



# Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Newsletter

A Publication for Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse Graduates • Fall 2013

## From the President's Desk:

Dear Fellow Alumni,

It is hard to believe the summer has come and gone again. Time seems to just fly by.

I just have a few updates to share with you. First of all, "who went to the 1st School of Nursing Alumni Banquet??" It was so much fun. I am sorry if you were not able to attend. What a great opportunity to get together and visit with some old friends, meet some new ones and share lots of fun stories with life time friends we have nurtured throughout our nursing training and careers. There were over 125 attendees. Of this attendee total, there were 103 Alumni from 40 class years starting with the Class of 1942. The largest attendee group was from the Class of 1975. Other class years represented were 1942, 46, 50, 51, 53, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 68, 69, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 88, 90, 92, 94, 97, 2003, 06, 09, 11, 12. The June event was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy, New York. It was a very convenient location for those alumni who came back to celebrate their class reunions and to visit the school. The speaker was

very entertaining. A special thanks to Susan Birkhead, Director of Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing and Cheryl Rankey and her team from St. Peter's Health Partner's Foundation for coming up with this wonderful idea and arranging all the evening's events. If you were unable to attend this year, then save this date – June 6, 2014 and plan on joining us for next year's event. Hope to see you all then.

The second update is regarding the response to the appeal we made to support our Alumni members. It is very exciting to report that we were able to surpass our goal of \$10,000.00 and raised a total of \$11,133.00. On behalf of the School of Nursing Alumni Board members, I would like to thank all of you for your continued commitment and generous contributions. Remember, if you are an alumni member and would like to benefit from any of our available funding, please apply.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joy Aloan, RN Class of 1977  
President



*Singing the Alma Mater. Can you find yourself in this picture?*



*Members of the Class of 1975*

## From the Director's Desk

I am still experiencing the afterglow from the first-ever Alumni Banquet on June 7. Over 110 alumni attended, including Leah Gaies who graduated 71 years ago in 1942, and thirteen members from the Class of 1975, who made the largest showing. Folks came from as far away as Alaska, Arizona and South Carolina – and of course, from many villages, towns and cities in northeastern New York. We shared lots of memories and smiles, and enjoyed a huge boost to our endorphins thanks to the unforgettable humor of our guest speaker, nurse humorist Barb Bancroft. We concluded the evening by singing the Alma Mater – in tune! I hope to see many more of you at next year's Alumni Banquet: the evening of Friday, June 6 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy.

**Accreditation Update:** In June, I submitted the candidacy application to the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), formerly the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC). I expect to hear an affirmative response any day now. When that happens, we will have two years to write the self-study and undergo a site visit. We are due for reaccreditation by the New York State Board of Regents in June, 2014. The self-study for that body was submitted in August, and I expect a site visit before the first of the year.

**Move Update:** We continue in the planning process for the anticipated move to the St. Mary's campus, which is anticipated to take place not later than the summer of 2015. We have had several meetings with the architects from Freeman White, the firm that is doing the planning. The current students have all been apprised of this eventuality, and are pleased to know that, no matter what, they will have their clinical experiences on the Samaritan campus, and will graduate from the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing!

Susan Birkhead



## 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.

### Mosley Committee

The Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association's Annual dinner Meeting will be held on Tuesday November 12, 2013 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 is tentatively Jeffrey M. Shepardson, Narcotic Investigator from the NYS Department of Health. We hope to see you there.

### Belknap Committee

We Currently have 2 applicants for 2013. We need to use the earnings for the entire year of 2013 therefore we will review all applicants in November and the award will be issued in December of 2013 at the end of the calendar year. Any BSN applicant working on a Masters in Nursing program may apply. Applications are available on our web site that is under [stpetershealthpartners.com](http://stpetershealthpartners.com). When at the site, click on northeast health and then schools. The alumni association is under Samaritan School of Nursing. Scholarships are listed there.

Joan Sibley Gemmill '68  
Chairperson

### 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 year from May to the present the committee awarded nine annual applicants and two 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

### 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 2012, 29 condolence donations were made to the Leora Belknap Scholarship Fund in memory of deceased alumni or members of their immediate family. To date, 18 donations have been made in 2013.

The Infirmid List currently is comprised of 14 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 Infirmid 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, Chair

### Finance Committee

The market has been in a state of flux this Spring into Summer. Our most recent committee meeting was held on Monday, June 17, 2013 with five of us present along with Dennis Wentraub, Financial Advisor from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. Noting the present situation in business, Dennis suggested that we move some of our investments to equity [stocks] slowly, which would enable us to partake in the higher rates which have been predicted. The following action was suggested: purchase SEADRILL securities for several of our fund holdings [portfolios]. Seadrill is a Norwegian Company which leases rigs for the oil and gas industries all over the world, and which has a record of being a shareholder friendly company. Seadrill has given eleven consecutive quarterly raises in dividends. The Committee agreed to Dennis' suggestion and the purchases have been made. The Alumni portfolios of Seber, Welch, and The Charitable Fund [Seldon] participated in this move. If you have questions, please contact a member of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Florence Strang '51, Committee Chair

### Communications

The Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni, Inc. will no longer be supplying membership cards. Many of you have requested them in the past but it is with our humble apologies that we can no longer do so.

There have recently been some questions regarding membership so here is how membership is defined for The Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni, Inc.

In the Manual of The Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni, Inc. (Blue Book), membership is clearly defined.

#### Membership consists of three types:

Sustaining members are all graduates of the Registered Nurse Program and the Practical Nurse Program of the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing, Troy, New York who do not qualify as either Life members or Honorary Members.

Life Members are graduates of the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing who have permanently retired from the practice of nursing due to a disability OR have been a graduate of the School of Nursing for 40 years AND a sustaining member for the last 5 years.

Honorary members are persons whom the membership wish to honor because of the distinguished service rendered to this Corporation.

Dues for sustaining members shall be a sum fixed by the Board in advance from time to time and payable as of the first day of January in each year. There shall be no dues for Life and Honorary members. If a sustaining member has not paid the annual dues by February 1st, such member forfeits all privileges for that year. Payment of dues after February 1st restores only voting and social privileges for that fiscal year.

Sustaining, except as provided above, and Life members shall enjoy all benefits and rights of membership in the Corporation. Honorary members shall be conferred social privileges only.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Ludwick Lutringer '72

## 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. Last December one recipient was awarded, and remaining funds were reinvested. This year to date no awards have been awarded. 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 maybe required to return funds received. This fall 19 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.

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

## Bits and Pieces

### Susan Bunk Darnell "84

Says "Thank you for a wonderful reunion! We should bring back the Sabre or at least as a pin each year. See you next year!" She is teaching nursing for the University of Alaska Anchorage and she wears her cap and sabre.

### Tamara Auclair Yankowski "92

Shares she is now working at Family Medical Group in East Greenbush. She has two wonderful grandsons – Jordan 5 and Tyler 3.

## Save The Date!!

Tuesday, November 12 – 5:30 PM

### Fall Dinner Meeting

Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante  
in Wynantskill

#### Keynote Speaker:

Jeffrey M. Shepardson,  
Narcotic Investigator,  
Department of Health



## FUN FACTS – CURRENT STUDENTS WHO ARE RELATIVES OF ALUMNI

Student	Relative	Year	Relationship
Amy Carr	Gina Ditoro Thornton	2010	
Kristina Curtis	Sandra Curtis	2002	Mother
Kristeh Hallett	Vincenza Daniels	2012	Cousin
Jessica Logozzo	Virginia Duquette Visker	1996	Aunt
Sandi Upton	Lillian MacNaughton Kehn	1970	Aunt
Sara Dietrich	Catherine Peterson	1975	Mother
	Sheldon		
	Joyce Peters Peterson	1953	Grandmother
	Gladys Peters Hart	1951	Great aunt
	Emily Novak	2012	
Tara Muller	Marla Januska	1980	Mother
Laura Snyder	Sara Snyder	2011	Sister
Caitlin Walsh	Kimberly Walsh	1997	Mother
Daniel Wyman	Lori Wyman	1991	Mother
	Jamie Wyman	2005	Sister
Letisha Canty	Elinor Taylor-Rice	2001	Aunt



## 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.

A special meeting is being held on September 12, 2013, to vote on whether we want to remain affiliated with NYSNA or remain our own entity.

### 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
6. Ban on Mandatory Overtime for RNs in Home Care
7. CNS Title Protection and Certification
8. Mandatory Continuing Education for RNs

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

## SAMARITAN HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNI FALL DINNER MEETING

When: Tuesday, November 12, 2013  
 Where: Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante in Wynantskill  
 Time: 5:30 PM  
 Guest Speaker: Jeffrey M. Shepardson, Narcotic Investigator, Department of Health  
 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, November 8, 2013

Mail to: Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.,  
2215 Burdett Avenue, Troy, NY 12180

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: \_\_\_\_\_