

## Alumni Board Members

**Mary Rose DeMarco** (*President*)  
maryrose.demarco@gmail.com

**Barbara Holmes** (*Chair, Welsh Fund*)  
blh3312198@hotmail.com

**Christine Lutringer** (*Communications*)  
clutringer@nycap.rr.com

**Carl M. Cacciotti**  
(*Communications and Historical*)  
c-cacciotti@hvcc.edu

**Chelsea Zellar** (*Mosley Fund*)  
chelseazellar@yahoo.com

**Martine Grignon**  
(*Belknapp Scholarship Fund*)  
Martine\_grignon@yahoo.com

**Karen Henchey**  
(*Courtesy & District liaison*)  
khenchey@aol.com

**Donna Breault** (*Historical*)  
Donna.breault@sphp.com  
(*Secretary & Seber Co Chair*)

**Anne L. Coonrad** (*Treasurer (Finance)*)  
avonfrickencoonrad@gmail.com

**Claudia Graham** (*Seber Fund*)  
(*Vice President*)  
Claudia.graham@sphp.com

**Patti Cannistraci** (*Dean – Samaritan  
Hospital School of Nursing*)  
patricia.cannistraci@sphp.com

**Susan Quinn**  
Susan.quinn@sphp.com

**Gail Moore** (*Nominating*)  
518-727-0321  
gail.moore@sphp.com

**Trish Kelly** (*Secretary*)  
katomeemail@msn.com



## From the President's Desk

Are you looking for a way to give back to our Alumni Association? I would encourage you to become a Board Member or serve on one of our committees. It is a wonderful way to stay in touch with classmates and meet other graduates that have come before or after you. We currently have very knowledgeable Board members. Each one is very willing to help new members. We are always looking for members that can bring new ideas to the table. You can provide the Alumni Association with your own special skill set. It doesn't take a lot of time, just commitment to give of yourself. The continuation and advancement of your Alumni depends on you giving a little of yourself back. If you have any questions about becoming a Board member or serving on a committee, please reach out to me or any other Board member. We would be happy to answer any questions that you have.

I will be stepping down as President in May 2021 (but, I won't be far away). I have truly enjoyed the last 7 years serving on the Board. I have had the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet current students and new graduates. Working with our current Board members, I have witnessed their dedication to keeping our Alumni Association active and providing support to our school and our Alumni.

Our Alumni Association continues to carry out their duties reviewing awards for Sheldon, Welsh, Seber and Belknapp. Also, the Courtesy, Communication and Mosley committees remain very busy.

I can see "the light" at the end of this long tunnel we have been in. Hopefully, we can gather together soon.

*Mary Rose DeMarco '77, President*

## Communications

Please help us in keeping our alumni address list as current and up to date as possible whenever you have changes to yourself or classmates. I also just wanted to remind everyone that the newsletter and information concerning the Alumni Association can be found on the alumni website at St. Peter's Health Partners. ([www.SPHP.com](http://www.SPHP.com)). A brief roadmap directly to our link: once you are on SPHP.com click careers, then schools of nursing (left side of page), then Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing, then Alumni Association. This should take you directly to our webpage. Please be cautious during these challenging times and feel free to contact us if you have any questions pertaining to the Samaritan School of Nursing.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carl M. Cacciotti, Chairperson*

[www.sphp.com/samaritan-hospital-school-of-nursing-alumni-association](http://www.sphp.com/samaritan-hospital-school-of-nursing-alumni-association)

Samaritan Hospital  
School of Nursing  
1300 Massachusetts Avenue  
Troy, NY 12180  
518.268.5010



## From the Directors Desk

Dear Alumni,

It is hard to believe that almost one year later, we are still talking about the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. The pandemic has changed the way we run the school of nursing, but it is safe to say, we are adapting to the new norm, while still trying to determine what the new norm is!

Samaritan Hospital, along with St. Peter's Hospital have weathered the second COVID surge. The second surge was far more dramatic and significant than the first surge. The inpatient COVID + numbers rose extremely high. Staff members testing + for COVID created holes in staffing. We have been fortunate to have our LPN, Nursing II and Nursing V students in clinical, despite the surge. The students are working on non-COVID floors, always in full PPE (gowns, N95s, goggles, gloves, etc). The students and faculty have been able to fill gaps in staffing while simultaneously meeting their clinical learning outcomes. The student experience has been extremely rich and rewarding. To be part of the nursing workforce at the bedside providing care during a pandemic is truly a once in a lifetime experience. I could not be more proud of the amazing faculty and eager students who have jumped right in.

In October, the School of Nursing participated in a 4-day virtual site visit with a team from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). I am delighted to share that the visit went extremely well. The recommendation was for continuing accreditation for the maximum length of time, 8 years. Next month, the ACEN Board of Commissioners meets to make the final determination on the site visitor recommendation.

Our December pinning ceremony was small, but meaningful. The graduation was in person, but limited to just the graduates. Family and friends attended virtually through a livestream of the ceremony. The alumni grew by 31 new associate degree graduates in December. Our NCLEX pass rates remain impressively high. New York State and national averages for both programs have dropped precipitously since COVID. These are the most recent pass rates for each program:

	Practical Nurse		Registered Nurse	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
<b>Samaritan</b>	100% (12/12)	100% (9/9)	100% ( 52/52)	89.9% (44/49)
<b>NYS Average</b>	71.27%	80.59%	72.91%	86.42%
<b>National Average</b>	79.50%	86.26%	72.23%	85.16%



*Nursing 1 students practicing vital signs.*

The Student Government Association is meeting later this month. They are planning ways they can contribute to the community and comply with COVID-19 regulations. During the fall, the Flu Buggy was in big demand! The Food Pantry is still robust and a great example of students living the mission and values of St. Peter's Health Partners.

Hope all of you are well. Stay safe!

**Patricia Cannistraci, Dean**

# Bits and Pieces

## Spring 2021

**Gladys Peters Hart '51** shares that after a long battle with cancer, her husband, Joe died October 7th, 2020. Joe was an orderly at Samaritan and an RPI graduate (Class of 1952.) They were married for 68 years.

**Maureen Link McDonough '52** shares that she and her husband enjoy living in senior housing. Their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren live nearby.

**Virginia Doring Heislein '53** shares that her family continues to be a family of nurses. Her daughter, daughter-in-law, granddaughter and grandson are nurses. Another daughter-in-law teaches P.T. and another granddaughter is in a P.A. program at Boston University.

**Patricia Brady Gorham '58** shares that she is retired.

**Georgene Watson Beaver '65** shares that she has been unhappily staying at home since March 2020. She returned from a medical mission in the Philippines for cleft lip and palates. This was her 2nd mission and it was a very rewarding experience.

**Helen Thayer Millard '66** shares that she is officially retired! After Covid she hopes to spend more time with her 19 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. She is still singing and active in her church.

**Margery Taylor Harrand '66** shares that her health has not been good. She had a pacemaker inserted in June and has multiple other issues.

**Anne Fairman Coleman '68** shares that she retired 2 years ago. She is living with her daughter, Tiffany. She would love a phone call, 404-298-1988. "Everyone be safe and happy."

**Jane Roberts Whitney '68** shares that she is still enjoying retirement, traveling and family.

**Robin Shellard Campbell '68** shares that she is loving retirement. She plays a lot of pickleball. She and her husband Paul celebrated 52 years of marriage in August 2020. Their granddaughter, Alayne has blessed them with 2 great granddaughters. Their granddaughter Kaleigh, is a freshman at Roanoke College in VA.

**Marjorie Stone Barrows '69** shares that she retired last year from Family Nurse Practitioner. She enjoys traveling to N.C. and Florida to see her grandchildren. She usually spends the

month of February in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico enjoying the warmth, sun and culture.

**Elaine Sylofski Schuster '69** shares that she is happily retired for 10 years. Her nursing career spanned 42 years in pre-operative day surgery. She and her husband, Gary of 48 years reside in Dacula, GA. Last year she retired her black lab, Abegayle from Happy Trails Pet Therapy. They made over 250 visits to nursing homes and to children with special needs over a 10 year span.

**Christine Carmody Martin '69** shares that she retired in June 2019.

**Gerry Brown Moss '71** shares that they are healthy and safe. Staying quarantined.

**Gale Harris McCarthy '71** says "Thank you" to all the nurses on the front lines of the Covid pandemic. "So proud of all my fellow nurses."

**Valerie Falzo '71** shares that her new book, "Extraordinary Souls I have Known" has been released by Covenant Books. Paperback is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. A digital version is available on Amazon and Apple iTunes.

**Bonnie Hart Erickson '74** shares that nothing is new. Staying safe, wearing masks and washing hands. "Hope everyone else does the same!"

**Sandra Meehan Farnam '74** shares that she is retired.

**Roberta Nelson Tebordo '75** shares that she is enjoying retired life.

**Dawn Coulter Scott '75** shares that she will be retiring in 2021.

**Elizabeth DeVito Baldwin '75** shares that she is happily retired, enjoying spending time with her 2 grandsons.

**JoAnn Rinaldi Horton '75** shares that she is living in Tennessee and working part time in surgery. She can't believe it has been 45 years since graduating from Samaritan! She enjoys visits from her grandchildren and staying connected with everyone on Facebook.

**Diana Bayer Mertrude '75** shares that she continues to work in ICU. The pace is very hectic and the morale is low.

**Deborah Madsen Saffan '75** shares that she retired from hospice nursing in 2019. She is working part time in private duty and enjoying life around the pandemic.

**Paula Sawyer '75** shares that she retired from Albany VAMC in March 2020 after 36+ years. She is grateful for her career. She has her health and is ready to enjoy retirement.

**Pamela Bowen Viani '76** as a Life Time member, Pam has donated to the Courtesy Committee in lieu of dues. Thank you!

**Barbara Smith McHale '77** shares that her retirement for the last 4 years has been a blessing! Her Mom now lives in Wisconsin with her sister. She travels there every 4-5 weeks to help care for her on hospice. She now has 5 grand kids! Her son has moved to Utah to work as a systems engineer with Northrup Grumman.

**Geraldine Jones Nabozny '78** shares that she is working for SPHP at Samaritan Hospital doing palliative care consults. She now has 5 grandchildren.

**Susan E. Rebhun Quinn '80** shares that she retired in August 2019 from Samaritan after 39 years of service.

**Michele Meehan Peetz '82** shares that she is a Nurse Practitioner Nursing Manager. She is finishing her last semester in MSN nursing education from Western Governors University.

**Tamara Auclair Yankowski '92** shares that she retired from SHP and now works as a substitute nurse at Mechanicville Jr./Sr. High School. She is awaiting the birth of a new granddaughter.

**John Welch '93** shares that he works in marketing and sales strategy. They received an award for their mobile and cloud solutions for innovative safety software.

**Irene Bossard '93** shares that she recently celebrated working 10 years in clinical research.

**Cynthia Harrington '94** shares that she is currently working for St. Peter's Health Partners as a provider Relations Specialist for the Eddy Community Service Division.

**Theresa McGraw Larson '96** shares that she is permanently retired from nursing. She is enjoying life at the beach!

**Ewa Parker 2014** shares that she has celebrated 5 years as an inpatient medical oncology nurse at Lexington Medical Center in West Columbia, SC.

**Chelsea Zellar 2017** shares that she is working as an LPN at Van Rensselaer Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation while enrolled in the R.N. program at Samaritan.

**Clara Azerewie 2019** shares that she is enjoying the nursing profession.



## Belknap Fund

The Belknap committee had awarded the 2020 Leora E. Belknap Scholarship to Maha Ghorayeb, class of 2016. Maha works for St. Peter's Partners in the intensive care unit. She is currently enrolled in master's in nursing program at SUNY Polytechnic Institute. We thank you Maha, for your support as an active Alumni member. We wish you success in your studies.

We encourage all Samaritan Alumni to apply for Belknap Scholarship while pursuing their Baccalaureate or Masters degree. Application can be found on the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing website. This is annually disbursed in December of each year. Annual Alumni dues must be paid by January 31st to be considered for the scholarship.

## An update on the annual Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Banquet

Although the amount of COVID-19 cases in our community continues to decline and vaccination rates are increasing, the risk to our community is still present. Taking these factors into consideration, and out of an abundance of caution, the Northeast Health Foundation along with representation from Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing have opted to avoid asking our alumni to travel to this year's banquet (tentatively scheduled for June 4, 2021 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy).

The health and safety of our community, including our valued alumni, is our top priority. We promise the Northeast Health Foundation will continue to host this annual event once it is completely safe to do so. Please contact us at 518-482-4433 should you have any questions.

## Seber Fund

### *Spring 2020*

5 awards of \$225.00 each given

### *Fall 2020*

3 awards of \$300.00 each given

## Condolences to:

- Doris Sargood Yetto Class 1987 on the loss of her mother, Doris K. Sargood
- Deborah O'Brien Class 1977 on the loss of her sister, Colleen M. Kovacs
- The family of Kimberly Killeen Class 1992
- Susan Gaudette Russell Class 1977 on the loss of her mother, Barbara Gaudette.
- Gladys Peters Hart '51 on the loss of her husband, Joe.

## Fond Memories

Please send us your “fond memory.”

Share a fond memory... tell us your story. Please send us a unique or funny story from your time at Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing, or an example of the changes/differences that time brings. What are the nurses of 2021 doing much differently from the time you were in nursing school?

Please share your stories and pictures and we will feature them in upcoming newsletters.



## Then and Now...

Please send us your then and now pictures from your time at nursing school with what you are up to now!

## Mosley Fund

# Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Spring Dinner Meeting

The Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association will be holding their Annual Dinner Event on May 11th, 2021 beginning at 5pm at Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante. Our own Samaritan Alumni, Anne Coonrad will be the speaker for the evening. Her topic is “What Does the Board of Nursing in New York State do?” From A Board Member's Perspective...” Please keep in mind, due to the COVID virus restrictions of the restaurant, the first 50 people will be able to attend. Thank you.”

**When:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021

**Where:** Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante

104 West Sand Lake Road (Rt 150), Wynantskill, NY

**Time:** 5:00 PM

**Guest Speaker:** Anne Coonrad, JD, MS, RN

(Volunteer Vice Chair for the New York State Board of Nursing and Associate Attorney for Albany County)

**Topic:** “What Does the Board of Nursing in New York State do?”  
From A Board Member's Perspective...

**Program:** 5:00 PM Gathering (Cash Bar)

6:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Alumni/Foundation Meeting

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## Dinner Meeting Reservation

Please return reservation with \$20.00 (member) or \$25.00 (non-member) with the fee payable to Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc by Thursday, May 6, 2021.

If you are a student and have an interest in attending, there is a fee of \$10 per person.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Dinner Choices:

\_\_\_\_ Breaded Breast of Chicken Topped with Sauce and Mozzarella Cheese

\_\_\_\_ Fillet of Haddock Topped with Seasoned Bread Crumbs and Finished in a Lemon Butter Sauce

\_\_\_\_ Eggplant Rolled with Ricotta and Spinach, Baked in Mariana Sauce, Romano and Mozzarella Cheese

### Mail to:

Anne Coonrad, 1400 Sausse Ave, Troy, NY 12180.

All reservations must be honored. If a cancellation is required, please contact Chelsea Zellar at (518) 380-7359. If anyone has a topic they would like to see presented at an Alumni meeting, please contact Chelsea Zellar or other Board Member



Photo by John Landon Webb



## Alumni Feature

One of our alumni, Pauline Denman-Webb, was featured recently in a pre-election issue of *VFW Magazine*. She was quoted in an article about voting and why people vote.

Pauline is pictured at a signing for her book, *Letters from Tinian, 1945*.

### Questions from VFW Magazine: Why do you vote?

I want the right person to be in charge.

### How do you think your military service influenced your desire to vote?

It didn't influence it because it was so long ago that I first voted. I always vote because that's what we should do. I remember when I turned 21, I was so happy to go and vote. I lived in New York state at the time. (The first presidential election she was eligible to vote in was 1944.)

### Why do you think it's important for all Americans to cast their votes?

So they can have their voice heard and what they want for the country.

### When did you first vote?

1942.

### Did you ever cast an absentee ballot?

I don't recall that I ever did.

### **Pauline wrote November 28, 2020:**

*"I am currently enjoying retirement in my home in Gastonia, NC. I live alone with my cat "Dallas" about 3 miles from my son, John. My daughter, Debra Rogers, lives in Jacksonville, FL with a home in Spruce Pine, NC, also. I will be 100 on my birthday on December 26, 2020. I am hale and hearty, happy and loving life. Merry christmas."*

– Pauline Denman-Webb, Class of '43