



# Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Newsletter

A Publication for Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse Graduates • Spring 2013

## From the President's Desk:

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Just want to take a moment to give you a status update for our first scholarship fund-raising campaign. We are just over half way to meeting our goal of \$10,000 and are continuing our efforts to reach this amount. We hope you will join us as we raise funds to help support deserving Alumni in need. Thank you again for your continued commitment.

You should have received a "Save the Date" post card for our first Annual Alumni Banquet to be held on June 7th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy. This event is sponsored by the Samaritan School of Nursing and St. Peter's Health Partners and promises to be a wonderful evening. The guest speaker will be Barb Bancroft, RN, MSN, PNP a fellow nurse who has provided more than 2200 continuing education seminars on topics

pertaining to pathophysiology, physical assessment, nutrition, and pharmacology to health care professionals throughout the United States and Canada. Barb presents a lively and humorous look at the wonderful world of the nursing. She shares her 30+ years of experience by weaving tales from yesteryear with current nursing and medical progress. Barb's best bets for maintaining an exciting and fulfilling nursing career will have you laughing your way to another healthy and prosperous year in the nursing profession.

Please join us and encourage your fellow class mates to attend the special night of remembrance. More to come in the mail. Hope to see you there.

Joy Aloan, RN  
President

## Communications

Thank you to all that have sent in dues. Membership continues to increase. The newsletter and information regarding the Alumni Association can be found on the alumni website at [stpetershealthpartners.com](http://stpetershealthpartners.com). Click on Northeast Health then hold the cursor over schools. A dropdown box will show and click on alumni associations. This will list both Memorial and Samaritan Alumni Associations. Click on Samaritan and you will find our information there.

The Alumni Association also has a facebook page. Check us out.

Please continue to notify us of address changes for yourself and fellow classmates. Class lists are available if needed for arranging class reunions.

Don't forget the Alumni reunion – Friday June 7th. See notice in the newsletter.

**\*\*For all who are interested in seeing how things have changed and remained the same, the school of nursing will be holding an open house for tours of the facility on Saturday June 8th from 10am to noon.**

Respectfully submitted  
Christine Lutringer '72  
Chairperson

## Finance Committee Report

From Dennis Wentraub, Second Vice President – Wealth Management, Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC: Our Samaritan Hospital school of Nursing Alumni Portfolio accounts are intended to (1) produce an attractive market cash yield for distribution as requests are received and (2) to maintain principal balance in all markets. At present stock market averages are attaining new highs and interest rates continue to fluctuate within a band at multi-year lows. The 10 year "no risk" U.S. Treasury yields 1.9% up from 1.5% last August but below 2% in December. Our accounts are producing income at essentially the same levels as reported in late December. The current value of the account assets versus our last meeting (Dec 10th) compare favorably. As of today Seber is up 3.3%, Welch 4.2%, Charitable 4.9%, Belknap 6.7%. Belknap has more exposure to stocks with its mutual funds. Mosley is down .93% (less than 1%). A closer review will be reported mid month to see if any changes are suggested.

Respectfully submitted,  
Florence Strang '51  
Chair

## From the Director's Desk

The challenge of change is part of my everyday work now!

I know that you received a letter from Joy Aloan and Norman Dascher about the plans to build a state of the art hospital facility at Samaritan to better serve the people of Troy. The plan calls for moving the School to the St. Mary's campus. To that end, a small committee from the School has met once with Freeman White, the architecture firm which has been engaged by St. Peter's Health Partners for this project. In the initial meeting with the architects, we reviewed the details of the way we use our current space in Thurman Hall and did a little brainstorming about the possibilities of an "ideal" space. In this change, I am determined to see that the School's character remains intact and that we honor the history and traditions that we all value. While a firm timetable has not been established, I will do my best to keep you up to date as plans evolve.

Another change is personal and very exciting: I am currently enrolled in the DNS program at the Sage Graduate School here in Troy. My focus is, of course, nursing education. While I joke that at my age I ought to be learning how to play golf, instead I find myself on a college campus, reading books and journal articles, writing papers, doing projects and giving presentations – in short, a student again! Maslow would be proud of me because I am in the self-actualization mode, and I find it enriching and rewarding. I now encourage all my nursing colleagues and all our current students to continue their education. Lifelong learning should be part of every nurse's character, and it turns out that it is never too late!

Finally, a very pleasant change came my way last November when I was recognized at the Alumni Association's dinner meeting. I was awarded a School pin and an honorary membership in the Alumni Association. I was truly surprised, flattered and grateful. I am honored to lead this school and to be affiliated with all its distinguished graduates!

I look forward to seeing you at the Banquet in June!

Susan Birkhead

## Committee Reports (Scholarships & Assistance)

**Editor's Note:** The introductory paragraphs only in each committee report are repeated in each issue of the newsletter to provide scholarship and other important information to new graduates.

### Sheldon Committee

The Doris Sheldon Fund was established in 1986 by a gift from Doris Sheldon Collins and her husband Robert to the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing (SON) Alumni Association Charitable Foundation. The fund was established to provide financial assistance based on need to graduates of and others associated with the Samaritan Hospital SON in their retired or mature years. The intent is to help those with limited resources enjoy a fuller life, particularly when they are no longer gainfully employed.

Awards from the fund are distributed biannually in June and December. Last December one recipient was awarded, and remaining funds were reinvested. Applications for the Sheldon Fund may be found online via the St. Peter's Healthcare Partners website, under Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association. We encourage anyone eligible to apply.

Christina M. Yerdon, RN, MSN, ACNP-BC  
Chairperson, Class of 1997

### Seber Committee

The William F. and Josephine H. Seber Scholarship Fund was created in 1973 through funds left to the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni in the last will and testament of Sarah Etola Peck. The will stated this fund is to be used to provide scholarships for the study of nursing to young women who desire to become registered nurses or to registered nurses who desire graduate study in nursing. These funds are only eligible to male applicants seeking graduate study in nursing. In addition, the applicants must be in good academic standing and supply proof with their application. Furthermore, registered nurses seeking funds for graduate assistance must be in good standing (dues paid or waived according to association rules) with the Alumni Association.

This spring semester 12 awards were presented. Eleven of the awards were given to current Samaritan registered nursing students, and one was awarded to a registered nurse pursuing graduate studies. Applications for the Seber Fund may be found online via the St. Peter's Healthcare Partners website, under Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association. We encourage anyone eligible to apply.

Christina M. Yerdon, RN, MSN, ACNP-BC  
Chairperson, Class of 1997

### Welsh Committee

The Blanche C. Welsh Fund was created in 1968 through funds left to the Alumni Association in the last will and testament of Blanche C. Welsh. The Alumni Association established this fund to aid sick and/or disabled nurses with their medical expenses. Applicants are awarded a maximum of \$200 annually and yearly applicants are awarded \$100 annually. Applicants must be in good standing (dues paid or waived according to association rules) with the Alumni Association.

This year to date the committee awarded six annual applicants and one episodic applicant funds. The committee strongly encourages anyone eligible to apply. Applications for the Welsh Fund may be found online via the St. Peter's Healthcare Partners website, under Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association.

Christina M. Yerdon, RN, MSN, ACNP-BC  
Chairperson, Class of 1997

### Courtesy Committee

The Courtesy Committee maintains a separate financial account within the Alumni. Monies to finance this account are derived from the annual dues. Therefore, the amount available to the committee depends on the Sustaining (dues paying) Membership or donations made by alumni or other interested persons.

In 2012, 29 condolence donations were made to the Leora Belknap Scholarship Fund in memory of deceased alumni or members of their immediate family. To date 6 donations have been made in 2013.

The Infirm List currently is comprised of 14 alumni. Cards are sent to these members at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Poinsettia plants are sent at Christmas dependent on available funds. This year plants were sent.

If anyone has knowledge of an alumni who should be placed on the Infirm List or a graduate who is recently deceased and should have a donation made to the Belknap Fund, please notify Karen Henchey at (518) 283-4967 or khenchey@aol.com or committee members Kathy Davis 273-4503, Ellen Dunn 283-0431 and Diane Dare 783-8790.

Karen Henchey  
Chairperson

### Mosley Committee

The Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association's Annual dinner Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 14, 2013 at Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante located at 104 West Sand Lake Rd on Route 150 in Wynantskill, NY (283-0202). Cash Bar begins at 5:30 pm with dinner service at 6 pm. Our guest speaker will be Scott Heller, Director of Emergency Management at Albany Medical Center. He will speak on Regional healthcare emergency planning with hospitals, local health departments, long term care facilities, emergency management offices and other planning partners in a 13 county region around Albany. We hope to see you there.

### Belknap Committee

No applications were received for 2013. We need to use the earnings for the entire year of 2013 therefore we will review all applicants in November and the award will be issued in 12/13. Any BSN applicant working on a Masters in Nursing program may apply. Applications are available on our web site that is under stpetershealthpartners.com. When at the site, click on Northeast Health and then schools. The alumni association is under Samaritan School of nursing. Scholarships are listed there.

Joan Sibley Gemmill '68  
Chairperson

### History Committee

We are making good progress in creating a spreadsheet to list every member of each Graduating Class from Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing. This will be accurate and may be printed per class for members looking for that information. No addresses will be on this list as they are nearly impossible to maintain.

Joan Sibley Gemmill '68  
Chairperson

*Spring  
is Here!*



## Bits and Pieces:

### Alumni News:

#### **Irene Johnson Raiche, '55**

Shares she has just retired from nursing after a wonderful career starting in pediatrics and ending in geriatrics.

#### **Leona Bordeaux Schob, '56**

She is retired and volunteers as an intake coordinator for the local Meals on Wheels Program in Morro Bay, Ca.

#### **Mary McNeil Smith, '61**

Reports she recently fell and injured her back. She was in Orchard Rehabilitation Center in Granville, NY for 6 weeks and continues to recuperate.

#### **Patricia Pennell Willson, '62**

Since her retirement in 2005, she is able to volunteer for the VNA Hospice in Vero Beach, Florida.

#### **Carol Wiffler Goodermote, '62**

Shares she has been retired for 13 years and spends four months in Florida and enjoys traveling and cruising. She has six grandchildren.

#### **Margery Taylor Harrand, '66**

She is excited to share that she is a great grandmother to beautiful 18 month old Olivia.

#### **Linda Cline Gerteisen, '68**

She has retired after 43 years of nursing. She is living in the Sunshine state and enjoying her grand kids and traveling.

#### **Angela Capone Pringle, 68**

She is currently working in wound care.

#### **Virginia Deecher Welch, '68**

She is loving retirement!! Shares that she has traveled back to Troy several times a year to see her "grands" – grand nephew, Colin, age 2 and grand niece, Quincy, 10 months.

#### **Faith Facticeau Lewis, '68**

Reports she has moved to Arizona for retirement 2 years ago and is working for Hospice there.

#### **Robin Shellard Campbell, '68**

Shares she has tried to retire, but since she still enjoys nursing she continues to work 10 hours/week for Hudson Headwaters Health Network.

#### **Barbara Harrison Smith, '70**

She is so happy to be retired this past November 30, 2012 after a career in nursing- working for 15 years in the OR and 24 years in Licensed Home Care.

#### **Gale Harris, '71**

Writes she is retired from MVP Health Care after 25 years (March 30, 2012) spending the last 15 years as a Director of Utilization Management.

#### **Bonnie Hart Erickson, '74**

Reports that she is enjoying retirement since last year after 35 years of Capital District Psychiatric Center.

#### **Sandy Meehan Farnam, '74**

Is currently the Charge nurse in ICU – Trauma/Surgery and finally passed CCRN, an item on her bucket list. She has 6 grandbabies – all under the age of 4.

#### **Patricia Rexford Baker, '75**

She is retired from nursing and enjoys the outdoors gardening, skiing, camping and kayaking. She has 2 grandchildren ages 7 and 10.

#### **Sandra Sawyer Phillips, '76**

She is the Director of Education at Kent Hospital, Warwick, RI. She works with Nancy (Whalen) Crawford, '75.

#### **Barbara Smith Rizzo McHale, '77**

She shares that in September, 2012, she submitted Abstract for the Academy of Oncology Nurse Navigators Conference in Phoenix, Az. Her work was chosen for publication and at the Conference was awarded Patient Education Category. She has been asked to serve on the first National Nurse Navigator Advisory Board. Congratulations!!

#### **Maria Hendrickson, '78**

She has worked for 25 years at Phillips designing computer systems for ICUs.

#### **Debra Boissonneault Cubillos, '79**

Reports that she has moved to Cape Cod with her family. She remains on permanent disability due to Lyme disease.

#### **Tracy Wagner Ivory, '81**

She has been working as a Vascular Access Specialist on a PICC team since January 2012.

#### **Victoria Cinelli Callagan, '82**

Shares she continues to work as a nursing instructor at ADNS, BSN level and is preparing to study for a PhD in Nursing Education.

#### **Colleen Doring D'Amico, '85**

Writes she is finishing her Master's of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from Quinnipiac University and plans to graduate in May 2013.

#### **Erin McMahon Dyer, '86**

Graduated in May, 2012 and is currently working as a Clinical Documentation Specialist at Samaritan Hospital.

#### **Jessica Tracy Plackis-Useman, '88**

Shares that her twin boys, Carter and Conner are high school freshman. She has been married to Scott for 7 years. She continues to be employed in Pediatric Home Care and is caring for same case – a 6 year old boy in first grade. She reports that Father James J. Tracy Sr. passed away on 9/15/11.

## Save The Date!!

Friday, June 7, 2013, 6-10 PM

### Annual Alumni Banquet

Hilton Garden Inn • Hoosic Street, Troy

#### **Keynote Speaker:**

**Barb Bancroft,**

Nationally Known Nurse Humorist

#### **Lisa Wagoner Piscitella, '90**

She has been working at AMCH since 8/2010 and assumed the position of IRF-PAI Coordinator for Acute Inpatient Rehab. She will be married for 15 years this November. Her daughter, Jenna is now 12 and started the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at CCHS in September.

#### **Irene Bossard, '93**

Reports she is working as a Research Nurse in Daytona Beach, Florida.

#### **Diane Dragon-Sypniewski, '01**

Currently working as the Supervisor of Express Admission Unit at St. Peters. She expects to graduate from SUNYIT with a Masters in Nursing Administration.

#### **Stacy Cottrell Callahan, '02**

Shares she is going back to school for her BSN.

#### **Michele Fennelly Nix, '03**

Shares that being part of this "nursing" family has been a blessing. Receiving funds from the Shelden and Welsh was a Life Saver. She says "thanks for all you do!" You are very welcome.

John Welch wanted to say thanks for including his career/life update in the last Alumni Newsletter.

Thank you and all the other Alumni who take a moment to share what is going on with their careers and family. Special thanks to the Class of '68 for sending updates for this newsletter. We love to hear from you. Keep the bits and pieces coming.

## Condolences:

Over the past year we have lost many Alumni. Condolences are extended to the families of the following:

Jane Boughton Young, '45

Jeanette Saddier Parry, '57

Christopher Rem, '90

Barbara R. Zoto, '56

Alison Cook Gordinier, '76

Phyllis DuBois Vickery, '43

Elizabeth McDonnell, '56

## District Liaison

This Committee acts as a liaison between the Samaritan Alumni Association and the Capital District #9 of the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA). All bills proposed in the NYS legislature and newly enacted laws and other pertinent information affecting the nursing profession are brought to the attention of the alumni membership.

All District #9 meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month (October, December, February, April and June) at the Century House in Latham. The cost is \$29.00 for members and \$34.00 for non-members. Continuing Education certificates are made available to those attending.

Status of NYSNA priority legislation for 2013 Legislative Session:

### Safe Staffing Ratios

Establish minimum nurse-to-patient ratios in all health care facilities. The bill was agreed upon by labor unions in New York State that represent registered nurses. It currently is in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee.

### Educational Advancement for RNs

Would require registered professional nurses (RNs) to attain a bachelor's degree in nursing within ten years of their initial licensure, while "grandfathering" nurses already in practice and nursing students already enrolled. It currently is in the Ways and Means Committee of the Assembly.

### Safe Patient Handling

Requires all facilities implement a safe patient handling policy to reduce the manual lifting of patients by direct care staff. Currently in Assembly Health Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

### Health Care Workplace Violence Protection Act

Requires all facilities develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence.

### New York Health

Would create a comprehensive system of universal healthcare coverage for all residents of NY State regardless of age, income, health or employment status.

For further information, you can visit NYSNA's legislative advocacy website at NYSNA.org.

The District Liaison Committee is seeking another member. If you are interested, please contact me at (518)283-4967 or [Khenchey@aol.com](mailto:Khenchey@aol.com).

Karen Henchey  
Chairperson

## Nominating Committee

### Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association

The following members are nominated for a 2 year term May 2012 through May 2014.

Pres - Joy Aloan  
VP - Claudia Graham  
Tres- Anne Coonrad  
Sec - Karen Henchey  
Seber - Shirley DeCamp  
Historical - Joan Gemmill  
Belknap - Joan Gemmill  
Communications - Christine Lutringer  
Mosley - Ellen Nicpon  
Finance - Florence Strang  
Welch - Christine Yerdon  
Sheldon - Christine Yerdon  
District Liason - Karen Henchey  
Courtesy - Karen Henchey  
Nominating - Kathy Borge

### Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Charitable Foundation

The above members are nominated for a one year term from May 2013 to May 2014.

## SAMARITAN HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNI DINNER MEETING

When: Tuesday, May 14, 2013  
Where: Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante in Wynantskill  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Guest Speaker: Scott Heller, Director of Emergency Management at Albany Medical Center  
Topic: Regional Healthcare Emergency Planning  
Program: 5:00 PM Gathering (Cash Bar)  
6:00 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Alumni/Foundation Meeting

## DINNER MEETING RESERVATION

Please return reservation with \$15.00 (member) or \$20.00 (non-member) with the fee payable to Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.

Mail to: Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.,  
2215 Burdett Avenue, Troy, NY 12180 by Tuesday May 7, 2013.

All reservations must be honored. If a cancellation is required, please contact Ellen Nicpon at (518) 783-8173

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_