



# *The Spire*

*St. Stanislaus Alumni  
& Friends Newsletter*

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1  
8 PAGES

JANUARY 2024



## **150th Anniversary** **1873 - 2023**



### *Thank You Volunteers*

This is a photo from the October 27 Appreciation Dinner for those who volunteered at the 2023 St. Stanislaus Polish Festival this year. A nice group having a good time — YET — it is only about 30% of all the volunteers who worked to make this one of the most successful festivals ever.

*A sincere thank you to those who attended and especially to the many volunteers, we hope you had a great time.*

*To volunteer for next year, see the "post it" on page 4.*

*Photo Courtesy of : Don Pieniak  
Web: [bpieniakphoto.com](http://bpieniakphoto.com)*



## RAINY DAY FUND -- RESULTS SINCE JULY 2023 SPIRE

*Thank you for all your support to our fund. Your donations AGAIN allow us to continue The Spire newsletters as well as our support for St. Stan's Elementary School and efforts to celebrate the 150th Anniversary.*

*The following 33 Rainy Day Donors allowed us to increase our working fund by \$4238 since July 2023.*

***Thank you for your generosity!***

### **PACESETTER (\$500+)**

Richard & Ruth Walker - 70th Anniversary

Jan (Karash) Swift '58

Florence (Karash) Nowocin '60

### **LEADER (\$250-499)**

Jerome (Mierzejewski) Meyers '52

Helen Cooke ES '42

### **STAR (\$100-250)**

Thomas Priebe '60

Joan Hoelscher

Rosalyn Dadas ES K-5

Timothy Florencki ES '72

Louis P. Kleis ES '51 HS '55

Jim & Betty Cackowski '60

Joyce '62 & Larry '61 Guzy

Diane (Waszewski) Yoblin '57

Ron Wilinski '65

Diane (Markiewicz) '67 & Tom '67 Banaszak

Rose Marie Zielinski-Sweeney '59

Jan Juchnowski '69

***In memory of*** Eugene Pawlowski ES '55

### **BENEFACTORS (\$50-99)**

Donna (Roginski) Heid '61

Sharon (Sielaty) Kozak '70

Javier Lopez MD

Ken Ferjutz '65

### **PATRONS (\$25-49)**

Robert Golab Macluso LA '61

Marilyn Brenkus '57

Anna Lesniak

***In memory of*** Gregory Cesear

Steve Hujarski '65

Ken Nemec

Carol (Koprowski) Orzech '61

Helen (Pruc) Pekala '69

Eileen (Halter) Rini '58

Jim Benduhn '64

Felicia Ann Madden '63

### **RECENT EXPENSES**

School Religion Program — \$1000 • School White Paper — \$507  
Mass Wine & Hosts November — \$300 • Spire newsletter, stamps, etc — \$2000

## **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 \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATION: ES- \_\_\_\_\_ HS- \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To:

St. Stans Alumni

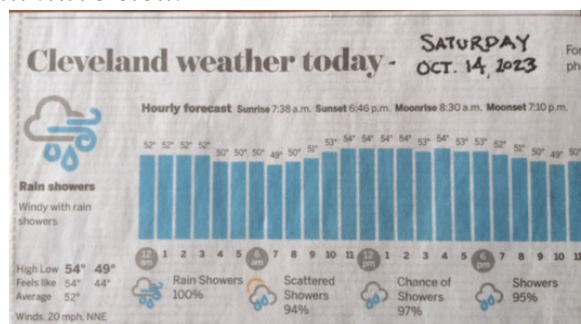
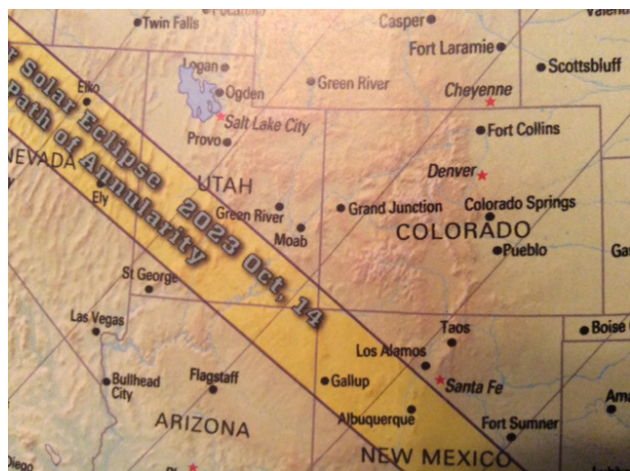
The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus

3649 East 65 Street

Cleveland, OH 44105

**Cleveland, Ohio — Cloudy!**

*Unfortunately after almost a year of anticipation the weather did not cooperate. Hoping the April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse will have clear skies for you.*



## ***Good News from Colorado!***

*Joan Hoelscher, Cousin of Bob Sledz  
Grand Junction, CO*

Your St. Stans solar viewer was a huge success! Went outside in warm clothes and my faithful warm slippers, looking a bit like a homeless person, but was pleasantly surprised for about an hour starting at 10:15 AM with what I could easily see. Of course, there were dog walkers, Lee, close neighbors, and two elder couples just out for a stroll, all of whom were very pleased to have the opportunity to use the viewer. Also because some had never before seen an annular eclipse. What an experience, thanks ever so much!

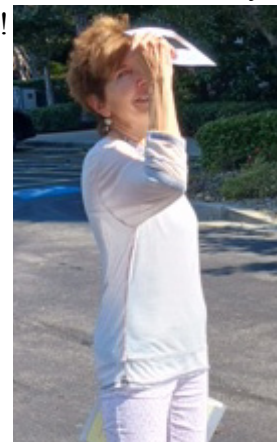
Our son-in-law said that when he noticed it happening, all the dogs and sheep came running to him for protection. This was in Williams, AZ, where they have 35 acres with there home.

## ***Good Viewing in South Carolina***

We were in Myrtle Beach for the annular eclipse! Throughout the day, Chester and I, along with our friends Audrey and Stan, looked through the viewers to see the amazing scene. It really was exciting to experience the eclipse. We went to a winery that afternoon, and at the registration table (which was outside), Stan asked me if we could give one of the viewers to them so that other guests could view the eclipse. Of course, I said "yes." One of the ladies asked where St. Stanislaus Church was from the picture on the viewer. I told her. She said her husband and her like to visit beautiful churches! Who knows . . . maybe one day she will visit! When we left the winery, the registration table said they had shared the viewer with other people who were registering. So, I'm glad to say, a lot of people used the St. Stanislaus Alumni viewer . . . even as far as South Carolina! Thanks to you, it was a great experience and shared by many. The picture below shows me using the viewer as I'm looking at Stan taking the picture!!!

*Again, thanks for the fun experience. As a teacher, it was fun to share the experience with others. You have to think that some of the people did not even know there was an eclipse nor know what it was all about!*

***Sharon Kozak — Alumni '70***



**A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE** on Monday April 8, 2024 moves from Mexico Northeastward to the Atlantic coast of Labrador. Every location in the 48 states will have at least 16% partial eclipse. **CLEVELAND WILL HAVE ALMOST 4 MIN OF TOTALITY !**

## HOPEFUL FOR THE APRIL 8th ECLIPSE

Back in November 2021 the Alumni Committee decided as a group on a project to help celebrate St. Stan's Parish 150th upcoming anniversary during 2023-2024. During that period of time there would be TWO eclipses that could be seen in all 48 states. We would construct 4000 safe Mylar solar viewers on heavier stock paper that also contained parish and eclipse information. Over a period of several months construction progressed — each viewer was tested for safety, and thanks to equipment borrowed from Fairchild Printing — each viewer was glued not stapled in the safer process.

The viewers were given to all elementary & CCCHS students, parish guests, and Mass attendees over the October Festival weekend. The viewers were given compliments of the St. Stan's Alumni & Friends. About 1800 viewers will be available to be given free as the TOTAL SOLAR date approaches next spring — check the church bulletin as Easter season approaches (*Easter is March 31, 2024*).

## ECLIPSE INFORMATION:

- There are normally about TWO eclipses a year — but usually the dark umbral path is across remote ocean areas.
- On the average a Total Solar Eclipse from a given spot on earth is about once every 375 years, Cleveland is in that spot path next year.
- The last Total Solar path over Cleveland was in 1806, after the April 8, 2024 event, there will be another Solar over us in Cleveland in 2099.
- Let us all hope for clear skies and enjoy the entire experience all day. THE 4 MINUTES OF TOTALITY IS UNBELIEVABLE ! However as the giant shadow develops and approaches over 70 minutes from the West is an experience.
- After totality, watch as the giant shadow moves to the east horizon over the next 70 minutes.
- Experienced eclipse chasers from all over America know that Cleveland is in the center of the path of totality, and are ALL HOPING for clear skies that day.
- This whole experience will always be remembered.



## POST IT NOTE CORNER

CLASS OF '54  
Please contact  
Sr. Madeleine Rybicki  
(216) 224-9186

CLASS OF 1954  
70th REUNION

CLASS OF '64  
Please contact  
Jim Benduhn  
Home: 440-248-7638  
Cell: 216-956-4344  
4bender@sbcglobal.net  
CLASS OF 1964  
60th REUNION

If interested in  
Volunteering for  
Parish Festival or  
Alumni Activity  
Contact:  
Bob: 1-440-333-7827  
Karen: 216-524-5621



*Larry fondly remembers Annie . . .*

My most cherished recollections involve the amazing Sr. Patricia and her Glee Club. I was told that Rene Perdion had the most beautiful singing voice in the choir. But from what I saw and heard, no one could compare to Annie Arko ('60), and her fellow singers. There was this school assembly, magical event that occurred one afternoon. Classes were canceled and we dutifully filed into our tiny gym. Then the singing began. Carole Brzuski ('62) sang, "Dicky, Dicky Blue Bird" and then along came Linda Stevens who belted out "When the Red, Red Robin Comes Bobbing Along." Then the choir took center stage. One of the songs was "Red Wing" and another was "Evelina, but they call me Eve." I never heard those songs before. Wow the air was filled with wondrous harmony. Song after song, brought more and more joy to me. There were two memories that really stand out—Annie Arko with her soprano voice. Now every time I hear Paul Anka sing "Lonely Boy," there is a part where only a special soprano voice adds to the song. I can still hear Annie sing that as only she could do justice to it. But I do not remember what song was next? I think it was Ken Burke, who sang Harry Belafonte's newest song; it may have been "Oh Island in the Sun." It was so new; Ken had the lyrics in hand to refer to while singing. I could not believe Ken's voice. I was amazed that such musical talent existed at our school. I wished the concert would never end, but sadly it did. It still gives me a warm feeling whenever I think about it

*. . . Then Annie Saves Larry*

This next memory again involves Annie Arko. She was a real head turner. As an underclassman, I wished I could be one of her friends. During our lunch canteens, I overheard a boy in her class call her "mom." I do not know why he did this, but I thought that this could work for me. Next time, I was near her at one of our canteens, I worked up the courage and smiled and said "Hi Mom." She looked at me and gave me the biggest and warmest smile. I did it! Whenever I had the opportunity I would greet her with a "Hi Mom" and I got that same wonderful smile. A few canteens later, I was standing near the stage, the proverbial wallflower. I looked around and suddenly came to the realization I was being singled out and surrounded by about a dozen upperclassman, and the circle was starting to get smaller as they walked towards me. I remember saying to myself "how the heck is this going to play out?" Two thoughts ran through my mind. First I was in awe with the organization and action of those upperclassman. And second, "I had a feeling I violated protocol by calling Annie, who was my senior, "Mom." That name was reserved for a very few upperclassman, and that certainly did not include me. I was an interloper. I did not earn the right to call Annie "Mom." What was I thinking? Suddenly the circle was broken. It was Annie and several of her friends to the rescue. There they were in the circle. Annie looked at them and asked "What are you planning to do with him?" In a wink of an eye, the circle just melted away. I do not remember if I ever called Annie "Mom" again, but she did give me one of her signed senior class pictures before she graduated.

**JUDY KRAKOWSKI '63 -- RECALLS THE GIFTED "CRYSTALS"**

When Bob Sledz asked me to write an article for the Spire about the "Crystals" — I hesitantly agreed — and when he said about 100 words I almost backed out. I will try my best and so far I have 41 words! Carol, Gloria, Yvonne and I were all friends from Sacred Heart of Jesus School. We all sang in the choir so naturally we joined the Glee Club when we started at St. Stans, because we loved singing! When Sr. Paul heard us sing as a group she encouraged us to perform at assemblies and then wanted us to make a recording the following year — but as luck would have it — she was transferred out of state that summer and our dreams were pushed out of the wayside.



Talk about a short story — it doesn't get much shorter!

In addition to performing at assemblies we also participated in two operettas — Babes In Toyland and The Student Prince. It was so enjoyable, but after Sr. Paul left it all seemed to fall apart for us — the "Crystals." It's great to look back at those "FUN" years and wonder where did all the time go and why did it have to go so "FAST!"

REHEARSING a number, the Crystals, featuring l. to r. seniors Carol Skrzydleski, Judy Krakowski, Yvonne Brzozowski, and Gloria Mikloajski to sing "Moments to Remember" for the Senior Prom.





***St Stanislaus  
Annual  
Polish Festival  
October  
6, 7, 8th, 2023  
Celebrating 150 Years!***







**Dr. Deborah Martin and Denise Schultz**  
Both were very busy festival workers  
Above Photo from Organized Appreciation Dinner



***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.**







***The St. Stanislaus Alumni and Friends extends its condolences to the family and friends of the recently departed and pray the Lord will welcome them into everlasting life.***

John Fijalkovich '65  
 Marianne Zoldak '65  
 Joan (Cieplowski) McCarthy (89) -  
 Mother of Dave McCarthy ES '73 Usher  
 Gail (Biegacki) Lenczowski '62  
 Ray Smolen  
 Jackie (Koterski) Skrzypek '61  
 Beverly Yarmesh '56  
 Jeani (Kowalski) Harn '66

Gerald husband of Geraldine (Buras) Jankowski '60  
 Irene Hovater mother of Larry Hovater Fairchild Printing  
 Evelyn (Zachowski) Kondas ES '43  
 Bernadine "Beany" Koprowski '60  
 Fran Bankowski CCC '70  
 Ron Okleson '59  
 Christine (Lewandowski) Vandenberg '69  
 Dolores Kozlowski, Mother of Chef David Kozlowski

**CONTACT: Alice (Smolinski) Kulwicki at 216-398-5390  
 or Donna (Roginski) Heid at dheid1961@gmail.com**



Bob Sledz '61  
 Rita Golubski '48  
 Sharon Kozak '70

Letter from the editor

This issue marks 12 years of newsletters and the many adventures we had along the way. The years have flown by but at times it seemed to be exhausting and to take forever. I'm hoping these years doing the *Spire* has helped to make up for the "C-" I received in Sr. Mercedes sophomore journalism course.

The St. Stanislaus Alumni Association was formed in 2006 when Fr. Mike Surufka OFM, Rita Golubski, and Sharon Kozak headed the founding group. The organization name evolved into the more inclusive "St Stan's Alumni & Friends" with our support emphasis for the elementary school and particular parish needs. As time went on, activities & participation increased when graduating classes celebrated a landmark reunion and joined us to help recognize the occasion. There were picnics, soup & salads, chili cook offs, raffles, special fundraiser events, volunteering at the annual festivals as well as our most recent 150th Anniversary Celebration Project. The Alumni & Friends Committee became a **SECOND FAMILY**. However, we feel now may be the time for others to step up to continue the work.

For the past several years we have become more dependent for technical and computer help from Suzie and Larry Hovater at Fairchild Printing—our heroes. Ron Zeszut, the parish website editor, has posted our archives on **ststanislaus.org** and all the generous Rainy Day Donors supported all our efforts. **THANK YOU ALL!**

Because of health and current concerns—for Ingrid and myself—this **may** be the last newsletter for the St. Stan's Alumni & Friends.  
 Best wishes and thank you,  
 Bob Sledz '61

Bob and Ingrid  
 Sledz

