



# SERVIAM

*A newsletter by and for members of Ursuline Alumnae Association-Spring 2019*

## Letter from the President

Hello ladies!

2018 was a very eventful year and I sincerely apologize for not getting you a Fall Newsletter. In one six-week period last year, both of my children were married and sadly, my mother passed away. It was a very bittersweet year, but I feel blessed to have my new daughter in law and my new son in law. And doubly blessed that we were all able to spend so much time with my mom and that she was able to be home at the end. Also, I'd like to thank all the Ursulines who came to help us grieve. The Ursuline spirit is strong!

As many of you know, the United Irish Cultural Center decided to close its kitchen. Because of that, this year's luncheon will be at Patio Espanol. It is closer to the Church so it will be a quick drive after Mass and there is a huge parking lot. The room itself is very spacious, the food is delicious and there are NO stairs! Unfortunately, we had to raise our price this year -\$45 for chicken or pasta and \$50 for Paella. Patio Espanol is famous for its Paella so that will be a treat for those of you who decide to order it.

We had such a wonderful relationship with the Irish Center – they allowed us to change our numbers at the last minute - we will not have that luxury with our new venue. Our reservation deadline will be strictly upheld this year. Please make sure you have paid online or mailed your checks by March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to Valerie McGrew for her wonderful work on the newsletter, Marge Silva for keeping us all together, on track and informed and Christine Keane for keeping track of our finances!

As always, we're looking for volunteers to help the day of the luncheon. We need people to come early and man the registration tables and to sell raffle tickets. We also need raffle donations! If you would like to volunteer, please email [sjualumnae@gmail.com](mailto:sjualumnae@gmail.com). Thank you! I hope to see you all at the luncheon and I look forward to honoring the Class of '69!

Happy 2019 to you all.

Serviam

Theresa Keane '77

**Want to have a lot of fun and support the Ursuline Alumnae Association at the same time?**

Please consider joining the new committee to organize our annual luncheon.

If you can help with setting up, decorating and/or running the raffle,  
please contact Theresa at [sjualumnae@gmail.com](mailto:sjualumnae@gmail.com).

**We are in need of Auction donations for this year's raffle!**

## ST JOHN'S NEWS

Our deepest sympathy to Theresa Keane, President of the Alumnae Association and Christine Keane, Treasurer, on the loss of their mother, **Nancy Mifflin Keane** in June. At her passing someone said of her- "Knowing Nancy has changed all of our lives for the better." What a lovely tribute. RIP

Condolences to Diane Thran Gragnani, '57 on the loss of her beloved husband, **Al Gragnani** on September 12. Al was a regular at our luncheons for many years when Diane was coordinating the luncheon-especially the reservations and Al cheerfully put up signs, decorated table, carried bags and did whatever was needed to be done to get ready for the luncheon. One great guy!

As many of you already know, **Sister Maura Murphy** passed away on June 10. A native of San Francisco, Sr. Maura served her community in many capacities as an Ursuline for 69 years including as the principal at St. Johns Ursuline HS. After she retired from education, she co-founded Good Buy Clothing Store in Gualala for those in need. She attended our alumnae luncheons distributing Golden Diplomas and encouraging the Board of the Association in their efforts until her illness prevented her from doing so. Her obituary mentions her contagious smile and that is how I will always remember her.

**Laure Henken**, '78 passed away in May after a prolonged illness. May she Rest In Peace.

**Jane Alexander Marovich**, '64 passed away in November from complications from a stroke. Our condolences to her friends and family.

**Nancy Halloran**, who gave a most eloquent speech at last year's luncheon, passed away in November. Nancy was a '68 grad and a former teacher and was much beloved by both her classmates and students.

With great sadness, we share with you that **Jennifer Casaldud**, daughter of Kriss Hilton Kindorf, '70 loss her courageous fight with cancer. Her mother described her as "An angel in heaven wrapped in God's love.

**Donna Laura Lewis Hill**, '59 passed away peacefully at her home from cancer.

Condolences to the family of **Jane Culloty Dineen**, Class of 1973, who passed away September 2018, leaving behind her son, Denis and many family members – many of whom were St. Johns' grads. RIP

**Betty Leahy**, '41 passed away earlier this year at the age of 100. She was an avid reader and golf enthusiast and is survived by her two daughters, her sister, her son-in-law, seven grandchildren and twenty great grandchildren.

**Class of 1952:** **Rita Quill Lillis, Florence Franke Martin, Beryl Johnson Reilly, Virginia Judnick Solimine and Anne Van Dyke Minoletti** met in 1st grade at St John Grammar School and continued their friendship and bond through St John Ursuline High. This amazing and faithful Class of 1952 continue to meet every three months for lunch and God willing we will see them all together once again at the Alumnae Luncheon in April 2019.

**Class of 1960:** Members of the Class of 1960 continue to gather for lunch monthly, or as their schedules permit. Best wishes to "**Cookie**", **Carol Moffett Ellingson** '60 and her husband Bob on the birth of their Great Grandson in September AND congratulations to their son Steven who was promoted to Captain of the Vacaville Fire Department in August.

**Class of 1970:** Congratulations to **Valerie Hull McGrew** who received a Community Service Award from the Irish Echo newspaper. In April, Valerie and her sister Liz traveled to Manhattan to pick up the award at a dinner at Rosie O'Gradys. First trip to New York City for them both, they had a great time visiting all the sites from Central Park to the 911 Museum-even mass at St Patrick's. Check out the Class of 1970's Facebook Page.

**Class of 1977:** Please keep **Lauren Gee** in your prayers. She suffered a stroke recently and is recovering.

### Treasurer's Report

As of 2/1/2019, our bank balance is \$20,631.00

### NEWS and DUES

Please send in your latest news for inclusion in the next newsletter. It is great to hear from all our Alumnae-tell us about what is going on in your life - both big & small.

2019 Dues are currently being accepted! Your dues support the activities of the Alumnae Association including publication of the newsletters and the annual luncheon and contributes to donations to the Ursuline Sisters and St. Johns Parish & School. When you send in your dues, which is \$15 per year, please include your maiden name, class year and e-mail address. :[sjalumnae@gmail.com](mailto:sjalumnae@gmail.com)

You can pay your dues online via Pay Pal or Credit Card at <http://www.sjalumnae.com/>

OR mail it to our new address:

Ursuline Alumnae Assoc.,  
5214 F Diamond Heights Blvd #330,  
San Francisco, CA 94131-2175

## History of the Ursuline Nuns

In November of 1535, St. Angela Bresci founded the Company of St. Ursula in Brescia, Italy, taking as their patron saint St. Ursula who was also the patron saint of education. A mystic, St. Angela felt called by God to organize a company of women to share in her mission of service to the poor and needy. On the feast day of St. Catherine of Alexandria that year, St. Angela and 28 women dedicated their lives to the Church and to service to the poor. St. Catherine was a major female spiritual figure in the Middle Ages. St. Angela, who was elected Mother for life in 1538, drew up a Rule of Life for them. They continued to live with their families and did not wear habits although they met regularly for prayer and conferences. Very soon the religious education of girls became a priority for them rather than leaving it to the parish priests. By the time St. Angela died in 1540 their Company had spread to many neighboring dioceses.

The Church leadership was uncomfortable with holy women living on their own-out of the direct control of the clergy so in 157 St. Charles Borromeo, Archbishop of Milan, insisted that they become an enclosed religious order. Pope Gregory XIII put them under the Rule of St. Augustine rather than the Rule of St. Angela. Many of the groups of the Company became cloistered nuns and dedicated themselves to the education of girls, especially in France. Some groups of the Company, however, stayed with the original way of life set down by St. Angela. In the next few centuries, both forms of the order spread throughout Europe and eventually North America including to St. Johns parish in San Francisco.

Congratulations to **Sr. Shirley**, principal at St. Johns Elementary School on their addition of a Transitional Kindergarten! Currently the T-K class is limited to siblings, but expansion plans are in the works. Also, fundraising campaign is underway to upgrade the kitchen – which hasn't been renovated in more than fifty years! Our own SJU alumnae, **Anna Grande**, runs the kitchen. For more school news and a link for donations, visit: <http://stjohnseagles.com/>

### Serviam

Serviam is the motto of all the Ursuline Schools worldwide. The Latin word Serviam means "I will serve". Service to your family, your parish, and your community are signs of Serviam. The word includes in its meaning self-sacrifice and world-embracing charity.

The Serviam Shield is the emblem of loyalty known by Ursuline students throughout the world. The seven stars, representing Ursa Minor, are a reminder of St. Ursula, patroness of young women and education. The stars tell us of the heights to which our ideals must soar. The cross stands for Faith, the foundation of all Christian action.



*"Take care of all...having each one engraved on your mind and hear, not only their names but also their situation" St. Angela Merici*

### URSULINE SISTERS RETIREMENT FUND

Donations can be sent to:  
**Ursuline Sisters Retirement Fund**  
**639 Angela Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95403**  
**Please do not send them to the Alumnae Association**

## 2019 Luncheon Registration Form

Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 11:00 am Patio Espanol 2850 Alemany Blvd, San Francisco

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (please include current & maiden name)

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (mailing address if you don't have email)

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Food Choice: Chicken \$45 \_\_\_\_\_

Veg Pasta \$45 \_\_\_\_\_

Paella \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

2019 Dues: \$15.00

**Due March 28th.**

Please mail this form along with your check to:

Ursuline Alumnae Association 5214 Diamond Heights Blvd, #330 San Francisco, CA 94131

Or visit our webpage to pay via PayPal or credit card: [www.sjualumane.com](http://www.sjualumane.com)

## Are You In Contact With Anyone From The Class Of 1969?

Marge Van Dyke Silva is helping the class of 1969 get in touch with their classmates in preparation for the Golden Diploma luncheon. If you are in touch with anyone from the Class of 1969, please contact Marge at [ricsil@prodigy.net](mailto:ricsil@prodigy.net)



Images from the 2018 Luncheon – you don't want to miss out on all the fun!!! Reserve your spot today.

