

PRESENTATION ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER

Sept. / October 2021



Presentation Associates Vision Statement. *The Associate Community is a strong, loving, and caring group of people, diverse: ethnically, gender wise, age wise, and economically called by the mission and charism of Nano Nagle. We support each other in our spirituality and in the following of the Presentation charism as lived out by Nano Nagle and passed on to us. Not words, but deeds expresses it best. Associate Program Handbook, Sisters of the Presentation San Francisco, September 2020*

Annual Associate Gathering Held on September 4

New Members of Associate Leadership Elected

The Annual Associate Gathering on September 4th (via Zoom) was extra special this year as the election results for the new members of the Associate Leadership Team was announced by election coordinator **May Barisone**. The new team members elected for a four-year term were **Gerry Fagoaga and Kathey Valenzuela**. They were commissioned with a beautiful prayer and candle ceremony offering them love and support as they begin this important ministry. They will join continuing members **Kay Sweeney** and **Rosalie Cabrera** to form the Team. The Team will serve until September 30, 2023 when new members will be elected to replace Kay and Rosalie.

Outgoing team members, **Tina Panelli and Pamela Manick** were honored for their service with a beautiful prayer and flower ceremony thanking them for dedication, time and leadership in building a stronger Associate Community. They were presented with a lantern as a remembrance of their service.

Annual Report Presented by the Associate Team

Kay Sweeney, Associate Team facilitator, aided by the committee chairs led an update on current status of the work of the various committees. The committees are **Governance - Chair Gerry Fagoaga, Finance – Chair-Nanette Miller, Companion Network- Chair - Rosalie Cabrera, Sister/ Associate Chat – Chair - Yolanda Santillan, Communication: Newsletter- Editor - Kay Sweeney, Coffee Hours – Associate Team, Outreach – Chair- Jane Hetherington**. They also reviewed the status of the tasks that had been set for the Associate Team.

As a result of the workshops on Outreach, the Associate Team recommended that the Outreach Committee be disbanded and short-term task forces be set up to pull together materials that all members could use to invite new members and to revise the orientation program for applicants to membership. In light of their experience to date, they also recommended that the recommitment. process be evaluated.

Associates present added to the recommendation for the plan for the coming year which included to explore connection with Presentation Center in Watts and other Presentation groups in Southern California, schedule days of reflection around themes by outside facilitators in Advent, Lent, on contemplative prayer, etc., work with Community Communication Committee on profiles of all Associates, orient and organize new Associate Leadership Team, connect with other Presentation sisters and associates in other Communities, increase our participation in BACAR, look into adopting a cause, and explore interest in a trip to Ireland. **The Associate Team will be organizing these recommendations and presenting a plan for approval to the Associates in the future.**

Overview of Year's Activities

The Associates have been busy for the last 12 months in spite of the pandemic and have continued with various activities to stay connected with each other and with the Sisters at the Motherhouse. One new way of "visiting" with the Sisters was through "Sister Chats." The power of Zoom meetings was greatly appreciated. Each gathering had a set subject matter to discuss (i.e., February was on love and who our favorite saints are) and everyone enjoyed sharing and getting to know each other better.

Various Associate Zoom gatherings were held. Associates kept in touch by "**Coffee Hour**" chats. Interesting topics were discussed; Presentation Community Structures and how Associates fit in, "Our Sacred Places" and our individual journeys, and Our Lady of Guadalupe, her history and devotion in the Latino community.

Opportunities for **Spiritual Development** were provided; a Presentation Day Novena in November 2020, a 5-day Advent Sharing following a wonderful guided format by the Maryknoll Global Concern; the Virtual Walk from Nano's Birthplace in Ireland to her grave in Cork; and the Epiphany Day of Prayer with a presentation on the community organization. The Wall/Las Memorias, by the director Richard Zaldivar.

The monthly **Spiritual Reading Circle/SRC** will be finishing "Laudato Si – On Care for our Common Home," Pope Francis' environmental encyclical shortly. Participants frequently mention how life affirming is the fellowship they experience when meeting.

Future planning workshops as Associates look to the future were held in Jan, Feb, and April and was discussed in greater detail in a prior **Associate Newsletter**.

All in all, it has been an incredible year for everyone and having these gatherings have really helped in dealing at times with the sense of isolation and has helped to maintain the connectivity with others.

Associates were polled on their reaction to the year's activities. They recommended continuing them all

Update on “Operation Companionship from Chair Rosalie Cabrera

The awareness that there is a group of associates, who are unable to actively participate in associate activities raised a red flag! What can we do, to let them know we care, and miss them?

With input from the Associates, the Associate Leadership Team established the companion committee to meet this need. It was inspired by the Community’s coordinator and prayer partner programs.

Committee members Tina Panelli, Julie Merrill, Yolanda Santillan, and Rosalie Cabrera set the process in motion. Associates who volunteered to be a companion, have been assigned to an Associate who is unable to actively participate because of health issues, geographical distance, or other pressing factors. The idea, is to let them know that they are thought of, and are an integral part of Association.

How this is done is up to the companion associate, and how they use their creative abilities. A telephone call, a birthday card, a little surprise in the mail, or updating them on what’s going on in Association all are possible ways to keep them in touch. The ways and means are endless!

The committee thanks everyone for their kindness and thoughtfulness, on this incredible journey! Blessings to you all!

Donation to Presentation Alumnae General Fund in Memory of Margie Jones, Associate

As Associates we were saddened by the death of Margie Jones earlier this year. We had looked forward to celebrating her 25 years as an Associate at our retreat in October. Margie will be remembered for her beautiful, welcoming smile. She gave everyone a feeling that they were special. A donation in her memory of \$435 was made to the Presentation Alumnae General Fund this month. Thank you to all who helped us remember her with your donation.

Retreat Coming Up!

Annual Retreat planned on October 9 & 10 at San Damiano Retreat Center. **Colette Lafia** will be our facilitator. Theme: The Divine Heart. **Loretta Nekota** will host the celebration for **Rochelle Ramirez**- 10 years, **Kay Sweeney** – 20 years, **Jane Hetherington** – 25 years, and **Ramona Michaels** – 37 years. Refreshments by **Nanette Miller and Olga Barrera**. **We are looking forward to being together.**

Report from Conference of Presentation Associate Leaders' Zoom.

Kay Sweeney and Sister Anita Torres attended the monthly meeting of the leaders of the Associate programs in the Conference on September 14, 2021. Representatives were present from Aberdeen, Union of Presentation Sisters US and Canadian Provinces, New Windsor and Kay and Sister Anita from San Francisco. As there were no specific agenda items and the team had not met since June 8, representatives from each congregation provided updates on events that took place during the summer. Everyone was disappointed that the Gathering in Sioux Falls had been canceled but were looking forward to the zoom meeting. **All in the group have a strong desire to be connected with other Presentation People.**

Let us join the Sisters in prayer as they plan for Chapter

Our dear God, who has called us throughout our lives, we put our concerns into Your keeping, into Your heart's deep care. Give us courage, trust, and hope, courage to take each step; trust that you will lead us and our entire congregation well and clearly; hope that we will travel together into Your deepest heart of love in this life and in the next. Nano, please pray for us. Amen.

The Associate Team

Kay, Sr. Anita, Rosalie, Pamela, and Tina