

MIGHTY NURSES BY ADRIANA TRIGIANI

Frontline. Essential. Irreplaceable. Knowledge. Training. Acumen. Empathy. Professionalism.

Wisdom. The ribbon of words that describe professional nurses read like a litany. I've been thinking about nurses a lot lately, as have most people. The spotlight on your profession, (even if you're retired, it's part of your DNA) has been one of the gifts of this pandemic. I have been thinking about Saint Vincent's Hospital, the good sisters, and the training you received from them at the hospital a lot over the past several months. Saint Vincent's turned out the best nurses in the city. Everybody knew it- and still do. And yes, all our hearts break a little more when we pass the location of the hospital, now a bunch of fancy condos. It's my honor to write for your newsletter because it brings back memories of the glory of the hospital and its staff.

We had so much fun at your book club and of course, I can't wait to return. Conversations we had that day stay with me. So, as these things go, you got into my writing DNA and my next novel is centered around a young nurse in Italy who is banished from her village for stepping over the line in the care of a particular patient. She gives the young woman advice that is not approved by the local priest. All this happens on the cusp of World War II. I was directing *Then Came You* with Craig Ferguson and Kathie Lee Gifford in Scotland, (you can watch it anytime on Amazon Prime, Apple etc) where I stumbled upon a story that I had not heard about Italian Scots, and soon that discovery coupled with the story of Domenica Cabrelli, a young nurse from Viareggio, Italy came together.

I was amazed, as I did my research, at the evolution of the skills involved in nursing profession since the turn of the last century. Over time, and certainly through the present, the role of the nurse as the chief voice regarding the care of an ailing patient has grown. More responsibilities have been heaped on the nursing staff, as more empathetic bedside care is required. The communication with patient's families has fallen upon nurses. These changes have reshaped the duties of the modern nurse in the workplace along with scientific discoveries and the creation of new and better equipment. You were part of that change. I wish the experts would include you in the conversation about healthcare in America- you could tell them a thing or two (or ten!).

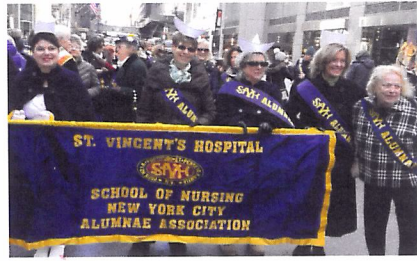
Every family has a story of an unforgettable nurse- either because you had a nurse in the family, or in time of trouble, you relied on a nurse. We call you God's Angels on Earth but you are more than that. You are the army that forms the firewall around an ailing person, giving them the care they need to heal. Your steadfast, hard work keeps the entire engine of healthcare, and its sister profession, spiritual healing, moving forward. If folks hadn't noticed before, they do now. The pandemic has thrown a light on importance of nurses.

Every nurse carries the story of a patient that changed her view of the world. You can't remember the details of the thousands of patients you took care of, but you do remember the one situation, or day that changed your perception of your work and why it mattered. The same goes with writing a book. It's a moment, or a time, that stopped you in your tracks and made you look at your life. Your beliefs. Your faith. You transformed somehow, through the pain of another. You saw something new in the suffering. You took that experience and grew. Even in retirement, we must grow. Get that notebook and write the story of your day of change down so that the future generations in your family will understand your profession. You lit that fire in me, and now you must light in history. See you soon, dear friends!



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE CANCELLED

The 2021 St. Patrick's Day Parade has been officially cancelled due to the pandemic. This parade was to have been dedicated to First Re-sponders as well as a recognition of the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks on our city.



We all are saddened but understand that at this time we just don't have enough people vaccinated to keep a crowd safe.

However, while we are on pause the parade official & the Mayor are in talks about changing the day for the parade to be on Sunday ALWAYS.

The St. Patrick's Day committee are vigorously negotiating to keep the parade on March 17th. Stay tuned.

BALLOT FOR JANUARY 2021

In Coming President - Joanne Billott'75 – I have been requested to reprise my role as President of the SVH School of Nursing Alumnae Association. A short bio was requested and is as follows: SVH Catholic Medical Center-Staff Nurse & ANC of St Joseph's East 1975-1982, Staff Education Instructor 1985-2010. Continuing Education as follows: CMSV BSN Graduate- 1985, Lehman College MSN Graduate 1988, member of the SVH Alumnae 1975- present. The continuing education and socializing through our membership is priceless!

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES

Out Going President - Marie Brady'66 – I am a proud graduate of the class of '66. I worked at St Vincent's for 30 years in various clinical areas: Med/Surg on Smith 6, Eye Clinic, Endoscopy. I worked and retired from the New York City government as the Deputy Commissioner for the citywide Home Care Program. While at SVH, I received a BS in Health Care Administration, Master's in Public Administration and a Juris Doctor degree. Through the years, I have sporadically been involved in the Alumnae Association as an officer and/or planning a few of the Luncheons. Past presidents are automatically placed on the board for one term.

Please select three on the ballot form and send it back with you dues in the envelope provided.

Chris Colligan '73 – My clinical experiences are as follows: Staff Nurse in the General Surgical, Cardiac Surgical and Trauma Intensive Care at Duke University Medical Center, 1973-1976; Staff Nurse In the ER, Ophthalmology Outpatient Clinic and Ambulatory Surgical Unit @ Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital, School Nurse @ Clarkstown North High School 1976-1979, School Nurse and Health teacher @ The

Spence School 1989- present. I have served as the President of the Independent School Nurses's Association of NYC for at least 10 years. I have attended numerous seminars and courses applicable to School Nursing such as the following topics- Diabetes, Asthma, Immunizations, Child abuse, eating disorders, sexual health and sexual disorders. I have also taken credited courses in political science/history, not yet completed the degree. I have been a member of the Alumnae Association for a number of years and became even more active and involved member after the School of Nursing closed in 1999 and I have served as an active SVH Board member for a number of years.

Harriet McGreal'69 – I received BS Degree from Caldwell University. My SVH career began in the Seton Building with both medicine and surgical experience. Other SVH experiences include Assistant Director of Quality Assurance and Clinical Director in the Out Patient Department. Other Positions held were Senior Systems Analyst for Computer Sciences Corporation; Administrator for the Developmental Disabilities Clinic at Terrance Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center; Director of Audit and Appeals at the Brooklyn Hospital Center and Vice President of Resident Services at Vista on Fifth, Assisted Living Facility.

Mary Muelheck'71 – I was employed for 45 years in Critical Care and Administration. I have been an active participant in the Alumnae Association for the past 10 years. I am presently serving on the Board and have been for the past two years and I am willing to run again. I am happily retired for 5 years with time and energy to give back and continue to contribute to keeping our St Vincent's School of Nursing legacy alive.

Cathy Leonido Rodriguez'83 – My nursing credentials are as follows: MSN, RN, NCSN. I would be happy to serve on the Alumnae Board. I am a 1984 graduate and works on the Burn Unit and Spellman 4. I am currently working full time as a School Nurse in Westchester County, NY.

CLASS NOTES

Class of 1959

Kathleen O'Dwyer McAdams contacted the Alumnae Association asking for prayers. She ask this request be put in the newsletter. No other information was given.

Class of 1975

Anne Marie Romano Tranfa is looking to reconnect with classmate Rosemarie Gigliotti Caruso.

You can reach Ann Marie at 603-986-0211

Patience, Fortitude, Perseverance



REFLECTIONS ON MARY ANN MACK MCLAUGHLIN '57



The Alumnae Association was sad to learn of the passing of Mary Ann Mack McLaughlin on October 1, 2020.

Mary Ann was well known to many of us as a dedicated nurse from St. Lawrence West (SLW) and most especially, the alum who coordinated the annual association luncheons for 25 years.

We asked her dear friend, Anne Marie O'Brien '66 to share some memories with us.

How can one capture the essence of Mary Ann? According to her friends, she was many things, but she was unanimously described as "...a force to be reckoned with, a dynamo!"

Due to the nursing shortage during the year that I graduated, Mary Ann hired 10 new graduates from my class as staff nurses on SLW. It didn't take long before she molded us into true St. Vincent's nurses, skilled, motivated, and compassionate, traits that allowed us to accomplish just about any challenge we met during our careers. Mary Ann once joked that she could run SLW from home because we were there....and being one of the most organized persons we knew, we believed she could!

Mary Ann left St. Lawrence when she had her first son, Mark, though his entry into the world wasn't simple. Mark arrived during the blizzard of February 1969, necessitating a subway ride to SVH for Mary Ann and Marty! But the snow didn't deter her staff who braved 6-foot snow banks to procure champagne for a proper celebration!

While her 3 children were young, Mary Ann continued to work nights on SLW and for many years, continued to mentor staff as a night supervisor until she retired.

Throughout her career, Mary Ann was a loyal supporter of our alumnae association, taking over Kitty Larkin's role as chief recruiter for leadership of the Alumnae Association. She even snookered me into running for President, neglecting to tell me that I'd be running unopposed. It was in 1990, just in time to begin planning for the 100th anniversary of the School of Nursing!

Following the tenure of Marie Brady '66 as Chair of the Annual Luncheon, Mary Ann took over this responsibility and held that position for 25 years. Many fun times were shared by her devoted seating arrangements crew at Mary Ann's Bayhead NJ beach house where the traits of our school motto, Patient, Fortitude, and Perseverance, were put to the test!

Mary Ann was an exemplary St. Vincent's nurse, role model and mentor, and a great friend to many. Now that she is gone, it just won't be the same when I drive down to the beach looking for her open kitchen door, inviting me in for a cup of tea and a chat.

Fare thee well, my dear friend..... You will be missed by me and so many.

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.

stvincentsschoolofnursingalums.org

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

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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

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Faith, Hope and Charity



ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Elanor McCabe '53
Mary Ann Mack McLaughlin '57
Kathleen Therese Fisk '63, Sister of Margaret Fisk Mastal '61
Alice Schultz Byrne '64

Carolyn Tudisco McNamara from the class of **1959** sent us a list of classmate who are deceased.
They are as follows:

Mary Ann Mahon Banco
Mary Ellen Flynn Blake
Maryrose Ricca Bono
Rosalie Brett Dall
Madeline Tiernan Dwyer
Mary Morris Harkins
Kathleen Cichetti Marchese
Mary Russo Montelone
Maureen Magovern Moran
Helen Zimmermann O'Brien
Helen Ford Rose
Lucille Duff Tyer

Bernard J. Arnold, husband of Kathleen Looney Arnold '56, and father of Betsy Arnold Leahy '78
Peter R. Boerner, husband of Mary Ann Pawlowski Boerner '64
Patricia Brennan, mother of Theresa Brennan '07
Reina Harriott, sister of Patricia Devine Landy '58
Gerald Lee, husband of Johanna Tuomey Lee '58
Jack McGowan, husband of Regina Gallagher McGowan '68
Emily Rogers, sister of Joan Rogers '58
Louis Rossi, brother of Betty Rossi Essman '57
Gloria Simon, mother of Susan Simon Pagano '80
Donald Sweeney, husband and Edward Sweeney son of Geraldine Brady Sweeney '62
Henry Wolffer, husband of Cynthia Bee Wolffer '58
Arthur C. Woods, father of Anne Woods Cusack '86

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
6301 Riverdale Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471
Phone: 917-697-6370

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