

Greetings to All Alumni

Summer has ended, sad to say, and we hope everyone enjoyed many sunny days. We on the Board are looking forward to planning for the future of the Alumni Association as we all age.

The Board works tirelessly to preserve the legacy of the Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing. The school graduated almost 6,000 students whom are recognized and valued for the highest standards of nursing practice. Many of the present Board members have devoted their time for over 30 years to maintain this legacy. Thank You to them for their commitment all these years for the good of all the alumni members. Thank you to all the alumni for their vote of confidence which allows the Board to work in their behalf.

The Communion Breakfast was held on April 6, 2014 which provides the Alumni the opportunity to come together to share our spiritual connection. However, we again incurred a monetary loss.

The Spring Tea was successful in that we made money for nursing scholarships.

The Alumni Association has 908 members and it never ceases to amaze me that so few support the fundraisers. There are only three a year. This Alumni Association belongs to all and as we go forward we need many more to support and attend the fundraisers in order to continue the Association.

The Pasta Extravaganza, hosted by the Sisters of St. Joseph on May 3, 2014, was lively and fun. It was a success. The Alumni support this with a financial donation and attendance, and Board members help with the sale of tickets for the tea cup auction. The Sisters are very appreciative for this support.

We look forward to 2015, hoping to complete the financial strategic plan for the future.

Please check the Vital Signs for upcoming events and come — bring family and friends.

Blessings and Thank You.

Your Co-Presidents

Kathleen McLoughlin and JoAnn Martinson



50 Year Reunion Celebrated by Class of 1964

At the Inn in Middletown on June 29th, 50 percent of the graduating class of 1964 celebrated fifty years after leaving SFHSN. There were no speeches, no celebrities, except for a tribute to our seven classmates whose spirit will always be with us; just friends having a great time sharing the past and the present.

Prior to the Sunday brunch, a Mass was celebrated for the living and deceased members of the Class at St. Francis of Assisi Church in

Middletown. A grand tour that contrasted the old and the new of SFHMC was provided on Saturday. WOW! We were impressed from start to finish — almost all doors were opened to us by Debra Webster, MS, APRN, who was joined by Robert Robarge, MS, RN. Other noted contributors we met on route included Michele McKelsey PhD., RN, a nurse educator, and Mary G. O'Toole of the Class of 1955, who is celebrating 35 years in the Emergency Department.



Alumni Association Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing Board of Directors



Co-Presidents:

JoAnn Martinson '95

Kathleen McLoughlin '58

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Helene Anthony '59

Ida Ducey '60

Secretary:

Eileen Drolet '59

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Co-Financial Secretaries:

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The Board of Directors:

Lorraine Baethge '67

Ellen Lysak '57

Ann Marie DiLoreto '65

Carroll Rosenbeck '55

Margaret Fernald '68

Nancy Ryan '64

Cesidia Geraci '57

CONTACTS

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Donations

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Infirm Nurses

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Membership

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Scholarship

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SFHMC Nursing

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From the Archives

Saint Francis nurses have been providing compassionate care and healing expertise since 1897.

Do you recognize the nurse in this photo? Let us know! Please send your response to our editors.



Someone knew!!!!

Answer: Found in the med closet on the nursing unit it was used to dissolve narcotic tablets into liquid form for injection.

~Martha Buzaid O'Keefe, Class of 1951



WANTED!! WANTED!! WANTED!!

Our Alumni Membership Committee needs your help:

- **Class Contact** — to help to keep our association up to date on your class activities, provide information and pictures for the alumni newsletter and help your class to maintain alumni membership.
- **"Tour Guides" for Class Reunions** — Saint Francis graduates currently employed at the hospital are needed to conduct hospital tours for reunions, once or twice a year.
- **Participate** on the Membership Committee or even the Board of Directors — Especially targeted are graduates from years of 1982 to 1997 when the school closed. Let's keep our alumni association a viable active presence at Saint Francis Hospital and in the community.

E-mail or call: Nancy Ryan at ryanner@sbcglobal.net or 860-232-0255

The Alumni Emporium

Our Emporium continues to keep the Alumni Spirit Alive!

Our feature items are our Alumni Wall Clock, \$20 plus \$6 S&H; our full zip soft fleece jacket for \$36.50 and our historical afghan for \$53.00. For all other items please contact Anna Pallerberg at 860-673-9316 or ladyfrances7@yahoo.com, or visit the Alumni website, www.stfrancisnursesalumni.com



Bake-less Cake Sale to Benefit Our Scholarship Fund

A bit of news we have today
A bake-less cake sale is on the way.
In these busy days, now who would bake?
Pies or cookies, or even a cake?

You'd be surprised if you counted the cost
Of material, heat or the time you lost
Cooking for sales is extra work
Yet no one really wishes to shirk

So we've thought of a plan that's really grand
And felt quite sure that you'll understand
In your little envelope please place the price
Of a cookie, or a slice of cake, or something nice

Without fuss or bother you've done your part
We're sure you all will give with a willing heart
This is the end of our little tale
Wishing success for our Bake-less Cake Sale

(Author unknown)

Please make check out to AASFHSN and mail to:
Ida Ducey '60, 50 Walton Drive, West Hartford, CT 06107

Reflections

Jule Connor Fiocchetta, The Birth of the Vital Signs, and Me

Sadly, I send word that Jule Connor Fiocchetta died on February 21, 2014. Perhaps you have already been notified, but I would like to add a few words about Jule.

We served on the Alumni Board of Directors together and she also held an office. It was during that period that it was felt that some sort of communication between board members and members alike would be a helpful tool of communication. Jule and I volunteered and thus *Vital Signs* was born.

We worked from Jule's basement (without the benefit of a computer), spent many hours trying to make our production have some semblance of professionalism, dealt with the postal service, agonized over a name for our endeavor, but mostly laughed...a lot. I cherish those memories, which helped me realize what a good and caring nurse Jule was, what a fine laugh she shared, what a stickler for proper grammar she was, and how deep her religious roots laid.

I am thankful for our opportunity to collaborate on *Vital Signs*, to remember working in the basement editorial room, and for the successors retaining the name, *Vital Signs*, (which we thought was pretty cool). But mostly I am grateful for the time we spent together.

~Submitted by: Cle Grogan Sullivan, Class of 1953

Scholarship Donations

In Memory Of:

Marie Kenefick by Judith Wilson

Emily Nakos by Janet Levensgood

A scholarship donation has also been received from:

Helen Dropik, Anna Bartlota Malespini,

Nancy Ryan, Anonymous

Thank you for your support and generosity.

Two New Sacred Heart University Graduates



This past year, two former Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing Graduates pursued further education at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT. Mary Chambers, a 1972 grad, received her Master of Science in Nursing Education, and Debra Fiori, a 1975 grad received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The nursing programs were offered through Saint Francis Hospital for nurses working within the institution interested in furthering their education. Both Mary and Debra work in the hospital's IV Therapy Department.

~Submitted by Mary Chambers

Deceased Members Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing

Alene Bilodeau Babcock	1934
Richard Beauchemin	1992
Mary Colmaski D'Addario	1940
Josephine DiFazio	1938
Mary Leone D'Onofrio	1946
Florence Kraszewski Dygus	1940
Jule Ann Connor Fiocchetta	1948
Barbara James Haviland	1952
Patty Vincent Jensen	1973
Marilyn A. Meah	1952
Ann Liber Mierzejewski	1946
Phyllis Stranz Mikula	1942
Dorothy Pacyna	1961
Shirley Donahue Poplawski	1951
Helen Yeskovich Porter	1942
Yvonne Ste Marie Rawls	1947
Elizabeth Boysen Rubino	1947
Claire Girard Rush	1955
Elizabeth Wall Santello	1961
Avis Shaw	1957
Helen Dwyer Stephenson	1950
Antoinette Margarette Voise	1996

Highlights and Snapshots from Some of

Our Annual Spring Meeting Communion Breakfast

The annual Spring Meeting and Communion Breakfast was held on April 6, 2014 at the Provincial House of the Sisters of St. Joseph, 27 Park Rd., West Hartford.

The Mass in the very beautiful chapel of the convent was celebrated by Rev. Christopher Cleary, RN of the Holy Family Retreat Center.

We welcomed 43 attendees, among whom were 10 guests of the Alumni Association. Our guests were Sisters of St. Joseph, many of whom reside at the Provincial House.

Brunch was served in the large function room beneath the chapel, where we have enjoyed many charitable events with the Sisters. Sister Suzanne said Grace before a sumptuous meal prepared by the chef of the Provincial House was offered.

We all reminisced with the Sisters about our fondly remembered days at SFHMC. We were most grateful to once again celebrate at the Provincial House.



Class of 1965

Standing L to R: Pat Francis, Ann Marie DiLoreto, MaryAnn McCarthy. Seated: Joan Aillo, Kathy Reilly, Judy Wilson, Cindy Hughes



Sister Dennis Marie and friends.



*Lynne Erickson, Susan DeGray
Lazarcheck, Anne Suprenant Curran*



The Reverend Christopher Cleary giving Holy Communion to alumni members.

Celebrating Champions!

Alumni Grads came from different parts of the USA to cheer on the CT Women Huskies and were rewarded with experiencing the 8th National Title, breaking all women's basketball records. Mary (Jackie) Hackbarth '65 arrived from Florida, Maureen Marietta Hermann '65 from Jacksonville, FL, Janet Levengood '65 came in from Ashville, NC, Emilia Mascaro '59 from Westerly, RI, and Joanne Walsh '53 from Hartford, CT.

L to R: Janet Levengood, Maureen Hermann, Emilia Mascaro, Jackie Hackbarth, (missing from photo: Joanne Walsh)



the Alumni Association's Social Events

Spring Tea Party

Once again our Tea Party, which supports our Alumni Scholarship Fund, was a success. Tina Angeli, our guest speaker, is a spiritual and psychic medium and Director of Source of Unconditional Love. Tina has had a near death experience which she shared with alumni and guests. She was very enlightening and supportive of several people present, by recalling loved ones who have passed on.

Food was prepared by the Board Members and enjoyed by everyone. Tea and coffee were poured by Emilia Mascaro and Ann Marie DiLoreto from the sterling silver tea service which was at the Saint Frances Hospital School of Nursing for many years.

Three baskets made by Carroll Rosenbeck were exquisite! Three lucky winners, one was a board member, Annie Pallerberg.

Alumni and guests present had an enjoyable afternoon. We thank them for supporting our alumni and the Nursing Scholarship Fund.

~Submitted by Ida Ducey



Raffle basket designed by
Carroll Rosenbeck

Ann Marie DiLoreto
and Emilia Mascaro
preparing to serve the
tea and coffee.



Tina Angeli, Guest Speaker



Pasta Extravagnza

The Sisters of St. Joseph Pasta Extravaganza fund raiser to support their many ministries took place on May 3, 2014. The Alumni has supported this event for many years by providing financial donations for the tea cup auction, and assumes responsibility for selling tickets at the dinner.

Lorraine Baethge, a member of the Alumni Board, was a lucky winner of one of the major raffle prizes, which was dinner at Grants Restaurant in West Hartford, and also tickets to the Bushnell. Kate McLoughlin, president of the Alumni, won a basket from the tea cup auction.

Sr. Barbara Mullin extends her sincere thanks to the Alumni Board and all our members who have been loyal supporters through the years.

A fun evening was had by all.

~Submitted by Ida Ducey



Remembrance Way

The Class of 1961 purchased a brick. — Members of the Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing, (L-R): Carol Doyle, Faye Ewen, Marilyn Averill, Angela Sipala, Marilyn Flynn, Cathy Daly, Mary Ellen Smith.

SAVE
THE DATE!



MAKING STRIDES
Against Breast Cancer®



Bushnell Park, Hartford CT
Sunday, October 19, 2014

Team Name: Alumni Assoc. of SFH School of Nursing

Please contact Team Leader Sandy Crane for details:
cranerichard@att.net or call: 860-875-2780

Celebrating Our Rich History

June 17th marked the Blessing and Dedication of our Alumni Afghan at the Innovation and Learning Center at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. The Alumni Afghan was a gift to the St. Francis Foundation and thanks to Whitney Dionne the afghan was beautifully framed by the carpentry staff of SFHMC. Our Alumni Afghan was made possible through the efforts of Toni McNally and her committee in 1997. The afghan is a pictorial rendition of *A Century of the History of Nursing Education* at the Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing.

Mother Ann Valencia founded Saint Francis Hospital in 1897. She saw the need to staff the hospital with nurses, so in 1899, she and her colleague, Sr. Jeanne Teresa started the nursing school located within the hospital. In 1902, Sr. Jeanne Teresa and another Sister of St. Joseph graduated, starting the long line of what was to become a total of 5,818 graduates. Sr. Jeanne Teresa became the first director of the school and remained the director for nearly 40 years. Under her supervision, the school, which started with humble beginnings, became the cutting edge of nursing education as its graduates passed the State Board of Registration Exams and was the first in Connecticut to be accepted by the New York State Board of Regents, and affiliated with the American Nurses Association. Succeeding Sr. Jeanne was Sr. Mary Mechtilde. The home base of our nurses was then located at 340 Collins Street.

During the war years, Sr. Mechtilde, always the nurse educator, recognized the need to have nurses serve. She provided the military with a cadre of Cadet Nurses to assist with the war effort. During Sister's tenure, nursing classes expanded to over 100 students annually. In 1959, Sr. Mechtilde handed over the reins to Sr. Mary Gertrude. She made many curriculum changes; strengthening academic preparation of our nurses.

Sr. Gertrude was followed by Sr. Dennis Marie, who was the last Sister of St. Joseph to be the Director of Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing. Under her direction, the school was moved to the Bond Hotel and was renamed DeSales Hall. Sister was responsible for major curriculum changes, keeping up with new trends and directions in nursing, thereby changing the 3-year to a 2-year diploma program. The school was later moved to Ashley Street, now known as "The Innovation and



Left to right: Lynne Erickson, Patricia La Monica, Jo Ann Martinson, Antoinette Mc Nally, Cesidia Foley, Emilia Mascaro, Ellen Lysak, Kathleen McLoughlin, Ida Ducey, Ann Marie Dimoreto, Helene Anthony, Lorraine Baethge, Anna Pallerberg, Carroll Rosenbeck.

Learning Center."

It should be noted that since 1905, when State Boards were instituted, our graduates, second to none, achieved excellent pass rates on their first writing. One occasion was 92%, but generally, 100% was our norm.

In 1994, Dr. Rosemary Hathway became the first and last lay director of Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing.

Today, in most health care areas, caps are no longer used. However, throughout our country, and in many parts of the world — be it hospital settings, clinics, schools, home care or volunteer areas — one can readily identify the Saint Francis Nurse, proudly wearing our pin, lettered with AMDG, from the Latin: Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam, "For the Greater Glory of God".

Despite our outstanding record of producing excellent practitioners, given the rapid changes in health care and nursing education, in 1995, management at the hospital decided that a nursing school was no longer feasible at Saint Francis. On June 15, 1997, the school closed its doors, leaving as its legacy:

98 Years of Excellence

All of our lives were touched by the humble beginnings of the Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing family, who in turn, enabled us to reach out and touch the lives of so many others. We are grateful to all of them!

Excerpts from the presentation given 6/17/2014 by Emilia A. Mascaro, Class of 1959

CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1954

We are celebrating our 60th Reunion on Sat., Oct. 18, 2014 at the Alumni Association Fall Luncheon.

Come to renew acquaintances with your classmates. Those wishing to attend: please complete the Luncheon Form (found in this issue) and send to: Carroll Rosenbeck.

If you have any questions, you can reach me at 860-521-0828. Hope to see you there!

~Jane Macaione



The Alumni Board Would Be Very Happy to Have You Join Us for Our

Annual Meeting Luncheon

Sat., October 18, 2014 • 11:30 AM

Cost \$30.00

Chowder Pot IV, 165 Brainard Road, Hartford, Connecticut

**Class Reunions, Alumni
Member of the Year Award
and Scholarship Awards**

Annual Meeting Luncheon

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

CLASS OF _____

Number of Guests _____

Please indicate number of meals:

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

•Roast Pork Loin w/Mushroom Sauce _____

•Breast of Chicken Francaise _____

•Baked Stuffed Tilapia w/Seafood Stuffing _____

Please make checks payable to: AASFHSN and mail to: Carroll Rosenbeck, 165 Center Road, Vernon, CT 06066-4104



AASFHSN presents our

Annual Wine Tasting

To benefit Nursing Scholarships

Fri., September 5, 2014 • 6 – 8 PM

Cost \$25.00 Per Person

Come join us for snacks and spirits at 95 Woodland St., Hartford, CT (parking in the rear)

**Wines from
Sonoma Wines and Spirits,
Glastonbury, CT**

Wine Tasting

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

CLASS OF _____

Number of tickets _____

Total amt. \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: AASFHSN and mail to: Ida Ducey, 50 Walton Road, West Hartford, CT 06107

Alumni Association Membership

Benefits include twice yearly newsletter, graduate scholarships, Endowed Bed, Annual Fall Dinner and Communion Breakfast, and Alumni camaraderie. Dues are \$8.00 for members 65 and over; \$15.00 for members under 65. Graduates of 60 years or more are free. Detach this form and, along with a check or money order made out to AASFHSN, send to:

Lynne Erickson, 105 Webster St., Unionville, CT 06085

Alumni Association Membership

Please Print:

NAME _____

GRADUATION NAME _____

YEAR GRADUATED _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Available for Committee work? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center Foundation

Alumni Association
Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing
114 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT 06105



Remember to check out our website at:

www.stfrancisnursesalumni.com

Email Address:

Alumni news can be emailed to
EMLysak@aol.com
wowri4@verizon.net
LadyFrances@webTV.net

Alumni Office:

To leave a message for an Alumni Board member,
please call: 860-714-5984

CO-EDITORS' NOTE

You will notice some changes in the format of our *Vital Signs*. We have consolidated certain information which helps in cutting down on space and costs while still producing a quality newsletter. Please continue to be our reporters and send us items that we can include in the next edition. Thank you for your positive feedback sent by members relating to stories that have been published. A special thank you to Whitney Dionne from the Saint Francis Foundation and John Johnson from John Johnson Art Direction and Design for all of the assistance they provide to us in publishing our *Vital Signs*.

We can be reached via email or phone:

Ellen: EMLysak@aol.com or at 860-836-1711
Emilia: wowri4@verizon.net or at 401-315-5248

You can also mail information to us at:

Alumni Association SFHSN
114 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT 06105

Ellen Lysak and Emilia Mascaro, co-editors



Look who was spotted at Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy. It was three of our Board Members, **Ann Marie DiLoreto, Ellen Lysak** and **Emilia Mascaro**, throwing three coins into the fountain and wishing to return to Rome again. They were on a pilgrimage to Italy starting in Assisi down the Adriatic Sea, to Rome. In Rome they witnessed our Holy Father Pope Francis picking up a baby at a weekly audience in Vatican Square. It was a moment to remember.

Submitted by: Ellen Zmijeski Lysak

HAVE YOU BEEN SPOTTED?

