



VILLA VICTORIA
ACADEMY

Alumnae E-News

Volume 119

July 2026

Two Reunions at VVA: Class of 2001 (25 years) and Class of 1976 (50 years)

On the weekend of the VVA musical (March 13-15, 2026) many Villa alumnae gathered for various events including a tour of the school, a brunch in the library and of course, to watch the Villa musical, **The Wizard of Oz**. Villa thanks the Class of 1976 for sponsoring the Alumnae Brunch this year held on Sunday, March 15, 2026.

Top Photo: The Class of 2001 celebrated their 25th reunion year at Villa with their former Villa musical director Newt Gilchrist and members of the **Wizard** cast. They were also joined by former teacher Mrs. Ann Conway-Konzelman.

Middle Photo: The Class of 1976-the Bicentennial Class-held a mini-reunion at VVA for their 50th reunion year with more events for their class planned for 2026.

Bottom Photo: Graduates from the 1970s joined former teachers Sr. Lillian Harrington, Sr. Joanne Manns and Mrs. E. Virginia Napolitano at the Alumnae Brunch.







Rest in Peace Villa Girl

Maria Zito-Kaufman '65

Maria was a dedicated supporter of VVA for many years and is a former member of the Villa Board of Directors.



[Read Obituary Here](#)

Thank you to VVA Alumnae Speaker Elise Stankus '21

On May 18, 2026 Elise Stankus '21 was the spring presenter at the VVA Alumnae Speaker Series. Elise was introduced by Villa graduate Bethanne Warrack. Elise was the 21st Villa Alumnae Speaker since 2017. Read on for more information about Elise!

Education: Elise is a graduate student at Rosemont College working towards her Master's in Fine Arts in Creative Writing, with a focus on long-form fiction. She

graduated from Rosemont College with her Bachelor's in English in 2025 with minors in creative writing, studio art and design, and theology and religious studies.

Experience: Over the years Elise has worked as a freelance writer, journalist, social services intern, retreat facilitator and continues to serve as a gardener on a local organic flower farm while she completes her degree. She has worked as a correspondent for *The Monitor*, the local diocesan newspaper.

Hobbies: In her free time Elise likes reading, traveling, gardening, and crafting.

Volunteer Work: 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 towards creating and building collaborative communities for young adults.

On becoming a writer (in her own words): My senior year at Villa, a friend and fellow Villa girl approached me, and said, "Hey I have this really crazy idea. There is a challenge called National Novel Writing Month, where you write a novel in thirty days, and I was wondering if you might want to do it with me." And I was completely on board, so in November of 2020, when many of us were still logging on remotely for school, I wrote a 50,000 word first-draft of a novel. I spent the next few months editing, revising, and playing around with different types of formatting. I researched publishing, and decided that I wanted to try to self-publish.

The first step was building my team. I reached out to Mr. DeRosa, who was the history teacher at Villa at the time and who I knew had self-published books before. He was able to recommend specific self-publishing programs, and guide me through the process. I also reached out to my cousin to see if he wanted to make the cover art, and I reached out to a friend from an online writer's conference to see if she was available to help edit the final draft.

And I really do think that Villa's emphasis on empowerment and self-determination allowed me to follow through with that project, to build my team and feel supported in this big dream I had.

Publications: Elise has published two books: a book of poetry *This Strange Between* and a young adult novel *If We Fall in the Forest*. She is currently at work on a new book for her master's thesis.

Podcast: Click below to read more about Elise's work with the Synod and to hear her podcast on Ignatian Voices for Justice.

Photo: Elise is pictured with Villa President Sr. Lillian Harrington at the Spring Alumnae Speaker Series in the Villa Theatre.

[Hear Elise's Podcast Here](#)



VVA Alumnae Softball Game

On May 9, 2026 Villa hosted their annual Alumnae/Varsity Softball game.

Thanks to Mary Zsolway '18 and Bri Nelson '15 for organizing the day and thanks to Mr. Corban (VVA alumnae dad) and Mr. Bailey (current VVA dad) for serving as grill masters after the game.

Long-time VVA Softball Coach Ms. Smith also joined in the fun!



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 [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!



The Villa Alumnae E-newsletter is produced monthly 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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!