



SEVEN OAKS SCHOOL
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Foundation

NEWS

Summer 2025

A Class Act

A Reunion Full of Reminiscing (and Scholarship Support)



(L-R) Melni Ghattora and Liette Kampic

Some things are definitely worth waiting for.

SOSD alumni Liette Kampic and Melni Ghattora had been speaking about a possible Garden City Collegiate Class of 2000 Reunion as far back as 2020.

Sadly, COVID had other plans, and the reunion never materialized. At least, not then.

"I knew that if it was going to happen, Liette would be the one to make it happen," laughs Melni.

Last year, Liette and Melni got to work, gathering a 12-person committee to plan a slightly different sort of reunion.

"We really wanted a reunion that was informal – something that felt more like a social," explains Melni. "That started with the venue."

"I had worked at the Garden City Inn, so I reached out to the administration there to see if we could hold things there," adds Liette. "Last July, we made the decision to go forward – and now we had to pony up the deposit!"

With a venue in place, it was time to get the word out. Though the plan was originally to build the reunion around the Class of 2000, Liette and Melni – along with the committee – decided they shouldn't keep all the fun to themselves. They started a Facebook site and several subgroup sites for different graduating years developed from there. Then word started to spread from person to person. Suddenly, the Class of 2000 Reunion was becoming the GC All Years Reunion.

"Even though we were a little nervous that we wouldn't sell enough tickets, we knew we had to go forward," says Liette. "We had a backup plan to pivot the smaller banquet hall in case, but we felt confident we wouldn't have to go down that road."



(L-R) Brother and sister Barry and Donna Kiedyk and Diane Minion (Ruben)

Celebrating Memories on May 7th

The nervousness about how many people would show proved unfounded. On a somewhat chilly May 7th evening, 425 SOSD grads gathered at the Garden City Inn for a night of music and memories.

Revellers were treated to a DJ-curated musical experience, photo booths and door prizes – some of which were contributed by attending alumni.

Though many people had remained close after graduation via social media, seeing one another in person drove home the friendships that had been forged years before.

"A standout moment for me was when a friend I haven't seen in 20 plus years told me 'This event is something we all needed but didn't know we wanted,' and that just gave me goosebumps," Melni said.

Liette adds: "It was so nice to see how well received this event was. There were moments where we were unsure if people shared the same feeling of wanting to reconnect after such a long time. Turns out they did!"

The committee unanimously agrees the event was well worth the months of planning. "I hugged and kissed so many people, I came down with a bug a few days later," laughs Liette, "and you can see it was all worth a few sniffles."

After everything was said and done, the event was a far bigger success than expected. Not only was there enough money raised to cover expenses, but there was also \$3,000 more. The committee decided that money should be put toward new scholarships.

"We've been in contact with principal Howard Kowalchuk and vice-principal Chantal Desmarais at Garden City Collegiate, to donate three \$1,000 scholarships for students from the class of 2025, awarded to most improved students going on to post-secondary institutions," explains Liette. "We all wanted to do something that hasn't been done before and recognize some students who might slip under the usual scholarship radar."

Though the names may change, these gifts from the Class of 2000 to three of the Class of 2025 will long be remembered by the students who receive the Quiet Strength Award, the Resilience Recognition Award and the Spark Award.

The Reunion became part of the legacy that Garden City has created - the school supports students as they learn and those students show their appreciation by supporting the generations of youth that follow. It was more than a one-off event - it built relationships and helped advance the dreams of today's young people.



Pictured L-R: Alan and Sandy Rosenberg, Gail and Alex Katz



A look at the venue



Grads from the Classes of 2000 and 1998



Grads from the Classes of 2000 and 2004



Degree5ive Photography

Committee members (all graduates from the Class of 2000, except for one):

- Liette Kampic (Williams)
- Jen Soares (Chrzanowski)
- Gina Imbrogno (Lecomte) '99
- Harmony Terin
- Phil Cole
- Mark Forsyth
- Melni Ghattora
- Melanie Falvo
- Sylvia Geglaw (Jacholkowska)
- Matt Kwiecien
- Mark Kucel
- Adam Jakob

Monetary Donations (\$500):

- Bernard Gutnick '82
- Katz family (Kay Four Properties, Inc), various grad years

Prize Donations:

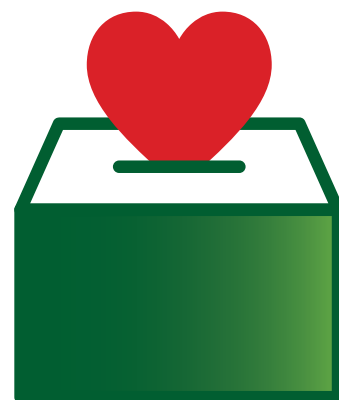
- Gail Cantor '77
- Diane Ruben Minion '80
- Ilana Simon '81
- Seven Oaks School Division

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