



# LA REINA TODAY

Community Edition

Vol. IV, No. 3 • Fall, 2010

## Immaculee Ilibagiza Inspires Student Body

Internationally-known speaker, Immaculee Ilibagiza, spoke to the La Reina student body on Thursday, October 14. Immaculee was born in Rwanda and studied engineering at the National University of Rwanda. In 1994, her life was dramatically transformed during the Rwanda genocide. For 91 days, she and seven other women huddled silently together in a cramped bathroom of a local pastor's house. Immaculee lost most of her family during this ordeal, but she survived to share her story, including her miraculous transition into forgiveness and her journey of faith.

During the assembly, Immaculee recounted the tragedy as chronicled in her book, *Left to Tell*. She prayed regularly, but found it difficult to pray the words of the Our Father, "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." Her temptation was to edit the prayer and eliminate any reference to forgiveness. She realized, though, that her prayer needed to be authentic, so she gradually came to forgive those who murdered her family and who caused such pain to her village.

Sr. LaReina Kelly, president of La Reina High School, commented that Immaculee's story about the atrocities she experienced and the faith journey she continues to travel profoundly touched the

La Reina students, staff and parents. Sr. LaReina said, "She is a living inspiration and witness to the strength we can possess when we allow ourselves to be transformed by the power of prayer. We were incredibly blessed to be able to have her as a speaker for the school community."

In reflecting on the impact of the assembly, Whitney Gould '12 stated, "Listening to Immaculee speak at our school was such an honor! It was not only great to learn about that tragic time in history, but it was also eye-opening to hear about it from a woman who struggled through it and survived. I now have so much more respect for others since no one chooses his or her background. I also recognize how privileged I am, blessed with security, freedom and love. I am eternally grateful for this opportunity to hear Immaculee Ilibagiza."

Alexa Poulton '11 wrote "It was almost surreal having Immaculee come and speak to us; it made me realize that the horrors in Rwanda actually happened. I will always cherish her message of forgiveness and the importance of having a deep, personal relationship with God. Immaculee was a great speaker and her story was so inspiring. She is a great role model and I truly aspire to find her courage and love in my own life."



After the assembly, Immaculee Ilibagiza signed copies of her book for interested students, including Kariana Zabagalo '12, Cheyenne Mangubat '12 and Alex Burgos '12.



Immaculee Ilibagiza encouraged the students to pray the Rosary regularly; she gave each student a Rosary as a memento of her presentation.

## Message from the President and Principal

Dear Friends,

During the last several months, the La Reina High School community has had the opportunity to reflect on the influence of valiant women. To paraphrase the book of Proverbs, “a valiant woman is far more precious than jewels. She is clothed with strength and dignity.”

On Friday, August 27, on the feast of St. Monica, Sharon Kagay entered into eternal life after a long cancer journey. For 14 years, Sharon served as La Reina’s cafeteria manager. Very few individuals knew of Sharon’s medical challenges. She was not one to complain, but gave herself tirelessly to the service of the school community. Sharon’s life of faith gave her courage for the years of chemotherapy she endured. She would drive to Santa Monica for her treatments and pray the Rosary as she traveled. Like St. Monica, Sharon was devoted to her sons and delighted in their achievements, especially in the completion of their college education. Her generosity, selfless service, strength and dignity will be a powerful influence for all who knew her for many years to come.



Sr. M. LaReina Kelly, S.N.D.  
President



Shannon Gomez, Ed. D.  
Principal



Sharon Kagay

In October, the school community heard the testimonial of Immaculee Ilibagiza, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide. Her journey, like Sharon Kagay’s, exemplifies the spiritual power that comes through a life of faith and prayer. Now she travels throughout the world, recounting the story of her personal transformation and encouraging others to convert bitterness into forgiveness. Her strength, dignity and courage in the face of horrific suffering are a powerful influence for all who hear her story.

As 2010 comes to a close, we recognize the blessings that come to each of us in the La Reina community. As parents, staff, students, alumnae and friends, we have the opportunity to influence the entire world by the gifts of faith and courage which we share. Thank you for being part of our community.

Sincerely,  
Sr. M. LaReina Kelly, S.N.D. and Dr. Shannon Gomez

## Regent News Bites

### ~~~~Students~~~~

Students received many awards at the fall Honor Assembly. The Gina Torrey Memorial Scholarships for academic improvement were awarded to **Lindsey Hulsebus '15** and **Ariel Williams '13**. The Michele Sinclair Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Katlyn Fisher '11**; the Stephanie Tourikian Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Olivia Vigna '12**.

Seniors also received these awards: **Elizabeth Epstein** (University of Rochester Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award); **Alyssa Mallory** (University of Rochester Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award for Humanities); **Michelle Atherton** (University of Rochester George Eastman Young Leaders Award); and **Hanna Winter** (Medal of Achievement in Math and Science from Colorado School of Mines).

National Merit Scholarship Commended Students are seniors **Sarah Alessi-Hausenbauer, Emma Delsohn, Elizabeth Epstein, Caitlyn Foster, Josie Gormley, Sarah Hardy, Alyssa Mallory, Laura Rodewald and Ravital Solomon**. Seniors **Hannah McGough and Alyssa Orr** were also honored by the College Board’s National Hispanic Recognition Program.

**Elizabeth Epstein '11** was named the Good Citizen of the Year by the Conejo Valley Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Regent varsity volleyball team captured first place in the gold division at the 2010 Mayfair High School Varsity Girls’ Volleyball Classic.

The Regent speech and debate team members received special recognition from the National Forensic League. Because the La Reina chapter achieved 200 degrees or more

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LA REINA TODAY • Community Edition is published quarterly by the La Reina High School Advancement Department to highlight the school’s mission, programs, achievements and goals.

Editor & Director of Advancement: Sr. M. Lisa Megaffin, S.N.D.

Contributors and consultants for this edition: Darlene Boyd Goodman '87, Nancy LaBelle, Robert Lopez, Sr. M. LaReina Kelly and Betsy Potts

Printing: Gordon Bowers Printing • Westlake Village, California

Address corrections and other correspondence may be sent to:  
La Reina High School, Advancement Office, 106 W. Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 or email to <lmegaffin@lareina.com>.

*Continued from Page 2* — during 2009-10, the Regents placed in the top 5% of NFL chapters nationwide and qualified for the NFL “200 Club.”

The Novice Speech Team competed in 45 events at the Novice Individual Event Tournament in November. First place awards were earned by **Elly Shao '12** (extemporaneous speaking); **Kathleen Sullivan '14** (impromptu speaking); and **Nisha Srinivasa '14** (storytelling). The Regents earned the sweepstakes trophy for the most points in the original and non-prep events and second place in Grand Sweepstakes awards for the most team points overall.

New members of Quill and Scroll, an international honor society for students who have excelled in journalism, include seniors **Hayley Garrigus**, **Alyssa Mallory**, **Hannah McGough** and **Hannah Roberts**.

Fall athletics found the Regents capturing Tri-Valley League championships in volleyball and golf.

**Caitlyn Foster '11** is a recipient of the 2010 National Council of English Teachers Achievement Awards in Writing. **Mrs. Rebecca Joyce Adams '81**, Assistant Principal of Academics, reports that this is the tenth consecutive year that a La Reina student has won this award. Caitlyn, one of only 543 students chosen nationwide for this honor, has the distinction of being the only recipient from Ventura County.

**Leila Flanagan '15** designed the winning artwork for the 2011 Ventura County Science Fair poster.

**Katlyn Fisher '11** participated in the annual Christian Leadership Institute, sponsored by the Office of Religious Education for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. This week-long program develops leadership among young people to serve on parish and school core teams.



*Amy and Greg Smith congratulate their daughter Lacey '12, first recipient of the Heidel Family Scholarship. On the right are Mrs. Mary Heidel and Heidi Heidel '94, founders of this scholarship which recognizes a student for outstanding achievement in activities.*

### ~~~~~Alumnae~~~~~

The LRHS tradition continues with these alumnae who have daughters currently enrolled: **Rebecca Joyce Adams '81** (**Allyson Adams '13**), **Barrie Hartsfield Bender '87** (**Claire Bender '15**), **Kris Lev Chisholm '92**, (**Emma Chisholm '15**), **Bridgette Poteet Clyne '87** (**Mary '12** and **Emily Clyne '15**), **Jennifer Laumann Cohen '81** (**Beth Cohen '16**), **Susan Sunde Lashi '84** (**Marissa '14** and **Kelly Lashi '16**), **Dina Derington Mabry '86** (**Madeline Mabry '13**), **Cristy Richey McNay '86** (**Emma McNay '16**), **Barabi Pryor '77** (**Amelia Booth '14**), **Michelle Van Ast Spruiell '87** (**Francesca Spruiell '16**), **Sylvia Kraus Walke '81** (**Hayley '13** and **Jillian Walke '12**).

**Sarah Guillen '06** graduated summa cum laude from Pepperdine University and is now employed by KPMG as an accountant.

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*Katie Gilmour '13 submitted four photographs to the Ventura County Fair and earned four awards. She received a first place award for this photograph, Maui Sunset. Emma McNay '15 also received awards for her art work at the fair.*



*These seniors signed NCAA letters of intent in November. Jordan Needle committed to play softball at Fairleigh Dickinson, swimmer Ariana Peschke will attend Fordham on a full-tuition scholarship, and Hanna Winter plans to play softball for Stanford.*

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**Tamara Harper '87** is an attorney in Westlake Village. She assists small to mid-size companies in the real estate, bio-tech, restaurant, and service industries with initial formation, corporate regulations and employment / labor compliance, commercial leasing, business sale or acquisition, investor capitalization and registering and defending intellectual property rights.

A history major at Wake Forest University, **Ashley Millhouse '08** has founded HeartLetters, a volunteer outreach program for children in South Africa.

**Christine Dempster '06** is pursuing a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of California, Davis and she is employed as a consulting engineer with Smith Precision Products in Newbury Park. Christine's research entitled "Positive Displacement Pump Efficiency and Insufficient Static Head Pressure" was recently published in the *Butane-Propane News*.

### ~~~~~Staff~~~~~

Regent varsity coaches **Robert Lopez** (cross country) and **Bob Sisco** (golf) were selected as Coach of the Year for the Tri-Valley League.

The Department of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles is unveiling a website that will spotlight Catholic school students and educators, including LRHS English teacher **Kris Lev Chisholm '92**.

### ~~~~~Community~~~~~

The La Reina community is grateful to the Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation for a grant of \$25,000 for scholarships.

Students, staff and friends gave 25 units of blood during the fall blood drive. United Blood Services of Ventura County thanks these generous blood donors: **Francesca Barletta '11, Monica Bermudez '11, Louise DeMetre '11, Skye Favela '11, Katlyn Fisher '11, Janelle Garza '12, Mrs. Anita Green, Madeline Lynch '12, Alyssa Mallory '11, Maddie McGinnis '11, Kristen Mosesson '11, Emily Mundy '11, Thea Percival '11, Mrs. Cassandra Posner, Laurel Rodewald '11, Ally Rogers '11, Jenny Tolcher '11, Rebeka Torres '12 and Katherine Rockey '11.**

*Congratulations to the varsity cross country team, capturing second place in the California State Championships, Division IV. Team members include (front row, left to right): Alex Cerise '14, Jordan Jeworski '13, Kelly Chow '13, Krista Andreassen '14, Alyssa Frank '14, and Bailey Rohlving '13; (back row) Assistant Coach Robin Fontana, Lauren Hearne '12, Ally Adams '13, Hailey Walke '13, Rachel Brajkovich '12, Kelly Reinke '12, Gabby Lowry '11 and Coach Robert Lopez.*

*The team also earned second place in the Tri-Valley League and sixth place in the CIF-Southern Section, Division IV.*



## Regent Factoids

- During 2009-10, the Regents donated more than 14,738 hours of Christian Service to their parishes and local non-profit organizations as part of their religion coursework. The Regents also contributed 2,077 Service Council hours to their alma mater.
- Statistics for the Class of 2010 show that 100% of the class enrolled in college, 90% were accepted to 4-year universities and 61% were offered scholarships totaling more than \$3,243,400. Members of the class were accepted to 134 colleges and universities.
- On the Scholastic Aptitude Test, members of the Class of 2010 scored higher than their female peers in California by:
  - 73 points in math
  - 111 points in critical reading
  - 126 points in writingThey also scored higher than their female peers across the nation by:
  - 70 points in math
  - 109 points in critical reading
  - 130 points in writing.In comparing the Regents' scores with scores of boys and girls, the Regents were 296 points higher than the national average and 288 points higher than the California average.

# La Reina Empowers Young Women

For nearly 50 years, La Reina High School has offered many unique opportunities for young women. In La Reina's single-gender environment, students have the freedom to excel in the classroom and in the activities programs.

Scholarly research by organizations such as the National Coalition of Girls' Schools and testimonials from La Reina alumnae indicate that an all-girls' school

- Ensures that learning is a priority during the school day with minimal distractions
- Promotes greater self-confidence
- Encourages independent thinking and articulate responses
- Maximizes verbal and writing skills
- Encourages advancement in mathematics and science
- Counters mass-media influences, giving students greater social freedom in decision-making and goal setting



*Elizabeth Hribal '13 prepares for an oral report for her Spanish III class.*



*Maddie Lynch '12 and Devin Walton '12 carefully mix plaster for a sculpture project.*



*Nicole Walsh '11 practices the piano in preparation for a school liturgy.*



*Juniors showing their class spirit during the Friendship Week Spirit Rally are Kara Frank (in the background), Terra Bjerken on the left and Hannah Heitzig on the right.*



*Mrs. Judy Knight guides Angela Valdivia '16 through a computer-generated science lab project.*

I can state the advantage of attending an all-girls' school in one word: sisterhood. Some are very lucky indeed to have one sister in their life, but I was far luckier because I had 98 sisters in my graduating class. At La Reina I always felt comfortable to contribute my voice and talents to every project. A lot of people shrink into a shell during high school because of social pressures, but at La Reina I feel that everyone grows.

...Ashley Millhouse '08

## LA REINA HIGH SCHOOL

Advancement Office  
106 West Janss Road  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

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**LA REINA**  
**Tribute Scholarship Fund**  
*You live forever in the minds you  
inspire and in the lives you touch.*

Tribute Scholarship Gifts honor a special person (on a birthday or another occasion) or memorialize a deceased loved one. La Reina's Advancement Office will send an attractive acknowledgment to the honoree, or to the family of the deceased person, with an appropriate message and a promise of prayer. Donations will be used for tuition assistance grants for deserving students. Special thanks to these recent donors.

**In memory of Michael Chopp**  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Chopp

**In memory of Kelly Cockburn Feinburg**  
Jennifer Batac Knudten '90

**In memory of Sharon Kagay**  
Joann & Stan Benson  
Joan, Colleen '04 & Katlyn '11 Fisher  
Darlene Boyd Goodman '87  
Rachel & Howard Gottlieb  
Patty Tudman  
Laird Wilson

**In honor of**  
**Astrid Mittenthal Marmont '90**  
Lothrop & Ingeborg Mittenthal

**In honor of Betsy Potts**  
Joann & Stan Benson

**In memory of Patricia Quinn**  
Cecilia Coe  
Jodi DeBiasio  
Darlene Boyd Goodman '87  
Mary Anne Hedrick  
Nancy LaBelle  
Patty Papps  
Betsy Potts  
Carol Stanley  
Irene Woodall

## Calendar of Coming Events

Further information on these and other events is available at <[www.lareina.com](http://www.lareina.com)>.

Wednesday, December 8 • 9:30 a.m.

**Advent Liturgy and Presentation of Distinguished Alumna Award  
to Jennifer Dransfeldt McGee '91**  
Parents and alumnae are welcome to attend!

Friday, December 10 • 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 11 • 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 12 • 2:00 p.m.

**Regent Performers Fall Show - "Kiss Me, Kate!"**

For ticket information, contact Mrs. Robin Privat at 805-495-6494, ext. 320.

Thursday, January 6 • 8:15 a.m.

**Circle of Friends Mass • LRHS Chapel**

Tuesday, January 11 • 7:00 p.m.

**Meet La Reina Night**

Admissions information night for parents of prospective students

Friday, January 14

**Application Deadline for the Classes of 2015 and 2017**

Saturday, January 22

**Entrance Testing for the Classes of 2015 and 2017**

Wednesday, February 2

**Junior Ring Liturgy • 9:45 a.m. • LRHS Campus**

**Junior Ring Ceremony • 6:30 p.m. • St. Paschal Baylon Church**



The La Reina High School community offers sympathy and prayers to

- Staff member Fedelma Zahlit on the loss of her mother, Patricia Quinn
- Susan Chambliss '90 on the loss of her mother, Carol Chambliss
- Janelle D'Anna '92 on the loss of her father, Gary D'Anna
- "Sam" Husted Hayward '77 and Nancy Husted Ghio '89 on the loss of their mother, Helen Husted Gorman. Helen was also the mother of the late Kim Husted '76.
- The family of Sharon Kagay, LRHS cafeteria manager, 1996 - 2010

By remembering La Reina High School in your will, trust or other estate plan, you will be investing in future generations of Regents. Our legal title is "La Reina High School" and our IRS nonprofit identification number is 95-2381453. For further information, contact the LRHS Advancement Office at 805-495-6494, ext. 382.

*Thank you and God bless you  
for adopting the Regents!*