



VILLA VICTORIA
ACADEMY

Alumnae E-News

Volume 118

May 2026

Meet our three Alumnae Speakers at VVA this spring!

Elise Stankus '21 VVA Alumnae Speaker Series

Elise Stankus was the alumnae speaker for the Spring 2026 VVA Alumnae Speaker Series on May 18, 2026. This speaker series, an initiative of the VVA Board of Directors starting in 2017, introduces Villa students to various careers and allows them to network with their Villa sisters. Elise was the 21st speaker in the series.

Elise is a graduate student at Rosemont College working toward her Master's degree in Fine Arts in Creative Writing, with a focus on long-form fiction. She graduated from Rosemont College with her Bachelor's degree in English in 2025.

Over the years she has worked as a freelance writer, journalist, social services intern, and continues to serve as a gardener on a local organic flower farm while she completes her degree.

Through her involvement in the **Synod on Synodality**, Elise had the privilege to travel on pilgrimage to Rome in 2023 and 2024, and continues to work toward creating and building collaborative communities for young adults in the Catholic Church.

She has published two books: A book of poetry entitled ***This Strange Between*** and a book of fiction entitled ***If We Fall in the Forest***.

During her talk to the students, Elise spoke about what was next in her life. She said, "And so, when I think about what's next for me, I am continuing to trust that if I work hard towards my goals in the areas of my life where I find the most fulfillment, I will end up where I am meant to be. My current project is my master's thesis, which is a family saga novel about three generations of women artists. And it also involves this painting, *The Domes of the Yosemite* by Albert Bierstadt, which I have found very inspiring throughout my creative process, and as I move towards the next step in my life."

Rev. Patricia Robinson Hall '85 VVA Alumnae Induction Speaker

Patty will be the keynote speaker at the Villa Victoria Alumnae Induction for the Class of 2026 on Friday, May 29, 2026. All are invited to the theater for Patty's talk and other Class of 2026 activities, including our honors ceremony. The activities will begin at 10:15 am and end at 11:30 am.

Patty recently retired from the Trenton Free Public Library, serving as the Executive Director for the last four years. She is the former Interim Executive Director of the Trenton Downtown Association and the Former Director of the Conference Center at the Fellowship Deaconry Ministries in Basking Ridge, NJ. She is currently working at the Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ as the Education Specialist.

Patty was ordained in 2015 under the leadership of Rev. Kelvin Baldwin, Pastor of True Love Ministries Trenton, NJ and Rev. Michael Odom Pastor of WholeLife Community Church of Totowa, NJ. She is the Pastor of the ANEW Way Ministries (an online Christian Community). She was recently elected the President of the Concerned Pastors and Ministers of Trenton and Vicinity, only the second female in the 40-year history.

Joanna Latini '11 VVA Graduation Speaker

Joanna received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie Mellon University and her Master of Music degree from Rice University.

Joanna has been a member of several prestigious training programs including those at Palm Beach Opera, The Glimmerglass Festival, Kentucky Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and Wolf Trap Opera. Joanna has performed professionally across the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Her awards include National Semi-Finalist at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, 2nd Place Young Patronesses of the Opera Competition, 3rd Place in the Houston Saengerbund Competition, and a Semi-Finalist in the Opera Birmingham Competition. In 2018, she was named a National Semi-Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

She has worked at the Aspen Music Festival and School and the Houston Grand Opera. Currently Joanna is the Director of Resident Artist Programs at Palm Beach Opera in Palm Beach, FL.

Read more about Joanna and the roles she has performed on her webpage [HERE](#).

The entire VVA community is invited to the Class of 2026 graduation on Sunday, May 31, 2026 in the Villa theater. Mass is at 2 PM followed by the commencement exercises. Joanna will be the keynote speaker at the graduation.

Top Photo: Villa grad Elise Stankus with her former Villa teachers after her Speaker Series talk on May 18, 2026 in the Villa theater.

Middle Photo: Villa grad Patricia Robinson Hall

Bottom Photo: Villa grad Joanna Latini





Rest in Peace

Sr. Roseann Fernandez, MFP



[Read Obituary Here](#)

**“Thanks to all who supported the mini-
campaign
EVERY GIRL COUNTS**

on May 14-15.

All gifts to this mini-campaign are applied to our big campaign--
The Villa Annual Fund Drive. The Annual Fund helps us to provide an enriched Villa
experience to our students, financial assistance to families who qualify and
scholarships to deserving students.

Did you miss this campaign?
There is still time to make a gift to the VVA Annual Fund!
We have a big goal to reach by June 30, 2026.

Use the link below to make your gift now
or send your check to the school:

Villa Victoria Academy
c/o Development Office
376 W. Upper Ferry Road
Ewing, NJ 08628

Thank you for your gifts! Know that the Religious Teachers Filippini and the students
at VVA remember you daily in their prayers.

**See our EVERY GIRL COUNTS Supporters
Here!**

Donate here





**Join us for Villa Bag Bingo
on Friday, June 12, 6-10 pm
in the Villa gym**

**For \$35 you get:
Ten games of Bag Bingo and
coffee and pastry.
Plus that night there will also be a
50/50 and over 40 Raffle Baskets.
Bring your own food and drink.
This is an over 18 event. No alcohol permitted.**

Ticket link below. (There is a fee to buy online). You can also send a check to VVA main office (\$35 a ticket) or pay cash at the office during business hours.

Can't join us but want to support this Parent Alliance Fundraiser?
See the Amazon Wish List. Thank you!

Bag Bingo Tickets Here

Amazon Wish List

"Come and See" Day of Prayer
with the Religious Teachers Filippini
Saturday, May 30, 2026



The Religious Teachers Filippini sisters
invite high school and college women to join them for

Come & See
DAY OF PRAYER

Theme:
"Call to love"

Saturday, May 30th
9:30 am to 3 pm

Morning Star House of Prayer
312 West Upper Ferry Road
Ewing, NJ 08628

- Holy Hour
- Faith Sharing
- Lunch and Fun Activities

Fee: \$10 deposit and Free will offering

RSVP by Tuesday, May 26th, 2026

Sr. Luciana D'Cruz, M.P.F.
Email: srluciana@sjvs.net • Call: 516 225 1786



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](#)!



Have a happy and safe Memorial Day weekend! We thank our service men and women. Our prayers are with you and for you.

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.

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

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