

The Annunciator

Find us on the web at www.school.annunciationcrestwood.com



Annunciation's Bravest, Finest, and EMTs

Many of Annunciation's graduates have dedicated themselves to public safety. Below are short stories about the people who keep us safe and protect us when we most need it.

Inside this issue...

Letters from the Pastor and Principal	2
New Administration	3
Hurricane Irene	4
Bits of Crestwood	5
Historical Speaker	10
Eagle Scouts	14
Deceased Alumni Mass	15
Milestones	22
Class Notes	23
Sports	24

Annunciation Elementary School
 465 Westchester Avenue
 Crestwood, NY 10707

The Annunciator Editorial Board:

- Richard Burke '48
- Patrick F.X. Brennan '53
- Chris Grealy Brown Daly '62
- Mary Theresa Gill McCombe '75
- John Sullivan '82
- Marie Villani-York '93
- Melissa Brennan '95

Jim Hanifer '48 was in the Rockville Centre, NY fire department for six years before moving to Ossining, NY. There he was a member of



Washington Hook & Ladder Co. #2 for six years before moving to Virginia. Both Rockville Centre and Ossining were 100% volunteer at the time. Jim says that his wife, Betty, was a great sport in putting up with his sudden disappearances when the alarm sounded. He also says, "Those were great years of commitment, brotherhood and satisfaction saving lives and property."

Bernard Magdelain '58 was a volunteer firefighter in Scarsdale, NY. After graduation from Annunciation, Bernard went to Archbishop Stepinac High School, Lehigh University, the US Naval Academy and

NYU for graduate school. The adrenaline rush of meeting a potentially dangerous situation head on motivated him to become a volunteer firefighter for approximately ten years. Bernard was also a banker with JP Morgan for thirty-five years, working overseas in London and Paris, in addition to his work in New York.

Bernard says, "The training, practice and satisfactory execution of my duties gave me a great sense of self accomplishment and pride. During an incident, the fact that I was actually doing something that benefitted someone else more than myself was the prime motivator. Only after becoming a volunteer did I realize the camaraderie of my fellow volunteers meant so much to me."

Don McArthur '60 retired as a Westchester County police officer in 2008 after 35 years on the job. He joined the Westchester Sheriff's Department in 1973. This department later merged with the Westchester County Parkway Police.

Don attained the ranks of sergeant and lieutenant and worked in Internal



Affairs, Background Investigations, fleet management and the was Commanding Officer of the County Police Academy.

Robert Sunday '60 moved several times after graduation from Annunciation. After returning to the area, he graduated from Roosevelt High School and then joined the U.S. Air Force.

In 1969, he joined the Wethersfield Police Department, a small town force with a staff of 42, which is just outside Hartford, CT. He also attended Manchester Community College in Manchester, CT and received his associate's degree in law enforcement in 1975. Bob's desire to join the police force was, in part, because his Uncle Nick was a police officer in Norwalk, CT and he had always thought that it was a great career. Shortly after joining the force, Bob's uncle was killed in the line of duty and his murderer was sentenced to life in prison!

Bob retired in 1977 after receiving disabling injuries to his knees on the job. The first injury was the result of a drunk driver assault and the second was the result of responding to a building fire. He later

Continued on page 12

Letters to the Editor

Bravo! Cover to cover, a delight. I marvel at how the mind can be refreshed. Only yesterday I was talking with Patty Ann about the priest who would come to the fence at Schultz Field on Saturday afternoons to let us know it was time for Confession. "We all called him Fr. Camel," I said, "but right now I can't remember his name." Well, today I can, thanks to Jim Murphy, and to you.

I could go on: the river, the station, and so much more. You know what I mean, I'm sure. Thanks for the memories.

Paddy Brennan '53, Michigan

I really enjoyed this edition. It brought back memories of being an altar boy for Fr. Hyland. I remember vividly, the spit and polish he required of his altar boys. My partner was Billy Wasp. We had to pay dues of 10 cents per week for the privilege of being "on the altar". It was also nice to see that Annunciation has kept up the tradition of developing good athletes. We did the same thing when I was there. A lot of us played high school and college

sports thanks to our fathers and the training they taught us while we were in grammar school. Keep up the good work.

Craig Niesz '62, Connecticut

You must know by now, that for all ex-patriot Annunciation Crestwoodians, the journey is as much spiritual as it is physical. Your generous nudge to so many of us toward an appreciation of the running start the parish gave us, has warmed the hearts of thousands, including my brothers and sisters. On their behalf, many, many thanks!

John Regan, former classmate '75,
Connecticut

Thank you for sending me *The Annunciator*. I loved reading about the success of the alumni. Wow! They're all terrific. I am in a nursing home, but I do still play bridge and read and go to art class. I'm going to be 94 in July! I think so fondly of Crestwood—a wonderful place to live! I especially think of all my students.

Mrs. Sara Hult Sullivan, former faculty,
Florida

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Annunciation Alumni,

I always feel that it is important to remember anniversaries. The remembrance helps us to focus in on important events in our lives. Ten years have passed since the tragic events of September 11 and the killing of almost three thousand individuals in New York; Washington, DC; and Shanksville, PA. In a special memorial Mass, we remembered three of our parishioners who died—William Wik, Christopher Duffy and Brendan Dolan. The church was standing room only and the coffee afterwards gave all of us time to remember.

As I said at Mass that day, we also remember September 12 and the days after. These days showed the compassion, the love, the solidarity of America. These days showed the greatness of America. These days showed how truly blessed America is – how great our fellow countrymen and women are.

May God continue to bless all of you, and God Bless America.

Sincerely,

Msgr. Dennis P. Keane

Letter from the Principal

Dear Alumni,

I am both privileged and blessed to be the new principal of Annunciation School. I am privileged because I am joining a school community that has such a rich and distinguished legacy. More importantly, I am blessed because that legacy embodies Catholic education and all that it encompasses.

As you read the articles in this edition of the newsletter, I am confident that you will recognize that legacy in the service that your fellow alumni are providing as fire fighters, police officers and other first responders. These stories, as well as your own stories, are a testament to the Catholic values you learned as students at Annunciation. I am in awe of all who have gone before, and I only hope that I can continue this legacy by leading Annunciation and its future alumni to become faith-filled men and women who also give back to their community.

God Bless!

Sincerely,

Maureen Noonan

New Principal and Assistant Principal Named at Annunciation

Maureen Noonan has been named principal of Annunciation School. She grew up in the Bronx before moving to Long Beach, NY during grammar school. Mrs. Noonan holds a master's degree in education from Fordham University. She has worked in the Catholic school system of the Archdiocese of New York for over twenty years. Most recently, she was the principal of Notre Dame School, an all girls high school in Manhattan. Prior to that, she taught at St. Barnabas and was the assistant principal at both St. Barnabas and St. Ignatius Loyola.

Says Mrs. Noonan, "I knew of the outstanding academic reputation of Annunciation, the dedication of the faculty and the family involvement and support of the school. Wanting to return to the elementary school level, I knew that Annunciation would be a wonderful place to work. This school year, I will get to know as many people as possible and learn as much about the school community as I can. I am making weekly communication with the school families a priority."

Mrs. Noonan says that she has been fortunate over the years to have had wonderful mentors who have been dedicated to Catholic education. She hopes to impart on teachers and students some of the valuable lessons that she has learned. "Being a principal is an awesome responsibility, but to think that you can have a positive impact on developing young students both academically and in their faith formation...that is invigorating."

Erin McHale has been hired as the new assistant principal. A graduate of Catholic schools in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, she attended Georgetown University where she received her bachelor's degree and then Columbia University Teachers College where she received her master's degree.

Mrs. McHale has taught in both Catholic and public schools in New

York and California. She has also had a variety of grade experience, teaching kindergarten through 8th grade. Most recently, she was a middle school

teacher at Marymount School in Manhattan.

This is Mrs. McHale's first assign-

Continued on page 21



Back row: Erin McHale, John Calicchia, Michael Calicchia, John Rutledge, Christine Rutledge, Maureen Rutledge, Sean Flynn, Maureen Noonan. Front row: Thomas Fitzmaurice and Peter Fitzmaurice, Alanna O'Lunney and Delia O'Lunney (daughters of Debra O'Sullivan O'Lunney '86), and Michaela Flynn.

School Participates in Values Infusion Program

One of the first responsibilities of Assistant Principal Erin McHale, is the organization of the school's participation in the Values Infusion Program. In this program, which has been in place for a number of years, the Archdiocese assigns a value to each month that the school focuses on. In addition to a value, each month has a reflective question, a quote from scripture and a story of a pope who espoused this value.

Mrs. McHale is responsible for communicating the value of the month and providing the information that the faculty will need to incorporate a particular value into the lessons given that month. In addition, she provides prayers for every school day of the month, which is tied to a particular saint's feast day or a special day in the church or in the lives of the students and faculty. While not required to be said, they do provide a possible addition to prayers already being used by the faculty with their students.

Values include generosity, unconditional love, courage, and humility among others. In September, the theme of generosity was illustrated with a reading from Sirach 4:1,4, which says, "My son, rob not the poor man of his livelihood; force not the eyes of the needy to turn away...A beggar in distress do

Continued on page 9

Hurricane Irene Destroys Home of Graduate Alexander Ciraco '97

Alexander Ciraco '97 was one of the many victims of Irene, the hurricane/tropical storm that caused billions of dollars in damage along the east coast of the United States in August. He and his wife, Meghan, own a home on Cloverdale Avenue in White Plains, NY. The storm brought 4 to 6 feet of water and sewage into their home on Sunday, August 28. Alex estimates that his home suffered almost \$50,000 in damage with only a fraction of that being covered by insurance or FEMA assistance. Eighty-five percent of their personal belongings were destroyed.

Alex and Meghan met when they were sixteen. Over the years, they went their separate ways and found their way back to each other. They got married, had a baby, bought a house and fixed it up. Alex is a diesel mechanic and Meghan is an office manager. Their son, Alex, is 18 months old. As a family, they couldn't have been happier when they found the perfect home. They were in the house for six months before Irene struck.

What they didn't know was that the home had been sold four or five times in ten years, with nobody willing to stay in the house for more than four years. They understood that New York State law allows a seller to pay \$500 in order to not have to disclose serious issues, such as persistent flooding of a property — not realizing how serious the problem could actually be! Nobody said a word, and the Ciracos happily moved in. They did notice some minor flooding in their laundry room whenever it rained extremely hard.

Unbeknownst to them, their property was one of three at the lowest point in their neighborhood. Combine that with a water retention pond, which sat just across a county road from their property, that had not been maintained and into which the city kept adding additional overflow and into which drained storm water from the Town of



Meghan, little Alex, and Alex Ciraco had their home destroyed by Hurricane Irene.

New Castle, and it is no surprise that a disaster was about to happen as Irene roared up the east coast.

In anticipation of the storm, Alex and Meghan had left the baby with Meghan's father on Saturday morning. By 4 a.m. on Sunday morning, the storm drains in their neighborhood were failing and water was rising in the house. Meghan and Alex evacuated with whatever personal possessions they could carry. By noon on Sunday, their house



Before and after Irene's destruction.



was destroyed along with all of their remaining personal possessions. The family moved in with Meghan's father and the work began to figure out what options the family had.

What they have subsequently learned is that the flooding has been a thirty-year problem in this neighborhood, that recent construction to retail areas and roadways has exacerbated the problem and that the Army Corp of Engineers has a solution but both the City of White Plains and Westchester County have said that they don't have the money to fix the problem.

With all the publicity about the damage to their neighborhood, they cannot even consider selling the house. They have no choice but to take a huge loss and rebuild and hope that they can ride out any remaining storms until they too will someday be able to put the house on the market and move on.

What they would really prefer is a fix to this problem. Knowing that a solution exists to a thirty-year-old problem and that nobody will implement that solution is beyond frustrating, they said. "Our neighborhood is looking for an attorney who can file a class action suit on our neighborhood's behalf. We want the governments that have the ability to solve this problem to do so," said Alex. "We'd also like to find someone who is an expert in drainage solutions so that when it comes time to sell the house, we can do so in good conscience."

In the meantime, Alex and Meghan are taking the necessary steps to get the house habitable and begin rebuilding their lives. They have no family photos, no toys, no furniture, but they have each other, and they are determined to live the American dream again.

If you can help or know anyone who can help Alex and his family, please contact him at ascny98@aim.com.

More Bits of Crestwood by Mark Maiello '71

When last I wrote about some fond memories of Crestwood, my 40th anniversary class reunion was upcoming and things were getting exciting. The euphoria has since subsided, but the same comforting nostalgia for the place of my childhood and the home of some of my classmates to this day, remains. And why not? Crestwood was *and is* a great place to grow up. Here are some memories associated with spending summers there...

Arboreal Life – Did you ever walk the streets of Crestwood in summer just to bask, not in the sun, but in all that shade? The streets were positively cool in the sweltering summer air. I recall a letter from a cousin commenting on how cool the trees kept Crestwood as compared to the streets in her Bronx neighborhood. The natural arches of old-growth trees, the canopy over Crestwood, Hollywood, Carpenter and Westchester Avenues remain today – reminding me of the lazy days of my youth. As they did in the pristine northeast forests of centuries ago, squirrels need never touch the ground in Crestwood save to feed now and again. They literally cross the roads by leaping from the branches of one tree to another. The mischievous, bird-feeder-raiding, tire evading eastern gray squirrel is forever etched in the memories of Crestwood residents as the neighbor who never quite goes home. Mainly because your yard is the squirrel's home. Summer aside for the moment, what would Autumn be without their squawking and acorn hoarding? How drab our winters would be without their leaping forays into the snow searching out buried food. Without them, the trees and the birds wouldn't know what to do with each other.

The Library – The quaint, friendly, arms-open-wide cottage that is the Crestwood Library is 85 years old this October! Its presence reinforces the village atmosphere of Crestwood.



The Crestwood Branch of the Yonkers Public Library on Thompson Street.

Along with Annunciation School, “the library” as we simply called it, serves not only to educate, but also to bind the neighborhood together. I remember my excitement when Sister Mary St. John marched our 4th grade class to that magical little building one day. Its allure has quite a reach too. I lived about a mile from it on Crestwood Avenue. To get there by bicycle back then was considered an accomplishment of sorts (and we did so *unsupervised*). A number of summers were spent borrowing books to complete my school reading lists. It was there that I encountered great books about Benjamin Franklin, the great blackout of 1965, and the Miracle Mets baseball team of 1969. I am grateful that my parents never owned a summer home or ever sent me to camp (they made me work instead). My summers in and out of the Crestwood Library were just fine, thank you.



Recently replaced Schultze Park sign

Schultze Field – When I was growing up, Schultze Field (now Schultze Park), and the adjoining playground (named Anne Maher Freddolino Playground in memory of an alumni parent and wife of a Yonkers city official who lived on my block), were not the well-maintained facilities you see today. A polite adjective would be “sparse.” And I remember the field and the playground in summers being baked-in-the-sun parched. It wasn't until much later that the City of Yonkers turned most of the weeds to grass and the metal swings and steel slide were modernized into plastic versions. Whatever it was that attracted me to them: the connection to baseball (a favorite pastime), the idea of an expansive field on which to run and play, or just because there wasn't another city park like it for miles, Schultze Field was special.

Keep On the Grass – OK, I know it's far-fetched to romanticize something as banal as lawn mowing, but that's what I am about to do. When you've mowed a lawn as many times as I did, it leaves an impression. Predictably, not all of the impression is so great – but it was memorable because back then, as it is today in Crestwood – many homeowners wanted their lawns to look great. We spent money, time and a lot of sweat grooming the yard. We lamented the inability to grow grass in the shade, to eliminate scallions and dandelions, and made huge efforts to water the lawn. We (at this point it largely becomes “I” because Dad was adept at delegating) read about seed and fertilizer in the Scotts lawn care newsletter. And I made sure to change – or at least check – the mower's spark plug each spring. When ready, I concocted the Lawn Boy fuel mixture (later we purchased a lawn mower that worked with straight gasoline), set the wheel height, and began to sweat, and perspire, and sweat some more, as I mowed the yards – front, back and sides – in carefully planned strips. It wasn't easy. Our house

Continued on page 6

You Know You Are From Crestwood When...

Social networking is all the rage. Facebook is among the most popular social networking sites and has created new words in the English language. "Friended" and "Facebooked" are just two of the new verbs that everyone under the age of twenty understands and most older folks as well. Annunciation Parish and School is on Facebook, although the pages are unofficial, having been set up by graduates whose memories prompted them to connect with other graduates.

A recent addition to the list of Facebook groups is one called "You Know You Are From Crestwood When..." It was created on August 9 by Marisa Capozzo Schmidt '90.

Although the group, which had almost 200 members at the end of September, tends to be very Annunciation centric, the mix of memories is quite varied. Locations in Crestwood are discussed, including "Camel Back", "the rock", Schultze Field, "the Crestwood jumps", and PS 15. Food is covered, including a discussion of Crestwood Pizza, Catania's Pizza, the former Crestwood Market, the former Crestwood Bakery, Colonial Caterers, Jahn's on Route 22 and Roberto's at the Crestwood Station. Rites of passage, including where you had your first cigarette or first illicit beer, are also discussed.

Memories of the community include discussions about Hillcrest Lakers, the arcade at Nathan's, the Yonkers Swim-

mobile, Murray's ice skating rink, and Bike Sundays on the Bronx River Parkway. Sledding on the PS 15 hill (which no longer exists due to the construction of a new school building) is mentioned. Epsteins and Lubins for back-to-school wear and the newspaper shack at the Crestwood station are also discussed.

It appears that the holidays in Crestwood might have had the most impact on those growing up here. Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Claus driving through the neighborhood in a station wagon while giving out lollipops, the luminaria candles that light the night on Christmas Eve, and Memorial Day parades that ended at American Legion Plaza when pink rubber balls would be given out to the children are memories that are happily mentioned. By far, the holiday making the greatest impression seems to be Halloween with numerous posts about the haunted house on Westchester Avenue, the "talking pumpkin house" on Lindbergh, and of course, the Annunciation Halloween Carnival (see *The Annunciator*, February 2011).

Memories of teachers and adminis-

trators from Annunciation School are numerous: Mr. Taggart, Fr. Emmanuel, Mrs. Thornton, Mrs. Connors, Mr. Liddle, Miss Pizzuti, Sr. Rose and Sr. John Margaret are just a few of those named. But the one person most remembered is former principal Mr. Kevin Scanlon who the alumni remember for his ringing of a large school bell (still rung each day at school), the "bench" where students sat who were being disciplined, and his most common form of punishment which was to have a wayward student write "When Mr. Scanlon speaks I must listen, for whatever Mr. Scanlon says must be important, or Mr. Scanlon would not waste his most valuable time saying it," at least 50 times.

School memories also include SRA cards, clapping erasers, and the stationery store with the dutch door that Sr. Alice used to run. Said Angela Zinzi Van Moorsel '87 about the stationery store, "I remember the smell of new notebooks and assignment pads at the start of school."

Though many agree, perhaps Sue Madonna Klein '82 said it best when she said, "You know you are from Crestwood when you left your house on your bike on a Saturday morning, and you biked around Crestwood all day, meeting up with friends, and nobody worried about you as long as you showed up for dinner."



More Bits of Crestwood

Continued from page 5

featured a "low maintenance" grass called zoysia – a thick lush variety that resisted heat and spread quite well. It had two drawbacks: it turned a shade of tan in the fall, and its very lushness made it harder to cut than most other grasses – especially when wet. But

when cared for and properly mowed, it looked better than some golf courses and as good as the field at old Shea Stadium. Never was there a better beach chair or cooler, more luxurious mattress – it was that good to lie down on. Oh my, all those hours "wasted" taking care of the lawn.

These Crestwood memories come to mind because summer has just passed. How pleasant to once in a while reach back to a time when all you wanted was a shady tree, a good book to read under it, a little league game to watch, and a front yard with the best manicured lawn on the block.

Around the School and Parish

The Annual Parish picnic, sponsored by the Annunciation Men’s Club, was held at Glen Island Park in New Rochelle on September 10. Picture-perfect weather and an idyllic setting made the day enjoyable for Annunciation families. The picnic started at noon and ended at dusk. The Men’s Club provided cold salads, hot dogs, hamburgers, and all the trimmings. Families provided their own drinks and additional food. There were many games for the families, including the egg toss, sack races, and softball games.



Kyle Leahy '10 gives directions prior to the start of the sack race.



Participants use extra care when handling their eggs in the annual egg toss.

Annunciation School is excited to have a new Pre-K program, which has enrolled fifty-four students. Maureen Noonan, Annunciation School principal, says, “We are grateful to Msgr. Keane for his support of the program. We are fortunate to have been able to get brand new furniture, supplies and new early childhood bathrooms, all of which was accomplished over the summer months! Our teachers and their assistants are an outstanding team.” The Pre-K was highlighted on a segment on Cablevision News 12 which discussed openings in Pre-K programs at various Catholic schools that might be of benefit to residents of the City of Yonkers, where the public school Pre-K programs were curtailed due to budget cuts. That news segment clip can be found on the school’s website: <http://www.school.annunciationcrestwood.com>.



Mrs. Janice Zeitler leads her Pre-K class in a discussion .

Around the School and Parish

On Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1, the Annunciation Players presented a dinner theatre production entitled "The Hostess with the Mostest". The production was in celebration of the 80th anniversary of the parish, which has been celebrated in numerous ways over the course of the year.

Under the direction of parishioner and alumni parent, Richard Monaco, the musical is the story of a millionairess, Sally Adams, who is appointed by the President of the United States to be the Ambassador to the fictional country of Lichtenburg. With music by a number of famous composers, the production had a cast of thirty-four, who ranged in age from 7 to 87 years old.

The role of the Hostess was played by Rose Begnal with John Tracey playing the press agent to the Hostess and Dick Monaco playing Count Von Schnitzel. Chris Gallin played Von Schnitzel's subordinate. Jim Papacena had the part of the Crown Prince, with Dana Chrondrogiannis playing the Princess and Geri Sciortino playing the Hostess' secretary.

Friday night's performance was sold out well in advance and had a waiting list. Saturday night's performance was also a sell out, and over 300 tickets were purchased for the weekend of performances.

Everyone loved the production, and the audiences were very appreciative of the talent being displayed by our parishioners. When asked why he had taken on the responsibility of productions such as this so many times with the Annunciation Players, Dick Monaco said, "I have always had a passion for acting. In high school, my very dearest friend and I, Anne Bancroft, with whom I have acted many times, had both been bitten by the acting bug as teenagers. She went on to get the Oscar, and I chose teaching as a career. My audiences were the hundreds of students I had the pleasure of knowing for over forty years."

The dinner theatre production could not have been possible without the help of numerous people who assisted with many of the production details.



Photos courtesy of
Casey Conner '79



Parish Blood Drive to be held October 23

Annunciation Parish has a long history of participation in the Hudson Valley Blood Services blood drives. The next blood drive is scheduled for Sunday, October 23 in the school's gymnasium. This event also happens every February.

Jim and Winnie Frazer have been running the drive for approximately twelve years and say that usually about fifty people sign up the week prior to the drive itself. Walk-ins are always welcome the day of the drive and come to donate, and the parish will usually get credit for donating over 40 pints of blood in a day. On occasion, someone who comes to donate is unable to give blood due to health reasons, but their efforts are still greatly appreciated. In addition to raw blood, people donate platelets, and the parish gets credit for two pints for every platelet pint donated.

When Winnie and Jim first took over responsibility for this event, they were assisted by the Annunciation Boy Scout troop. Their son, John '99, was an Eagle Scout, and it was a great way to involve the Scouts in a community

event. Once their son moved on from scouting, Winnie and Jim handled the drive with the help of other dedicated volunteers. The success of these blood drives is based on the commitment of the parish, the clergy, and the assistance of many volunteers prior to, and the day of, the blood drive itself. Young school volunteers who seek credit for volunteer hours are a big part of making the Annunciation blood drive a success.

Says Jim, "I would love to have some new people get involved. This is a perfect event for high school parishioners to get volunteer credit if it is required for school." The Knights of Columbus have also recently discussed providing a hand. New donors are encouraged to come to the school gym after any of the Sunday morning masses on the 23rd.

Hudson Valley Blood Services, which is located in Elmsford, NY, sends a staff of six or seven to conduct the actual collection of blood along with all the supplies necessary. Two classrooms are used, one to sign up and fill out

questionnaires regarding a donor's current health, and another room is set up with cots where donations are made. Since 1998, the good people of Annunciation parish have willingly given approximately 1,100 units of blood product. Each donation has the potential to help three patients. Over the years, these donations from the people of our parish have helped thousands of children, new mothers, burn victims, cancer victims and countless others in need of our help.

A division of the New York Blood Center, Hudson Valley Blood Services has been providing blood and blood products to Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties and the Bronx for nearly forty years. The Hudson Valley region covers roughly 9,500 square miles and serves approximately 40 hospitals, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with 90,000 life-saving products each year.

To get involved or to donate, please contact Winnie or Jim Frazer by email at JJW823@aol.com.



Values Infusion Program

Continued from page 3

not reject; Avert not your face from the poor." A short essay about the life of Blessed Pope John Paul II provides the students with a biography of a Pope who exemplified this value. It also provides an opportunity for the students to learn more about the life of the Pope, including how he came to the priesthood and information about his writings, teachings and impact on the world. In the month of September, the students were asked to discuss the question: "How can I give of myself to others?"

In the first month of school, the program has been incorporated into the

lessons taught by 8th-grade teacher Mrs. Mary Ellen Elliott who said, "We have been speaking of conversion as it relates to the parable of the prodigal son. During that discussion, I made a point to talk about the father's generous spirit of forgiveness. In our literature book there were stories about people in need. I made a point to show the students how characters' lives were enriched by the generosity of others."

October's theme of self-acceptance is bolstered by the story of Blessed Pope John XXIII, a reading from 1 Corinthians 6:19 and the question: "How do I share my talents for the greater good?"

Upcoming Stories...

Do you or have you worked:

- In the health care field?
- In the music industry?
- In theatre, television, or film?

Upcoming articles in The Annunciator will explore our graduates' experiences in the above industries. Please contact Mary Theresa Gill McCombe at mtmc525@aol.com to be included in these upcoming articles.

Graduate Speaks at Historical Society Event

Nancy Waters '61, former Director of Communication and Community Relations for the Yonkers Library System and YPL employee for almost forty years, spoke about "The People Behind the Scenes" at the Saturday, September 17 meeting of the Crestwood Historical Society at the Crestwood Library. Nancy, who grew up in Colonial Heights, noted that her mother used to drive her to the little library in Crestwood. As a 4-year-old, Nancy remembers the six interior steps to the upper library, the distinctive smell as you entered...all library paste and bindery books. She recalls the sound of the buzzing of the lights hanging overhead and the dark, empty meeting room in the basement that became the Children's Reading Room in 1962. There were glass French doors at the top of the steps and wooden stepstools to reach the upper shelves.

Over forty people attended the program, which was held in the Children's library. Nancy, who was contacted by alumni parent John Hiddleson, was asked to present the history of the library from a human interest point of view. Noting that a "facts



Nancy Waters '61 speaks to the Crestwood Historical Society.

and figures" of the history of the library had been documented by Harriet S. Gordon in her *History of the Crestwood Branch of the Yonkers Public Library*, Nancy concentrated her speech on the people who staffed the library for the period 1961 to 1975, names that will, no doubt, allow many to picture the helpful librarians who made using the Crestwood Library so enjoyable. The library could not have been the jewel that it is without the people who staffed it: Bernice Palen, Sally Wetzel, Peg Geist, Helen Gardner, Betty Au, Sheila Waters (Nancy's sister), Laura Cummings, Madalynne Schoenfeld, Helen Almy,

Dorothy Uremston, Sherma Kelsy, Evelyn DeLuce, Ann Mulcahy, Lucy Danna, Lois Richardson, Martha Powell, Betty Southwick and Gabriella Monaco.

Said Nancy, "The history of the Crestwood Library is people...the determined people who founded her against all odds; the dedicated people who furnished and fixed her and maintained her; the devoted people who felt honored to serve the public here; but, most of all, you...the public that used her, borrowed from her, returned to her, sat down with her to enjoy her and returned, often against all odds to keep her open, keep her statistics up, keep her going despite her age. Crestwood Library became an icon for this community - whether you were a child on a bike, or the most important executive who ever walked from the train station passing her every night."

During the presentation, Nancy documented the many contributions of the Friends of the Crestwood Library, created by Mrs. Hans Hopf to fundraise and plan for the Children's Reading Room. That organization continues today under the leadership of alumni parents, Maureen Butler and Leslie

Continued on page 11



Members of the Crestwood Historical Society enjoy the presentation.



A collage of faces — the human side of the library's history.

Still Reconnecting – Paths Cross in Many Different Ways



In May, a number of Roosevelt High School graduates residing in Florida met for lunch in Boca Raton. Included in that group were three Annunciation Class of 1960 graduates—(top) Don McArthur and Michael Aquilino and (bottom) Jim Hall.

Don noted that he and Jim had been able to attend the Annunciation Class of 1960 reunion, but that Mike had not been able to attend. Don also noted that after seeing his 50th reunion photos, he went on a diet and lost 60 pounds. “So the reunions are not only fun, but they are very productive!” quipped Don.



Mary Theresa Gill McCombe '75 won VIP tickets at a charity auction to see *Dr. Oz* being filmed. Standing in line with one other couple, who had also won VIP tickets at a charity auction, she struck up a conversation with them. “Are you from New York?” The answer from the other woman was “Yes, I’m from Garrison.” Mary Theresa responded, “I’m from Crestwood.” To which, the other woman responded, “I went to school in Crestwood.” And that is how Mary Theresa met Linda Monaco Behrens '61!



In April 2011, Luise Bethencourt took a vacation to San Francisco, CA and had lunch with her classmate, Marianne Maloney Dowling. Both are Class of 1954. The two had been best friends at Annunciation and The Ursuline School, and Luise was the Maid of Honor at Marianne’s wedding, but they hadn’t seen each other in many years. Because of a reunion held in 2010, they were able to get back in touch with each other and arrange the visit.

You can find us on the Web

at

www.AnnunciationCrestwood.com

Speech to Crestwood Historical Society

Continued from page 10

Poole-Petit. Nancy also noted the invaluable assistance provided by part-time pages who worked Saturdays and nights. She pointed out how important it was for the Crestwood branch when William Sheerin, a resident of the Strathmore section, joined the YPL’s Board of Trustees in 1989 and became an advocate for the Crestwood branch. Though additional Crestwood patrons, Cliff Schneider and John Jacono, also became Trustees at

later dates, it was Bill Sheerin who really appreciated library issues, and could understand the value of the Crestwood branch. Programs, which were tremendous fun for children, were highlighted, including the summer reading program and the toddlers’ Story Hour, each of which had a particular librarian to thank for its success.

Nancy provided wonderful anecdotes about each of the librarians, noting special things about them that made them

instrumental to the history of the library, as well as stories of their families and their connections to Crestwood. Nancy also gave a nod to the women who staffed the library in the ‘80s and ‘90s, and those who currently work at the library, as well as to the original women who created a Library Association in 1921 and petitioned the city and raised money in order to open the library.

Bravest, Finest & EMTs (Continued from page 1)

went on to work for the State of Connecticut as a plumber at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, CT until knee replacements made it impossible for him to work.

Bob has been married to his wife, Joan, for thirty-five years. He enjoys playing golf, target shooting, riding his Harley, working around the yard, and enjoying his grandchildren! Bob is president of the Connecticut Association for Aviculture, the oldest Exotic Bird Club in Connecticut, and has bred and raised a large number of birds from finches to African Gray Parrots.

Jim Kirkwood '61 was appointed a Yonkers police officer on October 4, 1968 and was assigned to patrol duty in the 4th Precinct. After 11 years on patrol duty, he was reassigned to the Northeast Patrol Command.

Jim was an even-tempered man who was liked and respected by all who knew

him. He did his job efficiently and effectively, and so it was no surprise that in 1983, he was appointed a detective in the Detective Division. As a detective, he continued to display his intelligent approach to investigations, which gained him an enviable reputation.

In 1994, Detective Kirkwood was assigned to the Inspectional Services Division, and the following year he was assigned to the prestigious Special Investigations Division. This unit was responsible for such sensitive investigations as monitoring the activities of organized crime members living and operating in Yonkers, dignitary protection, and working closely with county, state and federal



law enforcement agencies.

Det. Kirkwood retired from the police department in 2003 after a total of more than 36 years of service. Despite his 6' 4" stature, Jim was not an intimidating person. He was soft-spoken, easy-going, and the term gentleman fit perfectly. During his career he was the recipient of two police commendations, five certificates of excellent police work, as well as numerous letters of appreciation from citizens who appreciated the way he conducted himself.

Before retiring, Jim had moved to Mohegan Lake with his wife where he remained during his police retirement. Not long after retiring, Jim began working for the Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority as an investigator into Medicaid fraud and other violations by housing residents.

Jim Kirkwood suffered a heart at-

Continued on page 13

Ed Conlon—NYPD and Author

Ed Conlon '79 graduated from Regis High School and Harvard University. Trying to make a living as a freelance writer after graduation, Ed was drawn to the stories told by a Regis classmate who was a transit cop. Having worked in the criminal justice program when he was in his twenties, Ed initially joined the New York City Police Department in 1995 as a way to have a steady job. He was first a patrolman in housing projects in the South Bronx before working in Bronx narcotics and then being promoted to detective and being assigned to the 44th Detective Squad.

While on the job, Ed wrote a column, called "Cop's Diary", for *New Yorker* magazine under the pseudonym Marcus Laffey. In 2004, he wrote a memoir entitled *Blue Blood*, which was a *New York Times* bestseller and chronicled Ed's experiences working for the NYPD as well as stories of his family's ties to law enforcement.



Recently retired from the NYPD, Ed has just released his first work of fiction entitled *Red on Red*. In the novel, he tells the story of two NYPD detectives, Meehan and Esposito: one damaged and introspective, the other ambitious and unscrupulous. Meehan is compelled by haunting and elusive stories that defy easy resolution, while Esposito is drawn to cases of rough and ordinary combat. A fierce and unlikely friendship develops between them and plays out against a tangle of mysteries: a lonely immigrant who hangs herself in Inwood Hill Park, a serial rapist preying on upper Manhattan, a troubled Catholic schoolgirl who appears in the wrong place with uncanny regularity, and a savage gang war that erupts over a case of mistaken identity.



Photo courtesy of Brian Scannell

Bravest, Finest & EMTs (Continued from page 12)

tack at home on May 31, 2011. It was only a month following his 50th class reunion, which Jim participated in to the delight of his classmates. He died on June 11, at the age of 63, leaving behind his wife and two sons.—*the above was taken from a tribute written by retired Deputy Chief George Rutledge of the Yonkers PD, reprinted with permission.*

Dick Krug '61 retired after 32 years as patrol officer, motor officer, crime prevention officer, safety officer and D.A.R.E. officer of the Concord, MA Police Department. He has a degree in Criminal Justice and graduated from the Massachusetts State Police Academy.

After graduating from Annunciation, Dick attended Roosevelt High School and then joined the Army, where he spent most of his enlistment in Massachusetts. Upon completion of his military service, he joined the Concord Police Department.



Dick and his wife have three children and six grandchildren. After retirement, Dick took a part-time job with the Town of Concord as their veterans' agent, providing critical services to veterans, such as housing, medical and other benefits.

Doug Lo Presti, '61 attended Manhattan Prep and then graduated from Manhattan College with bachelor and master's degrees in management. He was Director of Corporate Planning for Southern New England Telephone in Connecticut after working at NY Telephone and AT&T from 1971 to 2000. He then became Vice President of Consulting Associates, LLC, a company that specializes in customer service analysis.

Doug moved to Durham, CT, a rural town where emergency services were provided by volunteers. He was inspired by the sense of community and caring that he found there. Being interested in the emergency medical field, he joined the town's ambulance service and became an Emergency Medical Technician in 1984. He volunteered while working full-time in corporate telecommunications, serving on the town ambulance as deputy chief and chief for twenty years. He became nationally registered, holding Advanced Life Support (ALS) certification in Rhode Island and BLS EMT certification in Connecticut.

Doug currently lives in Old Lyme, CT where he is the training officer and EMT on the town's ambulance. He is co-founder of Critical Skills Education & Training, a two-person EMS consulting and teaching business which specializes in CPR, first aid and EMS education and certification in American Heart Association and American Safety and Health Institute standards. The business develops individualized programs for families, children, and the general public, as well as classes for businesses that require or desire CPR/first aid training. Says Doug, "Working as EMTs, my partner and I know first hand the value of CPR training and are committed to teaching those lifesaving skills to as many people as we can reach. We work anywhere in New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut."

Doug's company can be reached by email at CSEd911@aol.com. Any Annunciation graduate interested in having Doug form or develop a class for them or in just speaking about the training should contact him at 860-304-8471. "I would love the opportunity to work with former classmates and Crestwood residents, and welcome the chance to reconnect on a professional and personal basis," said Doug.

Margaret Samuels Hoag '62 graduated from School of the Holy Child and then Elizabeth Seton College where she majored in art and enjoyed the sciences. She worked in the antique business, retail and in a medical library. She also married, had a daughter, and helped raise three stepsons. In the 1980's, Margaret attended classes at the NY Botanical Garden and became a landscape designer, combining her art background with her love for gardening.

Margaret's husband died in 1990, and she then worked full time in landscaping until she met her current husband, Tony, and moved to Salisbury, CT, adding an additional four stepchildren! She and Tony now have twelve grandchildren combined.

Her emergency service began in 2000 when the local volunteer ambulance squad needed people to drive the rigs. Margaret took the driving course and joined the squad.



After a year as a driver, she decided to become an EMT-Basic. Says Margaret, "Many of the towns in the northwest corner of Connecticut rely on all volunteer fire and EMS. Since our squad is only EMT-B we are backed up by a paramedic squad that covers several towns. They are dispatched for high priority cases. I cover one day a week from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and respond to all calls on that day. In addition, I keep my pager on and respond to calls when I can, especially to high priority calls."

"Our town is rural and spread out, with many country lanes to traverse. It is often challenging in winter to get to some houses. Salisbury has two prep schools, an elementary school, and a large nursing home to keep us busy. We have several lakes, a large river and the

Continued on page 15

A Search for Eagle Scouts

A complete list of Eagle Scouts from Troop 1 in Crestwood was compiled some years ago by Craig Van Steenberg who searched through Scout records at the Council headquarters to complete the list. That list can be accessed at <http://www.troop1crestwood.org>. Included in this troop list are a number of Annunciation graduates. Peter Garst '48, Lawrence Benway '50, Francis Doyle '49, and Roger Gaire '51, all received Eagle Scout rank between June 1950 and January 1953.

As scouting grew in the Crestwood area, Annunciation started a Scout Troop. Troop 6, more or less, consisted of Scouts from Annunciation School, while Troop 1, more or less, had Scouts who were educated in the Yonkers public schools. Eventually, participation in Scouting declined, and Troop 6 was

folded back into Troop 1. After the two troops were combined, Annunciation alumni John Frazer '99 and Thomas Gaffney '00 were awarded their Eagle Scout status in August 2003 and August 2004, respectively.

Although Troop 6 no longer exists, Scoutmaster Tom O'Grady '75 would like to put together a comprehensive list of Eagle Scouts from that troop. The creation of this list has been made more difficult because a flood destroyed records at Scout headquarters some years ago.

At right is a partial list of Annunciation graduates who were members of Troop 6 and received their Eagle Scout rank. **If you know of an Eagle Scout from Troop 6 who is not included in this list, please email Tom O'Grady at mrtogrady@yahoo.com.**

Eagle Scouts Troop 6

Raymond Flynn '60
 Don McArthur '60
 Richard Vogler '60
 Robert Walters '60
 William Wasp '61
 Cornelius MacHaffie '61
 Douglas LoPresti '61
 Gordon Duffield '62
 Richard Sweeney '73
 Daniel Driscoll '71
 Mark Walsh former classmate '73
 Richard Regan former classmate '73
 John Conlon '77
 James Sheehan '78
 Stephen Melnyk '78
 Albert "Casey" Conner '79

Order your Annunciation Alumni T-shirt or Hat!!



Noel Fordrung '49 holds up the Annunciation alumni T-shirt that his sisters presented to him on the occasion of his 76th birthday. Noel passed away on October 4, 2011.

If you would like to identify yourself as a proud Annunciation graduate, you can order the baseball cap for \$20 or the T-shirt for \$15. Prices are inclusive of shipping. Baseball cap is size adjustable and T-shirts are available in large and extra-large. Proceeds go to support our alumni program.

Email MTMC525@aol.com or call 914-337-3953 to place your order today!



Ashtyn Lange '11 models the Annunciation alumni T-shirt and baseball cap.

Mass for Deceased Alumni to be Held November 5

The annual Mass for deceased Annunciation School alumni will be held on Saturday, November 5 at 5:00 p.m. All family members and friends of deceased Annunciation alumni are invited to attend. The Mass includes the reading of the names of all deceased alumni.

In conjunction with the Mass, many families of current Annunciation School students make a commitment to pray for a particular class of deceased alumni throughout the month of November.

We do our best to make sure that our list of deceased alumni is comprehensive. If you would like to make sure that your loved one's name is on the list, please contact Mary Theresa Gill McCombe '75 at mtmc525@aol.com.

Annunciation Parish Honored by Crestwood Historical Society

On October 14, Annunciation Parish was recognized by the Crestwood Historical Society (CHS) for its role in being a pivotal force in the neighborhood as well as being a friend to the CHS by providing space for various neighborhood events.

In addition to the parish, parishioners and alumni parents, John and Marie Jo Lee, were recognized for their contributions to the local community. John is a former Yonkers City Councilman, and Marie Jo is active as a volunteer. In addition, the Lee family opened up their house to the public during a CHS historical house tour.

Parishioner and alumni parent, Ernie Zocchi, former owner of the Crestwood Market, is being recognized for his contributions to the archives of the CHS. Ernie, an avid historian, has been instrumental in helping to establish CHS archival records that help document the history of the neighborhood.

Josephine Candler is being recognized for her work in teaching dance in the local community, as well as her support of the historical society.

Over fifty people were on hand in the school gym to witness the presentation of proclamations to each of the honorees.

Bravest, Finest & EMTs (Continued from page 13)

Appalachian Trail runs right through Salisbury. We sometimes have mountain rescues for lost or injured hikers, water rescues, and rescues that require ropes teams to scale down cliffs. (I don't do the ropes.) Each call is different and you never know what will occur on a call. I find the work challenging, sometimes nerve wracking, but very rewarding. I enjoy the camaraderie of other squad members and the satisfaction of hands-on helping people. Most of the calls are routine — many elderly folks, sports injuries at the schools, and minor car accidents. But, we also have some serious events that we have to face on occasion. Our squad is always receiving continuing education and training to keep our skills honed. After eleven years on the squad, I feel that I have learned a great deal, grown in many ways and found a part of myself I never thought I had."

Ralph "Skip" Maccarone '62 went on to Archbishop Stepinac High School before moving to Michigan where he graduated from Royal Oak Kimball High School. He received his bachelor of science degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI and his Juris Doctor from Detroit College of Law.

Although accepted by both the Detroit Police Department and the NYPD, Skip elected to stay in Detroit and joined the force in 1969. He eventually ran a twentyman crew at the Tactical Services Section. Skip retired in 1985 and is now an attorney in Shelby Township, MI.



Kevin Christopher '64 is a thirty-two year veteran and lieutenant in the White Plains Police Department. He has a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice and is the lieutenant commander of the Community Policing Division, where he supervises the domestic violence unit and the police crisis intervention



trained mental health outreach team. He is the liaison with the many residential neighborhoods of the city and works with these neighborhood residents to address quality of life and public safety issues.

Prior to this assignment, Kevin worked as the commander of the cen-

Continued on page 16

Bravest, Finest & EMTs (Continued from page 15)

tral business district of White Plains. During that time he worked to advance the very successful renaissance of the White Plains business district through strategies such as crime prevention through environmental design, the creation of an enhanced police presence, and face to face communications with the business community. Kevin says, "White Plains is now a 24-hour city that enjoys a very busy entertainment, bar, restaurant and shopping industry."

Joining the department in 1979 as a patrolman, his assignments varied as he moved up the ranks. He was assigned to the plainclothes street crime unit of the detective division and was promoted to sergeant in the patrol division. He actively investigated assault and homicide cases as a detective sergeant before being made a tour commander in the Patrol Division.

Kevin has attended numerous training schools, including the Senior Management Executive Police Forum – PERF, New York State Homicide School, New York Sex Offender School, Incident Management of Police Executives, and Managing Criminal Investigations – IACP. He is also a certified police instructor. Kevin has presented at many national conferences regarding the dynamics of the White Plains Police Mental Health Outreach Team and the importance of crisis intervention trained police officers. He has been married for twenty-eight years and has five children.

Michael Byrne '66 is a retired fire captain from the Scarsdale Fire Department. After graduating from Archbishop Stepinac, where he was the captain of the wrestling team, he then went on to graduate from Iona College. Mike did some social work at the Cardinal McCloskey Home before becoming a firefighter in Scarsdale. Fire-

fighting appealed to him because he had a number of uncles and cousins who were firefighters.

Mike was promoted to captain and served as the department's training officer for more than ten years. He was a certified fire instructor, fire inspector and fire investigator. "The best thing about this job was the friendships that I made. Living together makes for a lot of close friends, and I value that camaraderie," says Mike, who retired in 2005.

Mike has three daughters, two step-daughters, and three grandchildren. He married the love of his life, Sylvia, three years ago. They reside in Croton-on-Hudson.

Robert Browne '70 is a graduate of Iona Prep and joined the Yonkers Police Department in 1979. He was a classmate of Gail Freddolino's (see page 17) at the Police Academy.

Bob says that the best part of being part of the Yonkers Police Department is that it is large enough to be able to send their officers for lots of training and small enough that you know everyone. Bob has not only been trained as a paramedic for his work in the Emergency Services Unit, where the work is half medical and half tactical, but he has also attended FBI SWAT school where he was trained to be a sniper. He was also an instructor for the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and helped train motorcycle police officers from departments all over Westchester and Fairfield counties.

Bob has been assigned to patrol in the 3rd Precinct, the busiest in the city, and to the motorcycle division, where he



was an accident investigator. When he was promoted to lieutenant, he was in charge of processing prisoners and the radio room. He wanted to return to the streets and was

back in the 3rd Precinct before going out on disability for injuries received in the line of duty.

When he recovers from his injuries, Bob would like to enjoy his hobbies, which include motorcycle riding, skiing and golf. Bob is also a bagpiper and has played with the Police Emerald Society of Westchester Pipe and Drum Band.

Ernest Tofani '71 has been a state police officer in Arizona for twenty-four years. He enjoys the job because he never really liked sitting behind a desk. Ernest works just north of the Mexican border, by Nogales, on Interstate 19, Interstate 10 and State Route 82 and 83. He says, "There's never a dull moment here with drug smuggling and illegal aliens going north and stolen vehicles and illegal currency going south. This stuff makes the day go by fast. The job keeps you on your toes. I never get used to seeing people injured or killed though, and I'm probably a couple of years away from retiring."

In his spare time, Ernest has developed and recently patented a tool for accident investigation. He is in the process of moving forward to the manufacture and marketing of this tool.

An avid bicycle rider, Ernest has been asked by a local civic group, The Circles Of Peace, to put together a fundraising bicycle event that will kick off November 5th. The Circles Of Peace

Continued on page 17

Bravest, Finest & EMTs (Continued from page 16)

(www.circlesofpeace.us) is an anti-domestic violence group that has a home for battered women.

Gail Freddolino London '72 worked for the Yonkers Police Department for twenty years between 1979 and 1999. After graduating from Annunciation, she attended St. Clare Academy until its closure and then went on to graduate from Roosevelt High School.

While reading *The Herald Statesmen* newspaper in the summer of 1977, Gail saw an ad for an upcoming Yonkers police officer test, which said "women and minorities welcome". After scoring well on the test and waiting for over a year to be hired along with 49 other people (47 men, including Robert Browne, see page 16, and 3 women), Gail took her oath and started seventeen weeks of intense mental and physical training. Says Gail, "Our group was known as The Fabulous Fifty."



Gail was assigned to street patrol in the North command (northwest Yonkers). She was also assigned to the radio room as a dispatcher, to the 1st Precinct, where Crestwood was part of her patrol sector, and, while having her three daughters, she worked in the Records Division classifying the police reports for the FBI, included compiling statistics.

Gail retired shortly after completing her twentieth year. "Being a full-time mom to my daughters lasted only two years until a friend of mine told me about a job in our local school district. I worked with young children in the lunch room for 8 years and loved that job!"

Recently, Gail and her husband of 29 years, Jerry, moved to Cape Coral,

FL where they are building a home to enjoy in their retirement years. Jerry retired from the Yonkers Fire Dept. as a lieutenant.

Gail says, "The main reasons for wanting to become a police officer were that I wanted a career with a uniform, the option of retiring after 20 years of service, and wanting to be in a position to help people and also stop criminals. That really fit my personality. I'm thankful my parents encouraged me and supported my decision."

James O'Loughlin '74 graduated from Roosevelt High School, Westchester Community College and Iona College where he majored in business. He works for Metro-North Railroad.

When he was younger, James helped out at an accident. The experience left him feeling very good in that he was able to help someone else. Wanting to experience that on a more regular basis, James decided to become an EMT. Says James, "Becoming an EMT requires a lot of dedication. There is six months of training as well as twenty hours of training on an ambulance and twenty hours of training in a hospital. My license has to be renewed every three years and, again, that requires a lot of dedication. License renewal requires seventy hours of class time, as well as drills and twenty hours of driving classes." James volunteers at Eastchester Volunteer Ambulance Corps in Eastchester, NY. He and his wife live in Yonkers, and in his spare time, James likes to take long walks and listen to oldies music.

Maureen Ahern Fornabaio '75 graduated from Roosevelt High School and Mercy College before going to work for the Westchester County District Attorney's Office in the Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Unit. Her job was to investigate allegations of child and domestic abuse through other involved

agencies. Maureen was planning on becoming a DA investigator and working under the district attorney. She took several police exams and was called by the Yonkers Police Department in 1987.

Maureen worked for the YPD for 22 years, spending the first nine years in the 3rd Precinct located in the southwest corner of the city. "It was a busy place, and I had some incredible experiences. I had the opportunity to work in plainclothes buying drugs, soliciting, and aiding other jurisdictions in stake outs. I later went on to work for eight years in the Youth Services Division as an investigator. My husband, who was also with the YPD, was working in a dangerous undercover job in the Narcotics Division. Due to the dangerous nature of his job, and for the sake of our two children, I took a job at Police headquarters doing crime statistics and reporting directly to the police commissioner and the State Division of Criminal Justice."

Maureen retired in 2009. Her husband retired two years later. Says Maureen, "The vast majority of women and men of the YPD are truly dedicated and professional and deserve the utmost respect!!!" In her spare time, she enjoys drawing, painting, gardening and relaxing.

Andrew McCadden '75, although not a uniformed officer, has been working at the NYPD for over fifteen years in his job with IBM (a place he has worked for 27 years). Andy works with the 911 system, Real Time Crime Center, disaster recovery, and video surveillance for lower Manhattan among other things. His office is located at One Police Plaza.

Andy is also on the Crime Stoppers Committee that allocates money

Continued on page 18

Bravest, Finest & EMTs (Continued from page 17)

given to anonymous calls/tips that help solve crimes. He is a longtime member of the NYC Police Foundation.

Tom Browne '77 graduated from Iona Prep before attending Syracuse and graduating from Pace University. He took the test to become a New York City Police Officer and began a career in retail while waiting for a possible call. After working in various types of retail, including toy stores and department stores, and working in a variety of locations in the metropolitan area, Tom was called in 1992, four years after taking the exam.

He began his career in the 26th Precinct in Manhattan before transferring to the Manhattan North Task Force. That assignment, which provides back up to precincts for major events, made him responsible for handling demonstrations, parades, escorting dignitaries and writing lots of tickets! He was promoted and moved to the Bronx, where he is now a sergeant in the 49th Precinct.

In his spare time, Tom plays bagpipes with his brother, Bob '70, in the Police Emerald Society of Westchester's Pipe and Drum Band. He also enjoys canoeing, golf and playing darts.

Philip Corbett '82 lives in Glen Rock, NJ and has been on the volunteer ambulance corps for over seven years as a certified EMT. He graduated from Iona Prep and SUNY Albany with a B.A. in history. Philip has worked at IBM for over 12 years and is married to his wife, Coleen, and the father of two



Continued on page 19

Annunciation graduates are serving or have served in public safety roles in the following areas:

Yonkers, NY—Maureen Ahearn Fornabaio, Robert Browne, Tom Burke, Kevin Duffy, Gail Freddolino, Jim Kirkwood, Peter Mullen, James Pellegrino, Brian Walsh, John White, Christina Zenkewich

New York City, NY—Tom Browne, James Christopher, Ed Conlon, Michael Delaney, Thomas Mullen, Joseph Mulligan, Andrew McCadden*, David McGovern, Owen McGovern, Christian McNamara, Brian O'Connor, Walter Powers, Chris Weigand, Chris White

Westchester County, NY - Don McArthur, Peter Mullen, Scott Sullivan

Scarsdale, NY—Michael Bryne, Bernard Magdelain

White Plains, NY—Kevin Christopher

Rockville Centre and Ossining, NY—Jim Hanifer

Eastchester, NY—James O'Loughlin

Durham and Old Lyme, CT—Doug LoPresti

Salisbury, CT—Margaret Samuels Hoag

Wethersfield, CT—Robert Sunday

Concord, MA—Dick Krug

Tucson/Nagoles, AZ—Ernest Tofani

Detroit, MI—Skip Maccarone

Glen Rock, NJ—Philip Corbett

Washington, D.C.—Frank Hill

U.S. Dept. of Justice—Ed Coffey

FBI—J. Stewart Murphy

The Annunciator was not able to interview all graduates who work, or have worked, in public safety. We thank those who took the time to be interviewed for this article. The above listing includes the names of all those graduates known to work in public safety.

*in his job as an IBM employee

Bravest, Finest & EMTs (Continued from page 18)

daughters, Grace (10) and Natalie (7). Although he had lived on the east side of Manhattan, in Brooklyn and in Yonkers, it wasn't until he moved to Glen Rock that he experienced the same kind of community as Crestwood. When he and Coleen started their family and bought their house, he wanted to find a way to contribute to that community.

Philip volunteers from 7 p.m. every Thursday night until 6 a.m., on Friday and one additional twelve-hour shift per month. He says the pediatric calls are the hardest to manage, especially where children are critically ill and parents are distraught. "The most difficult call I've been on is one where a 10-year-old boy had been hit by a car and was unresponsive. He survived but his parents were in a panic, as anyone would be."

In his spare time, Philip, who is lucky enough to work from home, enjoys golf and spending time with his "three girls".

Scott Sullivan '85 is a lieutenant with the Westchester County Police Department. In addition to being in law enforcement, he is an attorney with a litigation practice in White Plains and also a college professor.

Scott graduated from Iona Prep and then from Manhattan College with a B.A. in economics. He graduated from Pace University School of Law in 1999 and is admitted to practice in New York and Connecticut. He specializes in negligence, municipal and corporate litigation. In addition, he has been an adjunct professor at Sacred Heart University, Mercy College, and Westchester Community College. While at Pace University School of Law, he interned for Magistrate Judge Mark D. Fox in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

After college, Scott's interest in criminal justice led him to apply for a

job as a Westchester County police officer. After being a patrol officer, he was promoted to detective and worked in crime analysis, general investigation and counterterrorism. He was promoted to sergeant and continued to work in those units. After his promotion to lieutenant, he was made a tour commander and is responsible for the operations of the department during his assigned tours.



Thomas Mullen '86 is a sergeant with the New York Police Department. In addition, he has served in the military reserves where he had numerous deployments in support of OEF and OIF and New Dawn.

Thomas graduated from Iona Prep and attended Iona College for two years. After that, he enlisted in the Air Force and, upon completing his military obligation, came back to New York and became a police officer. "My father was my inspiration," says Thomas. "He is a retired NYPD chief who served 35 years."



Thomas was originally assigned to the 52nd Precinct in the Bronx, but after being promoted to sergeant, was transferred to the Midtown North Precinct. After September 11, 2001, he was called back to active duty and spent a year as a special agent assigned to interview detainees in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Returning to New York, he was assigned to both the 50th Precinct and Yankee Stadium detail for three years. In 2006, he was selected to the NYPD

Highway Patrol and is currently assigned to Highway 1 on the Bronx River Parkway.

Thomas is married and the father to a son, daughter and step-daughter. He lives in Riverdale and is commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #95 in the Bronx. When not at the VFW, he likes to work out or take long rides on his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Joseph Mulligan '89 has been a New York City police officer for fourteen years. He is assigned to the 52nd Precinct in the Bronx. Joseph's wife is also in law enforcement. She is with the Yonkers Police Department. They have two children and live in Cortlandt, NY.

Michael Delaney '90 was a detective with the New York Police Department Scuba Team when US Airways Flight 1549 crashed into the Hudson River. You can read about Michael's amazing response to the crash in the May 2009 edition of *The Annunciator*. (Archives of the newsletter can be found on the alumni page of the school's website.) Michael was transferred to the New York City Counterterrorism Division in April 2011, the same week that he got married.



Peter Mullen '93 worked for the Westchester County Police during the summers of 1999 and 2000. He was part of a summer program of patrols at county parks. Peter says that it "was a great introduction to policing and sealed the deal for me. In 2003, I entered the Yonkers Police Department and was assigned to the 4th Precinct, which covers a large part of the west side of Yonkers. It presented many

Continued on page 20

Bravest, Finest & EMTs (Continued from page 19)

challenges and opened my eyes up to a different world.” In January of 2009, Peter transferred to the 2nd Precinct, which covers the areas around Cross County and the Yonkers racetrack.

Peter graduated from Iona Prep, Westchester Community College and Mercy College, where he majored in criminal justice. He handles basic patrol functions for the Yonkers Police Department, responding to 911 calls and patrolling the streets.

Peter and his wife, Una, were married at Annunciation Church in 2009 and live in Colonial Heights. He loves riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, brewing his own beer and seeking out adventure. The couple have hiked the Teton Mountains, rode dune buggies on the Oregon coast, rafted the Snake River, and dove with Great White sharks off the coast of Mexico (where Peter proposed!). Peter recently rafted down the Grand Canyon with his father, Thomas Mullen (retired deputy chief NYPD), for his father's 60th birthday.

Kevin Duffy '95 received a BS in business from St. Michael's College in Winooski, VT. After graduation, he worked primarily as a bartender in New York City and the Hamptons. He also worked as a sales assistant at Crestwood Technology Group. It was then that he realized that a desk job wasn't for him, and he returned to work as a carpenter in and around the city with a private contractor, a job that he had apprenticed at on and off since college.

Kevin had friends who worked for the Yonkers Fire Department as well as the FDNY. They all agreed that it was a great job and something that they thought he would enjoy. Kevin took the test in the summer of 2008. Three years later, the city called him, and he will graduate from the Fire Academy on October 14th and be assigned to

one of the twelve firehouses in the city of Yonkers.

Kevin says, “The Academy can be described as the next best thing to a tight-knit college sports team. The camaraderie, teamwork and leadership roles are the closest things I will get to joining a pro sports team. I played ice hockey and was a captain of the lacrosse team at Fordham Prep and St. Michael's College, so I have been involved in sports and team activities my whole life.”



“The best thing about the YFD has been meeting all the great men and women who work for the department. It is a breath of fresh air to wake up and spend my day contributing to the community. Learning life safety and fire fighting techniques needed to help protect the city is prideful and rewarding. I have enjoyed gaining the knowledge I will need as a professional out in the field. I enjoyed construction and carpentry ever since I was young, so I do miss that, but the fire department has been a great transition in meshing a new career with an old passion. Being familiar with building construction, structural info and types of materials used, will be an asset to me in my new line of work.”

Christian McNamara '95 graduated from Fordham Prep and then went on to graduate from SUNY Plattsburgh. He took the New York City firefighter test while attending Plattsburgh. Christian says, “I had become friends with a couple of people who were currently firefighters, and they had told me how much they loved the job, and they knew it would be something I would love as well. I was also traveling the country as more or less a ski bum working in res-

taurants, and I realized that I needed something more stable. This seemed like a great opportunity. I was on my way out to California, moving to Lake Tahoe, when I was called to be in the next class. So I moved back home to the east coast and joined the March 2007 class.”

Christian has been working at the same firehouse since he graduated from the academy. He is assigned to Engine 22 on the upper east side of Manhattan on 85th Street between Lexington and 3rd avenues. Christian says his favorite thing about the job “by far has to be the camaraderie. It really is like having a second family. The guys in my house have become some of my good friends, and it makes the job so much fun.”

Chris Weigand '95 has been an officer with the NYPD for eight years. After graduation from Annunciation, he went to Iona Prep and then on to Westchester Community College where he studied criminal justice. He started at the Police Academy in January 2004.



Chris is currently working midnight patrol in the Union Square area. Before that, he had worked for approximately three years in a Special Operations Unit doing plainclothes (undercover) work inside the bars and clubs in the precinct.

Chris says the NYPD appealed to him because it offers a lot of training that other departments may not. He wanted to be a police officer because “in this work environment, you know you are out there making a difference.”

Christina Zenkewich '95 joined the Yonkers Police Department in 2007.

William & Margaret Finneran Scholarship

On June 15, 2011, Margaret A. Finneran, mother of Annunciation graduates Margaret Finneran Hark, William, Timothy, Terrence and Michael, passed away. She was the loving Nana to twelve grandchildren, three of whom also went to, or are current students, at Annunciation School. Margaret and her late husband, William, who died in 2001, had been long-time parishioners of Annunciation, having moved to the parish in 1970.

Prior to having a family, Margaret was a primary school teacher at St. Peter's and St. Denis schools in Yonkers, and in the Greenvale School in Eastchester. She was devoted to education and served on the board of Elizabeth Seton College in Yonkers for many years. It was because of this devotion to education and the love that she had for her cherished parish, that her children created the William and Margaret Finneran Scholarship and asked that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to this scholarship at Annunciation School.

It is the family's intention to offer two annual \$1,000 scholarships to a boy and a girl who graduate from Annunciation and who will attend a Catholic high school in New York State. The Finneran scholarship is the most recent addition to named scholarships that are awarded at Annunciation's 8th Grade graduation (see the June 2011 newsletter) and are in memory of beloved former parishioners. The Finneran children are in the process of determining the criteria that will be used to award the scholarship.

New Administration for School

Continued from page 3

ment as an assistant principal. She is looking forward to seeing a different side of the school in her administrative job, and is learning about all the things that go on outside of the classroom that allow a school to function. In addition, Mrs. McHale had previously worked with Mrs. Noonan at St. Ignatius Loyola. Says Mrs. McHale, "It was essential to me to know and trust the principal that I would be working with if I were going to begin a new venture

in administration. I had heard about Annunciation's great reputation in terms of family, community, and dedicated teachers. That was important to my decision to take this position."

In her spare time, Mrs. McHale likes to walk or ride her bicycle in Central Park. She and her husband like to try different restaurants and travel to different parts of the world. In the last two years, they have traveled to Ireland and Israel.

Deaths

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the following alumni:

James Kirkwood '61, brother of John '53, Kevin former member of '57, and Lois

William Kluz, former classmate of '65, brother of Walter '56, Virginia '58 and Robert '60

Jeanne Wasp Tedesco '74, sister of William '61, Robert '62, Ellen '66, Russell '66 and Ann '70

James Murphy '57, brother of Betty Ann '59, Brian former classmate '61, Rita Mary '67, Kathy '70, John former classmate '73, the late Kevin '65

Gregory Corey '61, brother of Jody '67 and Gina

Noel Fordrung '49, brother of Jean '50 and Claire

We also pray for the souls of the following family of alumni:

Margaret Finneran, mother of Margaret '75, William '77, Timothy '81, Terrence '86 and Michael '88

Eugene Johnson, father of Beth, Jean, Bill '67, Bob '73, Ann Marie '74, and John '75

Thomas Plummer III, father of Ariane '04, Amanda, and Tom

Joan Meagher, mother of Mary Jane '77, Christopher and Tom

Alexander Molloy, father of David '73, Andrew, Gregory, Lawrence and Catherine

Bernadette Kenney, daughter of Bernadette Hild Bleichert '57

Said Msgr. Dennis Keane, pastor of Annunciation, "When the position of principal and assistant principal became open this past year, I established a search committee of parents, educators and parishioners. They interviewed many candidates and recommended Mrs. Noonan and Ms. McHale. They are two outstanding Catholic educators, and I warmly welcome them to Annunciation School."

Milestones

Marriages

Deanna Lyn DiLullo '96 and Michael Jonathan Carillo were married on September 24, 2011, at Annunciation Church. Deanna works for Miller Advertising Agency as an account executive. Michael, who is from Whitestone, NY, works for Sovereign/Santander Bank as a vice president/relationship manager. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and are living in Bayside, NY. They enjoy traveling and plan on doing more in the future.

Scott Kittelstad '95 was married on October 9, 2011 to Christine DeSimone. Chris Weigand '95 was the Best Man, and Marie Kittelstad '98 was a bridesmaid. The couple is planning a honeymoon to Italy in Spring 2012 and will reside in Groveland, FL. Scott is a chief pilot for Characters in Flight Balloon Ride in Downtown Disney, and Christine is an administrator for the training department of CitationAir.

Births

Meagan O'Connell Frederick '87 and her husband, Warren, announce the birth of their son, Jackson Thomas, born February 28, 2011. The family lives up in the Catskill Mountains while they continue building their log home in the same area. Meagan works part-time in NYC for Incarnation Children's Center.

Jose Velasco '95 and his wife, Jessica, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Lucas Sebastian, on May 27, at Northern Westchester Hospital. Lucas weighed in at 5 pounds, 11 ounces. The family lives in Bedford Hills, NY. Lucas was baptized at Annunciation Church on September 25. His original christening date had to be changed due to the arrival of Hurricane Irene! Lucas' Godmother is **Angela Seda Porcelli '93**.

Marie Villani-York '93 and her husband, Patrick, announce the birth of their son, Finn Michael York. Finn was born on June 7, at 2:47 p.m., at Montefiore Medical Center. He weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces, and measured 20-1/2-inches long. This is the couple's second child. Finn joins his two-year-old brother, Patrick, who was eagerly anticipating his arrival. The family just recently moved back to Crestwood.

Marie resigned as editor of *The Riverdale Press*, a community newspaper in the Bronx, in February 2009. This June, she graduated from Lehman College with a master's degree in childhood education. Her husband is a police officer in Yonkers, serving in the Third Precinct.

Milestone Spotlight

The Finnerty and Doohan Wedding

Aileen B. Finnerty '00 was married to Brian P. Doohan on July 9, 2011, at Annunciation Church. Fr. Tom Basquel, C.S.Sp., a family friend and Mayo Society of New York 2011 Man of the Year, from Aughagower, Westport, County Mayo, Ireland, officiated.

Aileen is a graduate of Fordham University and Fairfield University. She has a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in School Psychology and a master's in school psychology. Brian, from East Durham, NY, earned his JD at Northeastern University in 2003. Maura Finnerty '04 was the maid of honor for her sister.

At the reception at the Tarrytown Doubletree, Rheingold beer was proudly served in memory of Aileen's Grandad and Brian's Poppie. The signature drink at the festivities was the 'Finner-Tea'. Many of Aileen's aunts, uncles and cousins made the trip from Counties Mayo and Galway to enjoy the wedding.

In lieu of favors, donations were made on the wedding guests' behalf to the American Cancer Society in loving memory of all the family and friends who have been affected by cancer.



Beth Mullery Clarke '96 and her husband, John, are happy to announce the birth of their twin sons, Ryan Albert and John Bernard. The boys made their debut on July 1st. All are doing well, and the delighted parents are loving each and every minute!

Engagements

Steven Quinn '97 became engaged to Carolyn Conlon on July 9th, 2011. They have dated since senior year in college. Steven is a Financial Advisor/Certified Financial Planner (CFP) with Wells Fargo Advisors, and Carolyn is an attorney recruiter for Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. Their wedding is planned for October 27th, 2012 at the Crane Estate in Ipswich, MA.

Kathryn Bauer '95 is engaged to photographer Gavin Thomas. She also has a new job at the advertising agency Wieden + Kennedy. The wedding is planned for June 2012.

Class Notes

1951

Marilyn Wigle Connors and her husband, Kevin, are currently retired from the U.S. Foreign Service, where they worked in various embassies abroad for eighteen years. They enjoyed their work and found living with and learning about the various cultures fascinating. While their lives were quite busy, it gave them the opportunity to study several languages, get cultural and area studies training, and remain up-to-speed on their jobs through various courses required by the State Department. Most enjoyable, however, were the opportunities they had to travel in and around the countries they lived in...sometimes to remote places the average visitor could not or would not get to see. Now in retirement, they continue to travel when they can.

1962—See Reunion News

Chris Grealy Brown Daly retired after 28 years from Grey Group as SVP/Director Corporate Communications. She started a new job at Towers Watson, returning to her first career love, writing. She is a senior editor/writer in

the marketing department. After commuting to Manhattan for 31 years, she is now driving 20 minutes to her office in White Plains. On July 12, Chris and her husband Ray Daly also celebrated the birth of their first granddaughter Maggie Dooley (daughter of Meghan Daly and Ed Dooley, married at Annunciation in October 2008). Maggie joins Colin and Owen (sons of Michael Brown '91) and Kieran (son of Brendan Daly '92) for the 4th grandchild for the family.

1966

Michael Byrne is happy to announce that his daughter, Shannon, had her second child on July 1. Beau William, Mike says, is a "beau"tiful baby!

1969

Joan Cahill Louney Wakeman's son, Christopher John, was married to Kayla Kelly on June 25, 2011, at Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Newton, MA. The couple's reception was held at the Omni Parker House in downtown Boston. Joan says, "It was a lovely and elegant wedding, and the entire Cahill family and close friends were present—just per-

fect. The sun came out for them just as they were entering the church at 5:00 p.m. – how wonderful was that?"

1975

David Monaco earned his Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from the University of Chicago on June 11th and on July 1, began a new position as Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, OH.

1982—See Reunion News

Andy O'Brien '82 and his wife, Katherine, welcomed Kevin Luke on May 18th. He joins twin siblings Dylan and Jordan.

2003

Julianne Lee graduated from Georgetown University in May and moved to Philadelphia, where she is working as a paralegal at Klasko, Rulon, Stock & Seltzer, an immigration law firm. She is missing New York, and says she will be back in two years!

Reunion News

The **Class of 1962** is planning its 50th Anniversary reunion. A committee has been formed, and they can be contacted for more information:

Janet O'Moore Speight—email thistlesnt@aol.com

Tina Hult Brown—email christoTM@aol.com

Chris Grealy Brown Daly—email brownchristine4@gmail.com

Joe McBrien—email jmcbesq@aol.com

Gordon Duffield—email gduff1967@verizon.net

A reunion is being planned for the **Classes ending in '2 and '7 (1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, and 1987)**. The reunion will be held on **April 28, 2012**. Please contact Mary Theresa McCombe at mtmc525@aol.com for more information. The majority of the reunion planning and communication will be done by email.

A joint reunion is being planned for all of the **Classes of the 90's (1990 - 1999)**. It will be held on **April 21, 2012**. Please make sure that your friends know about it, and ask them to contact Mary Theresa McCombe with their email so that they can be informed of the plans as they become available.

Memories of CYO Basketball by Carolyn Smith Stewart, former classmate '71

Annunciation School currently fields seven girls' basketball teams for girls in grades 3 through 8, with a total of 82 girls participating. Both the 6th and 8th Grade teams play in both the CYO and WGC AA. Below are the recollections of a player on the first Annunciation girls' team to join the CYO.



My Mom, Camille Smith, known to all the parents as “Millie” helped coach basketball and softball in Hillcrest Lakers. When Millie heard about the CYO, she thought it would be nice if the Annunciation girls could play as a team in that league. When I was in 7th grade, she obtained permission.

The team budget was probably pretty modest—basketballs, uniforms, game day oranges and water, and the fee to pay the referee. Our uniforms were blue, consisting of a button dress-style outer garment over some shorts. We helped set up the gym for home games, setting out folding chairs at the stage end of the court for spectators.

At most we might have had a team practice after school once a week and one game a week. Many of the girls spent extra time practicing on their own. It was primarily “self organized” practice of basketball skills.

I think I ended up playing guard because, while I could jump pretty well, I was shorter than many of the other girls and just wasn't going to be as good at blocking the other teams' shots around the net or having the height to catch the high passes close to the net to score.

I remember that whenever an opposing team decided to double up on one of our players, our other girls would pass and shoot like they were pros, making the other team question their strategy. It really was a wonderful team with everyone learning more about the game, teamwork, and themselves. I remember Barbara “Bobbi” Madori always having a great sense of humor and showing up with the joke of the day — which took away any pre-

game tension.

I remember Sheryl Weireter not wanting to take shots when we first started. She would often be in on the assist but gave the ball to every else to take shots. So, with her hands of gold, she would deflect shots or steal the ball from the other team and pass it to the open player that her hawk eyes always saw. Sheryl said that she didn't think she was as good a shot as others, so passing the ball was what she thought was best for the team. As we practiced in the backyard, Bobbi and I gave Sheryl a bit of a ribbing for not shooting more than a couple of times during games.

So, one time when Sheryl stole the ball, and she looked like she was going to try to pass, Bobbi and I yelled at her to run and shoot. Bobbi actually crossed her arms, making it pretty clear that she wasn't taking a pass. In my mind, I can still see Sheryl as she ran down the court dribbling while looking over her shoulder the whole time, ignoring opposing team elbows and shoves, and making a fabulous looking layup for two points. Sheryl was always a team player, but after that day, she took a few more shots and scored points.

There were some days where nothing I tried could make that ball go through the hoop, but that's the beauty of a team sport — the other girls scored all the points we needed. If one of us was in a dry spell, we could play defense and get the ball to whomever was having an “on” day. There were a few teams that were a bit more physical than we were — we were all a little surprised at first about some of the contact around the

net. Sometimes fouls were called and sometimes they weren't. Everyone can probably remember Coach Millie telling us to practice foul shots since those points could really add up during a game. The net always seemed further away and smaller for foul shots during a game though.

I remember that we laughed a lot and never took ourselves too seriously. Because we had uniforms, the only thing we checked out about each other's clothes before a game was what kind of socks someone might be wearing. There were some occasional stripes and fancy socks! As friends, we talked about sports, TV shows, the boys in our class, Easter clothes and what we wanted to do when we grew up.

When I look back, I think we played basketball because we could be with friends, and we had a good time. Social time also continued after games when one of the parents might treat us to ice cream. Of course none of us wanted to be embarrassed in front of our male classmate spectators, but once the whistle blew, what I remember is every girl being a great teammate.

We played against teams that scored more than we did. I don't ever remember playing against a team that had more fun than we did. And after every game, everyone shook hands with everyone else and congratulated them for playing and being good sportswomen.

I remember my Mom thinking so highly of all the girls and enjoying the opportunity to coach. If a referee ever got on any team member's case during a game, Coach Millie responded as if every team member was her own daughter. She knew how to politely have a discussion with the referee, especially at half time while the rest of us were catching our breath and having some laughs. My Mom always remembered those times as very happy ones and so do I.