



## **AASH Western Region Business Meeting Association Report**

The focus at Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart remains the Boundless Success Campaign. The \$13 million fund raising effort is funding the construction of a new high school building and the Sacred Heart Center which includes administrative offices, reception and conference space and a chapel. A Chapel was never built at the school's present location and for the past 30 years Forest Ridge has been the only school in the Network without one.

Energy and enthusiasm is at an all time high! The building will be finished by mid-July and the complementary remodeling projects are underway. Classrooms will be ready for school in late August. Our dedication events are planned for September 8 & 9. The events are a community wide celebration involving students, parents, alumnae, the Archbishop and other Archdiocesan dignitaries, honored RSCJs, heads of Network schools and local community leaders. Although it may not be possible to send invitations to all AASH members we welcome anyone who would like to come and celebrate with us.

The fundraising efforts have been a blessing in re-connecting alumnae with the school. In the past year we held several regional and decade "Congés" that were a terrific success. We have had alumnae back that have never been on the current campus (Forest Ridge moved from Seattle, across Lake Washington to Bellevue in 1971). Gifts have been received from alumnae who have never made a contribution. Their enthusiasm for the project gives us courage and confidence to more forward. We have reached the \$9 million mark and have the last, and most difficult, \$4 million remaining.

The business side of the Alumnae Association's activities has been a challenge this year. Our president found herself unable to continue her duties due to unforeseen difficult family circumstances. The entire Alumnae Association supported her decision to step down as we all realize that life sometimes takes unexpected turns and family must come first. One of our most committed board members found herself in a similar situation with increased responsibilities at work and felt it necessary to resign as well. Our Parent Association liaison is moving to Florida leaving a further gap in our membership.

With the capable leadership of our Vice President and the commitment of the remaining board members we were able to carry on. Our last meeting of the year was attended by new recruits and a new slate of officers was installed giving us a great launch into next year.

Events for the year included our second Gingerbread House Workshop. This event drew alumnae and families from ages three to 83! Our Middle School reunions have grown in popularity. We invite high school aged middle school alumnae for pizza in the Commons and watch them giggle! Our traditional Spring Luncheon was delightful, as usual. We honored the graduating seniors and presented Distinguished Alumnae Awards to Christa Gadola '98 and Sharon Carey LeeMaster '53. The Class of 1956 was honored at graduation with silver Tres Bien medals. They were joined at dinner following the ceremony by the Class of 1981 and faculty members.

Perhaps the most special event of the year was a luncheon honoring Harriet Berens Barrett '28 on the occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The celebration included a blue ribbon for Harriet to wear and Sacred Heart mementos. It reminded us how precious our senior alumnae are and the richness of our 99 year history! We look forward to honoring more of our 1920s and 1930s alumnae at our Centennial Celebration in 2007-2008.

The Alumnae Board welcomed summer with our last official duty of the year: welcoming the graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders into the Association. Alumnae Board member Alani Kalfayan '99 recounted her experience traveling abroad, needing a helping hand and finding it through the Sacred Heart Hospitality network. She remains close to her "adopted family" and reminded the young ladies that membership in AASH is truly a lifelong gift.

Respectfully submitted,

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