



Saint Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association



Alumnae
Newsletter

Vol. 54 No.1

Winter 2012-2013

84th Annual Luncheon Cancelled!!!

For the first time in SVH Alumnae Association history the Annual Luncheon was cancelled due to the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy. New York City was brought to its knees. Downtown saw flooding, sea walls were breached, subways and tunnels were flooded. Hotels, including our usual meeting venue, the Downtown Marriott, had to suspend services.

Many of our alumnae from along the New Jersey shoreline, Staten Island, lower Manhattan, Breezy Point, the Rockaways, Long Beach and Long Island, suffered unimaginable losses from this incredible storm. Our love, prayers and support go to all our SVH Alumnae affected by this disaster.

Some charities that are assisting the victims of Sandy include:

The Foundation to

Save the Jersey Shore, Inc.

788 Shrewsbury Avenue, Suite 2201

Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

<http://www.savejerseyshore.org>

Breezy Point Disaster Relief

C/O The Law Office

of Lee and Kane

2175 Flatbush Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11234

<http://breezypointdisasterrelief.org>

Tunnel to Towers Foundation

2361 Hyland Boulevard

Staten Island, New York 10306

Please go to SVH webpage link for further information

on donating to this cause.

<http://stvincentschoolofnursingalums.org>

Since the Annual Luncheon for 2012 has officially been cancelled, **all personal checks have been shredded and all bank checks have been returned.** The next Luncheon will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2013.

We are asking for volunteers from anniversary classes to reach out to classmates to organize your reunion. Anniversary classes include '53, '58, '63, '68, '73, '78, '83, and '88. Please contact SVHalum@gmail.com.

Farewell Article

by Joan Caruana

Dear Alum,

It has been a pleasure (for the most part), to be the editor of the newsletter for all but 2 issues since 1975. It has been an honor to be president of the association for eight (or was it ten?) of the last fourteen years. The newsletter was relatively easy because of the ever helpful direction given by the irascible (but secretly soft-hearted) Jerry Cohen, who has been the printer of the newsletter since 1973. The newsletter found its own rhythm and definitely needs the new stewardship of Lois Lane, Brenda Starr, and our cub reporter. They are known to others as **Maureen Garrett McElhinney, Bernadette**



Fleming Hemmer, and Sue Faggiani, all members of the **class of '68**. I know they will bring a breath of fresh air and a renewed perspective to the newsletter. I urge all of you who can contribute to help them by sending information and articles to them. Stop writing on Facebook and send your contributions!

As for the Presidency, it certainly has not been uneventful. During my second year, we saw the closing of the school. That closing necessitated the revamping

of the charter of the association and all the legal rigmarole that came with the changes. Not long after, **Mary Ann Dono '60**, who had been our Secretary Treasurer for many years, was killed in a tragic accident. The following year, our nation suffered the horrific terrorist attack of 9/11 with the Twin Towers destroyed just two blocks from our luncheon site.

As the nearest Level one trauma center, the hospital and its staff waited to treat survivors who never made it. At the time our alumnae were calling and volunteering to come to New York to help out.

And of course, there was the final blow, the closing of our beloved hospital in 2010. Those of us in the New York area who pass by Seventh Avenue and 12th Street are watching what seems to be the stealth demolition of the institution many of us called home - as brick by brick the structures are being removed.

I know that our Alumnae are always there for each other. Nowhere is it more evident in those who head the committees and serve on the board. I fear forgetting to mention anyone, but I want to point to **Mary Ann McLaughlin '57**, who in the wake of 9/11 found us another venue for our luncheon. This year, no epic feats

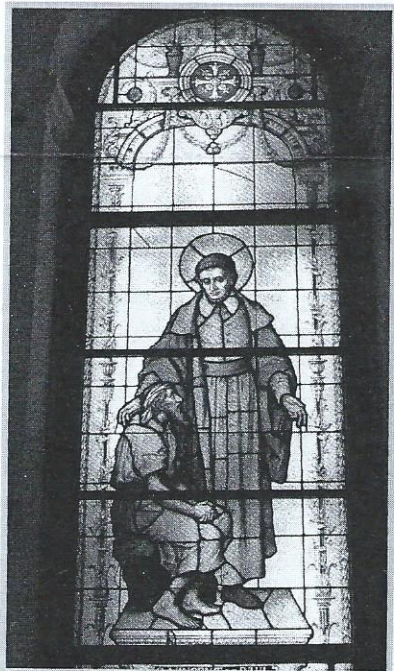
Con't on Page 3

In true SVH fashion, the class of 1962, the Golden Jubilarians have rallied and put together a Mass and luncheon for their class, to be held in the spring. Contact **Ginny Kenny**: ginnykenny@gmail.com for further information.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We were happy to learn from **Martina Murphy, Class of 1991** that the stained glass window of St. Vincent DePaul that formally hung at the hospital has found a new home. Martina shared this with us:

"St. Vincent de Paul Stained Glass Window" from St. Vincent's Hospital was saved and gifted to St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson, NJ in honor of its legacy of charity. It is proudly dis-



played in the main lobby of the medical center.

In 1867 the Sisters of Charity in Paterson, NJ began providing care to the poor. It is so fitting that this precious symbol of our dear beloved hospital will continue to guide and inspire all those who share our passion. I was so lucky and honored to be at the dedication on September 27, 2012. Sr. Maryanne Campeotto, SC gave a beautiful and touching speech. Sr. Karen Helfenstein, SC, a 1966 graduate of St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing spoke about our dear St. Vincent's. On behalf of the Sisters of Charity of NY and the staff of St. Vincent's Hospital, she thanked St. Joseph's Hospital for bringing St. Vincent de Paul home. For those of you who are treated at St. Joseph's, or may visit friends or loved ones there, be sure to take a few moments to view the stained glass window. Remember all the fond memories of our time together, how St. Vincent's made us who we are and taught us how to make a difference!

Former OR Nurse **Sheila Lenahan Boyle '58** Visits Haiti

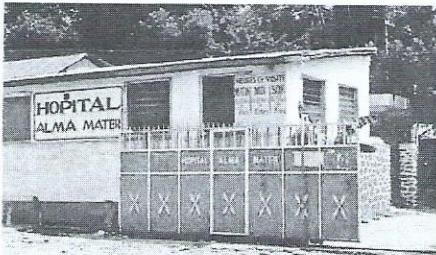
Taken from the Parish Life Newsletter Serving the Cathedral of St. Francis Community Metuchen, New Jersey, Spring 2012.

In 2003 **Sheila Lenahan Boyle '58'** heard a Franciscan friar speak about a medical mission group called "The Light of the World Charities." Intrigued by his message, she contacted the group for more information. The Light of the World Charities is an organization made up primarily of volunteers from the health and medical communities. They provide medical, surgical and dental care to the poor and sick of the world.

Sheila has been a nurse since 1958 and the last 18 years were spent at St. Vincent's Hospital in the Operating Room. Sheila was a good fit for this group. In 2008 and 2009 Sheila went to Honduras for one week where she worked in a simple but well equipped hospital.



Sheila Boyle (above) with a patient in the operating room at the hospital (below)



This team concentrated mostly on cleft palate repair. In 2010 she went to Haiti. There they experienced a much more primitive set of circumstances as well as a higher degree of danger for the staff. However, they did 25 cases without incident. Sheila returned to Haiti in January and plans to return again December 2012.

Her enthusiasm for her work and in particular this mission is an inspiration to us all.

Alumnae Association Officers

Incoming President:

Joanne Billott '75

Vice-President:

Mary Jane Herlihy Mason '66

Secretary/Treasurer:

Patricia Holland Costello '66

Recording Secretary:

Mary Ann Byrnes '64

Board of Directors:

Joan Caruana '61, Maureen Heitman '61

Patrick Caffrey '79, Chris Colligan '73

Marybeth Forcina '74,

Betsy Arnold Leahy '73

Get Involved!

The New Editors are interested in finding class officers and leaders to reach out to classmates for news. Will you write to us at SVHALum@gmail.com with your contact information? We would like to have



regular class updates in each newsletter. You can communicate with us at the NEW email account at SVHALum@gmail.com.



Interested In An Editorial Page?

Give us your thoughts. If you would be interested in hearing the commentary of your fellow SVH Alumnae, please let us know what topics are of

interest to you. Email your suggestions to SVHALum@gmail.com

Report of the General Alumnae Meeting, September 2012

Acupuncture and its role in mental health was the topic presented by **Siobhan Joan Dolan, Class of 1973**, at the September 22, 2012 General Alumnae meeting.

Ear acupuncture (EA) is based on the fact that the ear has points that reflect all areas of the body and are mapped out in a specific pattern. The day after the tragedy that occurred at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, an Ear

Con't on Page 3



Con't from Page 1

could save us from cancelling the luncheon for the first time in 84 years, as hurricane Sandy drowned all of lower Manhattan. The members of the board, as we expect from SVH alum, are always available to do what is best for the association."

I am very proud to be a member of Alumnae association, it has been an honor to serve you, and you will always be in my heart forever.

THE BATON PASSES.....

Joan Caruana, Class of 1961, the Editor of the SVH Alumnae Newsletter since 1975, is finally passing the baton. As of this issue, the editorial responsibilities will be shared by three of her "Flakes" from the **Class of 1968, Susan Faggiani, Bernadette (Fleming) Hemmer, and Maureen (Garrett) McElhinney.** We were all proud to be members of the first class taught by Joan back in 1965 and even prouder to stand on her formidable shoulders.

Thank you Joan, for all that you have done for the Alumnae Association for these many years. We will never replace your hard work and dedication and will continue to look to you for guidance, as we did when we first met.

The New Editors



Maureen Garrett McElhinney AKA "Lois Lane"



Bernadette Fleming Hemmer AKA "Brenda Starr"



Susan L. Faggiani AKA "The Cub Reporter"

General Meeting from Page 2

Acupuncture Stress Reduction Clinic was started at SVH to provide stress relief for anyone in NYC. The treatment helped some express their feelings, and for many others, the EA effect was complete in itself. EA is widely used today in the treatment of all addictions and compulsive behaviors.

More information on EA can be found on the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association (NADA) website. www.acudetox.com.

From September 2001 until December 2007, the SVH staff administered over 40,000 EA treatments. Once again, our dear SVH was there to meet the needs of the community!

During the 18 minutes film that followed this excellent presentation, willing participants were offered EA treatments. Painless, informative and comforting, what a treat!!

The general meeting was a delightful way to spend an afternoon with fellow alumnae while listening to a stimulating presentation.

Why not attend a meeting? If there is a specific topic you would like to hear about, please send us your suggestions at SVHalum@gmail.com.

Tiles From The Floors of The School of Nursing

Tiles from the Nurse's Residence were to be available for purchase at the Annual Luncheon but as you know, the luncheon was cancelled. There are a limited number of tiles for distribution. After those tiles that have been reserved are distributed, any remaining tiles will be available to alumnae on a first come, first serve basis for \$50.00 per tile. Do not send a check before the meeting; you must submit the check upon receipt of a tile at the meeting.



SAVE THE DATES

March 16, 2013:

St. Patrick's Day Parade

REMEMBER, there is a parade dress code. No jeans, no sneakers, no party hats. Location for the line-up will be posted on the SVH Website.

2013 Business Meetings

Thursday, May 16, 2013, 6 PM

Saturday, September 28, 2013, 12 Noon

All meetings are held at 20 Washington Square N



Rosemary Queenan Cawley, Class of 1936

Rosemary Cawley passed away on July 13, 2012. She worked in St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital until she entered the army in 1942. Ro worked at the 9th Army Evacuation Hospital, serving during World War II in the campaigns to liberate North Africa, Sicily, and the Italian peninsula. She was honorably discharged in 1946, always proud of her service to her country.

Ro met her husband, Patrick, while working at St Vincent's and they had 7 children. She later worked as a school nurse and after the death of her husband, volunteered as an oncology nurse in Brick, New Jersey.

Sister Catherine Shean, MMS, Class of 1937

Sister Catherine Shean, M.M.S. who served for more than 40 years in Africa as well as the western United States, died October 1, 2012 at St. Joseph's Manor in Philadelphia. She was 97.

Sister Catherine was a nurse-midwife in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Malawi. She also served in New Mexico, California and Arizona. Raised in the Bronx, she graduated from St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan as a registered nurse in 1937. She entered the Medical Mission Sisters in 1943 and professed vows in 1945.



NEWSLETTER STAFF Editors

Joan Caruana '61 Emeritus

Susan L. Faggiani, '68

Bernadette Fleming Hemmer '68

Maureen Garrett McElhinney '68

Class Information Change of Address, and \$35.00 dues to

Patricia Holland Costello

Attn: St. Vincent's Alumnae

C/O St. Francis DeSalles

School for the Deaf

260 Eastern Parkway

Brooklyn, New York 11225

(718) 439-8418

No alumna/i shall be denied active membership because of inability to pay dues.

Email news to SVHALUM@gmail.com

If you are notifying us of the death of an alum or relative please include the name and address of those to whom a mass card should be sent.

NEW Web Site: To gain access to the website email svhalum@gmail.com and you will be sent the link to the site. If you are currently linked to the old site hit F5 or refresh button or use the above Email to reach the new site.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them O Lord

Rosemary Queenan Cawley, '36

Ann Barrett Barmore, '36

Joan Suomila, '37

Patricia McDonnell Giegerich, '45

Ruth Lamont Bowes, '46

Joan Hennessey Courchaine, '52

Joan McElroy Rendell, '52

Michele Brosnan '54

Esther Grubert Leahy, '54

Denise Gonnoud Murphy, '54

Virginia Boland Thompson, '55

Margaret Wurm Weismair, '56

Ann Marie King Mahoney, '60

Eileen Solan, '60

Noreen Greene Harnett, '62

Marianne Murphy Zeng, '62

Lucille Truskolaski Voss, '62

Florence Moloney Fallon, '62

Melanie A. Carsten, '85

Charlotte Doonan Kilgus '34

Patricia Smith '50

James A. Seese, husband of Eileen Buckley Seese '58

Jerome Spivack, husband of Carolyn Martin, MD '59

Charlotte Kilgus, '34, mother of Frances Kilgus '62

Eileen Solan '60, sister of Sarah Solan '62

Peter Mooney, husband of Sue Currie Mooney '64

Ronald J. Rooney MD, husband of Susan Poss Rooney '68

Brian Robert Bill, son of Patricia Davis Parry '71

Dorothy McBride, mother of Rosemary McBride Giovinazzo '77

Catherine Ryan, daughter of Ann Hoernel Johann DeMott '78

William Panke MD, father of Joan Panke '84
(Remembrance to follow in Spring Newsletter)

Daniel Fernandez, son of Maria Fernandez '92

Brian Robert Bill, Son of Pat Davis Parry '71

On August 6, 2011, Chief Special Warfare Operator (SEAL) Brian Robert Bill, was killed when the helicopter he was riding in with 29 other American soldiers, 16 of them SEALs, was shot down in Afghanistan.

Brian was a remarkably gifted, thoughtful, and compassionate young man. He loved life; he loved a challenge; he was fearless and had boundless energy; and, he was passionate about being a SEAL. He loved and respected his SEAL teammates.

Brian was a man of courage and passion. He was confident, daring and skilled, yet compassionate and loving. He was also a man of faith, a devout Catholic. He was driven to excel for personal pride and his love of family, God, and country. He was a private and humble man who never sought personal embellishments or recognition.

One person writing to Brian's parents included this quote from Thucydides, "The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them - glory and danger alike - and notwithstanding, go on to meet it." A Lieutenant in the Navy said, "He's like no one I ever met before and probably will ever meet again in my lifetime." A teammate wrote: "I knew him as an unassuming SEAL with an insatiable appetite for new horizons. He epitomized the quiet professional."

Brian was a treasured son, grandson, brother, cousin, uncle, teammate and friend. He was the best of us and we miss him every day.

Melanie A. Carsten '85

Melanie Anne Carsten, 56, of New York City, died Sunday, November 4, 2012 after a brief, unexpected illness. After working in the corporate world for several years, Melanie decided to change careers. She enrolled and graduated with high honors from St. Vincent's Nursing School in 1985 and began a twenty-five year career in critical care nursing at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. Her compassion for her patients was ever present. Her love of dogs in general, and in particular her dog, MacGregor, prompted her involvement with the pet therapy program at her hospital. Melanie's gifts and talents extended beyond the walls of the hospital and will be missed by all.