

Greetings again, Class of 1963. So many of us are still going strong, dealing with aging but determined to live the blessed life we have. Sadly, in 2025 we lost three beloved classmates, **Rosemary Lawler Wong, Kathleen “Kathy” Crone Koepele and Mary Gail Stillwill.** We remember them with gratitude for how they touched our lives.

**Deirdre McBride Radanovic** writes that her granddaughters and grandson are busy athletes and she attends many games. Her daughter survived a serious back surgery but is doing better. Deirdre and her husband renovated and rebuilt an old beach house, an exhausting job but one they fully enjoy now. In good health, she still enjoys family, parish, friends and neighbors.

**Margaret “Peggy”) Buber Mellon** says that she and Pat are adjusting to our age-related disabilities. They have traveled extensively over the years. Now, they pet sit for their five children and spouses. They visited Mother Theodore’s shrine when in Terre Haute for their niece’s wedding last March. Since Pat was taught by Sisters of Providence for 12 years, they both were touched by the history.

**Kathleen “Boo” Finneran Valle** writes that she is doing well, all things considered. She’s had a few set-backs with her generalized myasthenia gravis and cancer, but “this old cowgirl just keeps climbing back on the horse and continuing.” In November, she attended the wedding of her son Tony to his beloved Loida, a wonderful Filipina. Her biggest goal is to make small quilts for her three sons.

**Michlene “Mickey” Barraco McCormick** writes life is quieter as we age, believing that is a good thing. She stays active with a book club, playing in two bridge groups and enjoying her grandchildren who amuse, tolerate, and include her in their exploits. She loves seeing them mature, amazing them with stories about life in "the olden days" before Womens' Lib.

**Colleen Ward Mayes** writes that she and her husband, Ed, spend cold winter months in Naples, FL and the remainder of the year in Indiana. They still golf and travel. She sees **Nano Choghessy Dubish** in Naples and **Joan Costanza Meister** at DePaul University where Colleen is a DePaul School of Music Board Member.

☒ **Mary Eppig Kelling** says that they were in Sarasota until the end of February and enjoyed a visit with her granddaughter and boyfriend, then her son Jim and his wife came also to celebrate his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mary is feeling well except for arthritis.

**Linda Hahus** writes that in September she drove with several to The Woods for the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her entrance into the Sisters of Providence. Twenty attended, eight Sisters of Providence and 12 former members, including **Kathleen Desautels, SP'60,** and **Mary Moloney, SP '61, '06ELM.** After ten years, Linda was amazed to see all the changes--a football team practicing and young men running track on the pathways.

**Elaine Reis** writes that she enjoys volunteer ushering at arts events, and has season's tickets to some. She also appreciates Milwaukee's very good symphony orchestra. Her older sister died in July at 91 so with no other family, she is grateful for friends.

**Lydia Treadwell Blecksmith** says that her husband Jim has made some significant health strides in the last year. Other than caring for Jim, she looked forward to visits from her daughters over the President's Day Weekend which has become an annual event. She added that her sister, **Louise Treadwell Conlon**, is doing well.

**Isabel Vallecillo Del Valle** writes she had a stroke in Puerto Rico several years ago but has recovered about 75%. She moved to Palm Harbor, Florida. and reunited with Bill Barrett whom she dated at the Woods. Together now for 23 years, she says age has not stopped them from enjoying many cruises. They took all of their grandchildren to the Caribbean in July.

**Theresa Rosner White** writes that she recently turned 85 and is doing well. In the fall she organized a successful family reunion in Indianapolis with her sister and 14 nieces and nephews. It promises to be an annual event. She traveled to Michigan to visit her son and to Colorado to visit her daughter.

**Mary Campbells** says her sister Debbi and her two cats moved from New York City, N.Y., to live with her recently. Their sister, **Margot Campbell '67**, lives a couple miles from them in Arlington, Virginia. They spend time together, especially at a Memory Cafe every week for people with memory issues (her sisters) and caregivers. They visited their Houston family in January, including grandkids now 10, 14, 18 and 20. She has had phone calls with **Janet Greene Anderson**, "always wonderful."

**Mary Ellen Schneider Backer** writes that she is still playing duplicate bridge twice a week, traveling some, Mexico in January, Rhine River cruise in June with family. She has a new companion who lost his wife two years ago. They play a lot of cards and eat with his granddaughter's family quite often. Her family is doing well.

**Kathleen "Kathy" Kearney De Vito** adds that she had hip surgery, enjoyed watching the Olympics, three of her grandchildren attended the Olympics, and she worries about our country. She has two great grandchildren, girls. Kathy wishes to thank everyone who reached out when she lost her son Chris.

**Elise Schirmer George** says she still plays duplicate bridge, enjoys her church ladies group, lunch with friends and family. This year she celebrated two big events. Her grandson RJ became a CPA and his brother David received his MBA and is employed at The Society for Academic Emergency Medicine. She looks forward to springtime and her garden.

**Margot Rudge Sullivan** writes life is good. She is glad to have her family nearby and gets to see her five grandkids in all their sports. She keeps busy with several book groups, coffee, visiting with friends, and volunteering at church. She loves hearing about all of our classmates, and the wonderful memories of our time at the Woods.

**Mary Jo Carney Johnson** is doing fairly well but is driving- restricted due to a fainting spell, (syncopy) at a family gathering in October. She is still active in Grosse Pointe League of Women Voters and enjoyed her grandson Braxton's high school graduation in May. Reading is another joy. She belongs to a non-fiction book club and lately they have read books related to understanding AI.

**Janet "Jan" Gapen Dean** writes her family lives in Florida. Three grandsons are in college. After 25 years, she still does the administrative work for her church food pantry. She participates in a monthly Zoom meeting with a group of grade school classmates, one of whom is **Dr. Patricia Hughes Hartlage** which has been fun. Jan feels blessed but continues to pray for so many our age with serious health issues and the loss of loved ones.

**Patricia Hughes Hartlage, MD** is staying busy in retirement in Georgia and South Carolina with volunteer jobs at church, with people in hospice and at a local mission thrift shop. She enjoys her two grandchildren approaching adulthood. She notes the Zoom group with **Janice Gapen Dean** is planning a train trip adventure together. She loves to see The Woods evolving. **Judith "Judy" Scoggin McManmom** says every day is a gift at our ages! She and her husband have been in their home in Chesterfield, Missouri or 49 years! She is doing well and continues to stay active with water aerobics five times a week and volunteering with Assistance League. Her family is doing well.

**Katherine "Katy" Gibson** said that she is blessed in her private life--healthy and active and closely connected to family and friends. January started very sadly, with the heart failure and death of her 49-year-old nephew Payton, son of her sister **Ann Gibson '69**. Happier events included an enthusiastic response to a joint memoir that she and husband Walt published, and the thrill of watching her granddaughter Molly star in the 8th grade musical.

**Patricia "Pat" Langley Bray** said her granddaughters Cora and Martha came to Michigan from Denmark for the month. She had a full knee replacement in October that prevented her from returning to Arizona until January. She's back playing golf a couple days a week.

**Kathleen "Kathy" Ennis Patinkin** notes she is happy to say that her health has improved, and she had a busy year. She and husband spend time taking art classes and attending lectures and musical performances. They also explore new restaurants with family and friends. Her favorite hobby is chatting with **Nano Cloghessey Dubish** on the phone and visiting with **Joan Costanza Meister** who lives a block away from her.

**Anne "Dee" O'Donnell** writes that some Chicago area classmates get together occasionally for brunch: **Barbara Clemento Savino, Colleen Myers Carey, MD '80, Elise Schirmer George, Joan Costanza Meister, Mary Eppig Kelling** and **Patricia Clancy**.

In December, when **Anne Lenhard Benington** visited her area family, they also met. They always look for other area classmates to join them. She especially enjoys summers at their lake house in Michigan, volunteers at the parish, gets involved in local protests, does

yoga and tai chi. She reads more thanks to great book recommendations from **Suzanne “Suzie” Weiers McKay**.

**Rosemary Krider Schmid** says that much to her delight, she is tutoring a family from Sao Paulo, Brazil. In May, she, her offspring, their spouses, flew to Rennes, France to celebrate with husband Joe's sister, Bette Ann (Soeur Cyrille), a Little Sister of the Poor.

**Nano Cloghessey Dubish** notes that she took a wonderful trip to Switzerland and Germany, seeing gorgeous country and ending with Oktoberfest in Munich. She is still having fun tutoring her precious students at the local elementary school and is still ushering at Butler University Clowes Hall Theatre and enjoying the shows. Her sister Mary, last of six siblings, passed away in January 2025.

**Margaret “Margie” McElroy** says with her advancing age, she is extremely blessed to be in good health and able to enjoy most of life's better offerings. She had a conversation with **Mary Alice Dwyer Carroll** who is having dental issues but doing well otherwise. She continues to look forward to her son's visits and is grateful for the many things he does for her. Before I close, I must thank Margie for the amazing work she does for us as Class Agent, a tireless job.

**Sarah “Ginger” Joeris Alcorn** is living in Williamsburg, Virginia where she moved into a continuing care community after selling her home of 30 years. Her husband passed away in 2018. She has seven wonderful grandchildren ranging from 11 to 26 years old. Sadly, her oldest was killed in a work-related incident as an engineer. Recently, she traveled on the Queen Mary with her daughter and stayed in St. Ives and London, a wonderful time with the family.

**Finally, I (Anne Lenhard Benington)** am doing well. Over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, our entire family celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the lake, a joy. We spent six weeks in Florida during the cold. Our granddaughter Rebekah in May graduated from high school in Napa, ready for college, twelve-year-old Rachel is keeping her mom busy driving to club volleyball, and 15-month-old great-granddaughter, Penelope, keeps her parents on their toes. Many notes wished our classmates well and expressed gratitude for our Woods' friendships.

