



CARONDELET HIGH SCHOOL 2024

# CARONDELETTER

*Believe*  
in her



## 2024 CARONDELETTER

*Published for the alumnae, families,  
and friends of Carondelet High School*

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Along with others in the Carondelet  
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### ON THE COVER

Jamie Kent '23 and other class of  
2023 graduates

Please send feedback and information  
to [communications@CarondeletHS.org](mailto:communications@CarondeletHS.org)



**MISSION:** Carondelet High School inspires excellence by preparing young women to live with heart, faith, and courage in the Catholic tradition and spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

**VISION:** A Carondelet graduate is empowered by her Catholic, college-preparatory education and is known as a woman who responds to the needs of the times and makes a positive difference.



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# A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## Believe in Her Now, Believe in Her Future

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**I**t is an exciting time to be part of the legacy of Carondelet High School! As we continue the important work of the Sisters of St. Joseph, we remain committed to preparing young women to live with heart, faith, courage, and excellence so they are ready to make an impact both now and in the future. Our Sisters have always been ready to respond to the needs of the times, and it's our duty as educators and champions of the sisterhood to now respond to the needs of our students and create limitless opportunities for our young women.

In this issue of the *Carondeletter* you will discover how we honor and *Believe* in all the young women entrusted to our care. The confidence we have in our

students—in their abilities, faith, resilience, and promise—begets a sense of confidence in themselves. This strength and fortitude is the force that will open doors, it is the hand that will pull them back up, and it is the gentle push that will nudge them forward. The incredible power of believing in our young women not only amplifies their sense of value and importance, it broadens the impact they will have on their world beyond Carondelet.

In March, I had the transformational opportunity to accompany four of our students to the Annual Report on Women and Girls in California hosted by our fellow CSJ institution, Mount St. Mary's University. This gift of time with our empathetic and empowered students further demonstrated our young women's deep passion for advocacy and leadership. It was a beautiful reminder of our Sisters' call to create a vibrant community for these intelligent, faith-filled, and compassionate women leaders to be challenged to think critically and stretch outside of their comfort zone.

I am certain that we are answering our CSJ's call to action. After a highly affirming WCEA/WASC accreditation process, it's more clear than ever that our strategic plan paves the right path for our students. Our inspired community will continue the important work of

providing an exceptional foundation of learning, character, faith, and unifying love upon which they can build for the rest of their lives. Thank you for being part of this critical journey forward as we demonstrate to our students that we *Believe* in them now and we *Believe* in their future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J-Mix '99".

Jessica (Smith) Mix '99  
President



we  
*Believe*  
in her

Carondelet Faculty and Staff



Alumnae Faculty and Staff







# EXCELLENCE BY THE NUMBERS

**800**

STUDENTS  
ENROLLED

**12,000+**

NUMBER OF  
ALUMNAE

**28**

AVERAGE  
CLASS SIZE

**16:1**

STUDENT TO  
FACULTY RATIO

**380**

STUDENTS TOOK **670** AP EXAMS.  
Over **74%** received scores of  
3, 4, or 5—far greater than the  
national average.

STUDENTS SERVED

**250+**

ORGANIZATIONS

PERFORMED

**8,652**

SERVICE HOURS

**47%**

OF STUDENTS  
receive merit and/or  
need-based tuition assistance



**99%**

OF GRADUATES  
CONTINUE TO COLLEGE

Over **\$21 MILLION** in college  
scholarships and grants awarded  
to the class of 2023.

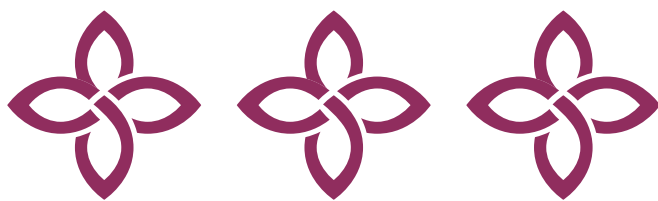




The seniors (in pink) dominated this year's PowerPuff game, beating the juniors (in blue) 21-6!

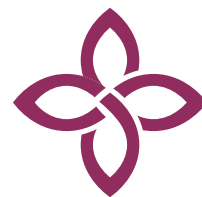






# HOMECOMING 2023

**Homecoming Week** is dedicated to celebration, school spirit, and shared fellowship with our brothers at De La Salle. The week included fun lunchtime activities, themed dress-up days, spirit rallies hosted on both campuses, the highly anticipated **PowerPuff Game**, and a special ceremony honoring the **Homecoming Court**. We hosted our 2nd annual **Varsity Volleyball Homecoming game**, which kicked off with a tailgate party, food, games, and a parade on campus. It was a memorable week that celebrated our students, alumnae (including our Alumnae Award recipients), and new **Hall of Fame** inductees. GO COUGARS!







## BELIEVING IN HER Through Active Community Engagement



### CARONDELET PARENT GUILD

**The Carondelet Parent Guild** (formerly the Parent Association) continues to make a huge impact in the Carondelet community by assisting with numerous Carondelet events throughout the school year. Our Parent Guild helped kick off the year by welcoming the class of 2027 at the **Frosh Family Social**. The Guild was also a big part of the **Crab Feed**, which was one of the most profitable yet. The Guild had their biggest year in sales for the August Used Uniform Sales. Profits from the uniform sale go towards funding their hospitality events for the school year, including: **Back to School Night**, **the Junior Ring Ceremony**, **school award ceremonies**, **Baccalaureate**, and more.

**Parent Guild President Kathleen Jarrett** (parent of Madelyn '20, Natalie '22, and Julia '24) started with the Parent Guild in 2016 when her first daughter attended Carondelet. She served on a committee and took on the president position in 2022. The Parent Guild provides "a sense of family and community and has allowed me to get to know other parents," said Kathleen. "This is a fleeting time for our kids, and I wanted to be a part of my kids' lives." When asked what is her favorite part about being in the Parent Guild, Kathleen replied, "Meeting new parents and building bonds with parents and faculty. You have a constant pulse of what is going on at Carondelet." She urges all parents and family members in the Carondelet community to get involved. "Volunteering is a way to give back to the community while also being a presence in your child's life."



## FATHERS CLUB

**The Fathers Club** has grown to more than 250 members since its inaugural year in 2019. Last May, members of the Fathers Club came to campus to barbecue and serve Carondelet's student leadership teams before the students left for their first leadership training camp. The dads hold monthly meetings throughout the school year to discuss upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and to learn more about Carondelet's programs, which included a visit from Carondelet's Wellness Counselors. **The 2024 Winter Father Daughter Dance** had a record attendance of 210 guests. The event included dinner, dancing, crafting friendship bracelets, smiling in the photo booth, and most importantly, making beautiful father daughter memories in the Jean Hofmann Center for Innovation.

The Fathers Club is on their way to reaching their fundraising goal of \$50,000 for the **Fathers Club Tuition Assistance Fund**, which helps support Carondelet students of single parent households. Many attended the annual Cougar Classic Golf Tournament, where the Fathers Club hosted a fundraising hole for their tuition assistance fund. Fathers and daughters recently volunteered at the White Pony Express food bank in addition to other charitable events. This May, they plan to organize a Father Daughter trip to see an Oakland A's game.



## GRANDPARENTS CLUB

Since its inception in 2019, **the Carondelet Grandparents Club** has significantly expanded from a few dozen to approximately 75 grandparents of students across all grade levels. The students have loved seeing these supportive grandparents on campus and involved with numerous student events over the past five years. The Grandparents Club has played a wonderful supportive role including: making bouquets for Homecoming, helping with **Open House**, assisting setting up for **Visions of Christmas**, stuffing 5,000 plastic Easter eggs for the **Carondelet Easter Egg Hunt**, making corsages for the Sisters on St. Joseph's Day, and handing out hot chocolate during finals. The grandparents end the school year with their very special celebratory **Grandparent Luncheon** with their granddaughters.





## CAMP CARONDELET Becomes Top Summer Spot for Local 3rd-8th Graders

In October 2019, a group of key stakeholders, alongside school leadership gathered in the Convent building to begin mapping out a new summer camp that would launch the following summer. After workshopping many names and concepts in the broader community, **Camp Carondelet** was established with plans to open registration in January 2020.

Following a short launch period in early 2020, the pandemic placed many questions on the viability and likelihood of opening and hosting a camp, especially a new, coed camp no one had ever heard of during a health crisis.

After being greenlit by the Contra Costa County Health Department for a modified launch, we were able to coordinate closely with support schools to secure enrollment of 24 families across four different sessions. We were thankful to also welcome a small group of public school families who had been searching for summer opportunities in the Bay Area, with our camp being one of the only options available at the time.

That summer was a challenge from a health and safety perspective, but also provided data points for improvement while ensuring that our camp could find a place in the competitive East Bay market.

Summer 2021 showed a boomerang effect, with nearly 60 percent of the campers who joined us in the inaugural year returning for at least one session or more and bringing new friends with them during enrollment.

In June and July 2021, we also focused on feedback from families and campers to help inform our programming moving forward.

Some of this feedback highlighted the most positive aspects of camp including the fact that we offer a full-day experience at a lower cost than most local camps and that the kids appreciate that our students run the camp, compared to externally hired staff who are only contracted for the summer.

Another theme amongst parents in 2021 surveys, showed that they and their children enjoyed the contrasting programming we offer that allows campers to experience our main campus and the Carondelet Athletics Complex.

This touchpoint gave us immense validation as we debated the pros and cons of splitting the program between campuses extensively during the conception period of the camp. For most families, Camp Carondelet feels more like an experience than just a destination because of our programming.

Each week, campers have a broad selection of morning rotational activities that include enrichment classes such as Cooking, Escape Room Adventures, Improv, Podcasting, and Storytelling, just to name a few.



In the afternoons, cohorts head to the Carondelet Athletics Complex via a rotational midday shuttle for arts and crafts, free play on the field, and of course, easing the woes of the very hot days of June and July with endless fun in the pool.

The laughter, sheer curiosity, and carefree spirits of our campers bring life to the Jean Hofmann Center for Innovation and the Garaventa Center every summer morning. The buzz is palpable and those working on campus during these quieter months have enjoyed the new energy.

Since 2020, we have done very minimal marketing for Camp Carondelet, with word of mouth outreach being the most powerful tool used to spread the word about what we have to offer. This is something we would have never foreseen when we began planning camp and hearing the tough road other organizations took to get off the ground in the initial years.

In 2023, following a successful January launch and a waitlist that expanded to over 250 campers, we added a fifth week, called the Mid-Summer Session. This week gave us the chance to welcome 46 students on campus in late June who had never attended our camp in the past and also a space to pilot an “all-girls” session of camp for the future.

For 2024, our 65 spots per week sold out in 10 minutes, with a need to add the Mid-Summer Session immediately as the waitlist continues to expand.

This upcoming summer, we will be hosting two “all-girls” sessions of camp, but look forward to having our longstanding coed families return in the other weeks.

Similar to past years, this year there will be new campers who have never experienced our camp. We are excited to introduce them to the Camp Carondelet experience while welcoming back our beloved returners—many who initially signed up for one session, but have increased to four.

Camp Carondelet would not be complete without the outstanding staff, which include current faculty, several alumnae, and the true stars of the show, our current Carondelet students and recent graduates. All work tirelessly to ensure that every child has a memorable experience that will stay with them for a lifetime.

We are looking forward to the next few years and hope to begin seeing the transition of many girl campers from the summer to becoming enrolled students in our community. This trend is most pertinent currently in the Class of 2026, which includes some of our first campers from 2020 and is expected only to grow and expand.

We remain humbled and grateful for the opportunity to not only serve our summer families through camp programming but the chance to build connections with the community that showcase what Carondelet has to offer outside of the classroom to new audiences.





# Carondelet Hosts MINDFUL LITTLES For Middle School Wellness Workshop

We were thrilled to welcome Orinda-based, wellness nonprofit **Mindful Littles** to campus on October 21, 2023, for an all-girls middle school personal development workshop. Mindful Littles, whose mission focuses on 'making compassion a habit' has been a long-term community partner with Carondelet for several years.

Hosted in the Garaventa Center, this half-day event focused on helping over 70 current 6th-8th grade girls find ways to build confidence and connections in their classrooms, on sports teams, and within friendships.

The event started with a round of fun icebreakers and then transitioned into small breakout groups of 10 to 12 middle schoolers, which were led by Carondelet student peer leaders.

Girls who attended learned about past and current female leaders who transformed their communities, which included short activities that highlighted Jane Goodall and Mother Teresa. Other fun elements of this day included students using physical movement as a way to cause positive interactions with others. Students also participated in uplifting cheers and journal writing.

There was also a community service component of the workshop where all participants, including Carondelet students, wrote notes of affirmation and drew photos for local nonprofit Youth Homes.

Following the event, participants were also encouraged to complete a round of post-workshop reflection questions to help keep the meaningful conversations going within their own lives.

As a parting gift, the Mindful Littles team, along with four Carondelet seniors, "planted" a compassion tree in the Cannon Wellness Center. This tree has roots in the corner of the Center and the "leaves" can be interchanged for each season as a way to send positive messages to the school community.

We received incredible feedback from parents about the positive impacts this workshop had on their daughters, and we look forward to hosting Mindful Littles again in the future.





JUNE-JULY 2024

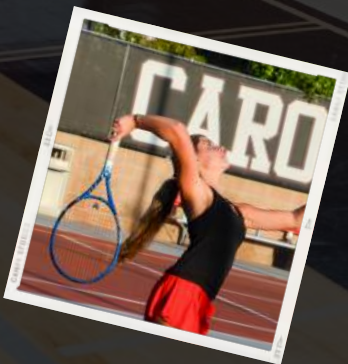


# Girls Sports Clinics

2nd-9th Grade



**BASKETBALL • SOCCER • TENNIS**  
**SOFTBALL • VOLLEYBALL**  
**STRENGTH & CONDITIONING**



SCAN HERE  
TO REGISTER



[CarondeletHS.org/SportsClinics](https://CarondeletHS.org/SportsClinics)





This past October, Carondelet hosted the **CA CSJ High School Leadership Conference**. This conference is where the CSJ sponsored California high schools (Academy of Our Lady of Peace in San Diego, St. Mary's Academy in Inglewood, and St. Joseph High School in Lakewood) send student leaders to get together and spend a couple of days exploring the CSJ mission and charism and how it infuses leadership on each school's home campus. As three schools are located in Southern California, Carondelet usually travels south. This year, the first year an in person conference has been held since 2019, the three Southern California schools traveled to us. We were so excited to host them!

## UNIFYING Love in Action

At Carondelet, we talk a lot about the CSJ charism of "unifying love." **Everything that we do at Carondelet—in the classroom, on the court and fields, in our leadership and clubs, and in our community service and social advocacy—are all efforts to bring people together, to build community, and to spread God's love with our words and actions.** It's something that the faculty, staff, and students feel passionate about. Since we are the only CSJ sponsored all-girls high school in Northern California, we don't often get to join our efforts with our sister schools. This school year we were blessed to be able to participate and connect with other CSJ schools in California and nationwide.

Over two days students spent time getting to know one another, learned about the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, shared mission initiatives that each school traditionally offers, and talked about how to be mission-inspired student leaders on campus. This group also helped put on the annual **St. Marty's Party**, the Halloween carnival Carondelet throws for the children





served by the after school program of Monument Crisis Center and this year, the De La Salle Academy. The experience culminated with an opportunity to meet and visit with Sr. Rosheen Glennon, CSJ and Board Trustee, who shared how she lives out the charism of unifying love in her work and life. There was a lot of laughter, deep reflection, prayer, and building of new friendships. It felt good to be able to gather together in person since COVID had kept the schools apart for so long.

Every year the **National Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph** high school administrators attend a conference hosted by one of the schools. In November 2023, Jessica (Smith) Mix '99, Dr. Elizabeth Chaponot, and Jennifer Reinwald traveled to St. Joseph Academy in Cleveland, Ohio. Schools reflected on the mission, shared ideas, prayed together, and were inspired by keynote speaker Lisa Damour, author of the new book: *The Emotional Life of Teenagers: Raising Connected, Capable, and Compassionate Adolescents*.

They enjoyed visiting a school much older than our own (St. Joseph Academy was founded in 1890). All participants were also able to visit and view the historical artifacts housed at the CSJ archive on campus. They left feeling refreshed and reinvigorated in our mission. It is always affirming to spend time with other school faculty and staff that share the same CSJ mission.

What both of these experiences exhibit is how being in community, sharing with others, and joining our efforts are such powerful expressions of **unifying love in action**.





# Ven a Ver BORDERLANDS

In 2024, six students and two teachers traveled to Tucson, AZ where they learned about the reality of the **US/Mexico border**. The group hiked in the desert with **No More Deaths**, a humanitarian-aid organization based in Southern Arizona. The students heard personal stories from migrants, and left water, food, and encouraging notes to people who were crossing through the desert. The trip concluded with a tour of CSJ sites in the Tucson area including visits with CSJ Sisters.

*"My biggest takeaway from this trip is that we have power and a role. Oftentimes we think our voice isn't important or that what we do doesn't have an impact. But this trip taught me otherwise. We are the future and the present—and what we do now matters greatly. We owe it to society to speak up for those who struggle finding their voice. We can help those in need and we can help people feel safe. We have that power, I have that power."*

– VALERIA RUBIO '25

*"Change must start in the heart. I learned to love others with kindness and respect and see everyone as the beautiful masterpieces that God created them to be. By doing so, we can bring God's kingdom to Earth."*

– JANELLE BARRAGAN '24



## Ven a Ver DC

In fall of 2023, seven Carondelet students and three teachers attended the **Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice**. Prior to the start of the conference, they visited monuments and museums along the National Mall.

During the large group sessions at the conference, students learned about migration and environmental issues. On their last day in DC, students met with a staffer from Representative Mark DeSaulnier's office where the students shared their concerns over immigration and fossil fuel policies.

## What was your favorite part of visiting the museums and monuments?

*"I was excited to visit the National History Museum and learn new things."*

– ANGELA CARDENAS '25

*"Visiting the monuments and memorials was very emotional."*

– MADELINE BROWN-VEGA '25

*"Visiting the Lincoln Memorial and seeing where Martin Luther King Jr stood."*

– SASHA MENDELSON '25

## What were some takeaways from the conference?

*"Even small actions can make a big difference."*

– ANGELINA VELASCO '24

*"I really appreciated the presentation from Jane Bleasdale on critical feminist theories and Catholic Social Teaching."*

– RILEY FAUST '24

*"I enjoyed hearing about how to create an intentional space for women to gather."*

– IMANI MCDONALD '25

*"Meeting new people, being open to new ideas, and growing closer to my Carondelet sisters."*

– SAMANTHA ROSALES '25

# CAMPUS MINISTRY

## Ven a Ver FRUITS OF LABOR

In fall of 2023, six students and two teachers traveled to the **Salinas Valley** to learn about farmworking and migrant farm workers. On the final day of the immersion, students volunteered at a food distribution event sponsored by **Second Harvest Food Bank**. The students served more than 200 farmworker families by distributing items such as bananas, tomatoes, and other produce.

*"At the food distribution, I got to see with my own eyes how these people live and fight to survive, and it now reinforces my dream for the future. The most meaningful parts of the immersion were the parts I got to take action in, I was able to make a difference in these people's lives. It doesn't matter even if it's small, it still helps to take a burden off their shoulders. I got to take a glimpse into these people's lives. We can all make a difference, one dollar or fruit at a time."*

– JADE WON '26





# CAMPUS MINISTRY

## STUDENTS



*"Since my Kairos, I have told myself to say 'yes' more. While on Kairos I was able to say yes, and open up and be vulnerable with my group which was the start of this journey. Instead of resisting the discomfort of talking about my emotions and feelings to seniors that I did not know, I was able to build up the courage*

*to trust them and talk to them. And now that I have gone on my Kairos, my goal is to have this mentality with everything that I do. Not to be scared or let my anxieties stop me. I want to be involved in my school community and surround myself with the people and activities that bring me joy, making sure that I live out my promise to myself of embracing who I am, and not being embarrassed or overthinking about the things that I love. So instead of thinking that people are going to judge me for participating in spirit weeks, I am going to dress up and go to all the events that I can. I want to use my power to lift the underclassmen and make them feel included and I encourage you to do the same. Why waste the precious year that we have left of high school making enemies when it costs nothing to be kind."*

– KENDALL FOXWORTHY '24



## KAIROS REFLECTIONS



*"Kairos was an experience beyond words. I don't know if I can fully explain the mental or spiritual impact it had on me with the 26 letters in our alphabet. There was an insanely overwhelming feeling of oneness and unity within the girls in that room, and along with our sacred stories, it made me realize how similar we all were under the surface despite our extrinsic differences. I learned that I am more loved and appreciated much more than I had thought. As for God, I also had a very interesting experience. I have grown up in a Catholic family but never truly felt a connection to Catholicism. Since middle school I have identified as Agnostic—not an atheist but also not religious. I have been waiting for the moment to feel a sense of God, and well, I think I did on Kairos. I'm not sure if I'm Catholic by any means, but I left the retreat with less doubt, and more hope in my mind when it came to believing in God."*

– MIA HERNANDEZ-ROSE '24

*(By the way, Mia was just baptized into the Catholic church on Dec. 13, and all three campus ministers were there with her!)*

## ALUMNAE & STAFF

*"I didn't go on Kairos while I was at Carondelet. Being able to go on Kairos 98 as an adult leader was a special opportunity in experiencing the retreat from a different perspective and at a later stage in life. It was inspiring to see the students open their hearts and reflect on their relationship with themselves, their peers, and God. I am grateful for this second chance opportunity to participate in the retreat and will forever cherish the memories made with the young women of Kairos 98."*

– BETTINA BAUTISTA '06 - Graphic Design & Digital Media Manager



Left to right: Bettina, Colleen, and Maggie

*"One of my favorite parts of Kairos is seeing the student leaders shine. These girls go through rigorous training and intense preparation—they bring the magic fairy dust to the retreat. I am in awe of their seamless presentation skills, ability to guide and serve their peers, while simultaneously balancing all the background logistics. As an alumna and educator at Carondelet, witnessing the Kairos leaders thrive really demonstrates how valuable the experience of a Carondelet education is. I know these young women will continue to do great things, and it is such an honor to play a part in their journey."*

– MAGGIE LETTIRE '13 - Director of Student Activities

*"Kairos is part of the fabric of the Carondelet experience. I have been lucky to experience Kairos six times in six different ways (recently as a guest speaker), and I am always in awe of the way that God works uniquely on every one. Each retreat reflects the unique spirit of each student present, and it is always an honor to watch girls grow closer with themselves, each other, and God over their three days. Kairos shaped me as a student, and I am so grateful that every senior has the opportunity to experience that transformation, too."*

– COLLEEN GILL '15



# THE Crayon<sup>®</sup> INITIATIVE

Every year during the **Advent** season, Spiritual Life Council plans a school wide project that benefits a local nonprofit organization. The project includes education, advocacy, and a donation drive centered on a need or social justice issue. This year, the council partnered with **The Crayon Initiative**, an organization that melts broken or used crayons into new, larger crayons for hospitalized children.

The donation drive began after Thanksgiving break and was accompanied by daily crayon trivia questions related to recycling, waste management, and the science behind crayons. In the end, our school collected 256 pounds of crayons, which made 10,240 new crayons that will be donated to children's hospitals. The Crayon Initiative estimated that these new crayons will serve 1,280 pediatric patients.

In addition to the donation drive, another component of this project was a service day. Twenty-two students volunteered at Carefield Pleasanton Memory Care where they visited the residents and sorted crayons for The Crayon Initiative.

“Volunteering at Carefield Pleasanton was an amazing experience and opportunity that really made my day. One of my favorite memories was hearing about how much one of the residents loved origami swans and seeing her face light up when we told her we brought her some. She gave us all the biggest hug when we left and it was so fun to see her smile. I would definitely go back to volunteer again and I still think about the conversations I had with the residents!”

NATALIE ROSS '24



“My friend and I met a resident who talked to us about the importance of education and following the path that you love. It was a moving conversation that changed my perspective on life. Her words will stick with me for the rest of my journey and I am so grateful that she shared her experiences with me. On the way back to Carondelet, I was looking out the window and I saw the most beautiful sunset and all that came to my mind were the beautiful new perspectives I gained during this experience. I felt changed and grateful. I am so glad that I decided to go on this trip. It benefited me just as much as it benefited the people we were volunteering for. It was an unforgettable experience.”

HALEY NELSON '27



BELIEVE IN HER

# GIVING BACK

The dedicated partnership of our community of supporters resulted in a standout year. Your philanthropic support, volunteer efforts, and engagement with school life during the 2022-2023 year helped raise **\$1.2M** in contributed income, **117%** of our goal. Additionally, we raised more than **\$650K** for our Wellness Initiative, centered in the Cannon Wellness Center.



Your generosity enabled us to enhance our tuition assistance offerings, further leveling the playing field for all young women at Carondelet. And as a direct result of your investments, our Student Life, Educational Support, College Counselors, and Wellness Team continue to provide crucial resources for students' academic, spiritual, and social-emotional journeys. These are just a handful of the countless resources—staff, classes, programs, supplies, and initiatives—that we provide, **thanks to you.**

## FINANCIAL AID

Through generous donors, approximately **47%** of Carondelet students received some form of financial aid, including **\$1.5 million** in need-based grants and **\$350,000** in merit awards. This not only provides access and opportunity to students who receive aid, but enriches the experience for *all* students and community members by making Carondelet a socio-economically diverse campus.

“*Believe In Her, invest in her, nurture her. It's all about action. What am I going to do to help?*”

—  
**ADA OKOYE '13**

“*Going to Carondelet was a privilege, and I see how much of a gift it's been in my life.*”

—  
**ISABELLA VERAN '22**

“*I wholeheartedly support Carondelet because it empowers young women to embrace their potential and pursue excellence in a supportive environment. Investing in their education is an investment in a future where strong, confident women make a positive impact on the world.*”

—  
**PARENT OF STUDENT  
IN THE CLASS OF 2025**

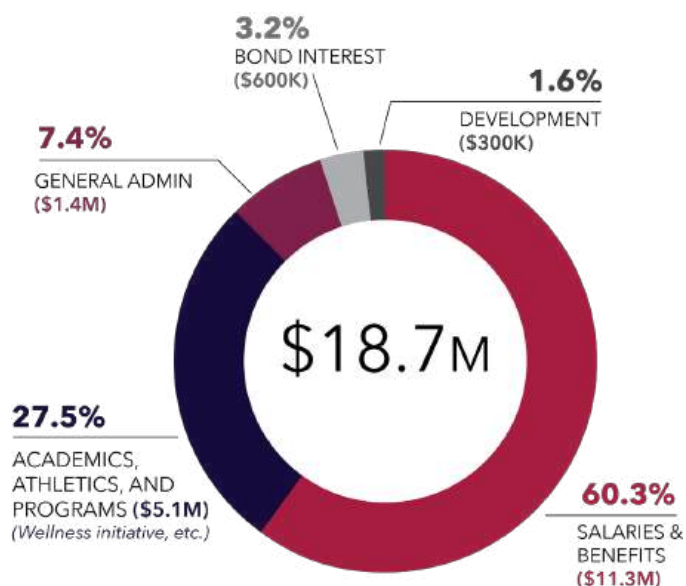
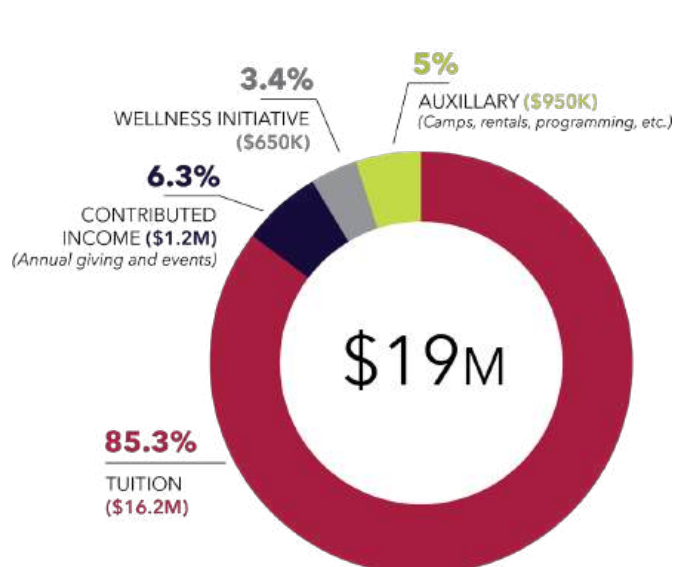


**74%**  
Current Donor Families  
(2022-2023)

**\$2.24 million**  
Alumnae Lifetime Giving  
(as of 1/31/24)

**100%**  
Faculty/Staff Donors  
(2022-2023)

## INCOME STATEMENT (2022-2023)





# STEWARDSHIP

Carondelet's **Many the Gifts** report recognizes contributions made to the school from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. We make every effort to provide a complete and accurate listing and regret any errors.

For our complete annual report and donor honor roll, please visit our website.



<sup>w</sup> = Wellness Fund Donor

## Sisters of St. Joseph Circle (\$10,000 and up)

Carolyn and Russell Anderson 20  
Anonymous Donor 20  
Lea and James Baldacci 20  
Paul and Betty Baldacci Family Foundation 20  
Janice and Nicholas Brathwaite 5  
Corinne and Dave Bruzzone <sup>w</sup> 5  
Donald and Donna Bruzzone <sup>w</sup>  
Caroline and Michael Buckley <sup>w</sup>  
Anne and Scott Cannon <sup>w</sup> 5  
Conco Cement Company 15  
Countrywood Shopping Center  
Jennifer Ghelfi De Smedt '85 and Philippe De Smedt <sup>w</sup> 5  
Amber DeSilva <sup>w</sup> 5  
David DeSilva <sup>w</sup> 5  
Mary Beth Kulawiec Dittrich '79 and Thomas Dittrich <sup>w</sup> 20  
Cheryl and Orlando Frasca 5  
Tammy Anderson Freeman '86 and Richard Freeman <sup>w</sup> 20  
Julie Gonzalez '99 10  
Janice and Stephen Hamill 20  
Lehmer's Buick GMC Concord 20  
Renee and Robert Little <sup>w</sup> 5  
Little Brook, LLC  
Christine Sabatte Logan '73 and Richard Logan Jr. <sup>w</sup> 20  
Mollee and Matthew Madrigal <sup>w</sup> 5  
Linda and Michael Mahoney 20  
Aimee Pourroy-Martin and James Martin  
Elizabeth Baldacci Martino '74 and Marty Martino 20  
Elizabeth and Paul Nuti <sup>w</sup> 10  
Jeanne and Robert Power III <sup>w</sup> 5

Robert S. and Helen P. Odell Fund  
Jodie and Jack Russi 20  
Catherine and Paul Schweiger 5  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Los Angeles Province <sup>w</sup> 15  
Katherine Stupak <sup>w</sup>  
The Ronald and Katherine Stupak Foundation <sup>w</sup>  
Vituity Cares Foundation  
Bentley and Tim Westphal <sup>w</sup>  
The Westphal Family Foundation <sup>w</sup>  
William G. Irwin Charity Foundation <sup>w</sup>  
Neil Wirth 20

## President's Circle (\$5,000 and up)

Marina and Cesare Alessandrini <sup>w</sup> 5  
Dennis Alumbaugh and Kathryn Lawrence 5  
Gar Bailey <sup>w</sup>  
Patricia and William Barry <sup>w</sup> 10  
Kathleen and Tony Brekke  
Joseph Cannizzo  
Chevron Humankind Matching Gifts Program <sup>w</sup> 20  
Sarah Coddington and Michael Turner  
Catherine Havlik Coste '84 and Randall Coste 10  
Carol and Victor de Melo <sup>w</sup> 5  
Denise Thomas Duyen '75 and Robert Duyen 10  
Gina and Brian Ferguson  
G. Willard Miller Foundation  
Anabelle and Rudolph Galera <sup>w</sup> 5  
Eileen and Scott Gallagher <sup>w</sup> 5  
Carolyn Garvey and Frederick Kaynor  
Lisa and John Gill <sup>w</sup>

Google <sup>w</sup> 5  
Marcela and Ryan Green <sup>w</sup>  
Michelle James  
Niels and Susan Larsen  
Michelle and Ty Lawson  
Patricia and Luis Legaspi  
Kathleen McCormick 5  
Allison Boscacci Mein '88 <sup>w</sup> 10  
Jessica Smith Mix '99 and Jerome Mix 10  
Terezia Nemeth and Charles Gibson  
Patricia Niven 10  
Thomas and Christine Olinger 5  
Grace Olson '11  
Deborah and Steve O'Neal  
Megan and William Patterson <sup>w</sup>  
Wendy Richardson Pauli '83 <sup>w</sup>  
Cynthia and Randall Pond 20  
Robert Half International <sup>w</sup> 5  
Stephanie Seeno-Miles '80 and Clyde Miles 20  
Katerina Sellis and Emmanuel Papadakis <sup>w</sup>  
Dr. Rosanne Siino '80 15  
Susan Solger '73 20  
Andrea and Patrick Sullivan  
Christin and Geary Tsutsui 5  
Amy and Peter Wright <sup>w</sup>  
Amy Yakaitis '94 and David Yakaitis <sup>w</sup>

## Principal's Circle (\$2,500 and up)

Catherine and Steven Allington 5  
Anonymous Donor <sup>w</sup> 10  
Anonymous Donor 20  
Andrea and Louis Baldacci  
Eleanor and Jaron Bergin 5  
Natalina and Dario Bernardi <sup>w</sup> 5  
Allison and Alex Bly 5



Tom and Kitte Bobich 20  
 Tracy and Bradley Bowles 5  
 Devona and Rob Brazier  
 Brookfield Properties Development  
 Stephanie and John Brychel <sup>w</sup> 5  
 Paris and Knute Bucklew <sup>w</sup> 5  
 Geri and Boland Buhl  
 Rosangela Burlani Cooper  
 and Nicolas Cooper  
 Suzanne and Justin Camara  
 Pamela and Paul Cassidy  
 Andreas Chandra and Irene Sutanto <sup>w</sup>  
 Xiao Hong Chen and Michael Liu  
 Larisa and James Chiappe 5  
 Cynthia and Keith Cormier <sup>w</sup>  
 Becky Courter <sup>w</sup>  
 Katherine and Michael Couture  
 Michelle and Rob Craw <sup>w</sup>  
 Lindsey and Jeffrey Daems  
 Terri and Michael Dobson  
 Wendy and Akhil Duggal  
 Melissa and Rick Ellyson <sup>w</sup>  
 Sara Fichtenkort-Larose '84  
 and Jonathan Larose  
 Allison and Justin Gagnon <sup>w</sup>  
 Bing and Rhyam Gamo  
 Karen and James Greer 5  
 Svetlana Gutierrez and Joselito De Lusong  
 Lindsay and Huntley Hanover  
 John C. Harper and Dr. Tabitha S. Harper  
 Rebecca and David Hennessy <sup>w</sup>  
 Ann and Robert Hester  
 Holly and Mark Hylen  
 Image Orthodontics & Kali Smiles Kids  
 Kimberly King  
 Anne and Jason Knight <sup>w</sup>

Rick Koch  
 Niels and Jennifer Larsen  
 Andrea and Hartwell Lin  
 Sondra and Marc Macaulay <sup>w</sup> 15  
 Christian Madsen  
 Molly and Sean Maduck  
 James and Laura Marcotte 10  
 Alexis and Ricardo Martinez <sup>w</sup>  
 Marisa Mathis and Fred Mathis Jr. <sup>w</sup> 5  
 Matthew Rinn State Farm Agency  
 Mariya and Tzvetan Mikova  
 Valerie and Scott Mollahan  
 Marie Murphy  
 Kris Nunn <sup>w</sup>  
 Amy and Ben O'Connor  
 Aderonke and Ernie Olatunji <sup>w</sup>  
 Nancy O'Malley '71 and John Vidano <sup>w</sup> 20  
 Ozzie and Ali Oromchian  
 Ragen and Wayne Ortland <sup>w</sup> 5  
 Pacific Gas & Electric Company 20  
 Carol Pueringer Padilla '82 and  
 Rodney Padilla 5  
 Rebecca Peterson and Brian Ahern  
 Rebecca Pringle  
 Ashley and Matthew Rinn  
 Jennifer and Jonathan Rodde 5  
 Joshua and Rikki Roden 5  
 Amber and Brian Ross  
 Adriana Sablan <sup>w</sup>  
 Debra Buckles Santos '96 and  
 Roberto Santos 5  
 SC Builders 5  
 Stacy and Cary Schirmer  
 Angella and Richard Schmidt  
 Jennifer and Ken Schock 5  
 Cristofer Sena <sup>w</sup>  
 Lynn Spiegel  
 Emily St. Jean Duggan '05 and  
 Patrick Duggan 10  
 Monica and Zachary Stassi  
 United Way of the Bay Area 10  
 Glenda and Ramon Silano  
 VMware Foundation 5  
 Wasser Wealth Management  
 Amy and Nathan Wasser <sup>w</sup>  
 Joelle and David Weckerle  
 Lani and Roger Werne 5  
 John and Sarah Werner  
 Judy and David Zdanowicz <sup>w</sup> 5

## RECOGNITION EXPANSION 2023-2024

To keep pace with the tremendous growth and engagement of our generous community of supporters, we are evolving our donor recognition and stewardship programs. This fiscal year, we enhance our giving circles and societies and provide more curated opportunities to make an impact on behalf of Carondelet students.

### Annual Giving Circles & Societies

Sisters of St. Joseph Circle – \$10,000 and up  
 President's Circle – \$5,000 and up  
 Carondelet Circle – \$2,500 and up

**1965 Society** - donations of \$1,965 or more

**Dear Neighbor Society** - donations of \$5,000 or more in one year

**Fontbonne Society** - legacy/planned giving

### Sister Circles

Current students and alumnae committed to providing tuition assistance for students at Carondelet. Starting freshman year and throughout their alumnae experience, donors may make a one-time, quarterly, or monthly gift to the Alumnae Tuition Assistance Fund and create access and opportunity for generations of Cougars as a class.

### Lifetime Giving Societies

LePuy Society - \$500,000+  
 Médaille Society - \$100,000+  
 Red and White Society - \$50,000+  
 Founders Society - \$25,000+



# Athletics

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



### SPRING

#### BADMINTON

Carondelet Badminton competed in their 2nd East Bay Athletic League (EBAL) Championship. The Cougars were represented in Singles Match Play by two student-athletes and one Doubles team.

#### BEACH VOLLEYBALL

The Beach Volleyball team was named North Coast Section (NCS) Scholastic Championship Team.

#### LACROSSE

The team had a successful year finishing 4th in league with a first round victory in NCS playoffs vs Cal High. The JV team had a great season as well with a record of 7-2-1 going 3-1 in league play.

#### RUGBY

The Cougars finished their season with a shutout and won their first ever 10s Cup NorCal Championship! Four players achieved 100+ points and one player achieved 200+ points!

#### SOFTBALL

Softball was named NCS Scholastic Championship Team. They had a strong season including post season play with a young team.



#### STUNT

The program has been coming into its own and had its first win. With a new coaching staff we look forward to continuing to build the stunt program for the future.

#### SWIM & DIVE

Varsity and JV both won EBAL! The team won NCS, and finished 5th in California!

#### TRACK & FIELD

A solid young team is returning (including several NCS finalists from 2023) and will bring lots of excitement to the season. The team's goal is to get back to the top of NCS.

### FALL

#### CHEER

The team had a great season cheering on the Carondelet and De La Salle athletics teams. Cheer traveled to the DLS Football State game and gave a solid performance!



#### CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross Country team had a solid performance at NCS Finals with a young team. The team placed at many big meets in the area, and the sophomore team won at the Mt. Sac SC Invite!



#### GOLF

With our long time golf coach retiring, we kicked off a new era with a new coach this past season. The team finished 3rd in EBAL, and 3rd in NCS! We look forward to watching this young team grow and thrive in the coming years.

## RUGBY

This year-round program is growing and quickly becoming a fan favorite. This past fall the Rugby 7's team finished 3rd in Northern California. Looking forward to watching the team this spring in the Rugby 15's season.



## TENNIS

Gigi Austin finished second in league and moved onto the NCS singles tournament (top 16 in Northern California), and the team finished over 500 in the league.



## VOLLEYBALL

Cougar Volleyball made the NCS post season tournament. They were also named NCS Volleyball Scholastic Championship Team.



## WATER POLO

The Water Polo team won EBAL, and were 4th in the NCS Open Division! The team made the CIF NorCal regional tournament, and were named NCS Water Polo Scholastic Championship Team.

# National Talent SPRING CLASS OF 2023



**Mariana Aiello**  
Acrobatics and  
Tumbling,  
Caldwell College



**Jenna Davis**  
Swimming,  
Chapman University



**Macy Lehrer**  
Soccer,  
Massachusetts  
Institute of Technology



**Lara Meeks**  
Competitive Cheer & Stunt,  
Davenport University



## Athletics - National Talent FALL CLASS OF 2024



**Victoria Alessandrini**  
Soccer,  
Pepperdine University



**Chloe Casselman**  
Soccer,  
Loyola Marymount University



**Madelynn Gomez**  
Swimming,  
Stonehill College



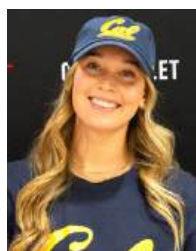
**Bailey Hartman**  
Swimming,  
University of Virginia



**Anna Mollahan**  
Lacrosse,  
Tufts University



**Madison O'Connell**  
Swimming,  
University of California,  
San Diego



**Abby Roder**  
Water Polo,  
University of California,  
Berkeley



**Brynn Tully**  
Water Polo,  
University of California,  
Santa Barbara



**Keshia Vitalicio**  
Basketball,  
Lehigh University

## WINTER 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



**BASKETBALL** – The Basketball team had a terrific season, advancing to the CIF State Northern California Regional Finals in Division 1. In addition to being a fantastic team on the court, they also earned an NCS Scholastic Championship for having the highest team GPA of all Division 1 basketball programs.



**DANCE** – The Carondelet Dance team dominated the competition at the JAMZ Cheer and Dance Nationals this year. They won 1st place in Varsity Jazz and Varsity Pom, and the Overall Grand Champion award!



**SOCCER**– Cougar Soccer finished 2nd in the EBAL and was the runner up in the NCS Championship. The team earned a spot in the CIF NorCal Regional Championship in Division 1 and competed in a bracket with the top eight soccer programs in NorCal.



## Swimming Towards CHANGE

### **Senior Natalie Aiken '24 tells her experience of teaching Liberian students how to swim.**

On the surface, Natalie seems like your typical student-athlete. She is the two-time co-captain of the Carondelet Swim team and belongs to the year-round Orinda Aquatics. And when she isn't in the pool, she serves as a member of NHS and CSF.

**However in August, Natalie and her father embarked on a trip to Liberia, West Africa to teach 24 girls how to swim.** Through her remarkable journey, she has made a significant impact on the lives of students in Liberia.

Natalie's journey to Liberia began with a chance encounter. Her brother's former soccer coach connected Natalie and her father with Ollie White, the founder of **Beautiful Beginnings School**, a Christian-based primary school located in Harbel, Liberia. Soon after that Natalie's father, Todd, took soccer donations that they had gathered in 2023 to Liberia in support of Soccer Surge, a soccer-related nonprofit. During his visit, he learned about a tragic drowning of a student.

**In memory of the student, Natalie and her family decided to organize a swimming clinic for the Beautiful Beginnings students.** The World Health Organization lists Africa as the world region with the highest rate of drowning. The students Natalie and her father worked with had never been in a pool and didn't know how to swim.

Before she and her father could fly over and teach—first, the students needed swimsuits. Natalie said, "I reached out to everyone I knew who might be able to help. Roque Santos, my Carondelet swim coach, generously provided a number of brand-new Carondelet swimsuits, along with others in the community." In a tidal wave of support, Natalie was able to gather 119 swimsuits!

Natalie and her father's journey to Liberia, however, was not without its challenges including numerous flight delays. "When we finally met the girls, they were full of energy and very excited to meet me. Many of the girls were very fearful of the water, but they were courageous."

Many Liberian kids stop attending school after 5th grade to start earning money. It was a goal of Ollie and Natalie

to instill the importance of education. Natalie acted as a role model, helping the students see a different future by staying in school.

Service is an integral part of Carondelet's mission and Natalie's life. Throughout this experience, Natalie gained a profound appreciation for the joy of helping others.

"It's very rewarding to see how much the girls accomplished in such a short time period. Twenty-four girls is a lot of kids to coach, but they were such enthusiastic learners which made my job doable and rewarding. My father had tears in his eyes at the end of the clinic witnessing the sheer joy and happiness of the girls swimming. I felt very joyful too, knowing that I helped these girls build their self-esteem and realize they can accomplish so much—even though they were initially fearful. That is a life skill."

Natalie has accomplished so much, but her journey is far from over. Natalie and her dad are planning to return to Liberia in June, but scale the impact by bringing more instructors to teach more students (including boys this time). In order to do so, her father is creating a nonprofit organization to raise funds and receive grants. Her dream is to provide swim lessons to more Liberians and also support Beautiful Beginnings with a technology mentorship program.



"We found out that very few students had ever accessed the Internet since they don't have devices. I would like to have a Carondelet Chromebook/iPad drive." She and her father have already brought 16 devices to the school. There are almost 500 students at Beautiful Beginnings, so we need to acquire many more.

For those inspired by Natalie's story and eager to make a difference, she encourages them to take action! "It is one of the most rewarding experiences that I have ever had, so I would highly encourage anyone to get involved in something like this." Her vision includes Carondelet students serving as mentors to Liberian students, bridging gaps, and inspiring change.

At the heart of our CSJ values, Natalie stands as a shining example of a student who uses her passion and dedication to create waves of positive change across continents and for our dear neighbor. **Her journey is a testament to the transformative power of service, kindness, and the belief that one person can make a world of difference.**





BACCALAUREATE &  
COMMENCEMENT





"The Carondelet Class of 2023 accomplished great things... Yet, the most important thing we did was **LOVE**. On our first day, we were challenged to **LOVE OUR DEAR NEIGHBOR** without distinction. Every day since, we have proven up to that challenge. We traveled to numerous



**MORGAN GAMBLE**  
VALEDICTORIAN,  
CLASS OF 2023

nonprofits as part of our Frosh Day of Service and built a tiny home for migrant farmworkers. We sang "Be Love" at the top of our lungs during liturgies and baked each other delicious Kairos cookies. We loved each other through an intimidating freshman year, a global pandemic, and the highs and lows associated with growing up... Carondelet built us into women of undeniable **HEART**, unshakable **FAITH**, and unconditional **COURAGE**... My hope is this: that you will fall in **LOVE** with life—that God's guidance sees you through your greatest triumphs and hardest challenges, and that the lessons you learned in the last four years will guide you through the next forty."

"We have become people of **HEART**. Socially and in passing on campus, we have offered one another friendship and inclusivity. Our solidarity has made us more loving. We have become people of **FAITH**.



**EMMA DONNELLY**  
SALUTATORIAN,  
CLASS OF 2023

As a class, we have shown outstanding service and community involvement. Our spirituality has made

us more compassionate. We have become people of **EXCELLENCE**. In classes, we have aided each other in finding the fortitude to take academic risks and to strive for improvement. Our perseverance has made us more ambitious... However, I believe that the most important way Carondelet has shaped our class is by teaching us **COURAGE**. I hope that you never part with the **COURAGE** that you have developed as a Cougar.

It is your **COURAGE** that will empower you in your future. It is your **COURAGE** that will motivate you to do what you love. It is your **COURAGE** that will allow you to change the world!

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023

**CONCORD PAVILION -**  
**Saturday, May 20, 2023**

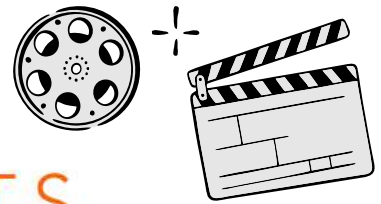
The Carondelet Class of 2023 started their high school journey on August 15, 2019 and culminated their journey at their commencement celebration on May 20, 2023.

During the ceremony VP of Student Life & Mission Jennifer Reinwald reminded the class of 2023 that, "The spirit of the Sisters is in you. Their **CHARISM**, the values of **UNIFYING LOVE**, and the call to meet the needs of the time are your compass. Remember your part as one who carries the Carondelet **SISTERHOOD**. More than ever, the world needs connection—be the miracle, bring shelter to others, show love, and always remember to *Do Life Big*."

President Jessica (Smith) Mix '99 expressed to the graduating seniors, "The Sisters have taught us to invest in those around us. They have taught us that all people need connection, love, and inclusion. They have taught us the true meaning of 'making a deposit' that is rooted in service, God's presence, and **UNIFYING LOVE**... At Carondelet, the withdrawal is a gift, a **SPARK**, that we gladly hand back to you to go and invest in yourself and others. To use to stand up for issues that make a positive difference in the human condition... You have the tools, you know what to do, and you can find comfort knowing that the same **SPARK** resides in the over 12,000 alumnae who carry it with you... You are forever part of the fabric of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Carondelet will always be your home. Take your light, continue to shine, and always remember to use your **SPARK** to help light the candle in others."

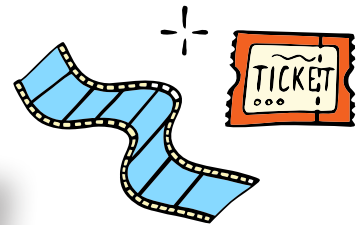
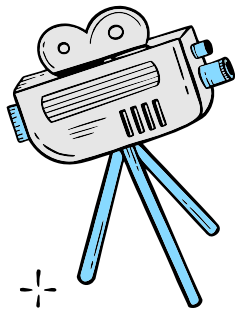


# PROGRAM SUCCESS



## WINTON ARTS FILM FEST 24

★ MARCH 1, 2024 ★



Student filmmakers from across Contra Costa County dusted off their poodle skirts, slicked back their hair, and immersed themselves in the nostalgia of the fabulous 1950s as they walked the red carpet at the **2024 Winton Arts Film Fest!** Executive Producer Olive Read '25 kicked off the celebratory evening. The awe-inspiring creativity of the talented student filmmakers was on display as attendees were able to watch the film submissions on the Jean Hofmann Center for Innovation media wall and in the studios. This year's captivating categories included: Drama, Comedy, Horror, Music & Dancing, Animation, Super-shorts, Experimental, and Middle School. The night ended with a spectacular Oscar-like award show, where the best of the best were honored with prestigious Oaky awards! Follow the Winton Arts Film Fest Instagram @winton\_filmfest, and view the films on Carondelet's YouTube Channel.





## Believe in Her: MAE-LIN PINKSTAFF '24

Mae-Lin Pinkstaff '24 has been awarded the Stamps Scholarship, a multi-year scholarship that will cover the entirety of the cost of her attendance at the University of Notre Dame. She plans on studying Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering (CBE) with a pre-medicine track to pursue a career in the biomedical field. "I still can't believe I was awarded such a great opportunity," says Mae-Lin.

*"Make sure to take the opportunities that are made available to you, such as challenging academics and volunteer opportunities, so that you can learn from these experiences."*

Mae-Lin was born and raised in Walnut Creek and attended a public middle school before coming to Carondelet. "I chose to enroll at Carondelet after a Shadow Day, where I observed the girls' confidence in the classrooms and their kindness to each other," she says. "The single-gender education has helped me to build my confidence, especially as a girl in STEM. The class environment fosters a sense of empowerment and confidence, encouraging students to pursue their goals and aspirations with determination."

Mae-Lin has a lot to be proud of. As an AP Scholar with distinction, she has taken the maximum number of AP courses allowed each year at Carondelet and earned

the highest award for AP testers. One class she found especially rigorous was AP Calculus with Dr. Barboza during her sophomore year: "It was a challenging course. I did not do too well at the beginning of the year and started going to Dr. Barboza's office hours. Not only did I get my grade up, but I also learned more about math and how brilliant Dr. Barboza is. I slowly built up my confidence and he made me believe in myself and my ability."

In addition to her academic achievements, Mae-Lin excels in her co-curriculars too, as a four-year Varsity tennis player, Varsity Co-Captain of the Carondelet & De La Salle Trap Team, a four-year recipient of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, and President and Founder of the SWENext (Society of Women Engineers) Club. "I founded the SWENext Club my sophomore year because I was interested in science and math, and aspired to pursue engineering like my mother and brother," says Mae-Lin. "I think that it is important that everyone contributes to the sisterhood, and I wanted to make a difference in the STEM community at Carondelet."



"Be sure to challenge yourself and step out of your comfort zone," Mae-Lin shares, as a lesson learned while at Carondelet. "Make sure to take the opportunities that are made available to you, such as challenging academics and volunteer opportunities, so that you can learn from these experiences. This way, you can apply the knowledge gained throughout your life."

"Carondelet is such a wonderful place to build the skills and confidence needed to succeed in life, especially in an under-represented field for women such as STEM," says Mae-Lin. "I would like to return to Carondelet to share my journey and to give back to the sisterhood."



# 2023 Athletics HALL OF FAME



**Hall of Fame, Water Polo**  
KELLY SHOUEY '97

Kelly '97 was destined to make a splash in water polo history. After leading Carondelet to three league titles and two NCS championship games, she went on to compete at Stanford. There, she helped the Cardinals finish the 2000-01 regular season undefeated, and they were the first team in the history of women's collegiate water polo to do so. That same season, she appeared in the inaugural NCAA women's water polo national championship game. After graduation, Kelly went on to play professionally in Italy and Australia. She continues to compete in women's water polo at the master's level for the Olympic Club in San Francisco.



**Hall of Fame, Volleyball**  
SARA DUKES JOHNSON '00

Sara '00 has had tremendous success at all levels during her volleyball career, both as a player and now as a coach. After earning a long list of honors while at Carondelet, including 1999 NCS Player of the Year, she went on to win an NCAA championship at Stanford in 2001. She later transitioned to beach volleyball where she successfully competed on the AVP circuit from 2006-10. Currently, Sara is the head coach for the Monte Vista High School indoor and beach volleyball teams. She was recognized as an NCS Honor Coach in 2022 after leading the Mustangs to three league titles and three NCS championships during her tenure.



**Hall of Fame, Track & Field**  
ADRIENNE JOHNSON '10

With a legacy of leadership and teamwork, Adrienne '10 reached incredible heights during her track & field career. While competing for the Cougars, she was both an NCS and CIF state finals champion in the high jump and her records in the high jump and long jump still stand today. In and out of the classroom, Adrienne has always been a success. After graduating as the Salutatorian from Carondelet, Adrienne went on to compete at Stanford where she advanced to the NCAA Preliminary Round in the high jump in her first year competing with the Cardinals.



**Hall of Fame, Team**  
VARSITY BASKETBALL '04

This team laid the foundation for Carondelet's basketball program and inspired young women to want to play for the Cougars. After finishing the season with an impressive 30-3 record, the '04 varsity team went on to become just the second Carondelet sports team to win a state championship. In addition to winning the 2004 BVAL title and the NCS Division II championship, they defeated Troy (Fullerton) 48-41 at Arco Arena in Sacramento to clinch the CIF Girls Division II State Championship title. All five of the starters were recruited to play collegiately, and one went on to play professionally in the WNBA.

**Team Members:** Ashley Aliotti '06, Allison Daley Olson '05, Natalia Del Bene '07, Ashlee Ford '06, Meighan McLafferty '05, Megan Pohley '06, Hayley Wheeler '06, Monica Powers '07, Jayne Appel-Marinelli '06, Allisen Russi Danna '05, Lauren Russi Dillard '04, Emily St. Jean Duggan '05

**Head Coach:** Margaret Gartner

**Assistant Coaches:** Lexy Tamony '94, Elgin Leslie

# 2023 ALUMNAE AWARDS



**Distinguished Alumna of the Year**  
BETH BOYAN FORAKER '82

For the last 20 years, Beth '82 has been an advocate for students with disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, in our Catholic schools. She founded The National Catholic Board on Full Inclusion—an amazing resource for schools to learn more about the importance of inclusion. It offers support and resources to encourage inclusion and provides numerous examples of successful inclusion around the country. She is a nationally recognized advocate and has spoken at conferences across the nation. Most recently, she pioneered a four-year, all-inclusive academic program for students with intellectual disabilities at UC Davis called the Redwood Seeds Program. The program is in its second year and has been wildly successful in integrating students with intellectual disabilities into the UC Davis campus. For these reasons and more, Beth was named Carondelet's Alumna of the Year, 2023.



**SUBMIT A NOMINATION TODAY**  
for the 2024 Alumnae Awards

*The Alumna of the Year award is presented to an alumna whose values and accomplishments are consistent with the mission, core values, and ideals of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, the founders of Carondelet High School.*



**Young Alumna of the Year**  
HALEY CHIMIENI '17

Haley '17 dedicated her early professional career to bringing therapeutic art practices to communities in need through the nonprofit, Life on Earth Art. With a degree in Studio Art: 3-D design, she engages with people from all walks of life to teach them the power of healing emotional trauma through art. Haley prioritizes bringing the public together through volunteerism, building a space of healing, and conversation over art-making after the toll isolation and quarantine has taken on the world. She has brought paper mache winged heart art from Life on Earth Art to Carondelet, engaging with the Art and Resilience classes. What Haley hopes to and continues to achieve speaks for itself: the gathering of people after collective trauma to make a piece of art together for a greater cause, or even for themselves, and brings a certain beauty and light you may not find anywhere else. For these reasons and more, Haley was named Carondelet's Young Alumna of the Year, 2023.



# Class Notes

## KEEPING IN TOUCH



### The Bonds of Sisterhood Run Deep

Jen Siljestrom '97, Dr. Amy (Helmer) Yakaitis '94 P'26, and Elizabeth Henderson-Conn '83 (left to right)

Three Carondelet alumnae walk into a delivery room. It sounds like the set up to a fun joke, but three Carondelet alumnae did indeed connect while working in the Women's Health and Labor & Delivery units at Kaiser Permanente in Walnut Creek. These three women are Dr. Amy (Helmer) Yakaitis '94 P'26, Jen Siljestrom '97, and Elizabeth Henderson-Conn '83.

The chance encounter happened when Elizabeth first noticed Jen's class ring, and Jen and Amy's realization came when a patient pointed out their shared Carondelet connection. Now, these three alumnae share in the bond of the Carondelet sisterhood, despite having never crossed paths during their time within Carondelet's columned walls and cherished halls. They often share stories with one another about their Carondelet journey and now make new memories working to care for women and their health.



#### Breana Burgos '11

Breana is an attorney with Hanson Bridgett LLP in San Francisco where she

litigates complex business disputes, represents government entities, and works on cases in the appellate courts. She also focuses on pro bono litigation, volunteering with the Ninth Circuit Pro Bono project and representing asylum seekers who were either domestic violence victims or are members of the LGBTQ+ community and were threatened or tortured in their home country. She also helps with the Justice

and Diversity Center by representing survivors of domestic violence to help them obtain restraining orders and divorces from their abusers.



#### Aurora Villa DeVilbiss '85

Aurora became "Nana D" to her first grandchild, Theodore DeVilbiss, born July 20.

His father, Antonio DeVilbiss DLS '08, and mother, Lexi Reeve, are enjoying life and their new addition in the beautiful home they built in Tigard, Oregon.



#### Lauren Russi Dillard '04

The Bay Area has a new female CFO! Lauren stepped into the role as LiveRamp's

chief financial officer this fall, having been with the company nearly 10 years. Her promotion followed a quarter of improving revenue growth, a record operating margin, and strong operating cash flow. She is so excited about the journey ahead.



**Susanne Fenstermacher '72**

Susanne has been a California Superior Court Judge in Contra Costa County since 2005. After more than 18 years on the Bench, she retired in early 2024 and plans to travel with her husband of 41 years, John. Together, they have a seven-year-old granddaughter and a four-year-old grandson who live in Austin, Texas with their daughter and her husband.



**Allison Del Grande '94**

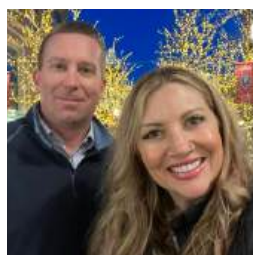
After more than 25 and a half years of active duty service, Allison retired as a Colonel

from the United States Air Force on December 31, 2023. A formal retirement ceremony was held in Dayton, Ohio on October 12, 2023 and attended by family and friends from all over the US. The ceremony included a presentation of the retirement medal and certificates, the pinning on of the retirement pin by her husband Nick, and formal remarks from both Allison and Col. Wallace. Allison and her family are staying in Ohio following her retirement where she plans to pursue local job and volunteer opportunities.



**Rachelle Remington Gaustad '74**

A budding artist working with mixed media, acrylic paints, and repurposed materials, Rachel balances her art with working part time in the engineering field as an electrical designer. She works remotely for a Washington state company. Her artwork has been shown in Vancouver, WA; Carson City, NV; and Chico, CA.



**Katie Endicott Harris '91**

Katie holds her doctorate in Disabilities Disciplines with an emphasis

in Applied Behavior Analysis. She works for Penn State in their World Campus online graduate program teaching special educators who want to pursue their certification in Applied Behavior Analysis. She also consults with local districts to support teachers who are serving students with challenging behavior.



**Lindsay Pirkle Kruljac '06**

Passionate about baking since she was just nine years old, Lindsay Pirkle, new

manager and co-owner of Republic of Cake is thrilled to fulfill her lifelong dream to own a bakery. She recently relocated to Danville where they offer a wide variety of desserts, ice cream, sandwiches, and much more! Republic of Cake is located at 730 Camino Ramon #196, Danville.



**Barb Petherick Malberg '73**

Last spring, Barbara and her husband Steve celebrated

with former Carondelet and De La Salle classmates at their 50th reunion. It was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new memories.



**Andrea Molinar '18**

Andrea just released her first novel titled, *Knightly*. It's available for purchase on

Amazon. Its sequel, *Rebelliously*, will be released in June 2024.



**Francesca Monti '18**

Francesca Monti works as a clinical dietitian with John Muir Health while also building

her own private practice to work with clients 1-on-1. Through her practice, she takes a balanced and whole food focused approach to nutrition that incorporates fun flavors to improve health and keep interest in home cooking to reach individual goals. She believes healthy eating is most sustainable when balance, joy, and understanding are all a part of the mix.



**Valerie Saribalis-Cole '71**

After 18 years in education, 14 as an Education Specialist, Valerie has

moved on to her next chapter teaching adult learners English part time at Napa Valley Adult Ed where she says students have so much gratitude for the gift of learning. As a graduate of the class of 71, who is about to turn 71, she knows it is possible to be a lifelong learner and continue to make a positive impact on one's community!



# Class Notes

## KEEPING IN TOUCH



**Riley Shaw '14**

After graduating from Carondelet, Riley attended UC Irvine and played

water polo on their collegiate team. She graduated with a degree in Public Health and went on to nursing school at California Baptist University. In April of 2023, she graduated with her Masters of Nursing. Now, she works as a Registered Nurse at St. Joseph Hospital in Orange in the Mother-Baby Unit.



**Julianne Collins Simmons '91**

Julianne and her husband have been back in the Bay Area for about 10 years

after a brief stint in Denver Colorado-Castle Pines. Her daughter Avery, is a Carondelet senior who will graduate this May. Julianne passed on her class ring to Avery who wears it every day. Julianne is so thankful her daughter can attend her alma matter and share such a deep and special legacy connection.



**Fiona Sundy '19**

This fall, Fiona started a job as a part-time Theatre Technician at Walnut Creek's

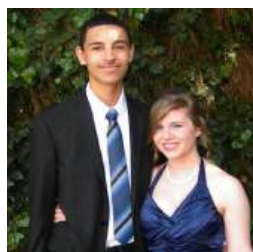
Leshner Center for the Arts. After time spent dedicated to Company in high school, she is thrilled to be able to stay involved in theater here in the Bay Area.



**Nancy Saling Thompson '82**

Just days before her 60th birthday, Nancy signed a 3-book

publishing deal with another following on its heels. She takes this wonderful news as a sign that it's never too late to follow your dreams.



**Kaylee Fagan Williams '14**

Kaylee met her husband through the Carondelet - De La Salle Company

program in 2012 when she was a junior and he a senior. Fast forward ten years later—to the day—when they were married in a small ceremony in Honolulu, Hawaii in November 2022. From Senior Ball to their wedding day, they spent these nights surrounded by friends from Carondelet and De La Salle.



All of the men in the wedding party graduated from De La Salle in 2013. Carondelet graduates included Gaby Alvarez '14 (blue dress, front left), sister Molli Fagan '17 (pink dress), and cousin Alixandra Moore '10 (teal dress, back row).



**JESSET SIDORE '87**

Jeset Sidore '87 has been in the Human Resources or "people space" for more than 30 years. As a certified leadership coach, she helps clients set goals that they want to achieve but haven't quite been able to reach.

Now as the Sr. Director of People at BridgeBio, she's able to bring her experience and understanding to her role as a coach and partner.

The future she sees allows women, particularly diverse women, at the front. "It goes back to Carondelet," Jeset explained, referencing the school's commitment to women of heart, faith, courage, and excellence. "I want to see women in places where we haven't been. There are a lot of women like me who didn't have a voice and who are trying to create a presence."

"That is why it is so important to represent these voices," she said. "It's having the courage to be ready to roll up your sleeves and be ready to do something about it."

### ADA OKOYE '13

Having just celebrated her 10-year reunion, Ada Okoye marveled at the evolution of her alma mater. "It is really exciting to see that the students there now have so many more resources and things at their disposal," she said. "When you leave somewhere, you hope it gets better with time."

Carondelet left an indelible mark on Ada's trajectory. It was during her formative years as a Cougar that she discovered her passion for leadership, holding the position of ASB president her senior year. "I think about all the people in my life that saw something in me and pushed me in the right direction, and it would be a waste of space if I didn't do that for someone else," said Ada. "Believe in her, invest in her, nurture her. It's all about action. What am I going to do to help?"

Believing in the power of education and mentorship, Ada envisions running a nonprofit for young women, providing them with an experience akin to Carondelet, irrespective of their backgrounds. "Lift as you climb," she repeated. "I want to focus on an underrepresented community, Black communities. I was so fortunate to go to Carondelet, and I want people who look like me to continue getting access to the same opportunities."

"When I hear the phrase 'Believe in Her,' I feel like it's beyond wanting the best for someone. I think action," she said. "How can I apply my resources and my network to help foster something for someone? How can I set this woman on the right path."



### ISABELLA VERAN '22

As a sophomore at Carondelet, Isabella Veran '22 never could have imagined that the annual Lenten Project supporting Get on the Bus would play such an important role in her future career path. Now, nearly four years later she finds herself falling even deeper in love with advocacy and wanting to work within the criminal justice system to aid reform.

Isabella studies Sociology with a concentration on Criminal Justice at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and discovered Restorative Partners, a nonprofit that creates programs at the juvenile hall to create restorative justice and reform. This program was pioneered by Sister Theresa, a Sister of St. Joseph who also started Get on the Bus, which Isabella credits as early inspiration to her drive for social justice reform and advocacy.

The mission of serving the dear neighbor without distinction deeply resonates with Isabella. "Serving the dear neighbor without distinction is so important because people who need help are often on the periphery," she explained. "Carondelet pushed me to believe in myself. I learned here that if we want to do something, we can do it. Nothing is out of reach."



# WE REMEMBER

## SISTER ANNE EUGENE METCALF



**Sister Anne Eugene Metcalf, CSJ** (9/23/37–7/9/23) had an immense impact on our entire community as a Principal from 1978-1986, and later in numerous roles including Director of Curriculum, and as a member of the Science Department.

For over forty-five years, she mentored hundreds of Carondelet students, alumnae, faculty, and staff. Sister Anne Eugene continued to be a staple on campus and keep the spirit of the CSJs alive by subbing in classes, attending Mass, leading liturgies with our sports teams, and blessing the new Cannon Wellness Center. We will dearly miss her sense of humor, no-nonsense style, and firm hugs on campus.

**Gifts in Sr. Anne Eugene's memory can be made to the Sr. Anne Eugene Metcalf Memorial Tuition Assistance Fund.**

## ALLISON M. MACAULAY '15



Born in White Plains, NY on January 3, 1997, Allie graduated from Carondelet High School in 2015 and received a bachelor's degree in Family and Human Services from the University of Oregon. She was pursuing a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy at St. Mary's College with the hopes of supporting patients in dealing with the realities of a cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Allie was an extraordinary woman with incredible energy, compassion, unconditional love, and a beautiful soul. Her dedication and ability to love and care for others are unmatched, and she inspires her friends and family every moment of every day. Allie had a passion for advocacy, self-care, speaking her truth, and helping others and her kitties, Everest and Puddles. Allie played soccer all four of her years at Carondelet and was honored at a ceremony January 9 before the Varsity soccer game at the Carondelet Athletics Complex attended by her family including her parents, Sandy and Marc Macaulay P '15, '19, '22.

**Gifts in Allie's memory can be made to the Allison Macaulay '15 Memorial Tuition Assistance Fund.**

## In Memoriam *April 2023 - March 2024*

*Carondelet mourns the loss of its sisters, family, and friends of Carondelet. We pay homage to fellow Cougars and their family members who have passed away. If you wish to submit information on a loved one who has passed away, please email Caroline Cabral at [ccabral@CarondeletHS.org](mailto:ccabral@CarondeletHS.org). The following names will be remembered each month at a Mass in honor of St. Joseph, patron of a peaceful death.*

**Ronald Bercaw**, father of Kendall Paige Bercaw '00

**Sister Joanna Marie Bramble, CSJ**, teacher at Carondelet in the '60s and '70s

**Fernando Campos DLS '22**, brother of Bianca '25

**Lucciano Castillo DLS '26**, brother of Alexa '17 and Valentina '23

**Don Cornett**, father of Sarah Pederson '91 and Jessica Albrecht '93

**Joseph "Joe" Davi**, father of Stephanie '99 and Joanne '04

**Haley Dawson '83**

**Nanette Elardy**, former cafeteria staff member

**Edward Fitzsimmons**, father of Celeste '77, Katie '78, Tom DLS '81, Tim DLS '86

**Janet (Evans) Klein '76**, mother of Jennifer (Drew) O'Nishae '04 and Courtney (Drew) Calon '06; sister of Susan Evans '79, Laura (Evans) Butterfield '80, and Robert Evans DLS '88; mother-in-law of Robert (Caples) Calon DLS '06

**Philippe Lamoureux**, father of Michelle Lewendowski '81, Andrée Baker '83, Duane DLS '80, and Blaise DLS '85

**Phoebe and Niels Larsen IV**, sister and brother of Estella Larsen '26

**Allison M. Macaulay '15**, sister of Kelsey '22 and Hannah '19

**Neil McKay**, father of Heather '88 and Maureen '90

**Paula Menconi**, former attendance officer and nurse. Gifts in Paula's memory can be made to the Paula Menconi Memorial Tuition Assistance Fund.

**Sister Anne Eugene Metcalf, CSJ**

**Clyde Miles**, husband of Stephanie Seeno Miles '80

**Brittanie Miller '08**, daughter of Gina Zeppegno '85

**Lorraine Nash**, mother of Colleen Cameron '70, Mary Anne Morgan '71, and Robert DLS '73

**Sabrina Ortiz (Thomas) '87**

**James (Jim) Pauli**, husband of Wendy Richardson Pauli '83, brother-in-law of

Annette Richardson Eros '85 and Rebecca Richardson '99, uncle of Audrey Richardson

**Anna Ratto**, mother of Karen Whooley '85 and Diane '87

**David Riccitiello DLS '12**, brother of Kelly '09

**Barbara Jean Roberts and William "Bill" Roberts**, mother and father of Michelle Pimm '86, Kristi O'Connell '93, and Tim Roberts DLS '88

**Patti Stauch**, original dance teacher starting in 1969, and oversaw the DLS theater program 1970 - 2009

**Jean Stenson**, mother of Patsy '72, Regina Valencia '74, Bernie DLS '70, and Kevin DLS '76

**Walter Szczepanski**, father of Renata Hodges '88 and Christine '85

**Connie Wadsworth**, mom of Anne Seiler, '86

**Joan Williams**, mother of Gina '70, Julie '71, Mary '74, Sara '77, and Martha '78



TICKETS ON  
SALE NOW!



## REUNION

CARONDELET & DE LA SALLE

Whose reunion? It's your reunion! No matter what year you attended Carondelet and De La Salle, we want you to come back, reunite, and celebrate.

**Join us back on campus on August 3 for an evening of fun, food, and a performance by Tainted Love back on Winton Drive.**

It's time to reconnect, reminisce, and revel in the bonds that stand the test of time. This year, we're giving an extra special shout-out to the fabulous classes ending in 4 or 9, but all are welcome. Tickets on sale now!





# CARONDELET HIGH SCHOOL

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SUMMER GIRLS SPORTS CLINICS

June Clinics:  
June 10 - June 29, 2024  
July Clinics:  
July 8 - July 18, 2024

### GRAND REUNION August 3, 2024





### HOMECOMING October 22, 2024

### VISIONS OF CHRISTMAS Suite of Events

Sip + Tree:  
November 19, 2024  
Tea:  
November 21, 2024

### CRAB FEED February 22, 2025

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