



Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020

Troy, New York

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*
caccic@sage.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

Korissa Gohlke
Secretary & Seber Co Chair
gohlkekorissa@gmail.com

Anne L. Coonrad *Treasurer*
avonfrickencoonrad@gmail.com

Claudia Graham *Seber Fund and
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

Tara Burke *Finance*
tara.burke@sphp.com

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 President's Desk

One of my favorite tasks as President is to review and submit the information that Alumni send in for the "Bits & Pieces" section. It is always amazing to me to hear about the different paths each of us have taken.

The ANA states that nursing is the "glue" that holds a patient's health care journey together. Review the "Bits & Pieces" section and see how differently and yet with the same common threads our graduates have identified a need and taken steps to fulfill that need.

Recently, I have participated in assisting at the SON in a learning lab. Gail Moore '78, Learning Resource Coordinator reached out to Alumni to play the part of the patient. What fun it was to help give the students some realistic experiences. The main objective for my group was to effectively communicate to a patient that was non-verbal. I have to say, the students were very good at using visual aids, demonstrations and just being patient and kind. They were very appreciative to have a real life experience to learn from. I encourage you to give Gail a call and participate in a lab. It is a positive experience for all.



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). 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.

Carl M. Cacciotti, Chairperson

With the current level of uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 virus in our community along with mandates from Governor Cuomo and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention our previously scheduled events, gatherings and meetings have been cancelled until further notice. Once this is all behind us, we will resume alumni activities and will be sure to stay in touch with our wonderful and dedicated members with any updates we may have. We hope that everyone stays healthy and well during this time of uncertainty... that is our top priority.



From the Directors Desk

Dear Alumni,

Happy spring! The alumni numbers continue to grow. The December graduation added 26 RN graduates to the workforce and the August graduation added 13 PN graduates. NCLEX pass rates remain much higher than state or national averages for both programs. These are the most recent pass rates for each program:

	Practical Nurse	Registered Nurse
Samaritan	August 2019 – 100% (12/12) <i>One student did not test as yet</i>	Fall 2019 – 100% (26/26)
NYS average	80.59%	86.42%
National average	86.26%	85.16%

In the fall, students were busy with service to the community. Highlights include:

- Staffing the Flu Buggy for four days at Samaritan Hospital.
- Participation in the Eastern New York Homeless Veterans Coalition annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down – assessing temperatures, pulses, and blood pressures (see pictures).
- Trunk or Treat – A fun and safe way for children and families to experience Halloween.
- Collecting clothing for Healthy Families of Rensselaer County.

Students also started a Food Pantry to provide for fellow students who at times, may need a bit of extra support. Students stock the shelves with money raised from fund raising and by direct donations. This is a great example of students living the mission and values of St. Peter’s Health Partners.

If you are on Facebook and follow St. Peter’s Health Partners (SPHP), you may have seen the Live Stream dedication of the Andrea Lewis Siek Simulation Education Center. Andrea Siek was a former Samaritan Hospital charge nurse with a passion for the nursing profession and in particular a focus on safety and doing no harm to our patients. Through Mr. Siek’s generous memorial to his wife, the nursing students will now learn in an up-to-date simulation center. The simulation center will have a huge impact on our nursing students, their learning, and their ability to become highly skilled and safe, competent bedside nurses. When students can practice and learn in a safe environment, free from the fear of making a mistake, students learn better!

Patricia Cannistraci

Annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down



Dedication of the Andrea Lewis Siek Simulation Education Center



Alumni Apparel Sale

March 15th – April 15, 2020!

Exclusive Items for Alumni!

Items can be shipped or picked up!

Visit wickedsmartapparel.com

“Samaritan Alumni” Webstore is under “Online Collections”!

Email Erin Berghela at erin.berghela@sphp.com with any questions!

Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Starts a Food Pantry

Back in the fall 2019, the Student Government Association expressed interest in supporting fellow students who sometimes fall on hard times. They thought a food pantry would be helpful. It is not uncommon for students to live pay check to pay check while attending nursing school. So, just one unfortunate event in their life can create chaos! The student received an anonymous \$500 donation as seed money for the Pantry. They went out shopping, clipped coupons, watched for sales, and within a few days, they had a nicely stocked Food Pantry. It is physically located in an unobtrusive area, so students can discreetly 'shop'. Since its inception, the pantry has provided lots of food and even school supplies for students. The student have been able to keep the pantry going with money from fundraisers. In addition – other people have donated to the shelves, particularly faculty and staff. They love how they are living the St. Peter's Health Partners mission through the actions of this Food Pantry.

Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Class of 1970



Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Class of 1970 will be celebrating their 50th Class Reunion this year. We are very excited about this and hope we can connect with any lost classmates. The planners for this reunion include: the 1970 class Secretary Marcia Johnston Bolesh and her Samaritan Nursing Dormitory roommate Arlene Hartnagle Clewell along with Christine Gilhooley Rem and Ellen Kruczlnicki Dunn. A reunion is currently planned for the fall (September or October of 2020). We are hoping to reach all class members via email and encourage anyone interested to email Marcia at: marcianur@yahoo.com or Arlene at abessette1@nycap.rr.com. Former class members can also call Christine at 518-428-1612 if needed.

*Photo submitted by: Christine Gilhooley Rem
(Courtesy & District liaison)*

Condolences to:

- Donna C. Breault Class 1980 on the loss of her mother in law, Elizabeth LaChapelle
- Maryrose M. DeMarco Class 1977 on the loss of her father, Paul H. McDonald
- Cynthia Sommer Constantine Class 1977 on the loss of her father, Charles Sommer
- Patricia Russman Johnson Class 1975 on the loss of her husband, Alan Johnson
- Marge Dillon Gully Class 1968 on the loss of her brother in law, Michael J. Gully
- Sandra Whittman Michaels Class 1962
- Virginia Kaiser Perry Class 1968
- Constance Jean Jorgensen Class 1954. Following graduation, she was employed by Samaritan Hospital and then the VA Medical Center in Albany for 5 years. She joined the US Air Force where she served as a nurse until her honorable discharge in 1976 with the rank of Major. She then returned to the VA Hospital where she continued to work as a nurse until her retirement in 1977.

Belknap Fund

The Belknap committee had awarded the 2019 Leora E. Belknap Scholarship to Michele Peetz, class of 1982. Michele works for St. Peter's Health Partners urgent care and is currently enrolled in a Masters of Nursing program at Western Governors University. We thank you Michele, for your support as an active Alumni member. We wish you much success in your studies.

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

Martine Grignon, Belknap Chair



Then and Now...

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



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 2020 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.

Year of the Nurse and the Midwife 2020

2020 was designated as the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife by the World Health Organization in recognition of the contributions they make, and the risks associated with nursing shortages.

Nurses and midwives play a vital role in providing health services. These are the people who devote their lives to caring for mothers and children; giving lifesaving immunizations and health advice; looking after older people and generally meeting everyday essential health needs. They are often, the first and only point of care in their communities. The world needs 9 million more nurses and midwives if it is to achieve universal health coverage by 2030.

That's why the World Health Assembly has designated 2020 the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife.

“2020 - Year of the Nurse and the Midwife.” World Health Organization, World Health Organization, www.who.int/news-room/campaigns/year-of-the-nurse-and-the-midwife-2020.



Bits and Pieces

Muriel Ferra Dufendach '53 • shares that she has finally retired after 20 years of managing a homeless/needful feeding program. She is staying active with her church work as a lay minister. Please contact the Foundation to connect with her if you are from the Class of '53.

Maryalice Costello Donlon '55 • shares that she is retired since '92 after working as a staff RN with Saratoga County Public Health Nurse. She has 5 children, 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Nancy Stoughton Ethier '58 • shares that she retired in 1999 after working 41 years in Education. She now a widow and is living in Senior housing.

Lillian Rita Hughes Westbrook '60 • shares that she recently turned 80 years old. She is a 15 year Cancer survivor! She is active in her church and community and is enjoying life!

Joycelyn King '61 • shares that she retired from the VA 15 years ago. She worked as a Geriatric Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist. She now owns an antique business, sells organic produce and free range eggs. She also manages two rentals and works part time at the University of Nevada in Reno in the School of Medicine.

Nancy Sirigiano Post '64 • shares that she enjoys traveling with her husband. They have been on many cruises. They spend a lot of time with their 2 grandsons and 1 granddaughter.

Mary Jane Welsh Gibbons '64 • shares that she was recently selected for a "Lifetime Achievement Award" from "Who's Who", which she has been a part of for many years.

Georgene Watson Beaver '65 • shares that she is enjoying retirement. She just returned from an awesome trip in Egypt. She is returning to the Philippines in January to do a medical mission for cleft lip and palate. This is a very rewarding experience!

Helen Thayer Millard '66 • shares that she is still singing and volunteering at her church. She recently had cataract surgery in Tampa. Surprise...her nurse was a classmate, Emily Fiacco Hopeck!

Margery Taylor Harrand '66 • shares that she is having issues with her health. She needs to use oxygen and a walker.

Donna Dearborn '68 • shares that she is retired from Nursing due to disability.

Anne Fairman Coleman '68 • shares that she retired from Nursing in November of 2016.

Robin Shellard Campbell '68 • shares that she is enjoying retirement! She plays pickle ball, mahjong and travels with Paul. She is expecting a second great granddaughter in March.

Jacqueline Boyce Fitzpatrick '69 • shares that she is retired. She enjoys traveling and quilting and has moved to New Hampshire.

Christine Carmody Martin '69 • shares that she retired in June of 2019. She worked at Samaritan Hospital for 50 years! Chris, you have touched so many lives. Thank you!!

Lillian MacNaughton Kehn '70 • shares that she retired in April of 2018. Her granddaughter, Emily Kehn is currently a nursing student at Samaritan.

Vickie Schlosser Thompson '70 • shares that she is happily retired! She is enjoying life with Michael, their three boys and their grandchildren. "Life is good".

Valerie Falzo '71 • shares that she has written a book entitled, "Extraordinary Souls I Have Known", published by Covenant Books.

Bonnie Hart Erickson '74 • shares that she is retired from Nursing and enjoying the slower pace!

Lou Ann Taft Savoyki '75 • shares that she has moved to their "Retirement Home" in Vermont. She is employed by Hedlogics at the Center for Wound Healing at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital.

Deborah Madsen Saffan '75 • shares that she retired from Hospice.

Dawn Coulter Scott '75 • shares that she is employed as an ANP, PNP at Philadelphia Medical Center, Philadelphia, N.Y.

Elizabeth DeVito Baldwin '75 • shares that she has two grandchildren, 1 and 4 years old. She retired in 2019 and is enjoying her family and life.

JoAnn Rinaldi Horton '75 • shares that she lives in Chattanooga. She is still working in surgery but giving some serious considerations to retirement. "Can't believe all the changes we have seen in medicine over the years". "Hope all are well".

Barbara Smith McHale '77 • shares that she is expecting her 5th grandson in April 2020.

Debra Boissoneault Cubillos '79 • shares that she has retired from Nursing due to a disability.

Susan Rebhun Quinn '80 • shares that she retired 8/2019 after working for 39 years at Samaritan.

Marybeth Ratigan Shiland '81 • shares that she is currently working for NYS at the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General as a Nursing Supervisor. She writes that she has 4 beautiful grandchildren.

Jane McAllister Peck '84 • shares that she has retired from Nursing due to a disability.

Ann Von Fricken Coonrad '84 • shares that she is serving her second term on the NE New York State Board for Nursing. She currently holds the Vice Chair position on the Board.

Colleen Doring D'Amico '85 • shares that she has a new job as the Manager of Training and Quality at Connecticut Insurance Company.

Shirley Ernst DeCamp '90 • shares that she is retired. She enjoys traveling, and spending time with her family.

Tamara Auclair Yankowski '92 • shares that she retired from SPHP. She is enjoying traveling with friends and spending more time with her family.

Ewa Parker 2014 • shares that her son, Sebastian, was born on November 1, 2018. He was born 3 months early and spent 71 days in the NICU. They are celebrating his 1st birthday and happy to say he is doing great and he is a happy and healthy boy!

Michelle Craft 2015 • shares, "Becoming a Nurse is the best thing I've ever done! I look forward to continuing my education at Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing."



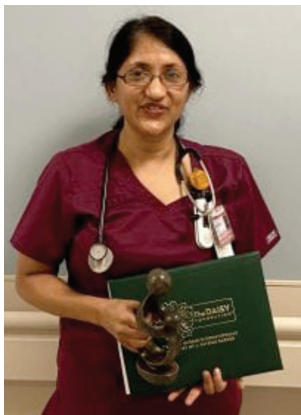
**Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing
Alumni Association, Inc.**

St. Peter's Health Partners
Center for Philanthropy
310 South Manning Blvd.
Albany, NY 12208-1771

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
ALBANY, NY
PERMIT #79

Nurses Honored

Samaritan Hospital held a ceremony on January 8th to honor two nurses for their exceptional patient care. Hospital leaders presented the prestigious DAISY Award to Bindu Jose, RN, and Kristina Curtis, RN. The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's mission to recognize the exceptional, compassionate care nurses provide patients and families every day. Both are alumni of Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing!



Bindu Jose, RN

Bindu Jose was nominated by another Samaritan employee, who fell ill while working on the progressive care unit (PCU). Jose wheeled the employee down to the emergency department, then after finishing her 12-hour shift, stayed with the employee for nearly two hours, offering to help in a myriad of ways, even financially. Her kindness didn't

stop there. Jose continued to visit the employee during her six-day admission, making sure she had everything she needed.

"While everyone who took part in my care was extraordinary in compassion, and I wouldn't take anything away from any of them, Bindu's kindness in particular, will always be remembered as a perfect example of Christian charity and what our hospital claims to represent. What a wonderful face of SPHP Bindu showed, and I will always love her for it," wrote the employee/patient.



Kristina Curtis, RN

The daughter of one of Curtis' patients nominated her for the award following her mother's recent stay in the hospital's emergency department and intensive care unit. Curtis advocated for the patient, helping to arrange emergency dialysis.

"Kristina was the angel and blessing we needed when things were stacked against us," wrote the daughter in thanking Curtis for her outstanding, compassionate care. "She went above and beyond her nursing duty to provide great care—the EXACT care that my mom needed—which I was fighting hard to get for her all day."