PHS pirit FALL 2022



Once a Spirit, always a Spirit! **PARACLETE** ATHLETIC COMPLEX **COMING SOON**

A PUBLICATION FORTHE COMMUNITY OF PARACLETE HIGH SCHOOL

The Catholic High School of the Antelope Valley

PHS pirit

PHSpirit is published biannually by the Advancement Office at Paraclete High School for alumni and friends.

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The Paraclete Athletic Complex – coming soon!



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Meet the Class of 2022

WELCOME TO SENIOR WORLD!

Why a Catholic school education? Catholic schools understand the multi-faceted nature of child development and are heavily invested in the well-being of their students. They seek to educate the whole student physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. A Catholic education is an advantage for life!

With words of advice...

- "Just. Be. Confident." Luke Cramer
- "Learn how to cook. PLEASE FOR THE LOVE OF GOD!" Madison Swaby
- "Remember how you got to where you are. Always be kind and humble." Ashlee Barnes
- "Be happy." Julianna Ordaz
- "Whatever I end up doing, I should be passionate about it." Nomar Vazquez

I am most grateful for...

- "The relationships I've had the opportunity to build at Paraclete. I've learned so much about the importance of community and I've been shown so much kindness. I'm just excited to see where the future takes us as a class." **Yitzel Serna**
- "Ice cream and good people." Caiden Lara
- "Not only my friends, who made my four-year experience memorable, but my parents who worked so hard to make sure I could attend this beautiful school."

Marco Ramos

- "My own personal growth and God's guidance." Eden Lopez
- "My parents finding Paraclete and putting me there my junior year." Naya Jackson







Bishop Sylvester Ryan Celebration

Bishop Sylvester Ryan, Paraclete principal from 1968 to 1971, celebrated his 65th anniversary of becoming a priest in a joyous event held in Monterey, California. Bishop Ryan most recently retired as the Bishop of the Diocese of Monterey in 2006, and previously served as an Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles. Blessings to Bishop Ryan from his Paraclete Family!



Athletic Director Margaret Neill Retires

After 43 years as a teacher, coach, and athletic director, Margaret Neill retired, but has kept her coaching foot in the door (tradition never graduates!).

We asked Margaret for a few words about her career and retirement.

"I have had 43 tremendous years at Paraclete. I met a lot of great people along the way. The kids I taught and coached made my job a lot easier.

"When I took over the AD [athletic director - 1984] job, I think I got more backlash for being so young than I did because I was a woman. I really can only think of one person that was sexist and he was a principal at a school in our league. He lost his job because he was that way at his own school!! I can only think of one other woman at the time I started as AD that was also an AD. My how things have changed!

"I think the best thing that has come about because of my job would be all the friendships I made over the years - fellow ADs, teachers, coaches, parents, and certainly the athletes.

"Paraclete has been a HUGE part of my life. It started when I attended Paraclete. Then I coached there the three years I was in junior college. I took a three-year break to finish my education and started teaching the fall I graduated from CSUN. Certainly, I will miss it. Not right away though because I will continue to coach softball and I've already been asked to sub next year! I can't quit cold turkey after 50 years!

"Thank you to all the people that have made my time at Paraclete special and a special thanks to all of you that celebrated my retirement party with me. It was a great time."



Margaret with her former players



The Johnson Family gave Margaret a t-shirt quilt

ALUMNI RETREAT

A Successful First Alumni Retreat

BY CAROLYN WINCHELL '20

On August 1st, Paraclete High School's alumni retreat kicked off at St. Elizabeth Mission, a special place in the hearts of many Paraclete alumni as it is where the Veritas Retreat is held. The retreat was put together and led by 2020 alumnus Noel Serrato who thought up the idea when he noticed a desire for something to do that would be a way to connect with his faith and his Paraclete family. With the help of Father G. and Norma Garcia, he was able to make this idea a reality. Students from the classes of 2016 to 2021 were invited to partake in this special overnight retreat that was specifically designed for young adults who are experiencing the trials and triumphs of entering the adult world.

The retreat was chock full of fun, faith building activities from prayers services and games to one of Father G.'s famous hikes. The sense of family that so many students found while attending Paraclete High School was present throughout every part of the retreat, allowing alumni to return to the loving arms of their Paraclete family after years of that being at a distance. Alumni from almost every class that was invited participated in this retreat resulting in a major success for the first of what many attendees hope to become an annual retreat.

This amazing retreat was a vessel for alumni to reconnect with their classmates, their faith, and themselves, something which can be very difficult for many young adults. This event was an amazing example of what makes Paraclete High School different from so many other high schools. Paraclete gave students a family and a home; this retreat was an invitation home and a reminder that after graduation that family remains.



Alumni Profile ~ Mr. & Mrs. Keever

Martin (Marty) Keever, Class of 1984 Patricia Nicole (Nikki) Mazzola Keever, Class of 1993

Living the #OnceASpiritAlwaysASpirit Dream!

Marty and Nikki are the epitome of Spirit Love, but not in the usual sense. They did not meet as classmates or as an upper classman with an under classman. No, they developed their love over years as colleagues... as fellow teachers at Paraclete. Their relationship developed over time, and soon the students knew the history teacher liked the English teacher. Liked liked.



What makes these two tick? We asked, and they answered.

Martin Keever was born at Edwards Air Force Base as the fourth of six children. His siblings were born at air force bases in Ohio and Maryland as their dad served twenty-six years in the United States Air Force. Following his graduation from Paraclete High School, Marty enrolled in classes at the "...financially frugal and yet academically valid Antelope Valley College for my entry level undergraduate studies," he shared. Marty later transferred to the California Polytechnic University, Pomona to complete his major in history. As he worked in education, he gradually earned his Preliminary Teaching Credential from California State University, Bakersfield and later his Clear Teaching Credential from Mount Saint Mary's College. He refers to his academic path as nomadic.

Nikki's path led her from Antelope Valley College (AA degree) to California State University, Northridge (BA degree), and then Mount St. Mary's University for her master's degree. She began teaching at Paraclete in November 2001.

These two spirits married on July 31, 2015, at Saint Serra Church in Quartz Hill. "The ceremony was very much a Paraclete affair. The presider over the exchange of our wedding vows was my dear friend of forty years, Father Giampietro Gasparin (Fr. G - Paraclete campus priest). The music was shared by my friends Sharon (Almsteier) Rohaley (Paraclete Class of 1983) and Konrad Kono (Paraclete Class of 1985). My wife Nikki graduated from Paraclete in 1993. My stepdaughter Bella graduated from Paraclete in 2018 and Sophie will graduate from Paraclete in 2028. We are very much a Paraclete family," Marty shared. Nikki and Marty just celebrated their

seventh anniversary at their home in Lancaster with daughters Sophie and Bella "Who are awesome by the way," Marty proudly acknowledged.

Our interview with Marty and Nikki continues...

Questions for Marty...

PHS: Share a little about your accomplishments.

M: "Waking up each day with breath in my lungs and energy to stand is a daily accomplishment that I regularly take for granted. Graduating from an academic institution is a great accomplishment that should not be taken for granted either. Institutional academic instruction impacts each student differently. I struggled to find academic success in school mostly due to a lack of confidence in my abilities. My report cards were reflective of my personality challenges. After a traditional twelve years of primary and secondary education and many years in colleges and universities, I finally completed my formal education which is, for me, a great accomplishment."

PHS: What work experience did you bring with you before you started teaching at Paraclete?

M: "My work experience is vast and varied. As a child, my siblings and I cleaned up under the stands of the local baseball field on Mondays before school. Throughout my childhood, daily chores around the house were required. We were required to finish everything on our plate at dinner time. On the nights when we were served liver and peas, canned lima beans, or tuna noodle casserole..... that was work. I'm counting it. I have worked in the retail industry, the food service industry, the travel industry, and construction. My greatest amount of work experience is in the field of education. Go figure!!! A person who dreaded the classroom setting as a student is about to start his twenty-ninth year as a classroom educator at Paraclete High School. I'm one of the lucky ones. I found something that I enjoy doing which should be everyone's goal in life."

PHS: What is your take on service for others?

M: "Service for others is a priority in my life. I receive great satisfaction from helping others. Much of my recent service experience is through Paraclete's retreat programs. I assist Fr. G [Father Giampietro Gasparin] with the class retreats and the numerous overnight retreats that are offered annually through Paraclete's Campus Ministry organization. My service role is

predominantly in support of the retreat. I prepare and serve the food for the retreatants. I work with a committed group of volunteer parents and Paraclete students committed to creating and maintaining an environment dedicated to spiritual and personal growth for the retreatants. It brings me great satisfaction to see the positive change that takes place in all who share in the retreat experience."

PHS: Tell us about the traveling you have enjoyed.

M: "I have experienced many memorable trips and vacations in my lifetime. The trips that stand out in my memory are the World Youth Day trips held in countries around the world to celebrate the Catholic faith. Every three or four years, the Pope invites the Catholic youth of the world to congregate in a predominantly Catholic country for five days of worship and celebration. I have traveled with Fr. G and a group of Paraclete students to Krakow, Poland, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Panama City, Panama to participate and embrace this celebration of faith. The accommodations were simple, but the experiences were deluxe. We are planning on attending World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal next August. I am quite excited to attend."

PHS: You began teaching at Paraclete in what year?

M: "I began working at Paraclete High School in August of 1994. It is hard to say when I started 'teaching' at Paraclete High School. It is rather presumptuous to assume that my first years of work were considered 'teaching.' I spent much of my early years trying to stay one day ahead of the students as I figured out my educational strategies in the classroom. For those students that had my classes in my formative years as an educator... I hope that you understand your experience a little bit better now."

PHS: How many family members attended Paraclete?

M: "Paraclete has educated numerous members of my family. I graduated from Paraclete in 1984. My brother Andy graduated in 1985. My sister Jenny graduated in 1986. Jenny's children all graduated from Paraclete.

Alexis Velazquez graduated in 2008, Ashley Velazquez graduated in 2012, Ricky Velazquez graduated in 2013, and Gabby Velazquez graduated in 2017. My wife, Nikki Mazzola, graduated in 1993, Her daughter Bella Dela Vina graduated in 2018. Cassie Velazquez (a cousin) graduated in 2021. There are three more cousins that will graduate from Paraclete in the next two school years."



Questions for Nikki...

PHS: Share one of the funniest moments in your classes while teaching at Paraclete.

N: "Not necessarily funny, but I look forward to having class each day because of the happy, vivacious energy the kids bring into the classroom. I appreciate when they have conversations with me and when their lively personalities are a part of the classroom environment. Every day is different and every day the students amaze me with their insights and their abilities."

PHS: What is your favorite song? Why?

N: "Music is very important in our house. We love listening to all kinds of music and we especially enjoy going to concerts. Recently we saw Sting at his residency in Las Vegas and it was a very fantastic performance."

PHS: Share one of your favorite topics to teach and why is it your favorite?

N: "There are so many topics that I enjoy teaching: short stories and examining famous speeches in English; in U.S. History I enjoy teaching the Gilded Age and all aspects of 20th century U.S. history."

PHS: Share a favorite trip/vacation you have taken.

N: "Traveling is one of our favorite things to do. Mammoth is our absolute favorite place to visit but we also especially enjoy Spokane, Washington, New Hampshire and Boston, Massachusetts."

PHS: Who was your favorite teacher while you attended Paraclete?

N: "My favorite teachers were Ms. Wiskerson because she always showed patience in the classroom when she explained concepts, Ms. Stevens because she always showed a positive attitude and an interest in having conversations with her students, Mrs. Acciani because she challenged me to always strive to do better, and Fr. Joe [Scalco] and Caryl Hier because they were always helpful to me when I was struggling."

PHS: How did Paraclete help you in college/life?

N: "I definitely learned skills of being responsible for myself and the importance of self-motivation. It helped me feel capable of taking on difficult life tasks. I also grew in my faith to embrace my faith when I experienced times of struggle or difficulty."

PHS: Your daughter Isabella graduated from Paraclete in 2018. Please share how having her on campus with you brought you joy.

N: "Bella was part of a great class that graduated in 2018; her class, like many others, loved to interact with each other and they exuded a happy spirit on campus. I was so fortunate to see her form new friendships, be academically challenged and feel supported by my fellow colleagues. She left Paraclete with a strong work ethic, a drive to succeed, and a strong love towards her faith and her family. We are super proud of her and the young lady she has grown to be."

PHS: Tell us something about your daughter Sophie.

N: "Sophie is very excited to follow in her sister's footsteps and be a part of the Paraclete family when she enters in the fall of 2024. We are also proud of her as she continues to work hard academically as a student at Sacred Heart; she loves playing guitar and taking contemporary dance classes."

Questions posed to Marty and Nikki...

PHS: What, in your opinion, is the number one aspect of Paraclete worth promoting?

M: "Paraclete provides many opportunities for student personal growth, but I would place self-discovery at the top of the priorities list. An education is found within the individual. It is a culmination of personal interests and an invitation to explore the unknown that results in the development of the whole person. The unique individual is born from self-discovery, and it is the educational experience that helps to awaken a personal pursuit of knowledge. Paraclete offers opportunities for students to be challenged and amazed as they find their path to self-discovery. In the memorable words of Barney Stinson, 'Challenge......Accepted' (catchphrase credit to television show *How I Met Your Mother*)."

N: "The overall environment at Paraclete is a place of welcome and care. Every day that I walk on campus I have students who say hello with a friendly smile, who open the door for me because my hands are always full, and many who ask me how my day is going. Those are the things that make me wholeheartedly love teaching teenagers; Paraclete students radiate joyfulness on the campus. The students put forth their best effort to make an overall joyful environment on the Paraclete campus."

PHS: Where do you find inspiration for daily life?

N: "I appreciate starting my day by reading a positive quote daily."

M: "I am inspired by the people around me. They provide me with opportunities for thought and consideration."

PHS: What is your favorite memory from your days at Paraclete?

N: "The social part of it - lunch time, dances, football games."

M: "I remember the laughter and the smiles. I had great friends who helped me develop into the person that I am today."

PHS: What would you do differently with anything in your past? Why?

N: "I would have put in better effort towards my high school classes and grades."

M: "As cliche as this sounds, I really wouldn't change my past because it is the successes and failures of my life that shaped me into the person that I am. I would be

different if I changed the past. I like today's me despite my flaws."

PHS: What is your favorite movie? Why?

N: "Sleepless in Seattle - rom coms are the best!"

M: "I don't really have a favorite movie because as I age, I forget the details of the movies that I've seen. It's great though because I get to see each movie for the first time all over again."

PHS: What is your favorite television show? Why?

N: "Right now, *Stranger Things*, because of the 80s nostalgia, the heroic ventures of the characters, and the interesting plot."

M: "My favorite TV shows are any that make me belly laugh. Recently my wife introduced me to *How I Met Your Mother*, *New Girl*, and *The Middle*. My wife is very funny, and she knows funny. Now I realize that these shows are old but so am I... so it works."

PHS: What is the last book you read?

N: "Where the Crawdads Sing, and right now I'm reading Wonder alongside with Sophie (her assigned summer reading)."

M: "The last book that I read was my AP World History textbook. I read it from cover to cover. I wish that I could say the same thing for the students in my class but that is another story. The only criterion for me is that the book has pictures. Otherwise, it is out."

PHS: What is your favorite pastime or hobby?

N: "I am a museum nerd - I love any museum and I will spend a lot of time looking at everything!"

M: "I love to travel, visit family and friends, and see beautiful places. When I can't travel, I like to listen to music while I do stuff."

PHS: Complete this sentence: I will always remember...

M: "I will always remember when I could remember things. I will always remember when I could afford to drive my truck. I will always remember my time at Paraclete High School."

N: "I will always remember the love and support from my caring husband and family."

PHS: Complete this sentence: I love it when...

M: "I love it when everyone gets along. I love it when I say something funny, and it wasn't intentional. I love it when the weather cools and the holiday season arrives."

N: "I love it when the melodic sounds of Marty and Sophie practicing their guitar fill my house. I love it when the silly laughter fills my home when my small family is all together."

PHS: What was your biggest challenge you have faced?

N: "Being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2021. I feel extremely blessed, fortunate, and grateful to be cancer free since choosing to be aggressive and have a mastectomy. It was tough because it was also the time of the pandemic and 100% online learning/teaching. I

received so much care and support from Marty, the girls, my parents, and friends. I also received support from the Paraclete students and their families during that time. I felt so much supportive care from all those around me, especially because many students were brave enough to share with me their own families' cancer stories, helping me to know that I am not alone on this journey."

PHS: Who is your role model? Why?

N: "My dad. He had a challenging up-bringing, and he continues to show me to always make a conscious effort in making every day the best it can be. He has taught me the value of doing the hard work and the importance of being supportive towards your family."

M: "I seek out role models daily. I still have much to learn. I am inspired by the strength and determination of the women in my life. They make me a better man. I am inspired by my peers and my friends who show me the world from a different perspective. I am inspired by my

students who encourage me to embrace the changing world. My role models are all around me and I interact with them daily."

PHS: Do you have words of wisdom or advice that you would like to share with Paraclete students? If yes, what are they?

N: "Make the life decisions that bring in the happiness into your life. Having a support system of friends and family that bring out the best of who you are is essential to getting through life's trials and tribulations. Take on those difficult challenges knowing there is a valuable life lesson to learn. Be patient to enjoy life as it is happening."

Words to live by! Thank you to Marty and Nikki for this deep dive. Thank you for your example of enjoying and appreciating life!

Paraclete High School Business Partners

Thank you to our Business Partners for your support! We encourage the Paraclete Community to visit these businesses.

Gary Little Construction, Inc. – GaryLittleConstruction.net (661) 940-5822

Fletcher Fire Protection – John & Belle Fletcher -FletchersFire.com (661) 943-0643

Calandri Farms – Brandon & Nicole Calandri CalandriSonRiseFarms.com

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Ruane Mechanical, Inc. – Jason and Jennifer Ruane RuaneMechanical.com (661) 526-5779

Little Explorers Preschool Center – Ashley Alva LittleExplorersPreschoolCenter.com (661) 435-8006

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To become a Business Partner with Paraclete High School, contact Vicki Novelli at VNovelli@ParacleteHS.org or (661) 943-3255 ext. 128 or Janet Bower at ext. 111 or JBower@ParacleteHS.org.

History Channel Your Inner Spirit

THE TIE THAT BINDS

Recently after 40 years Caryl Hier hosted a gathering (prompted by Keith Richard) at her home in Carpinteria. The attendees were Bishop Edward Clark (Principal at Paraclete from 1980 to 1982.), Keith Richard (Vice-Principal, Dean of Students and Activities, teacher, coached baseball – CIF Champs in '81 - and football 1977 to 1981), Margaret Neill (1979 to 2022 – Athletic Director, Dean of Students, teacher and coach of many sports – and a CIF championship in Softball) and Caryl Hier (Office Administrator, Principal's secretary, Registrar, chief cook and bottle washer, and mom to all - 1977 to 1999). The four attendees had not gathered in



those 40 years. Caryl had seen and been with all at different times. Several weeks before, the archdiocese had a collection for retired priests. There was a large banner with Bishop Clark's picture on it – hanging in most Catholic churches in the archdiocese. There was one in her church, and she managed to obtain it and have it hung on her home for the gathering [see photo]. So, when Bishop Clark arrived, he was welcomed with his picture. The day was spent reminiscing about the "good old days" and what great times were had in that small Catholic school in the desert. It takes a long time to grow old friends. Paraclete is the tie that binds. Paraclete, Our Paraclete!

Editor's note: Thank you to Caryl Hier for this reminiscence! Submit your piece of Paraclete History to JBower@ParacleteHS.org.

In Memorium

Rick Silong from the Class of 1983 passed away on February 20, 2022, from an aortic dissection.

Julie Barry from the Class of 1983 passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on November 18, 2021.

Miles D. Davis from the Class of 2004 passed away unexpectedly on August 28, 2019, while traveling to England with his family.

Scott Harter from the Class of 1974 passed away on March 26, 2022, leaving four children and nine grandchildren.



Lt. Col. Richard Silong, Ret.

Michael Brautigam from the Class of 1985 passed away on September 23, 2006.

Don Waldron from the Class of 1968 passed away on August 5, 2022.

Kathy Rhoten from the Class of 1988 passed away on June 25, 2022.

Greg Marquez from the Class of 1981 passed away on September 4, 2022 (he moved before his senior year at Paraclete).

David Herrmann from the Class of 1981 passed away on April 23, 2018.

Joel Zietlow from the Class of 1971 passed away on August 22, 2022.

David Lane from the Class of 1983 passed away on September 2, 2022.

Once a SPIRIT, Always a SPIRIT

Paraclete High School has proven success in academics as we provide rigorous classes with the emphasis on college preparation. Paraclete also has a history full of athletic awards and CIF title accomplishments. Paraclete instills within all its students, indispensable values that make up the core aspects of Christian living: Christ, Family, Knowledge, Success, and Service. We expanded our campus in 2007 with a 17-classroom building along with a multipurpose room and new kitchen facilities.

Paraclete High School has longed dreamed of improving our campus to include a modernized athletic complex and hosting home games in a variety of sports. Now in the year 2022, to better serve and invite more students to our campus Paraclete is ready to build and raise the necessary funds to accomplish this. We hope with your support we will be able to bridge the current funding gap.

The realization of this project would not be possible without the generosity and substantial lead gift from the Shea Family Charities. We have been blessed also with a large gift from the Dan Murphy Foundation which has also pledged an additional matching gift up to \$250,000 for funds raised through 2023. Paraclete over the last 10 years has received gifts from alumni, current and past school families, and a broad base of community friends to our building fund specifically set aside for this project.



We are embarking on an athletic field expansion which will expand the campus from its original 19.2 acres to a 30-acre campus. This will entail connecting the current facility to the land between the school and Avenue M and:

- 1. Building a 1200 seat multi-purpose stadium for football, soccer, and track.
- 2. Building two baseball fields.
- 3. Building two softball fields.
- 4. Building a restroom facility.
- 5. Improving parking and much needed ingress and egress for the school community.
- 6. Improving the frontage of the school on the corner of 30th Street West and Avenue M.



From left... Saul Bravo (PHS Plant Manager), John Anson (PHS Principal), Marcus Ohno (Chief Operating Officer for Ohno Construction), Richard Brangwin (Vice President of Ohno Construction), and Yoshio Ohno (President of Ohno Construction)

We are seeking your support. The costs associated with building a project of this magnitude become difficult as we witness the rising costs of goods and services. We are tasked with raising an additional 2 million dollars to complete this 12.5-million-dollar project. As you reflect on your memories of high school, your P.E. class might have been a class you made some of your closest friends. Imagine yourself running your required mile on an all-weather track, learning the rules of soccer on an actual turf field, and proudly coming to a game to cheer on your fellow classmates. This is what this athletic complex can offer future students. We will be able to host your reunion Homecoming Game on campus, with a before game alumni BBQ, and a variety of other school and community events. Please help us reach our funding goal by enclosing your gift in the envelope provided or go to Support Paraclete - Paraclete High School

(paracletehs.org) and make your online gift. For questions about pledge opportunities contact Vicki Novelli 661-943-3255 x128 or Janet Bower 661-943-3255 x111.

Paraclete High School Once a SPIRIT, Always a SPIRIT

Naming Opportunities

Paraclete High School has made a difference in your life and has helped shape your future. Our Athletic Complex renovation project is about our current and future Paraclete students. Now is your opportunity to give back and leave a legacy.

NAMING OPPORTUNITY*	GIFT LEVEL	
Athletic Complex	\$2,000,000	RESERVED
Football and Soccer Field	1,000,000	RESERVED
Football Scoreboard-Advertisement	100,000	
Press Box	50,000	
Sound System	10,000	
Flagpole	15,000	
Baseball Field	500,000	
Baseball Field Scoreboard-Advertisement	100,000	
Baseball Dugouts (2)	25,000 each	
Baseball Pitcher's Mound	15,000	
Softball Field	500,000	
Softball Dugouts (2)	25,000 each	
Softball Pitcher's Mound	15,000	
Batting Cages	10,000	
Discus Cage	10,000	
Shot Put Ring	10,000	

Your name will be announced in publications and visible in the complex.

^{*}All naming submissions are subject to approval by Paraclete High School.



Happy group of PHS staffers including some alumni at the Ground Blessing – from left: Linda (Ament) Kudrik, '96 alum, Dana (Centeno) Johnston '92, Nadine Nichter Seidel, Karen (Campbell) Hernandez '92, Kathleen Troisi, Bishop Gerald Wilkerson, John Anson, Vicki Novelli, and Janet (Godde) Bower '74.



From left... Ryan Duke (PHS alum and Principal Engineer, Duke Engineering), John Anson (PHS Principal), Dan O'Melveny (Shea Family Foundation Executive Director), Brother Hilarion O'Connor (Strategic Capital Project Director for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles), John Calandri (PHS student of the Class of 2023), Tyler Britz (Assistant Vice President for Ohno Construction), Brandon Calandri (PHS Advancement Board member)



SPIRIT LEGACY WALKWAY

For 60 years Paraclete High School has been the only Catholic high school in the Antelope Valley. Today we have a thriving student body population of 570. To remain vital to compete in today's world, we face the challenge to renovate our athletic field property. Please help us lay the foundation of ONCE A SPIRIT, ALWAYS A SPIRIT Campaign, by leaving your family legacy on a paver on the Spirit Legacy Walkway. Together we can pave the way to a successful capital campaign.

You and your family can be a part of the SPIRIT LEGACY WALKWAY by purchasing an 8 x 8 paver. All who walk there will recognize your role in helping build and sustain the legacy of our Paraclete. Limited numbers of pavers will be sold for this area within the Athletic Complex. Etch your family name or honor a loved one into the history of your alma mater. We welcome paver support from friends of Paraclete as well. *

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Staying Connected

1967 Katie (Didier) Marriott shared that she and her family celebrated her sister's birthday recently. Paraclete alums in attendance included Pat ('70), Ruth ('72), Ann ('76), Cletus ('78), and Michelle ('Micki' '80). "It is the first time we are all together in twelve years. We wore bird masks because Micki's husband told her that they were meeting friends to go bird watching. We had such a fun time just being kids again. Six of the eight siblings are alumni and the oldest two - Mary and Joe went to Alemany since Paraclete had not opened yet. My husband and Annie's husband were not able to come - but there were 13 in all!" Katie shared.



1982 **John Vignoni** "After working for 31 years in the aerospace industry, I retired in early 2019 and my wife in early 2020. We did manage to see our kids and new grandson prior to the world changing. That put our move plans on hold for a bit over a year before moving full time to Arizona in July last year. Although every day has been a holiday since retiring, we seem to be busier than ever....and we're loving every minute of it," John shared.

1977 Kevin Brown and 1978 Hope Wenzel Brown shared their exciting news: "Kevin retired after 35 years as a contractor. I retired for the second time. The first was after 29 years with Ralphs/Food 4 Less and the second from American Fruits and Flavors as a corporate trainer. We sold our home and almost everything we owned in Palmdale and joined the full-time RV lifestyle in April. It was hard to do, but it's amazing how freeing it is to get rid of all the STUFF you think you need. Since then, we have made our way to Florida staying in Tuscan, Arizona, Las Cruces, New Mexico at a nice little winery, Fort Stockton, Texas, Fredericksburg, Texas at a great bar and grill with live music, and Bryan, Texas to visit with a sister. We then made our way to Louisiana and stayed at a distillery in Lafayette. We learned



the process of making rum. They make one that tastes just like tequila! We finally got to Shalimar, Florida to our son's house (1998 grad Jeremy Brown). After a great visit there, we headed north to Red Bay, Alabama to have things updated in the coach. We were off to Nashville and hung out on a lower Broadway listening to great music at local bars. Our next predetermined destination was Panama, New York for a family reunion. We've been to a small-town baseball game (first team for Randy Johnson [MLB pitcher]), axe throwing, lots of Amish stores, and Niagara Falls. The falls is just spectacular! Now we have no real plans so we will go where the wind blows us next!"

1989 Deanna Hoppe Stockton - Proud sister Dawn Hoppe Perkins (Class of 1985) shared the wonderful news about her sister. Deanna Stockton, Municipal Engineer and Deputy Administrator of the Engineering and Infrastructure Operations Department was honored with the Outstanding Public Service Professional

Engineer Award by the New Jersey Society of Professional Engineers at its annual installation and awards dinner in June. The list of Deanna's accomplishments is impressive and includes award-winning projects. Deanna shared, "It's a great honor to be recognized by my peers in the Engineering Society for the contributions made to municipal engineering. We strive every day to innovate, to be responsive, and to achieve more with less in our public service." Prior to her seventeen years in Princeton, Deanna worked at public agencies in California, Oregon, and Washington. She also enjoyed a three-year work sabbatical in the Netherlands. Congratulations Deanna!



1985 Konrad Kono hit 1.4 million streams of his music on Spotify recently. Konrad's keyboard artistry can be found on multiple streaming platforms.



2011 Camille Loria's mother Angela emailed PHS with great news! "We are very happy and proud to share with you that we now have a dentist in the family, Dr. Camille Loria! Camille passed her dental boards and graduated on June 6th from UC San Francisco Dental School."

1992 Dana Centeno Johnston "My husband Joe and I adopted our youngest son, Callum, last year. He just had his first birthday and

is the sweetest boy,"
Dana shared. Callum
joins big brother
Everett to complete
the family!



1979 Rick Ochoa's wife, Yvonne (Photias) Ochoa (from the Class of 1982), wrote a well deserved tribute to her Rick who retired in July.

"After graduating from Paraclete, Rick attended AVC for a semester before joining the U.S. Air Force in 1980 where he spent 4 years troubleshooting and repairing command and control systems at launch facilities and launch control centers for Minuteman II ICBMs. He was promoted to Electronic/Mechanical Team Chief in 1981, and Team Instructor in 1983. He was awarded Master Technician, Master Team Chief, and Master Instructor badges before leaving ICBMs to cross-train into a new career field (Integrated Avionic Instrument / Flight Control System Specialist F-16) in 1984. He was honorably discharged from USAF in April 1986.

"In 1986 he was hired by General Dynamics as an Aircraft Electrician for F-16s at Edwards Air Force Base and eventually transferred to Lockheed Martin. He was promoted to Electronic/Mechanical Systems Specialist (Tech Rep) in 1990. In 1995 he hired on with Computer Sciences Corporation as a Tech Support Engineer for C-17s.



"While working with C-17 program, he began to read software books left around by programmers and ended up teaching himself software development/programming! The following year (1996) he was transferred to a new Flight Test program for the F-22 Raptor in existing role but began developing software applications to help himself and coworkers with data analysis needs.

"He was hired by Boeing in 1999 on the F-22 flight test program as a Programmer Analyst and began a 23-year career with them in software development and software engineering. He designed, developed, integrated, and documented (including training manuals) over 50+ client server applications for various Boeing Flight Test programs, business units, and enterprise organizations. Databases and application types ranged from Engineering Analysis, Quality Assurance, Safety, Maintenance Support and Tracking, Automated Project Planning and Scheduling, Test Management, Pilot Daily Reports, Human Engineering, Bio Environmental Engineering, Employee Involvement, and Supply Chain Management. While assigned to the F-22 Raptor, he was loaned out to other Boeing Test Programs and organizations.

"After Space Shuttle Columbia disaster in 2003, he was asked to develop a software application to expedite the heat tile manufacturing process to accelerate testing of tiles and bonding processes. The application developed reduce manufacturing time by 70% and was used to manufacture some of the tiles used on the next Space Shuttle's return to space. The Space Shuttle Discovery (STS-114) was the first 'Return to Flight' Space Shuttle mission following the Columbia disaster and launched on July 26, 2005. He received an award from NASA's Associate Administrator for his efforts.

"In 2005 he was tasked with developing a system to track Process Improvements for the CV-22 Flight Test Program. The resulting software application became the first of its kind and was soon in use by all 8 Boeing Flight Test organizations in the Palmdale/Edwards AFB area. Its popularity grew and the software was funded for conversion to an enterprise/company wide web-based system. In 2014, Rick proposed an upgrade to the system and the proposal (integrating a problem-solving model) was accepted. He consulted on the design and implementation. The web system is still in use today by the Boeing Company.

"Rick designed and developed a database application that could be used by asset and personnel managers company-wide to identify assets, resources and personnel that would be re-allocated from test organizations and laboratories company-wide to form a new business unit within the company.

"While designing/developing a system for the B-1B test program to manage tech data change requests, he realized an opportunity to help them in other areas of modification and scheduled maintenance of the B-1B fleet. Eventually Rick designed and developed a system to read and deconstruct their electronic technical repair manuals and extract into relational database that could compile relevant data and automatically create projects in scheduling software. He was awarded patent (United States Patent: 8285741) from US Patent & Trademark Office.!

"To say I am proud of my husband for these incredible accomplishments and milestones is an understatement! I am in awe of his intelligence and the way his mind works. Rick took a huge leap on July 1 and did what neither of his brothers or his father lived long enough to do. He RETIRED!

"So, here's to Rick... an unbelievable man who has SO MUCH to be proud of. It's time to relax and have some fun. You have more than earned it. I'm honored you chose me to be your co-pilot in this crazy adventure called life. I can't wait to see what mischief we can get into together!"

<u>From Rick:</u>"I'm sitting here chuckling a bit regarding my time at Paraclete...if you polled the faculty and coaching staff back then they probably would have voted me most likely to do hard time (I spent a lot of time in Keith Richard's [Paraclete Assistant Principal in 1979] office back then). Having said that, he was probably the most influential on my life - if you all are still in contact with him, I'd love to say thank you to him...he never gave up on me and made a difference."

Happy retirement, Rick! Your innovative spirit has served you well!



1991 Joey Curtis is a successful television director and producer. He shares his recent accolade: "It was such an honor to be nominated for my first Emmy at the 74th Los Angeles Emmy Awards 2022. We didn't win, but we gave it our best and that's winning enough in my book. It was a wonderful event, and I was extremely grateful to be in the room with so many talented, hardworking people. Thank you to my GM, Jaime Jimenez, and my entire team at KLCS/PBS for giving me this opportunity." Joey has experienced previous successes with three feature films officially selected at the Sundance Film Festival, two nominations for Grand Jury prize, one win for Cinematography, and a film he co-wrote, Blue Valentine starring Ryan Gosling and Michelle Williams, garnered two Golden Globe nominations and one Academy Award nomination.



2000 Jeff Waldman and his partner Molly Fiffer built a small redwood cabin in the Santa Cruz Mountains using wood they felled and milled onsite along with friends who pitched in. Jeff is an electronic systems engineer by profession but wanted a getaway from urban life.

Plans for the cabin and other escapes are available for purchase from Jeff's company, Elevated Spaces, and his new book, *Tools: The Ultimate Guide*, covers all the equipment you would need to build your tiny cabin. Even if you do not plan on building a "man cave" or a "she shed" the book will come in handy for your do-it-yourself projects.

Check out Jeff's YouTube video on his cabin building adventure: www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0GKaup4HZs.



2009 Corey Rodrigo

Congratulations to Corey for starting a new position as Physical Therapist/Staff Athletic Trainer for the Carolina Panthers!

2001 Maria (Weld) Peters We

have news from Paraclete science teacher, Ms. Nora King: Maria, visited our campus from NASA and spoke to our Engineering and Design class about internship opportunities. Maria is happy to share she resides in the A. V. with her



PHS teacher Ms. Nora King with Maria Peters

Maria's little astronauts

"I currently work at NASA as the Internships Coordinator. When I am not working, I enjoy spreading the word of God and sharing the love of Christ with others. I am very active in the church and my son's school (Sacred Heart). I am so grateful to Paraclete for instilling the values in me, that I continue to carry with me today," Maria added.

Update: two alumni, Kaitlyn Cox ('21) and Samantha Hottya ('22), are new interns at NASA.

husband and two boys.

2011 Sonia Sandha holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from CSUN, an M.B.A in Business Administration and Management, and she recently completed an online executive program in Business Analytics at Harvard. She is a well-recognized model for brands including Sephora, Ulta, Lexus, and Louis Vuitton, and more. Now she adds entrepreneur as a title. She sent in her exciting news of her product called My Mama's Ghee. "My fiancé and I launched a small business several months ago called My Mama's Foods. Celebrities like Jessica Alba have been sharing our product and we became a #1 hit seller on Amazon. Female and minority owned in Los Angeles My Mama's Foods' mission is to bring the world's most authentic superfoods to the masses.



"We have done many farmers' markets in L.A. and Santa Clarita and hit great success and are working towards doing The BLVD Lancaster Farmers' Market. I'll send dates for when we do the market so people can join as well! In the meantime, here's our website so you can take a look: www.MyMamasFoods.com."



2015 James Horney came by Paraclete in March to speak with econ and math students regarding investing for their future.

2012 Alicia (**Alvarado**) **Batschelet** and her husband Bobby welcomed their baby girl Isabela in August.



2013 Monica (Gonzalez) and 2012 Braydon Maish along with Monica's family opened their family's third market and second restaurant in June. Check out their new location in Lancaster on 15th Street West and Avenue J8.



The Butschelet Famil

2017 **Bryan Salgado's** father Lorenzo shared this news: "After graduation from Paraclete, Bryan enrolled at California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM) near San Diego. He concurrently enrolled in the U. S. Air Force, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at San Diego State University. For four years he commuted between the two schools twice a week to attend ROTC training. In May 2021, he simultaneously graduated from CSUSM with a Bachelor of Arts degree and commissioned into the U.S. Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant. He is currently stationed at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California for Nuclear and Missile Operations Officer training for the Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile weapon system. In this position he is managing missile operations systems and performing associated command, control, communication, and launch activities in defense and support of the United States and allied forces."





2017 Makayla Maish married Kanion Dibble in a lovely wedding in Tehachapi surrounded by family and friends from all over the country. Mr. and Mrs. Dibble call Salt Lake City home now.

2018 Isabella Dela Vina graduated top of her class and has earned her Licensed Vocational Nurse license. She plans to return to school in the future to earn her Registered Nurse license. [See related news in Alumni Profile.]



2017 Hanna Nason's mom Geri updated Paraclete on Hanna's news: Hanna graduated from Hawaii Pacific University with a degree in Marine Biology this year. She participated on the cross-country team, then Covid hit. Through perseverance and dedication, she chose to remain on the island,

work at a local coffee shop as a barista, and complete her education. She plans on an internship next semester, then pursue a master's degree in her chosen field. So proud!"



2018 Aubrey Gilman After seeing the A.V. Press article entitled, "Paraclete grad lands internship in Television Academy" in May, we had to reach out to Aubrey. The Television Academy Foundation selected Aubrey as one of seven students from across the country for its 2022 internship program. But this accomplishment is just one of her many endeavors and successes. Aubrey shares, "I was very excited to receive this internship opportunity during my senior year and it was also so cool to be featured in the A. V. Press.

"While doing this internship with the Television Academy Foundation, I am simultaneously interning for the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce and recently finished interning with the Skirball Cultural Center (and in my interview I even talked about our prom there!). I have spent the past four years volunteering as a coach for the West L.A. Special Olympics team and have been both performing in and helping run UCLA's largest student-run theatre organization, HOOLIGAN Theatre Company. I am also a mentor for WYSE, where I mentor middle school girls in underserved areas of L.A., a

member of the Mortar Board Senior Honors Society at UCLA, and a research assistant with the Zili Lab of Psychology. My journey here has been a lot of performing, volunteering, and studying...pretty much the same as my life at Paraclete!

"In two weeks, I will be graduating from UCLA with two degrees since I double majored in Psychology and Communication with a Computing (Computer Science) Specialization. I am still interviewing for full-time jobs at the moment but am definitely excited for the future! I would love to come back [to Paraclete] to host a workshop on internships, university success, and job preparation/skills if that is something that would be of interest!

"Honestly, the adjustment from a small, intertwined campus to a large public university was a little difficult for me, but academic wise and character-development wise, I felt very prepared by Paraclete. COVID also hit me hard as a student, as it did with all of us, but again, I felt very prepared with classes taught in a computer-mediated format because we had our iPads throughout high school, and that helped me develop a lot of skills with online programs that I had to utilize over the past few years."



Cameron Estes '22, Enzo Hurtado '19, and Nicholas Romanowski '19 celebrated with Olivia.

2019 Olivia Maish graduated in 3 years from Wells College in Aurora, New York with a degree in Health Science and celebrated recently with her family and Paraclete friends, Cameron Estes, Enzo Hurtado, and Nick Romanowski.



2020 **Sharon Sanders** "After months of applying for internships and wondering what I would be doing this summer...I scored my dream internship! I'm happy to share that I'm starting a new position as Video Operations Intern with the Los Angeles Rams! Working for a professional football team is a dream come true and I cannot wait to see

where this new chapter takes me. See you out on the field!" said Sharon happily.

2018 Lindsey Di Silvestri is enjoying her time in Switzerland including the milk chocolate and the unbeatable scenery. She works for the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) in Switzerland which serves as a secretariat for every official United Nations Association from over 100 nations.

"WFUNA is the largest NGO (non-governmental organization) working to strengthen and improve the UN System. The organization acts as a bridge between civil society and the UN, striving to make the UN and the Sustainable Development Goals more accessible to civil society, while also making the UN more representative of civil society. The office I work at is actually at the 'Palais des Nations,' and this role gives me access to attend all meetings at the UN Headquarters in Geneva, which is so neat!" Lindsey shared.

"My role at WFUNA began as the youth program assistant, where I helped coordinate events like a panel discussion hosted with the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the UN on 'The Contribution of Sport to Youth Peace and Security.' My role has evolved since then to include things like writing research reports that have been presented to the executive committee of the organization and blog posts on different issues within the United Nations. Here is a link to one article I co-authored recently: https://wfuna.org/posts/meeting-president-general-assembly-ngos.

"I am currently working on collecting a record of the activities of every United Nations Association in the World Federation for a report to be published at the end of the year! It is really inspiring working in a secretariat of an organization because I constantly get to see the national, regional, and local impact of global governance. I work with people from many countries, so a variety of languages and perspectives are represented in my office, but all united with the goal of building a better UN that contributes to Global Peace and Security, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development.

"Right now, this is an internship I am receiving university credit for, but I have plans to continue to stay involved in the organization as I finish up my degree at UC Berkeley, as I have several ongoing projects with WFUNA."





2021 Jeremy Fox has been accepted to Northumbria University in the UK to study as well as playing for the i2i International Soccer Academy.

Reunions

The Class of 1972 will gather for its 50th Reunion on Saturday, November 5, 2022, from 5:00 PM to 9:30 PM at Guido's Pizza (4001 Knox Ave, Rosamond, CA). Dress casually for a fun evening that will include easy listening music from our era by classmate Dan Parra. Everyone will be on their own for dinner and drinks. Guido's has great food at a reasonable price. RSVP to Dan by October 15th by text: 661-406-9241.

The Class of 1982 held a multi-year (1980, 1981, and 1982) reunion Homecoming Weekend in mid-October. Look for news about the fun those alumni had in the next newsletter.

The Class of 2012 will celebrate its tenyear reunion with Phillip Grove and friends as the party planners! Here is the invitation link with all the info: http://pp.events/aj3orYdP. Several of the classmates joined in the class's annual camping trip this summer!



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Parents: If this newsletter is coming to your son or daughter who no longer lives at home, please notify the Advancement Office of your child's new address so the newsletter can be sent directly to him or her. We can continue sending the newsletters to parents as well!



PHS news is published by Paraclete High School. Its contents are made possible by members of PHS staff, faculty, alumni students and parents. Any comments about this newsletter, or if you need to update your address information, or if you would like to submit articles, please contact: Janet (Godde) Bower jbower@paracletehs.org



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- @lady spirits (girls basketball)
- @ParacleteSB (softball)
- @ParacleteVBB (baseball)l
- @ParacleteMBB (boys basketball)

Upcoming Events:

Paraclete Parent Organization Event

Details TBD

For more information contact Ren Landicho at PPO@ParacleteHS.org.

Alumni Baseball Game – postponed until next year due to Athletic Complex construction.

Open House

Saturday, November 5, 2022, 8 AM to 12 PM Saturday, January 14, 2023, details TBD Do you know a young person who is looking for a great high school experience? Tell them about Paraclete!

Entrance Exam

Workshop – Saturday, January 21, 2023 Exam – Saturday, January 28, 2023 Call (661) 943-3255 for more information.