

Sharing God's Goodness and Love



Sisters of Notre Dame of the United States

Winter 2021

Network

*One Heart.
One Hope.
One Mission.*

Sharing God's Goodness and Love

The Sisters of Notre Dame acknowledge that their charism – a deep experience of God's goodness and provident care – motivates them to serve others through their unique gifts. Sisters work with numerous organizations and social outreach programs, caring for pregnant women with little or no support, feeding the hungry through parish ministries, offering religious education to children and adults, serving at the U.S. borders, and so much more. However, the sisters are not alone in experiencing this charism. Innumerable individuals are being awakened to their spirituality through service to others.

At age 87, Gladys Walcott shares the SND charism one seed at a time. Gladys is a founding member of E. C. Grows Community Garden, located at 15000 Woodworth Road in East Cleveland, Ohio. The thriving garden began 13 years ago when Gladys retired from public office as president of East Cleveland City Council. Today, rather than a gavel, her tools of the trade include hoes, spades, trowels, shovels and, of course, seeds.

"I was taking care of my parents and found myself falling in a rut," Gladys admits with a smile. "A friend invited me to a workshop about taking wasted, unsightly land in the city and doing something good with that space. Well, I knew of a parking lot (overgrown with weeds as tall as me) across the street from the Coit Road Farmers Market. I, along with four others, asked to use the half-acre land for a community garden. The landowners agreed and donated the land for our use."

Motivated and encouraged, Gladys convinced passing truck drivers to help clear the land. "It was an asphalt parking lot," she describes with a laugh. Soon, the small group was able to construct five raised vegetable beds. A humble beginning.

Today, E. C. Grows Community Garden includes more than 40 community volunteers who tend 65 to 70 raised garden beds. They grow everything from tomatoes, corn, all types of squash, beets, Swiss chard and other leafy greens to garlic, potatoes and

more. "We also grow cucumbers. They are Sister Marie Manning's favorite," Gladys adds with a giggle. "We are currently planting rose bushes around the garden, and we grow other flowers, including sunflowers. We do not sell our produce. We invite people to take enough for their families and share with their neighbors. We do accept donations which enable us to keep our garden organic. The untreated wood and cement blocks used in the garden are expensive. We also ask for a \$10 membership fee for others who want to garden here. We welcome people of all faiths."

"My faith motivates me," Gladys emphatically states. "I have been a charter member of my church, Mount Olivet Church of God, in Cleveland, for 70 years. There, I have served as Sunday School teacher, usher, and am referred to as the 'Church Mother.' I am close to being the oldest person there."

"Everyone can witness God's goodness and love," Gladys encourages. "At our community garden, we definitely could use more volunteers to share God's love! It's good to teach and talk about the goodness of the Lord, but it's better for people to see it in your life. I feel I am doing what I'm supposed to be doing."

Gladys is not the only one using her unique gifts and circumstances in life to help others experience God's goodness and love. Brendan Knapp, 17, a junior at Bay Village High School, volunteers at Blessing House, a children's crisis care center, caring for children from newborns through age 12 whose parents or caregivers are experiencing a crisis or emergency and a high level of stress that might put their children at risk of abuse or neglect.

"When several opportunities arose to fundraise for or do volunteer work at Blessing House, I immediately responded because I am very aware of the blessings and comforts I have received that others have not," Brendan matter-of-factly explains. "In my own small way, I contribute to the bigger goal of improving the lives of children and families who come to Blessing House seeking safety, assistance and love – all things I do not take for granted."

Brendan has been involved in fundraising and volunteering at Blessing House through Saint Raphael Parish in Bay Village, Ohio since 2017. His service includes making repairs, re-landscaping the yard and outdoor play areas, moving furniture, speaking at Mass, and organizing various fundraising events, including a basketball tournament for Blessing House.

Send correspondence to:

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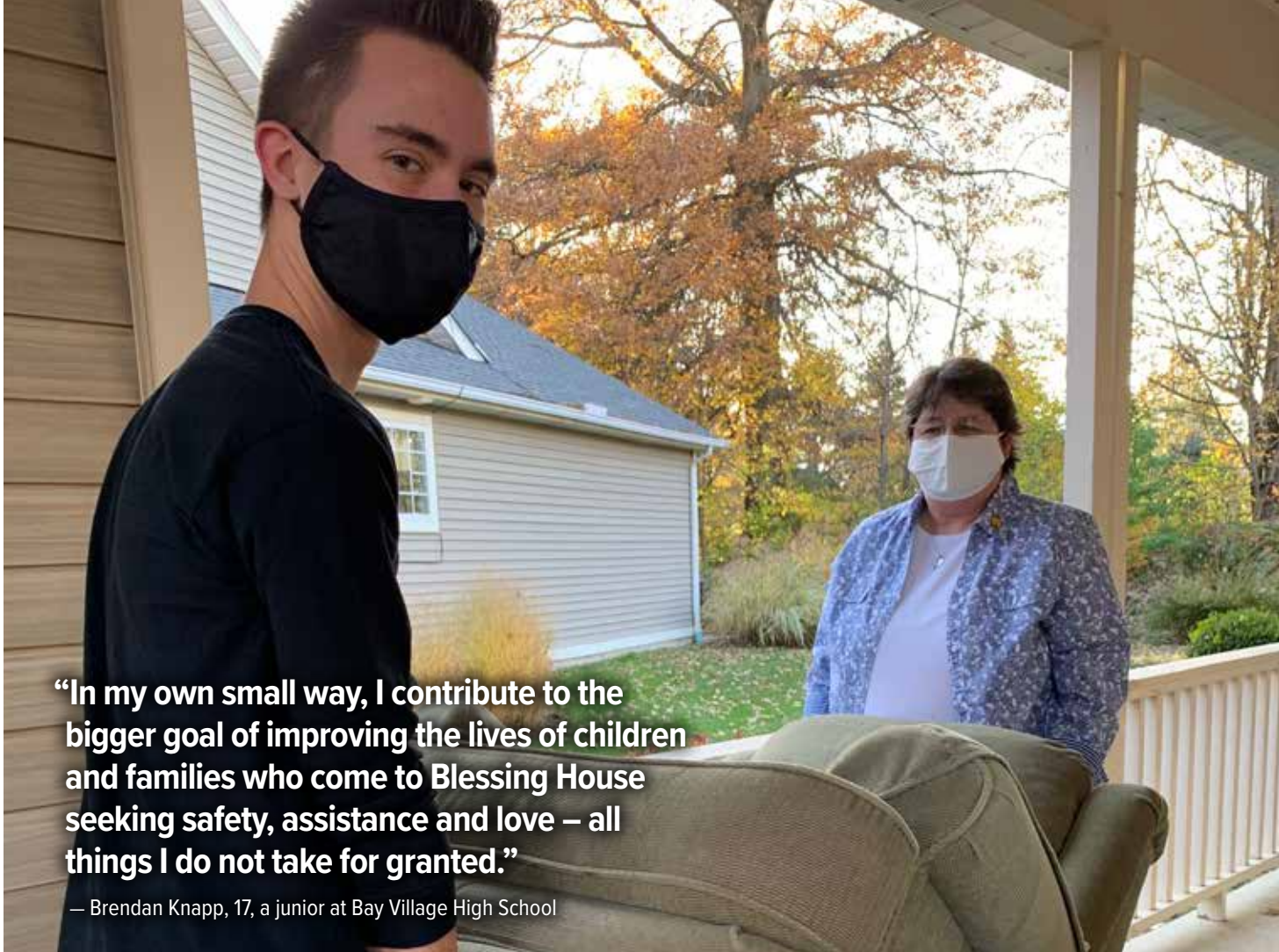
Sisters of Notre Dame

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On the cover: Gladys Walcott shares the SND charism one seed at a time at E. C. Grows Community Garden.



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— Brendan Knapp, 17, a junior at Bay Village High School

Brendan Knapp working alongside Sister Mary Berigan at Blessing House

“I feel by offering my time and making myself available to whatever needs come up, I am letting God lead me and teach me. I may not know the next urgent need at Blessing House, but I know I want to assist Sister Mary Berigan and Blessing House. I would encourage other teens to do so whenever the call comes,” says Brendan. “As the Volunteer Coordinator of High School Ministry at St. Raphael Parish, I am ready to respond and trust that my actions will make work easier for the Blessing House staff as well as improve the lives of the kids who come there.”

Another individual impacted by the Sisters of Notre Dame and their charism is Andy Bushman, Munson Township Trustee in Geauga County. “I go way back with the Sisters of Notre Dame,” exclaims Andy with a smile. “My entire family attended Saint Mary Elementary School in Chardon, Ohio. I heard stories about the Sisters of Notre Dame as a child. In first grade, I had Mrs. Koesel as my teacher. Her daughter is a Sister of Notre Dame. Sister Mary Antoinette taught me catechism. My oldest sister’s best friend in school was Sister Janet Helphrey. Those are just a few of many family connections.”

Andy says that as a child, his perception of the Sisters of Notre Dame was that their whole mission was education. “They provided an excellent Catholic education for their students,”

he states. “As an adult, I see the sisters moving beyond education and actively participating in the community – as members of the Hunger Task Force Board, WomenSafe Board, working with the cancer support group, fighting human trafficking, assisting immigrants, and so much more.”

Andy says the Sisters of Notre Dame have served as role models throughout his life. “They taught me, as a child, that learning can be fun. As an adult, I have experienced the broader range of their charism and outreach. People do not realize all they do in this community, and it is done with humility and care. I hope to continue their mission through my service to their congregation and my community. The SND mission has become the ‘Bushman Way!’”

Another individual impacted by the Sisters of Notre Dame is Aaron Calton. While serving as an alumni volunteer at St. Ignatius High School, the 28-year-old is currently taking a year to discern with the Jesuits whether a religious vocation is in his future. Prior to this year, Aaron taught Theology and was the Director of Service Ministry at Trinity High School. Aaron is currently living in community with other alumni volunteers. His volunteer activities include helping with Stockings for Christ, Zelie’s Home, and the Arimathea Pallbearer Ministry at St. Ignatius.

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He reflects on the role the Sisters of Notre Dame have played in his life. "I grew up attending St. Augustine Parish in Tremont. Sister Janet Kondrat worked at the church, and from a young age, I witnessed her gentleness and openness to people," Aaron recalls. "Then, a few years ago, I met Sister Kate Hine and recognized immediately someone who cared and wanted other people to know God. She helped me grow in my faith. She never gave up on me."

Aaron continues, "I really admire Sister Kate's devotion to bringing God to other people. She has such great joy. Then, in planning a Charis Retreat, I met many other Sisters of Notre Dame. In their Chardon Provincial Center, I saw a statue of Julie Billiart with her arms extended to heaven. At that moment, I knew that is what I wanted my life to be – completely open to God's will."

"Through the history of the Church, religious orders come and go, but their mission never dies," Aaron states. He sees the mission of the SNDs continuing through so many individuals impacted by the sisters.

Victoria Frabotta also embraces the SND mission in her own life. Vicki graduated from Notre Dame Academy in Chardon, Ohio in 1986. She states, "We were encouraged to be of service to others as students. After I earned a master's degree in education, Sister Donna Paluf hired me to teach at NDCL in 1991. There were more sisters working at the high school then. I worked closely with Sister Eileen Quinlan with the theatre productions. She was a great mentor to me in the English

department. The SNDs are master teachers and encouraged young teachers like me."

Vicki, who has taught at NDCL for the past 29 years, describes her desire to serve asylum seekers entering the U.S. at the southern borders. "I first learned of La Posada from Sister Karen Somerville. She came to speak to the NDCL faculty during one of our teacher development days," Vicki recalls. "I called her afterward to learn more about the work she did to help these refugees. I also spoke with Sister Jacquelyn GUSDANE about her experience at the border. I had been wanting to do more service, but as a single parent, my priority was my daughter. With Briana (NDCL '18) working during the summer for money for college, I had more time available. I felt it was something I SHOULD do."

She continues, "The Sisters of Notre Dame are helping the religious order of Sisters of La Posada at the southern border, showing solidarity among the religious communities. With all the rhetoric being used, I wanted to experience the border myself. What I experienced was how much hope there is in the world, despite all the pain and loss, for many immigrants and refugees to get to this point. Just as there are slave stories and Holocaust stories, there are immigrant stories. People arrived with just the clothes on their backs -- people who want the chance to learn the English language and work. All the immigrants and refugees want is safety and freedom to earn a living and contribute to society. At La Posada, they are treated with dignity."

The passionate educator and mother encourages others in the community to get to know the SNDs and embrace and share in their charism. "The Sisters of Notre Dame are leaders in so many ministries," Vicki describes. "There is something for everyone. For me, knowing they are involved is comforting, almost like I'm visiting a relative's home."

If you would like to participate in the SND charism by offering your own unique gifts, please consider volunteering in one or more of their ministries. Visit sndchardon.org to learn more about how you can get involved. Or simply contribute where you feel called to in your own life. Expand the SND charism through your own spheres of influence by sharing your unique gifts with others. †

"Through the history of the Church, religious orders come and go, but their mission never dies."

— Aaron Calton

Aaron Calton



A Lasting Tribute



SISTER KATHERINE MARY (formerly Sister Mary David Anne)

Born Katherine SKRABEC on April 16, 1936
Entered into religious life, September 8, 1954
Entered into eternal life, August 3, 2020

Katherine “Katie” was the youngest of three girls born to Anthony and Mary (Pust) Skrabec. The family lived in Cleveland, in St. Vitus Parish. When Katie was 10, her mother died; six years later, her father. Although deeply saddened, Katie experienced the loving care of her sisters and extended family. She graduated from Notre Dame Academy in 1954 and responded to God’s invitation to religious life. At investment, she received the name Sister Mary David Anne.

Sister Katherine Mary earned a bachelor’s degree from St. John College in Cleveland and an Advanced Catechetical Diploma and Master of Arts degree in Religious Education from Notre Dame Institute in Middleburg, Virginia. She taught every elementary grade over the next 48 years.

She ministered at St. James and Christ the King Schools in Warren, OH; St. Agnes, Arlington, VA; St. Joseph Franciscan in Cleveland; St. Justin Martyr, Eastlake; St. Aloysius, East Liverpool; St. Michael, Canton; and St. Joseph School in Winter Haven, FL.

In 2006, she moved to the provincial center in Chardon, immediately volunteering “wherever needed.” She spent 15 years working in the Archives, using her artistic skills to create memorial photo albums featuring all the deceased sisters of the province.



SISTER ANNAMAE (formerly Sister Mary Denismarie)

Born Anna Mae MURPHY on May 9, 1936
Entered into religious life, February 2, 1954
Entered into eternal life, September 24, 2020

Anna Mae was the youngest of five children of Denis and Margaret (Kelly) Murphy. She attended Notre Dame Academy and four years later became a postulant, attracted by the SND’s prayerfulness and warmth.

Sister Annamae earned a bachelor’s degree in education from St. John College, Cleveland, and a master’s degree from John Carroll University in Cleveland Heights. She taught primary and then junior high grades for 12 years in Warren, Cleveland, Elyria, Eastlake, and East Liverpool. She ministered as principal throughout the next 33 years

at St. Benedict School and Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Cleveland; St. Peter School, Canton; St. John School in Warrenton, Virginia; Our Lady of Victory School in Washington, DC; and at St. Peter School, Lorain.

In 2003, she retired from active school administration, and spent 16 more years at St. Peter’s, Lorain. She chaired the stewardship program, helped coordinate the hospitality program and the Giving Tree, managed the extended day and morning care program at the school, served on parish committees, and did pastoral counseling.

In 2019, a steady decline in health brought her to the provincial Healthcare Center.

A Lasting Tribute



SISTER MARY ROSE ANNE

Born Shirley Ann WEBB on November 17, 1929

Entered into religious life, September 8, 1949

Entered into eternal life, September 25, 2020

Shirley was the youngest of six children of Arthur and Cecilia (Archambeau) Webb. The family moved from Michigan to Cleveland, Ohio in 1941, where the children attended Immaculate

Conception School. At St. Peter High School, Cleveland, she majored in business and English and took as many science courses as she could. As she came to know the Sisters of Notre Dame, she discerned her own vocation to religious life. She entered the community in 1949. At investment, she received the name Sister Mary Rose Anne.

Just three years later, she was missioned to St. Gregory the Great School in South Euclid. She continued to teach intermediate and junior high students at parish schools in Canton, Cleveland,

Youngstown, Massillon, Avon, and Sheffield. She earned a bachelor's degree from St. John College, Cleveland, and a master's degree in education from Xavier University, Cincinnati. She was an excellent teacher, and her leadership and mentoring skills were recognized as she served as principal at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Cleveland; St. Francis of Assisi, Gates Mills; Holy Name School in Gulfport, Florida; and St. Paschal Baylon School, Highland Heights.

Upon concluding her time in administration, Sister Mary Rose Anne taught 6th grade in various schools for another 14 years. She was the computer coordinator and librarian at St. Thomas the Apostle School, Sheffield Lake, for six years, and spent a dozen years as technology coordinator at St. Justin Martyr School in Eastlake.



SISTER MARY DOREEN

Born Dorothy STRAHLER on March 23, 1929

Entered into religious life, February 2, 1947

Entered into eternal life, October 7, 2020

Dorothy was the fifth of eight children born to Raymond and Stella (Oakes) Strahler. She grew up on the family's large farm in Randolph, Ohio. She attended Notre Dame Academy, Cleveland, as an aspirant, and became a

postulant in February of her senior year. At investment, she received the name Sister Mary Doreen. Her sister Loretta (Sister Merita) had joined the SND community a few years earlier; another sister (Sister Sylvia, MMS) became a Medical Mission Sister.

Sister Mary Doreen received a bachelor's degree from St. John College in Cleveland, Ohio, and a master's degree in administration from St. Xavier College in Chicago, Illinois. She spent more than 40 years in the ministry of education. She

taught each of the elementary grades, often two grades in one room. She was a principal for 12 years, frequently teaching a class as well. Her assignments took her to schools in Youngstown, Cleveland, Mentor, Chardon (all in Ohio) and to Arlington and Winchester, Virginia.

She wrote more than 300 poems, the fruit of her keen observation of the outer and inner world. Several were published in magazines and books of poetry. Her exquisite needlework won prizes at the county fair. For 39 years she was a much-loved local superior, coordinating schedules, arranging events, and seeing to the daily needs of several hundred sisters.

In July 2018, Sister Mary Doreen became a resident of Notre Dame Village Assisted Living, continuing to meet daily challenges with grace and graciousness.



SISTER MARY LAURETTE

Born Patricia KRAMER on December 16, 1930
Entered into religious life, February 2, 1952
Entered into eternal life, October 14, 2020

Born in Garfield Heights, Ohio to Ned and Laura (Schmidt) Kramer, Patricia was the youngest of three children. After completing elementary school at St. Peter & Paul Parish in Garfield Heights, she attended Notre Dame Academy,

Cleveland. She enrolled at St. John College to study elementary education, becoming a postulant in Feb. 1952. At investment she received the name Sister Mary Laurette.

By 1956 she was teaching 5th and 6th graders at schools in Northeastern Ohio parishes, and in 1959, earned a BSE in elementary education from St. John College. That same year, she learned that her offer to serve in the India Mission was accepted. She arrived in India on her 30th birthday. For the next 30 years, Sister Mary Laurette's educational ministry took her to schools in Patna, Jamalpur, and Bangalore. She returned

to the States for one year to earn her master's in education at Cleveland State University. She served as classroom teacher and principal, curriculum director, accreditation coordinator, teacher supervisor, school counselor, and education coordinator for the Patna province. In 1970, she worked with three sisters and four lay teachers to establish the Campus School at the University of Agriculture and Technology in Patnagar, in the Himalyan region of Northern India.

Sister Mary Laurette embarked on another 30-year journey in 1991, integrating her spirituality and creativity as a DRE at St. Ann Parish, Arlington, VA; and at Annunciation, St. Bernard, and St. John the Baptist parishes in Akron. She then mentored teachers at St. Thomas Aquinas-St. Philip Neri Schools in Cleveland, and tutored adults at the legacy project on Ansel Road. At age 80, she was still sharing her zest for life, volunteering at the Geauga Senior Center, SND prayer line, and SND Health Care Center.



SISTER JEAN MARIE

Born Jean Marie DICK on January 31, 1927
Entered into religious life, September 8, 1944
Entered into eternal life, December 3, 2020

Jean Marie was the fifth child of William and Irene (Meiner) Dick. With her 2 brothers and 2 sisters, Jean Marie attended St. Cecilia School. After high school at Notre Dame Academy, Cleveland, Jean Marie entered the Sisters of Notre

Dame, and at investment, received the name Sister Mary St. William, in honor of her father.

She earned a BSE from St. John College, Cleveland in 1953, and taught primary and middle grades over the next 20 years at St. Stephen and Gesu Schools in Cleveland; St. Michael and St. Peter Schools, both in Canton; and Campus School in Washington, DC. In 1963, she completed her master's in educational

administration at Catholic University of America, leading to a 32-year ministry as elementary school principal. She served at St. Michael, Canton; St. Joan of Arc, Chagrin Falls; St. Margaret Mary, South Euclid; St. Helen, Newbury; and Holy Angels School in Clearwater, Florida.

When Sister Jean Marie retired from education, she volunteered at Notre Dame Skills Lab as an administrative aide. In 1999 she moved to Chardon, and for 15 years she assisted in various offices, drove sisters to appointments, and made pastoral visits to the Health Care Center.

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2021-2022 Calendar

Girl's Night Out 2021

We are making plans to have it in October, 2021 when we can get out and enjoy each other's company!

Regina Alumnae Retreat-2021

Because of the Coronavirus, this year's retreat has been cancelled. Hopefully we can have it in 2022.

2020 Reunions

Class of 1960

The reunion scheduled for June 6 was postponed until future notice. If you are not receiving emails, please send your email address to rhsalum@reginahigh.com to stay informed, or contact a friend who gets our messages to keep you up to date.

Class of 1970

Has been postponed. More information will follow. Check the Facebook page-Regina@50 - ask Deborah Buckley to friend you on Facebook to get on the page. **QUESTIONS:** Contact Deborah Buckley at djb215@gmail.com or 408-234-2962.

Class of 1975

Regina High Class of 1975 - 45th Reunion
Due to the coronavirus, we have postponed the reunion until 2021. We will be sending out a list of lost classmates to try to find their email addresses. Pam Koeth will post Facebook messages on **Regina High School Class of '75**. It is private, but one of us will let you in. You can send email addresses to rhsalum@reginahigh.com or Claudia.lund9@gmail.com. We will keep you posted.

Class of 1980

Regina High Class of 1980 - 40th Reunion
Has been postponed until further notice. Please contact Pam Bell Huth with your contact details.

Class of 2010

Postponed until 2021. More information will follow. Send your information to RHSroyals2010@gmail.com.

2021 Reunions

Class of 1961

The reunion date is June 26, 2021 at Beth Ulery Parnin's house. Contact Beth at funwithfit@sbcglobal.com. More information will follow.

Class of 1966

Mary Judith Burdecki Fina is looking for volunteers to help with the reunion. Her email address is thatgirl@yahoo.com if you have any ideas or would like to help.

Class of 1971

50 year reunion Class of '71

Several classmates have begun work on our 50th reunion. We are hoping by October 22, 2021 the virus and vaccine will have made it possible to gather. If you are interested in helping or want to share your email or those of classmates, please text message one of us listed below, (maiden names). Looking forward to seeing everyone next fall. Stay well.

Mary Sweeney 440-487-1236

Sue Loretta 440-488-2489

Carole Ferreri 440-463-1846

Jody Hummer 216-407-7568

Class of 1976

With Covid calling the shots, we are in a pandemic holding pattern for planning. Mary Anne DeGrandis Baucco, Sue Dileno & Maureen Stein-Vavro have started working on our reunion. If you are interested, contact Mary Anne: madbaucco@sbcglobal.net.

Class of 1996

Class of 1996 will be planning a reunion for June, 2021, assuming all is okay to proceed due to Covid. More information to follow. Julie Funk Lawrence has started working on the reunion. If you would like to help or have any ideas contact her at julie@krunchfinancial.com.

Class of 2001

There is a group starting to make reunion plans. If you are interested send your contact information to ReginaHS2001@gmail.com or rhsalum@reginahigh.com.

Reunion for 2022 – the '2 and '7's

You might think your reunion is a long way off, but planning usually takes place the year before. The Alumnae Office will be happy to help you in anyway-emails, addresses, suggestions where other reunions have taken place, etc. Contact us at rhsalum@reginahigh.com or phone-text 216-905-4851.

Please keep in contact and update your information, your home addresses and email addresses. This helps the classes working on reunions to get in contact with the whole class.



Congratulations to the first graduating class of Regina on their 65th Anniversary – The Class of 1956.