

# Mission Statement

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Some of you know that my office has an absolutely fantastic view of the old neighborhood. From the highest point in Milwaukee, I can see south well beyond West Allis, and I have an intimate relationship with the birds and squirrels in the branches to the east. This old pastoral suite vantage point allows me to reflect on yes, the past and the good people who built this neighborhood, parish and school, but also on hope-filled horizons.

Physically, little has changed. Our streets are still lined with historic maples and elms. Oh yes, the 31 bus no longer travels down Washington Blvd. The homes remain sturdy and market ready. Areas of the Heights see strong revitalization including Vliet Street as a wine and art lovers destination and the Washington Park Band Shell restoration efforts to restore its symphonic and cultural beauty.

Yet, each time someone returns home they bring with them a "little older little wiser," how-it-used-to-be perspective. Altar boys recall turning on the blue light at the altar, or the 20 foot angels that peered over the congregation, and mysteriously disappeared in the 80's, or the red brick single girl's bathroom in the old school, or past teachers.

Yet every way we turn, change challenges our spirit. Graduates of all ages are stepping into a world so dissimilar than our own, even 10 years ago. The pessimists among us fear their journey into a world of unknowns. The optimists recognize how a solid moral and academic foundation like that established at St. Sebastian provides wings to a future that is open and waiting for them. Even from their iPod world they are seeing things we never saw. They are our hope.

I am also writing to let you know of a change here at St. Sebastian. As of June 30<sup>th</sup> I will be leaving St. Sebastian. It has been my privilege to serve this parish for over 20 years as a school parent, parish volunteer, and the last six as Director of Stewardship & Development. I am proud of our important work and deeply grateful to have been a part of it. We have built a wonderful alumni network. Few grade schools have the opportunity to design a communication vehicle of this quality.

Within this change however, the constant is your loyalty and love of St. Sebs. No matter what generation you graduated from or what state or country you reside in, coming home either physically or mentally reinforces your ties to St. Sebastian Parish, School and neighborhood. It has been an honor to be the recipient of those memories and trouble-free to produce a newsletter with exciting material based on people, places, memories and wishes across so many generations. This edition is filled with just such stories.

If you are able to help sustain the forward movement of the St. Sebastian Alumni Association, please step forward. Three areas that could use your time and talent include: a) Alumni relations – database management, communication, b) Bi-annual newsletter, and c) All Class Reunion scheduled for November 21 – 23, 2008.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your renewed and new friendships. Without you, our loyal graduates, we could not have done all that we did. I hope that you will continue to support St. Sebs into the future.

Blessings.

Mary Patricia Voell ('65)

# The wonderful world of Mrs. Kearney's first grade

*Several years ago at an all-parent meeting, Judi Kearney took the floor to discuss her approach to teaching first graders. Listening to her words of wisdom, the father of five standing in front of me leaned over to a fellow parent and said, "Every child should have a teacher like Judi Kearney."*

*As a parent whose three children each experienced first grade with Mrs. Kearney, I couldn't have agreed more.*

*What could be a better foundation for any child's future than to spend almost a year learning to read, write and appreciate the life all around you in the wonderful world of Mrs. Kearney's first grade.*

by Becky Steimle

Judi Kearney watched Brett Favre's retirement announcement and felt the lump in his throat.

The Green Bay Packer legend knew it was time to say goodbye, yet hated to leave.

That's just how Judi felt as she was about to announce her retirement from 25 years of teaching first grade at St. Sebastian School. With her father's health worsening, she made the decision to retire several months ago, but would not be making it public until nearer the end of the school year.

Judi officially retires in June.

"I thought that since I had made the decision last year, it would be a piece of cake," she says. "I didn't realize how much of an emotional pull this entire last year of teaching would be. When I watched Brett, I thought it doesn't matter what your job is, if you love what you do and you plan to quit, it's going to be really hard."

Once she retires, Judi will travel 450+ miles to Elm Island Lake, Minnesota, once a month to spend one week a month with her dad, recently diagnosed with lymphoma. Only a handful of days are left in a career that, altogether, spanned some 43 years, most of them at St. Sebastian School. Over that time, Judi's love for teaching children has been reinforced, as have her basic beliefs about what children need: parents and teachers who care about them, acknowledge what's special about them, and encourage them to love learning.

## The early days

In a way, Judi will be returning to the roots she left in the mid-1960s. As just-married, newly graduated teachers, Jim and Judi Kearney moved to Milwaukee in 1966, where Jim was planning to attend graduate school. Both taught for MPS, and once they started their family later that year, Judi went to teaching part-time. It was a few years after the Kearneys' fourth child, Brendan, was born in 1979 that Judi started teaching full-time at St. Sebastian School.

"Shannon, Sean and Gavin were teenagers and Brendan was a preschooler when I learned that Seb's, where I had been substitute teaching, had an opening for a full-time first grade teacher," says Judi. With the support and around-the-house help of her three teens and husband, Judi was able to take the job, yet be home with Brendan by 3:00 each afternoon, something she says was very important to her.

## Nurturing the enthusiasm

From her first days in Room 106 to the present day, Judi believes she has "spent more waking hours in that room than any other room in my life."

With her earliest set of first graders now about 32 years old, today's parents may wonder how things have changed in the first grade classroom since 1982.

"Kids still come to school with all that enthusiasm that little kids have for life and learning," says Judi.

"Learning to read is still a big, big deal in first grade. That's a magical moment, often literally like a light bulb that just goes on. The opportunity for a teacher is in nurturing the enthusiasm they come in with."

She says parents can keep that excitement about reading alive by sharing it with their children. "Keep reading to your child even when they can read on their own," Judi says. "Have them snuggle up next to you at bedtime and share that wonderful time together. Sometimes their imagination is way beyond their reading level."

## Catch them being good

"Whether you're a teacher or a parent, modeling the behavior you'd like your child to emulate produces positive results," says Judi. She shares her enthusiasm for the things she loves with her students.

"They know I love books, and flowers, and first graders, because I talk about those things. And they know I love *them* because I'm in the doorway every morning to greet each of them by name with a hug."

Judi makes it a point to learn what her students love, too.

"I want to hear about their new baby brother or how the weekend soccer game went. Think how we feel even as adults when we can tell someone really notices what we're doing. It means a lot to children, and that enthusiasm for the classroom has to start at the door."

Judi also believes in the need for stability and routine for young children.

"There is security in knowing how people around you are going to act. What they can count on with me is that I'm happy to see them, that they will get their hugs. I will reinforce the good things they do and say, 'Thank you for doing this good thing. Keep doing it.'"

It's an approach referred to by educators as "Catch them being good."

“I’ve learned you have to take every opportunity to acknowledge the good, like, ‘I really like the way you came in and got your books out.’ Or ‘Look at how you made that loop in your letter A. Keep up the good work.’ They need to know I am going to find every opportunity to find something they did well.”

Wise teachers - and parents - know that if they make such positive ‘deposits’ in how a child views himself, things go better when a child must be corrected. “Yelling at a child breaks their spirit. Even when you do have to correct children, it’s how you say it. Instead of yelling, ‘Stop running in the hall,’ you find an opportunity to say, ‘Thank you for walking so nicely!’

Though many parents may marvel at any teacher’s ability to orchestrate the behavior of 25 first graders, Judi says she thinks it’s easier to be a teacher than a parent. For years, she’s shared good ideas for parents, often in her weekly classroom newsletter.

“When I find an article I think might be helpful - whether it’s on eating, sleeping, going to church together, reading, praise - I send it home. Those little things make a difference.”

### The smiling faces

The final months in Room 106 have been bittersweet, says Judi, and filled with a series of precious “lasts.”

“It keeps flashing in my mind, ‘This is the last time I’m going to do this certain thing.’ I can get pretty morose about it.”

Would she come back, perhaps as a sub? At this point, she thinks not.

“A big part of me doesn’t want to take a chance on trying a different kind of a situation with the kids. Sometimes it’s not the same.”

So former students and their parents will have to settle for memories - of a near-idyllic time in their lives, when all was positive and potential, in a special room that was a world unto itself, where things were new and exciting and you reveled in the joy of learning from someone who celebrated you, loved you and knew what was most special about you.

What will Judi remember most?

“I’ll remember the faces of the children - the smiling faces. I’ll remember the way a former student lights up when you say hello in the hallway and you still know his name. I’ll remember middle schoolers who still get in line for a hug.

“The kids made it so easy for me to put on Christ every day. I believe I was meant to be a teacher. I can’t imagine a vocation that was more right for me.”

Neither can we.

You can share your memories of Mrs. Kearney’s classroom, too. Send them to [pfredericks@saintsebs.org](mailto:pfredericks@saintsebs.org), and we’ll share them.

Thank you for the memories, Mrs. Kearney. Here are just a few.

- **Word charts:** The children wrote sentences every Monday morning about their weekends, field trips, classroom visitors. And when you were the ‘special child’ for the week, your classmates wrote about you.
- **Put-ups:** First grade talk for making other people feel good by noticing what’s nice about them.
- **The Great Art unit:** “We study the masters, then they go in feeling like they’re little experts - it’s wonderful,” says Judi.
- **Dusou the Dolphin:** There is no formal social studies curriculum in first grade, so Mrs. Kearney introduced “Dusou,” who would notice things about the students, like how they get along and how they solve problems, then whisper his observations in Mrs. Kearney’s ear. She would, of course, pass on those comments to a very attentive group.
- **Guten tag, Frau Kearney! Vie gates?** You have to be in at least fifth grade to have experienced a little Deutsch with Mrs. Kearney, but chances are it has probably stuck with you. Spanish has been the conversational medium for the last four years.
- **Darby:** Many first graders knew the Kearneys’ dog Darby was often “a naughty dog, and they *loved* to hear stories about what naughty things he did,” says Judi.
- **Traveling Teddy:** The stuffed bear who joined first graders on their family trips from up north to across the seas now has three other bear friends who travel with first graders: Red Pants, Tess and Curly. “As of three years ago, they have collectively been to all seven continents,” says Judi. “And I lived vicariously through a bear.”

A NOTE OF THANKS AND FAREWELL – Since I will not be returning next year, I want to thank this community for being like a second family to me during these past 19 years. Thank you for sharing your children with me and for trusting me with their education. I appreciate all of the volunteers who helped in and out of the classroom to make this school a special place to work. I was also lucky enough to work with an exceptional team of professionals who always worked to improve their skills to benefit the students.

Since my plans for next year are as yet unclear, I would appreciate your prayers for direction. (No, I am not retiring!) This school has been such a big part of my life for so long that it is hard to say good-bye. I will miss all of you – Linda Maigatter.

# Robert Kostelnik ('99)

There are so many artists living right here in Washington Heights: painters, musicians, writers, and sculptors all within these blocks. One up and coming artist to watch for is ceramic sculptor Robert (Robby) Kostelnik.

“The home I live in on 58<sup>th</sup> Street was the home of my mom (Maureen Stingl Kostelnik ('69) was also raised in,” explained Rob.

After graduating from Pius XI High School, Robert was accepted at Alfred University in upstate New York. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and concentrated on ceramic sculpture. Alfred has a very competitive admission rate and acceptance was a testimony to the quality of Rob’s artistic talent.

“Alfred University is one of the best ceramic schools in the nation,” explains Rob. His prolific and unique work in high school earned him admission. While enrolled at Pius, he entered and won a scholastic fine art contest. This gave him an opportunity to have his work displayed at the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Rob described having an interest in sculpture and ceramics as a young child. He started by creating small animals. In high school he began to experiment with clay. “I started with just heads and eventually moved on to full body figures.”

His work is currently on display at Art & Soul Gallery at 5708 W. Vliet. Rob’s sculptures have a unique charm, which immediately captures you. “The “Green Grendel” will greet you with its multiple faces at the door. Another is “Yellow” which has thick legs that support a wide, rounded body along with a very expressive face and eyes. Another is called “Baleenicus” inspired by the baleen whale, but with a human face. There is a sophisticated interpretation embodied within his work that is impressive for a young artist. The forms are accessible enough that you recognize their human qualities but abstract enough to leave the viewer with questions. The animal sculptures provide the same level of interest. Each price has its own unique personality.

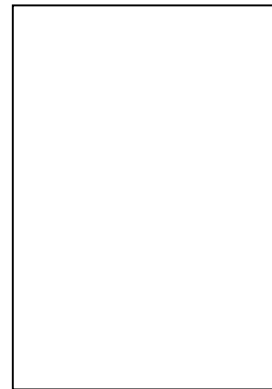
His inspiration has been derived from characters from Greek mform ? tar Wars and his own personal mythology. Rob recently enrolled in two mythology courses to study the tales further. His sculptures are inspired by Greek myths as well as being a self-portrait. The pieces borrow shapes from the real world to create their own magical existence.

Rob is considering enrolling at UWM in the Master of Fine Arts program. He hopes to have more installations at galleries and display his work at a national level. If you would like to purchase or display Rob’s work he can be reached at rkostelnik@gmail.com. He currently creates and works at Creative Fire, located on 64<sup>th</sup> and North Avenue. When he’s not there he is working at Barnes and Noble. This provides access to many books to further his studies and help serve as inspiration for his next inspired creations. He definitely has an exciting career as an artist ahead of him.

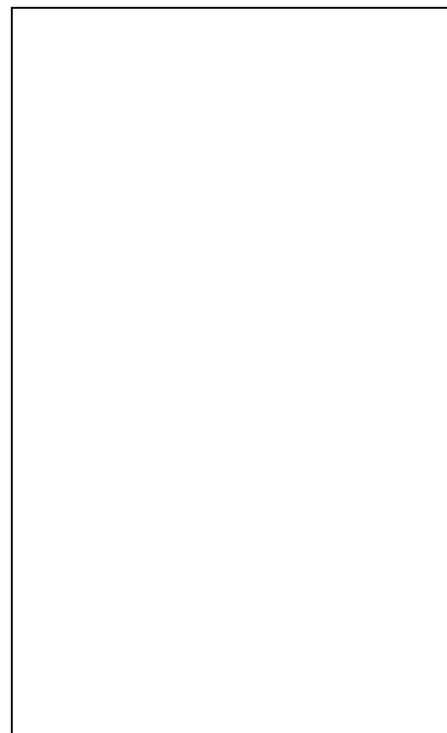
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Mini Gorbok



Yellow



Goblin Man

# REFLECTIONS ON A WEEK IN EL SALVADOR

By Barb Haig

This summer a delegation of St. Sebastian parishioners traveled to its sister community in Teosinte, El Salvador. The delegation of eight included Sandy Swietlik and her daughters Jackie ('03) and Joanne a.k.a. Karly ('04).

My mom went to El Salvador four years ago and has been talking about it ever since. I have wanted to go for a long time, so when the trip was offered in summer, I was ready. I really did not know what to expect, but I figured it would be a life-changing experience and a great way to start out my senior year of high school. I knew I was in for an incredible week. While the touring and the history we learned in San Salvador was amazing, the all-time high came as we entered the village of Teosinte. All of us arrived in the back of an open-air pick up truck. The entire village was waiting, cheering, sending off firecrackers, and welcome signs were hung. I never knew I could feel so much love from people that I never met before. I celebrated my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday in Teosinte and never had such a great birthday as the one the community gave me. The four days in Teosinte went by so quickly, I didn't want to leave, and when I did, I had tears in my eyes. I know I will return to Teosinte and I encourage all to leave the comfort of your community and expand your horizons. "Who ever has an opportunity to visit another country, to take advantage of it.

## Who Remembers "I Will"

I, Cheryl Ponath, will my height to Ann Hagerty.  
I, Chuck Erickson, will my excellent wardrobe to Bob Winkler.  
I, John Dandoy, will my ability to fool around to Bill Kowske

I, Ira Ludwig, will my cool paratrooper boots to Tom Horak.  
I, Bob Krahn, will my nickname, "Harpo" to James Dandoy.  
I, Danny Adler, will my Wildroot Cream Oil to Tom Harney.

I, Bob Metzenheim, will my ability to broad jump to Spike Dierburger.  
I, Libby Dressen, will my bobby pins to Marilyn Tetzlaff.  
I, Margaret Jennik, will my latest permanent to Chris Schirf.

I, Ginney Waldron, will my ability to run errands for Sister Leo.  
I, Kathy Kwapy, will my soprano voice to Pam Robinson.  
I, Bob Kocovsky, will to Richard Kiedrowski my cats eye marbles.

I, Bill Ruff, will my pick-up-sticks to Lynn Cole.  
I, Tim Kuckler, will to David Reis my ability to accidentally on purpose get the same mark as the kid next to me.  
To Lizette Strazes, I, Mary Croke, will my inability to catch on to new Arithmetic.

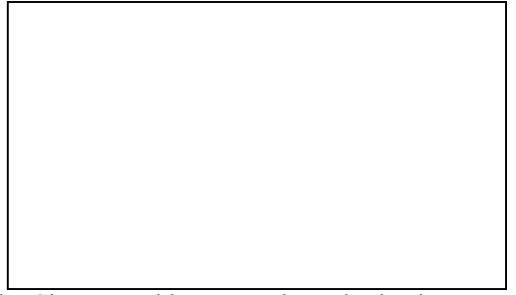
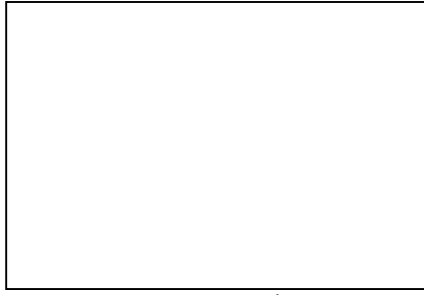
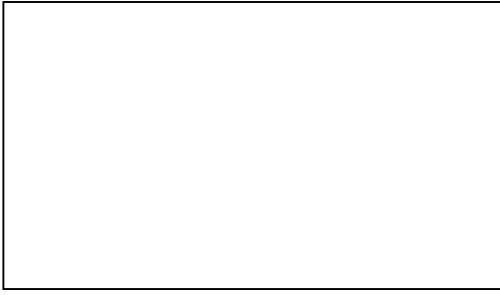
I, Tom Derse, will to Gary Hecht my dirty suede shoes and he can have the holes in them too.  
I, Barbara Foran, will to Ann Hagerty my ability to disrupt the class.  
I, Carl Malischke, will to Bernard Westphal my ability to get caught fooling around.

To Mike Williams, I Robert Martin, will my ability to lose my place when I am called on to read.  
I, Mike Mitchell, will to Bob Murphy my ability to get my assignments in a week after they are due.  
I, Barbara Murphy, will my Irish name to Phoebe Van Hecke.

To Kathy Welsh, I Mary O'Day, will my moldy freckles.  
I, Jeff Salick, will to Joe Kenney my old merit card with all its autographs.  
To Tom Scholl, I Jim Sheebsta, will my debts to civics club.

To Kathy Harrington, I Mary Wiengarten, will my friendship ring, which is really hers in the first place.

Class of 1960.



## How do you file the nails of an Elephant? Ask Randy Peterson.

OK, how many of us said back in grade school, “yes, I really want to be a doctor or lawyer, a technician or an accountant, a teacher or engineer.” Be honest now!

We’re told early on to ‘live our dreams,’ but at the age of 12 – 14 the only thing we’re imagining is where our soccer shoes are, what boy/girl likes us, or what’s in the refrigerator, right?

Randy Peterson is an exception. Mother, Donna Peterson said, “even in grade school, Randy knew he wanted to work with animals, and more specifically, in the circus. The careers of all three Peterson graduates, Randy ‘86, Christopher ‘88, and Robin ‘89, stemmed from their father’s love of horses,” Donna recalls.

During grade school at St. Sebastian the Peterson family spent weekends and summers at the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, WI. The family has pictures of all three kids playing and working with monkeys, Clydesdales, climbing the circus wagons, and Robin trying on the elegant costumes of the circus performers. Robin presently works as the Agriculture Coordinator for Wisconsin State Fair.

While Chris and Robin absorbed every bit of circus life, Randy had a goal - to become an elephant handler. To make his dream a reality, however, one of the first skills one needs is to be able to drive cross-country towing one ton plus pachyderms. And to do this one must obtain a Certified Driver’s License (CDL). It didn’t take him long, and with certification in hand from Pulaski High School, Randy was on his way.

In the 80’s and 90’s the family volunteered and worked the famous circus parades held in Milwaukee and Chicago, and eventually Chris and Randy became paid employees.

Chris is one of those guys who can ‘build anything,’ says Donna, and even before he was 18 he learned to drive the trucks and tractors that pulled the circus wagons. In one family picture Chris is driving these ‘big rigs’ at age 16 while surrounded by ‘older guys’ who weren’t qualified to drive.

Early exposure to the Circus World Museum brought the dream home for Randy. He became well known for his handling style and know-how, and his passion for super-sized pets. Imagine your best friends with names like Romeo and Juliet and weighing in at a mere 23,000 – 27,000 pounds. And his love of animals grew beyond elephants when *Too Tall Giraffe* became a second-best friend.

On the road, the home-schooled kids grew up with elephants peaking into the windows of their trailers, riding high on the knees or backs of their favorite short haired and big-toed buddy, and cooling down in their swimming pools. There is a cute story about Randy asking Barbara, the elephant, to please not pee in the kiddie pool.

From Toronto to Texas, California to Seattle, east to west and north to south, traveling by rail, or managing shifting loads on slippery roads, Randy and wife Melissa, and their three children Allison, D’Ana, and DJ mapped out their life based on the traveling itineraries of the three largest circus companies: UniversSoul, an all black circus, Carsen & Barnes, and yes, Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey. Driving huge semis down the streets of Manhattan to swinging your legs on the edge of a rail car watching the amazing view of “places few people have ever seen,” made Randy realize he made the right career choice.

Just for fun here’s a little elephant quiz. The answers can be found at [carsonbarnescircus.com](http://carsonbarnescircus.com)

- How much do elephants eat a day?
- What do elephants like for treats?
- How do elephants keep cool?
- Do elephants walk on their toes or heels?
- How fast do tusks grow?
- What helps moisturize the elephant’s skin?
- Is elephant hair soft?
- Are all elephants afraid of the water?

And for fun online visit the other websites, some with live video. [Universoulcircus.com](http://Universoulcircus.com) / [Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus](http://Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus)

**Answer:** With a very BIG Metal Nail File?

# Angell's Barber Shop

For more than 80 years, Ed Angell clipped and styled his customers' hair, most of that time from his shop at 4810 West Lloyd Street.

I'm only guessing, but I bet that Sebs students sat under the skilled scissors of Ed Angell, his son Brad, or 3<sup>rd</sup> chair keeper, Tom Brede at some point over their 82 years in the barber business.

Older grads probably remember Ed Angell who opened his place on Lloyd Street, a rather quiet residential area in 1937. You could get a haircut in those days for maybe 35 cents. Jim Stingl, Journal/Sentinel writer quoted Ed in an earlier piece, "I used to do this fella here," Angell said, taking a framed autograph of Liberace off the wall. That was in the 1930s when people still called Liberace *Walter* and his fame was yet to come."

Little has changed since then. The shop is still 25 by 12 feet with three chairs. In 2006, this neighborhood barber business was celebrated by Mayor Tom Barrett, a St. Sebastian graduate himself, who proclaimed April 1<sup>st</sup> *Edward Angell Day* throughout the city of Milwaukee.

As a kid, Ed Angell began barbering after he dropped out of high school when his mother became ill. At 15 he hit the streets until his cousin, a successful barber himself, suggested the barber trade. Ed's father said, "Do it." As the oldest of six children, "I went from being a kid to taking care of the family overnight." That was in 1926.

I know for a fact that each of my brothers sat on the 'high' bench to have their first or subsequent hair cuts, and as they grew old enough to walk to the shops between 48<sup>th</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> and Lloyd - Peter's Drug Store, Dr.

Lemming's, DDS. (who had toys for each child who walked in the door,) the butcher shop and later grocery store, (what was the name?) and Angell's Barber Shop, which during the 40's

and 50's actually had a barber poll - often ventured further east to find adventure in Washington Park and lagoon.

After school Sebs kids biked to have the latest cut or style at Angell's and most often, with written directives from mom or dad to "cut it as short as possible - buzz it for the summer," recalls Andrea Phelps.

Andrea also remembered how many neighborhood kids worked for Jack Peters at the drug store, or the Isaac's family citywide parking lots.

The 1915 building still stands silently. The Lloyd St. Street Car whose seats turned around to face one another, and the 57 bus routes that took many downtown to Holy Angels ending at the Boston Store no longer travel the Lloyd Street route.

Ed shared with Journal/Sentinel writer Jim Stingl, "So many people, so many stories in this chair. Some want to spill their guts. Some want to sit quietly. Some want to solve all the world's problems or talk sports. Your barber is always at your side - literally", says Brad Angell. "A guy once brought in a showgirl to the shop. She sat on the man's lap and smooched him up the whole time Ed cut his hair."

Even today, the classical music still plays. A few samples of Ed's stained glass artwork remains, and Brewers statuary and bobble heads top the mirrors. Men from neighborhoods all over the city find a certain refuge, a place where guys can talk about anything. They find comfort in the noncommercial, all male atmosphere. Generations continue to come back. We are in the business of relationship building. Folks are more than clients; they are friends. What comes in, stays here, and they know it. There is stability in coming back to the same place, the same neighborhood, says Tom Brede.

Edward A. Angell died of natural causes on November 25, 2007. He was 97.

## Great Ways to Help St. Sebs Everyday.

1. No matter where you live you can help support St. Sebastian School through the Target for School program. Contact 1-800-316-6142 or visit the Target Website for more information.
2. The Shopping Buddy. Go to [www.schoolpop.com](http://www.schoolpop.com). Click on "Join" and choose St. Sebastian School #118742. Enter your profile information. Once you register, download the Shopping Buddy. Go to whatever site you want to purchase items. If it's eligible, the Schoolpop Shopping Buddy will automatically pop up in the right corner.
3. Roundy's We Care Program helps nonprofit organizations raise funds through Pick 'n Save's Advantage Plus Savers Club card. Each time you shop and use your savings card, a percentage goes to St. Sebs. Stop in at your local Pick 'n Save and add St. Sebastian as your nonprofit organization.

# An Engaging Community

By: Maureen and Brian O'Boyle  
Patrick and Stephanie Russell

Stories engage us. Within each of us is a deep need for a place where we can tell and hear each others' stories. Once another person knows our stories, he or she can hold them, bear them, and ennoble them. So we seek that gathering space – a community – where the stories of our life journeys can be shared and eventually connected to the unending story of God's faithful presence and work in the world.

We have been asked to share with you one of our stories – the story of our two eldest children's recent engagement. But, like most stories, you can't start at the end – you have to go back to the beginning.

Our two families have raised children in the St. Sebastian community for its rich value base, energetic school, and community involvement. Pat and Stephanie Russell have four sons, David, Ryan, Micah, and Ian, who attended St. Sebastian School and progressed to Marquette University High School. Brian and Maureen O'Boyle have two daughters, Erin and Kelly, who also attended St. Sebastian School and graduated from Divine Savior Holy Angels High School.

While the two years in age difference kept them from becoming friends during grade school, David ('97) and Erin ('99) were acquainted with each other, especially as a result of their participation in the St. Sebastian plays. Actually, as they tell it, David was interested in Erin, although she hardly knew he existed – David had a lot of convincing to do. In David's eighth grade year, he played Prince Charming in the production of *Cinderella* while Erin played the role of Snow White the following year. As Kathy Kirkpatrick, the co-director with her husband (David) of the theater program, noted after hearing the news of David's and Erin's engagement, "Prince Charming and Snow White aren't in the same fairy tale. They must be writing their own love story."

During his sophomore year at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, David returned home to see his brother, Ryan, in an MUHS production of *Footloose*. During the show, David commented about the beautiful voice of one of the principal characters and, to his surprise, discovered that it was Erin. David and Erin saw each other after the show, and enjoyed spending time with each other that summer. In the fall, he went to Scotland for a semester of study and Erin began her freshman year at UW-Madison. Over the course of the next two years of college, they talked periodically and developed a friendship.

Upon David's college graduation, he took a position with an investment bank in New York. When David returned to Milwaukee the following summer for his parents' 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary party, Erin and David went on their first formal date. They realized through the telling of their stories how they shared a common view of the world. Over the next year, they boosted Midwest Airlines' business with frequent trips between Wisconsin and New York. Upon her graduation from college, Erin followed her heart to New York, and now works for a digital media company.

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, David and Erin were home in Milwaukee for the weekend. That evening produced severe thunderstorms and tornado warnings. David's planned outdoor proposal needed to be reconsidered. Where could he propose to Erin? Many options were discussed and discarded in the Russell family basement as the tornado sirens sounded, until the right one arose: St. Sebastian's gathering space. After all, it was directly under this space in the Church Hall that their story began. And it is in this church that they will soon include the whole community – through the wedding liturgy – in the story of their love's journey. In the arms of the St. Sebastian community that had nurtured them in so many ways, David proposed to Erin . . . and she said the word which is always the first word of love: YES!

So it seems to us that the moral of this story is: St. Sebastian is truly an **engaging** community!

## RECYCLING AT ITS BEST.

Over the past year I have been cleaning out my grandmother's home in Wauwatosa and recently came upon these memorial books about St. Sebastian. My grandparents, Conrad and Ethel Tausend were parishioners from the 1920's until they moved to St. Jude Parish in 1951. My parents were married at St. Sebastian in 1953. I just don't have the heart to toss these books into the garbage without giving St. Sebs a chance to have them if so desired. Helen Shiely

## Awards

Divine Savior Holy Angels (DSHA) is proud to announce that graduating senior Eleanor (Nellie) Ognacevic ('04) has been awarded the Significant Theater Artistry Award. Junior Erin Burke ('05) has been awarded the Dr. Angela T. Pienkos Scholarship for students with significant interest and achievement in history.

The following students from the St. Sebastian Class of 2004 and Pius XI graduating class of 2008 have earned college scholarships: Joel Plakut, Joanne Swietlik, Amanda Vnuk, Rose Curley, Jordan Lund, Abby Mitten, Christopher Morales, and Andrew Pauly.

Joe Nowak Scholarship Recipient: Madeline Coghill ('08)

## Class Notes

Marcia Kathryn Smith Goates \_\_\_\_

My brother, Leonard "Ozzie" Smith ('53), received the Alumni Connection for Fall 2006. Ozzie sent it to me and remarked "maybe you want to enlighten them." Yes, I do finally after procrastinating for two years! So, I do hope you will leave some room to publish our response and highlight a few marvelous events since the 1950's.

Enclosed is a copy of the photo of a group of parishioners posing for the "Can Can Dance." I would like to fill in the "unknown" person to the right of Dr. Don Hughson. It was Donald Edward Smith, my father. I hope Jane Salick Haas, who wrote about the Red Garter Girls, is still with us to see my response. I remember that photo and the great fun they all had in preparing for the program.

Leonard Edward, Peter Edward ('54) and I (\_\_\_\_) attended St. Sebastian. I remember my First Communion and have one photo in my album of walking up the front steps to receive my "First Communion." One of my recollections was the candy store across the street from the Church. We used to buy wax lips and parade around as models.

I returned to St. Sebastian only once many years ago and entered the front door and was flooded with wonderful memories of our life there. My father, Don, passed away July 2, 2003. Dad always enjoyed entertaining, had a quick wit and Dr. Don and Frances Hughson's family were our dear friends. I tried to reach their daughter, Maureen, with a long letter several years ago, with no answer.

My parents both played the piano and entertained with the songs and music from the 30's and 40's. My husband is amazed I remember all the tunes from that era. I remind him that I was a participant around the piano even after we moved to the Chicago area, then Wheaton, Glen Ellyn, and finally, Oak Brook before we all migrated to Southern CA. Leonard is in Las Vegas, Pete in Mission Viego, and I am in Huntington Beach.

After a few years in Boca Raton, FL, they returned to settle in Mission Viego, CA at the Costa del Sol (55+) section in 1986. (Their Maytag washer and dryer still operate perfectly!)

A day after we buried Dad in Orange, CA, mom fell and broke her hip and eventually stopped walking in 2005. The amazing part about my mother, Lillian, is that we just celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in May of 2008. So, a few years late, but still anxious to share our memories with you all. Warm wishes to the Alumni Connection!

### Don Stark ('44)

This is the first communication I have had in over 10 years. I enjoyed reading the Alumni Connection very much. I grew up on 54<sup>th</sup> Street just north of North Avenue and attended St. Sebastian for eight years grading in 1944. I attended Marquette High and Marquette Law Schools. My undergraduate work was at Notre Dame. I moved to Memphis in the early 1960's and have been there ever since. I am a retired CPA.

I no longer have any family in Milwaukee, but enjoy hearing about familiar names and places. I couldn't help but notice that there was no direct reference to the class of 1944 in the issue of the Alumni Connection. I hope that there are at least a few surviving members. I look forward to receiving future issues of the newsletter.

If you were in the class of '44, why not contact Don at 901-821-0790

### Dorothy Karolik Boyer ('55)

Just a few corrections. Sr. Lina (not Linus) was the second grade teacher. She taught my brother and I recall her very well. I was also a member of the community from 1955-1972 so I'm sure of the spelling.

Also, a correction for the correction. The sisters were Franciscans of the Third Order. That part is right. Their official title is Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi of Penance and Charity (not School Sisters of St. Francis). The School Sisters' motherhouse was on Layton Blvd. The motherhouse of the Sisters who were at St. Sebastian was located on South Lake Drive.

### BULLETIN BOARD

Jim Hecht wants to know if anyone is organizing a 1971 reunion? Contact him at jimhecht@charter.net.

Please don't forget St. Sebastian as you plan for your funeral. Saying something as simple as "in lieu of flowers, donate to the St. Sebastian School of Excellence Fund or the School Foundation," benefits our students in so many ways.

# Class Reps

**Class of 1940**

Charles Swain  
414-543-2378  
Don Graff  
272-782-4560

**Class of 1947**

Donna Voell Bieser  
414-476-7610  
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**Class of 1948**

Tom Zalewski  
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**Class of 1949**

Margaret (Margo) Fischer Haig  
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**Class of 1955**

Catherine Smith LaFond  
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**Class of 1956**

David Krill  
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John Dandoy

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**Class of 1965**

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**Class of 1969**

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**Class of 1970**

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**Class of 1975**

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**Class of 1980**

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**Class of 1982**

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**Class of 1994**

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**Class of 1994**

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**Class of 1997**

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**Class of 2000**

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**Class of 2002**

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**Class of 2005**

Anna Arsiniega  
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Are you willing to be the class rep for your class? It's a very rewarding and network filled position!

Contact the Alumni Relations office at St. Sebastian.  
[mppv9985@yahoo.com](mailto:mppv9985@yahoo.com)

## 2008 Graduates of St. Sebastian

Anne E. Barrett  
Ryan Joseph Blaney  
Andrew P. Brandt  
Carley McKenna Burke  
Madeleine Jane Coghill  
William Harris Crawford  
Adam J. Crivello  
Jonah M. del Moral  
Brandi Caprice Dollhopf-Jewell  
Leanna B. Eder  
Benjamin T. Gagnon  
Cecilia Margaret Gehred  
Peter D. Gorman  
Rachael A. Heileman  
Jaclyn Quinn Hoffman  
Travis Justin Hudson  
Tayler M. Hughes  
Elizabeth Anna Jaskolski  
Brain J. Kratz  
Isabelle Elise Krier  
Brianna Marie Kromrey  
Matthew James Krueger  
Samuel Clemente Lamers  
Clark Joseph LaMothe  
Megan Elizabeth Larch  
Colin B. Madigan  
Shannon Rose Marcoux  
Russell T. Mendez  
Amy Elizabeth Mrotek  
Jennifer Nguyen  
Kenyaree M. Pinkos  
Austin Neal-Mitchell Preman  
Martin A. Schissler  
Alexander James Schmidt  
Isabel Rose Utschig  
Elizabeth Lueders Wachniak  
Alexander James Walkowiak  
Elizabeth Nicole Walldren  
Amina A. Webb  
Sebastian A. White  
Trevor N. Wright  
Peter R. Zeidler

# NOT Far From Home

Irene Poe says it best. “When I walk into the house, it gives me a hug, it takes care of me.”

Isn't that the feeling that many of us get when we - come home? Of the 6,000 Sebs alumni many still live close to their educational and religious roots – right here in the St. Sebs area.

**Irene Rohlinger Poe ('63)** grew up on 52<sup>nd</sup> Street between Lloyd and Vine. Her parents bought the house in 1952 and had moved from 40<sup>th</sup> Street because the traffic was so bad. These were the days when school kids walked home for lunch and took piano from the nuns AND there was mass everyday.

“Like most couples we moved away from the neighborhood, but after my parents and my husband passed away, and the home on 52<sup>nd</sup> went up for sale, I just couldn't see a stranger buying the home I grew up in. When I walk in, it gives me a hug. It takes care of me. I can't be outside at any time without visiting with someone.” And Irene knows everyone. And “if I don't, I say hello anyway.”

Irene's three sisters all worked at Peters Drug Store. So much is the same, she remembers, even walking into the Fish Fry. Through 5<sup>th</sup> grade I went to the red brick school and sat next to Peter Newell. Sue Hecht and Sue Schramek were my best friends and Sue Schramek also still lives close by.

When I close my eyes the sounds of the summer take me back. The chirping birds, the smell of chestnut trees, and The Bells of St. Sebastian.

**Margaret Bauer Vogt ('48)** is a self-acclaimed memory maker. She and husband Russ walk the neighborhood most days and as often as they pass the playground, memories flood back. She vividly recalls walking to Neeskara for home economics while the boys went to manual training. She still uses a tablecloth today that was ‘hemmed by hand.’ Forty two years ago, Margaret and Russ both wanted to be closer to their parents. It just so happened both parents lived in the Heights neighborhood and as luck and prayer would have it, they found a home two block from both. “For our children, being close to both grandparents was such a mutually beneficial gift,” says Margaret. They were able to come and go, the kids were able to watch them through the aging and passing stages. They could help with the grandchild chores of shoveling and cutting, and we could model what it means to care for aging parents.

**Mary Jo Schiller Knapp ('81)** lived on Milwaukee's eastside and when she and husband Mark needed to relocate within the City of Milwaukee they didn't have to think very hard. For Mary Jo there was a sense of safety in moving back to the neighborhood she knew so well. The bonds that were established in childhood, like Jean Smaglik who lived right next door to their present home, helped to reassure Mary Jo and Mark that moving back to the old neighborhood was the right thing to do. They were married at St. Sebastian on the hottest day of year, and years later repeat the cycle with their son, Robert enrolled in second grade.

For those of us who have moved back, so often our parents' stories intertwine with our own. Mary Jo's parents Jim and **Betty Rice Schiller ('47)** are also longtime neighborhood historians. Betty and husband Jim (who graduated from St. Bernard School) have lived on 50<sup>th</sup> Place for over 45 years and the story of their meeting started at Pius X Roller Skating Rink. Jim tells it this way. “I wasn't the best skater, and one of the many times that I fell, this very cute girl felt sorry for me. One day she helped me up, I walked her home and met her parents who turned out to be friends of my dad. The rest is history.”

**Robert Conklin ('68)** bought the house next door to his parents. He says, “it feels like I never left.” When you know the neighbors, and they know you, you create a street based community where everyone watches out for one another. Not only do I help them with their needs as they get older, but there is always a place to go for a great home cooked meal and good conversation.

**Patty Higgins ('76)** has always felt at home in the St. Sebastian neighborhood, with a sense of family and security. While the community has evolved over the years, she says the heart and soul have remained, “it's all still there.” Still there, too, is the school. Patty says that a good Catholic education is an important step in a kid's life. While never wanting to leave, she says her experiences elsewhere, such as visiting friends in Santa Fe and being privileged to participate in a first communion mass there, have made her appreciate the value of her community at home.

## In Memory Of:

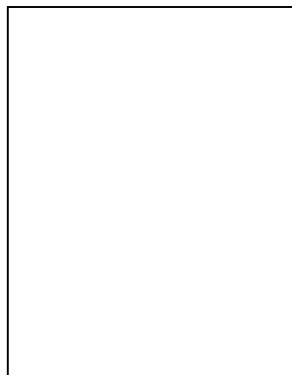
Terrence “Terry” Cleary ('52) April 2008

Mary Auer ('61) March 2008

Sharon Koster Jernegan ('55) December 2007

Elizabeth “Liz” Ehrmann  
February 2008

### “Make Room for Daddy”



“Daddy really ruled the roost Wednesday night at St. Sebastian School. All fathers of children attending the school and male members of the Home and School Association there presented and participated in a mock fashion show following a business meeting conducted by them. In the cast were, top to bottom, Frank Ripple, West Washington Boulevard; Rudy Stefanec, West Vliet Street, and Robert Dillon,

North Forty-fifth Street. The men modeled clothes provides by their wives.” Milwaukee Sentinel, April 5, 1956.

# Girls Got Game

By Sarah Marcoux ('05)

The Divine Savior Holy Angels Rugby team just returned from Pittsburgh where it captured its fifth consecutive national title for girls high school rugby. As a member of the team, I am so proud of my teammates and coaches for the tremendous leadership and teamwork we displayed to bring the cup home.

After I graduated from Sebs in 2005, I didn't know what sports I would play at DSHA. I tried out for the volleyball team but I didn't make the cut. When I considered what non-cut sports were available, I joined the rugby team. Mind you, I knew nothing about rugby but neither did the rest of the freshman, including fellow Sebs classmates Sarah Chmielewski, Maeve Holahan, Christina Green and Kaitlin Wayson. What we found were some very colorful yet dedicated coaches—Chin and P—although as a freshman I think we called him Mr. P. We also discovered that becoming part of this team was like being a member of a giant family of 40 sisters. Everyone was so welcoming and supportive from the seniors on down. Rugby is an interesting sport unlike anything I have ever seen or participated in. It's like football without pads. While there is an occasional concussion or MCL tear, a match usually only results in some large bruises and a sore body. The year culminated with DSHA claiming its third consecutive national girls high school rugby championship.

To truly appreciate the reputation of DSHA's rugby team, you need to understand the history. Rugby began at DSHA 10 years ago. In 2004, co-captain Jo Jo Hoffmann (Sebs '00) led the DSHA Dashers to their first national title. Teammates included Kelsey Hunt (Sebs '00), Laura Domine (Sebs '01) and Casey Wachniak (Sebs '01), Courtney Green (Sebs '02). The Dashers have remained unbeaten ever since.

As I enter my senior year, I will carry on a tradition of leadership as a co-captain of the Dasher rugby team. I encourage girls to try this sport as the experience is like nothing else. When I asked Casey Wachniak to describe what playing rugby taught her, she said "I went to college with the confidence to succeed because I was part of a national championship team which is unique. It's not something a lot of college bound kids can claim." Fellow teammate Lilly Maguire (Sebs '06) added, "Rugby makes me love DSHA instead of just liking it. Rugby makes me feel like I belong to something special. I love rugby because of the friendships you form with your teammates and because of the victories we share together."

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