

Share the Spirit!

SPRING 2026

San Diego Alumnae/i of the Sacred Heart

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President's Message

Spring 2026

Dear Alumnae/i of the Sacred Heart,

Welcome to the special edition of our newsletter designed to launch an ambitious project, *In One Heart*: Mother Rosalie Hill Endowed Scholarship (MRHES). Initiated by the SDASH Board, it is my pleasure to invite you to join us as we begin our campaign to increase funds for this endowed scholarship. Our goal is to grow the MRHES to one million dollars by 2030, so that it will be endowed in perpetuity for the students from the Network of Sacred Heart Schools attending the University of San Diego.

First, thank you to our alumnae who have so generously donated to our previous scholarship efforts. We are also grateful to the San Diego College for Women Class of 1960 who, at their 50th reunion, envisioned an endowed scholarship to honor Mother Rosalie Hill RSCJ, an outstanding educator, who with Bishop Buddy, was one of the founders of the University of San Diego as well as the Convent of the Sacred Heart, El Cajon. Although \$27,000 was raised initially, this amount was shy of USD's \$50,000 minimum to establish an endowment. I am happy to report that when this matter came to the attention of the SDASH Board and with your generosity, we have increased this initial amount to \$250,000.

Now, our goal is to raise an additional \$750,000 over the next 4 years to reach \$1,000,000 by 2030. We believe this goal is doable. We have conferred with Erin Jones, the Director of Planned Giving and Major Gifts at USD, and she has assisted us with guidelines needed to proceed.

All of us were privileged to have been educated by the Religious of the Sacred Heart, who frequently reminded us of how fortunate we were and of our responsibility to "give back." We are now given a golden opportunity to do just that. Your support of the Mother Rosalie Hill Endowed Scholarship ensures that students from the Network of Sacred Heart Schools, who are in financial need, will also receive the blessing of a value-based USD education. Thank you in advance for responding to this opportunity and for your generous support.

United in One Heart,
Kathleen Smith
President, San Diego Alumnae/i of the Sacred Heart



Remembering the Life of Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill (1878-1964)



After the death of Mother Rosalie Hill, on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, 1964, A letter was found in her desk from Bishop Buddy, acknowledging:

“In reality, you are the founder of the University of San Diego as well as the San Diego College for Women.... Without your perfect trust in the Sacred Heart which in turn gave you the courage and vision, this vast project would never have started.”

At age 18 Rosalie Hill enrolled at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Saultau-Recollet, near Montreal, subsequently becoming a novice at Kenwood in 1899. When she made her final profession in France, in 1907, little did she dream she was to become a pioneer in education. Once professed, she became Mistress General of Elmhurst, RI, and Maplehurst, NY. In 1929, she became Superior of the Western Vicariate comprised of all Sacred Heart schools and colleges from Chicago to the Pacific coast. At the San Francisco College for Women dedication in 1933, Archbishop Hanna noted:

“Women have become important members, not only in the Church but in the nation.”

In essence, Mother Hill made these words her mantra. It was to be in 1942 when Bishop Buddy invited her to consider founding a College for Women and an Academy for girls in the Diocese of San Diego. Although wartime priorities precluded building, it became a time of research and planning. By 1945, Bishop Buddy presented a home for the Society in Old Town with a gift of what later became 65 acres for the San Diego College for Women (SDCW), the first component of the University of San Diego. The College for Men, Law School, and Seminary would follow to form the nucleus of the university.

Mother Hill proved herself a brilliant architect by expressing California’s early Spanish history into a Spanish-Renaissance style. Working with another RSCJ with drafting skills, Mother Hill produced blueprints for SDCW to the amazement of architect, Frank Hope. Ground breaking began in 1949. With remarkable speed, the SDCW opened for classes in 1952. By 1957 an Academy for girls was located on the campus. The next year, this Academy relocated to El Cajon, a suburb of San Diego, and was named the Convent of the Sacred Heart. A Novitiate followed in 1959. Subsequently, the Tavares family provided a new school facility in 1961. This would be the final founding of a Sacred Heart school in Mother Hill’s extraordinary career.



1961 Graduation photo in front of the initial El Cajon chapel.

San Diego Alumnae/i of the Sacred Heart Mother Rosalie Hill Endowed Scholarship

How To Make a Gift or Pledge Payment

Did you know most annual donors are everyday people?

Yes, they are alumnae/i and friends we call philanthropists because they give with intention. Whether it is \$10, \$25, \$50, or \$50,000, they give as generously as they are able, knowing that their gift makes a huge difference. Please consider one of the many ways you may join all our donors who are making an impact today.

Three simple ways to donate include:

1. **Cash:** Outright gifts of cash or its equivalent enable the donor to claim an income tax charitable deduction for the full value of the gift.
2. **Credit Cards:** USD honors MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover. Remember to note the charge is for the **Mother Rosalie Hill Endowed Scholarship**.
3. **Checks:** Make checks payable to the University of San Diego and in the MEMO section, write MRHES. Mail to: USD Office of Annual Giving #206, 5998 Alcalá Park San Diego, CA 92110.

For your convenience, please utilize the enclosed return envelope.

Remember: Checks for MRHES are payable to the USD, and not to the SDASH because USD has fiduciary custody of this MRHES scholarship and administers it according to SDASH instructions.

Other ways to donate:

1. **Charitable bequests:** Your estate planning attorney can include a provision in your will or trust that designates a gift to the **Mother Rosalie Hill Endowed Scholarship** at USD.
2. **Stock transfers and/or Shares of Mutual Funds:** may be initiated by a donor or a donor's broker. Before or after completing the transfer, please call USD for Erin Kathleen Jones at: (619) 260-4523 so she will be alerted for your gift.
3. **Qualified charitable distributions (QCD)** may be made from your IRA and can be made at age 70 & a half. At age 73 you can satisfy your required mandatory distribution (RMD) by making a gift to the **Mother Rosalie Hill Endowed Scholarship or MRHES**. Be sure your donated funds are sent directly to USD versus yourself as this will cause a taxable event.

For any questions, contact: Erin Kathleen Jones, Director of Planned Giving and Major Gifts, Degheri Alumni Center Suite 206, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, CA 92110; or call at: 619-260-4523 | email: ekjones@sandiego.edu

Your SDASH Board thanks you in advance for your generosity to our campaign, *In One Heart*, believing no gift is too small. It is all donor gifts together which makes the biggest difference!

1st Recipient of Mother Hill Endowed Scholarship



We are delighted to announce that the first recipient of the Mother Rosalie Hill Endowed Scholarship (MRHES) is Epeli Puhula, a sophomore year student at USD from Sacred Heart School, Atherton. Epeli is studying Chemistry and planning to attend graduate school.

Those of you who were in attendance at the 2023 Jazz Supper may recall meeting Epeli, when he accepted a previous scholarship. In thanking the Alumnae then and now, Epeli spoke eloquently about his Sacred Heart experience at Atherton, noting that he chose USD for its mission which closely aligns with Sacred Heart values. At USD, he found those values to be: personal integrity, spirituality, belonging, active citizenship, and transforma-

tive action. Accordingly, he expressed gratitude to the San Diego Alumnae for selecting him as the 1st recipient of the MRHES, making it possible for him to continue his education at USD.

Epeli's words articulate a strong connection to Sacred Heart values at USD, which also demonstrate the influence of Reverend Mother Hill and RSCJs past and present. His words remind us of Mother Hill herself, when she went to the bank, requesting four million dollars to build the first two buildings of the San Diego College for Women. When the banker asked what she had for collateral, she responded, "You have my word." Impressed by her vision and tenacity, the loan was granted and, incredibly, within a few years, all was repaid.

With Mother Hill's vision in mind, we have launched this campaign, *In One Heart*, to reach one million dollars by 2030. We chose this title to capture the spirit of the Society of the Sacred Heart and that of the Alumnae and, it is recognizable to many of you.

Currently, we are at more than 25% of the goal and hope all of you will donate, knowing no gift is too small to make a difference. With one heart, we hope to build the MRHES to provide meaningful support to others in perpetuity, who like Epeli, are students from the Network of Sacred Heart schools enrolled at USD.

Editor's Note:

For questions about *In One Heart*, email: Chair, Patty Gallagher at: sdashdirectory@gmail.com/

Other News of Interest



Words from our AASH Western Regional Director

In the Fall of 2025, Molly Kaspura introduced herself as the Western Regional Director (WRD) for 2025-2027. As a graduate of Villa Duchesne, she wrote “the education I received compares to none, and I know this sentiment is shared widely among those alums I call family. Our tight-knit network does not just exist on pamphlets or websites, but through real, genuine, life long bonds. In my new role, I plan to continue fostering alumnae/i relations by connecting new grads to other Sacred Heart alums in and from their universities and new cities. I would love to hear how I can best provide for our West Coast community. Please contact me via www.aash.org.”

In Memoriam

Jean Sullivan Felldin, SF '42

Katherine Gallagher Goese, WA '77

Sister Linda Hayward, RSCJ, SD '61 & '67 - Sister taught at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, El Cajon.

Sister Frances (Fran) Tobin, RSCJ, MC - Sister worked in San Diego for Catholic Charities as an attorney for migrants and immigrants with emphasis on serving the poor.

John Rush, husband, of Bonnie McGregor Rush, EC '65, SD '65 & '66

Dean McDaniel, husband of Candy Herweg McDaniel, SD '68

Jacque Bray Maier, EC '60

Denise Daley Fisher, SD '69



Attention El Cajon Classes

If you are planning a reunion, please let us know as we would love to learn more about your plans. Since several members of our Board of Directors attended the Convent of the Sacred Heart, El Cajon, we are always happy to visit your meetings to share what the alumnae group planned in San Diego. Thus, we may feature your class reunion in an upcoming issue of *Share the Spirit*.

Share the Spirit!

SPRING 2026

Save the Date...

- **March 14, 2026: The Lenten Reflection** will begin at 9:00 am with mass in Founders Chapel, and the Reflection in the Ministry Center. Luncheon will follow in the French Parlor. The speaker, Father Greg McGivern, will speak on **A Lenten Journey: Call to Transformation**. Father is a resident University Chaplain who holds Master Degrees in Theology and Counseling Psychology, and is also is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in California.
- **September 13, 2026: Annual Jazz Supper** will be held on the Sunday after Labor Day. Watch for your Invitation later this summer.
- **November 11-15, 2026: AMASC World Congress** (held every 4 years) will be in Puerto Rico from November 11-15, 2026, at the Hilton Ponce Golf & Casino Resort. Special AMASC rates available for three days before and after the Congress. Details at: <https://amasc.org/>

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