



**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**

Fall 2017

Troy, New York

*Please join us -
2018 Annual
Alumni Banquet
on Friday, June 8, 2018
at 6:00 PM
at the Hilton Garden Inn
Troy, NY*



Graduating Class of December 2017

**You're Invited
to Join Us!**

Annual May Dinner Meeting

Tuesday May 8, 2018

Paolo Lombardi's

104 West Sand Lake Road, Route 150, Wynantskill, NY
Social Gathering at 5:00 pm • Dinner at 6:00 PM,
Alumni/Foundation Meeting at 7:00 PM.

Guest Speaker: Christine Gilhooley Rem, RN, Executive Director of Capital District Women Veterans Program, Inc. Christine graduated from Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing, Class of 1970.

Topic: "A Retired Army Nurse's Journey and Dream to open a Supportive Community Residence for Women Veterans in the Capital District".

Please join us for what promises to be a very informative and enjoyable evening.



*From the
President's Desk*

One behalf of the Alumni Association I would like to thank Susan Birkhead for all that she has done for our school. It has been announced that Susan Birkhead, Director of the School of Nursing, will be retiring this year. She has always kept the school current in its' programing and continues to look ahead for what will be needed in the future. Susan was instrumental in securing the site and the design of our new campus at St. Mary's. She always has the needs of the students and faculty at the top of her list. Susan is an active advocate for the Alumni Association, always keeping the lines of communication open. I am sure we will continue to see Susan at our biannual dinner meetings. Susan, you are always welcome! Enjoy this new chapter in your life!

I would like to note a few services that The Northeast Health and Seton Foundations provide for the Alumni. The Foundation currently maintains address updates, current member and lifetime member lists, processing of members' dues, printing and mailing of biannual newsletters and meetings and Website maintenance and expansion. All of the services the Foundation provides are at no cost to the Alumni Association. The Foundation wants our school and alumni to thrive in the coming years. The Foundation is helping the Alumni Association to maintain its' important role in the St. Peter's Health Partners organization.

Donations continue to be accepted for the "Wall of History" that will be displayed in the vestibule of the new Samaritan Hospital Pavilion.

Donations may be made payable to the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing and sent to: Northeast Health Foundation
SPHP Center for Philanthropy
310 S. Manning Blvd.
Albany, N.Y. 12208

Your support will help us to preserve our legacy, promote interest in the nursing profession and expand educational opportunities for nurses.

Be sure to make your calendar for the next Annual Alumni Banquet on June 8, 2018. It is always a fun evening reconnecting with classmates and friends.

Mary Rose DeMarco '77, President

New Legislation Passed

BS in 10 has passed and signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo in December 2017. All Registered Nurses currently licensed and those currently enrolled in a nursing program are exempt. Hopefully, this will serve as an incentive for all nurses to advance their education in order to maintain their competency as science and technology continues to evolve. This will also pave the way to an increase in those seeking advanced degrees and doctorates resulting in more nurses filling the much needed teaching positions. NNYPNO continues to hold bi-monthly meetings at the Century House, Route 9, Latham on the first Thursday of October, December, February, Apri and June. There have been very interesting programs this year including Bariatric surgery, The role of the School Nurse, and Christine Rem's (a Samaritan graduate) presentation regarding support for veteran RN's.

Cost: \$10.00 program only
Members with meal \$35.00
Non-Member with meal \$37.00

Social Time: 5:30 - 6 PM

Dinner & Program: 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Membership is encouraged in order to take advantage of available Scholarships.

Alumni Board Members

Mary Rose (McDonald) DeMarco (1977) President
Claudia Graham (2003) Vice President
Korissa Gohlke (2013) Secretary, Belknap Committee, Courtesy Committee & District Liaison
Anne (Von Fricken) Coonrad (1984) Treasurer
Donna Breault (1980) Nominating Committee, Gemmell & Historical Committees

Christine (Ludwick) Lutringer (1972) Communications Committee
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
Spring 2018

As many of you may already know, I will be retiring in May or June. This is a bittersweet moment, because I have been so rewarded and fulfilled in my long career with the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing. However, it is time for me to step away, and leave the school in the hands of someone with fresh ideas and new energy. (As of this writing, my replacement has not been selected, but the plan is that I will have some overlap time with whoever is chosen.)

In preparing to write this last column, I looked back over the many columns that I have written since 2011. The musings chronicle nothing so much as change! In 2011, the merger of Northeast Health, St. Peter's and Seton was announced. I wrote often of working towards accreditation, and note with pride that we achieved both Regent's and ACEN accreditation. Threaded throughout was discussion of planning for the school's future in its new location, and securing the best in our new home. But underpinning all the accounts of change, all my narratives reflect on the quality of the education offered at this wonderful school, the remarkable devotion of the faculty and staff to excellence, and the accomplishments of our graduates.

What does the future hold for me? In addition to playing with my grandchildren and taking long walks, I have several possibilities: I hope to join the NYS Board for Nursing; I also have signed up to be a peer reviewer (site visitor) for ACEN; and I may also teach a section of an online nursing course. I can't just walk away from my career 'cold turkey'!

One of my greatest pleasures as director has been my relationship with the Alumni Association, and the wonderful people who are the alumni of this school. I always enjoy seeing people who were students of 'mine' or who have graduated since I have been director, and I equally enjoy getting to know people who graduated before 1997, and especially hearing about all the stories from the old days.

I would love to see each and every one of you at the 2018 Annual Alumni Banquet which will be held on Friday, June 8, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy.

Thank you so much for all your support and interest over the years - it has been an honor!

Susan Birkhead



**Courtesy
Committee**

The Homebound List currently has 15 alumni listed. Cards are sent on Thanksgiving and Easter. Plants are given at Christmas when funds are available.

A monetary donation is made to the Belknap Scholarship Fund in memory of deceased alumni or their immediate family.

If any member knows an alumni who should be added to either of these lists please notify Karen Henchey at -

khenchey@aol.com or 518-283-4967.

The Courtesy Committee would like to acknowledge the recent passing of Eleanor Hill Class of 1950. Eleanor was active in the alumni for many years, most recently as Chairperson of the History Committee. She was a valuable resource person for anything "Samaritan." She frequently notified the Committee of a deceased alumni and their families. Eleanor will be missed by all of us.

Welsh, Sheldon, Belknap and Seber Funds

Do you have an unexpected medical expense or are you in need of some assistance in retirement? Check out the Blanche E Welsh Fund and the Doris Sheldon Fund on www.sphp.com web site under schools. You may be eligible. This session 1 award was given in each fund.

Returning to school or currently in school for Nursing?

The Alumni Association has scholarship monies available to eligible Alumni from the Belknap and Seber funds. Ten scholarships were awarded this past session from the Seber fund and one from the Belknap fund. Information is on www.sphp.com web site under Schools of Nursing.

Condolences to:

- Connie LaPosta Class 1955 on the loss of her brother, Edward Malone
- Shirley Diven Class 1980 on the loss of her sister, Carolyn
- Claudia B. Zapisek Class of 1959 on the loss of her husband William
- Dawn M. Lemire Class of 1995 and Michelle Dupuis Class of 1992 on the loss of their Mother

Condolences to the families of:

- Jean M. (Green) Thrasher Class 1958
- Joyce Hull Higbee Class 1960 (passed 5/16/16)
- Jane Cook Kelso Class 1972
- Patricia Germand Killeen Class 1948
- Rosanna Lombard Crawley Class 1948
- Jean A. Downing Smith Class of 1955
- Sandra Andrew Dyer Class of 1963



Bits & Pieces

Florence Strang '51 writes that she is staying active and healthy with the help of her caregivers and family.

Muriel F. Dufendach '53 shares that she is managing a non-profit feeding program, Friends in the Desert Inc. which serves a hot meal to all needy who come to their door. She says that it is both valuable and rewarding. She would like to hear from her classmates.

Mary Alice Donlon '55 shares that about 8 members of the Class of '55 get together monthly for lunch in Latham or Colonie.

Irene L. Raiche '55 writes that she is fully retired. She states that her daughter and daughters-in-law are R.N.'s. All have degrees and are very active in nursing.

Beverly A. Brown '58 writes that she has moved to a Senior Community in Eastwick Village. She is very happy and active in all the activities. Between her 3 children and 3 stepchildren, she has 12 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren scattered all over the U.S.

Nancy S. Ethier '58 is happy to announce she is 80 years old and has been free of breast cancer for 5 years!

Claudia B. Zapisek '59 writes that her husband William, passed away in April of 2017.

Barbara Carr '61 writes that she has been retired for 12 years. She loves playing golf and her life in sunny Myrtle Beach, S.C.!

Helen J. Canfield '61 shares that she retired in April of 2016. She enjoys taking adult education classes at the local college. She is a breast cancer survivor for the last 4 years!

Barbara L. Holmes '63 shares that she is enjoying retirement and watching her granddaughters become young ladies! The oldest is a sophomore at Clarkson University and her sister will graduate from Averill Park High School with her sights on becoming a P.A. So proud of both!

Carol J. Ackerman '64 writes that she is retired.

Elizabeth Stewart '65 shares that she is busy participating in several church ministries. She is a member of the choir, makes prayer shawls and baby blankets and conducts Bible studies. She also teaches CPR, AED and First Aid classes across S.C.

Georgene S. Beaver '65 shares that she has retired this past year and is truly enjoying it! She took a 6 week road trip to the West Coast and then a 3 week trip to China.

Helen E. Millard '66 writes that she hasn't worked since her knee replacement in 2013 but still maintains her license. She is active in her church and singing. She now has 19 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. "Love to all".

Angela Pringle '68 shares that she is retired.

Noreen Smith '68 shares that she is retired. She spends her time on church and community group activities. She is also active in helping friends recover after hurricane Harvey.

Robin J. Campbell '68 writes that she is loving retirement! She is busy everyday playing pickleball and spending time with her grandkids and one great granddaughter.

Marjorie Barrows '69 shares that she is working part-time as a N.P. in a local Rheumatology office. She retired from full-time practice after 26 years at the Albany Veterans Administration. She enjoys traveling frequently to visit her 9 grandchildren in FL., AL., and N.C.

Barbara H. Smith '70 writes that retirement is wonderful! They are spending the winter time in Texas with her daughter and 5 grandchildren and much of the summer time in the Adirondacks. "Life is full"

Cynthia Decker '72 shares that she is enjoying not dealing with the snow. She loves the warmth of the South. She wishes she could be working but, is unable due to a disability.

Bonnie J. Erickson '74 writes that she is permanently retired from nursing.

Sandra A. Farnam '74 shares that she is still working in a Cath Lab "Prep and Landing" and loves it! She says that she gets "hugs" everyday!

Diana B. Mertrude '75 shares that she has been retired for 2 years after 29+ years at UCSD Medical Center in the Medical ICU, Burn Unit and Gy procedures. She travels back to Vermont 1-2 times a year.

Margaret A. Kaplan '75 shares that she retired in 2012.

Holly A. Smolinski '75 writes that she is retired and loving it! She is enjoying time on the golf course.

Deborah Saffan '75 shares that she is currently working as a Hospice nurse for St. Peter's Healthcare.

Paula J. Sawyer '75 shares that she is working as a management Analyst with the National Informedics Patient Supply team at the VA. 2018 will mark her 34th year with the VA.

Judith L. Polnak '76 writes that she is retired and has 4 grandchildren.

Barbara R. McHale '77 shares that she retired as a nurse navigator on 1/27/2017. She remains active with the Academy of Oncology Nurse Navigators and is doing some consultant work. She is enjoying her 2 new grandbabies born this year, Tyler Ostrander and Haley Larkins.

John M. Kane '78 writes that he wishes the Dinner/Meetings were held on an evening that out-of-towners could more easily attend. Sorry John, our By-Laws stipulate the dates.

Shirley A. Diven '81 writes that she continues to work for MVP Insurance. Her sister, Carolyn passed away November 2017 due to lung cancer.

Anne Swota '81 shares that she has worked for Shenendehowa CSD as a Middle School Nurse for 15 years. She and her husband are celebrating 31 years of marriage. They have a son and a daughter.

Anne L. Coonrad '84 shares that she has just started her second term on the New York State Board of Nursing. She continues to teach as an adjunct faculty at Empire State College. She is currently employed as an Associate Court Attorney.

Lisa A. Piscitella '90 shares that she celebrating her 20th wedding anniversary. She is working at AMC-acute physical rehab as the PPS Coordinator. Her daughter, Jenna, is currently a Senior at CCHS.

Shirley J. DeCamp '90 writes that she is retired from Samaritan ICU but, continues to work per diem in ICU.

John K. Welch '93 shares that his RI LLC, Innovative Healthcare plans will be a Microsoft partner with certification in healthcare.

Cindy Harrington '94 shares that she was promoted to Associate Executive Director of Shelters of Saratoga in February 2017.

Dawn M. Lemire '95 shares that she has a new job as Senior Utilization Nurse for the Department of Corrections NYS. Her mother passed away in March 2017. Dawn's sister, Michelle Dupuis is from the class of '92.

Debra T. Murphy '96 shares that she and Daniel welcomed their 1st grandchild, Owen Andrew, May 2017. "What a blessing"

Ewa A. Parker 2014 shares that she has completed the RN-BSN program at American Sentinel University. She continues to work as an oncology nurse at Lexington Medical Center in West Columbia, SC.

Melena M. Marinucci 2017 shares that she is currently working at St. Peter's Hospital in the Mother/Baby unit. She is looking forward to cross training to Labor and Delivery next year!

Attention Class of 1968

We are putting together a 50 year reunion that coincides with the Annual Alumni Banquet on JUNE 8, 2018.

We would love to see all our classmates again!

Details will be mailed so we need your contact info.

Please forward the info to: Joan Sibley McReavy,

Faith Facticeau Lewis, Lynn Lasher Wheland,

or Sandy Sturtevant Nuttall.

See you all the then!