



The Michaelight (February 2012)

Saint Michael Academy Alumnae Association (SMAAA)

"Round his flag we'll rally ever. Nothing can our union sever."



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Saint Michael Academy Mission Statement

Rooted in the Catholic tradition and Spirit of the Presentation Sisters, the mission of Saint Michael Academy was to educate young women in a loving and caring community, assisting each to develop her unique gifts and talents to live a fully Christian life.

New York Times Article

After more than a century on the West Side of

2012 Dues

SMAAA Membership

Can you believe that 2011 has already come and gone? Year one of the Saint Michael Academy Alumnae Association is behind us, and now we are on to bigger and better things. Please support our efforts by paying your 2012 SMAAA dues. We are keeping 2012 dues at a reasonable \$25 in order to encourage everyone to join, or continue their membership in, the SMAAA. Please consider giving more if you are able, because operating costs are steep for our fledgeling association. Members of the association will be asked to vote for Board members annually.

Please make out your check for \$25 (or more?) payable to "SMAAA", and mail it to Jeanne Billings (SMAAA), 6 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY10583. Be sure to include your updated contact information - name, maiden name, address, email address, phone number, year of graduation - and please encourage your classmates to do the same. (Hand in hand we'll work together!)

Contributions made (including any dues paid) to the Saint Michael Academy Alumnae Association, Inc. are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

REUNION 2012

SAVE THE DATE FOR REUNION 2012

If you graduated from SMA in a year ending in a "2" or a "7", this is your reunion year!

Reunion 2012 will be held on Saturday, September 29, 2012. A more formal invitation

Manhattan, St. Michael Academy had assumed the traits of some of its best students: cash poor, underestimated by peers, capable of defying expectations with breathtaking regularity...[\(read more\)](#)

SMAAA Board of Directors

Jeanne Boyd Billings '74
(Secretary - Association and Charitable Foundation)

Blanca Camacho '74
(VP - Association)

Sharon Duritzo '72

Mary Krulis '49

Jessica Libroia '87
(VP - Charitable Foundation)

Mary O'Hara '62
(VP - Charitable Foundation)

Genevieve O'Hare '47

Maria Pani '74
(Treasurer - Association and Charitable Foundation)

Lorraine Pogan Shef '64
(President - Association and Charitable Foundation)

Patti Wu '70

Join Our Mailing List



Tax Information

Contributions made

will appear in this newsletter when the venue has been set. It is safe to say, however, that the location will be somewhere in Manhattan.

So, put **SMA REUNION** in big, bold, red letters on your calendar now. And stay tuned for updates!

Lessons Learned

Remembering a teacher. Continuing a tradition.

This past Christmas, twelve Michaelites participated in the Christmas giving project *Operation Santa Claus*.

In the late 1970's and early 80's, Mr. Joseph Mittiga, a religion teacher at St. Michael's, challenged his students to go out and answer a needy child's letter from the US Post Office on 33rd Street for Christmas.

Many Michaelites fondly remember a kind and loving teacher who inspired them to be like Christ. Mr. Mittiga wanted us to do for the least of our brothers/sisters. *Operation Santa* was a good first step into an adulthood where we would know the importance of caring for our fellow man.

It comes as no surprise that many Michaelites decided this Christmas to keep Mr. Mittiga's Christmas tradition alive. This past December, Michaelites answered letters from Ellen Miskell McHugh's (class of '81) third grade class in the Bronx.

Operation Santa Claus/SMA was a huge success in Mrs. McHugh's class. All 32 students' letters, as well as those of their brothers and sisters, were answered.

It is still debatable as to who had the most joy, the children who received the gifts, or the Michaelites who gave them. Perhaps it was Mr. Mittiga in heaven smiling down on his former students, knowing that he had taught his students well.

A special thank you goes out to the Michaelites who were a part of *Operation Santa*... Anna Marie Soldo Peralta '81, Audrey Cinquemani Giatas '81, Paula Connelly '81, Aileen Colon Guzman '81, Susan Milne '81, Sharon O'Toole Grogan '81, Priscilla Cintron '81, Ginny Parada Martorelli '81, Joanne O'Connell Thompson '82, Rene Checchia '82, Noreen White Rogan '67.

We look forward to continuing this tradition next year with more Michaelites on board.

This piece was submitted by Ellen Miskell McHugh ('81). Ellen teaches third grade in the Bronx. She has been a NYC public school teacher for the last 27 years. She is married and has one son. She currently lives in Woodlawn.

What Are You Up To???

(including any dues paid) to the Saint Michael Academy Alumnae Association, Inc. are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

What are you up to these days? We'd love to know. Send us pictures, write a blurb or (if you are too modest) tell us of a website that we can link to that fills us in on where you work and/or what you're doing. Are you on YouTube??? Let us know that too. C'mon! Let's have some fun with this! Write to us at SMAAANYC@aol.com.

SaintMichaelAcademy.com



Visit us at www.SaintMichaelAcademy.com and let the good times roll!

Make sure to register, so that you can begin to connect with your classmates.

Read past newsletters and keep current with all of the SMAAA news.

We find ourselves when we find each other.

Come find yourself at www.SaintMichaelAcademy.com.

(Helpful Hint: We do not recommend going to our website by way of an AOL browser. Use Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, or some other method instead. For some reason, going in through AOL proves "glitchy". Thanks!)

Archived Newsletters

Are you new to "The Michaelight"? If you are interested in reading past editions, please visit our website (www.saintmichaelacademy.com), click on "Newsletters" and catch up on what you've missed! While you're there, please register. By doing that, you can start to connect with your classmates. "See" you there!

News from the Class of 1957

Barbara McCabe writes to us...

"I have been in Italy with my son and his family for four months. His children are 1,4 and 6 years old. He needed a little help... very busy...fun... going to enjoy being back in the USA in February."

News from the Class of 1960

Carolyn (Peters) Sadowski, who lives in New York, writes to us that she and her husband "have a second home in Holden Beach, NC and would love to welcome anyone who will be in the area."

If you are interested, please write to us at SMAAANYC@aol.com and we will put you in touch with Carolyn. Better yet, if you are an SMA alum, please go to our website (www.saintmichaelacademy.com) and register. Then you will be able to contact anyone else who is registered there. Please encourage your classmates to join!

News from the Class of 1969

Kathleen P. (Gimblet) Egan writes to us...

"I graduated in 1969 and went on to become a nurse - St. Vincent's - but first went to CCNY then Northwestern University. No jobs back in the 70's for teachers of history! Returned to school, got my RN then BSN. Currently working in a pediatrics group practice in Wilmington, NC where I thought eventually I would retire. Married to Kenneth Egan and together have 4 children and 2 lovely grandchildren!"

News from the Class of 1981

The Class of 1981 is trying to organize a get-together for their class, and the SMAAA has offered to help them get the word out...

Saint Michael Academy - CLASS OF 1981 BELATED 30th High School Reunion

Date: *Saturday, April 28, 2012
6:30pm to 10:30pm +*

Place: *Aleo's Restaurant
7 West 20th Street
New York, NY*

Cost: *\$65.00 includes Hot Buffet, Open Bar and DJ.
The entire restaurant will be ours for the evening.*

RSVP: *No Later than February 15, 2012*

Please contact:

*Ellen Miskell McHugh - castlegregory.clan@yahoo.com OR
Elizabeth McConway Gilmartin - egilmartin17@gmail.com*

Please provide your mailing address when responding, so we can send payment information. Payment is due March 15th. Thank you.

FACULTY WELCOME

Let Us Help YOU!

Planning a gathering with your classmates? Email us the details at SMAAANYC@aol.com and we will help you get the word out. We are here to help you with your efforts to connect, but we can't do that if you don't keep us in the loop!

Get the Word Out!

Use the icons at the top of this newsletter to post to your facebook page, and please *encourage your friends to join our mailing list*. (Don't forget to add SMAAANYC@aol.com to your address book!)



St. Michael's Parish News

"Father Brian McWeeney, director of faith formation in the archdiocese, has also been named administrator of St. Michael's parish in Manhattan, effective Jan. 1."

[\(Read the article in The Catholic News\)](#)



Father Brian McWeeney accompanies Cardinal-designate Timothy Dolan to the Holy Land.

[\(Read the article in the New York Post\)](#)

Passings

Geraldine Schaedler (SMA '55) writes to us..."Angela Sanders McLain, school president of the **class of '55**, passed away January 2, 2012 after a long battle with Multiple Sclerosis. Angela will always be remembered for her energy, bright smile and an ever present willingness to help others."

Kathryn Semel ('62) writes to us..."Regina R. Faulker-Riley, **Class of 1962** passed away on December 28, 2011. My very best

friend." [Click here](#) to read the obituary in *The Record/Herald News* on December 30, 2011

Jane Burns ('81) wrote to us with the sad news of a classmate, Marlene Diaz, passing away last year from ovarian cancer.

Correction

Elaine Labriola, who we lost on 11/30/11, was from the Class of 1959, not 1961.

Support the Presentation Sisters

Might We Suggest...

that those of you who would like to ensure the legacy of Saint Michael Academy do so by giving a donation to the Presentation Sisters. Please send your contribution directly to the Sisters' motherhouse, and note in the memo line that it is an SMA Donation:



Sisters of the Presentation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Administration Office
84 Presentation Way
New Windsor, NY 12553-4949

2012 Annual Dues

Happy New Year!

We appreciate your support! We are keeping this year's dues at a reasonable \$25. Because snail mailings are so expensive, we are communicating with the alumnae almost exclusively through this emailed newsletter. At the moment, we are sending this publication to approximately 1,160 people. We have an average "open rate" of 45%, which means that only 522 of the SMA alumnae are aware of our existence! We need your help to do better than that.

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