



**Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing
Alumni Association, Inc.**
St. Peter's Health Partners
Center for Philanthropy
310 South Manning Blvd.
Albany, NY 12208-1771

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Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

Troy, New York

Save the Date!
*The Samaritan School of Nursing
5th Annual Alumni Banquet*
hosted by the
Northeast Health Foundation
will be held on Friday
June 9, 2017
at the *Hilton Garden Inn*
Troy, New York



From the President's Desk

Do you know about "Miss Belknap's Sock"? I found out that many of our Alumni do not know the story. Here is a little background. (Be sure to read "From the Director's Desk" by Susan Birkhead for the complete history.) Miss Belknap had an emergency fund that she distributed to students when they were faced with an unforeseen financial need.

Today, that same sock still exists and the funds are distributed to students at the discretion of faculty or staff. The student is given a monetary "one time" gift to help pay for whatever their emergency is, food, rent, transportation. The monies do not need to be repaid. The student is asked to "Pay it forward" at some time when they are able.

The real mystery is, how is the sock fund replenished? The sock has never been empty but, after discussing this with the board members last Fall, we decided we wanted to help.

Last November at our Dinner Meeting, a money stocking was passed around for the first time. It was not advertised previous to that night and through the generosity of those in attendance \$188.00 was collected!

It was decided that donations will be collected at our Dinner Meetings held in May and November. All donations will be given to the "Miss Belknap Sock Fund". This may be your chance to "Pay it forward".

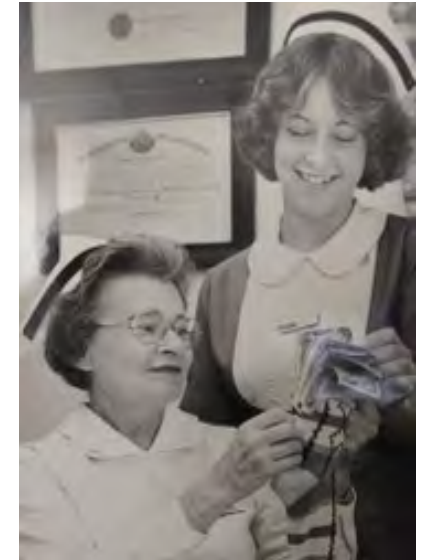
Donations for Miss Belknap's Sock can also be sent directly to:
Northeast Health Foundation
C/O SPHP Center for Philanthropy
310 South Manning Blvd.
Albany, N.Y. 12208
Phone - 518-482-4433



A warm welcome to Lesley Gross 2015 as our newest member to the Board. She has agreed to chair the Mosley Committee.

Mark your calendars for June 9, 2017! That is the date for this year's Annual Alumni Banquet. I hope to see my classmates from 1977 in attendance as we celebrate our 40th Graduation Anniversary!

Mary Rose DeMarco '77, President



Miss Belknap and senior Vickie (Stanley) Houlton, class of 1980, making a donation to the sock fund.

Seber, Welsh and Sheldon Funds

We have had a good response to our request for applications for the Welsh and Seber funds.

For 2016 the Welsh Fund awarded a total of 14 awards. 7 episodic and 7 annual awards were given.

This fall ten scholarships were awarded from the Seber Fund. The Committee will meet again in May.

Awards for the Sheldon fund will be determined in December 2017.

Applications for the Seber, Welsh and Sheldon Funds may be found online via the St. Peter's Healthcare Partners website, under Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Inc. We encourage anyone eligible to apply.

Thurman Hall Commemorative Brick

— ORDER FORM —

Please make a \$25.00 check payable to: SAMSON Student Government Association

Mail to: Susan Birkhead, Director
Samaritan School of Nursing
at St. Mary's Campus
1300 Massachusetts Avenue
Troy, NY 12180



Name _____
(please print)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____

Alumni Board Members

Mary Rose (McDonald) DeMarco (1977) President

Claudia Graham (2003) Vice President

Karen (Reinhart) Henchey (1968) Secretary,
Courtesy Committee & District Liaison

Anne (Von Fricken) Coonrad (1984) Treasurer

Donna Breault (1980) Nominating Committee

Christine (Ludwick) Lutringer (1972) Communications Committee

Joan (Sibley) McReavy (1968) Gemmell, Historical & Belknap Committees

Gail (Morelli) Moore (1978) Nominating Committee

Lesley Gross (2015) Mosley Committee

Susan (Rebhun) Quinn (1980) Seber Committee

Tara Burke (1994) Finance Committee

Christina Yerdon (1997) Welsh & Sheldon Committees

Barbara Holmes (1963) Welsh Committee



From the Director's Desk

Back in September 2015, the ACEN site visitors found, of course, that we met all six standards. They also found that we exceeded the standards in two aspects (and they made a big point of telling us that it is rare for a school to be commended for exceeding standards). One aspect was the physical plant, which was gratifying since the planners, the architects, the builders and the school team had worked so hard to create this beautiful new space that we are enjoying so much. But more importantly, in my view, was that they found an unusually high positive spirit in this educational environment, and an unusually high level of support from our 'community of interest' which includes our clinical partners, the agencies who employ our graduates and our Alumni Association.

Part of the process of the site visit included a meeting between students and the site visitors. The visitors were so impressed with the students' positive attitudes. In fact, one visitor said that it was a pleasant change to visit a school where the students felt both challenged AND supported. I credit the enthusiasm and the professionalism of the staff and faculty who guide the students on their educational journeys. The creativity and commitment of all the teachers, both classroom and clinical, is palpable. As I observe the interactions between the teachers and the students, I see kindness, concern and connection.

And the proof is in the pudding: our graduation rate is slowly inching up, our NCLEX pass rate continues to exceed the state and national means by a significant margin, and students indicate a high level of satisfaction on their exit surveys.

I am immensely proud of this school!

Susan Birkhead, DNS, MPH, RN, Director

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Samaritan AD	93.5% (43/46)	90.2% (37/41)	91.7% (44/48)	93.3% (56/60)	93% (56/60)
NYS average AD	87.1%	77.0%	76.0%	80.5%	82.9%
US average AD	90.3%	81.4%	79.3%	79.3%	84.6%
Samaritan PN	76.9% (20/26)	95.2% (20/21)	95.2% (20/21)	100% (16/16)	100% (16/16)
NYS average PN	78%	81%	79.9%	78.6%	76.4%
US average PN	84%	85%	69.8%	81.8%	83.7%

Condolences to:

- Linda Davis Larson '71 on the loss of her mother Helen Davis
- Patrice Rexford Baker '75 on the loss of her husband Jerry A. Baker
- Joan R. Trexler '55 on the loss of her brother Theodore Ruoto
- Patricia R. Johnson '75 on the loss of her father Paul F. Russman Sr.
- Suzanne Blain Asher '63 on the loss of her husband Paul Asher
- Patricia Decatur Roberts '64 on the loss of her husband Charles Roberts
- Mary Rose DeMarco '77 on the loss of her mother Mary Lou McDonald

Condolences to the families of:

- Sandra Rozell '70
- Ethel Villeneuve Howard '51
- Joan Carr Zaplockey '49
- Joan Peterson Peters '53



District Liaison

This committee serves as a liaison between the Samaritan Alumni Association and Northeast New York Professional Nurses Organization, Inc (previously known as Capital District #9 of 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. Membership and program information is available at www.NNYPNO.com.

NYSNA priority legislation for 2015-2016 Legislative Session Update:

- Safe Staffing for Quality Conduct (A1548/S7820).
- Educational Advancement for RNs: **Reintroduced
- Against For-Profit Ownership & Private Equity Investment in New York Hospitals
- Move from the "Basic Health Plan" toward Universal Single Payer Coverage
- Strengthen Certificate of Need (CON) Regulations
- Protect the Quality of Care of the Practice of Nursing

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

The District Liaison Committee is seeking another member to join Sandra Nuttal and me. If you are interested, please contact me at 283-4967 or Khenchey@aol.com

Karen Henchey, Chairperson

Mosely Report

The SHSoN Spring Alumni Dinner will be held at Paolo Lombardi's on May 9th at 5 pm. The guest speaker will be Barbara McHale, BS, RN, OCN, CBCN, ONN-CG. Barbara graduated from Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing, making her an alumni of the class of 1977. During her career as a Registered Nurse, Barbara has earned certifications as an oncology certified nurse, breast oncology certified nurse, an oncology nurse navigator and has served on numerous professional committees. Most recently she retired from Northeast Health Acute Care Division in Troy, NY as a nurse navigator for the Hildegard Medicus Cancer Center at St. Mary's Hospital and Hildegard Medicus Radiation Oncology at Samaritan Hospital. She will speaking about current oncology practices and where those practices will be headed in the future.

Lesley Gross, Chairperson

Plan to join us at the May 9th Dinner Meeting!



Current Nursing IV Students

Bits & Pieces

Gladys R. Peters Hart '51

Writes that her sister Joyce Peters Peterson '53, passed away 7/20/15. Her daughter is Cathy Peterson Sheldon '75. Her granddaughter is Sara Sheldon Dietrich 2013.

Florence M. Groeschel Strang '51

Writes I am "at home" with caretakers. She misses driving but, family and friends get her out to church and shopping. "I love keeping up with the Alumni news."

Nancy S. Stoughton Ethier '58

Shares that she is cancer free and looking forward to her 80th birthday on 3/16/17. She retired in 1999 and sadly has been a widow for 2 years.

D. Carol MacNaughton Shaughnessy '58

Shares that she is actively enjoying retirement and enjoying their dear little 3 1/2 year old granddaughter, Keira.

Greta I. Daun '59

Writes that she loves volunteering at Samaritan Hospital now that she has retired.

Donna Jenks Retzlaff '61

Writes that she loves retirement and plays golf whenever possible. Sadly, her husband recently passed away. Dorothy Taylor Buckley '61 Writes that she has worked at St. Peter's Hospital for 54 years and continues to work per diem as a nursing supervisor.

Myrna McWhirt Hulbert '61

Shares that she retired in 2004.

Marcia F. Faulisi Lindstrom '61

Writes, "Samaritan Hospital prepared me for a fantastic satisfying career. Thank you for that!"

Suzanne T. Blain Asher '63

Shares that she has retired as a nurse case manager. Sadly, her husband Paul passed away in July of 2015.

Patricia Decatur Roberts '64

Shares that sadly, her husband Charles passed away in January of 2016.

Georgene S. Watson Beaver '65

Writes that she is still working one day every other week at a surgical center with pain management patients. Her 3 granddaughters ages 14, 11, and 10 are growing up fast and are the joy of her life.

Helen E. Thayer Millard '66

Shares that she retired in 2003 after having a total knee replacement but, still keeps her license (just in case). She has 19 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. She is still singing an active in her church's activities.

Marilee Felock Biel '66

Shares that her class celebrated their 50th year reunion with a luncheon in October 2016 at the Century House in Latham. She and her husband John celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with their whole family in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Faith A. Facticeau Lewis '68

Writes that she has been working as a hospice R.N. for the past 24 years in California, Arizona and New York.

Angela Capone Pringle '68

Shares that she is retired.

Susan Shineman Johnston '68

Shares that she has been retired from North Western for the past 8 years. After 18 years in wonderful Chicago, it is fun to be back in New England. They now reside in Harrisville, N.H. and is able to renew old friendships with her classmates.

Virginia Deecher Welch '68

Writes that she is enjoying the "status quo".

Anne F. Fairman Coleman '68

Shares that she retired in November 2016. She and her daughter Tiffany traveled to Ohio to spend Christmas with her daughter Melanie, son-in-law James and 4 year old grandson Andrew.

Robin J. Shellard Campbell '68

Shares that she is enjoying retirement. She stays active playing pickle ball. Welcome to Charlotte Grace Kennedy, their 1st great granddaughter. Proud parents are Alayne Campbell Kennedy and Ian Kennedy.

Marjorie Stine Barrows '69

Writes that she continues to work part time as a N.P. in a private rheumatology office. She and her husband travel to Florida, Alabama and North Carolina to visit grandchildren.

Marsha Smith '71

Writes she is still working as a N.P. in a family practice.

Cynthia Schafer Decker '72

Writes that she enjoys the South's warm weather. She became a great grandma to Alina Violet Adams on 9/19/2016. She misses nursing, "A career I loved".

Patrice M. Rexford Baker '75

Shares that she is retired. She is looking forward to the arrival of her 3rd granddaughter.

Elizabeth DeVito Baldwin '75

Loves being a Nana! Jackson Robert Anthony arrived 1/1/2016.

Mary E. Hannan '75

Shares that she retired from full time nursing in March 2016. Currently she is involved in consulting and also is now a licensed Real Estate Salesperson with Keller Williams Capital District.

Mary Goyette '75

Writes that she has retired from Nursing.

Lou Ann Taft Savoyski '75

Shares that she is working as a Hospice Case Manager at VNA of Northern N.J. She loves spending time with her 1 year old granddaughter Meena and weekends at their "retirement" home in Vermont.

Dawn Coulter Scott '75

Shares that in May 2014 she opened her own practice, N.P. Adult Healthcare, PLLC. "In spite of the current pressures and chaos in healthcare, I try to be a nurse first!" "Still trying to figure out what I want to be when I grow up."

Mary Beth Rourke Numann '77

Shares that she and her roommate Debi Ryan Maslanka reunited after 40 years! It was as if no time had passed. She is enjoying being a grandma to Purnell Numan Saby born 4/23/2016.

Debra A. McCallen Jeffs '78

Writes that she was inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing in October 2016. She and her husband Bill continue to enjoy life in the South but, miss family and friends in the Northeast.

Joanne Favreau Reynolds '78

Shares that she has retired from school nursing in January 2017. She continues to teach nursing as adjunct faculty at Belanger School of Nursing.

Debra Boissoneault Cubillos '79

Extends a "Thank you" to the Alumni for the donation made in her brother's name, Jim, to the Leora Belknap Scholarship Fund. "I am very grateful for the thoughtfulness of the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing."

Joanne Parchetta '81

Shares that she is a former officer in the United States Navy Nurse Corps and is currently working at Ellis Hospital.

Tracy Wagner Ivory '81

Writes that she enjoys traveling and continues to work as part of a vascular access team.

Jane McAllister Peck '84

Shares that after 3 spine surgeries and a new diagnosis of M.S. she has retired. She was a CCRN for 22 years and regional faculty of AHA for ACLS, BLS, and PALS. She also worked as a staff nurse at Saratoga Hospital for 22 years.

Mary K. Thomas Ruetz '85

Shares that she has worked for 30 years as a direct patient care R.N. at AMCH. The last 23 years have been in Labor and Delivery.

Colleen D. Doring D'Amico '85

Writes that she is currently the Assistant Director of Education at Waterbury Hospital in Waterbury, CT.

Christine A. Gill Jones '85

Shares that she married Kim Rowe on 10/22/2016. She completed her MS in Nursing Education at SUNY Polytechnic Institute in December 2015. She is working full time as a course coordinator of maternal child nursing at Ellis Medicine, The Belanger School of Nursing.

Kimberly Dietzel Lorini '87

Shares that she is working in a Mother-Baby unit. She is certified in CLC (Certified Location Counselor)

Lisa A. Wagoner Piscitella '90

Writes that she is still working at AMC (6 years) as the IRF-PAI coordinator for acute rehabilitation. She is celebrating her 19th Wedding Anniversary and her daughter Jenna turned 16 in August and is driving. "OMG how time flies!"

Margaret Burke Sullivan '91

Writes that she is currently Behavioral Health Clinical Director for NYS Medicaid at United Health Care.

Tamara F. Auclair Yankowski '92

Writes that she is working at Internal Medicine Associates in Albany (SPHP). She enjoys time spent with her grandsons Jordan 9 years and Taylor 7 years. Her daughter Kayla works at South Troy Health as an IA.

Christine M. Yerdon '97

Shares that she recently was married 10/23/2016.

Janice L. Ceccucci 2003

Shares that she received her DNP from SUNY Upstate 12/2016.

Krista Rice Watkins 2006

Shares that she received her BSN in 2015.

Kimberly E. Hannigan 2006

Shares that she has accepted a position as a LPN clinical / classroom instructor with Capital Region Boces. She was the 2016 recipient of the Cr. Carmen Cornute Memorial Scholarship from SEFCU.

Amanda N. Dunham 2011

Writes she is attending Frontier Nursing University in MSN, FNP program.

Jessica R. Bogert 2012

Shares that she is currently working in the fields of HIV and HCV medicine. She finds the position fascinating and rewarding. She is able to work in a clinic locally and travel to conferences.

Ewa A. Parker 2014

Shares that she and her husband built their dream home in December 2016. She is working as an oncology nurse at Lexington Medical Center in West Columbia, S.C. She is certified in chemo therapy and is currently working on her certification as an OCN (Oncology Nurse Certification). She will receive her BSN in 2017 and plans to pursue her N.P. at U.S.C.