



# PENITENTMENTO

to see & see again

SAINT DOMINIC ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 58 WINTER 2016

## Named Scholarships – the Gift that Keeps on Giving

Every year, Saint Dominic Academy receives donations to the scholarship fund in honor of someone or as a memorial in someone's memory. When an alumna dies, family members who knew how much the school meant to her will ask others to join them in creating a named scholarship. These gifts can become substantial, due to the number of donors. Once the scholarship fund reaches \$25,000, a portion of the money will be given each year to qualified students. Sometimes the person who establishes the scholarship requires that the recipient meet certain criteria. For example, one of our named scholarships – **The Mary Cunningham Scholarship** – is only for a student from Sacred Heart Parish in Jersey City; another specifies that the recipient must excel in math and science. Sometimes a scholarship is established to honor the memory of a person associated with the Academy, like **The Sister Eileen Imelda Scholarship**. Another one has been created to help a student who might have to leave the school because of an unexpected financial difficulty – **The Isabelle Wolf Scholarship**. One of our oldest and largest scholarships -- **The Fred and Alexandra**

**Arrigotti Memorial Fund** – was opened many years ago by the Arrigotti's, a couple from Jersey City, who had no personal connection to Saint Dominic Academy, but who wanted to make it possible for bright students in need from Jersey City to attend the Academy. As of today, Saint Dominic Academy has fourteen named scholarships that contribute thousands of dollars each year to our scholarship fund.

Because we invest the funds that come to the school for named scholarships, we know that the original gift will last a long time, especially when people continue to add to it over the years. Each year we are able to award scholarships to qualified students because someone thought about honoring someone's memory by establishing a scholarship in that person's name – what a wonderful way to keep that memory alive!

At this time of year, when you might be preparing to pay "Uncle Sam" what you owe, or thinking about ways to reduce your tax obligation to the government, you might consider a charitable deduction to the Academy, or naming the school as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. You

may want to name the school as a beneficiary in your will, knowing that someday you will make one last gift to the school you love.

If you are celebrating a major reunion year this year you might want to make a significant donation to the Academy in appreciation for all the ways the school made you a better person. Three years ago an alumna who was celebrating her 40th Reunion established the **Sister M. Victorine Scholarship** so that some young girl could have a full four-year scholarship to attend SDA. She said she wanted to give back to the school that awarded her a scholarship years ago, so she could realize her dream.

Private schools like Saint Dominic Academy constantly seek new ways to increase the amount of money available for scholarships. We rely on the affection and good will of our thousands of alumnae and their families who want to see the school they love continue to "Empower young women for leadership" for years to come. We hope that our list of named scholarships will get longer each year, as more people choose to give the gift that keeps on giving – a named scholarship!

## Track & Field Wins First Ever State Championship!

Congratulations to our SDA State Champions! The SDA Indoor Track & Field Team team captured its first title and became the first girls team from Hudson County to win a State Championship. Saint Dominic received a sparkling triple from Senior Camille Bertholon, and Junior Malia Grey had two wins en route to a 57-43 victory over defending champion Villa Walsh. The championship was held on

February 20 at the NJSIAA Non-Public Track and Field Championship at the Bennett Center in Toms River.

Bertholon (photo right) won the 1,600, the 800 and 3.200 and Grey captured the high jump and 55 meter hurdle. This is Coach John Nagel's 38th season at Saint Dominic Academy. Congratulations to Coach, Camille, Malia and all the SDA Team members!



Camille Bertholon.



## From the Head of School's Desk

### SDA LEADERSHIP TEAM

Barbara Griffin, M.A., M.Ed.  
*Head of School*

Sarah Degnan-Moje, M.Ed.  
*Academic Dean*

Sr. Mary Lou Bauman, O.P., M.A.  
*Dean of Students*

Mary Ann McLean, M.A.  
*Coordinator of 7th & 8th Grade*

Andrea Apruzzese, B.A.  
*Director of Admissions/Financial Aid*

Sharon Buge, M.B.A., C.P.A.  
*Director of Finance*

### ADVANCEMENT

Carol Gaffney, M.A.  
*Director of Annual Giving*

Theresa O'Brien, B.A.  
*Associate Director of Advancement*

Ayasser Ramirez, B.S.  
*Technical Support Specialist*

### SDA ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

Anne Dalton O'Brien '65, P '90, '94  
*President*

Elizabeth Katusa '04  
*Vice President*

Vicki McDonald Lindorff '72, P '07, '13  
*Secretary*

Stephanie Barbi '64  
*Treasurer*

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Dear SDA Alumnae,

This will be the last letter I will be writing for *Pentimento*. As many of you have heard, I plan to retire as Head of School for St. Dominic Academy at the end of June, 2016.

It is hard to believe that six years have gone by since I arrived at the Academy as Head of School. As a Jersey City native I was always aware of the presence of the school on the corner of Duncan and the Boulevard, which I frequently passed on my way to Journal Square.

Although some of us look back fondly on the years when it seemed as if there was a Catholic school on every corner, we know that times have changed and the demographics of Jersey City have changed as well. There are fewer Catholic families living in Jersey City these days as the city welcomes newcomers from around the world. The students look a little different than the graduates of 50 years ago, but, underneath they haven't changed a bit. St. Dom's girls are still very special. Having worked in girls' schools in other places over the years, I can truly appreciate them. They are friendly and respectful, and they appreciate the privilege of being here. Seeing how they treat each other gives me hope that the whole world really could get along together, if we would only try.

It's been a great pleasure to meet so many St. Dominic's alumnae during my time here. It never ceases to amaze me how much good will and affection the alumnae have for their alma mater no matter how long ago they graduated. Your loyal and generous support sets a wonderful example to our young ladies today and strengthens our commitment to the Academy's mission.

I want to thank you for the privilege of being part of the SDA alumnae community for the past six years. You always made this "St. Al's girl" feel right at home!

As I look forward to spending more time with my grandchildren, I am taking with me many happy memories of my years at SDA.

Wishing you all the blessings of Easter.

Sincerely,

Barbara C. Griffin

## Glee Club Celebrates New Year in Rome

Members of the SDA Glee Club traveled to Rome on December 26 to participate in *Pueri Cantores* 40th International Congress. The students sang on four separate occasions beginning with the Opening Ceremony. They marched from the Castel Sant'Angelo down the Via Conciliazione to Saint Peter's Basilica and through the Holy Door which had been opened for the Jubilee Year. They joined voices with other American and Irish choirs for the Mass of Nations at the Basilica of Saint John Lanteran. On New Year's Eve, the Glee Club sang and joined international choirs to serenade Pope Francis with the Argentinean Carol "El Nacimiento".

The girls returned home on January 2 for a short rest and then more practice! On April 25, 2016, members of the Glee Club will join the *Dominoes* in a performance of Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria" at Carnegie Hall.

Congratulations to Music Director Joseph Napoli and all of the talented members of the Glee Club and *Dominoes*!



# Leadership Gala 2015

The 2015 SDA Gala at Nanina's on the Park was a huge success. Guests celebrated SDA and honored Dorethy Hughes McGrath '46, Vicki McDonald Lindorff '72 and Lynne Seborowski '01 during a festive evening of fun and fellowship.



*Pillar Honorees, Vicki Lindorff, '72, Lynne Seborowski '01 and Dorothy McGrath '46*



*Aolanie Vargas '17 and Eileen Gil '18*



*Sr. Patrice Werner, O.P. and Sr. Eileen Ivory, O.P.*



*Alexandra Lindorff, Adeline Giantini and Vera Lindorff*



*Sr. Peggy Ann Clinton, O.P.*



*Tim Duffy, Susan Odenthal '73 and Jean Capparelli Boyko '73.*



*1976 grads: Maureen DeCresce Ghosh, Sharon Keller Guinta, Diane, Przygocki Nilson, Catherine Sardoni Brennan, Barbara Russell*



*Rita Dalton Healy '68, Sharon O'Brien Romer '94, Anne Dalton O'Brien '65, Erin O'Brien Keefe '90*



*Barbara Griffin, Head of School*



*Louise Seborowski '05 and Beth Seborowski Ramos '99*



*Lindorff Family*



*Michele Foote and Maryann Molinari '67*

## Save the Date!

GALA 2016 IS PLANNED FOR  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2016  
AT IL VILLAGIO IN CARLSTADT, NJ.



## Reunion Weekend 2016 is just a few weeks away!

Join your SDA classmates and friends on **Friday, April 15 at Zeppelin Hall Biergarten** in Jersey City. Drop by anytime after 8 pm and spend a fun evening catching up with friends, old and new. There is no entry fee or reservation required.

Look for the SDA banner when you arrive.

On **Saturday, April 16**, SDA Alumnae will enjoy a lovely luncheon at **The Breakers in Spring Lake**.

All Alumnae are invited to attend.

The class of 1966 marks its' 50th reunion, and we have a special gift reserved for those attending.

All classes ending in '1 or '6....it's your special anniversary year!

The Alumnae Association has a tricky tray, 50/50 raffle and special treats planned.

Reservations and payment can be made online at [stdominicacad.com/purchase-reunion-tickets](http://stdominicacad.com/purchase-reunion-tickets)  
Reservations are required, please RSVP by April 1. Luncheon cost, including a three-course served meal, champagne and special beverage, is \$60.00 per person.

# Alumnae news

**Irene Moran '44** remembers staying after school to sweep, clean blackboards and empty wastebaskets at her years at SDA. Her chores helped pay the tuition!

**Dot Kenihan Kamp '49** took a Mediterranean cruise with her family in June 2015.

**Catherine Wilkes Evans '52** and her husband will celebrate 60 years of marriage on April 21. They have 3 grandsons and 2 great-grandchildren.

**Alice Egan O'Shea '52** is celebrating her 80th birthday with her 3 daughters and granddaughter,

**Pat Brennock Carney '55** wishes all a New Year filled with hope.

**Kathleen Cole '55** has been married for 52 years and volunteers at Hemet Hospital in California. She has 5 children, 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Rita Connors Hermanns '56, Sylvia Crescitelli Anthony '56** and **Justine Pinto, O.P. '56** were among the SDA alumnae who dedicated a beautiful stained-glass shamrock to SDA in memory of their dear late classmate, **Marie Varley '56**. Marie's sisters, **Sheila Varley Alfano '61** and **Eileen Varley Betz '65** were also present to commemorate Marie's lifelong dedication to SDA.

**Nancy Berry '61** and husband Dennis Boyne have launched the website [LehighValleyStorySlam.com](http://LehighValleyStorySlam.com).

**Joan Russoniello Goba '61** and husband Bill are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary by taking a cruise to the Caribbean with their children and grandchildren.

**Rita Goodon Venus '61** shadowed her husband Michael on his 2190 mile hike of the Appalachian Trail, meeting him each evening and documenting his journey.

**Eileen Rogers-Dorritie '67** is enjoying retirement and spending time with 8 grandchildren.

**Margaret Schmidt '78** was named Vice President and Editor of The Jersey Journal.

**Cathy Carnevale '79** was among 37 business and professional women to be honored at the 36th Annual Tribute to Women and Industry Awards dinner, sponsored by the YWCA of Union County.

**Dr. Ainissa Ramirez '86** was the recent winner of the 2015 Andrew Gemant Award, an annual prize recognizing significant contributions to the cultural, artistic or humanistic dimension of physics. <https://www.aip.org/news/2015/ainissa-ramirez-wins-2015-gemant-award-aip>

**Dr. Elisa Velazquez '90** was named one of "NJ Top Dentists" in Jersey Monthly for the sixth consecutive year.

## Very Special Birthday Wishes!

**Elvira Winters '42** celebrated her 90th birthday and was a member of the first graduating class from the present SDA building. Elvira remembers that she and her classmates helped to move from the Bentley Avenue location. They walked down JFK Blvd with desks and books!

Inspired by Sr. Carmel, her science teacher, Elvira attended Caldwell College and became a science teacher herself. Elvira has 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

**Joan Morrison '43** celebrated her 90th birthday and continues to be an independent, compassionate and religious woman who is actively engaged in the lives of her 5 children, 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Joan relishes her 72 year friendship with her SDA classmate, Olive Bryan.

Friday, April 29, 2016 marks the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Dominican Order.

SDA students, faculty and staff will mark this joyous occasion with a special Mass to be celebrated at St. Aedan's Church.

All SDA Alumnae, family and friends are encouraged to celebrate with us at the Mass. Please check the SDA website for updated information.

Alumnae are invited to participate in a SDA Art Show to be held April 28-May 1.

Artwork will be hung in our new "Siena Hall" (formerly the Jersey City Woman's Club).

Please contact [cgiarantana@stdominicacad.com](mailto:cgiarantana@stdominicacad.com) if you wish to show your art.

We will mark the official opening of Siena Hall with an Open House Reception on Sunday May 1 from 1-3 pm. Guests are then welcome to attend the Glee Club Concert at 4 pm at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

## ✚ IN MEMORIAM ✚

### ALUMNAE

**Josephine Landis '35.**

**Rosemary Novello-Parlavecchio '60** aunt of  
**Christina Novello '98.**

**Helen Patella Kappes '44**

**Mary Connors Gannon '51.**

**Frances Clark Murphy '53.**

**Nancy Tuohy Freenan '53.**

**Elvira Ruocco Rettino '59.**

**Julia Shuck '60.**

**Donna Marie Blauvelt '77.**

**Alison Boyle '02.**

### FAMILY

William Branigan, past SDA Trustee and father of  
**Mary Beth Guckian '80.**

Angela Grossi, mother of **Joanne Grossi '64.**

Eamonn Mautone, son of **Bridget O'Brien Mautone '79,**  
nephew of **Kathleen O'Brien Feinberg '80, Rita O'Brien '84**  
and Theresa O'Brien, SDA Asst. Dir. of Advancement.

Sharon Kneafsey, cousin of **Stephanie Barbi '64.**

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