

## 89<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MASS AND LUNCHEON

Fall is upon us as we put away the remains of summer. Enclosed is your invitation to the 89<sup>th</sup> annual Alumnae Luncheon.

**Date: Saturday, November 10, 2018**

New York Marriott Financial Center Hotel  
85 West Street, New York New York

**MASS:** 11:am

**COCKTAILS:** 12:00 pm ( a la carte)

**LUNCHEON:** 1:00PM

There will be a bottle of red wine and a bottle of white wine on each table.

**NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR**

These deadlines will be **STRICTLY ADHERED TO:**

A discounted price is available if you want to stay at the Marriott. Call the Downtown Marriott (800-242-8685) for a **room reservation by October, 19, 2018.** You may want to use AARP membership or AAA membership, if applicable.

**Reservation cards** must be returned by **10/22/18.**

Sincerely,

Patricia Costello  
Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer

28 Cowdrey St, Warwick, NY 10990 \*\*tel-845-544-2675\*  
pcostellosvh@gmail.com





## SPRING GENERAL MEETING MAY 19, 2018

### BABY SLIPS

At the May alumni meeting Elizabeth (Beth) Duthie (SVH'72) spoke about how the values she learned at St Vincent's inspired her to take on a project to improve safety for newborn infants and quality of life for exhausted parents.

The birth of a baby is a joyful and exhausting experience. Crushing fatigue may overwhelm new parents especially at night when feeding a newborn. If the parents fall asleep it places the infant at risk of slipping out of their arms to the floor or another surface. When an infant falls out of their arms during feeding this is called an infant slip. When an infant slip occurs in the hospital it may be accompanied by serious injuries such as a skull fracture or a head bleed.

The recognition of the rising incidence of infant slips and the accompanying injuries has raised concerns in obstetrical and pediatric settings about this emerging threat. The interventions have focused on educating the parents about the dangers of falling asleep and instructing them to avoid sleeping when feeding their newborn. Staff are instructed to be watchful for sleepy mothers and to remove the infants if the mother is asleep or appears too sleepy. Frequent rounding to assess mothers especially at night is a core element of the prevention programs.

There are no research studies on infant slips but there have been quality improvement studies published across the current decade. While the interventions have shown a decrease in infant slips the majority of the projects failed to achieve sustainable results. Beth Duthie is the Director of Patient Safety at Montefiore Health System and undertook preventing infant slips as a patient safety initiative. The science of sleep literature informed her work. The reason new parents fall asleep is because of overwhelming exhaustion which onsets so rapidly they can't stay awake. One of the nurses involved in the Montefiore project reported a new Mom who fell asleep in mid-sentence while feeding her baby. It became evident to Beth that the science of sleep explained why the current interventions were unsuccessful. The onset between sleepiness and actual sleep occurs within seconds. Staff rounding is unlikely to detect when the exhausted Mom will fall asleep unless they are actually at the bedside when the sleepiness occurs. Moms can't call out before they fall asleep as there isn't an adequate warning interval.

Beth concluded that the best approach was to accept the inevitability of a parent falling asleep during night time feedings and ensure the infant would be

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safe. She received a grant from the medical malpractice carrier for her hospital, FOJP Hospital Insurance Company, to work with the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) to develop a protective garment. Two faculty at FIT, Barbara Seggio and Lauren Zodel designed a Tee shirt with a baby pouch to be worn at night. If the parent falls asleep the infant would be nestled in the pouch and wouldn't fall. The Tee shirt was tested using a weighted baby doll and initially needed revisions. It was altered and the second time it passed the simulated test. The next step is to obtain approval for research to test it on new Moms in a lactation clinic at one of the Montefiore hospitals. This would allow the design to be finalized so that testing at night with newborns and their parents could be performed. New dads have been known to fall asleep when feeding infants and the Tee shirt has different versions for Moms and Dads. If the parents find the Tee shirt useful and comfortable and the research shows it is safe for the infant the next step would be to have it manufactured so that every new parent could get a Tee shirt with the birth of their baby to take home. The greatest period of fatigue is the first two months and the goal is to have a product that would keep infants safe during the high-risk time. Beth is hopeful her research will be completed by mid-2019.

The guiding values from her St. Vincent

days inspired her to take on this challenge. She related Peg Shannon's advice to use the science underlying the patient's condition to guide practice (in this case the science of sleep), Liz Finnerty's warning to understand the rationale for every action you take (knowing why new parents fall asleep) and Ann Dibble's counsel that no one can ever make you do something wrong, it is only when you give consent it will happen (following incorrect advice because it is in the literature would be doing the wrong thing). These values will be especially helpful as Beth challenges professional societies and regulatory agencies to change the paradigm around prevention of infant slips.

## CLASS NOTES

### Class of 1950

Mary Hayden Kelly writes:

I graduated in 1950, while the Korean War was in full swing, so in March 1951, I enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps. I received orders to report to the Offices Training Center at Fort Sam Houston, Tx. Imagine my surprise when arriving at the air port in Newark, I met Marge Stern who I remembered as the Head Nurse on St. Lawrence!

On completion of basic training, I was sent to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington DC. Much to my

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surprise another SVH grad was stationed there, a Ms. Cleary who I think had been a Clinical Instructor at SVH!!

A few months later I volunteered for an overseas assignment and was sent to a station hospital in southern Japan. One of the first nurses I met there was from SVH! I cannot remember her name. She was returning to the states. When the Chief Nurse welcomed me she expressed great satisfaction that another SVH grad was coming to replace her!

I guess this is a little wordy but I thought it was great to meet alumnae all over the world!

Sincerely , Mary Hayden Kelly

### **Class of 1958**

Our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion on November 10, 2018 at the Marriott Hotel.

We have a Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday November 11, 2018 at 10:15 am.

Seats are reserved up front.

Brunch or lunch is planned after mass.

Contacts:

Eleanor Deneufville **MAEDEN@aol.com**  
or 516 887 2716

Joan Rogers **JRODGERS9149@gmail.com**  
or 516 741 3086

Mary Sofie Gallagher **MRSGIE@aol.com** or 914 965 5321

Jeanne Fergus O'Donnell  
**JEANNE7632@gmail.com** or 516 532 6065

Pat Devine Landry 914 969 0934

### **Class of 1968**

The Class of 1968 is planning their 50th anniversary reunion. A team of hardworking classmates have done an outstanding job in scouring the country to find all but 8 classmates!

An initial email has been sent to most classmates to let them know about reunion plans and snail mail will catch the rest of the class. A small reunion committee is planning activities to include a reunion gathering on Friday evening, November 9<sup>th</sup> and cocktails together after the annual alumnae luncheon on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>.

For reunion information, contact Susan Faggiani at **sfagg29@gmail.com** or 917-282-2062 or Maureen McElhinney at **mmcelhinn@gmail.com** or 845-709-1980.

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## ATTENTION ALL SVH ALUMNAE

An urgent message was sent to all explaining the financial situation of the Alumnae Association. Many Alumnae have responded and some have been very generous with donations but some have not responded at all. If your 2018 dues are not paid by September 2018 you will be taken off the mailing list. Attempts have been made to contact all inactive members, and according to Address.com, the addresses are correct. If dues are not paid, it will be understood you are not interested and will be taken off the mailing list. Some older graduates from the 1930's, 40's and 50's may think they are exempt from paying dues, however, according to our by-laws this is not correct. We need your support also.

Note from the Secretary/Treasurer: If it is a financial hardship for anyone to pay \$50.00 dues, please contact Pat Costello @ 845-544-2675 or 28 Cowdrey St, Warwick, NY 10990 or **pcostellosvh@gmail.com** and I will handle the situation individually. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

According to our By-laws dues should be paid in January in order to stay in good standing, please make every attempt to do so.

## CLASS NOTES:

Please keep in touch with us by sending us your class year and email address to **SVHalum@gmail.com**. Alum frequently request information about their classmates, particularly to reconnect for reunions.

## WEBSITE:

Sweatshirts and tee shirts are still available at the SVH Shop. Please visit the site for review of Class Notes, Photo Gallery, SVH Shop, and more.

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**stvincentsschoolofnursingalums.org**

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## TRANSCRIPTS:

### Save for future reference!

Please note that effective immediately, requests for transcripts and education verification must be submitted in writing and require a \$20 processing fee. Mail requests to:

Transcripts  
Sisters of Charity of New York  
6301 Riverdale Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10471-1093

### Please include the following information:

- Full Name at the time of graduation
- Year of Graduation
- A processing fee of \$20 made payable to:  
Sisters of Charity of New York

Allow up to two weeks for the receipt of information

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

Joan Caruana '61 Editor Emeritus  
Bernadette Fleming Hemmer, '68  
Maureen Garrett McElhinney, '68  
SVHalum@gmail.com

### Change of Address, Correspondence and Annual Dues of \$50.00

Forward to Mrs. Patricia Costello  
28 Cowdrey Street  
Warwick, New York 10990  
845-544-2675

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# ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Francis Howard Coletti '40

Catherine Gilligan Ardrey '43

Geraldine Holzman Dowell '47, Sister of Barbara Holzman Wheeler '59

Estelle Halley O'Brien '53

Mary Jean McDermott Zellmer '53

Geraldine Reilly Ames '57

Valarie Linson Stuart '59

Lucille Duff Tyer '59

Phyllis Larsen Reilly '60, Sister of Denise Larsen Connaughton '64 & Ann Larsen Whelan '57

Johanna Solga Fleming '59, Sister-in-law of Bernadette Fleming Hemmer '68 & Cornelia Fleming '57

Helen P. Breen Hayes '62

Madeline Beata Nuzzi '66

Virginia Kolnacki Wilson '76

Richard T. Gordon, Husband of Regis Croke Gordon '61

Guy Beaven, Husband of Denise Seidenberg Beaven '72

Eugene McDonagh, Husband of Josephine McDonagh '77

## Student Nurse Statues

Interested in a statue of an SVH student nurse, right down to the bandage scissors carried in her apron and the crease in her cap? These 8.5" statues, in color or metallic bronze, are available for \$25.00 plus shipping and handling of \$15.00. Please order from:

**Sr. Kathleen Aucoin, SC**  
**Seton Arts Studio**  
**6703 Riverdale Avenue**  
**Bronx, NY 10471**  
**Phone: 917-697-6370**

**Email: [setonarts@gmail.com](mailto:setonarts@gmail.com)**  
**[www.Kathleenaucoin.com](http://www.Kathleenaucoin.com)**



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