient information. We are interested in the births of children/grandchildren and their educational and other major achievements. If you travel, we’d like to hear about your adventures. Please submit all items to Mercy Kowalczyk.

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE 2016-2018 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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