

CNR Alumni Connections

Marion Reardon O'Brien, CNR '45, celebrated her 100th birthday on August 3, 2023, with several parties. Four generations of family were present to fete her at a local yacht club on her actual birthday. A day earlier, friends gathered for a special luncheon at Avila Retirement Community in Albany, NY where Marion lives. Attending that special brunch were three other Avila residents who graduated from CNR: Beverly Cipollo Tobin, '59; Janet Keenan, '61; and JoAnn Fogarty Crinieri, '61. In addition, the entire Avila Community celebrated Marion's milestone at the weekly wine and cheese gathering. Marion's smile and zest for life were evident during all these celebrations.



Marking the 100th birthday of CNR alum Marion Reardon O'Brien, '45, were Janet Keenan, '61; JoAnn Fogarty Crinieri, '61; Marion's daughter, Barbara Nussbaum; Marion and Beverly Cipollo Tobin, '59.

- JoAnn Fogarty Crinieri, SAS '61

I was married shortly after graduating from CNR in 1965. My husband and I decided, with the help of Sara Karimi, a classmate of mine, to spend some time teaching in a mission school in Kenya. We couldn't afford airfare, so decided to travel there by cargo ship, leaving from Brooklyn Harbor and arriving in Mombasa. When the agent selling us the tickets heard that I was a CNR graduate, he said his wife was also an alumna. We got the best room on the boat! There was a Dominican priest also on the boat and he was able to say Mass every morning in our room. (The trip took 41 days!)

- Mary Kimmerlin Daly, SAS '65

I attended the annual scholarship dinner for San Miguel Academy of Newburgh, NY at the Westchester Country Club in Harrison, NY. At the dinner, I met a fellow CNR alum who was there as a donor. We bonded on the sadness we had felt when we discovered the college was closing its doors forever. The surprising part was that the donor lived across the country and only returned for this event, so it was extra special seeing an alum under this chance encounter. I can't find the business card but hope the person reads this and contacts me.

- Dr. Ritza Falcon-Santiago, GS '10

We recently shared a blessed gathering of family and friends at our daughter, Anne's, wedding to Mark on September 23. A special moment of the wedding Mass was singing *Let There Be Peace* with my CNR classmate Kathy Howe Hotz. We enjoyed singing and guitar-ing during and after our CNR days – but our friendship and singing together actually goes back to the first month (September 1967) of high school at Our Lady of Victory Academy in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Sadly, OLV closed several years ago, but - ironically the building holding many memories and melodies sits on the grounds of Mercy University.

Another very special moment at the wedding reception was the gratitude and reflection within the meal blessing given by Sister Mary Virginia Orna. It was wonderful to have Sr. Virginia share in yet another Munroe/Milne family gathering as she has so often over the years.

Connections evolve and revolve!

- Susan Munroe Milne '75



Pat Ahearn Mastellon, CNR '65, standing, shows the new Mercy University tote bag to Marilyn Celvey Vallone, Mercy '68.

Marilyn Celvey Vallone, Mercy University '68, and I have been friends for more than 10 years. We both live in Oakland, NJ and frequent the Oakland Senior Center for exercise and fun events. I picked up the Mercy tote bag at the recent Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly lecture series at Moller House and brought it to Marilyn. "Friends who became college sisters."

- Pat Ahearn Mastellon CNR '65