



The Halo

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
SOUTHEAST CATHOLIC · BISHOP NEUMANN · ST. MARIA GORETTI · ST. JOHN NEUMANN
SS. JOHN NEUMANN AND MARIA GORETTI HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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A Message from our President

Hello, Fellow Alumnus!

We are happy to publish this inaugural edition of our new Alumni Newsletter, *The Halo*. Many of you may recall *The Millay Tablet* and the *Goretti Newsletter* which we, as alumni, received regularly prior to the two schools merging. We are re-instituting this tradition and including alumni from all of our past namesakes, including those from Neumann-Goretti. Under this new banner we can truly be unified as one.

As we progress, we fully expect this tome to morph and change in the direction that you, our readers/members, would most enjoy reading. Therefore, we are seeking your input and suggestions. Please feel free to send us your ideas, along with interesting articles and alumni news. We hope to have a Social Section where we can announce anniversaries, birthdays, births, job promotions and memorials. In addition, we are looking for writers to provide varying points of view about their NG experience and hopes for the future.

You can submit articles by emailing:

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Class Reunions Bringing Millay Members Back Together

By **Diana Masciantonio
Canamucio '62**

*In memory of Marie Annette Vecchione
Bocelli*

The room was full of little old ladies with blue hair... Wait, that's not right! The room was full of well dressed, well-coiffed, young-ish women who were doing the Mummer's Strut! This was our fifty-year reunion and most of us were... well, you do the math! This is the memory I took away with me that day in 2012.

Adele McLoughery Mayer, Dotty Bonitatis O'Connell and I had worked long and hard to make the afternoon at Galdo's a success! Personally, watching

my classmates and the fun they were having was heartwarming!

Little did any of us know of the relationships that would develop because of that day. It was a few months later that I was invited to join some women at Stogie Joe's Tavern in South Philly. The thinking was that the reunion had been so much fun, so let's keep it going! We only needed one table that day, but our numbers soon grew, and grew again. Until COVID, we met on the first Monday of each month. Some months there were thirty women in that room. You can imagine how high the noise levels were,

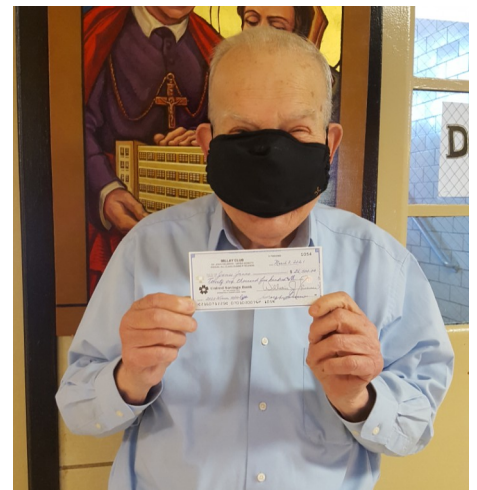
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All Class Reunion 2021 Update

By **Liz Ridolfo Farley '67
ACR Chair**

The All Class Reunion is a Millay Club event that has always been anticipated by and received tremendous support from our alumni and friends. Last year's reunion was canceled due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus. Although most restrictions have been lifted for restaurants and large, outdoor gatherings and events in the city, this is not the case for large, indoor events. Currently, The City of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Board of Health's guidelines for large indoor events are as follows:

- Attendees must bring and wear masks regardless of vaccination status, except when eating or drinking.
- All guests should be screened for symptoms before the event and asked not to attend if they feel sick.
- Distancing is still recommended. Attendees should maintain 3 feet of distance between themselves and individuals outside of their group.



James Janko '52, the winner of the Grand Prize of \$26,500 in The Millay Club's 50/50 Raffle in 2020

Under these current restrictions, it would be impractical to hold the All Class Reunion this year. Socializing would be limited, and dancing could be impeded if groups must maintain a distance of 3 feet from one another. Buffet food service is also a concern and many attendees may

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Most importantly, I would like to acknowledge The Millay Club Board Member, Ciarra Bianculli '13 who has done a yeoman job as editor, conceptualizing and creating this reinvented communiqué, along with our steering committee (and Board Members) Linda Crusco '71, Dom Ricciuti '75, Maureen Wright '85, and Mike Gargano '95.

We are all excited about this new opportunity, for us to know each other better. Thank you for reading!

Ralph Grasso '71
President

Sports Spotlight:
Class of 2018 graduate Christian Barmore drafted by NFL



By Joe Messina, '85

41-33, a score that every Philadelphia Eagles fan has etched in their brains: the final score of Super Bowl 52 over the most-hated New England Patriots. And yet, on Friday, April 30th Millay Club members and the Neumann Goretti community found one reason to root for the New England Patriots, as 2018 Neumann-Goretti graduate Christian Barmore was selected in the second round of the 2021 NFL draft. Barmore will become only the third graduate of our school to play in the NFL, joining Southeast Catholic graduates Bernie Gallagher, Class of 1940 and Bob Oristaglio, Class of 1949. Oristaglio was the only one to get drafted in 1951 out of the University of Pennsylvania.

Although the football team has seen many great teams and players over time, we have waited 70 years to see another graduate play on national television on Sundays. In 2017, Barmore was named First Team All Catholic and led the Saints to a Catholic League title with a record of 11-1 under head coach Albie Crosby. It was at NG that Barmore caught the eye of legendary college football coach Nick Saban from the University of Alabama. It was a monumental day when the future Hall of Fame coach walked the halls of NG to meet Christian in the NG cafeteria; students and staff could not believe their eyes, and word spread like wildfire around South Philadelphia of Nick Saban's presence. Eventually, Saban sold him on attending the University of Alabama and preparing him for the professionals with an opportunity to play

on their renowned football team to hopefully help them become champions. On January 11, 2021, all Saban's promises came true: Alabama won the National Championship with a score of 52-24 over Ohio State, and who other than Christian Barmore was voted the outstanding defensive player of the game.

In speaking to Assistant NG Football Coach and school disciplinarian Lincoln Townsend, who was Barmore's coach in 2017, Barmore has only scratched the surface in both physicality and maturity. When he arrived at NG, he struggled a bit with the structure of the school. Luckily for Christian, his mother, a Philadelphia police officer, kept him on the straight and narrow to help him reach his goals. His mom picked him up everyday from school and practice. She made sure he would not waste the talents the Lord provided. This allowed him to make the necessary adjustments in the classroom and on the football field.

When he graduated from NG, Barmore was ready to take it to the next level. Playing at the University of Alabama, under coach Nick Saban, they were able to put the finishing touches on what was started at NG. He is now ready to play on Sundays to fulfill his dreams. We believe Christian is just the start of graduates that will be in the NFL with the recent success of the football program under Coach Crosby.

In today's world of social media dominance, people like to use hashtags in posts, and it is safe to say we can use #NGPROUD when it comes to 2018 NG Graduate Christian Barmore.



The Millay Club

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History in the Making

By Cecilia Mangini Paone '72

My high school years were history making years in America – turbulent and tumultuous. As I walked class-to-class in the halls during those years, 1968 through 1972 at St. Maria Goretti High School, there was so much going around us. However, I was just a teenager, and high school was probably the biggest thing in my life then. Newsworthy topics were sometimes discussed at the dinner table with my parents, and most times I just listened and watched...

I watched Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin land on the moon on that historical day in July of 1969. Televised riots and political protests overloaded the evening news, in addition to the war in Vietnam. The scenes of the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy were horrific. We watched, we wept, and life went on, a little differently, but we moved ahead.

And there I was – a young woman in an all-girl school, making life-long friends, enjoying the extra-curricular activities, but most of all my days were filled with learning new things in all of my classes. It was a high standard. St. Maria Goretti High School provided me with a Catholic school education which was and is top notch to this day due to the memorable sisters and lay teachers. Yes, the classes were difficult; yes, there was discipline and rules to follow; and yes, homework was mandatory. However, there was fun to be had as well.

The fun times at school consisted of planning freshman day, the sophomore hop, and the junior and senior proms. The halls were always abuzz with excitement

during those times. One special memory for me was the small Eiffel Tower that was erected in the gymnasium for the sophomore hop and this planted the seed in my mind to one day see the real thing. After taking three years of French, this was a step in the right direction for me. The lights and the music transformed the gym.... sort of. However, for the time being, this was our “Evening in Paris.” Lunchtime in the cafeteria was a daily highlight. “All of us talked about a variety of topics; however, music was a big one.” We possibly discussed our sadness surrounding the Beatles’ break-up. Little did we know their performance on the roof of Apple Records in 1969 would be their last. Rock and Motown music was the soundtrack of our days.

Every Saturday night we looked forward to the dance at Bishop Neumann’s High School, which was the “all boys” school then. We were out for a few hours, away from our parents and had so much fun with our friends while we danced the night away...until curfew. There was nothing better!

The years in high school are memorable. At the time, I did not realize how I would look back upon them. I just went through my day-to-day routine. However, at this age now looking back, I know how important those days really were and how they impacted my life. I was given an education that helped form a foundation for my future. What I would give for a chance to go back!

In case you are wondering, I did see the real Eiffel Tower a few years ago and the memories of the sophomore hop came flooding back.

supplies last. More information about the membership fee can be found on the Home page of our website, www.themillayclub.org



COVID-19 mask with The Millay Club logo given as a thank you gift to alumni who pay their 2021 membership fee.

Alumni Spotlight

On Friday, May 21, 2021 the Neumann Goretti community celebrated the many years of service of Main Office Administrator, Lori McCaughan who has dedicated 50 years of service to the Neumann Goretti community. Lori began working at St. Maria Goretti HS the day after she graduated from SMG. Lori is a proud member of the Class of 1971 and is also celebrating her 50 year anniversary as an alumnus.



Lori McCaughan with a gift from The Millay Club commemorating her many years of service and dedication. We thank her for her efforts to promote our Alumni Association.

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not be comfortable with this type of food service. Therefore, out of concern for your health, safety, and enjoyment, the All Class Reunion Committee has made the difficult decision to cancel the event for 2021.

However, we are excited to report that we will again hold the 50/50 Fundraiser Raffle. Last year’s raffle was so successful that we were able to present the winner, Jim Jenko (Class of 1952), with a check for **\$26,500!** We will again be holding weekly drawings for some fantastic incentive prizes leading up to the grand prize drawing on December 5, 2021. If you haven’t received your raffle tickets in the mail, please call the Millay Club office at 215-389-0925. You can also request tickets by e-mailing the Millay Club at millayclub@gmail.com.

It is our hope that in 2022, restrictions will have been totally lifted and we can once again enjoy each other’s company in a safe environment

Membership Thank You Gift

Alumni who paid their 2021 membership fee were surprised when they received a COVID-19 mask in the mail as a thank you gift. The mask has The Millay Club logo on it.

The 2021 annual membership fee is \$25. The fee is used to produce the All Class Reunion and the Communion Breakfast, assist with the class reunions, sponsor several events including the NG Athletic Awards/Alumni Hall of Fame Awards, and provide scholarships to NG students.

The membership fee can be paid online, by mail, and by phone. Those who pay the membership fee will be sent a mask while

The Inside Scoop: How NG Made Students Feel Comfortable During a Difficult Time

By Mia Messina '21

Despite the many challenges the Coronavirus Pandemic has presented, such as the mask mandates, social distancing, and limited indoor capacity, Neumann Goretti (NG) has been able to maintain its academic integrity while finding new and innovative ways to approach things. Virtual schooling is accompanied by its challenges, but NG was able to find ways to overcome them. By the end of the first month of the declared pandemic, things were running as smoothly as they would have been during a regular school year.

The teachers and staff were constantly dedicated to the students, revealing their dedication in different ways such as providing resources to help them get acquainted with online learning. Their willingness to provide extra help or to host after-school zoom sessions is a prime example of this. Their enthusiasm was the driving force behind everything that we endured this year while juggling an in-person and online flexible schedule. They put success at the forefront of their lessons while growing accustomed to Zoom and coming up with ways to do in-person

activities virtually. Although this year was not easy for anyone, they were more than willing to put the students first, showing compassion and understanding for all the difficulties of this year for students.

While trying to figure out how to deal with virtual learning, the administration and staff also had to take on the challenges of coming back to the building and students being in person for hybrid learning. I can honestly say, as a student, that I have never felt unsafe or uncomfortable while in this building. The procedures and policies that everyone in the building had to abide by were strictly enforced, helping to minimize the spread of COVID-19. The administration and staff did an excellent job adhering to CDC guidelines, while also remembering that things were subject to change at a moment's notice.

Finally, the students showed up each day eager to learn and happy to be back in the building after many months at home. Those who opted to stay at home brought the same eagerness and enthusiasm daily, and it could be felt through the computer screen. This is not to say that it was an easy task, but the students, teachers, faculty, and administration were all

willing to work together and meet someone where they are so that we were able to get through this year, as we do all things, together.

As the student body President, I was able to experience all of the dedication that went into this year first hand. The safety of the school community was at the forefront of every decision that was made. However, the school was quick to find new ways to approach things, keeping restrictions in mind. Even the student council was eager to work and to brainstorm innovative ideas to keep up with the ever-changing guidelines. Hard work, planning, and patience went into this school year on both ends, making the battle that much easier.

Neumann Goretti's core values of courage, compassion, and commitment could be felt throughout the school, now more than ever. Every person in the building is full of compassion for those around them and the challenges they face. They are all committed to getting the most out of this year, socially, spiritually, and academically. Their courage to face these challenges head-on and accept the unknown is what made this year a success.

CLASS REUNIONS

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but it was always a delight. The organizers, Amelia, Claire, and Marie Annette, saw to it that our tables were ready, although I'm not sure the waitresses were ready for us!

The chief story tellers at our gatherings are Phyllis and Helen. Phyllis had been a young widow with four children to raise. That didn't prevent her from getting a PhD. Her tales are priceless. If there was laughter going on, you can bet Phyllis was the center of it.

Helen is our good will ambassador. No one can be cranky around Helen; she is so full of joy. On our last trip to New York to see "Hello Dolly," it was her voice that could be heard throughout the theater as she cheered and whooped at the final curtain. Helen never says so-long without adding, "I love you."

Our Goretti Girls are multi-talented. My favorites happen to be the ladies who bake. Donna and Marie are two who never fail to please with their pastries. Who, but

a South Philly girl, can eat a salad, Stromboli, sausage, and pizza, and still have room for dessert! That's the menu every month, but after all the quarantine and lack of activity, we may have to rethink it.

Time and miles don't keep our Goretti Girls from getting together, either. California, Georgia, Florida, and Virginia may be home to some of our girls, but they are all just a plane ride away from the food and the fun. They came to our lunches, occasionally, and it was always as if they had never gone away. It must be a Goretti thing!

I knew these ladies while in high school, but only slightly. Now I consider them, and all of our lunch group, my dear friends!

So, the virus has kept us from meeting on the first Monday of the month, but the texts, emails, and phone calls continue. We will meet again, soon, and it will be as if we were together only yesterday. Somebody better warn the waitresses!

Upcoming Class Reunions

**50th - Bishop Neumann '70
October 7, 2021**

**50th - St. Maria Goretti '70
Postponed to 2022**

**50th - St. Maria Goretti '71
November 7, 2021**

**45th - Bishop Neumann '75 /
St. Maria Goretti '75
October 15, 2021**

**10th - Ss. John Neumann and
Maria Goretti '11
September 10, 2021**

More information, including who to contact can be found on the Reunions page of The Millay Club website, www.themillayclub.org

Don't miss out on information about your reunion, update your contact information on the Stay Connected page of The Millay Club website.