



VILLA VICTORIA  
ACADEMY

# Alumnae E-News

## Volume 113

### May 2025

## Catching up with VVA Alumnae Speaker Barb Buerke Stephen '01

Twice a year the Villa Board of Directors sponsors our Alumnae Speaker Series. These talks occur in the fall and in the spring. Barb Buerke Stephen, Class of 2001, was our Spring 2025 alumnae speaker to VVA Students, Faculty and Staff on May 14, 2025. Let's catch up with her!

**Education:** I am the youngest of five children and grew up across the river in Bucks County, PA. I am also one of those rare people who has always known what I wanted to do. I decided when I was five that I wanted to be a nurse. When trying to decide about a good high school for me, I was able to talk with my older brothers and sisters about their experiences in a mix of public, private and boarding schools. I quickly concluded that an all- girls Catholic high school was what I wanted. After much research I knew that Villa Victoria was the place for me! It combined strong academics, a good student life and was a school that matched my personality.

After I graduated from Villa in 2001, I attended Villanova University for my Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) on a full-tuition scholarship. Later I attended The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated in 2012 with a Master's in Nursing Science (MSN) in Healthcare Systems and Outcomes Management.

**Jobs/Career:** I am currently the Director of the Traditional Undergraduate Nursing Program at the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing at Villanova University. This fall I am stepping down from this position to pursue my Doctorate in Nursing at Duquesne University.

**Favorite Villa memory or teacher:** So hard to answer!! I loved all my teachers but Mr. Slusher and Mrs. Conway will always have a special place in my heart. Favorite Villa memories are the lock-in, all of the musicals, and retreats/spirit days with my class.

**Advice to my Younger Self:** I know it is cliché, but “don’t sweat the small stuff, and it’s all small stuff.” I find that as I age the stuff I worried about when I was younger turned out to be inconsequential, whereas the things that are concerning now, and I should have given more attention to earlier, never even crossed my mind when I was young. Like saving for retirement!

**Hobbies and Favorite Places to Travel:** Reading, going for walks, needlepoint, going to museums/historical places, and travel-wise, pretty much anywhere! Specifically, I do adore traveling to Europe and the Caribbean. I enjoy spending time with my husband Edward and our sons Jonathan (5) and Sam (3)

**Photo:** Several alumnae attended the Alumnae Speaker Series. Left to Right: Priscilla Polizzi '23, Kim Trasatti Topper '05, Barb, Christine DiGirolamo Plagianaos '01, Bethanne Warrack '75 and Sr. Joanne Manns '67.



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**Villa Alumnae Softball Game**



VVA graduates returned to Villa on May 2, 2025 for a fun softball game with the Villa Varsity softball team. This was followed by a potluck for all players! Everyone in this photo was coached by Ms. Cindy Smith (left, back row), long-time Villa Softball coach.

Thanks Mary Zsolway '18 & Brianna Nelson '15 for organizing!



## **Two Villa Class of 2021 grads together again!**

Congratulations to Villa girls Leigh Machion (left) and Macey Bartels (right). They graduated from Villa together in 2021 and on May 17, 2025 they graduated from the University of Notre Dame together.



**Rest in Peace**  
**Sr. Lillian Ernest, MPF**

Obituary



**Rest in Peace**  
**Sr. Domenica Troina, MPF**

Obituary

**Rest in Peace**  
**Sr. Carmela DiMauro, MPF**

Obituary

**Villa Bag Bingo**

Villa Bag Bingo tickets are now on sale. This great event will take place on Friday, June 20, 2025 from 6-10 PM in the Villa gym.

Admission tickets are \$35 and that includes 10 games of bag bingo (4x4 cards), one sheet of Tier I raffle tickets and coffee and pastry. Bring your own food and drink too.

New this year are raffle tickets bundles. Click the link below to see all the choices for bundles and sponsorships.

In addition, friends of VVA can help to support this event by purchasing an item from the Amazon Wish List. See the link below. Thank you!

Thanks to the Villa Parent Alliance for sponsoring this event.



Tickets now on sale!

*Villa Victoria Academy*

## **BAG BINGO**

Friday, June 20, 2025, 6 pm to 10 pm  
376 W. Upper Ferry Road, Ewing, NJ 08628

**GREAT PRIZES!**

Buy Tickets

Amazon Wish List

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## **We need your help!**

Reviews are powerful when recruiting new families and students.  
Alumnae and friends-please leave us a review  
on one of the following sites: [Niche](#), [Facebook](#)  
Thank you!

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**VVA Wall of Fame 2025**  
**Tickets on Sale**

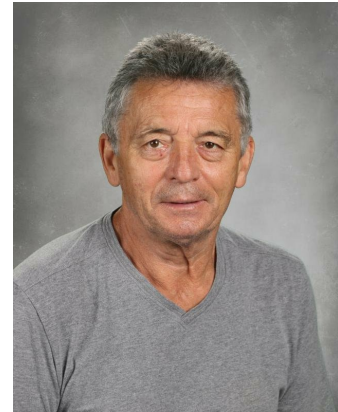
This year's class of honorees will be inducted  
on Sunday, June 8, 2025 at a Dinner Gala  
at the Stone Terrace by John Henry's in Hamilton, New Jersey.  
Plan to join us from 5-9 pm for a wonderful night that includes good food, two  
drink tickets and a chance to bid on great prizes.

We are excited to welcome the following honorees  
to the Villa Wall of Fame.

**Chuck Machion** VVA Parent to Brittany '04 and Leigh '21, Member of  
the Villa Board of Directors, Founder of the VVA Green Thumbs Club

**Jasmine Ross '08 and Family** VVA "lifer" and graduate of Villa,  
family established an annual Scholarship to a VVA Trenton-area student

**Richard Zaremba** Long time VVA employee and bus driver, over 30  
years of service to the students and sisters of Villa Victoria Academy



Wall of Fame Tickets

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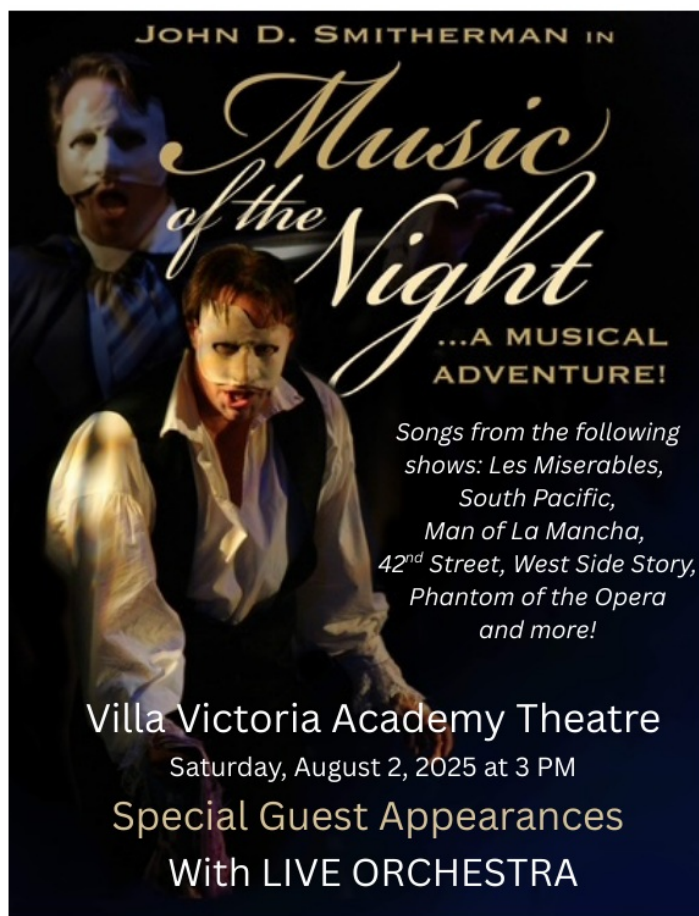
## A Special Performance: Music of the Night!

Villa Victoria Academy is excited to announce a special performance  
MUSIC OF THE NIGHT starring our very own ***Once Upon a Mattress***  
Director John D. Smitherman!

Enjoy an entertaining afternoon with John and his orchestra as he sings all of  
your Broadway favorites. There will also be exciting special guest singers  
including a Villa grad and a Villa student!

A wonderful show for the entire family! This show is a benefit for VVA.





**A Night of Music  
tickets**





HEY VILLA GRADS!

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



**WE WOULD LOVE TO  
HEAR FROM YOU!**

**Share your update  
here!**

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**Happy Memorial Day weekend. We honor  
and pray for those who gave their lives for  
our country.**

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**Connect on LinkedIn**

Would you like to connect with your fellow Villa girls?  
Join our LinkedIn page [here](#).

**Follow us on Social Media**

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!



The Villa Alumnae E-newsletter is produced twice per month during the school year and once per month in the summer 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](mailto:cwhite@villavictoria.org).

Villa Victoria Academy | 376 West Upper Ferry Rd | Ewing , NJ 08628 US

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