



VILLA VICTORIA ACADEMY

Alumnae E-News Volume 117 February 2026

Life as a Villa Boarder: An interview with Mary Hendricks Maddox '63

"I am 80 years old now and am a widow. As I think over my lifetime I think of how much I loved being a boarding student at Villa. I am still in touch with many of my classmates and my faith is as strong as ever. I have happy memories of my years at VVA."

From the 1950s to the 1980s Villa Victoria Academy students could "board" at the convent during the week. Some went home on the weekends, while some stayed over the weekend. They were (and still are) referred to as "boarders."

When did you start at VVA? I came to VVA as a sophomore from a large regional high school in New Jersey. I lived in Sea Girt and my aunts lived in Trenton. One time I came to visit my aunts and I met Karen Salvatore. She attended Villa and encouraged me to take a look. I found that everyone was nice, the campus was safe and the religious aspect was nice.

What was a day living as a boarder like? On a typical day we woke up at 6:00-6:30 am. They would ring a bell to wake you up. You could go to Mass if you wanted. Then we would have breakfast and go over to school. At lunch time we went back to the convent to eat. Then after school we had cookies and milk at the convent. We had one hour of TV each evening and it was usually a dance show. We could use the telephone

to call home if we wanted. Then we would say the rosary and have dinner. After dinner we had study time in the convent each night. Lastly we had showers and lights out between 9:30-10 pm.

Did you go home on the weekends? Could you have guests at the convent? Sometimes I went home on the weekends and sometimes I stayed at Villa. Moms and aunts were allowed as guests at the convent. On Thursday nights we did each other's hair in case we were going home for the weekend.

Did you have your own room? We had roommates! Three girls in a bedroom and then four for a while. We would do fun things like have pillow fights in our room. I made great friends and I am still friends with them. We write to each other and have reunions.

How were the academics at Villa? Who were the sisters you remember fondly? The academics were very good! I loved Sr. Mary Dolores. She was an excellent teacher. Sr. Lillian Harrington taught us Chemistry. I was in the dance group with Sr. Elizabeth Parente for our school production of *Aida*. We learned so much in our English Literature class at Villa. I was very well read when I went to college thanks to VVA.

What was your career? I am a retired elementary school teacher. I taught in Catholic schools for years in Oakland, California.

What did you love best at Villa? What I loved best was the friendship and the warm atmosphere. You think a boarding situation would be strict but it wasn't like that. It was home-like. The food was delicious. They could make special requests for food on their birthdays. The nuns were so gracious! I am grateful for my time at "the Villa."

Top Photo: Mary (third from left) cools off at Longwood Botanical Gardens with her classmates.

Middle Photo: Mary's Villa Victoria Academy graduation photo

Bottom Photo: Mary today at home in Olympia, Washington







Rest in Peace Villa Girl

Marguerite Deutz Valentini '60

Marguerite was a "lifer" at VVA (grades K-12).



[Read Obituary Here](#)

„Congratulations to VVA Grad Danielle Barber '82!

We congratulate Danielle on launching her blog-
The Ginger Chronicles!

Danielle is the creative director for a fine jewelry manufacturer in New York City called Suna Bros. She lives in New Jersey and her background is in art and design.

Danielle has given back to her alma mater by serving for several years as a judge for the VVA Student Photo Contest.

Her work is guided by curiosity, craft, and a belief that every story begins before the first word is read.

Danielle writes, "My passion for writing can be traced directly back to my 12 years at Villa. I'm especially grateful to Sr. Marian Ingellis—she was truly the most impactful educator I've ever had. So much of who I am as a writer started in her classroom."

Photo: Danielle glacier climbing

[Read Danielle's Blog Here](#)



VILLA VICTORIA ACADEMY
PRESENTS

The WIZARD of OZ

March 13th 7pm
March 14th 7pm
March 15th 2pm

TICKETS:
Presale Code
VVAOZ



BY L. FRANK BAUM

WITH MUSIC & LYRICS BY HAROLD ARLEN AND E.Y.HARBURG

BACKGROUND MUSIC BY HERBERT STOTHART

DANCE & VOCAL ARRANGEMENTS BY PETER HOWARD ORCHESTRATION BY LARRY WILCOX

ADAPTED BY JOHN KANE FOR THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

BASED UPON THE CLASSIC MOTION PICTURE OWNED BY TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO. AND DISTRIBUTED BY WARNER BROS

THE WIZARD OF OZ IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS ON BEHALF OF TAMS-WHITMARK LLC

WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM

Villa Victoria Class of 1976

Hosting Reunion and Brunch

HERE is all the INFO!

Villa is planning an Alumnae Brunch before the Sunday performance of this year's musical. The brunch will be held in the Villa library on Sunday, March 15, 2026 starting at noon. The brunch will conclude at 1:30 pm allowing enough time to go to the theatre lobby to purchase tickets for the 2:00 pm performance.

All VVA alumnae and their families are welcome at the brunch. Please RSVP below. The Villa show is **THE WIZARD OF OZ** and is family friendly of course!

The Brunch is being sponsored by the VVA Class of 1976: The Bicentennial Class! There is no fee to attend. Please RSVP below so we have a good count. Family members are welcomed!

Show tickets are \$20 if purchased after March 1 and at the door.
Tickets are \$16 if purchased before March 1, 2026 with pre-sale code VVAOZ.
Ticket link below.

Everyone is encouraged to **SHOW THEIR LOVE for VVA** by taking a spotlight or shout-out ad in the Ad and Patron Drive. Ad bundles are available too. Click on the link below for pricing and instructions.

[**Ad and Patron Drive Info**](#)

[**Buy Tickets to the Show**](#)

[**RSVP for the Alumnae Brunch**](#)



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!

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 monthly 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.

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