

Alumnae VILLA VOICE

St. John Villa Academy Alumnae Association Newsletter

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ST. JOHN VILLA ACADEMY
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

*A BOND THAT STAYS FOREVER
IN OUR HEARTS & MINDS*

Dear Villa Alumnae –

I am proud to say that I had the pleasure to induct 140 wonderful young women into the Alumnae Association this past June. They are the graduates of the 75th graduating class and enthusiastically received their challenge. I asked them to keep the bond that has been forged at Villa as they prepare to go on and that the bond stays forever in their hearts and minds.



Ann Marie McConeghy '74
Association President

The Alumnae Association is also proud to have been able to give \$9,500 in scholarship awards this past year. In December 2010 we gave \$5,500 and in June 2011 \$4,000, which included a special award in honor of Mother Veronica's 100th Birthday. Also, a donation of \$350 was given for our 2011 yearbook ad in the "Precursor." We ask that you continue supporting Villa and the Alumnae Association. Our office space is in use on the Villa campus. We are holding committee meetings there, as well as a place for us to keep our files and records. We are continuing the theme of Return, Remember, Rediscover there.

We are part of the unique "Sisterhood" of being a Villa Alumnae. We have all been richly rewarded by the education we were given at Villa and we carry it with us each and every day. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Homecoming Mass and Luncheon on Sunday, October 30th, 2011, as well as other events the Alumnae Association is sponsoring. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or questions at sjva1974@gmail.com.

Ann Marie McConeghy
Class of 1974

*Hope to
See you at the
Homecoming
Brunch on
October 30, 2011!*



ST. JOHN VILLA ACADEMY
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

Homecoming 2011
Return, Remember, Rediscover

***Please join us for our
Annual Homecoming
Mass & Luncheon***

***Sunday, October 30th, 2011
Mass is at 10:30 AM in Chapel
Luncheon to follow in Founder's Hall***

*Celebrating the
Graduating Classes of
1936, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956,
1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981,
1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006*

This year's Honorees are:
Georgiana Gallicchio-Heath '57 (Posthumously)
Founding Member and Past Alumnae President

Sr. Raphael Marie Spano, C.S.JB. '55
Elementary & High School Teacher

Sr. Bernadette Baldassano, C.S.JB.,
Honorary Alumna & High School Teacher

Reservations required by October 21st, 2011
Any questions email sjvaalumnae@gmail.com or call 917-903-4149

\$35 per person in advance \$40 per person at the Door

Please return by **October 21st, 2010** to
SJVA Development Office, 57 Cleveland Place, Staten Island, NY 10305

Name _____ Maiden Name _____ Class - _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Cellphone _____ Email _____

- ___ I will be attending the Annual Homecoming Brunch. Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ persons.
- ___ I will not be able to attend but would like to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund for \$ _____.
- ___ I would like to sponsor a Sister and am enclosing \$ _____ for _____ Sisters.
- ___ I am enclosing my annual SJVA Alumnae Association dues. (\$20)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Homecoming 2011 Honorees

Georgiana Gallicchio-Heath, Class of 1957

Georgiana passed away on December 22, 2010. She was instrumental in starting the Alumnae Association and we honor her memory. She supported the association with her time, enthusiasm and ever present love of St. John Villa. She was a founding member and served in many capacities including President.



Georgiana was a longtime Rosebank resident and retired teacher with deep roots in her community. Georgiana loved to sing, travel and spend time with husband, Richard, her children and her 8 grandsons, her mom, sister and brother. She enjoyed trying new foods and experiencing new cultures.

She will always be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Sr. Raphael Marie, Class of 1955

Sr. Raphael Marie graduated in 1955 and professed on February 3, 1957. After her religious profession, Sr. Raphael Marie was assigned to teach primary grades at St. John Villa. Sr. Raphael Marie received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Seton Hall University and her Masters in Education from Wagner College.

Sr. Raphael Marie was a Pastoral Assistant at Providence Rest Nursing Home in the Bronx, has served in Youth Ministry, and as a teacher to St. John Villa Academy and many other locations that the Sisters of St. John the Baptist serve. She is currently ministering at St. John Villa Academy High School in the areas of Office Assistance, teacher class coverage and library assistance.

In her spare time, Sr. Raphael Marie loves to express herself in her God given talents of painting and poetry. You will see her walking the grounds of villa viewing nature and deciding what she will paint next. Anyone who knows her can see and experience her smile and the echoes of God as she lives out her religious call given to her by Jesus Christ.

Sr. Bernadette Baldassano C.S.J.B

Sr. Bernadette Baldassano, CSJB is a native Staten Islander. She is an honorary Alumna of St. John Villa Academy High School. Her mother, Bessie, was the founder and president of St. John Villa Academy Mothers Club. Bessie attempted to prevent her daughter from becoming a nun by withdrawing her from St. John Villa Academy during her senior year. However, her efforts failed. Sr. Bernadette just celebrated her sixtieth anniversary as a Sister of St. John the Baptist.

Sr. Bernadette attended Fordham University and began her teaching career as an Elementary school teacher. Her specialty was teaching Religion and English.

Sr. Bernadette has been teaching her entire religious life throughout the Archdiocese of New York and various dioceses in New Jersey. Her students have vivid memories of her and she still keeps in touch with many of them. In 2000, Sr. Bernadette began teaching religion part-time at St. John Villa Academy HS.

In her spare time, Sr. Bernadette loves to visit with her Staten Island classmates, who just celebrated their 60th anniversary from high school graduation. As a teacher and religious, she has loved and cared for her students implanting the seeds of the Catholic Faith in all of them. As Henry Brooks Adams has said: "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." We will never know where Sr. Bernadette's influence will stop.

Scholarship Update: Record Year for Scholarship Awards!

The bar was raised two years ago and we have risen to the occasion. In December 2010, we proudly awarded 11 Seniors with scholarship awards of \$500 each. These were given on a need basis to them for their academics, as well as being a young woman of good character.

A record amount has been awarded to deserving members of the Freshman, Sophomore and Junior classes, as well as, two graduates from the elementary school going into the High School and two Christian Womanhood Awards to graduating Seniors.

A very special scholarship award was given in honor of Mother Veronica's 100th Birthday.

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Grade 9 | Jayde Cuesta | \$250 |
| | Danielle Oliveira | \$250 |
| Grade 10 | Mary Curatolo a | \$250 |
| | Cassandra Bova | \$250 |
| Grade 11 | Kara Higgins | \$250 |
| | Patricia & Kaitlyn Ottomanelli | \$250 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Christian Womanhood Awards | |
| Guadalupe Delgado Juarez | \$750 |
| Danielle D'Onofrio | \$750 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Patricia Lagano-Day'56 Award | |
| Marguerite Quirk | \$250 |

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Grammar School Awards | |
| Elizabeth Sokolovski | \$250 |
| Miray Mirham | \$250 |

| | |
|--|-------|
| Mother Veronica 100th Birthday Award | |
| Alissa Aquino | \$250 |

Homecoming 50/50 Enter for your chance to win!

Tickets can be brought to the Homecoming Brunch or mailed in advance to:
SJVA Alumnae Association, 57 Cleveland Place, Staten Island, NY 10305

SJVA ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL HOMECOMING SUPER 50/50
\$5 Each 6 for \$25

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Year Grad _____
Email _____

Drawing held 10/30/11 WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT

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\$5 Each 6 for \$25

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Phone _____ Year Grad _____
Email _____

Drawing held 10/30/11 WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT

Upcoming Alumnae Events

October 22nd, 2011 Saturday – 1 to 4 pm
High School Open House

October 30th, 2011 Sunday @ 10:30 AM
Annual Homecoming Sunday Mass and Luncheon

November 19th, 2011 – Saturday 8am to 8 pm
Alumnae Scrap-booking Event in Founder's Hall

December 11th, 2011 – Saturday
Alumnae Christmas Brunch (Time and Place to be announced)

February 22nd, 2012 – Wednesday 6-9pm
Ash Wednesday evening of Reflection at Mt. Manresa Retreat House, Dinner followed by Mass & Reflection (Details to follow)

April 27th, 2012 – Friday
Night of Chances Chinese Auction (Time and Place TBA)

May 4th, 2012 – Wednesday
Alumnae and Friends Dinner (Time and Place TBA)

May 31st, 2012 – Wednesday @ 7 pm
Graduation Mass

June 2nd, 2012 – Saturday @ 10 am
Graduation

**Times and places may change. Please check the alumnae events section of the SJVA website under the Alumni section for updates, watch for email updates or join us on Facebook.*

Mark Your Calendars!



We need More Alumnae Support!

SJVA needs the strength of its Alumnae to keep it going strong. We have so many exciting events planned for 2011-2012 but we need more "Woman Power" to make them happen.

We invite you to come to our Alumnae Association Meetings, find out what we are working on and how you might be able to help.

Alumnae Association Meetings

All meetings are in Founder's Hall on Landis Avenue at 7:15pm. All Alumnae are welcome.

September 15, 2011**

October 12, 2011

November 9, 2011

January 25, 2012 (weather permitting)

February 15, 2012 (weather permitting)

March 14, 2012

April 18, 2012

June 8, 2012

PLEASE NOTE: Events and meetings are subject to change. Please check your email for updates.

****Meeting to be held in Convent meeting room.**

Please enter through convent doors and down a flight of stairs.

Alumnae Crop for Villa

Scrapbook Event!

Proceeds for this event will go to scholarships!!



November 19, 2011

9:00am – 8:00pm

Cost \$60.00

Event will take place at St. John Villa Academy
25 Landis Ave Staten Island, NY 10305.

A special raffle basket will be raffled for those that donate a beverage, food and snack. Each scrapper will receive a raffle ticket for each item donated. Those that donate a basket for our raffles will also receive a raffle ticket. This will also allow you early admission.

(8:00am)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner will be served.

If you have any questions please call or email:
Kerri Ann Marks 347-526-5697 skram99@aol.com
Space is limited. So register as soon as possible.

Registration will close by 11/12/11.

Please return completed registration form to:

Checks are to be made out to
St. John Villa Academy Alumnae Association
Kerri Ann Marks
2151 Forest Avenue
Staten Island NY 10303

Crop:

A term used for a gathering of Scrapbookers to work on their albums, and page layouts... 'A Crop'. Can also be a formally hosted event with an expert who shares techniques, products, and information with the group.

Scrapbooking:

The creative art of displaying your photos and memorabilia. Can incorporate Journaling, and embellishments. The primary purpose of scrapbooking is to preserve memories for future generations, but a secondary purpose often is to exercise your creativity as you display your memories in a scrapbook.

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY IN ALL FIELDS)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Payment: Cash: _____ Check # _____

I will donate the following item(s): _____

Please sit me with: _____

Win! Win! Win
SJVA “100 Club”
A fun way of Fundraising!!!

Thank you to everyone who supports the 100 Club. As a result the Alumnae Association was able to make scholarship awards possible for Villa students and graduates.

We invite you to join us for the 2011-2012 season. When we reach an adequate number of entries, we will begin the weekly drawings of first, second and third prizes - \$25, \$15 and \$10 respectively for the New Year. After each week, the three winning numbers will be re-entered in the drawings for a chance to win again.

The number of weeks depend on the number of entries.

The Final Grand Prizes for 2010-2011 will be drawn at the Annual Homecoming Luncheon on Sunday, October 30th, 2011.

*The 2009/2010 Grand prize winners were:

- First prize \$200 #29 Lucille Nasella Zona ‘47
- Second prize \$100 #41 Regina Rao Cuomo ‘65
- Third prize \$50 #81 Shawn-Kathleen Pannunzio Campitiello ‘86

*These prizes were awarded at the Annual Homecoming on October 24, 2010.



Join this year’s 100 Club!

Please complete and return this form with check payable to SJVA Alumnae Association to :

Bess Socci-Palumbo ‘53,
 1396 Richmond Road,
 Staten Island, NY 10304



NAME
 (include maiden): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE _____ CLASS YEAR _____

EMAIL _____

of ENTRIES _____ @\$25 EACH TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Alumnae Entrepreneurs

Celebrate Alums following their dreams!

Donna Balyano-Kapetanakis '74

The Sliver & Crumb Pastry Chef/Cake Artist

I was born to bake. After graduating from the New York Restaurant School I worked from a professional kitchen part time supplying cakes and desserts to restaurants while I worked full time for a financial institution on the Sales Trading desk. In 2007, I left to pursue my love of baking and established The Sliver & Crumb. I recently trained with Toba Garrett, one of the top ranking cake artists in the world. My cupcakes were featured on the Martha Stewart website as one of the top 10 holiday cupcakes. Creating new tastes and textures is my mission in life and I am happily creating cakes, cupcakes and desserts for clients.



Gina Hansen '89

Thirty-One Gifts Consultant

I am so excited to share the news about this company that I recently became a part of. I've been a stay at home mom for the last 5 years and was looking for something special to be a part of. So, I have launched a new business by becoming a Thirty-One Gifts consultant.



Haven't heard of Thirty One?! It is only the most stylish, practical, gorgeous line of purses, totes, thermal bags, organizing products and so, so much more! I saw the products at a family BBQ, and after looking through the catalog, I wanted everything! I've been looking for a way to get out of the house, make a few dollars and since I LOVE bags and I knew I could do this.

Edie Kisch (Motolla) '77

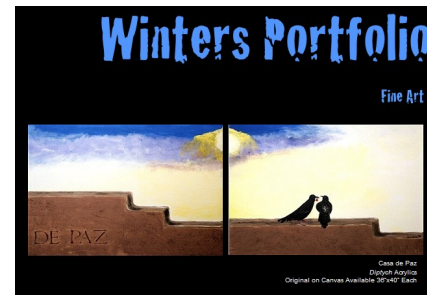
Owner, Gatsby's Florist and Gifts

I am a floral designer and owner of Gatsby's Florist & Gifts in Keyport, New Jersey. Everyday I am so blessed to come to work and help people send smiles and hugs, praise and thanks, sympathy and love through beautiful flowers. I personally invite all my SJVA sisters to visit me on Facebook. P.S. Special thanks to Mrs. Denise Arena for inspiring me to love the world of art and design.

Beverly Winters '71

Owner & Creative Director of Studio Winters

Since graduating from SJVA in 1971, Beverly has owned several businesses. For the last twelve years she has been the owner, and Creative Director of Studio Winters; a freelance Advertising Arts Agency based out of Dallas, TX and Albuquerque, NM, where her team of artists, writers, and tech specialists, have been producing branding, design and marketing campaigns and services for local and national clients. At the same time she has been in the Fine Arts & Photography field, exhibiting, showing in galleries, and selling online. Before attending The Art Center of Design, and founding Studio Winters, Bev was in private practice for over twelve years, as a Licensed Addictions Specialist, offering individual, family, and group counseling.



She recommends anyone with a desire to pursue a long held dream of owning their own enterprise to take the risks and *just do it*. There is nothing more satisfying than creating relationships with your own clients, working for yourself, and feeling the satisfaction of having accomplished a successful, self-driven way to make a living.

RoseAnn Frontero Belluso '79

Tea-Klu & Flower Designs

After graduating SJVA, I attended The Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC. I had a brief stint in an advertising agency as a copy assistant before leaving to be a mom full time. Fast forward thirty years and I have a jewelry design business, with my sister, called Tea-Klu & Flower Designs. We design one of a kind pieces as well as fulfill custom orders. We love to design for brides and bridal parties. Currently, word of mouth is our most important marketing tool. We also exhibit our pieces at art shows several times a year.



If you want to get more information about these Alumn Entrepreneur, please contact sjva1974@gmail.com