

St. Dominic's Alumni Association

VOL 25

SUMMER 2025

St. Dominic's Alumni Association

Saturday,
Sept 26

20th
Anniversary

12 Noon
until 4pm

CELEBRATION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CONVENT IN THE HUSTON ROOM
(room next to the Sisters' dining room in the main building)

Heroes, salads, soft drinks, coffee and dessert will be provided by the Alumni Association.

Please RSVP by August 30

Call: Pamela (516) 840-3008 Email: stdominicalum@gmail.com

An email or text reminder will be sent in August.

Unfortunately we cannot call everyone on the mailing list, so be sure to mark your calendar for this reunion.

Saturday, July 25, 2026 there will be a Pius XII Reunion at the old campus in Orange County, New York. The address is 359 Gibson Hill Road, Chester, New York 10918. It's now the Bruder Hof Amish Community. For additional information contact me, Joseph Olano at 951-660-9463.



Editor's Note

Welcome back alumnus and a Happy Spring 2026. Since our Fall/Winter issue in November, I hope that all of you had a great holiday season, a great beginning year in 2026, or about to successfully complete some classes at your local university.

What comes to your mind as we enter the month of May? Well, it's many things to many people. May 1st is the day of the "May Fly," April showers bring May flowers, and of course Mother's Day.

I know that by the time of press time of this issue, we would have already celebrated Mother's Day. But we can still acknowledge this wonderful and meaningful holiday, even though officially it was already celebrated May 10th of this year.

A mother, like a father, you biologically only get one. A mother can also be a person who comforts you, cares for you, loves you and protects you. Generally, a mother or a mother figure is typically a woman. But men, especially if they are single fathers, can provide the nurturing qualities that is needed in a parent that fills in the mother's role.

continued on page 7

TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER CONTACT:

Joseph Olano (951) 660-9463 or Pamela DiMaio (516) 840-3008 | email stdominicalum@gmail.com

SEE COPIES OF PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS AT: <https://sdfs.org/take-action/get-connected.html>



Gala Special Appeal

MOTHERHOUSE BOILER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

I/We would like to support the Motherhouse Boiler Repair Appeal with a gift of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Method of payment: Check Cash Credit Card (MC/Visa/AMEX)

Card# _____ Exp. ____/____ CVV Code _____

Signature _____

The Sisters thank the Alumni who have donated both big and small amounts that help fund their charitable work for so many in their community.

*The Sisters themselves now have a current need -
to replace the boiler in the Motherhouse.*

*It is a very costly but necessary expenditure. If you would
like to help the Sisters, you can fill out the form and send it to:*

Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt
496 Western Highway | Blauvelt, NY 10913-2097
Attn: Kerrin Kissel

If you prefer, you can call Kerrin directly to make a donation.
Kerrin Kissel (845) 359-5767

Or you can make a donation online by visiting:
www.opblauvelt.org/annualfund
Write Special Appeal in the comments section.

*You may receive a thank-you call from one of the Sisters living at the convent.
One alumni heard from a sister who years ago had been stationed
in the parish where he now volunteers.*

A small world, or is it God at work?

This is My Story

Some seventy-five years ago I left St Dominic's and the children and nuns who had become my family to return home. In the days that followed I cried at night thinking I'd never see my friends again. Over the decades that followed I'd often wonder what everyone was doing, where they may have gone, what life they may be living. Then I learned of this newsletter from my sister, Virginia, and realized it was the perfect way for us all to share our stories.

This is my story.

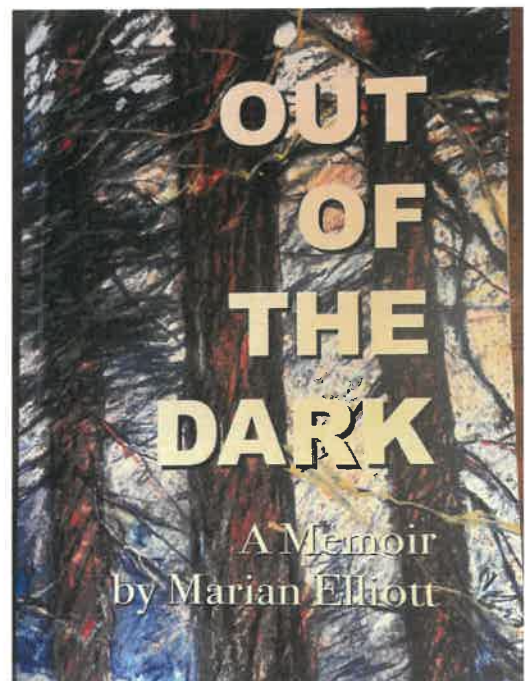
I am a retired Montessori teacher living in Wasilla, Alaska. It was not my intention to move to Alaska. My plan was a short road trip in the Canadian Maritimes visiting all the coastal places I loved. I was traveling with the heavy burden of grief from the loss of my son and hoped the journey would bring relief. My days were spent in an F250 Ford pickup with a pop-up camper called Skamper on the back and my son's orphaned dog Gulliver by my side. I planned to eventually join my husband who had moved to Florida for a new job, but in the end, Fate had other plans for me. I kept running into roadblocks. My husband was having his own problems with grief and didn't think my presence would help. So, I kept driving. Across the Canadian prairie, up the Icefield Parkway then the Alcan to Alaska. Somewhere between Winnipeg and Calgary my marriage, or what was left of it, came to an end.

In Alaska, Fate intervened again. Or as my mother would say, Divine Providence. Gulliver needed surgery for gastric torsion, and I was stranded in Anchorage waiting for him to recover when I met Dan. He had been a college professor at Wyoming University and gave that up when he came to Alaska one summer and made more money in six weeks fighting fires than he did all year teaching. He settled on a remote parcel in the foothills of the Talkeetnas and built a cabin near a mountain stream. He spent his days hunting and fishing and trapping in between writing poetry; all he really wanted to do. He had the Thoreauvian dream of living deliberately so as not to arrive at his death thinking he hadn't fully lived.

It wasn't long after Fate intervened that we married and took up family life. Eventually we were gifted with a beautiful son. At the age of 75 I became an author publishing my first short story, *In its Place*, and ten years later my first book, *Out of the Dark*. Today at age 87, I live alone at the apple orchard my husband planted and spend many wonderful days with my son and daughter-in-law and my beautiful granddaughter Lane.

Now it's your turn. Where are you now and what are you doing.

Marian Synan Elliott



I'll Go Where She Goes

Growing up in a convent is unusual, but our experiences there were similar to other children who grew up with their families. Like hearing a great musician for the first time. Tyrone Ludwig, as a five-year old in Sister Verona's dormitory, watched BB King on a black and white television in the dormitory parlor. Television hour was strictly enforced and we often watched shows our Cottage Mothers enjoyed. Luckily, Sister Verona enjoyed music. Tyrone recalls BB King playing so enthusiastically, he would sweat and make funny faces as his fingers glided on the electric guitar. Tyrone wanted to make the music he heard. Inspired, he and his friends, Israel and Eddie, put strings on buckets to create sounds. They fashioned all types of instruments from materials they found. Often they would write their own song spending hours improvising and practicing.

That practice paid off, enabling Tyrone to perform with bands and also teach music. Currently at home, he uses electric drums, amps and synthesizers to create songs, occasionally performing with his 23-year-old daughter, Kaylene. His latest song, "I'll Go Where She Goes" was written in three days on piano and guitar using his own vocals.



Check out his latest CD using his stage name Max Ludwig. *I'll Go Where She Goes* by Max Ludwig on #SoundCloud

Here is another connection Tyrone has to music.

This was written by Jeannette Earl to accompany the CD Tyrone "uncovered."



Tyrone Ludwig's vocation is music, and, notwithstanding his avocation - dumpster diving for treasures, he is not homeless. That established, sometime back around 1998 Tyrone, Class of '74, found himself near 197th St. in the Bronx and in full view of a bunch of boxes sticking out of a dumpster. As a moth drawn to a flame, Tyrone went to explore and found, among other things, jewelry, picture frames, knick-knacks, record albums, etc. Quickly scanning the album covers, his eye caught one that caused him to pause as he read "Blauvelt Dominicans." "I know the Blauvelt Dominicans" he said to himself. Turning the album over, Tyrone was greeted by the smiling face of Sister Bernadette, the same

Sister Bernadette who taught him to properly hold silverware when she would help Sister Verona in the baby cottage. Astounded with his find, Tyrone quickly filled his second great treasure of the day's dive, a shopping cart, and headed home. Fast forward fifteen years, the album has been professionally cleaned and converted to a CD, and though not all of the scratches were fixable, Tyrone believes the listener will still have a pleasant listening experience. He also believes his treasure rally belongs back where it all began and has gifted *Sister Sings of Many Things* to the Blauvelt Dominicans.

Our Membership

The following represents only those members of the St. Dominic's Alumni Association who have authorized publication of their name in the Association Membership List. Release of a member's address and/or phone number will be made available as per member's instructions (call Pamela 516 840-3008.) Names listed are in alphabetical order of the first name and as we knew the member while at St. Dominic's. Current name usage appears in brackets, followed by the years the member was at St. Dominic's.

- Abe Escobar, '59-61
Ana Pizarro (Bracero), '52-58
Anthony (Tony) Fontaine, '53-62
Antoinette Koklas (Barbarino), '42-50
Bernard Matos, '51-59
Betty Stephens (McKee), '41-51
Bob Moore, '62-67
Brett Stanley, '63-74
Carol Reda (Cavaluzzi), '61-65
Carol Steiner (Kingan), '48-56
Catalina Santiago,
(Cathy Rodriguez), '49-52
Charlie Clavijo, ???
Charlotte Guarine (Schumann), '43-55
Christine McLaughlin '60-64
David MacMillan, '41-51
David Ramirez, '57-62
Diane Boo (Bartley), '58-62
Dianne Thomson (Borg), '48-56
Dora Echevarria, '45-50
Edwin Corniel, '66-79
Eileen Ogden (Mary Eileen Tolve), 45-51
Elsa Gonzalez (Rojas), '55-65
Eric Hansen (Burns), ???
Evelyn Robles '61-74
Francisco Albarran, '59-63
Gerald (Jerry) Merna, '42-44
Gerard (Jerry) Rogers, '52-56
George Chue, '57-68
George (Happy Hooligan) Jacek, ??-54
Ginger (Gysella) Cordova, '64-73
Gladys Echevarria (Felice), '45-50
Harry Perez, '59-63
Haydee Rivera, '59-62
Hector Malave, '69-74
Irene (Margaret) Moore (Morris), '62-67
Isabel Arce, '59-69
Jeannette Borgia (Earl), '48-56
Jim Rooney, '47-59
John Cataneo, '53-56
(Rev.) John Lundberg, ??-44
John Scannell, '44-49
Jose Bracero, '52-58
Jose Pizarro, '52-60
Joseph Kubrick (Joe Mastro), '50-53
Joseph A. Olano, '64-67
Joseph Orlandi, '49-56
Judith Salinas, 70s
Kitty Barber (Scadura), '48-59
Leo Cintron, ??-58
Linda Ludwig, '63-67
Louis Malave, '70-74
Lydia Matos (Olano), '58-72
Margaret (Peggy) Alvarez, '43-55
Mark Griffith, Counselor, '74-77
Mario Claudio, '63-66
Mario Miraldo (Roche), '42-49
Marisela Ramirez (Marti White), '56-62
Mary Ellen Stephens (Graham), '42-53
Michelle Reyes, '75-77
Millie Izquierdo (Stanton), '67-71
Nick Reginella, '47-53
Nieves Rivera, ???
Pamela Mason (DiMaio), '59-65
Patricia Mason (Kubinski), '59-65
Patrick (Pat) Moriarity, '48-51
Patsy Borgia (Patti Mazzella), '48-56
Patsy Smith (Faunce), '40-50
Peter Borgia, '48-57
Priscilla St. Paul (Anderson), '64-72
Reinaldo Olano, '64-67
Richard Gherri (Road Kid), '45-53
Richard (Ritch) Ryan, '45-54
Rocky Pizarro, '52-63
Rosemary Barber, '48-54
Seán Corrigan, Counselor
Sonia Vasquez (Jimenez), '51-55
Sr. Jo-Anne Faillace, O.P.
Sr. Liz Engel, O.P.
Steve (Tommy) Casey, '75-77
Tazewell Thompson, '58-62
Teddy (Ted) Mason, 59-66
Terry Escobar (wife of Mike)
Thomas (Tom) Murphy, '44-54
Tyrone Ludwig, '61-74
Victor Matos (Dino Rivera), '51-59
Vincent Oppenheimer, '55-67
Virginia Synan (Swartz), '47-51
Vivian Merna (Rendes), '42-51
Wanda Rivera, '59-62
William Maldonado, '49-59

Some Things Old and New



**PAT MACMILLAN,
SUSAN MACMILLAN,
DAVID MACMILLAN,
PATTY BORGIA and
JEANNETTE EARL**

attended this year's Hearts Afire Gala held at
The View on the Hudson in Piedmont, NY.

FRANCISCO ALBARRAN
expressed his deep appreciation to the Sisters

9/27/25

*St. Dominic's Home
for Children*

*when placed at age 10,
with my brother Carlos and
my sister Sylvia already
there, it was a very scary
event. Despite this, St. Dominic's
provided a safe haven
and contributed to my
eventual development to a
healthy contributing individual
and family member.*

*Thank you,
Francisco*

WELL DONE!

Warm wishes to
JO-ANNE FAILLACE
who retired in December

MARK GRIFFITH
Counselor, '74-77

delivers Meals on Wheels to seniors

On St. Patrick's Day, he decided to buy flowers for three of the ladies on his route. When the florist (a Rotary friend) heard who the flowers were for, he wouldn't charge him.

VINCENT OPPENHEIMER,
Class of '68

enjoys performing in the
choir in his church

MEMORIES

At the beginning of May, we always had the crowning of Mary, Our Blessed Mother. Dressed in our best clothes, we would process into the church singing hymns to Our Lady. Some girls held baskets of petals they would kiss and let flutter to the ground. Outdoors a crown of flowers was placed on Mary's head.

PAT MASON (KUBINSKI),

C'66, remembers watching Peyton Place, the TV show featuring Mia Farrow and one we weren't ordinarily allowed to watch. Sr. Eugene permitted it and also made English muffin pizzas for Pat and other girls who could not go home for the Christmas holiday.

LAVERNE LAURINO, C'67, remembers living in a house on the convent grounds once owned by Mr Eckert, the electrician who worked at St. Dominic's. At the time she was attending Tappan Zee High School.

In Memoriam

ALUMS

Yvonne Ludwig
died October 31, 2025

Mary (Eileen Ogden) Tolve
died March 16, 2026

SISTERS

Sr. Joseph Mary Mahoney, OP
died April 1, 2026

Sr. Miriam Lent, OP
died October 29, 2025

Sr. Patricia Howell, OP
died December 29, 2025



Sr. Victoria Sloane

What can I say about someone who I loved all my life. I lived at St. Dominic's Home from the mid 60's to the mid 70's. They opened the group home in 1974 which I chose to live in. They told us a nun would run it! Her name was Sr. Victoria Sloane. Well, the rest is history. We had the most fun living in that group home. Being raised as a teenager by sister was a joy to say the least. She learned as well as I did. A very supportive "mother" she always was. I had the pleasure of meeting and knowing her family (Helen, Kathleen, Mary, James, Michael and John, and her wonderful nieces and nephews. They became my family. In fact, when I attended Hofstra University I was so nervous going to orientation that first day - sister's brother-in-law Tom came with me. They were all loving people. I was lucky to know all of them. I miss her very much, but so thankful Sr. Victoria was a big part of my life. Reast in Peace sister. Until we meet again.

P.S. Say hello to everyone for me... especially Tom.
God Bless!!

Editor's Note continued from cover

Although Mother's Day has come and gone, we don't have to wait until Mother's Day to do something special for your mother, or tell her, "I Love You."

And speaking of "Love," I would like to say a special "Happy Heavenly Mother's Day to my mother, Maria Antonia Olano. This year would have been her 73rd year as a mother.

Sometimes when asked, what are the warmest memories of your mother when you were a child? We tend to say, well she bought me this, or she took me there, or she did this for me.

For me and for many of us who for one reason or another who were not living with our mothers and in an institution probably often asked, "Did my mother love me?"

As I make this tribute to my Mamie on Mother's Day and describe how my mother has influenced and shaped who I have become today, I make those general references only in my personal experiences.

The gifts I have received from my mother are the following: a) The ability to see the good in people; b)

the ability to listen to people; c) the ability to share with those less fortunate; d) the ability to want to help people; and most important to me, the ability to empathize about other people's situations.

Maria Antonia Olano aka "La Princessa Zamara" came to East Harlem, New York City from Puerto Rico in the 1950's. She met my father Joseph a. Olano Sr., an Event Project Coordinator and International Photographer and as a professional Afro Cuban dancer she performed in the top night clubs at the time like the Palladium Ballroom, Casablanca, Teatro Puerto Rico, and the Apollo Theater.

I didn't get to formally say good-bye to my mother when we lost her to Covid and was grateful to locate her during those chaotic and turbulent times, to peacefully lay her to rest.

And I close my Mother's Day tribute to my mother, by saying to her "Happy Heavenly Mother's Day Mamie."

Respectfully, *Joseph A. Olano, Editor*

St. Dominic's Alumni Association
PO Box 362
Malverne, NY 11565-0362



In this month of Our Mother, Mary, we say Happy Mother's Day to all the Sisters who mothered, educated and cared for us. The bonds we formed with you can never be forgotten.

“All the nuns were our mothers.” Vivian Merna (Rendes)
People come into our lives for a season, for a reason, or for a lifetime.