

SCA TEAM WINS CHAMPIONSHIP

By John Sutton

A Tough Love Approach

Melissa Rosso '06 knows what it takes to be successful on a high school volleyball court, but she also knows how to bring that same success to others. As the head volleyball coach at St. Catharine Academy, she doesn't give her sister, SCA junior Alessandra Rosso, preferential treatment. She gives special treatment to everyone on her team. And she does that with "tough love".

That coaching style kept her team focused on always improving their game and never settling for a singular win until they reached their final goal. The results showed in the SCA Stars most successful season in eleven years, when the team finished one of the best seasons in its history at the New York State Championship. That trip to the state finals came after the Stars captured both the Bronx / Westchester A division and the Catholic High School Athletic Association Championship this season.



Melissa Rosso '06, SCA Varsity Volleyball Coach, in action.

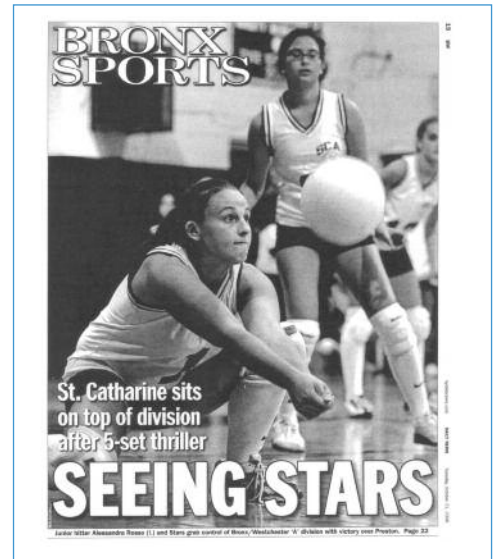
A Family Legacy

The Rosso sisters continued their family legacy on the volleyball court this year when, only three seasons after leaving her high school team as a player, Melissa, like her two older sisters before her, returned as its coach, and capped this tremendous season by being named Bronx Coach of the Year for Volleyball by FiveBoroSports.com.

Alessandra said gaining these accolades was always on the mind of the team, which was marked by a quiet, unspoken confidence. Throughout the season, Alessandra said Melissa, who is only 20 years old, focused on where to improve, rather than tell the team how well they were playing. This kept them humbled and focused on their ultimate goals. Alessandra recalled Melissa saying, "If you're going to hate me, hate me together," and she believes that Melissa's tough love style was effective. "Her constantly yelling at us, gave us a sense of unity because we were all in the same boat. She never favored one person ... Despite how young she is, I think everyone on the team really respects her," concluded Alessandra.

A Team Effort

Along with Alessandra, others who helped the Stars to their championships were setters, Juliana Veseli and Lauren Paylor, a senior and junior respectively, and Chaneé Cameron, a senior outside



Alessandra Rosso, junior, digs deep for the Stars.

hitter. Alessandra said that each of those players showed consistency throughout the season, never missing a practice and setting a great example for the younger players.

When the Stars finally reached the goals they had set at the beginning of the season there was a release like no other. The CHSAA championship win came on Nov. 9 at Cardinal Spellman. For Alessandra, that win meant more than just a personal accomplishment for herself or her sister. "It took a long time to hit me, but I think the best feeling was knowing that everyone else was there too," Alessandra said. "A lot of these girls I have known since I was in grammar school. I was happy that I could get Julie a win and Chaneé and Lauren and all the other seniors. I was happy that they could do it, too. I was happy for my friends." ❖



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Challenge of Change

Sr. Patricia Wolf, RSM '62

In 1960, the election of John F. Kennedy was an historic milestone as the first Roman Catholic was elected the President of the United States. Forty-eight years later, the election of 2008 has hopefully swept away the racial barrier to the office with the election of Barack Obama. Regardless of whom you voted for, or your political party affiliation, history will record this time as one of momentous change.

New Times, New Tools

The breaking of the racial barrier to the Presidency is only one of the significant changes of this time. The election also demonstrated that we

have crossed the threshold into a new age of technology and communication. Note: President Obama text messaged to announce his candidacy and regularly uses You Tube to communicate his messages. The use of the Internet to communicate, raise money and mobilize people, which began in the election four years ago, was raised to a new level in the election of 2008. Millions of people around the world were engaged instantaneously, using tools of this digital age. Our students carry these tools into the classroom every day, and therein lies the very large challenge to our teachers.

A New Age

Mark Prensky, a leading educator, refers to today's students—K through college—as Digital Natives. They have spent their entire lives using computers, video games, cell phones, and digital devices. The way they receive information, absorb knowledge, process ideas, and interact with each other has changed dramatically. If they want to talk to friends, they go to Facebook. If they want videos, they go to You Tube. Do research, go to the Internet. Need to chat, text message. And much of this is done multitasking.

I, on the other hand, am a Digital Immigrant. The computer is not my first language. I do such quaint things as printing out an email, or editing this very letter on paper rather than on the computer.

Some educators today are Digital Immigrants who are charged with teaching Digital Natives. As Prensky states, Digital Immigrant instructors, who speak a pre-digital language, are chal-

lenged in teaching a population that speaks an entirely new language.

Our Direction

At SCA we are attempting to address the challenges and opportunities of the digital age in several ways:

1. Articulate the Vision: Our Strategic Plan calls for us to develop our vision of the classroom in 2013 and to plan accordingly. This vision encompasses the technology in the classroom, preparation for those who will teach in the classroom, and crossing the divide to the learning styles of the Digital Natives who occupy our classrooms.

2. Implement the Vision: To support the vision, we are establishing an Information Technology Advisory Committee. We seek people who can guide precious technology investment and assist in developing teaching methodologies that cross the digital divide.

3. Enlist Volunteers: We actively seek the assistance of alumnae and friends who will bring the skills we so desire. If you are interested in serving, please contact me directly at srpwolf@optonline.net.

4. Commit Resources: We understand that to be successful teachers of a new generation of students requires the necessary commitment of human and financial resources.

We live in a vastly different age since John F. Kennedy was elected President. The rate of change in the past ten years alone exceeds the rate of change in the past century. I wonder what our Digital Natives will say half a century from now. Will "google" still be an active part of their vocabulary? Of one thing I am certain. There will be new versions of the Digital Natives and Immigrants confronting new challenges. ❖

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FACING THE MATH CHALLENGE

By John Sutton

The Situation

What do you do when your [new] Grade 9 students come from seventy-eight different Catholic and public elementary schools, and each of those students' math skills and attitudes about the subject have been shaped by prior experiences in each of those schools? And what do you do when the task is further complicated by frequently changing aspects of the New York State Math curriculum? If you are SCA principal Sr. Ann Welch, you face that challenge and look for ways to meet it. And, like Sr. Ann, you are fortunate indeed if you have faculty who also are committed to meeting "the challenge".

The Strategy

Seven years ago, Dolores DiPaolo and Carmela Melucci-Ivanov, both math teachers at SCA, started an initiative with two objectives: improving the math skills of the new, incoming high school students, and addressing the fear of math that so many students were bringing to the classroom. The strategy started with assigning each incoming freshman to a double period of math, which had the added option of preparing students to take the required Math A Regents at an accelerated pace.

Of course, the idea of double the amount of math classroom time was not very popular with some Grade 9 students. Olivia Grant, now a tenth-grader at St. Catharine's, was one of those who were not happy, until now, as she sees the immense benefits. "I hated math, so when it turned out that I actually began to understand more things, it was a surprise to me," Olivia said. "And I was excited to find out that I could take the Math A Regents a year early."



Left to right: Gina Ribuspello, Mrs. Carmela Melucci-Ivanov, Olivia Grant, and Mrs. Dolores DiPaolo.

Last year a new dimension was added to the program. Mrs. DiPaolo and Mrs. Melucci-Ivanov added twelve one hour sessions, taking turns staying after school with a selected group of thirty students. Initially, this group of students had not been slated to take the accelerated Math A Regents exam, but their teachers believed they could do it, and they were willing to commit the time to make it happen. "We were just determined that we would get them through the Regents earlier," DiPaolo said. "With the after school program, we were able to take them through a full year of geometry."

The Results

When it was time for the Regents exam, students found that they were comfortable for what is usually a nerve-wracking experience. That sense of comfort was reflected in the

words of 10th grader, Gina Ribuspello: "The after-school program really helped me because it gave me a little bit of everything. When I went in for the exam, I wasn't totally confused. I came out learning a lot more than I thought I would." The results were that twenty-nine of the thirty students passed.

For Mrs. DiPaolo and Mrs. Melucci-Ivanov, the most rewarding aspect of the double math program has been observing what has happened to those students who had feared math. "They have gained confidence, and have gone on to take higher levels of math and earn their Advanced Regents Diploma", said Mrs. Melucci-Ivanov. Seeing this growth of confidence in the students, as a result of the success they experience, is what serves as a constant motivator for these teachers. ❖

STUDENT NEWS

Venturing into the Professional World: Opportunities for Three from SCA

Medical Enrichment Program

There are only 35 students in this Albert Einstein College of Medicine program, and sophomore **Christie Black** is one of them! Encouraged by SCA Assistant Principal Billie Ledderman, Christie sought admission to the highly competitive and prestigious Einstein Enrichment Program, designed for students in the pursuit of careers in the licensed professions of science, medicine, and health. Limited to Bronx high school students, applicants must be strongly motivated and excel academically, particularly in math and science.

“I began in September 2008,” said Christie. “Since then, presentations by physicians from various medical specialties have helped me get clearer insight into the field of medicine I want to pursue.” At this point, her interest is pharmacy. She is looking forward to her summer internship which will pair her with a doctor of her choice, and she will become a “shadow” for that doctor’s daily routine.

The program requires a three year commitment, attendance two afternoons per week during the school year, and four full days weekly, for six weeks, during the summer. It includes internships, college counseling, research projects, field trips, and academic instruction in such subjects as advanced biology, chemistry, and physics. Christie says of the program: “It prepares you for what you will be doing if you decide on a career in medicine. It also gives students like me a head start in pursuing a medical degree.”



Law Leadership Forum

Ask senior **Bianca Rufino** to name one of the greatest experiences of her life, and she will tell you it was her participation in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Law, designed for young adults who aspire to a career in law. This one week intensive workshop took place in Washington DC in November 2008.

“In just a few days, we experienced many aspects of law,” said Bianca. “I had the opportunity to perform mock trial Supreme Court cases, and met and worked with lawyers in small group settings. We worked with actual cases and presented them to judge and jury.”

Reflecting on all she had learned, Bianca credited SCA with adding to the richness of the experience by preparing her to associate and make friends easily. “It was by far an amazing experience, very educational and helpful and opened my eyes to the various fields of law. Most importantly, it showed me that anything can be done if you put your mind to it.”



Human Rights Conference

Senior **Renee Gaillard** represented St. Catharine Academy at Amnesty International’s Northeast Regional Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. Renee attended the conference, which also marked the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on the recommendation of Mrs. Annette Shanley, her US History teacher and moderator of SCA’s Amnesty International Club.

Amnesty International, a global movement with more than 2 million supporters, catalogues human rights abuses and asks its members to write letters to political prisoners throughout the world. “At the conference I learned the power a single letter has to free a political prisoner and help save a life,” said Renee. “I’ve taken what I learned back to SCA. On December 10th, Human Rights Day, the whole school wrote letters to President-Elect Obama and the Secretary of State, asking that action be taken to end the war in the Congo.” Reflected Renee, “Without Mrs. Shanley moderating this club, I never would have known about the work of this organization.”



ALUMNAE NEWS

THANK YOU RECEPTION

A 'Reception of Gratitude' was held on October 5, 2008 at SCA for alumnae, friends and parents who supported St. Catharine's Annual Fund in the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Faculty, staff and student ambassadors were on hand to welcome and say a very special 'Thank You' for our donors generosity. Supporters were given tours of the school, and then, had an opportunity to meet other supporters. ❖



Left to right: Andrea Adragna DiOrio '70, Karen Adragna D'Aleo '71 (Chair, Board of Trustees) and Kathleen McCarrick Weiden '75.



Kathleen Flynn McAvoy '61 and husband Thomas McAvoy.



Left to right: Michelle Orge '10 and her mom, Lucia.



Left to right: Marilyn Cooke '50 and Eileen Cooke McKeon '48.

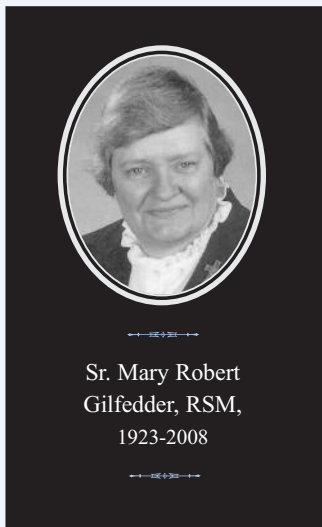
IN MEMORIAM

■ Sr. M. Robert Gilfedder, RSM, (Margaret) '40

January 5, 2009. Sr. Mary Robert served as teacher and principal of many schools including St. Catherine of Genoa and Good Shepherd, NYC.

■ Theresa Burke Cavanagh '43

December 16, 2008



Alumnae Author Meets Students

Maria Begley Ciampi '77, author of the recently published children's book, *Kris Kringle*, was joined by SCA students for a book reading at Barnes and Noble, Bay Plaza, Bronx NY, during the Christmas holidays. After greeting each other, each sharing something about themselves, and posing for photos, three students joined Maria in reading aloud the characters in the book to about twenty wide-eyed children who listened attentively. ❖



Left to right: Alexandra Otero '10, Maria Begley Ciampi '77, author, Victoria Caballero '11 and Lissa Alcuis '12.

Class Notes

1939 Evelyn P. Davies, of Riverdale, has retired after 46 years from New York Life Insurance Company, and presently volunteers in her church 2-3 days a week. Evelyn, who was the only Episcopalian at St. Catharine, has a lot of happy memories of the school and especially of Sr. Mary Christine, who had a great sense of humor.

1950 Margaret Elizabeth Lewis Osder residing in Pawtucket, Rhode Island would like to hear from her classmates. She can be reached at mosder@cox.net or 124 Walcott St., Pawtucket, RI 02860, 401-722-7296.

1955 Margaret McVicar Ruckel, who resides in Yonkers, NY received her paralegal certification from Mercy College this past August. She serves as a volunteer at St. Patrick's Cathedral and as a Eucharistic Minister to the homebound in her parish.

1958 Lucille Renzetti Bianco, who calls Ramsey, NJ home, graduated in January 2009 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Ramapo College. She credits her husband, and her schooling at St. Catharine, as driving forces that encouraged her to complete her education and realize her dreams.

Constance Ward Iervolino of New York City, NY, was promoted in February 2008 to Associate Professor in the Education Leadership Dept. at the College of New Rochelle. Connie and her husband, Ralph, have 3 children and 6 grandchildren, ages 4-15 that fill their lives with joy. She was especially pleased to reconnect with classmate Marion Tynan Wynne since the last reunion.

1959 Lucia DiJusto, of the Bronx, is semi-retired and working part-time in the office of the Superintendent of Schools of the New York Archdiocese. She is looking forward to her 50th class reunion next spring.

1960 Barbara Mentrasti Benjamin has been married to her husband, John, for 41 years, lives in New Rochelle, and has two children and 5 grandchildren. She retired from the NYC Board of Education after a long career in Special Education, teaching music and dance to children with autism. She frequently sees Jackie Tonti Padilla and Rozanne Maldarelli Galea, sharing great memories and laughs of their days at SCA, and remembering fondly all of their teachers.

Lorraine Giacopino LaShell, who resides in Wayne, NJ, has launched Silk Purse Women, a magazine for women 40+ in New Jersey, since retiring from a career in marketing and advertising. She and her husband, Bill, who have three children, enjoy their four grandchildren, ages 10 to 13.

1961 Barbara Cotter Heber and her husband, John, have retired to Rehoboth Beach, DE after celebrating their 45th anniversary. Barbara would love to hear from any Catharinities in the area.

Kathleen Flynn McAvoy, who lives in Philadelphia, PA, and was recently blessed with the birth of granddaughter, Anya, in November says that it was great seeing her classmate Mary Ann Maikish at the donor reception in October.



Granddaughter Samantha Nappi.

1962 Allana Maikish Nappi and her husband, Michael, of Somers, NY, continue to enjoy their retirement, watching their 2 year old granddaughter, Samantha, and were blessed with their second grandchild, Ryan Salvatore Nappi, in December.

1963 Patricia McQuade Koors, MD, is a pediatrician at Montefiore Hospital in Bronx, NY, who resides in Irvington, NY, and will have her first grandchild this spring.

1964 Virginia Otis, of Darien, CT, is still singing in concerts with the New York Choral Society at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, and sends her wishes to everyone for a wonderful, happy and healthy year.

1965 Toni Ann Mormile Boyle lives in Yonkers, NY, and wishes Roseann and Desi and the entire class of 1965 a peaceful New Year.

1966 Mary McGee Ricci, of Pennington, NJ, was promoted to Nurse Manager-Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation at the University Medical Center at Princeton, NJ. She has a son, Dr. Christopher Ricci, a daughter, Dr. Emily Ricci and two grandchildren, Elizabeth, age 7, and Andrew, age 5.

Anne Foody Wheatley, in Atlanta, GA since 1975, has two grown sons, is a nurse, and would love to hear from Judy Antonucci, Joann Connors and Pat Kowitsky.

1968 Karen Durante of Flushing, NY, has a new granddaughter, Sophia Anna Jaffe, born to daughter Elaina.

Cathy Rosse Petretti, residing in Roswell, GA, works in elementary education and loves it. Although she has not lived in the Bronx for the past 23 years, she still enjoys reading about the activities at SCA. Her daughter Patricia lives in Prairie Village, KS, with her husband, Frank, and granddaughter, Ava Sophia. Her other daughter, Mary Joy lives in St. Augustine, FL with her husband, Mike.

1970 Maria Boffoli Cusano lives in Stony Point, NY, with her husband, Paul, who recently retired as police chief from the Pelham Manor Police Department, and their four boys and one girl.

Mary Ann Ciriaco Genna of Macunzie, PA, was recently promoted to assistant director in the Office of Social Action, Diocese of Allentown, PA.

ALUMNAE NEWS

Camille Carelli Tizano of East Meadow, NY, is in her 20th year of teaching at Holy Family School, Long Island, NY. She has been married for 34 years and has a son and daughter, both of whom are married and living on Long Island. Camille treasures her high school years at St. Catharine and the wonderful friendships

Roselle Orlando Scaduto, after 25 years as a writer and editor in New York's publishing and fashion fields, now lives, and manages her own public relations/special events planning firm, in Hollywood, FL, and is the founder of South Florida's Women in Networking. She would love to hear from her classmates and can be reached at roselleorlando@yahoo.com.

1971 Joann Acierno Marrone and her husband, Don, a physician, have moved from the Bronx to Montauk, NY, where they have a beautiful home and the beach at their disposal year round! She works at a child care center and welcomes email: donjoann@optonline.net.

Jane E. Clifford, of Manhasset, NY received her MA in Theology from the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, Long Island last May.

Elaine Swierszcz Gaither of Clarksville, MD, is a grandmother of beautiful twin girls, and is enjoying a second career as a para educator in special education (ALS) Assistant. Her younger sister, Joan, lost her battle with lung cancer last January.

1972 Rosemaria Memoli

Schneiderman, residing in Bloomfield, CT, has celebrated her 31st wedding anniversary, and continues her life as a Renaissance woman, with much gratitude to the education she received at St. Catharine Academy.

1974 Cathie Frega Nardi, who lives in the Bronx, was diagnosed with breast cancer four years ago and continues to do well with the love and support of her husband Dominic. She asked that you keep her in your prayers and to "please, please get your mammogram"!

1975 Donna Dauria Pagano, a resident of Bronx, NY, is a surgical coordinator and office administrator for an orthopedic medical center in the Bronx, and is the grandmother of Joseph Connor, 2, and Sawyer James, 1. She would like to remember her sister-in-law, Alin Lukacs Dauria '74, who passed away in 2006, and let friends know that Alin's daughter, Noelle Dauria, was engaged last September.

Sharon Baker-Parks, and her husband Brainard, reside in Bronx, NY. She is a school social worker for NYC Dept. of Education and an active volunteer with Girl Scout Council of Greater New York. Her daughter, Kendra '07, is a sophomore at CUNY Lehman College in Bronx, NY.

1979 Connie Annunziata Calabrese is married with two children, living in the Bronx, and working as a teaching assistant at P.S. 83.

1987 Darlene Cioffi, husband, Patrick, an engineer, and two daughters, Arianna, 7, and Victoria, 5, reside in a new home in Warner Robins, GA, where she works for Citibank remotely from home.

Theresa Cortes Ellison, who lives in Bronx, NY is a proud mother of three children, 2 boys, ages 14 and 8, and a daughter, Kiana Rose Ellison, born in October, 2007.

Kim Rapp-Hanretta of Stanford, CA works along with her husband, Sean, at Stanford University and they are the proud parents of two year old Caoimbe Noreen.

1990 Andrea Hamacsek Lazlo, who loves her new home and community in Tuckahoe, NY, is employed by J.P. Morgan's Broker Dealer Services.

1994 Gina Vega Rivera, of The Bronx, who has a three year old daughter and is expecting a second child, works as a school counselor in the South Bronx.

1996 Arlene Cintron Santana has been married for 2-1/2 years, has an 1 year old son, and lives in The Bronx.

1998 Katherine Donovan Diaz resides with her husband, Rob, and son, Troy, born in 2006 in Larchmont, NY. She is expecting a second child in May and teaches fourth grade science at the Horace Mann Lower School.

Andrea A. Torchetti of Bethpage, NY., has a new position as the school librarian of Baldwin Senior High School in Baldwin, NY.



2000 Claire Surrey, who lives in Bourne, MA and is an officer with NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration) in Woods Hole, MA., and is planning a March, 2009 wedding in Orlando, FL to Chaz Marsden.

2002 Jennifer Gallardo lives in New York City and is currently a producer at Showtime.

2003 Mary Geralyn Schollhamer recently moved to Washington, DC where she has accepted a position with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

2006 Melissa Rosso, SCA Varsity Volleyball Coach and a business major at Manhattan College, was named Bronx Coach of the Year by FiveBoroSports.com.



Melissa Rosso '06 (right) with Sr. Ann W. Welch, Principal, and Alana Marcello '06, Assistant Volleyball Coach.

2007 Michelle Marcello who lives in Bronx, NY is attending Manhattan College in Riverdale and is on the Dean's Honor List.

Young Alumnae Updates

SCA's Newest Alumnae — Class of 2008

Where Are They Now?

Jessica Boscana - Borough of Manhattan Community College

Bianca Daniel - The College of Westchester

Traci Dellicarpini - Westchester Community College

Indira Djelovic - College of Mt. Saint Vincent

Sabina Dzaferovic - Manhattan College

Marlene Frias - Fordham University

Marissa Karabel - Larsten Institute

Melissa Labossiere - SUNY Albany

Bianca Lanzo - Fordham University

Katherine Lestrade - University of Rochester

Rasheena Liberte - Binghamton University

Britni Lindsay - SUNY Oswego

Amanda Lora - Berkeley College

Amanda Maldonado - Westchester Community College

Michelle Miles - Long Island University

Jessica Nunez - Syracuse University

Sarai Osborne - John Jay College

Amanda Pappas - Concordia College

Paulina Pekic - College of Mt. Saint Vincent

Tiffany Pizzaro - John Jay College

Charlyn Quinones - Mercy College



2008 graduates (l to r): Amanda Lora, Nadia Seeteram, Myra Trang, Vojlava Vucinaj, Annette Stabile, Sophia Williams and Melissa Labossiere.

Yasmin Reyes - Manhattanville College

Elizabeth Rivera - Mercy College

Amanda Rodriguez - College of Mt. Saint Vincent

Monica Rosa - Lehman College

Asia Scott - Long Island University

Nadia Seeteram - Fordham University

Christina Sfikas - Westchester Community College

Shannon Sheridan - John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Desiree Soto - Hunter College

Annette Stabile - Fordham University

Maria Tartarone - College of Mt. Saint Vincent

Myra Trang - The University at Albany

Sophia Williams - Baruch College

Jasmine Wynn - SUNY Canton

Save the Date!

Don't Forget to Mark Your Calendar for the Upcoming Reunion – Sunday, April 26

Attention Classes With Year Ending in 4 or 9 (1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999 and 2004)

Information will be sent within the next month.

If you are interested in attending or being part of a planning committee, please contact Cathy Bostley, at 718-882-2882 or cbostley@scachs.org.

www.scachs.org



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