



# Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Fall /Winter 2014

Troy, New York

A Publication for Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse Graduates

## From the President's Desk:

Fellow Alumni

I hope you all enjoyed a fun and relaxing summer. I enjoy hearing from fellow alumni and putting together all of the information you share through our "Bits and Pieces" for the newsletter. It appears that everyone has busy and full lives. I have some news as well. My son Marc and his wife Ashlee live in Georgia. I have one granddaughter, Katelyn and just learned there will be one more on the way expected in April 2015. My husband and I have decided that it would be really great if we could be closer to them and be able to share some of the growing up milestones that many of you are able to share with your grandchildren. So, after living in New York for all of our lives, we have decided to relocate to Georgia. For this reason, with mixed emotions, I have resigned my position as President of the Alumni Board. I just want to say that I have enjoyed serving on the board and working with all of my fellow alumni. The members of this board are a very dedicated, committed group who give willingly to support the activities of the board in their free time. It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with them over my many years on the Alumni Board. I wish you all well. I invite anyone with an interest in serving to contact me or another board member. I will keep in touch and look forward to hearing about how you are all doing.

Sincerely,

**Joy Aloan, RN '77** President



## From the Director's Desk:

Greetings! We are entering a very busy academic year that will be full of change and challenge! We are currently preparing for a site visit at the end of September for our reaccreditation with the New York State Board of Regents. We are also working on the final edition of the self-study that has been drafted to obtain ACEN (formerly NLNAC) accreditation. We anticipate that a site visit from an ACEN review team will occur sometime in the spring of 2015. And, of course, we will be moving the school to the St. Mary's campus, probably at the end of the spring semester. Another important change that is underway is the plan to change the name of the school to the Samaritan College of Nursing. This entails actually changing the charter of the school – the only charter on record at NYSED is the 'limited charter' of the Samaritan Hospital Training School for Nurses from 1903! Despite my close review of Miss Belknap's book, *The Story of Samaritan*, I cannot find any information about when the school's name was changed to its current name. Miss Belknap starts using the current name when she writes about the school in the 1920s, but does not give any information about when or why the name was changed. Be that as it may, our associate degree program is a collegiate program. Other colleges look to transfer credit from colleges, so it is time for our name to identify us as a college. I will update you as I learn more. The Annual Alumni Banquet on June 6 was a big success! About 100 folks attended, from all over the country once again. This year, about 25% of the attendees had graduated during "my" time here (since 1997). I was so pleased to have this group of newer Samaritan graduates participate! The Alumni Banquet is the 'feel good' event of the year around here, and I am already looking forward to the next one – on Friday, June 5, 2015!

**Susan Birkhead**

## 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. To date in 2014, 10 condolence donations were made to the Leora Belknap Scholarship Fund in memory of deceased alumni or members of their immediate family. 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. 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](mailto:khenchey@aol.com), or committee members: Kathy Davis 273-4503, Ellen Dunn 283-0431, and Diane Dare 783-8790.

- **Karen Henchey, '68** Chair



The Class of 1964 celebrated their 50th graduation anniversary while the Class of 1989 celebrated 25 years. Above members of the class of '64 enjoying the Annual Banquet.

**Committee Reports (Scholarship & 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. Two awards were granted this year to date. Awards will be distributed again this December and we encourage anyone eligible to apply. 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.

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

### Welsh Committee

The Blanche E. 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.

Since May of this year the committee awarded seven annual 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 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. This spring 24 awards were distributed. 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.

- Susan Quinn, '80, Seber Chair

### Mosley Committee

The annual dinner meeting for the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association will be held on Tuesday November 11, 2014 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 Dr. Kimberly Bertrand from the Harvard Nurses' Health Study. Dr. Bertrand has been involved directly with the study. Come and see what the purpose of this study is, what it has meant for women's health and where the study is going in the future.

### History Committee

History Committee Members are Joan Gemmill, Eleanor Lee, Bunny Ohara and Florence Strang. Joan continues

to work on the Electronic Spreadsheet documenting each member of the graduating class in detail as to their personal data. Eleanor is working on Scrap Books with Bunny and Florence. Eleanor also mentioned numbering the items of our history collection to prepare for the move to our new Alumni office. Carole Lesson is the calligrapher that records the death of the Alumni Members in a special book. A check for \$50 will be sent to her this week as she has completed her most recent assignment.

- Joan Sibley McReavy, '68, Chairperson

### Belknap Committee

The Committee for the Belknap Scholarship Fund; Joan Sibley McReavy, Florence Strang, Tamara Yankowski and Michele Boucher. Activity of Sept. 2014; the Committee for the Leora E. Belknap for the Scholarship Fund will review applications in the month of November 2014. The award will be given out in December 2014, as the funds based on the yearly "earnings" of the portfolio of 2013. - The committee would prefer to see this award go to a member that is in the Masters phase of the program defined as the accelerated BSN/MA Program. The committee will begin to look at the By-Laws to make changes that meet the needs of this Scholarship Fund in 2014. A meeting will take place in early October. The suggested By-Law changed for this Scholarship fund will be submitted to the Board for review in Nov.2014.

- Joan Sibley McReavy '68, Chairperson

**Communications** - I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Northeast Foundation for printing and mailing our newsletter this fall. With the Foundation helping us we are able to save about \$1000 for each mailing that we do. I am confident that everyone will enjoy the new format as well as the information provided. If anyone has any suggestions for improvements please send your suggestions with the dues envelope that is enclosed. As always the newsletter and Alumni forms are available through the St. Peter's Healthcare Partners website under Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association. - Christine Ludwick Lutringer '72

## Bits and Pieces

**Nancy Stoughton Ethier '58** – Has been retired since 1999 and enjoys her retirement with her husband.

**Connie Weaver Bailey '61** – Shares her retirement continues to be busy. She is in touch with Barb Carr who resides in Myrtle Beach, SC. Since her class' 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, they continue to keep in touch. She was sorry she missed this June's banquet.

**Barbara Moss Holmes '63** – After 35+ years at Samaritan and 15+ years at Empire Blue Cross, she retired in April and is looking forward to some "me" time. Congratulations!!!

**Nancy Sirigiano Post '64** – She has retired from nursing - enjoys traveling, playing bridge, golfing, and has 2 grandsons.

**Georgene (Jean) Watson Beaver '65** – Says she is still working PRN at a surgical center – 4 days a week. She was planning to retire in August 2014. She and her 3 grand-daughters – Hadley 12, Tatum 8 and Kendall 7 have lots of fun together.

**Linda Cline Gerteisen '68** – Has been enjoying retirement for 5 years. She volunteers at school, travels, and enjoys her grandchildren and good health!

**Linda Goodspeed Flihan '68** – Shares that her son ran the 2012 Boston Marathon blindfolded to raise \$42,000.00 for the National Braille Press in Boston.

**Marjorie Stone Barrows '69** – Is retired from Albany VA Medical Center after almost 26 years. She has worked as a family nurse practitioner in various positions over these years of employment. She now travels and enjoys several grandchildren with several more on the way this year.

**Virginia Kaiser Perry '68** – She has also recently retired from nursing and continues to volunteer at her church and elementary school where her grandson attends. She shares that she is very proud of her two daughters – Christina, a chemistry teacher and Annie who is with the county ME office.

**Diana Carpino Lafave '70** – Reports she is enjoying retirement from nursing – traveling, cooking and making jewelry keep her busy these days.

**Darlene Lefebvre '71** – Has been retired since February 2013.

**Catherine Goyette Shriver '71** – Is also retired since March 2013 after working at Samaritan Hospital since graduation from nursing school.

**JoAnn Rinaldi Horton '75** – Is currently living in Texas working in an ASC. She had a wonderful time meeting up with her classmates and catching up with them after 40 years at the June event – she "can't wait that long again." Go Class of '75!!

**Joanne Favreau Reynolds '78** – Has successfully completed her Master's Degree (MSN) in Nursing Education in June 2013. Congratulations!

**Alicia Charland Lang '83** – Shares that she is the Director of Women and Children's Services at Tucson Medical Center.

**Mary Quinn Mulligan '88** – Enjoys her part-time position in a short term surgery recovery room at Yale New Haven Hospital. She has been married for 18 years to Neil and has two daughters – Caitlin and Keira.

**Dianne Harrington '88** – Wants to share that her sister Judi (48 years old) passed away on May 16, 2013 from metastatic bladder cancer after an 18 month courageous battle. Our condolences to you and your family. Her niece Lori, now 21, has received her EMT certificate and is pursuing studies at HVCC to become a Paramedic.

**Stacy Cottrell Callahan 2002** – Reports that she is going back to school for her BSN. Good Luck!

**Leah North 2010** – Is currently working on her BSN through Excelsior and continues to work on a Neuroscience Unit at Albany Medical Center.



Elinor Mann '36 pictured far right . . . With her two daughters Linda Mann Meyer '61 and Caroline Mann Crofts '61.

### Elinor B. Mann –

*February 1, 1915 - July 9, 2014*

Elinor Mann was born in North Troy, New York. She was the daughter of Fred A. Beck and Helga Bentzen Beck and was very proud of her Danish heritage. She grew up in Lansingburg where a sister-in-law and many nieces and nephews still reside. She outlived her three siblings, Frederick Beck, Warren Beck and Evelyn Adams.

She was so proud to be a registered nurse and a member of the class of 1936, an alumna of the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing. She did a few years of private duty before September 4, 1938 when she married Harry James Mann, an RPI Civil Engineering graduate from Doylestown, PA. They resided in Niagara Falls, New York, where they raised twin girls, Linda and Carol, and a son, Frederick (Rick). Once the family arrived she became the neighborhood nurse and assisted those while in the hospital or at home.

Elinor had a great zest for life and was fortunate to be able to travel and experience the world. In the 1960's, she spent two and a half years in Pamplona, Spain, while her husband was on a project to build a graphite plant for Union Carbide. She and her daughters also shared many yearly trips in the United States and Scandinavia.

Her proudest moment was the graduation of her twin daughters in the class of 1961. This was her 25th reunion from the School of Nursing. Elinor became a widow in 1973 but stayed in the Falls until 1997 when she moved to Ohio to be with her daughter Linda and her husband, Raymond Meyer. The death of Carol Crofts, Linda's twin sister, in 2004 was a heartbreaking loss.

She is a 48 year member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. For her 90th birthday, her grandson, Chris Meyer, set up the Elinor Mann Nursing Scholarship Fund to be administered by the P.E.O. Foundation for Ohio nursing students. She was able to meet some of the recipients which gave her great satisfaction.

Elinor lived a long a happy life. She made Julekage pastries which were enjoyed by all who knew her. She loved to crochet and made over 100 afghans for friends and family. Elinor leaves a legacy of love and joy for all of us!

As the oldest alumna, she was very honored to receive a beautiful poinsettia from the alumnae and Easter flowers from the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing.

Respectfully Submitted, Linda Meyer

## Condolences

To Harlene Byng O'Hara Class of 1955 on the loss of brothers Brian and Edward  
 To Linda Davis Larson Class of 1971 on the loss of her father George  
 To Susan Snide Class of 2008 on the loss of her daughter Rebecca  
 To Marie Anne Occhiogrosso Class of 1981 on the loss of her mother Marie A. Keevern

To the families of :

Marie Gahrean Davis Class of 1949  
 Constance Ames Dormady Class of 1947  
 Colleen Connell Smith Class of 1977  
 Elsie Braun Chase Class of 1950  
 Isaac Williams Class of 2008  
 Elinor Beck Mann Class of 1936



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

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## ***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. All NNYPO 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 when programs are presented.

NYSNA priority legislation for 2014 Legislative Session

1. Safe Staffing Ratios - Nurses are being forced to take on 9, 10 or more patients at once. That's too many! They are fighting for a law to set safe staffing ratios.
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. 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](http://NYSNA.org). The District Liaison Committee is seeking another member. If you are interested, please contact me at 283-4967 or [Khenchey@aol.com](mailto:Khenchey@aol.com) - **Karen Henchey**, Chairperson

## ***Finance Committee***

The Committee continues to work with Dennis Wentraub of Morgan Stanley so that our portfolio can produce appropriate returns for scholarships and grants, and the decisions re the awards are made by each committee. Representatives of Moseley, Seber, Welsh, Belknap and The Charitable Trust [ Sheldon Com.] meet with the Finance Com. Chair, the Board Treasurer, and the Board President, if available, and our portfolio manager, four times annually. Account values and other information may be obtained by Alumni members from the Finance Committee. The Seber and Belknap Portfolios have recently received monies from the Fund raising campaign directed to Alumni membership; the Board and the Finance Committee thank you for your generosity. This infusion helps us to fulfill our mission. - **Florence Strang, '51**, Committee Chair

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**Class of '63**, 50th Reunion held September 2013. Ten classmates shared coffee-hour and memories at the School of Nursing. Our host, Susan Birkhead, Director of the School, graciously took us through the current school and our former "home away from home" while listening to our ancient history surface back to the 60's!



From there, 12 classmates, met at the Century House in Latham for a luncheon and many more memories, on all levels.

Those attending — L to R Carol Moot Shorkey, Suzanne Blain Asher, Linda Gowie Delaney, Gail Crandell Suprenant, Barbara Moran Cocco, JoAnne Tyler Conners, Irene (Lois) Mamarch McGlynn, Sandra Shepard Tarte, Carolyn Repka Kozubal, Alice Bain Dubois, Gail Little Danusler, Barbara Moss Holmes.