

Before us lies the timber, let us build . . .

TIMBERS



St. Gregory the Great High School

February 2008

WALL OF FAME 2008: A Drive to Contribute to the Quality of Life!

The Wall of Fame seeks to recognize alumni good works on behalf of your alma mater and within your own communities. They serve as examples of SGHS values at work. Through golf, John Stark '71 opened a door to your increasing participation and our greater awareness. We've learned that golf can support a range of significant causes. Events run by Ken Lydecker '67 and Jerry Rhea '73 meet special needs and provide meaningful support to families moving through a time of challenge. We applaud such leadership and service!

Come join us on Saturday, April 5 when we bring the Wall of Fame back to St. Gregory. The ceremony begins in church at 6:00 PM then we move to the school building for wining, dining, dancing/music (Dan Luna '85 and Dri-Ice Productions) mingling, auction and raffle.

Sponsorship opportunities, ad/program book and ticket info are included on the insert.

WALL OF FAME PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Anne Clarke Calascibetta '76
Frank Glionna '71
Jane Ignoffo '65
Cathy Granberg Janus '65
Linda Reed Jarmoc '67
Chris Laughlin '71
Ginny Teister Morton '73
Jerry Ritt '59
Nancy Fraser Schaul '76
Alice Giese Simon
Sue Partlow Stark '65
Jacquie Fraser Toigo '74
Judy Becker Ward '65

John Stark '71 called the Alumni Office five years ago volunteering to organize a golf benefit in support of students in need of financial assistance. Who could have predicted not only the popularity of the game but the doors it would open to increased alumni involvement? John knew his way around a golf course and how to sell just about anything! He had remained involved with many schoolmates from the old neighborhood. Alumni directory in hand, he began a circle of outreach that crossed generations. Coming from a family of alums and as a star athlete, John had the recognition to make calls even to folks he hadn't seen in years. Before we knew it - the ball was rolling!



To a St. Gregory Elementary student in the 60's, becoming a Greyhound was a very big deal. **Jerry Ritt '59** and **Mike Manning '61** returned to coach grade school teams - theirs was the proving ground for future athletes. John was an 8th grader during the '67 championship season. The experience of such excitement and acclaim was a powerful incentive to step up and reach for his personal best. Coach's rules of play had far broader application than simply the game of basketball. Coach taught life lessons encompassing fairness, self-esteem, teamwork, respect, leadership, focus, trust, responsibility and determination. Over and over alumni share stories that illustrate this truth and how those lessons have come to bear in their lives far beyond graduation. It's no surprise then that John returned to his alma mater and worked with such commitment to establish the golf outing that now carries his name.

Ken Lydecker '67 was named "Athlete of the Year" in 1967 after scoring the league record of 66 points in one game! Ken was formidable on the court and a hero to 8th graders impatiently waiting their turn. He returned to SGHS after re-connecting at the golf outing then stepped up to volunteer for the Wall of Fame. He is also our newest Board member.

John's death stunned the broad family of SGHS. The impulse to continue the two-year old benefit in John's memory was strong but without a golfer at the helm it easily could have disappeared. Without hesitation, two leaders volunteered to take over as co-chairs: Ken Lydecker '67 and Mike Pope '61. They became, along with Mike McNulty (John's coaching buddy from Arlington Heights) and Joe Stark '59, the power behind the success of Socha/Stark Golf.

Ken is also the force behind his own golf benefit. **To the Troops with Love** began in 2005 as an effort to ease the loneliness and isolation of troops fighting in Iraq. Proceeds are used to create care packages that include DVD players, iPods, CD's, games, phone cards etc. To date \$80,000 in care packages has been sent to individual soldiers on the front lines. Ken recognized an area of unfilled need and, doing something he loved, stepped up to make a difference.



Jerry Rhea '73: The anguish of losing a child to cancer is nearly unspeakable. It is often out of the darkest experience however that one somehow finds the courage to go on and work with dedication towards effecting change. Jerry and wife Karen lost their fourteen year old daughter Kailyn to a rare pediatric cancer. Catalyzed by Kailyn's struggle Jerry was determined to make a difference. Two years ago he began his own golf benefit in support of the pediatric cancer foundation, **Bear Necessities**. The two events raised \$30,000. The outpouring of response brought 144 golfers to play and later to the Rhea home where Jerry and Karen hosted post-game barbecues in their own back yard!



Jerry returned to SGHS after college to help Bernie during the 79/80 season. He's stayed in touch with 70's alums and has played the Socha/Stark event since the start. He shares that, *"ironically we had one golf tournament a year at SGHS and I recall John being a captain of that team. 35 years later golf brings us all back together again."*

Alumni Updates



CLASS OF 1945

Reunions in the Making

CLASS OF 1958

The class is planning its 50th reunion for September 27, 2008 at the Fairway Banquets in Niles, IL. For more information please contact John and Mary Beth (Teister) Nilson at 773/334-0532 or SGHS1958reunion@comcast.net

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the following lost '58 classmates, please contact the Nilsons: **Shirley Springer, Rosemarie Micklinghoff, Charlotte Schmetzko, Walter Geary, Richard Gillis, Patricia Formeller, Thomas Wieland.**

CLASS OF 1968

Please e-mail **Jeanette Giese Schneider** if you are interested in planning and/or having a 40th reunion at schneidersoxfans@comcast.net.

CLASSES OF 1975 & 1976

If you would like to join the committee to plan a combined Classes of '75 and '76 reunion, contact **Anne Clarke Calascibetta '76** at annemcalas@aol.com

CLASS OF 1983

If you would like to join the planning committee, contact **Steve Jensen** at steveo@frontlineservices.info

CLASS OF 1988

Interested persons contact **Sean Quigley** at metalrag@yahoo.com



CLASS OF 1957



CLASS OF 1967

Seated (L to R): Maureen Connelly, Jillina Arrigo Pope, Cheryl Granberg Mattison, Linda Reed Jarmoc, Joan Markwell Lawler, Linda Hedgren Peterson, Valerie Beauflis Salas, Monica Joyce, Mary Kay Schwerthoffer Teister Middle: Mary Pat Tracy Milewski, Kris Green Arnold, Marge Cusack Minogue, Wendy Keiner Siniscalchi, Kathy Green Chevalier, Janet Caufield Bennett, Gloria Nowakowski Szymanski, Joan Marsh Zylstra, Joe Osten, Martha Ried Petramala, Bonnie Piotrowski Rost, Antoinette Bedoe, Mary Dombrowski Salvatore, Patrick Clarke Back: Sue Gallagher Miner, Tony Muscarello, Karen Juszczyk, Mike Costa, Roberta McComb Walsh, Catherine Dabrowski Bozic, Marcia Becker King, Larry King, Gail Karp, Ed Staub, Joanne Udelhofen Helzer, Bob Brieske, Ken Lydecker, Juan Montenegro, Bill Pierce, Bob Cherek

CLASS OF 1943

Mary Helen Michiels Ladner is still "out and about;" she and her husband winter in Ft. Myers, FL. Her sister **Pat Michiels Paulik '41** lives in St. Paul, MN.

Harold Stanton recently welcomed his 40th grandchild.

CLASS OF 1944

John Barry and **Patricia Moelich Lyman '46** live near each other in Florida and go on cruises during the year.

CLASS OF 1945

from **John Ganser**: "I enjoyed reading Alumni Updates Class of '67. After 40 years **Larry**

King and **Marcia Becker** finally got together. How wonderful. How lucky they are to have found that lovin' feeling that they had when they were 18. The Class of '45 has a reunion every two years; our last one was in October."

Frances Knaus Jungblut and **Joseph Jungblut** celebrated their 61st anniversary in October.

CLASS OF 1946

Vera Angelini Muldoon added a great grandson to her 21 grandchildren!

from **John Wilson**: "Only eleven classmates on the Annual Donor Report '06 and no 1946 60-year reunion. Everybody's about 79 or 80 years old. Is that the reason?"

CLASS OF 1949

In September, **Joseph Berg** and his wife traveled to Germany to the birthplace of Therese Neumann. Joseph had visited with her in 1953 while on furlough from the Army. "She was a mystic and a stigmatic and I was very blessed to have the experience of visiting with her, a *future saint*, for a five-minute conversation. She showed me the wounds in her hands and being in her presence was an outstanding moment in my life," says Joseph.

"Whether it's a luncheon with friends, a funeral Mass or a neighborhood festival, it's always great to see friends from St. Greg's," writes **Mary Garrity**.

CLASS OF 1950

Ray Thomas is the proud dad of USAF Colonel James P. Thomas.



CLASS OF 1954

Mary Sue Buzzek Hognlund sends greetings to her classmates and is hoping for a 55th reunion in '09.

Carol Graf Natke is busy with three children, four grandchildren, bowling and bridge. She joined her church choir on a pilgrimage to France where they sang at Notre Dame Cathedral.

CLASS OF 1956

"I still remember what a wonderful time I had at our 50th reunion. I see many of my-classmates on a regular basis, but it was nice to

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catch up and see so many of our other friends who I hadn't seen in a long time. Greetings to all of you," writes **Julie Riordan Tabbert '56**.



Classmates **Barbara Marr Picone, Estelle Matheson Kiefel, Carolyn Poweres, Nancy Kauss Bolton** and **Hope Phillips** had a "wonderful" reunion in Colorado in November.

CLASS OF 1959

Sandra Tonoli Glunz retired in June, '07 after 28 years at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Besides enjoying time with family and friends, activities include Arlington Race Track, roller skating and a 10-week course at the Citizens Police Academy.

CLASS OF 1961

"I look forward to any and all get-togethers, especially our 50th reunion," writes **J. Blair Raftree**.

CLASS OF 1964

from **Edward Kasch**: "Linda Lyons where are you after 40 years?"

CLASS OF 1970

Mary Boyd Swistara and her husband Jim have been in Arizona since 1996. On her past two visits to Chicago she has gotten together with "high school buddy" **Irene Stefk Bushell '70**.

CLASS OF 1988

Ron Ashlaw is boys' varsity basketball coach and history teacher at Waukegan High School.

Sherese Francis McDaniel owns the Sherese McDaniel Education Center in Evanston which offers tutoring and test prep services.

CLASS OF 2000

Trisha Lavery, graduated in May from Beacon College in Leesburg, FL with a degree in human services. She worked for Disney World while attending classes and now sets her sights on continuing towards her teaching certificate to work with students with learning disabilities. In 2009 Trisha is looking forward to organizing the 10th reunion for the class of 2000. Just returned to Chicago, she wants to re-connect with classmates; contact her at sunflower913@msn.com



CLASS OF 2003

Edward Towns is enrolled in a trade school and manages a Sprint store.

CLASS OF 2004

Shamel Samos received her certification as a nursing assistant and would like to return to college to complete a nursing degree.

CJ Schultz left SGHS in '46 after junior year and joined the Marines. On St. Pat's Day '47, he landed in Shanghai. On shore leave he entered a wharf bar for a beer.



Shortly there was a rustle of the beaded curtain separating the owner's quarters from the tavern. A Chinese toddler with striking blue eyes emerged running from his older sister. That little China doll had flaming red hair and the same blue eyes. The bartender called the owner up front to talk with this curious American GI. Over a few beers CJ learned that he had been in China since 1941 when he jumped ship from a Merchant Marine vessel. CJ listened in growing amazement. The tavern owner was a native Chicagoan who had grown up on Gregory St. and attended St. Greg's Grade School before running away from home and joining the service at 14!

CJ stopped into St. Gregory in September to share his memories of the good times. He enjoys Timbers and alum news.

ALUMNI . . . IN MEMORIAM

Anita Smith Szymczak '48 (May, 2007)

Marcella Gengler Van Dermeir '52 (August, 2007)

Andrea "Snookie" Beaufils Heslin, '58, (December, 2007)

Alice Patricia Meehan Walsh '62

Michael F. Maloney '64 (January 2008) brother of **Joseph Maloney '54, Sheila Maloney Clemens '55, Beatrice Maloney Duffy '59, Margaret Maloney Walsh '59, Maureen and Maloney, Man-nion '62**

Bonita Burnham '69 (April, 2007) sister of **William Burnham '67**

Donald McGuigan '68 (suddenly, June, 2007)

Gloria Notaro Knuth '69 (November, 2007)

Kathleen Huberts Castaneda '70 (September, 2007)

Jim McCormick '74, (December, 2007), brother of **Kathi McCormick Slattery '70, Jeanne McCormick-Bates '72, Nancy McCormick Buchanan '73, Tim McCormick '75**

Mark Chase '78

FAMILY OF ALUMNI

Gene Mazure, husband of **Carol Schiffmann Mazure** (April, 2007)

Gloria Notaro Knuth '69 died in November after a brave battle with diabetes. In tribute to a life well lived we asked her cousin, **Carol Ingrassia '69,** to share some thoughts: "Gloria not only graduated in 1969, she was Alumni Coordinator from '82 to '94. She was easy to remember with an outgoing personality and face full of freckles. Her greatest strength though wasn't that she was easy to remember but that she remembered you! I envied her openness.



After graduation, Gloria worked at Continental Bank and Superior Coffee but was thrilled when after some volunteering, Sr. Mary Cornille hired her. It felt like old home week when Mr. Bearden became Principal; Gloria had been in his first homeroom in 1965. Gloria's daughter Jennifer graduated SGHS in '93. Husband Al assisted with girls' basketball; even Gloria's Mom, Agnes was a volunteer. Gloria loved working with alums! She so enjoyed reunions and alumni stories. She took photos for the newsletter - she was the '69 yearbook photographer after all!

After leaving Greg's, Gloria joined the Development Office at Swedish Covenant where she worked for ten years. She resigned in '06 due to poor health. In September she was rushed to Swedish with severe complications from the diabetes that had plagued her most of her adult life. She died on November 26. The time in between was filled with daily updates, prayers, hopes, unanswered questions, anger and tears. It was also filled with good memories; so many of them from SGHS. We miss her!"

Submitted by **Carol Ingrassia '69**

Josephine Spensley Ficcardi '41 is alive and well! Apologies to her (and her family); she was listed as deceased in the June, '07 *Timbers*. Josephine's sister **Helen Spensley Rzadzki '42** died in May, 2007.

SO LONG, BORNHOFEN'S, GOODBYE AUGIE'S

from a story by Sue Ontiveros in the *Chicago Sun-Times* in September: "I behaved badly when **Frank Bornhofen ('54)** told me he sold his namesake butcher shop in Edgewater . . . In a city that yearns for whatever soulless chain it can lure here, there are still folks who realize they've discovered a shopping gem when they run into a place like Bornhofen's . . . If eating their sausage took a few years off my life, well, shave 'em off. Thus began my addiction of Bornhofen's . . ." Bornhofen's Meat Market on Broadway closed in September. Congratulations, Frank!

After 53 years, Augie's Restaurant on Clark closed its doors in August. The loss of a neighborhood favorite was summed up by **Marylyn Ahfeld '49**: "It's going to be hard to find another place that can compare. I loved Augie's hot turkey sandwiches, and the baked potatoes were out of this world."

PLEASE REMEMBER SGHS
IN YOUR WILL.

Coming Events

SAVE THE DATE!

●**PHONATHON:** February 25 to February 28.
(5:30 - 9:00 PM)

See us on your Caller-ID? Pick up the phone! This is your chance to talk with a student, teacher or alumni volunteer. It's our way of making a gentle reminder for support and, of course, always to say "Thank You!"

●**WALL OF FAME:** Saturday, April 5. See story and details in this issue of Timbers or go to www.TimbersOnline.org

●**INTERGENERATIONAL GRADUATION** 1958 and 1983: Reception in school, Thursday, June 5, 6:30 PM. Graduation Friday, June 6 in St. Gregory the Great Church. This is a chance to wear a gown of gold or silver in celebration of your 25 or 50 years and to lead the Class of 2008 into its commencement ceremony! Welcome Home!

●**SOCHA/STARK GOLF OUTING:** Saturday, September 29 at the Bloomingdale Golf Club. 9 AM Shotgun Start. See: www.TimbersOnline.org for a photo gallery of last year's event.

A New Saint for St. Gregory High School? *

Jerry and Gwen Billings Coniker, Class of 1957, lived a life of extraordinary ministry. They founded the Apostolate for Family Consecration in Ohio that includes Catholic Familyland, a 950 acre conference/ retreat center for family recreation and Eucharistic devotion. Their ministry also created the Familyland TV Network and teaching centers in Mexico, Europe, Russia, Nigeria and the Philippines. In 1999 Pope John Paul appointed the Conikers to his "Pontifical Council for the Family" of only 20 couples who advise Vatican officials. Before moving to Ohio, the Coniker family lived in Fatima for two years in prayerful reflection as preparation for their work. They were parents of 12 children.



Jerry and Gwen Coniker with 13th baby, Mary

Gwen Coniker died in June 2002. After the specified five year waiting period an investigation began in September '07 into whether Gwen exhibited the "heroic virtue" the church requires of a saint. For six months witnesses will be interviewed and everything ever written by or about her will be examined. She will then become known as "Servant of God Gwen Coniker." Reports will then be sent to Rome for scrutiny by theologians and ultimately, the Pope who will decide if she was holy enough to proceed. If so, those promoting her cause will seek evidence of a medical miracle. If authenticated by the Vatican, she will be beatified. One more miracle would be required for sainthood.

"There's nothing wrong with a man believing that his wife is a saint and seeking recognition for that," said Rev. James Martin, a NY Jesuit and author of My Life with the Saints. "Mrs. Coniker would fill a gaping need for a saint with a healthy marriage. Rome is seeking such saints. In the not too distant past theology was such that a priest, brother or sister was seen as holier than a lay person. Most married saints either became celibate in later life or were virtuous despite a bad marriage. One married couple, canonized in 2001, lived for 26 years as brother and sister which shows the church's past problem with sexuality. I think it's great that the church is looking for people like this."

Anyone with information related to Gwen's cause can contact gwenconikercause@familyland.org or 800-77-FAMILY *Story excerpted from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.



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