

March 26, 2011



The Michaelight

Saint Michael Academy Alumnae Association (SMAAA)

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



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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

Dear Michaelites:

We are thrilled to announce that, after much hard work by several of your classmates, an SMA alumnae organization has been formed and named: *St.*



Michael Academy Alumnae Association, Inc. or SMAAA. A separate entity named: *St. Michael Academy Alumnae Charitable Foundation, Inc.*, has also been formed, which is intended to be a charitable and scholarship organization.

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 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](#))

Chelsea Now Article

The bell has rung on the fall semester at the Clinton School for Writers & Artists - and by all accounts, the move to St. Michael's Academy has set the stage for a school year during which the focus is on academics instead of problems stemming from shared space...([read more](#))

NY Post Article

When Bra'Shey Ali first walked through the doors of St. Michael Academy three years ago, coach Apache Paschall thought he had his next McDonald's All-American...([read more](#))

NY Post Article

It wasn't too long ago that Apache Paschall was told he would be a coach without a school. The former St. Michael Academy coach, who is

Our goal at this point is to publish an alumnae newsletter which would contain news concerning our classmates, the Sisters of the Presentation, and events we are planning. We also hope to create a website for our organization. (If you are knowledgeable in this area, we can use your assistance with this project.) Another goal is to begin assisting class chairs in the organization of annual reunions.

We have been fortunate in that we have been able to obtain the most recent list of SMA Alumnae names and addresses. However, this information is at least eight months old and needs to be updated. Initially, our newsletter will be sent by email. As soon as we have obtained a bulk mail permit, we will be able to expand its distribution to include those Alums for whom we only have snail mail addresses.

Once we obtain 501(c)(3) certification from the Internal Revenue Service, the *St. Michael Academy Alumnae Charitable Foundation*, Inc. will seek contributions to be used for scholarships to alumnae and their families, assistance to the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary who contributed so much to St. Michael's, and other charitable purposes. If you can help us with this IRS filing, or if you have any experience in this area, we would be grateful for your help.

Until we have an official Website, we encourage you to contact us at SMAAANYC@aol.com. This is also the address to which you may send your class news (and pictures) for inclusion in our next newsletter. Most importantly, please make sure to send us your current contact information, and that of your classmates. Our outreach efforts can only be as good as our distribution list.

Unfortunately, all of this costs money. We have set the annual dues for 2011 at a reasonable \$25, just to cover our start-up costs. We would ask that you send your check, made payable to *St. Michael Academy Alumnae Association, Inc.*, to Jeanne Billings (SMAAA), 6 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY

now at Nazareth, learned last March that the small Manhattan Catholic school was closing its doors at the end of the year. Paschall, along with many other New York City girls basketball coaches were shocked and saddened to hear that St. Peter's on Staten Island would also be closing. ([read more](#))

New York Post Article

Nazareth needed a spiritual lift. The student-athletes needed a place to play basketball. The combination has been magical over the last year. ([read more](#))

SMAAA Board of Directors

Jeanne Boyd Billings '74
 Sr. Mary Byrnes, PBVM '63
 Blanca Camacho '74
 Sr. Kathleen Cusack, PVBM '54
 Sharon Duritzo '72
 Jessica Libroia '87
 Elaine Battaglino Mowbray '74
 Mary O'Hara '62
 Genevieve O'Hare '46
 Roberta Olgiati '74
 Maria Pani '74
 Lorraine Pogan Shef '64
 Patti Wu '70

10583. Be sure to include your updated contact information, and please encourage your classmates to do the same.

The Board Members are truly excited about this venture and look forward to sharing our excitement with you in the coming months.

May our protector, St. Michael, watch over us and guide us on our path.

*The Board of Directors of the
 St. Michael Academy Alumnae Association*

Michaelite to Michaelight...

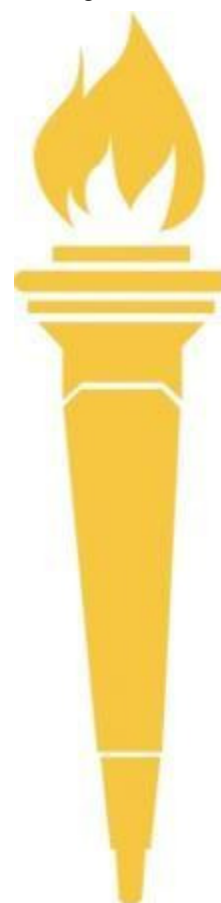
One year ago, March 26, 2010, to be precise, Michaelites learned of the plan to close SMA at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. We petitioned, rallied, protested, lobbied, pledged and pleaded but, sadly, the doors closed in June of last year...and a new challenge was born.

As Michaelites - sisters all, sisters still - we know that locked doors cannot extinguish the knowledge, values, faith, energy, determination that is the living legacy of our four years at SMA, the eternal flame that has empowered generations of women to light every nook and cranny of the world.

The torch has been passed, but not extinguished. In true Michaelite fashion, let us take on this new challenge and turn disappointment into opportunity. With your help and involvement, a new Michaelight, rich in the ideals, optimism and enthusiasm of the past will burn brightly into the future.

Let us turn this challenge into opportunity. Turn this disappointment into optimism, hope and (dare we say it) rejoicing! Come with us as we blaze this new trail. Join the SMAAA and be astonished by what you can do!

And continue to know in your heart of hearts that...
"Nothing Can Our Union Sever!"



Class Reunion Needs Planning!

CLASS REUNION

Although our alumnae association is in its infancy, we would love nothing more than to hold a reunion in September for this year's (and last year's) 25th and 50th reunion classes. If this is to happen, WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! If you are from the class of '60, '61, '85 or '86 and are willing to serve on a reunion committee, please write to us at SMAAANYC@aol.com and we will contact you.

While we are at it, if there is anyone out there who is a caterer, a banquet manager, an event planner or is in the restaurant business, PLEASE get in touch with us ASAP so that you can help us pull this off. Drop us a line at SMAAANYC@aol.com and we will be in touch with you in a flash.

Sr. Kathleen's Commencement Address to the Last Graduating Class of Saint Michael Academy



Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

[Text of Sr. Kathleen's commencement address to the Class of 2010](#)

Update Your Contact Info



Our outreach efforts can only be as good as our contact information, which is outdated. In order to be a successful entity, the SMAAA needs to have the correct contact information for all of us. Please send your full name (maiden and married), address, phone number, email address and year of graduation (or, in the case of the displaced Michaelites, the year they *would have* graduated

from SMA) to SMAAANYC@aol.com.

(Please know that our definition of an SMA alum is anyone who ever attended, or was on staff at, Saint Michael Academy. Sisters, brothers, teachers, administrative staff...we need you all to respond to this email.)

Forward March!

Forward, facebook, twitter, do whatever it takes to get the word out about the SMAAA! Class Chairs especially should forward this to their email groups. Use the icons at the top of this newsletter to post onto your facebook page. And don't forget to add SMAAANYC@aol.com to your address book. Get on your marks, get set... *TWEET, TWEET!*



SMAAA Website

One of the (many!) things on our list of "things to do" for our fledgling organization, is to get a web site up and running. If you are knowledgeable in this area, PLEASE contact us at SMAAANYC@aol.com to discuss.



Jubilee Celebrations

Dear Michaelites,

Our Sisters and lay teachers look back with love and appreciation for the gift of teaching thousands of students throughout the years. This year the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Newburgh) celebrates the jubilees of two of your teachers.

Sister Rita Doyle (Sr. Mary Cornelia) celebrates 70 years as a Presentation Sister. Sister Rita taught Latin, algebra, religion, English and science at St. Michael Academy from 1943 to 1949, after which Sister went to Saint Lucy High School in Houma, Louisiana for 14 years and then taught at John S. Burke Catholic H. S. for 2 years. In 1965 she returned to SMA and until 1992 taught math and designed the students' schedules. We give God thanks for Sister's thirty-three years of dedication, of gentle and loving service to the academy - to

staff, faculty and, most importantly, to Michaelites whom she taught. In our thought and prayer, may we cherish our memories of Sr. Rita, celebrate with her, the Presentation community, and Sister's family and friends during her jubilee year.

Sister Lorraine Dougherty (Sr. Mary Columbiere) celebrates 60 years as a Presentation Sister. Sister taught religion, English, Latin, geometry and American history at St. Michael Academy from 1953 to 1965, after which she taught religion at John S. Burke H. S. for six years. Sister then served the congregation as President of PBVM for four years. In 1975 Sister returned to SMA for two years. We give God thanks for Sister's fourteen years of dynamic and joyful ministry to the academy - to staff, faculty and, most importantly, to Michaelites whom she taught. In our thought and prayer, may we cherish our memories of Sr. Lorraine, celebrate with her, the Presentation community, and Sister's family and friends during her jubilee year.

And to you, dear Michaelites, may God bless you, may you enkindle the spirit of SMA, and may we keep in touch!

With gratitude, love and prayer,
Sister Kathleen

Mount Saint Joseph
84 Presentation Way
New Windsor, New York 12553-4949

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:



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

Whassup???

OK, we've said our peace, for the moment. Now it's *your* turn to tell

us what's going on in *your* life...with *your* family...with *your* classmates.

Email the news (and any pix that go with it) to SMAAANYC@aol.com. Include your name and year of your graduation. Look for it in our next issue.

SMA Alumnae Association

SMAAANYC@aol.com

Annual Dues

We have set the SMAAA annual dues for 2011 at a reasonable \$25, just to cover our start-up costs. Please mail your check, made payable to *St. Michael Academy Alumnae Association, Inc.*, to Jeanne Billings (SMAAA), 6 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Be sure to include your updated contact information, and please encourage your classmates to do the same. (*Hand in hand we'll work together!*)