



Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Newsletter

A Publication for Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse Graduates • Spring 2014

From the President's Desk:

Fellow Alumni,

Just saying, this has been a very difficult winter! I was really getting tired of the snow, the cold, the wind, the ice and the daily gloomy forecast. I am sure it was hard for all our alumni who were shut in due to illness, surgery, or the weather. Our thoughts and wishes for a safe and speedy recover are with all of you. Thank goodness Spring is here!!

There are a few School of Nursing Alumni events to look forward to. The School of Nursing Alumni Annual Dinner Meeting is planned for May 13, 2014 and will be held at the Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante in Wynantskill. We have another interesting speaker lined up and delicious food on the menu. Also, planned is the 2nd Annual Alumni Banquet to be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy on June 6, 2014. Last year's event was an evening of fun and laughter. It was a great opportunity to see fellow friends and classmates. If you missed this event last year, try to make it this year.

Sincerely,
Joy Aloan, RN, President

The Mother/Daughter Tradition Continues



At the left is Sara Sheldon Dietrich with her mother, Catherine Peterson Sheldon (1975) and her grandmother Joyce Peters Peterson (1953). In the center is Kristina Curtis with her mother Sandy Curtis-Long (2002). At the right is Tara Muller with her mother Marla Januska (1980).

From the Director's Desk

In April 2013, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing raised the passing standard for the licensure exam (as they do every few years). There was an unexpectedly precipitous decline in the first time pass rates all over the country, which resulted in the national mean pass rate dropping from 90.3% (2012) to 83.0% (2013). I am very pleased to report that our graduates continued to perform at the top – our pass rate stayed steady at 90.2%! Our PN graduates are also doing well on NCLEX – the PN pass rate for 2013 was 95%!

We continue to plan for the move to the St. Mary's campus. I have been meeting regularly with the architects and construction crew, but nothing is finalized yet and there is no firm date for the move. I expect it will be either in December 2014 or summer 2015. I have been very clear that it would be disruptive to the students and the educational program to move in the middle of a semester. As we all know, getting through a semester of nursing school is enough of a challenge without having to get used to a new environment!

I have been asked by a number of people if bricks from Thurman Hall will be available

SAVE THE DATE!

The evening of
FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2014

2nd ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET

HILTON GARDEN INN, TROY

Guest Speaker: Donna Cardillo, RN, MA
"The Inspiration Guru"

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW!

for those who want a memento. The answer is YES! More to come on that...

I am looking forward to our Second Annual Alumni Banquet on the evening of Friday, June 6 at the Hilton Garden Inn here in Troy! I am sure that all who attended last year will tell you that we had a wonderful time, and I expect we will enjoy this year's get together just as much. Please plan to come, and make sure to bring another classmate!

Susan Birkhead, MPH, RN
Director

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 2013, 29 condolence donations were made to the Leora Belknap Scholarship Fund in memory of deceased alumni or members of their immediate family. To date, 2 donations have been made in 2014.

The Infirm List currently is comprised of 16 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 grad who is recently deceased and should have a donation made to the Belknap Fund, please notify Karen Henchey at (518) 283-4967, khenchey@aol.com, or committee members: Kathy Davis 273-4503, Ellen Dunn 283-0431, and Diane Dare 783-8790

Karen Henchey, Chair

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. The committee will be meeting in May for distribution of June awards. 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, such as a copy of grades for the semester for which they are applying, 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 Seber awards will be awarded at the end of the semester to ensure compliance with Seber Fund rules. The applicants must be in good academic standing and supply proof, such as a copy of grades for the semester for which they are applying, with their application. Please see the rules of the Seber Fund attached to the application. If you are not compliant with established fund rules you may not be eligible for future awards or you may be required to return funds received. 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
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 May the committee will award ten annual applicants, and since the fall the committee awarded three episodic applicants 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 1997

Belknap 2013 Report

Belknap Scholarship Fund Applications are accepted during the calendar year ie: 2013.

The applications are reviewed Jan. of the following year 2014. The award is named by the end of Jan. of present year 2014. A congratulatory letter is sent to recipient. Our award this year was given to Tara Burke BSN who is presently matriculated into a Masters program at Russell Sage College. Tara is presently employed at Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing as she works on completing her MA in nursing.

The committee intends to review the rules of this fund in 2014.

Joan Sibley McReavy '68

Save The Date!

On Saturday, June 7, 2014, the School will be open from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM for visits from alumni and friends!

Mosley Committee

The Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association's bi-annual dinner meeting will be held on May 13th 2014 at Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante located at 104 West Sand Lake Rd on Route 150 in Wynthantskill, NY (283-0202). Cash bar begins at 5:30 pm with dinner service at 6 pm. Our guest speaker is Judge Christopher T. Maier, Troy City Court Judge. Judge Christopher T. Maier has been the Troy City Court Judge for nearly a decade. As Judge, he presides over the Troy Regional Treatment Court which closely monitors treatment of offenders with substance abuse. He is a graduate of Siena College and Albany Law School. He was born and raised in Troy and continues to reside there with his wife, two sons and their dog. We hope to see you there.

History Committee Report

The History Committee has not yet been able to complete the goals for 2013. Eleanor Hill has been working on updating the cards of the deceased members of the Alumni.

I am making slow progress on our complete Alumni spreadsheet to list all the various pieces of information that we have noted for each Alumnus that has passed through our School of Nursing.

Joan Sibley McReavy '68

Nurse of the Year



Maria Candelario, PN grad 2005, AD grad 2009, was named 'Nurse of the Year' for 2013 at Florida Hospital

Bits and Pieces

Elinor Beck Mann '37 – Shares that she is 98 years old and resides in assisted living.

Rosanna Lombard Crawley '48 – Shares that she has been married to Stan for 64 years and both are up and about.

Nancy Abbott Ernest '50 – Reports that she is happily retired in Mobile, Alabama and plans to relocate to be nearer to her son Jim and his wife Chere in Pensacola, Florida.

L. June Metzger '50 – Is just checking in to let us know she is still here at Hawthorne Ridge.

Muriel Ferra Duffendach '53 – Shares that she currently volunteers full time as an "operations manager" for a feeding program for the homeless and/or disadvantaged. The program serves a meal six days a week to about 100 men, women and children. This keeps her very busy and happy!!

Joan Ropiak '54 – Shares she had a wonderful career in nursing working mostly in critical care – cardiology and received her CCRN at age 43. She has loved this challenging profession despite the health issues (2 knee replacements, quadruple bypass, bad feet) she has encountered over the years, but would do it all over again.

Irene Johnson Raiche '55 – Would like to share that she is now retired from nursing. She has 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. She enjoys traveling and works as a scrap booking consultant.

Patricia Brady Gorham '58 – Is now a retired women's health care nurse practitioner.

D. Carol MacNaughton Shaughnessy '58 – Recounts her nursing employment history includes working at Samaritan Hospital after graduation for a few years on Med/Surg, then 33 years in Maternity as Post-Partum head nurse and supervisor of the department. At the end of her career, she worked for Eddy Cohoes Rehab Center screening hospital patients for rehab eligibility admission. She has been married for 52 years to Jim. Her son Jim, has followed in his father career footsteps as a civil engineer. She has one grand-daughter, Keira. Thank you for your generous donation to the Welsh Fund.

Lillian (Rita) Hughes Westbrook '60 – Reports that her husband recently experienced emergency open heart surgery at St. Peter's Hospital. She has the highest praise for the care he received there and is so glad Samaritan is now part of that group.

Sandra Hughes Baboian '60 – Thank you for your generous donation to the Courtesy Fund in memory of your parents Doris and LeRoy Hughes.

Patricia Pennell Willson '62 – Offers that since 2013 she has been volunteering with the Vero Beach Florida VNA Hospice Program. She participated in two special camp days for children 5-12 years old who have lost a family member. She shared a very rewarding experience being a buddy to a child at camp.

Mary Jane Welsh Gibbons '64 – She is a part time immunization nurse working for the State of Florida and meets people from all over the world.

Margery Taylor Harrand '66 – Reports that she is a great grandmother – Olivia is 2-1/2 years old and beautiful.

Joan Sibley (Gemmill) McReavy '68 – Congratulations! Joan was married this fall to Clifford McReavy. They plan on traveling to see this great country.

Virginia Deecher Welch '68 – Shares she is loving retirement and drives from Tampa to Troy several times a year to spend time with their toddler grandnephew and grandniece.

Gail Harris McCarthy '71 – Informs us she is now retired from MVP Health Care in 2012 after 25 years of service. Congratulations! Gail remarried on September 7, 2013 to Kevin McCarthy. Life is good!

Linda Bartow VanKessel '72 – Excitedly welcomes the birth of her 2nd grandchild, Elise Juliana Bochman, sister to big brother Henri Bochman.

Michelle Bechard '74 – Currently work as PACU nurse at Samaritan Hospital. Her daughter Sarah was married on September 26, 2013 to Tyler Reynolds and they reside in Clearwater, Florida.

Margaret Kaplan '75 – Is retired!

Diana Bayer Mertrude '75 – Shares she has just retired in August from UCal Medical Center, San Diego from the MICU and GI Departments. She has already been asked to return on a per diem basis and is considering this option.

Patrice Rexford Baker '75 – Reports she is retired from nursing and is now concentrating on her craft business making jewelry and quilts. She enjoys camping, skiing, her grandchildren and gardening in the summer.

Paula Sawyer '75 – Shares she is presently working for the VHA Department – National Informatics Patient Safety Office. In 2014, she will have been with the VA for 30 years.

Lou Ann Taft Savoyski '75 – Would like you to know that she recently moved to New Jersey and is working as a Hospice Case Manager at the VNA of Northern New Jersey.

Louise Guay Brooks '76 – Offers that she continues to work in the ED in Litchfield, MN and has 3 grandchildren. Thank you for your generous donation.

Sandra Sawyer Phillips '76 – Relates that in addition to her full time position as the Director of Education at Kent Hospital in Warwick, RI, she is the Project Director for a Robert Woods Johnson grant to develop a unique Registered Nurse Residency Program for RI with a grant of \$600K.

Maria Hendrickson '78 – Conveys she has reached the 25 year milestone for working at Philips Healthcare designing critical care information systems.

Lynn Boule McNall '78 – Shares that she is an Assistant Professor at the Empire State College pursuing a degree at University of Buffalo – PHD in Nursing.

Colleen Doring D'Amico '85 – Reports that she has received her Master of Science Degree from Quinnipiac University in May 2013. Her youngest child – William – started college in the fall of 2013.

Theresa McGraw Larson '96 – Informs us she is the Assistant Director of Nursing at Baptist Health Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Scotia, N.Y.

Heather Clayton '2005 – States she is a Home Infusion Nurse with Coram Specialty Infusion and working per diem at Samaritan Emergency Department.

Mary Hyer '2008 – Tells us she has been promoted to Level 4 RN at Albany Medical Center Pediatric ICU including Transport and Cardiac RN in 2012.

Stephanie Hay '2012 – Offers she is employed as a NICU Nurse at Albany Medical Center Hospital.

Jessica Bogert '2012 – Shares she started her career as a new GN at St. Mary's ED in September 2013. She started working as a school nurse at St. Catherine's Center for children, a K-6th grade school for children with emotional and mental health difficulties. Says she is finally feels at peace with her new career.

Brittany Hurd '2012 – Reports she is now employed as a full time RN on PCU at Samaritan Hospital and per diem in Med/Surg at St. Mary's Hospital in Troy, N.Y.

Ruth Merwin Aiken – Recounts that she worked as a Visiting Nurse in Albany and Troy, as a Private Duty nurse at Samaritan Hospital and in several home in Albany and at resort hotels in the Adirondacks. She was in the Army Nurse Corps for 2 years.

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. The cost is \$32.00 for members and \$37.00 for non-members. Continuing Education certificates are made available to those attending.

Status on NYSNA, ANA, and District #9

In 2011, the NYSNA Board of Directors made a decision to end its long time affiliation with the national organization (ANA). This was made official October 2012 at the annual meeting of NYSNA. Since this decision, NYSNA has become more actively involved in collective bargaining. In December, ANA-New York was formed and accepted by the ANA as its state affiliate.

As a result of this disaffiliation with ANA, the association (District #9), lost the availability of CE's from NYSNA. District #9 was able to apply for CE's from the Georgia Nurses Association which will expire in 2014.

District #9 consulted legal council regarding several issues regarding tax exempt status, confusion as to the actual name of the organization, and accurate number of actual members. The law firm established that District #9 is a separate legal entity from NYSNA. Our name is Capital District Number Nine, New York State, Nurses Association, Inc. If we would like to keep the name, we need to file an amendment with the Department of Education.

At a special meeting held on September 12, 2013, District #9 voted to disassociate from the NYSNA. The new name is still pending at present.

NYSNA priority legislation for 2013 Legislative Session

1. 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.

2. Educational Advancement for RNs:

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

3. 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.

4. 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

5. Educational Advancement for RNs:

Would require registered professional nurses to attain a bachelor degree in nursing within 10 years of their initial licensure, while "grandfathering" nurses already in practice and nursing students already enrolled.

6. Ban on Mandatory Overtime for RNs in Home Care

7. CNS Title Protection and Certification

8. Mandatory Continuing Education for RNs:

Would require 45 hours of continuing education in order to re-register every three years, to practice as a registered professional nurse.

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 283-4967 or Khenchey@aol.com

Karen Henchey Chairperson

SAMARITAN HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNI SPRING DINNER MEETING

When: Tuesday, May 13, 2014
 Where: Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante in Wynantskill
 Time: 5:30 PM
 Guest Speaker: Judge Christopher T. Maier
 Program: 5:30 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. by Thursday, May 8th, 2014

Mail to:

Ellen Nicpon, 228 Old Niskayuna Rd, Latham, NY 12110

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

If anyone has a topic they would like to see presented at an Alumni meeting please contact Ellen Nicpon or other Board Member.

Print Name: _____ Class: _____