

2010-2011 SCA Executive Board

Biographies and Contact Information

Karen Blando, SCA Executive President - Karen and her family moved to Manhasset in 1996. She and her husband, Joe, have two children at Manhasset High School: Catherine, who enters her Junior year this Fall, and Joe in the class of 2014. Karen spent her formative years in Kansas City and received her Bachelor's Degree in Finance from Kansas State University. After working as a commercial lender and later in asset management, Karen and her husband Joe moved to New York City in 1991. Karen began her Wall Street career at Cowen and Company and after an extended stint at Bank of America, is currently employed as a Director with Macquarie Capital USA. Karen has been an active community member with the Manhasset Association of Girl Scouts and as manager of the Manhasset Middle School Hockey Team. Her involvement in the Manhasset School system began at Shelter Rock as a Class Parent for each of her children, Halloween Party Volunteer, 6th Grade Activities Chair and finally as a Splish Splash Chair. At the Secondary level, Karen served as Grade Level Chair in the Middle School and most recently as Ways and Means Treasurer. Karen is thrilled to begin her second year SCA Executive President. Her contact information is 365.1827 or karenblando@mac.com.

Diane Gershkowitz, SCA Executive Vice President - Diane has resided in Manhasset since 1997 with her husband, Ross, and their two sons, Christopher and Daniel. Christopher is a Manhasset HS graduate, class of 2006, and Daniel enters Manhasset High this year. Diane is a Fordham grad and worked in the Fashion industry for over 14 years. She currently works part-time while remaining active in the Manhasset Community. Diane has volunteered for the SCA in many capacities. Diane has been room rep, grade level rep, chaired the SCA Fair journal, served on the Shared Decision Committee, chaired the SR Staff Appreciation Luncheon, was the Executive Membership Committee Chair, the Nominating Committee Chair, and served on the SCA BY-Laws Committee for 2 years. In addition Diane served on the Shorehaven Community Board, has chaired LNO for the Manhasset Women's Coalition against Breast Cancer and has remained active with this organization for many years. She is celebrating her 10th year as a volunteer CCD Catechist at St. Mary's Church. Diane can be reached at 627-0653 or dtdierks@optonline.net.

Jeanine Toes, High School SCA President - Jeanine grew up in Dix Hills, Long Island, and attended Half Hollow Hills High School East. She graduated from College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts, with a B.A. in Economics in 1986. She worked at Prudential Securities for 13 years as a Senior VP and Institutional Sales Trader, specializing in Nasdaq stocks for the Equity Markets division, and later as part of the management team. Jeanine and her husband, Jim, moved to Manhasset in 1992 and have four children: Alexandra (Freshman in college), Juliana (10th), at Manhasset High School, Connor (8th), Middle School, and Emma (2nd) who is at Munsey Park. She has been actively involved with Munsey Park as a Class Rep for all four of her children, Grade Level Chair, Transition Team Co-Chair, and on the Shared Decision Making Team. At the Secondary level, Jeanine has been Co-Chair of the Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Co-Chair of Photo Day for the Middle School and High School. Jeanine has also been a member of the SCA Nominating Committee. She has been active in the Manhasset Soccer Club as a coach and Coordinator, and enjoyed many years as a religious education teacher for St. Mary's. She is excited about her second year as SCA High School President. Her contact info is 627-8721 or jptoos@optonline.net.

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Laura Tranchina, Middle School SCA President - Laura grew up in Yonkers, New York and attended Our Lady of Victory Academy High School in Dobbs Ferry. She went on to Manhattan College and graduated with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and received an M.B.A. in Finance from there as well. She worked as an engineer and also as a financial analyst in the electrical industry for 12 years. Laura and her husband, Steve, moved to Manhasset in 1994. They have a son, Stephen (14) and a daughter, Gabriella (12). Stephen will be entering Manhasset High School in the fall and Gabriella will be starting in the Middle School. Laura has been an active member of the Manhasset Committee, serving as Treasurer for the Womens Club of Flower Hill, volunteering as a CCD catechist at St. Mary's Church and collecting gifts and donations for the Secret Santa Program for needy children of the Manhasset Great Neck EOC. She has been actively involved in Munsey Park as a member of the Shared Decision Making Team, Room Rep for both children, Bus Parent, volunteer of various committees including, Book Fair, Library Week, Character Matters and Halloween Party as well as serving as Co-Chair of the following committees: Photo Day, Enrichment and 6th Grade Yearbook. At the Secondary Level, Laura has been Co-Chair of Photo Day and Hospitality. She is excited about her newest position as SCA Middle School President. Her contact info is 627-3265 or tranchinas@msn.com.

Tricia Cash, Munsey Park SCA President - Patricia and her husband, Stephen moved to Manhasset in 2000. Their son Liam attends Munsey Park School currently in 2nd grade. Patricia graduated from Stony Brook University with a BS in Education. She also has a Masters Degree in Elementary Education as well as a Masters Degree in School District Administration. Patricia has a Common Branches certification as well as a license as a School District Administrator. Prior to the birth of her son Patricia worked in the New York City Board of Education for 12 years. She taught 3rd, 4th and 5th grade in general education, inclusion, gifted programs and self-contained special education. Patricia was also the technology teacher for Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd grade. Before taking a family leave of absence Patricia was the Technology Staff Developer for the district, where she trained teachers and administrators to utilize technology in the classroom. After her son, Liam entered Munsey Park, Patricia began volunteering at the school and has served as room representative for three years, as a chair for the lunch committee and volunteered to help on Red Ribbon Week Committee, photo day, International Day, Book Fair, Guess Who's Coming to Read, Ice Cream Social and Spirit Wear. In addition to volunteering at Munsey Park School, Patricia is a Tower Foundation Board member and teaches Faith Formation at St. Mary's Church. Patricia is looking forward to an exciting year in her new position as SCA Munsey Park School President. Her contact information is 365-3189 or tricia1204@yahoo.com.

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Mary Jane Reilly, Shelter Rock SCA President - Mary Jane and her husband, Bob, moved to Manhasset in 2000. They have three children at Shelter Rock: Jack and Ben, who are in fourth grade, and Michael in second grade. Mary Jane graduated from the University of Scranton with a BS in Accounting and an MS in Counselor Education. She also has a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Fordham University. Prior to the birth of the twins, Mary Jane was the Dean of Students at Fordham University. Mary Jane has been an active member of the Manhasset community, serving for two years as the co-president of the Mothers Group of Manhasset, and as a SCA Grade Level Chair and Bulletin Board Chair at Shelter Rock School. She is currently on the board of the Manhasset Student Aid Association and teaches religion at St. Mary's Church. Mary Jane is a career counselor with Brady and Associates CareerPlanners, LLC, with an emphasis on helping clients understand their natural abilities through the use of the Highlands Ability Battery. Contact information: 627-5432, mjreilly515@verizon.net.

Peggy Gajdjis, SCA Executive Board Treasurer - Peggy and her husband Nick moved to Manhasset in 1998. They have three daughters in Munsey Park. Stephanie (6th grade), Sophia (4th grade), and Kathryn (1st grade). Peggy graduated from New York University with a BA in Accounting and International Business. She started her career at Ernst and Young where she acquired her CPA license and her husband Nick! She then joined JP Morgan working in their financial emerging markets group. After obtaining her MBA in Finance and Economics from New York University, Peggy transferred to JP Morgan Investment Management working as an account manager for corporations, pension funds, and non-profit organizations. Peggy has enjoyed volunteering every year at Munsey Park in various activities such as parent room rep, book fair, photo day, Red Ribbon week, and the Halloween party. She is excited about her new position and is looking forward to dusting off a few cobwebs. She can be reached peggypkg@gmail.com.

Kathleen Kosciusko, SCA Executive Board Secretary - Kathleen and her family moved to Manhasset in 2005. Her and her husband, Michael, have 3 girls. Ella (4th grade) and Eva (1st grade) attend Munsey Park, and Anna is just 2 years old. Prior to moving to Manhasset, Kathleen was part of the executive team at Accenture (formerly Andersen Consulting). While at Accenture, Kathleen was a consultant, implementing software systems for large companies. She also focused on an HR role responsible for defining and implementing the partner pay structure. Since her oldest daughter started elementary school, Kathleen served as the Membership Co-Chairperson for the SCA. She was also class mom for two years and volunteered for programs including but not limited to: book fair, Guess Who's Coming to Read, and Character Matters. Kathleen can be reached at 627-3505 or at kosciuskokm@hotmail.com.