



Class of 1965 Celebrates 50 Years!

On November 14, 2015, the annual SVH luncheon was held at the Marriott Downtown Hotel with 248 alumnae in attendance. The Class of 1955, our 60th anniversary celebrants, had 34 in attendance, spearheaded by Irene Attanasio. Great turnout!



Our Golden Jubilarians from the Class of 1965, and 70 alumnae strong, had a wonderful time celebrating 50 years since their graduation. Susan Dwyer addressed her class, walking us all down memory lane, from the "wards" to Blue Notes to antics designed to upset the Housemothers!

Coming together at 158 West 12th Street on that September day in 1962, eagerly waiting to meet our new roommates, was an exciting time for all of us. I was surely blessed

with my roommate, Jean Marie McAuley, and so many shared the same sentiments.

"Probie" days zipped by quickly and receiving our First Stripe and Capping at St. Joseph's Church threw us into the beginning of our rotations. To this day I can recite it like a litany...OR, OB, Peds and Psych. In reading our reflections, too many of us relayed the fear of Rose Battle...even her name emitted a nervousness! Even if you liked the rotation, as I did, your stomach was in knots with the "what ifs!!" We shared tears and laughter after reliving "a day in the OR."

Working on the wards was a challenge and a great learning experience...so many of us had memories of fear, challenges and real learning. St. Lawrence and the burn room...that really was difficult and we can all remember people that we cared for and tears that were shed. Again on nights....trying to get everything done before the tinkle of the bell coming off the elevator....a nun ringing the bell led Father around to all the patients wishing to receive Holy Communion. Prior to this, you raced around placing little chapel veils on the little ladies and pushed the bedside stools under the bed and prayed that no one would need pain medication or the bedpan or anything else. I believe my fast gait began back then.



What did we learn: to be really outstanding nurses in so many *diversified* fields. *Psychiatry, Educators, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Home Care, Bereavement, Hospice, Infection Control, Nurse Anesthetists, Pastoral Care, Nurse Practitioners.*

We really did graduate strong, compassionate women. Some memorable quotes from the biographies written.....

"Nursing is in my heart and soul."

"I believe the knowledge, ethics and beliefs from SVHSN have been the cornerstone of my career.

"I am grateful and proud to be a SVH nurse."

"Whatever that "magic" is, St. Vincent's gave it to each of us."

"We certainly mixed the serious business of Nursing and learning the Art of Nursing with lots of comic relief."

"Applying lipstick on the poor little old ladies on the wards ...using the same lipstick probably. Spiro's... wonderful BLT's, burgers and soup bowl size hot fudge sundaes. Marrietta's great pizza...the Jon Vie Bakery on 6th.Ave., the skits we performed in freshman year and when we were hungry, there was always a loaf of white bread, peanut butter and jelly...grape I think."

"We all knew what Rotation we were in the day JFK was assassinated...and for the next three days when we could would watch on TV the those riveting pictures of two little children walking by the side of their Mom."

"Remembering Agatha Boyce...in the Infirmary...Like another mother.

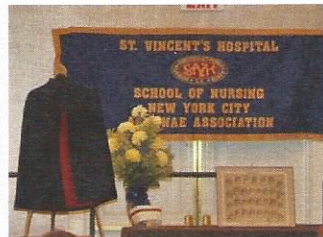
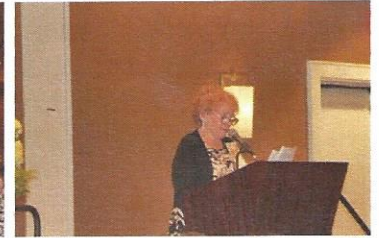
"Vatican II was in session - First big change in the Church in years ...the opportunity for some of our classmates to travel to Rome for the Beatification of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton."



It is only fitting and proper that we acknowledge the closing of our School of Nursing and eventually our beloved Hospital in 2010...45 years after our graduation. SVH was the last Catholic Hospital in NYC, and the third oldest Hospital in NYC. The Chapel, so serene and beautiful, a "safe place" that we would slip into before going on shift or nights to say a little prayer, was preserved and in large part due to our classmate Nora Loughney. St. Peter's Health Care System bought it and it is now in New Brunswick, N.J.

That we will always Remember to Remember the classmates who would have wanted to be on the seating list today. For the many classmates around the country who were unable to attend this Golden Jubilee, the bond that we began 50 years ago continues. Our Golden thread is very strong. Perhaps this day will rekindle old friendships, or begin new ones that we will e-mail, text, tweet, or Facebook.

God Bless you all, dear Class of '65, and thanks for the memories!!!!



Patience, Fortitude, Perseverance



GENERAL ALUMNAE MEETING

On September 26, 2015 Mary Jo Wipf '82, RN/Case Manager at the FDNY World Trade Center Responder Health Clinic, spoke to the alumnae group about her role in the care of first responders who worked at the site of the World Trade Center (WTC) terrorist attacks. The FDNY Bureau of Health Services, WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program is a voluntary program that offers firefighters annual monitoring exams to identify WTC-related illnesses and provide early detection, treatment and therapy to address current and future health concerns.

As of February 2015, the WTC Health program has registered 33,557 members with "certified conditions," or a condition that is considered related to environmental exposure post 9/11.

There are 5 WTC Monitoring and Treatment centers located in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Brentwood and Orange County, New York.

This program is funded through the James L. Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act that was signed into law in 2011 by President Obama. It ensures that individuals affected by 9/11 continue to receive monitoring and treatment for 9/11-related health issues. Just recently, comedian and actor Jon Stewart was active in campaigning for the reauthorization of this law, which was just extended by Congress to continue providing these vital health services.

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, colored in metallic bronze, are available for \$25.00 plus shipping and handling of \$15.00. Please order from:

Sr. Kathleen Aucoin, SC
Seton Arts Studio
67 South 5th Avenue
Mount Vernon, NY 10550
Phone: 917-697-6370

Email: setonarts@gmail.com
www.Kathleenaucoin.com



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, hats, and other memorabilia are still available at the SVH Shop. Please visit the site for review of Class Notes, Photo Gallery, SVH Shop, and more.

stvincentschoolofnursingalums.org

TRANSCRIPTS:

Save for future reference!

For those looking for **transcripts or diplomas**, you may write to:

Sr. Constance Brennan, SC
C/O Archives: Boyle Hall

College of Mount Saint Vincent's
6301 Riverdale Avenue
Bronx, New York 10471

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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Change of Address, Correspondence and Annual Dues of \$35.00

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

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CLASS NOTES

We are always anxious to receive news from the alumnae for publication in this newsletter. However, we haven't been hearing from you so we have decided that the newsletter will only be published twice a year, once in the winter and once in the early summer. However, if we have enough news to fill a third newsletter, we will be happy to publish one.

The Sisters of Charity instilled in us a commitment to service in our communities, near and far. Many of us are retired and no longer working. It would be interesting to hear how you are spending your time.

For those of you who have the time, we'd love to hear your stories and welcome your submissions.

Class of '66

While searching through some computer files, Anne Marie O'Brien found this letter that she wrote to the New York Times in 2010, ultimately published in the Times' City Blog.

Thank you, Anne Marie, for this beautiful reminder of all that SVH provided to New York for so many years.

2/7/10

Dear Ms. Hartocollis and the Editor,

As a proud graduate of the St. Vincent's Hospital (SVH) School of Nursing, whose 43 year career at SVH recently ended abruptly as a casualty of its current dire financial distress, I am compelled to support my colleagues K. Baumann, C. Buckley, Pietro, colleague's son Z. Snyder, patients and supporters above in their cogent and impassioned pleas to save SVH.

In answer to P. Kay's question above: "Was it ever competitive with Columbia and Sloan Kettering for cutting edge treatment?" I offer only a small portion of SVH's accomplishments or "firsts," which have directly impacted on the lives of our community, city and, indeed, the art of healthcare:

1. Dr. Stephen Smith's efforts led to the establishment of the NY City Board of Health to control communicable diseases. I believe that the NYC the Department of Health is the finest in the world;
2. SVH developed the first "Code 99" team to resuscitate victims of cardiac or respiratory arrest and the first mobile coronary care ambulance team;
3. SVH is renowned in outreach to and healthcare of the homeless, an often overlooked population with unique illnesses and a myriad of needs;
4. SVH pioneered the Chelsea Village model of care bringing a team of MDs, RNs and Social Workers into the homes of the frail elderly to help them remain in their homes (far less expensively than frequently hospitalizing them);
5. SVH diagnosed one of the first 10 AIDS cases reported to

the CDC and helped develop models of care, which ushered HIV into the realm of a chronic, treatable disease rather than a death sentence;

6. SVH was first to offer Hospice care to, at the time, beautiful young men dying of AIDS, and their significant others and families who often had little support;

7. In its 160-year history, SVH treated victims of every major disaster affecting NYC from the Civil War to the Triangle shirt factory fire and the Titanic to September 11, 2001, and last year's "Miracle on the Hudson." We treated over 800 survivors on 9/11, innumerable families and friends searching for their loved ones for many weeks thereafter, and pioneered post traumatic stress treatment of survivors, rescue workers and witnesses (especially children and young adolescents);

8. SVH cared for the "worried well" staff members of NBC and the Post Office after the Anthrax attacks, shortly after 9/11/01;

9. SVH is a center of excellence in the treatment of Cystic Fibrosis, in cardiac and stroke care and other specialties;

10. SVH's Dr. Vincent Fontana pioneered child abuse recognition, prevention and treatment nation-wide, and through the astute recognition and documentation of the horrific abuse and death of Lisa Steinberg in SVH's Emergency Department, all Emergency Departments in NY State are required to photograph suspected victims of abuse;

11. SVH established the first Neonatal ICU (NICU) and ambulance transport system for premature infants (using Bellevue's ambulances) in NYC. The NICU is a center of excellence with an extremely low mortality rate (even in infants as small as 400 to 500 grams), and the rate of chronic lung disease in our infants is 2% compared with most other centers publishing rates of 23 to 48%.

12. Most recently, SVH, in conjunction with the Sisters of Life, established the first perinatal hospice in NYC offering care to parents who have received an adverse diagnosis in their pregnancy and who choose to have their baby to cherish during its brief life. The dignity of life and death is emphasized and parents are tenderly supported on this journey by Father O'Connell, the Sisters, and SVH staff. Through the Mother Seton Foundation, clothes may be purchased and free funeral services and burials are provided as necessary to ensure that these treasured babies are not buried in Potter's field.

Accomplishments such as those above do not occur in a center for mediocrity. SVH provides excellent care, despite the innumerable obstacles of today's healthcare system.

Each member of my family and I can also personally attest to that excellence as recipients of that care. As SVH's recent advertising campaign stated: "St. Vincent's is my hospital" and it always will be!

Anne Marie O'Brien, RN, MSN, CIC

Former Infection Control Manager, SVH

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Class of '68

Kathleen Maldini Hartman and her husband, Dr. Al Hartmann, have been dedicating 6 months of their lives each year to the people of Swaziland, providing home based care to the sick and homebound in the most rural of regions of that part of Africa. They held a fundraiser in NYC before leaving for Swaziland and ask for your continued support. Kathleen writes:

Hi friends,

We hope all is well in your corner of the world!

Al and I will be returning to Swaziland in January to continue working with the Home Based Care Team to bring medical care to the poor and sick in the rural areas. Your past support has made it possible to bring relief and medical care to hundreds of people--we couldn't do it without you.

Swaziland is currently experiencing the worst drought since 1997. As a direct result, people are suffering and dying and we are getting reports of dead livestock on the roads and the inability to plant crops. This year we will be concentrating our efforts on bringing clean water and emergency food to as many people as possible to help combat the impacts of the drought, as well as continuing to provide medical assistance.

We are asking for your help again. Please consider helping by sending a donation. Checks can be made out to Alfred and Kathleen Hartmann. 100% of your donation goes to work on the ground. Please write Good Shepherd Mission Fund on the memo line of your check.

Checks can be sent to:

Al and Kathleen Hartmann

500 E 83rd Street, Apt 11E

New York, N.Y. 10028

Please feel free to contact us for more details or to learn more about our Home Based Care Team. On behalf of the Swazi people, we extend our heartfelt appreciation!

Our best,

Kathleen and Al Hartmann

WHAT DID YOU DO WITH YOUR CAP AND PIN?

Joan Caruana shares an interesting dialogue she read a few months ago on Facebook:

Sue Kennel:

What did YOU do with your cap and pin? #SVHPride

Dorian Cunniffe:

I love this...have mine and my school uniform.

Gretchen Kehde:

I'm taking mine to Tanzania! They have been a part of my Halloween costume for many years.

Andy Webb:

Of course I still have them and this is a fine idea! I also have my Grandmother's pin from 1911---Kathryn Sweeney McGowan. My cousin, Susan McGowan Turner, RN, gave it to me after I graduated from SVH, Manhattan. My Grandparents met on St. Lawrence Central I think I have been told. He was a Doctor (Andrew J. McGowan) and she came from Watertown, NY, where she taught a year after high school to pay for her trip and education at SVH. Papa came from Rhode Island and had worked as a Pharmacist there after training for that in NYC---and then returned to train and become an MD @ St. Vincent's. He was about 13yrs Nana's senior. They moved to Staten Island and he worked for St. Vincent's Hospital, Staten Island, and also opened an office at his home where Nana and he raised 3 children, one my Dad, Ed (1916-1992) and Nana also was Papa's office nurse. He visited patients in their homes as well, of course. There were other Docs at SVH, Manhattan, named Dr. Andrew J. McGowan----but they are not related. I did meet the younger Doc. Nice folks.

Sue Kennel:

Wow Andy, 1911! That's before the Titanic sank! LOL. Very cool family history with SVH.

Margaret Reilly Breig:

I wear my pin. Everyday.



Faith, Hope and Charity



NEWS FROM WEST 12TH STREET...

The triangle across the street from St. Vincent's is remembered in the dedication of a park. Do you remember the movie theater on 7th Avenue and McCoys at the junction of 12th Street and Greenwich Avenue? As the years went by, the hospital built a receiving department and trash depot in that area. Once St. Vincent's was sold, Rudin Management began development of Greenwich Lane, the complex that occupies the space of the former hospital, and also built the park commemorating the hospital.



There are medallions imbedded in the pavement of the park commemorating some of the most significant contributions made by St. Vincent's to the community.



Sisters of Charity



9/11 World Trade Center



Aids Epidemic



Shirtwaist Factory Fire



Titanic

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2016 ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2016 Alumnae Association Officers, Board of Directors, and Committee Chairs include the following alumnae:

Officers

Joanne Billott '75, President
Maureen Heitmann '61, Vice President
Patricia Costello '66, Secretary Treasurer
Mary Ann Byrnes '64, Recording Secretary

Board of Directors

Patricia Caffrey '79
Susan L. Faggiani '68
Bernadette Hemmer '68
Mary Jane Mason '66
Maureen McElhinney '68

Committee Chairs

Betsy Arnold-Leahy '78, Health and Welfare Committee
Mary Ann Buckley '66, Luncheon Committee
Susan L. Faggiani '68, Bernadette Hemmer '68, Maureen McElhinney '68, Newsletter
Pat Farrell '73, Nominating Committee
Maureen Heitmann '61, Parade Committee
Anne Marie O'Brien '66, Program Committee
Patricia Caffrey '79, Website

If anyone would like to volunteer in the leadership of the Alumnae Association, please contact our President, Joanne Billott, at auntjen16@verizon.net.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Patricia Beatrice Silk Harcourt '47
Louise M. Cavanagh Stephens '57
Frances (Frankie) Goff Goodwin '61
Patricia Eileen Bivona '62
Sue Brenner Caffrey '62
Anita Sullivan Dolan '62
Mary Wynne Young '62
Judith Finn Gibbon '66

Richard Scivetti, husband of Geraldine LaValle Scivetti '58
Michael Moore Mullany, son of Eileen Moore Emery '60
Perry Flynn, husband of Patricia Costello Flynn '62
Michael McCarthy MD, husband of Ann Ruckle McCarthy '62

We would like to acknowledge the Class of '62 who have suffered more than their share of deaths in recent months. To assist those members of the class who may be struggling with heartache and grief, we offer a few resources that may help

Our Editor, Bernadette Hemmer, offers this:

As many of you may already know, I recently lost my dear husband of 45+ years, Neal. Those of us who have faced and are facing loss will agree, I think, that it is faith and the love and support of family and friends that carry us through these difficult days.

Along the way, people have suggested books and sent me comments that have helped me greatly. Since we all experience loss in our lives, and more so in our "senior years," I recommend these books to you, my dear alumnae.

Healing After Loss by Martha Whitmore Hickman
About Grief by Ron Morasco and Brian Schuff
The Light of the World by Elizabeth Alexander

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF JANUARY ELECTIONS

There were three positions to be filled. And three people volunteered to serve.

Vice-President: was filled by Maureen O'Brien Heitman '61

Two Board positions: were filled by Mary Jane Herlihy Mason '66 and Susan Faggiani '68

Every year we need to elect some members as Board Members and Officers. We do ask for people to serve but recently we have not had enough volunteers to have an election. Please consider volunteering to run for one of these positions. We need everyone's input. If you are interested, you can get in touch with me and I will forward the information to Pat Farrell of the Nominating Committee. You could also approach any officer or board member and let them know you are interested.

Thank you - Pat Costello - pcostellosvh@gmail.com

MEETING NOTICE

- DATE:** January 30, 2016
- PLACE:** Convent of the Sisters of Charity
20 Washington Square North (Going east from 6th Ave.,
it is between 5th Ave. & MacDougal Street) New York, NY 10011
- TIME:** 12 noon
- TOPIC:** Healthcare Reform: Moving from Volume to Value.
- Speaker:** Claudia Beck PhD, ANP-BC, '78
Director, Case Management
NY Presbyterian/ Weill Cornell & Columbia

A Light meal will be served.

RSVP to Pat Costello @ 845 544 2675 or pcostellosvh@gmail.com

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