

Bushy Tales

Dedicated to all who attended London Central High School
at Bushy Park, London England from
1952 to 1962



Issue #5

May 2026

Volume #26

Gary Schroeder (55), Founding Editor (1936-2016)
Bill Rumble, Co-Editor email: BushyTales1@verizon.net
Pat Terpening (58) Owen, Co-Founder and Co-Editor email: nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net
Visit the Bushy Park Website at <http://www.bushypark.org/>

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES



1953 – Marcia (Craver) Thomas
txstarmt@aol.com



1958 – Pat (Terpening) Owen
nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net

1954 – *Betsy (Neff) Cote (d. 2024)*

1959 – *John “Mike” Hall (d. 2024)*

1955 – *Nancie Anderson (d. 2016)*



1960 – Ren Briggs
rpbjr42@gmail.com



1956 – Edie (Williams) Wingate
WingW@aol.com



1961 – Betsy (Schley) Slepetz
bslepetz@comcast.net



1957 – William Douglas
rwmdouglas@gmail.com



1962 – Dona (Hale) Ritchie
Dona.Ritchie@att.net



**Classmates Who
Have Transferred to
the Eternal Duty
Station**



**Father Aaron Sheldon Peters, OSB (57)
May 13, 1939 — March 27, 2026**



Father Aaron Peters, OSB, died on the morning of March 27, 2026. He received the last rites of the Church and the Apostolic Pardon, surrounded by brothers in prayer.

A native of Hutchinson, KS, Father Aaron was born on May 13, 1939, and given the name Sheldon. He was the son of the late Raymond and Violet (Trotter) Peters. Having lived in numerous places as a military family, Fr. Aaron attended several schools. He graduated from Central High School in London, England, in 1957.

After graduating from high school, Father Aaron served in the United States Navy Submarine Force for 10 years. During his time in the service, he had a conversion experience and joined the Catholic Church. He began to feel a call to religious life and looked into different communities. He enrolled at St. Benedict's College in 1967. While at St. Benedict's, he was active in The Continentals, the famous singing group. He was also involved with the college Knights of Columbus.

Father Aaron decided to join the Abbey and professed simple vows in 1972, graduating from Benedictine College that same year. He studied for the priesthood at St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana. He also took theology courses at the University of Indiana. Later, he studied at the University of San Francisco and the famed Samuel Avital School of Mime in Boulder, CO, in the summer of 1985.



Following ordination to the priesthood on June 11, 1977, by Archbishop Ignatius Strecker, Father Aaron used his many talents to glorify God. At the Abbey, he served at different times as Guest Master, Oblate Director, librarian, tailor, arts and environment, and on the liturgy committee. Gifted with a beautiful voice, Fr. Aaron often served as cantor and sang in the Abbey schola. He helped put together the current Liturgy of the Hours, which the monks of St. Benedict's Abbey pray every day. He was known for the puppet shows he put on, which taught a lesson in faith. Father Aaron is remembered fondly for his liturgical service in many parishes. He served from 1985 to 1993 as a Chaplain at Valley Hope, a treatment center in Atchison for people with addictions. He spent time at St. Matthew's, Topeka; St. Patrick's, Great Bend; and Holy Spirit, Overland Park. His longest pastoral service was as chaplain to the Ursuline Sisters of Paola, KS, from 1995 to 2009.

Father Aaron never forgot a birthday or an anniversary. He always anticipated being sent Christmas treats and small gifts from family. His retelling of the family stories, done with humor, forgotten details, and drama, will be missed. From the early days of his conversion to the Catholic faith until the end of his life, Father Aaron was always a man who was searching for God. He

shared that search with many people and helped many in their time of need.

Father Aaron is survived by his brother, Gary (Merilyn) Peters of Plainville, KS, his sister Barbara (Gary) Friesen of Hutchinson, KS, his brother-in-law Clay Rupp, and many nieces and nephews who knew him as Uncle Sheldon. Fr. Aaron was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Violet (Trotter) Peters, and his sister, Connie Rae Rupp.

The monks celebrated Vigils for the Dead and Visitation on Monday, April 6, in the Abbey Church. The Mass of Christian Burial and Interment was on Tuesday, April 7. Memorials in honor of Father Aaron may be sent to St. Benedict's Abbey, 1020 N. Second St., Atchison, KS 66002, or left online at <https://www.kansasmonks.org/donate>

**



From: Pat Terpening Owen (58)

During Pete's time as a Benedictine Monk, he held many positions. Over time, he developed heart problems, and it was determined that he needed less stressful positions than maintaining a parish. He began serving as a substitute priest whenever a priest was unavailable to maintain their parish for whatever reason.

One of these particular times was when the priest who maintained the religious health for the nuns in Paola, Kansas. He was saying Mass one Sunday and had a heart attack during Mass and was unable to carry out his duties. Fr. Aaron "Pete" was sent from the Abbey in Atchison, KS, to Paola, KS, to take over his duties until he could continue. As it turned out, the previous priest was unable to return to Paola, and the Abbess asked Pete if he could continue as their religious advisor. He said that she'd have to ask the Abbot. She did, and the Abbot said that Pete could take over, but he'd also have to become the tailor for the Abbey. Pete looked at him and said he knew nothing about sewing, and the Abbot said to him that he made clothes for his puppets. Pete answered back that he glued the clothing for the puppets. When Pete was telling us this story, I started giggling as I could see him rush up to another monk and say, "Fr. John, please wait, I have to glue your sleeve back onto your habit." Needless to say, Pete did learn to sew and became quite good at making the habits for the monks at the Abbey.

When Fr. Aaron first went to the Mother House in Paola, he shared his computer with the nuns (computers were just coming into being for the public), and they would get into his computer to make sure that no one was sending him inappropriate emails.

One time, we went down to Paola from Topeka, KS, to have lunch with Pete, and both he and I wore our Bushy Park T-shirts. His said "Class of 57" and mine said "Class of 58". The nuns thought this was so "Cute".

Among other things that Pete did during his time as a monk was a "Vinegar of the Monkth". He made vinegars and each had a name (can't remember what they were called now), but each had something to do with the "Monkth" they were named after. One of my brothers-in-law came to visit one time, and he so enjoyed the vinegars that he had us purchase each of them. I believe he was living in Colorado at the time, and we had to pack 12 bottles up to send them to him via UPS. That was fun???

Another time, during one of our Reunions, I believe this one was in San Diego, and Pete always tried to attend the reunions. I was sitting with Nancie Anderson (55) Weber, and she mentioned that there was a priest attending the reunion, and she was wondering what she should call him, and I said, "Pete". We've always called him "Pete". Shortly after, he came over and introduced himself to the people at the table.

He always said Mass at the Reunions, and everyone was welcome.

**

Pat,

Thank you for every one of these memories. I will do what I can to ensure the correct terminology of the Church religious.

I had known Nancie Anderson since 1954. My brother, Pete Rumble, and I rode the same bus every day from London to Bushy Park. Pete and Nancie were in the same class, '55. After I moved to CA in 1987, my wife, Barb, and I saw Nancie and her husband a few times at their home. We also attended the reunion in Houston in '88 (I think), one in Las Vegas, and Nashville.

I knew of Fr. Aaron "Pete" when I was at Bushy Park, but I don't remember sharing any classes with him. I was there for a short period from mid-May 1954 to early November 1955! Our father was unexpectedly ordered back to the USA after only half of the three-year period that he expected.

Thank you for doing this.

Blessings,

Bill

**

Bill – I've got some pictures that we took of Pete over the years, and I will try to send them along also.

Some facts about Sheldon "Pete" Peters – Fr Aaron Peters –

These were some things that Pete related to me over the years that we lived near each other in Kansas, and he would visit us, or we'd go to the Abbey in Atchison to visit with him:

Pete joined the Navy and was in the submarine service, as indicated in his obituary. On one patrol, during heavy seas, he and two other naval personnel were assigned to keep lookout on deck. An officer was in the conning tower, and Pete and another staff member were on each side of the submarine. Because of the heavy seas, all were 'lashed' down. Pete said a huge wave came up, and when it subsided, neither of the other two naval personnel was on board. They'd been swept out to sea. Pete determined at that time that God had a plan for him, and he decided to become a Catholic and go into the priesthood.

At some point in time, after he converted and became a priest, he again entered the Navy as a Naval Chaplain and was active with the submariners throughout his life.

Fr. Aaron was instrumental in having a section of highway, US-35, a stretch of road from Topeka, KS, to Emporia, KS, named after the submariners.

As Sheldon Peters, he was the first male cheerleader in the European DOD school system.

He trained as a puppeteer with Jim Henson of Muppet fame.

Pete was the one who named the newsletter "Bushy Tales".

Pat

**

Pat,

I am grateful for your stories of Pete. He would never tell me about his time in submarines. This is one of the most beautiful and descriptive obituaries we have ever seen.

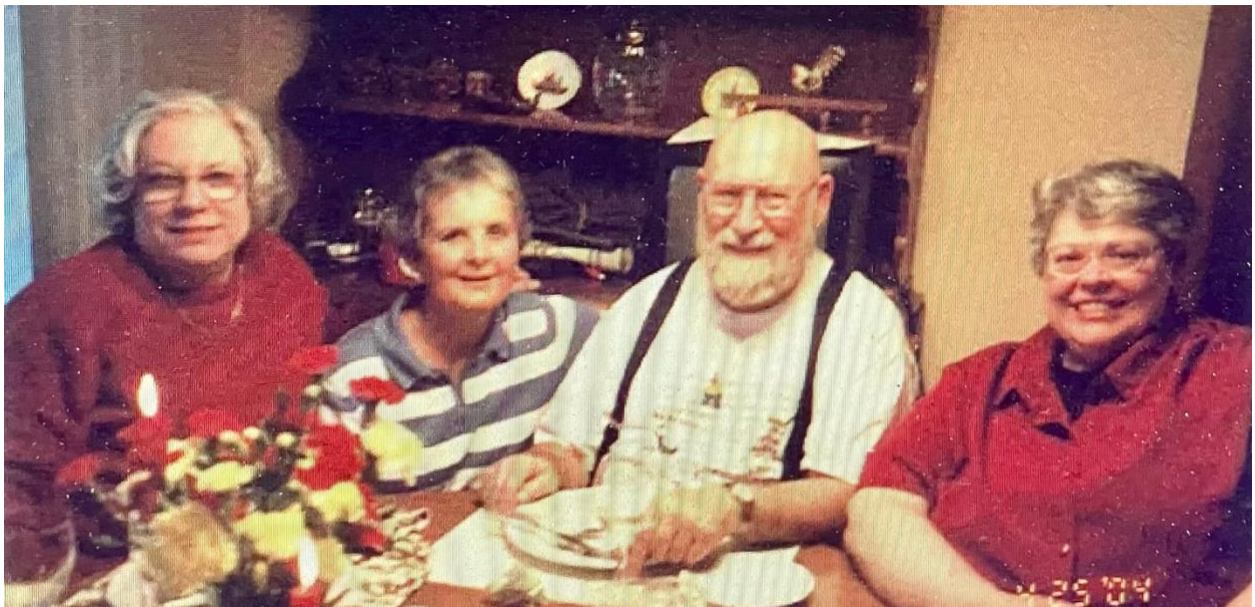
Pete was an amazing person.

Blessings,

Bill



From left - Shirley Huff (57) Dulski (deceased), Fr. Aaron "Sheldon" Peters (57) (deceased), Pat Terpening (58) Owen



From left - Pat Terpening (58) Owen, Carolyn Bassham (57), Fr. Aaron "Sheldon" Peters (57) (deceased), Shirley Huff (57) Dulski (deceased)



Pictures taken in 2007 during the 50th reunion of the Class of 1957.

Pete had to leave Bushy Park before the actual graduation, so during the reunion, they did a graduation ceremony for him.

The top picture is Bill Cooper (57) (deceased), Fr. Aaron "Pete" Peters (57) (deceased), and Celeste Plitouke (57) Brodigan



The second picture was taken at the Abbey during the same weekend. Classmates were invited to visit the Abbey as Pete's guests, and he's in the middle. I don't know who all the people in the picture are.



Pete at Pat's on December 24, 2016



Pete at Pat's on July 2, 2018



Pete and Pat at Pat's on July 2, 2018

A little reminder to all –if/when you change your email address, please let Pat Terpening (58) Owen nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net or me know, if you want to continue to receive the newsletter. Too many times we only find out when you send us an email saying you haven't received the newsletter in few months. Thanks, guys.

Memories of Bushy Park

Robert Harrold (60) maintains a Bushy Park website at this link: BushyPark.org Among the things you can see at this website is a "Guestbook", in which many website visitors have left comments. There are many entries, dating back to April 2007. Here is a direct link: [Bushy Park Guest Book](#)



From: Barbel (Babs) Odbert (60) Lizotte

I enjoy "Bushy Tales" very much. Thank you for the memories. My name was Barbel (Babs) Odbert when I graduated in 1960. My main memory is the Senior Class play in which I participated as Mrs. Wragg. It was a lot of fun. A sad memory is of a plane crash that killed some of the actors in the play. I am 84 years old now and attaching a photo.



--FINIS--