

# The Paduan

Alumni Newsletter for  
St. Anthony of Padua Alumni  
Vol. 11 No. 1, May, 2018



## **Class of 1968**

**Top row left to right: Humberto Ciffoni, Dennis Wojno, Bob Dattilo, Gus Kuklinski, Bill Porfido, Jack Opiola, Steve Kiersznowski, John Marosy.**

**2nd row down left to right: Tom Voroselo, Tony Salamendra, Marvin Badach, Mark Adamski, Paul Lesczynski, Joe Magiera, Stan Romelczyk, Charles Niewadomski, Steve Widynski.**

**3rd row down (left to right): Fred Bagdzinski, Vince Burcz (below me), Daniel Tusinski (at far right).**

**4th row down: Mike Macanka, Mike Tyburczy, Al Sheredy, Paul Smith, Joe Biernat, Rich Olechnowicz, Rich Stoklosa. Missing is Rich Prelich.**

## **From the Guest Editors laptop**

We started out with 56 kids from different areas and backgrounds and ended up 4 years later with 28 men prepared to go forward with the rest of their lives and bonded together by something that most other high school students never experienced. It's a long way looking back 50 years, but at times it almost seems like yesterday when we went through our experiences at that big white building up on the hill. And even though the buildings are pretty much all gone, the memories last.

There are so many unique memories that stick out, and come to mind when talking with classmates even after all those years. Everyone seems to remember the fried bologna sandwiches, Tony's special 5 minute haircuts, trips to "Casey's" infirmary, town permissions (or visits without permission), learning to dance the polka with classmates during Saturday gym classes prior to Mother's Day, the good old days when corporal punishment was an acceptable means to keep us in control and so much more.

And the same remembrances bond our schoolmates from across all the years. These are the things that at the time some of which seemed almost unbearable, but along with all other things at Padua prepared us for our futures. To one degree or another they helped form our characters from what we were at the start to what we matured into at graduation and after. And so I and many of those classmates I've spoken with look forward to coming together this August to share our memories and experiences. For all those coming, travel safe.

Gus Kuklinski '68

**Reunion 2018** will be held Aug 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>

The class of 1968 will celebrate it's 50<sup>th</sup> while the class of 1958 will celebrate it's 60<sup>th</sup>. Also celebrating milestones is the class of 63 with its 55<sup>th</sup>.

## RECONNECTING TO PADUA/ FINDING MY WAY BACK

During Mother's Day weekend 2007, my wife Chris and I, and some friends decided to go to Watkins Glen and Corning N.Y. for a getaway weekend. We did all the major usual tourist attractions in the area; the Glen, Corning Glass, several wineries along both sides of the lake and Captain Bill's boat tour. Eventually, since I was driving we found our way to the former "Padua" property. All that was left was the shell of the gymnasium, Doc's lab and the guest house, which I later found out, is where Fr. Austin resided. I was hoping that the water fountain near the gym, which Brother Tim put in, was still operating. To many others, and me this was the best water we ever tasted, especially coming out of the gym or off the field. After so many years and my "CRS" kicking in, I can't actually remember if it was still operating, but I don't think it was.

It was a bittersweet drive through the former "Padua" property, with many fond memories racing through my consciousness, some of which I shared with our friends. It was obvious to them that this was a very special place and time in my life, beyond just a Catholic boarding High School.

Since we had just gone through the former "Padua" property, we decided to go have lunch at the "Castel Grisch" just up the road before our next tourist adventure. We sat on the veranda overlooking the vineyards and Lake Seneca. A friendly, jovial waitress dressed in German style outfit greeted us. After ordering our drinks something possessed me to ask her if she or her parents remembered the big white building/school on top of the hill. She quickly remarked, that is the school my parents said, (some disparaging adjective), that boys were sent to. I was a little taken aback at first, but then figured her parents were about my age or younger and were entitled to their perspective as youth of the local community at that time.

As the waitress came back, me thinking to take our order, she smilingly said, "I think my boss went there." You know I had to ask her who her boss was. She said, Tom Malina, he owns the restaurant and the winery. I vividly remembered Tom Malina '66 as an upper classman and class president. What I remembered, as if it were yesterday, are all the Sundays' after lunch, Tom Malina would go to the "office" to ask for "Town Permission". Those 30 minutes were agonizing waiting for an answer – mostly "NO" with some lame excuse given, if any. It is only now that I can appreciate the thankless task Tom was put through every Sunday.

Someone from the restaurant must have called Tom, who was at the time, in Rochester to let him know a Paduan was at his restaurant. He asked if I could come back for dinner, as he would be back by then. Unfortunately, I was with other friends and conveyed I could not. He then said "please come to our Padua Reunion this August". What Padua Reunion, how long has this reunion been going on, I said. I said absolutely I'll be there then exchanged phone numbers and email addresses. What a wonderful coincidence!

I attended my first Padua Reunion that following August. I didn't know what to expect. Most classes were represented since the opening of the school and the first graduating class. Everyone there was very welcoming and friendly. Tom Malina, made a special effort to introduce me to other Schoolmates/ Paduans who attended Padua years before me. After dinner we went back to the Longhouse Manor- our meeting place. Initially, I was mildly distraught that evening, that no one from my class was there, as I watched other schoolmates reliving their "Padua Wonder Years". By the end of the evening or I should say early morning, (nearly 1:30 A.M.), Tom Malina, Steve and Walter Kurpiel, and Joe Barstys finally called it a night. However, mildly distraught I was earlier, that evening it all had dissipated. All of the individual fond memories we shared, even though we attended Padua at different times –

Gus Kuklinski, said it best, "and the same remembrances bond our Schoolmates from across all the years".

I have attended every Padua Reunion since 2007 and "GOD WILLING", will attend many more.

Joe Biernat '68

## Special Notice for 2018 Reunion Participants

With every reunion come some ideas for the next reunion; some new and other well not so new. This year was no exception, however, two of the ideas were presented by multiple individuals and are very interesting and different. Both will be incorporated in the 2018 Reunion.

The first idea is long overdue; especially when the wives ask WHY NOT. So I believe it's time to act upon it. So for the 2018 Padua Reunion all wives and/or female guest attending must have their copy of the high school graduation picture available for posting similar to the guys. For those that cannot utilize their high school (my wife can't; someone wrote their good wishes across the picture) a prom or suitable portrait type picture from that period will be used. Go to local Wal-Mart or any another place that can scan the picture and forward it along with the 2018 reservations so I can incorporate into a suitable group poster.

The second idea is meant to be rather imaginative and funny or maybe serious and that brings us to the "Men's Crazy Hat Contest". Every alumni attending will have to have a hat that will be judged. The hat can start off as a purchased product so it does not have to be entirely self-made but then it needs to be embellished in a manner that shows originality and creativity. Size, shape, and makeup are at the alumni's discretion. Modeling and walking the runway in all likelihood will take place Friday or Saturday evening after dinner.

### THE TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE:

We posed two questions in the October 2017 Alumni Paduan:

1- What parish sent the most students to Padua?

2- Does anyone remember seeing a coal truck making a delivery to the boiler room or an ash truck making a withdrawal?

We certainly sparked some memories! The hands down winner was indeed Our Lady of Consolation Parish in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Many alumni answered with their thoughts and by sheer numbers OLC was the winner!

We had less good fortune on the coal/ash question. We had one response of someone seeing a coal truck deliver but one one ever saw the ashes go out. Wishful thinking? We report, you decide.

If anyone has an idea for more "MEMORY LANE QUESTIONS" please contact me at [jf416@aol.com](mailto:jf416@aol.com), or any member of the editorial staff or let us know at this years reunion.

John LaSalle '62

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU

This will be my 12<sup>th</sup> Padua Reunion and the class of 1968 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and hopefully I will be attending this year "GOD WILLING". I have come to know and appreciate the amount of time, effort and anxiety it takes to make these Padua Reunions a success. For many years Tom Malina '66 (RIP) and family have made these Padua reunions a resounding success and we Paduans-all are eternally grateful. Tony and Christine Specian thank you for your tireless effort in keeping the Paduan Alumni Newsletter continuously published.

In 2015 with the passing of Tom Malina '66 (RIP) the baton has been passed on. John and Joyce Mielnik '62, John and Carol LaSalle '62 and Barbara Malina have graciously worked together to keep the Padua Reunions ongoing and in a manner and spirit Tom Malina would be proud of.

From all my classmates- class of 1968 (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) and all Paduan "Schoolmates" we give you our sincere heartfelt thanks for continuing the Padua Reunions and Paduan Alumni Newsletter traditions

Joe Biernat '68

## In Memory

### **Class of '64**

Stanley Joseph Karcewski, 71, of Lake Mary Florida, passed away on Saturday, November 12th at Florida Hospital Orlando.

He was born on September 19, 1946, in Norristown, Pennsylvania. His parents, Stanley Marion Karcewski and Genevieve Salkowski Karcewski, predeceased him. His beloved wife, Jean Dubose Karcewski, his daughter, Kerrie Bishop, son-in-law, Randy Bishop and grandson Brody Joseph Karcewski, survives him.

Stan grew up in Norristown, Pennsylvania and attended Saint Anthony of Padua High School in Watkins Glen, New York. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Villanova hoping to pursue a career in medical research.

In 1969, he joined the United States Navy with a desire to serve his country. During the Vietnam War, Stan was a bombardier navigator for an A-6 Intruder Squadron aboard the Carrier Midway. Later he helped to develop a Human Resource Management Manual for the Navy. After he retired from the military as a Lieutenant Commander, he and his wife opened a design business, Designers Resource Collection in Orlando.

Stan was active in scouting activities in the community, an activity he enjoyed sharing with his grandson Brody. He shared great pride in Brody's achieving Eagle Scout. He enjoyed camping, kayaking, white water rafting and panning for gold in North Carolina.

Visit our home website [paduaprep.com](http://paduaprep.com).

The site is rich in Padua History. In Addition to a bulletin board, picture gallery and blog it has all the Siquaeris yearbooks and back issues of the Paduan.

It is a great source to help you recall those memories of our days spent there.

We are also on Facebook:

## **Things to do when visiting Watkins Glen**

By [John Mielnik](#)

How far and how much will it cost to Drive to [Watkins Glen?](#)

Yes the [Glen](#) is still there and open.

Museums: [Corning Museum of Glass](#), [Glenn Curtiss Aviation Museum](#)

Cruises: [Captain Bill's Seneca cruises](#)

Shopping: [The Windmill](#) [Waterloo Premium Outlets](#),

[Finger Lakes Connection](#)

Places to Dine: [Montage at Glen Motor Inn](#), [Seneca Harbor Station](#)

Places to Stay: [Villager Motel](#), [Idlwilde Inn](#), [Glen Harbor Hotel](#), [Longhouse Lodge](#)

If you have an interesting hobby, event, or travel you would like to share with your alumni friends please consider submitting an article or a short comment for class

notes. Volunteers or contributors are always

welcome. Please email me at:

[paduan5370@gmail.com](mailto:paduan5370@gmail.com)

contributors: Joe Biernat '68, Gus Kuklinski '68, John LaSalle '62, Barbra Malina '66. John Mielnek 62', Tony Specian '66

