

Volume 60

January 2021

Alumnae E-News

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Villa Alumnae Updates

Elizabeth Kennedy '03 Alumnae Speaker Series 2020-2021

On Friday, January 15 Villa welcomed Liz Kennedy '03 as the speaker for the first Alumnae Speaker Series for school year 2020-2021. This event was held virtually for all current Villa students and staff. Liz talked about how being a student at Villa allowed her to grow in her self-confidence and helped her to find her voice. She encouraged the students to follow their dreams, work hard, and be grateful for what they have been given.

Liz, a recognized name in the fashion industry, has designed for some of the most esteemed fashion designers including Donna Karan, J. Mendel and Isaac Mizrahi, along with her own Elizabeth Kennedy collection.

The speaker series occurs twice per year for the benefit of our current Villa students. Recordings of some past presenters can be found on our website [here](#).

A recording of Liz's presentation will be shared with alumnae

when it becomes available. Thank you Liz for a great session!

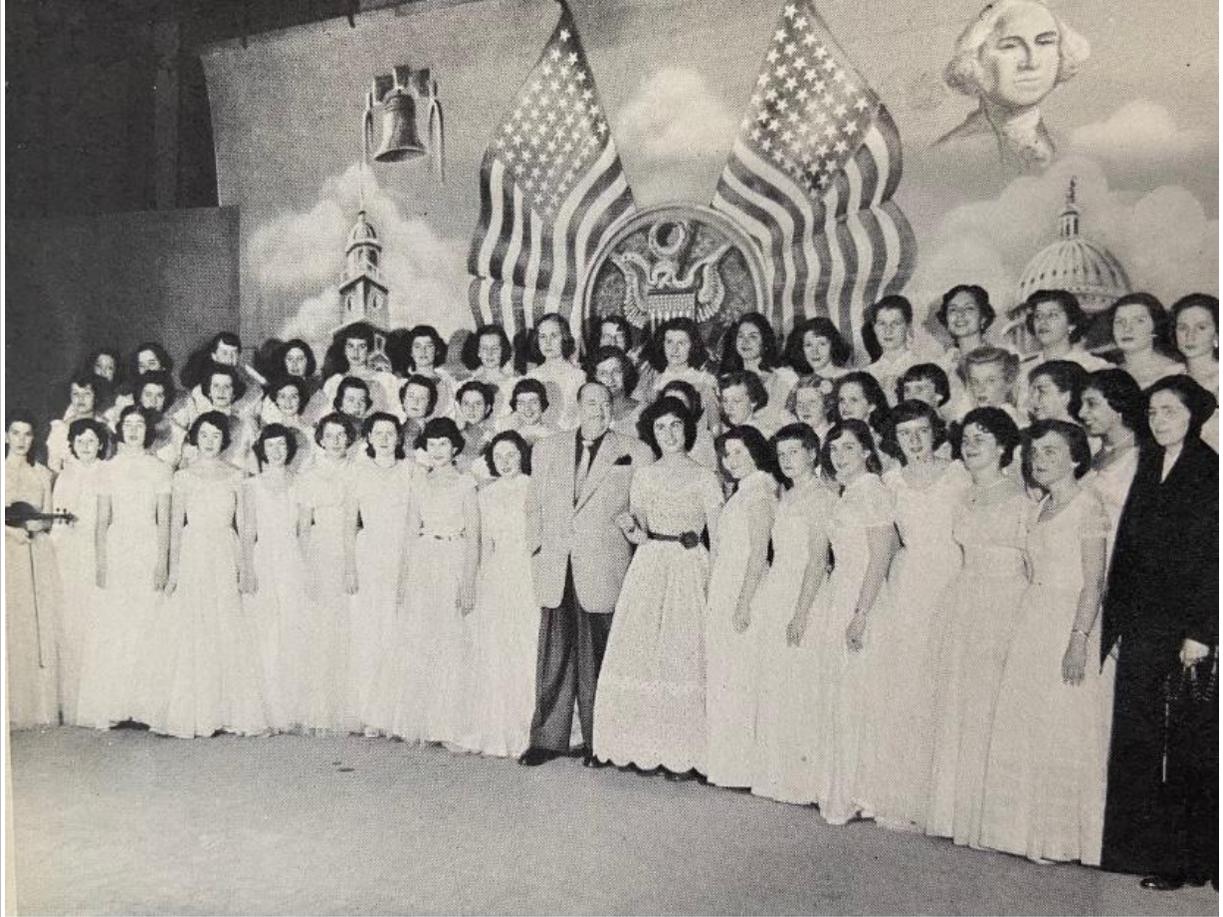


Margaret 'Peggy' Ann Carlen Van Sant '52

Rest in peace Villa sister.

Peggy's obituary can be found [here](#).





Top photo: Peggy's Villa graduation photo

Bottom photo: Peggy with other Villa singers gathered around celebrity Paul Whiteman after a record-breaking repeat performance of "Ode to Peace" on the Paul Whiteman T.V. Teen Show.

Meet a Villa Victoria Academy Student Photo Contest Judge: An Interview with Villa Girl Savannah Bastecki '10

Volunteer position at VVA: Member of the judging panel for the Villa Victoria Student Photo Contest

Education:

B.A. Graphic Design & Digital Imaging, Minor in Communications, High Point University, NC, Graduated Cum Laude

Favorite Villa Memory:

To be honest, there are too many favorite memories! The moments I have shared with my class of 11 lovely ladies have been some of the top hardest laughs I've ever laughed! We were constantly singing in the



halls and spreading our contagious positive vibes and chuckles throughout the school. Most of my fondest memories were spent with Ms. Smith in gym class, soccer and softball practice. I not only learned about sports and teamwork, I learned about life! Ms. Smith was and is one of many teachers at Villa who listened and gave me helpful advice in preparation for my future. And she was in on some of our inside jokes that had my classmates and I belly laughing on the grass or gym floor.

Though art and athletics are my passions in life, I still never found a dull moment in my other classes. Sister Lesley's angelic, bright spirit has met no match. I was never ashamed to question anything in my religion class in order to better understand God's message. Ms. Musella's passion for English and literature opened my mind to things I would have never discovered on my own including being more comfortable with public speaking. Mr. DiMaggio made math fun! He was patient even when we would see the numbers 867 on the board and thus have to start singing 867-5309 Jenny by Tommy Tutone. Yes, any trigger word would lead to singing and was common occurrence in every class...we could not resist.



Growing Up:

I grew up in Yardville (Hamilton), NJ around lots of farm land and lots of outdoors to explore. I always enjoyed doing art projects, helping my dad cook or playing sports outside with my sister.

Having gone to a larger elementary school and potentially an even larger middle school, my parents and I sought out other options and thus, we found VVA. I thrived in smaller classes with real relationships with my teachers who cared about ME. I attended VVA from 6-12th grade and have made long lasting friendships.

Early Years as an Artist:

Since I was little, I have always created things with my hands. From fixing household items in a innovative way or sewing clothes for my Barbies, I was always seeking creative outlets. I would even build characters, for my mom, out of the tin foil left over from my lunch. As I learned more about art and the artists behind the work, the more my passion for that and world travel grew. I traveled to Australia through *People to People* with a fellow classmate my sophomore year and later traveled to Rome and Paris with Ms. Lewis' Senior Art Class Trip. It was amazing and only fired me up to learn and explore more.



At High Point University I was able to take drawing, sculpting, photography, video editing, you name it! I made sure to take a creative elective each semester. Graphic Design & Digital Imaging became my major after learning of all the ways graphics and design affect and drive our society. There will always be a need for it. When I heard about the *SACI (Studio Art Centers International)* study aboard program I just had to sign up! I studied art and graphic design for a semester in Florence, Italy my junior year. It was one of the best experiences of my life! I went there knowing no one. My limits were pushed, and comfort zone demolished but I matured and discovered so much about myself though my classes and interactions with my class mates and locals. In addition to the Graphics classes I attended, I took a sculpting class. With a chisel in one hand and a mallet in the other, I carved real, solid marble. I appreciated and felt so connected to Michelangelo and Bernini in those moments.



Life as an Artist Today:

After graduating from HPU and seeking warmer weather, I landed my first job with Pinnacle Advertising & Marketing Group, one of South Florida's Top 10 Ad Agencies in Boca Raton, Florida. I was then given the opportunity to design for the Orlando Solar Bears, professional ECHL Hockey Team and moved to Orlando. I now work for JLL (Jones Lang Lasalle) as a Graphic Designer/Production Associate. I freelance for the Solar Bears and miscellaneous clients.

Personally, I like to craft, watercolor, sculpt, and cook. I stay active at the gym or on my local adult co-ed softball/kickball team.

Engaged!

I knew he was the one when he gifted me a rock...carving stone... for Valentines Day.

#IAmAVillaGirl

I still see my classmates at least once a year and talk to some almost daily. I am forever grateful to be a Villa Girl.



Top Photo: Savannah's Senior Photo at Villa Victoria Academy.

Second Photo: Savannah with her BFF Devin Butchko '10 and Villa Athletic Director, Coach and Teacher Ms. Smith.

Third Photo: Savannah with her fiancé, Corey in Florence, Italy in front of the Basilica of the Holy Cross.

Fourth Photo: Savannah with the Villa Class of 2010 and Villa Principal Sr. Mary Ann Gecina.

Fifth Photo: Savannah's sculpture she carved in Italy, "The Pink Lady" out of Pink Portuguese Marble.



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HEY VILLA GIRLS!

**DO YOU HAVE AN UPDATE?
WEDDING/JOB PROMOTION/NEW
CHILD/OTHER?
FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW.**

THANK YOU!

Share your updates here.

SUPER 50/50 Raffle

March 13, 2021



To benefit
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The Victorians
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50% of Tickets Sales

First Prize - 50% = \$20,000
Second Prize - 30% = \$12,000
Third Prize - 20% = \$8,000
(If all tickets are sold)

Price: \$100.00 per ticket

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Villa Victoria Academy
Saturday, March 13, 2021
Drawing 8:00 PM**



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Maybe they do! Double or triple
your gift to Villa Victoria.**

Many companies offer matching gift programs to encourage employees to contribute to their favorite charitable organizations. Some companies also provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours. Most of these programs match contributions dollar for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount of your gift!

The Villa Alumnae E-newsletter is produced twice per month for Villa alumnae, alumnae parents, current students, and other friends of Villa Victoria Academy. Any corrections, questions or news should be sent to cwhite@villavictoria.org.