



The Road To Success For
Women Who Will Make A
Difference In The World

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News

Maria High School Names State Scholars
Thursday, January 22, 2009

**Goodman Theatre Accepts Maria Junior
into Young Critics Program**
Monday, January 05, 2009

**Maria High School Alumna Sworn In as
State's Attorney**
Tuesday, December 16, 2008

**Justice Anne Burke Presents
Scholarships to 3 Maria Seniors**
Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Fall Play - What Had Happened Was
Friday, November 07, 2008

Events

Future Entrance Exam - 2/28/2009
Saturday, February 28, 2009

Incoming 9th Grade Registration
Saturday, March 07, 2009

March Madness Basketball Tournament
Friday, March 20, 2009

Moonlight and Magnolias
Sunday, March 22, 2009

Spring Musical
Friday, March 27, 2009

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Welcome to our Website!

Maria High School's redesigned website, www.mariahighschool.org, was successfully launched in January. The **new layout** utilizes more images, photos and graphics within an attractive academic-like design. The planning included **collaboration** with board members, faculty and staff, resulting in a website that serves the needs of our diverse audience. The new format supports our vision of providing multiple ways of accessing **first-hand news** about Maria High School in a relevant and timely fashion within a **user-friendly** environment. Meeting the requests of our donors, Maria High School has **made donating easier** with the addition of www.justgive.org. JustGive harnesses the power of the Internet to remove barriers to charitable giving. The technology, combined with vast nonprofit experience, allows JustGive to provide unique services, programs and advantages. **Please come and visit** to learn about the exciting and wonderful events taking place within the Maria community!

www.mariahighschool.org

A Message from the President



Dear Friends of Maria High School,

As I write to you, yet again, a blanket of snow cuddles Marquette Park with trees glistening from the icy sheet that embraces the branches. When you look out the window at this time of year, the promise of spring – a new awakening – hangs in the air.

That is exactly what is going on in our halls – awakening! As registration for fall classes continues, the young women are curious about our new *Health Science Curriculum* launching in August 2009. This visionary program will be a comprehensive offering of classes that will prepare our students for careers in the health industry through all levels of the medical professions. Classes include Careers in Health Science, Biology and Chemistry

geared for the medical fields, Introduction to Medical Terminology, Bioethics and more. The leadership team of Holy Cross Hospital wants to partner with us to offer their support for hands-on experience for our students. New members have joined our board of directors who are physicians; each is an alumna bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience in this arena. Parents have expressed their deep appreciation for the potential opportunities that will open with such a curriculum presented at the high school level.

In addition, the *Technology Program* offered has been bolstered to include specific testing to qualify our students so they are certified in Microsoft Operating System (MOS) programs. This certificate added to their resume will give them the skills above others to secure profitable summer positions or post high school careers as they leave Maria. Grant proposals have been filed with several foundations requesting support for integration of technology across the curriculum, including in-service programs for our teachers.

Another important component of the 2009 school year is the *Leadership Program*. All students will participate in classes called Advisories that are intended to teach social, emotional and behavioral skills necessary to be well-functioning adults in today's society.

*I would like to announce a campaign ...
One Thousand Women Making a Difference*

I would like to announce a campaign that we will be launching shortly called *One Thousand Women Making a Difference*. This campaign is intended to identify women who are

willing to make a real and tangible contribution to the advancement of Maria High School. That contribution may be as a donor, a mentor to our students, a speaker at an assembly, or as a contact that will help the network to grow. Are you one of those women, or do you know someone who could be? Are you a man who is supportive of single gender female secondary education who would be interested in joining our cause? An announcement detailing our campaign will be sent out within the next few weeks. I hope you will consider becoming one of the One Thousand. If you think you might be interested in learning more, please complete and return the response form included in this newsletter.

This month's response form also asks that you consider having our newsletter and future mailings sent to you electronically. It's good for the environment and helps us reduce our printing and postage costs.

Finally, as always, I ask that you consider a donation for us to continue in our mission. The current administration is working at making Maria High School more self-sustaining. Tuition is increasing to \$6,800 per year for the 2009/2010 academic year. The cost of providing a student with a Maria education is about \$10,500. We are working hard at bringing down expenses to close the gap between the cost and tuition. This effort takes time in order to be done strategically. Please prayerfully consider a transforming gift to our students so that we can continue in this important work.

These changes I write about here have been possible only because of your past investment in Maria High School. I am so grateful for your trust and confidence in our Board of Directors, leadership team, faculty and staff. In order for us to continue offering a premier education to our women I find it necessary to ask you to challenge yourself, your classmates, and your friends.

*Please prayerfully consider
a gift to our students.*

This is an exciting time for Maria High School; please know that we are committed to continuing the legacy of the Sisters of Saint Casimir. The Sisters feel strongly that Mother Maria Kaupas brought them to the Marquette Park neighborhood to serve the people who live here. That was true 100 years ago and is still true today. Please join me in prayer that we can continue to offer the magic in Marquette Park that permeates our halls.

Sincerely,

Wendy A. Lynn
President

Maria Welcomes New Board Members

David Dix

David Dix, a recognized Architectural talent, with over 19 years of Project Management and Strategic Planning experience, has successfully positioned clients to receive maximum return on investment and achieve explosive growth. With significant ability to identify and strengthen core drivers, he has delivered effective assessments and new perspectives. Mr. Dix is a licensed Architect in the State of Wisconsin since 1994 and his achievements have been recognized by the USGBC Chicago Chapter.

Dr. Lisa Franco

Dr. Lisa Franco, Chairman – Department of Pediatrics of Hinsdale Pediatrics Associates, has been in the medical field since 1990. Dr. Franco has held various respected positions at the University of Chicago Hospitals and has been a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics since 1994. As a graduate of Maria High School, Dr. Franco has distinguished herself as a top-tier pediatrician within the medical field and has consistently received the support of her colleagues.

Christine Stonkus

Christine Stonkus, a Maria High School alumna, currently serves as an attorney for the Illinois Department of Employment Security. She received her Bachelors of Arts degree from Mundelein College '74 and her J.D. from the John Marshall Law School. Ms. Stonkus also is a speaker at the Illinois State Attorney's Association.

Wayne Lerner

Wayne M. Lerner, DPH, FACHE, is a veteran executive with over 30 years experience in healthcare administration, public policy, education, and a leader in the evolution of healthcare in the City of Chicago and the country as a whole. He is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and Institute of Medicine of Chicago. Dr. Lerner has been selected as one of Chicago's most influential leaders in Crain's Chicago Business' Who's Who in Chicago Business and is currently President and CEO of Holy Cross Hospital.

Maureen Rzasa

Maureen Rzasa is a graduate of DePaul University with a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Radiology. She has applied her years of study to Holy Cross Hospital as a Radiology Technologist and assisted the radiology students with clinical requirements. She has also worked in several agencies, hospitals and clinics all over Chicagoland. Ms. Rzasa currently works at Advocate Christ Medical Center as a Cardio-Vascular Technologist.

Dr. Jill Patterson

Dr. Jill Patterson, Family Physician – Family Medical Group, is a member of the American Medical Association, the Illinois State Medical Society, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. An alumna of Maria High School, Dr. Patterson entered the Honors program in Medical Education at Northwestern University and graduated from Northwestern Medical School in 1989, completing her family practice residency in 1992 at Rush/St. Luke's and Christ Hospital.

Dr. Carolyn Mills

Dr. Carolyn Mills, Vice President/ Partner – Fox Valley Women and Children's Health Partners, is a board certified Obstetrician and Gynecologist. Dr. Mills has a strong record in academic gynecology, as well as a strong track record of achievement in research. Dr. Mills' expertise interests are in the areas of Women's Health, gynecologic prevention and screening.

Maria High School Board of Directors 2008 – 2009

Gary Pater, Chair
Anita Alvarez, '78
Elba Aranda-Suh, '89
Fred Conforti
Sr. Theresa Dabulis, SSC
David Dix
Sr. Regina Marie Dubickas, SSC
Lisa Franco, MD, '80
Sr. Virginia Gapsis, SSC
Wayne M. Lerner
Wendy Lynn
Robert Marschalk
Carolyn Mills, MD, '87
Jill Patterson, MD, '83
Maureen Rzasa
Jura Stanulis Scharf-Mertic, '62
Christine Stonkus, '70
Joanne Velasquez, '58
Sr. M. Immacula Wendt, SSC, '54
Maria Yanez-Mavrakis, '81
Nannette Zander, '79

Maria High School is a Catholic, college preparatory high school for young women which offers a challenging academic program that responds to individual interests and needs. A ministry of the Sisters of St. Casimir, Maria High School provides an excellent educational experience and nurtures the faith life of its diverse learning community through prayer, worship, and service.

The faculty and staff, committed to the pursuit of excellence, provide a caring, respectful environment which inspires each student to live her faith, discover her gifts, and cultivate life-long relationships. Maria High School, in partnership with parents, families, and the community, helps young women reach their full potential.

MARIA WOMEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

A Note From the Alumnae President

If you were asked about your time at Saint Casimir Academy or Maria High School, what would first come to mind? For most of us, the first thought or memory would likely be a good story of something that happened. I can guarantee you, your first thought would likely involve one of the Sisters. Perhaps Sr. Annette telling us in typing class that typing was our "bread and butter," or Sr. Dolorosa telling you to "get down to brass tacks." I can think of many more memories and even better stories and we all share these stories at our reunions or when we see our classmates. For me and the Pizza Girls, a number of women who I graduated with almost 36 years ago, we often retell a story or two at our monthly pizza night. However, if all of us were to consider the question more closely, we would likely think about the excellent education and moral foundations we received and how those foundations prepared us to meet the challenges of our adult lives.

A number of graduates of the Academy and Maria are well known for their accomplishments. There is, of course, Justice Anne Burke of the Illinois Supreme Court whose accomplishments include much more than just being one of seven Justices of the highest court in Illinois. She also was instrumental in creating the Special Olympics, which we all know has become an international event. And, there is also Anita

Alvarez who rose through the ranks at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and subsequently ran and was elected to that Office. The list could go on as to those whose names we would all recognize, but there are others who have accomplished much and whose name recognition is not as great. There are other judges, lawyers, doctors, accountants, teachers, nurses, x-ray technicians, authors, sales representatives, business owners, secretaries, as well as moms, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, and nieces that have taken the lessons they received during their time at the Academy or Maria and touched the lives of many and made our world better.

So, I ask you again to think about your time at the Academy or Maria and go beyond those great stories that we all have and consider the educational and moral foundations that you received.

I also encourage each of you to attend our All Class Reunion on May 2, 2009 showcasing the classes ending in "4" and "9." Details are in this newsletter. Make your reservations now as space may be limited.

Until then,

Joan Kubalanza
President, Alumnae Association

ALL CLASS REUNION

Featuring Classes Ending in "4" and "9"

SATURDAY • MAY 2, 2009

11:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Oakbrook Drury Lane

100 Drury Lane

Oakbrook, IL

→ **Watch the mail for your invitation and RSVP form.**

Bring your friends and family to experience what Maria was "then" and what Maria is today.

For your convenience, a block of rooms has been reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn, adjacent to Oakbrook Drury Lane. To make your hotel reservations, please call 1-800-445-8667.

The reservation is under "Maria High School" and use the code "61C."

**PLEASE
NOTE!**

St. Casimir Academy Alumnae and the Class of 1959 will gather at the SSC Motherhouse on May 2, 2009 for their reunion.

For additional information contact Kathleen Dujsik at 773-925-8686, ext. 115 or kdujsik@mariahighschool.org

Maria Women Making a Difference



Maria alumnae Joan Kubalanza '73 (left) and Anne Burke '62 pause outside the courtroom. Kubalanza was recently appointed as a Cook County Circuit Court Judge and was sworn in by Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke.

Joan M. Kubalanza '73, was recently appointed to the Cook County Circuit Court. In 2007, Joan was honored with the designation of Illinois "Super Lawyer." She has served on the Illinois Supreme Court committee that drafts jury instructions used in civil matters throughout Illinois. Before receiving her judicial appointment, she acquired over ten years of litigation experience at one of the largest law firms in the U.S. She remains actively involved in the legal community, most recently teaching legal writing and appellate advocacy at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

Maria Alumnae Win in November Election

Chicago area voters may have recognized the names of four Maria High School alumnae on the 2008 election ballots. These successful alumnae are Anne Burke '62, Anita Alvarez '78, Ursula Walowski '87, and Jackie Marie Portman '89.

The Hon. Anne Burke became an Illinois Supreme Court Judge when she was appointed to fill a vacancy on July 6, 2006. She ran unopposed and has begun a full, 10-year term. Previously, Burke served as an Illinois Appellate Court judge for 11 years. Burke's career is also distinguished through her work in helping children and the disabled; she is one of the founders of the Special Olympics.

Anita Alvarez broke new ground for women and Hispanics by winning the election for Cook County State's Attorney. She joined the Illinois State's Attorney's office in 1986 and was named State's Attorney of the Year by the Illinois State Crime Commission in 2005. Last April, Alvarez visited Maria High School and spoke to the student body about her days at Maria and how Maria helped to give her the formation to achieve a successful career.

A Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, Ursula Walowski was successful in her run to fill a vacancy for judge in the 10th

Judicial Subcircuit. She has been an attorney since 1993, graduating from the Chicago-Kent College of Law. Walowski has gained attention in the State's Attorney's office as a prosecutor in the Gang Crimes Unit.

Jackie Marie Portman was elected to fill a vacancy for judge in the 5th Judicial Subcircuit. She served seven years as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney and is currently General Counsel for the Independent Police Review Authority. Portman earned her law degree at the Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan.



After being sworn in as Cook County State's Attorney, Anita Alvarez (third from left) shares a moment with (from left) Sr. Immacula Wendt, SSC, General Superior of the Sisters of St. Casimir; Sr. Regina Marie Dubickas, SSC, Maria Board Member; Wendy Lynn, President of Maria High School; Sr. Grace Ann Kalafut, SSC, Anita's fourth grade teacher; and Sr. Margaret Zalot, SSC, President Emerita of Maria High School.

Maria Student Accepted As Goodman Theatre "Young Critic"



Maria junior Ariel Rupert displays a memento of her experience at this season's Goodman production of "A Christmas Carol."

Maria High School junior Ariel Rupert has been accepted into the Goodman Theatre's 2008-2009 Cindy Bandle Young Critics Writing Program. The program is co-sponsored by the Goodman Theatre and the Chicago chapter of the Association for Women Journalists (AWJ). As one of program's 28 Young Critics, Rupert receives press night tickets for every production in the Goodman's season and is mentored by journalists in the AWJ. She is expected to write reviews throughout the season. Her mentor at AWJ, Dawn Raftery, coaches Rupert in the polishing of her reviews. Rupert and the other Young Critics – all high school juniors from the Chicago area – also attend AWJ Saturday workshops. They have the opportunity to interview actors, playwrights, directors and other artists associated with Goodman Theatre productions. The first press conference Rupert attended was with Lynn Nottage, the playwright of "Ruined." Rupert's drama reviews can be seen on the Goodman Theatre's website.

Foods Class Prepares Birthday Treats



Geri Kostka, Maria High School Registrar, was surprised last February when students from the Foods Class walked into her office singing "Happy Birthday" and carrying birthday pastries and treats that they had baked. The Foods Classes appreciate the wonderful donations of supplies and equipment donated as a result of a recent appeal by Sr. Elizabeth Ann, SSC, Maria's Sewing and Foods instructor.

Student Council Officers



Maria Student Council officers gather to discuss future plans after a recent meeting with homeroom representatives. Shown (from left) are: Shonnette Conner, sergeant-at-arms/parliamentarian; Danielle Jones, secretary; Tina Gonzalez, president; Clarissa Thompson-Matthews, vice president; and Dyanmond Pruitt, treasurer.

Drama I Students Entertain at Christmas Assembly

Mrs. Mary Wood's Drama I Class offered the student body their version of the Dr. Seuss, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" during the all-school Christmas assembly. Jasmine Terry (shown at right) played the Grinch to rave reviews.

Maria students are currently preparing to present this year's school musical — "Cinderella" directed by Ms. Margaret Hayes. Performances will be held in the Maria Auditorium on March 27, 2009 at 7:00 PM, with Matinees (3:00 PM) on March 28 and March 29th. All are invited! Call the school for details. 773-925-8686.



January, 2009 Snow Ball



Maria Kaupas Award recipient Nannette Velasquez Zander '79 (third from left) stands next to Fr. Scott Donahue of Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, surrounded by Board Members and friends of Mercy Home. Fr. Donohue accepted the Maria Kaupas award for Fr. James Close, President Emeritus of Mercy Home.



Sr. Elizabeth Ann Yocius '71 (left) and Sr. Clement Mazgelis '41, were inducted into the Alumnae Hall of Fame.



Sr. Margaret Zalot, SSC (center) was awarded the privilege of "Maria High School Honorary Alumna" by Linda Casey (left), MHS Principal, and Wendy Lynn, MHS President.



MHS teacher Tracy Duffy-Jarrett (left) was happy to accept the \$10,000 Grand Prize for her mom, Linda Grigot of Lombard, IL. Sr. Immacula (center) pulled the lucky raffle ticket. Anita Alvarez (right) served as a gracious Mistress of Ceremony.

Fun, Friends, Fundraising



New board members, students, teachers, alumnae, friends and benefactors mingled throughout the evening. A definite sense of newness and life filled the beautifully decorated banquet room.



Students looking lovely dressed in blue formal gowns, chat with Carly Fecht, Maria staff.



Holy Cross Marimba Band entertain during the Cocktail and Hors 'd'oeuvre Reception



Maria High School Faculty and Staff helped with the event

Illinois State Scholars

Maria High School Illinois State Scholars were recently announced by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). The awardees include Nancy Pater, Diana Ramos, Genevieve Roland, and Leticia Sanchez. Statewide, Illinois State Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of high school seniors. The selection of these seniors was based on ACT scores and/or class rank at the end of the junior year. While recognition does not come with a monetary award, ISAC is giving each awardee a free, 18-month subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica Online in celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the Illinois State Scholars program. Congratulations, Maria Scholars!



Maria Illinois State Scholars (from left) Leticia Sanchez, Nancy Pater, Genevieve Roland, and Diana Ramos take a quick break from their studies.

African Sisters Visit Maria's French Class



Sisters Joselyne and Esperance, both Servants of the Lord from Burundi, Africa, have been living with the Sisters of St. Casimir in Chicago since mid-October. Since Burundi is a French speaking country, the Sisters were invited to meet with Ms. Elizabeth Bieniek's French Class. Since that time they have enjoyed a breakfast prepared by the French class, taught the French class – and the school – hymns in French, and led the entire school in singing during our December 8th liturgy. The Sisters are getting ready to participate in Maria's International Day Prayer Service in March that will conclude the school's celebration of International Week.

Catholic Schools Alumnae Day



Aireale Rodgers '06 (center) returned for Catholic Schools Week "Alumnae Day" and spoke to the Maria students. Aireale is in her third year at Northwestern University and is coordinator for the Overnight Program. Giving her a warm welcome are (from left) Sr. Pat Leonard, guidance counselor, with students Sierra Williams and Vivian Acevedo.

Spanish Club Helps SW Chicago PADS



The Maria Spanish Club reached out this Christmas season to help bring health and comfort to Southwest Chicago PADS. With the guidance of moderator Mrs. Julissa Contreras '94, students put together Christmas baskets of personal products to give to PADS. After researching the needs of PADS, the club sponsored a candy cane sale to raise the funds to purchase the materials for the baskets. They based their purchases on the PADS Wish List, published on its website. Shown (from left) are Spanish Club vice president Alma Coronel, Mrs. Contreras and Saira Bautista, as they work on assembling one of the baskets. Mrs. Contreras, Alma and Saira delivered the baskets to the PADS shelter, 3121 W. 71st Street, before Christmas.

Maria Reunions Across the Country



COLORADO

The first SCA-Maria Colorado Reunion took place in Denver on Thursday evening, November 24, 2008, at the downtown Cheesecake Factory. There were 11 attendees, 9 alumnae including Sister Immacula Wendt, '54, General Superior of the Sisters of St. Casimir, plus one spouse and Sister Margaret Zalot, President Emerita. There are about 60 alumnae in Colorado and about 24 of them are in driving distance of Denver. Needless to say, these alumnae, ranging from an SCA alum of 1949 to a more recent Maria alum of 1984, instantly connected with each other. A good time was had by all.

FLORIDA

The Florida reunion was held in late September and hosted a total of 18 people in the Napa Room at the Contemporary Hotel on the grounds of Disney World. While overlooking the Magic Kingdom, guests reminisced about years gone by and their successes because of their Maria education. The Alumnae ranged from class of 1939 to class of 1999.



Denver area alumnae enjoyed an evening together in November. Pictured from left are Sister Immacula Wendt '54, Irena Bendikas Urbonas '62, Bernice Jurshenas Feliss '49, Sister Margaret Zalot, Ruta Zolynas Ratajczyk '72, Jayne Juracka Walerius '73, Kris (Helen) Krischunas Urbonas '59, Shirley Arellana Bingham '84, Laura Staisiunas '74, and Mary Ann Bruch Cole '62. (Thanks to Ruta's husband, Richard, for taking the photo of the group!)

Coming Soon To a State Near You!

PENNSYLVANIA/NEW JERSEY

Pennsylvania area alumnae recently attended a "reunion tea" at the home of Felicia Chwasz Storb '68 who lives in Warrington. Sister Margaret Zalot was on hand for the event, held on March 8, 2009.

SOUTHWEST USA

Sister Immacula is anxious to host another event in the Southwest (possibly in Arizona). Plans are in the making. Call for more information, or to offer ideas for this event!

CONTACT KATHLEEN DUJSIK (773-925-8686, EXT. 115) TO DISCUSS HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF
A MARIA ALUMNAE REUNION NEAR YOU!

Pulsebeats

Genevieve C. Yerkes Figel '52 spent much of last year recovering from a fall. She shares this note: *I had a bad fall two days after Christmas, 2007. I dislocated and fractured my shoulder, and completely tore the bicep muscle and the rotator cuff. I had to have surgery. It was tough since I can't take pain medication. Doctor's visits and physical therapy followed. I was so happy when I could sew again, although I'm limited in how long I can work. I remember the days at SCA in sewing class and the difference in my sewing today! Getting 10 stitches to the inch in quilting and appliqué that holds up. Now I'm teaching other ladies, and designing my own quilts.* Genevieve and her husband, Paul, enjoy their grandchildren and are proud of their accomplishments. They wish everyone a safe and healthy year.

Ramona Jurkovich Black '53 writes: Happily – I'm still working in School District 207 in Park Ridge, Illinois. My boss (Director of Special Education for the District) has a very Christian attitude towards her staff and is willing to keep on board an employee of my generation. Bless her! Foot surgery in June kept me down and away from work for a few months, but I'm on the mend. I am back to work, hoping to shed the walker before too long, and also longing to drive again. My children are split geographically – two of them living with their families in California; the other two living close-by with their families. I'm still pretty involved with my parish, Mary, Seat of Wisdom in Park Ridge, IL. Still connect with a few of our classmates periodically during the year – Lois (Dolph) Lahner, Barbara (Balestri) Dwyer, Marie (Cusimano) Van Cura, Barbara (Barron) Farrell, Fran (Cusimano) Graf, Caryl (Bajich) Mikrut, and Joan (Schweish) Harnew. Since our homes range from Itasca to Park Ridge to River Forest to Clarendon Hills and places in between, our meeting places have ranged from shopping malls to individual homes. But the aim is the same, to keep in touch with friends of long standing – and we are all most anxious to do just that. Maria was our starting point – something about which we're most proud. It's amazing how memories of SCA and Maria come into our conversations. Thank you, St. Casimir Academy and Maria (we were the first class to graduate from Maria), for an excellent education and allowing us to cultivate these deep seeded friendships.

Patricia M. Coughlin '63 celebrates the 25th year as President of Aloha Holidays, destination management and event production for groups coming to Hawaii.

Send us **YOUR** news.
Fill out and return the
"Staying Connected" Form
on the back of this newsletter!

She recently contributed song lyrics, art & cover design, photography, liner notes and guest vocals on the new Hawaiian music CD "Kohala Moon" by Rodney Cazimero to be released in March 2009. See Rodneycazimero.com for info.

Joan Ribiekas '69 currently lives in Virginia and works for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Jeannine Damen Forrest Ph.D., R.N. '79, has a 24-year history in the practice, education and research components of older adult and end-of-life care. Her expertise is on pain in individuals with dementia. A faculty member at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing for 15 years, she is a Golden Apple Award winner for excellence in teaching and has been a Project Director for a four-year National Institute of Health study on delirium in hospitalized elderly. Jeannine has worked in multiple roles at Chicago's first hospice (Horizon Hospice & Palliative Care), collaborates with the World Health Organization as a consultant in palliative care in China and is currently working with the Alzheimer's Association on a study involving palliative care for individuals with advanced dementia in nursing home settings. She is married and lives with her husband and fourteen-year-old daughter in the Edgewater area of Chicago.

Marta Gryglak Pond '92 works for DeVry University as an online admissions advisor in Naperville and is working on a Master's Degree in Human Resources Management (MHRM) at Keller Graduate School of Management. Marta was recently married, and her husband, Andrew J. Pond, is an actor in the Chicago area.

Candace Bonner '06 is attending Albion College, in Albion, Michigan, concentrating in International Studies. She is looking forward to studying abroad in Australia this Spring '09 semester, working towards becoming a Peace Mediator (globally). Anticipated graduation date is May 2010.

A Garden of Girls by Mary Ann Pater '73

Here at Maria High School we have a garden. It is filled with girls from different backgrounds with different personalities and qualities. Just as a garden has many plants of various sizes, colors and shapes, each one is unique. There is no greater joy than seeing a new plant that you have personally planted, nurtured, watered and cared for, when it produces fruit. And there is no greater joy when you can mentor and teach a young girl to enter adulthood.

My garden at home for the last few years was an experiment with weeds. Each spring, I was eager to start. I bought the seeds and planted them. I watered and waited. I watched as tiny seedlings grew, but it always seemed that other things would distract me. I would neglect the garden, not on purpose, but it became just another thing to do. I seemed to be the only one who cared at all.

In 2008, everything changed. My son, Nathan, and I took an active interest in the garden. Nathan planned and built a 15 ft. by 10 ft. wooden box. He leveled off the dirt, put in the seeds row by row. Each week we promised that we would devote 2-3 hours per week to the garden. We would pull weeds together and remind each other to water it. Each of us sweated and brushed off the bugs as we struggled to pull the weeds. We told ourselves that someday we would have a vegetable.

Now we can say – yes! That day has arrived. We have cantaloupes, as big as in the store, cucumbers that are 12 inches long, and tomatoes the size of softballs. Each one grown right here in our backyard.

The secret to this success was our determined dedication and the mulch we had been saving for the past years. Any scraps from the kitchen were used to make the mulch such as potato and carrot peels, coffee grounds and egg shells. We kept it all in a pile and eventually the scraps turned into dirt.

As our baby plants grew, we put the mulch around them and near them, giving them the nourishment they needed. It was great. Finally we were giving back to the earth, what it had given us. AND SUCCESS WAS OURS. THE PLANTS GREW AND GREW AND GREW.

So how does this garden story compare to Maria? Here we have young minds, young girls. They are eager to learn and grow. Maria is the rich soil for our young plants to come to fruition. Maybe all they need is a few hours of our time, weeding each week. Maybe all they need is water, which is the love that we can share. Maybe what they need is the sunshine we can give by our prayers and our joy, reminding them of God's love. Maybe it is the powerful mulch, which is all the strength of experience that many of us have been given in life, including Maria High School. It is time to give back to Maria what it has given us.

This is Maria High School today, a secret garden rich in soil and life. Let's tend to it and it will give back much more than we could ever have imagined.



Mary Ann Pater '73 relaxes with friends while enjoying her garden which inspired this reflection. The abundant "fruits" of her labor are displayed. Her daughters, Nancy and Julie who currently attend Maria, must be very proud of their mom!

In Memory of Alumnae and Friends of St. Casimir Academy and Maria High School

~ ALUMNAE ~

Emily Zukas Supis '34

Mother of Patricia Supis Griggs '63, Shirley Supis Higgins '64, and Dorothy Supis Kloss '72

Patricia Healy Embree '40

Mary Jane Manion '49

Eileen Hogan Vilchinsky '54

Sister of Loretta Hogan Balsewich '50, Aunt of Sally Balsewich '82

Veronica Chuprinskas Casey '55

Ann Berzanskis Zarach '55

Mary Ann Bartusch '58

Vilune Malioris Kirvelaitis '60

Joanne Dombrowski Cwikla '63

Helene Newman Castro '66

Susan Stephens Horin '66

Sister of Terese Hiltner '66 and Elizabeth Arend '60

Regina Daresh Francour '70

~ FAMILY AND FRIENDS ~

Cory Burns

Son of Betty Burns, former Maria High School employee

Andrew F. Capola

Father of Ann Capola Kozek '89 and Colleen Capola '84, Past President of MHS Fathers' Club

Vera Chapon

Mother of Sharon Chapon Messmer '60

William Chappell

Husband of Elizabeth Chappell '42

Lucille Dujsik

Mother-in-law of Kathleen Dujsik, VP of Institutional Advancement for Maria High School

Timothy Haley

Husband of Celeste O'Connor Haley '68, brother-in-law of Margaret O'Connor Allison '63 and Ann O'Connor '71

David Michael Hresil

Son of Monica George Hresil '84

Jason Kazmierczak

Son of Kim Ulrich Kazmierczak '78

Bernice and Daniel Malloy

Parents of Arlene Malloy Palus '52

Eleanor Marzec

Aunt of Linda Juarez Padilla '74

Erin Brigid McEldowney

Sister of Kara McEldowney Thomas '97

Anne Mezatis

Mother of Marita Mezatis Stricklin '68

Casimir Oksas

Husband of the late Joan Kay Oksas '44

Ona Overlingas

Mother of Monica Balsys '76 and Donna Babarskis '71

Albinas Ozys

Husband of Virginia Zebrauskas Ozys '51, father of Therese Ozys Schoder '86, brother-in-law of Sr. Therese Bernadette, SSC '46

Vyto Palreza

Husband of Christine Shotas (Barnabee) Palreza '70, Brother-in-law of Nancy Shotas '74

William "Bill" Shaw

Stepfather of the late Melanie Green '90

Bruno Siliunas

Father of Donna Stasaitis '70

Andrew Wastak

Brother of Sr. Grace Carol, SSC '45 and Catherine R. Wastak Klescewski '48

Bernice Kinder Venckus '41

Mother of Margie Venckus Butler '66, Diane Venckus Plewa '67, Anne Marie Venckus Becket '68, and Charles Venckus



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SUNDAY • MARCH 29TH • 3:00PM

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For tickets, call: 773-925-8686*

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*Please help us keep our records current!
Return this completed form to Maria High School,
Attention: Ms. Kathleen Dujcik.*

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ADDRESS _____

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ARE YOU AN ALUMNA? CLASS OF ____ No, (relationship) _____

EMPLOYER _____ YOUR TITLE _____

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