

Winter 2004 Newsletter Articles

The following is a sample of the articles that appeared in the Winter 2004 newsletter. If you did not receive your copy and would like to be put on our mailing list. Please email our office at stritaalumni@sbcglobal.net.

If you would like to submit an idea for an article for the next newsletter, please [email](#) or call the office at (203) 248-5513.

A Decade of Dedication

Marie Fregeau

Many St. Rita students can say that they had Marie Fregeau as their 4th grade teacher including some of today's St. Rita parents. Her sense of humor, dedication and commitment, and tireless work as a catholic educator, gave her the opportunity to share her life's experience with her students and parents. Making a positive difference in the lives she touched is her legacy to all she knew.

Both Marie and Tom Fregeau, Sr. originally came to Connecticut from New Rochelle, NY. They had settled in Mt. Carmel but decided to move to St. Rita Parish so that their son Tom Jr. could receive a Catholic Education.

Marie taught at St. Rita from 1963 to 1978. During her time here she was Co-Innovator of a New Reading Program, Religion Coordinator and Director of Discipline.

Marie was close to the Sisters of Notre Dame, often visiting and sharing activities outside of school. The Sisters included Dorothy Ann, Catherine, Francis Cornelia, Mary-Joan, Geraldine, Helen Eugenia, and Mary Helena. Her academic peers - Ms. Barbara Furer, Ann Nevans, Barbara Terry, Pat Triechel, Caroline Keveny and so many others, were and still are, like family.

At St. Rita Church, Tom was on the Men's Guild, served as a Eucharist Minister, and was involved in the design of the building of the Church. The New Year's Eve Party at the Church Hall was the big event of the year. Of course they were friends with many of the students' parents. Good times were spent with the Lyon's, George's, DePiazza's, O'Connor's, Keating's and so many more.

Tom Fregeau, Jr. graduated from St. Rita and went on to Hopkins '72, and Providence College graduating with a Degree in Political Science in 1976. He later earned a Law degree from the University of Bridgeport and worked for the State's Attorney in Middletown before joining the FBI. He is currently assigned as the FBI Tech Agent in Savannah. Tom married Hamden native, Anne Gunning in 1977 and they have four children. Tom & Anne frequent Connecticut for visits with family.

Jim Fregeau, graduated from St. Rita and then Notre Dame High School in 1982. After receiving a Marketing Degree from Providence College in 1986, he worked for the Knights of Columbus in New Haven and Moore Business Forms. In 1991, Jim joined his father Tom Sr. in business

supplying parts and engineering for industrial Steam Boilers in the Sugar, Furniture, Paper and Petro-Chemical Industries. He and his wife Denise enjoy the opportunity to continue his father's legacy of 42 years in the industry. Today they own and operate The Bigelow Company. Jim and Denise have returned to her hometown to live with their daughter Renee at their new home in Clarence, New York, outside of Buffalo. While both Marie and Tom are deceased, their memories and leadership are alive today. St. Rita has held a special place in the hearts of the Fregeau's. Through the dedication and sharing of lives, great friendships have been formed. The dedication of religious and laypersons has truly fulfilled the mission of our School.

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