



### MARDI GRAS WINE TASTING EVENT

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ONLY 100 TICKETS SOLD

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## Alumni "Rainy Day" Fund Drive

So what is our "Rainy Day Fund"? For the past seven years your Saint Stanislaus Alumni & Friends Committee have worked to keep our financial head above water as we help to support the Saint Stanislaus Elementary School and the Parish.

We were able to do this work through our alumni activities such as *Chili Cook Off's, Dyngus celebrations, alumni picnic, sideboards at the events, raffle tickets and cut out raffle tickets*. All profits and donations were made, to the parish, and allocated to our alumni account, that we appropriated as needs arose. These events were fundraisers as well as fun, social activities.

#### HOW WE HAVE HELPED OVER THE YEARS:

2013--\$9500 for surveillance system (with anonymous matching gift provided \$19000)

2014 – \$2000 for elementary school Bibles

2015 – \$2000 to the parish rectory roof fund

2016 – \$4100 for the Organ Restoration Fund

2017 – \$1000 for the elementary school uniform budget

2017 – \$1500 to replace religion books for the third and eighth grade classes

This is all good – but today – our rainy day fund is almost drained. We appreciate the support for the *Spire Newsletters* from the 'Cut Out Raffles' – but – that is different from our Rainy Day Fund. To help rebuild our fund we plan to use 2018 and the two Spire Newsletters to be the main fundraiser.

*\*Editorial Note: There is a consensus from the committees' retired educators that Mrs. Deborah Martin, Principal, as well as her Elementary Staff and Personnel are doing a remarkable job today. We are happy to support and encourage their work and efforts in the pursuit of their mission.*

Below is a cut out ticket for our initial "mail in form" to include with whatever support you can provide. (You can make a copy of the form if you prefer.) We plan to list the names of all supporters in future *Spire* issues.

#### This is a Fund Raiser --This is not a raffle

Yes, I want to help sustain the good works of the Alumni & Friends

### - St. Stanislaus Alumni & Friends - Rainy Day Fund - Call for Support -

\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

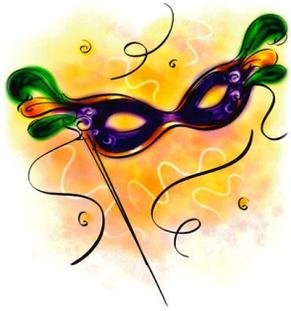
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks payable to St. Stanislaus and send to:  
The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus  
3649 East 65 Street  
Cleveland, OH 44105



## St. Stanislaus Alumni & Friends Committee

Invites you to  
**A Wine Tasting Evening** to celebrate **Mardi Gras!**

St. Stanislaus School -- 1st floor

Saturday, February 3, 2018 -- 6:00 pm

Nine Wines, Heavy Appetizers & Desserts  
featured from Around The World  
(Beer, soda and coffee will also be available)

\$30 per person & \$50 per couple  
Only 100 tickets will be sold

50/50 and Mystery Wine Bottle Raffles!

Come celebrate **Mardi Gras** with your friends and family!

For more information and tickets call:  
Marilyn Mosinski: 216-402-9005  
Bob sledz: 440-333-7827 or  
sledzbob@yahoo.com

All proceeds to help the continued work of  
St. Stanislaus Elementary School.



## Elementary School Open House

February 1, 2018  
6-8 pm

Your opportunity to see the  
school and meet the faculty.



## THE FOUR EAGLES AWARD BANQUET



The Four Eagles Banquet of Honor is  
celebrated annually to give recognition to  
individuals or groups who have  
demonstrated outstanding commitment  
to the Saint Stanislaus Community

Friday, May 11, 2018  
*Bishop Roger Gries, Recipient*

## Annual Alumni Picnic

Date to be announced  
After the  
First of the Year.



Grill masters!!  
Check the parish bulletin  
and website for updates.

## Alumni three-fold overall goals:

- Appreciate and savor our PAST.
- Live in and enjoy the PRESENT.
- Work to help the FUTURE of St. Stanislaus Parish and School as well as our Alumni Development.



Head's almost as  
"BIG" as my  
Father's Coupe!

## Childhood Memories of 'The Old Neighborhood' ... Bill Dix



### **Part one:** Those certain ethnic barbershops, *Spikes Barbershop*, East 65th near Fleet.

I had to walk to Spikes from my home at 3641 E. 59th St. I started at age seven or eight going there alone. My mother would give me an envelope with money and if there was any change, it had better be there when I got home! There were three tempting candy stores on the way – it was worth the spanking!

I have a large head and on one occasion Spike remarked: "I should charge you double for all the extra wear and tear on my equipment!" Everyone in the shop (mostly adult men) laughed.

### **I didn't!**

On another occasion, the shop was full and as I walked in Spike stopped cutting and said: "Are you here for a haircut, or an estimate?" I didn't know what an estimate meant so I said "haircut." Everyone laughed. **I didn't!**

During one Christmas season Spike asked the customer ahead of me what he was giving his wife for Christmas. He replied: "another kid." I wanted to ask him where he got these children because I always wanted a brother or sister, but he left before my haircut was finished. **Oh well...**

### **Part two:** *Joe and Dominic Balone's Shop*, about East 51st and Fleet.

At Christmas time you would get a haircut, electric vibrator shoulder massage, and a glass of red wine. When the spirits moved him, Dom would also give you a Mussolini speech, (in Italian) complete with arms crossed and marching. My favorite was: "La Hor Del Destino," announcing Italy's invasion of Ethiopia.

If you didn't like your haircut, Joe would announce (razor in hand) "I gonna cutta you athroat and call Fortuna Funeral Home to come pick you up!" **Ah! The good old days!**



## **My Music Memory** — Donna Ruminski Goliat '60.

*The Little Drummer Boy*—originally known as ***Carole of the Drum*** — is a popular Christmas song written by American composer and teacher Katherine Kennicatt Davis in 1941. The recording by the Harry Simeone chorale was released Oct 19, 1958 and lasts for about three minutes. In that short time, a wonderful and meaningful story comes to life. Everyone just loved this new and beautiful Christmas Carol that would soon become "classic" and recorded by many artists. The rest is history!

**Now** – I correct the music memory submitted by my fellow classmate, Bill Dix, in the July 2017 issue of *The Spire*.

I am impressed that Bill remembered me and that he thought I played the Virgin Mary in the ***Drummer Boy*** Production. Well Bill, *I was indeed a virgin at that time, however, not the Virgin Mary in the play.*

I was the producer and director of that three minute magical masterpiece. Unfortunately I cannot remember who played that prestigious part of the Blessed Virgin Mary – was it Geraldine Buras? I think Jerry Krakowski was Joseph. We all remember little Nick Jablonski as the Drummer Boy. Three Kings? Shepherds? Lamb? The ox – Bill Dix – a job well done!!!

Thanks for sharing your fond music memory, Bill. It truly was a very moving story with that spectacular last scene of the transformation of that old drum.

*Donnas' Story Continued on page 6. . .*



Eleanor's 105<sup>th</sup>  
Cake Topper

**ELEANOR GRACE ZABLOTNY**  
**NOVEMBER 17, 1910 – JANUARY 27, 2017**

WHY? WHY? Why at age 100 in 2010 did Eleanor want to travel back to Cleveland and visit St. Stanislaus Rectory again?? As the 'Little Slovak Orphan Girl' from East 72 St. -- she never belonged to the parish – NOR – attended St. Stanislaus Schools.



Eleanor's  
Centennial Visit

Eleanor Grace Potancik was born November 17, 1910 and lived in Cleveland with her father Michael and mother Mary, her brothers John and George and sisters Anna, Mae and baby Elsie. At that time their house was at 3455 E. 72<sup>nd</sup> St. near Union Ave, in a generally Slovak Catholic neighborhood. Often she told her story of having a large, happy family and one childhood memory in particular, which helped to shape her life.



Little Eleanor (about age 5) was reaching for the cellar door that was already open and she tumble down the dark stairs. She described floating through the air – not touching a step – and finding herself without a mark at the foot of the stairs where she saw a “beautiful lady” surrounded by light. Frightened, she forgot about the apple and raced upstairs to her mother, who gathered the children in a circle, where they knelt and gave a prayer of thanks. This was Eleanor's story that was told matter-of-factly not as a pious fable, but just as it happened to her. The Virgin Mary appeared to a child in the cellar of her house in

Parents  
and  
siblings -  
all  
deceased  
in 1918



Cleveland's old neighborhood. She felt God must have a special reason to spare her and a purpose for her life. But she was never quite sure what it was.

In 1918 she was spared again. A nation that had lost unspeakable members abroad in WWI would lose even more at home from the Spanish Flu, whose virulence was strengthened in Europe's trenches.



George, Mae, Elsie and Eleanor

The returning soldiers – even as they waved the white flag of peace – were the unwitting agents of new seeds of devastation. Within a matter of 10 obscene days, the flu epidemic claimed the life of eight-year-old Eleanor's father, mother, oldest sister Anna (20) and older brother John (17). **She and her three siblings were now all orphans.**

The Potancik Family belonged to Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish with Fr. Vaclav Chaloupka appointed as Eleanor's guardian. The parish priest allowed the remaining siblings to be sent to Aunt Mary and live in Geauga County, but Eleanor was placed in the care of a younger Polish family in the neighborhood. A family she was to live with until she got married. Eleanor managed to take all her grief and find it in a place for her love to go. How she loved Dr. and Mrs. Zaworski and their young boys. Polish was her new family's language. Eleanor as the ward adapted and learned to love her new home and vocabulary. The Zaworski's belonged to Saint Stanislaus Parish. So Fr. 'Ziggy' aka Sigismund Masalski was surprised to find the young Eleanor at the door when he came for a home visit. She didn't speak Polish and was not taking religion classes or instructions. That would soon change! Since Eleanor attended Cleveland Public schools, Father Ziggy taught her catechism at Saint Stanislaus. Small group religion classes at the Rectory on East 65<sup>th</sup> were the highlight of many weeks. Eleanor also enjoyed venturing over to the corner of East 63<sup>rd</sup> and Fleet because she enjoyed seeing the kind boy who worked at the drug store and who wrote her name on the glass store front and quickly soaped it away. That boy, Stanley Zablotny would eventually marry her.



The 'Drug Store'  
now occupied by  
Seven Roses /Polish  
Restaurant.

Eleanor's  
South High School  
Senior Picture



God's providence and simple human kindness of her new family turned a strange Polish neighborhood into the back drop for a new life. Eleanor thrived at South High School, she loved Miss Tolbert and all her teachers; was voted the second prettiest girl next to Myrtle Allen (and that was contestable). She discovered a talent for art and a love for color while at SHS, which culminated in the late 1920s with the honor of being chosen to select the school colors: *sea foam green and peach*. (You may have wondered where the South High Flyers colors came from.) After high school she poured her creative self into a job at Halle Brothers in the decorating department. She had vivid memories from the 1930s such as seeing tall and statuesque Eleanor Roosevelt at Halle's buying handkerchiefs.



Fr. Chaloupka

Stanley Zablonty, from the drugstore, went on to law school while dating Eleanor. Politics was to be in his



future, as his name was on the same 1936 Democratic voting ticket as FDR. Stanley promised he would marry "the beautiful and artistic Slovak orphan girl" if he won the election. Well he became State Senator and Fr. Chaloupka married them at Nativity Church. Father Vaclav fulfilled his promise to Eleanor's father to help take care of her spiritual and material needs. (\*Ed. Note: One of the goals for FDR and Stanley, in 1936, was to have "social medicine" for everyone, similar to the Social Security program which was pioneered by FDR in 1935. A program started in the middle of the depression which was a lifesaver for many.)

In 1937 the Zablonty Family increased with the arrival of son Ronald, Elaine and later Caroline and Marybeth. They shared many happy times with neighbors and friends in their Garfield Heights home, at E. 96<sup>th</sup> and Garfield Boulevard. Around 1960 the Zablonty's moved to Hadleigh Road in University Heights – in the shadow of John Carroll University. Eleanor continued her volunteer work as President of the Women's Guild at Marymount Hospital. She also became President of the Women's Guild at Gesu, the Patna Mission, and the University Heights Women's Club. Stanley passed away in 1980.



Stanley and Eleanor

Years later Eleanor moved to the East Coast to live with daughters Mary Beth and Carolyn. As 2010 approached, Eleanor's family planned for her Centennial Year visit to Cleveland to see her old "Polish neighborhood". That celebration was an opportunity to reflect on her miracle story and how she spent her life as a mother and living for others. Eleanor had a keen appreciation of the philosopher Kierkegaard's insight that *'life can only be understood backwards but must be lived forwards.'*



Eleanor and Ron



Carolyn, Eleanor, Mary Beth and Elaine

Continued from page 3 . . . **My Music Memory**

PS. – Carole Brown Rucinski '60, remembers working on the transformed drum – spraying it with fluorescent paint and pasting pieces of mirror all over it. It really was beautiful!

***Then the story continues!***

After graduation in 1960 I started my classes at Saint Alexis Hospital School of Nursing. As the new freshman student nurses, we were informed that the newcomers were traditionally responsible to provide the Christmas entertainment for faculty and students. Oh yes—**you guessed it**...I volunteered to produce and direct ***The Little Drummer Boy*** and was gladly given the position by my classmates. And yes the production was again **spectacular!**

That dramatic, magical last scene produced a pleasant gasp of surprise from the nuns and student nurses. ***The Little Drummer Boy*** Song, those three minutes, will always have a special meaning to me – and obviously to Bill Dix. "Thanks for the memories." Sorry I have no pictures of either production.



Donna & Jim Goliat  
Class of 1960

**Music memories.... what are yours?**

**Feedback stories: H.M.S. Pinafore – Spring 1969**

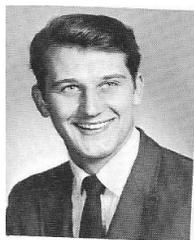
**Jan Juchnowski '69**, recalls from the operetta ***H.M.S. Pinafore*** that involved the first solo he sang during the dress rehearsal for the Saint Stanislaus Grade School.

In his own words...As the scene opens: I put my leg on top of a keg and then begin to sing. Without expecting it, my leg suddenly begins shaking. My bellbottoms were flapping so much it looked as if I was standing in a high wind on the open sea! To make matters worse – I could hear several cast members behind me saying, "Look at his leg! Look at his leg!" To stop the shaking I had to press down hard on my knee with my arm. While I didn't think I was nervous, however, my leg certainly did have a mind of its own and thought differently.



**Karen Antos Chmielecki '69** recalls — "I remember at the end of the last evening performance, we had taken our bows and the curtain was in the process of closing. Jan gave a huge sigh of relief because we got through it and we kissed. The curtain was not yet closed — so — the audience saw it and they laughed and applauded. We were so embarrassed!"

No one in the cast had any formal training in singing or acting but with the help of Sister Celeste and Mr. Poure and hours and hours of rehearsals, we managed to put on an entertaining show. Jan played Ralph and I was Josephine, in the lead parts we were joined by John Mahalski, Bob Bartkowski, Laura Drozd and many "sisters, cousins and aunts" in the large cast. We didn't have an orchestra, not even a band, so all the musical accompaniment was provided by Joanne Mancini on the piano. She was simply amazing. All in all, I'd say we had a good time! Although my stage experience began and ended in high school, I still sing in the church choir and serve as Canter at Mass at Saint Francis De Sales in Parma.



JAN A.  
JUCHNOWSKI



KAREN R.  
ANTOS



# Congratulations Ron Grams '56

Ron is the recipient of the Heritage Award from The Polonia Foundation of Ohio. This award is given annually to recognize outstanding contributions to the promotion of Poland. Ron and wife, Joanna, are usually in attendance at many of the Alumni and Friends activities.



Joanna and Ron at the annual Alumni & Friends Picnic held at Klima's Grove on July 30, 2017.

# Congratulations Stephen Todorovich!

This year's recipient of the \$500 scholarship for Cleveland Central Catholic High School which was made possible by the Saint Stanislaus '61 Permanent Endowment Fund.



"Our Stevie" is currently a sophomore and has been very active in the alumni committee and functions for the past six years.

Keep up the good work and remain as an example of true Alumni meaning and spirit.

## PICNIC AND FESTIVAL PHOTOS



Class of 1962 Mini-Reunion



Class of 1967 - 50th Reunion



Class of 1957 - 60th Reunion



Basket Raffle at Festival



Ray Glinka, 1949 Alum at Festival, with daughter and Rita



Alumni from 1947, 1948 and 1949



Frs. Pascal, Joe, & Eric with Bishop Perez



Betsy Kling (Chanel 3) and daughter Josie

## Congratulations Al Mosinski, '64 & '68



AL MOSINSKI - 2017

Our \$100 cut out drawing was held on November 1, 2017. The \$855 profit from the raffle helped to pay for all of this current Spire's postage. Thanks to all who participated.

**Thank You** Suzie and Larry Hovater for being there for the Slavic Village Community and the St. Stans Alumni.



**Fairchild Printing**  
5807 Fleet Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44105  
216-641-4192

Official printers of  
*The Spire Newsletter* from its beginning.

## Reunion information contacts

**1948 – 70<sup>th</sup> Reunion**  
Rita Krynski Golubski.....216-341-0881

**1958 – 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion**  
Nobbie Zielinski.....330-840-9872

**1963 – 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion**  
Bernie Larca Smietana..... 440-826-0009

**1968 – 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion**  
Karen Matus Neuman.....216-524-5621

## School Corner – Mrs. Deborah Martin



A huge **THANK YOU** to all the Alumni & Friends who provided the funds for our new third and eight grade Religion books!!!

## In Memoriam

We extend condolences to the family, friends and fellow alumni of the recently departed.

Arvid Wegenek '61  
Al Uridel '61  
Marilyn Makowski O'Brien '61  
Fr. Douglas Makowski OFM  
(Brother of Marilyn O'Brien)  
Agnes Bartoszek  
(Mother of Suzanne Krusoe'68)

Edward Hejl '55  
Ron Szarwark '59  
Helen Sitarz (ES) '44  
Ray Glinka '49  
Casimira Thomas  
Louis Juszkievicz

**Alumni Association Chair:**  
Bob Sledz: 440-333-7827  
[sledzbob@yahoo.com](mailto:sledzbob@yahoo.com)

Rectory and Parish Office:  
216-341-9091  
[www.ststanislaus.org](http://www.ststanislaus.org)

### Contact information:

The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus  
3649 East 65 Street  
Cleveland, OH 44105

Previous *Spire* issues located on website