



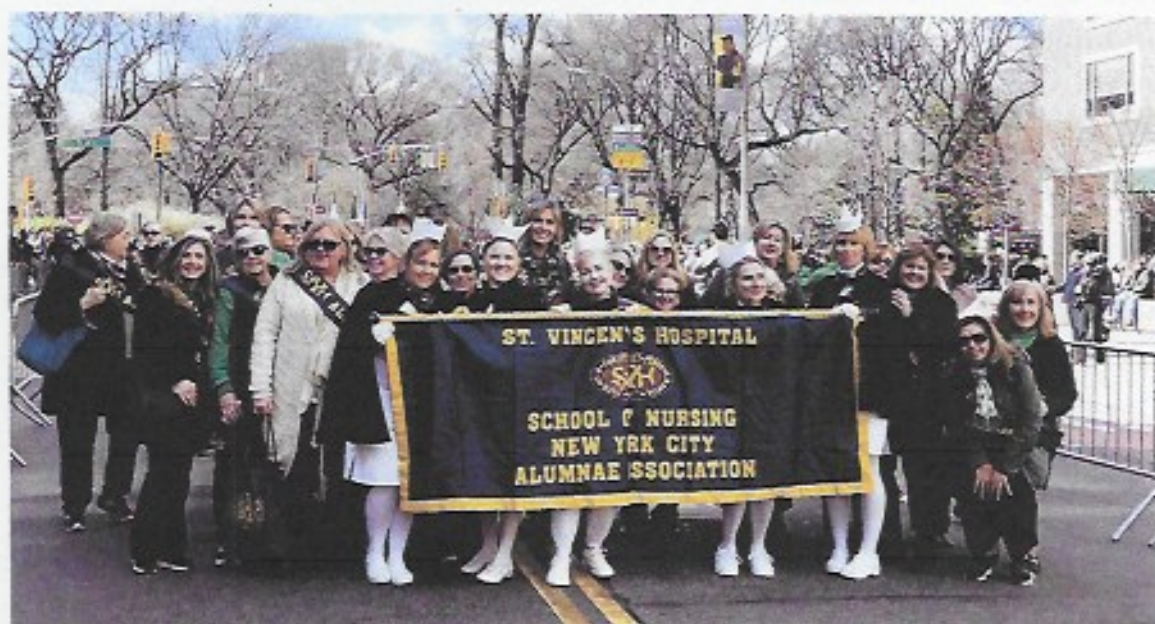
ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING



Alumnae Association Newsletter

Volume 65 Number 2 - Spring 2024

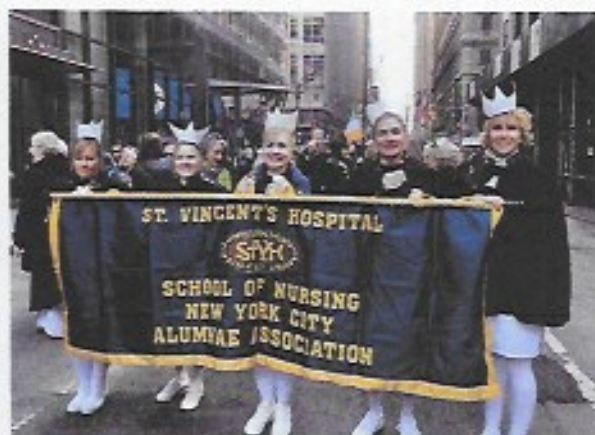
ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2024



The New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade has been marching since 1762, which was a few years before the official beginning of the United States. This year the parade was held on Saturday March 16, 2024 instead of on March 17th, since it is tradition the parade not take place on Sunday. The weather was fine with temperatures the low 60's with a little bit of a breeze. Fifty one alumnae proudly marched up 5th avenue, once again led by The Richmond County Pipe Band from Staten Island. Six alumnae in full uniform carried the St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing Banner. The minute we stepped on to 5th Avenue the applause started and continued all the way up 5th Avenue.

The New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade is a fun, heart warming ,wonderful experience to participate in. Think about coming next year. The parade will be on Monday March 17, 2024.

Sláinte!





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THE 94TH ANNUAL ALUMNAE LUNCHEON

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 9th, 2024, at 12:00PM as we gather in camaraderie at The Manhattan Penthouse. Mass will be celebrated at The Church of St. Francis Xavier at 10:30AM EST with a live stream on YouTube for those unable to attend.

Alumnae Association members in good standing will have priority for admission, so don't forget to keep your dues current as to not be shut out of this favorite event.

The Class of 1974 is looking forward to celebrating their golden anniversary and plans are underway by their committee headed by Kathie Shea Contello (kacontello@gmail.com) and Jacqueline Burke Wilhelmsen (jacquelburke@gmail.com).

Pictures and memories are being collected by Marybeth Roubal Forcina (mbsvh@yahoo.com) and requests for photographs should be sent in JPG format via email or copies mailed to her home.

Currently, no one has yet come forward from the final Class of 1999 to organize their Silver Anniversary. Please reach out to me at marilynstrafer@gmail.com to help you contact classmates and get a table or two together. Don't look back and regret missing this opportunity to reunite and share your memories.

TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS AND EDUCATION VERIFICATION FOR ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING, MANHATTAN, NEW YORK

Requests for transcripts and education verification must be submitted in writing and require a \$25 processing fee made payable to: Sisters of Charity of New York

Transcripts from graduation years 1966-1999

Donation: \$25
Please allow two-four weeks for receipt and return of information.

For Transcripts from graduation years PRIOR TO 1966
Transcripts prior to 1966 are on microfiche cards and require travel to an off-site location to print the card information.

Donation: \$50
Please allow up to SIX MONTHS
Requests will be fulfilled in March and October

Donation: \$100
Please allow up to ONE MONTH
Request will be fulfilled within one month of receipt

Please mail requests in writing with check to:
Sisters of Charity of New York
Attn: Transcripts, Le Gras Hall
6301 Riverdale Avenue
Bronx, New York 10471-1093

Include the following information:

- First and Last Name at the time of graduation
- Year of Graduation
- Mailing address for transcript submittal

For questions, please contact:
Sr. Frances Keegan
718-549-9200 x268

LONG COVID

Dr. Sritha Rajupet the Director of the Stony Brook Medicine Post-COVID Clinic led a zoom presentation about Long COVID. Her talk was titled: Long COVID: It has been 4 years, where are we now? In this enlightening talk, Dr. Rajupet covered the definition of long covid, explored its symptoms, and discussed general approaches to managing this condition. She also discussed caring for patients in the Post-COVID clinic as well as resources that are available to people suffering from Long COVID.

Dr. Rajupet defined Post-COVID, also known as Long Covid, (sometimes referred to as Post-COVID Conditions, post-acute COVID-19 and chronic COVID, among others) as what the CDC considers to be a wide range of new, returning or ongoing health problems that people experience after being infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. Usually, these symptoms appear at least four weeks after a COVID-19 diagnosis.

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Dr. Rajupet explained that Long COVID is now considered a new chronic illness. Approximately one in 13 people who have had COVID-19 will go on to develop long COVID symptoms. There are over 100 different symptoms that are associated with long COVID, and there's still a lot to learn about it. With approximately 50% of patients having at least one long COVID symptom six months after their original diagnosis, this can have a significant impact on their physical and mental well-being.

Dr. Rajupet described her design of the Post-COVID clinic with an eye to what would be most helpful for patients. She modeled the clinic after the World Trade Center Health Program with a focus on patient-centered care. She brings resources to the patients, including clinical care, research information, mental health services, and many other specialties to provide a holistic and comprehensive approach. She spoke about her Post-COVID Clinic team which is composed of physicians who were on the front lines caring for patients with COVID-19 which gave them a unique depth of knowledge and experience in knowing how to provide appropriate and effective follow-up care.

Dr. Rajupet spoke about the most common symptoms associated with long COVID, which have been documented nationally and include shortness of breath, fatigue, brain fog, mental health issues, body aches and pains.

Dr. Rajupet spoke about vaccination, and options including the new Novavax COVID vaccine which may be an option for patients with concerns about mRNA vaccines and side effects. She completed her talk by providing some resources available in the community and answering questions from the group.

AN AFTERNOON WITH SR. MIRIAM KEVIN PHILLIPS, SC, '49

By Marilyn Lynaugh Strafer, '80

On Thursday, 4/11/24, Cathy McWeeney Crimmins, '74 and I visited Sr. Kevin on the bucolic campus of The College of Mount St. Vincent in Riverdale, NY. We found Sister Kevin to be in fine spirits and good health. She was delighted to be so fondly remembered and shared stories of her youth living

in Greenwich Village with her widowed mother and stepfather, who affectionally called her "Champ". Sister reminisced about her time as a student at SVH, working as a new graduate in the ED, her postulancy with The Sisters of Charity, and finally her mission as a nun and devotion to our school of nursing, culminating as its final Director.



Seeing Sister Kevin in this light was a joy! The memories of her esteemed career, the uniqueness of her beloved Greenwich Village neighbors she served, the AIDS pandemic, and the role she and her nursing students played over many years was a testament to her enduring legacy. Always humble, Sister was heart-warmed by the number of her former students who have reached out and sent their fond regards over the years.

I always remember Sister Kevin as a no-nonsense administrator who was extremely fair but also had a hidden sense of humor, which would on occasion sneak out. I recall her telling me during

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a disciplinary conversation that "She was not hatched a nun" and could well remember her own shenanigans as a student nurse. I still had to face my consequences, but the grace Sr. Kevin showed me still endures and I look back at that time with respect for her ability to correct with strength but also dignity.

Anyone who knows Sr. Kevin in recent years also knows her as a devoted NY Mets fan. She talked about the current baseball season and her favorite players. Cathy brought her yearbook from 1974 and we were amazed that Sister recalled several of the students who went on to spend their careers at the hospital or faculty members and personal anecdotes.

Sister Kevin celebrated her 96th birthday on April 4th and she proved to us that day that age is just a number! I will post clips of the interview that Cathy and I had with her on our website.

If you would like to send Sister a card or a memory, she is residing at:
The Convent of Mount St. Vincent
6301 Riverdale Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471

AN UPDATE FROM ESWATINI

Dear family and friends,

The Swazi people continue to benefit from your generosity and advocacy. The Home Based Palliative Care team visits patients in their homesteads daily and identifies patients who have needs that could not be addressed without your help.



We would like to share a few stories that illustrate the impact of this outreach.

Jeremiah Kutsembe is an elderly man who was in failing health and was recently discharged from the hospital. The team visited him in his homestead where he lived alone in a mud and stick hut. He had not eaten in

several days and told them how he had just killed a snake that fell from the thatched roof. They immediately prepared a nutritional supplement for him to eat called Morvite, and left him with an emergency food pack that would last several weeks.

He died a few weeks later but the compassionate care of the team's visits and the gift of food ensured that he never felt abandoned.

Lethu Myeni is a 21 yr old man diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia. We first met him when he was 19 yrs old and it was a long process to determine the diagnosis and then to access treatment. There is a life extending treatment for this disease but it was not available in Eswatini. Al spent long hours communicating with the drug company, Novartis, and an oncology doctor in Eswatini and then networked with an NGO in Seattle, Washington called the Max Foundation. The HBPC team diligently cared for Lethu and supported the family during this emotionally charged time.

In the interim we have been able to purchase a supply of this expensive medication thanks to you.



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It appears that soon a long term compassionate drug program availability will ensure he will have a steady supply. He probably would not have survived without your help.

Donation Link: <https://cmmb.org/hartmanns>

(All gifts are held in a restricted account in CMMB to be used only for the work of HBPC in Eswatini)

Please let us know if a donation is made and we will check to make sure it is recorded in the HBPC account.

The entire Home Based Palliative Care team and all the patients send their deepest gratitude for all your prayers and support.

In their names we say Siyabonga Kakhulu "Thank You Very Much"

Al and Kathleen Maldini Hartman '68

CLASS NOTES

Class of 1967

Nancy Cameron wanted to share these memories of Regina Modica. Regina Modica RN, BS, MSN of Infection Control entered into eternal rest on December 13, 2023. Regina began working at St. Vincent's hospital in 1977 and was a dedicated nurse at the hospital until its closing in 2010.

Regina began her career at St. Vincent's in Home Care/ Community Medicine during the story days of Mrs. Tangerman and Mrs. Tulchin. Regina was at the helm of Home Care herself before transferring to Infection Control and working with Anne Marie O'Brien. Regina was admired by her peers both in the hospital, and with Infection Control.

Regina was not a St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing graduate but she held the utmost respect for her SVHSON colleagues. She often mentioned how grateful she was to have been embraced by the SVHSON nurses.

Regina is survived by her daughter, son in law and three year old grandson.

Regina we cherish the memories-job well done !

Greetings from the 1974 !

The 50th Anniversary of our graduation will be celebrated in November of this year at the alumnae association luncheon !

It is time to start planning for this momentous event. While a few of our classmates have expressed an interest in working on this happening , we welcome others to participate . Would you like to help with the planning? Do you have memories , anecdotes or photos you would like to share? We want to hear from you !

Please contact:

Kathie Shea Contello kacontello@gmail.com

Marybeth RoubalForcina mbsvh@yahoo.com

Jackie Burke Wihelmsen jacqueburke@gmail.com

We welcome your assistance in working on our celebration.

Send photos to Marybeth at the above email address to be included in the video.

Be sure to spread the word to others in our class. See you in November!

Class of 1975

Denise Giachetta-Ryan wanted to share what she has been doing since her retirement.

Since retirement I have been doing a lot of volunteering with the National Park Service and the Staten Island Museum. I work in the Archives at the Staten Island museum which just opened their exhibit about the Black Angels. These were nurses who staffed the Seaview Hospital when it was a TB institution and participated in the trials for INH. It will be opened until the fall .

I also volunteer with Save Ellis Island, the fund raising arm of the National Park Service on Ellis Island. I give tours of the abandoned immigrant hospital. Beginning in March of this year I will be giving lectures about the history of the hospital to Schools of Nursing which will include tours.

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Save Ellis Island also sponsors virtual book discussions. In March of this year I interviewed the author of the Black Angels, Maria Smillios.

There are various book interviews that relate to the immigrant experience.

Hope to see you soon.

Class of 1981

Nancy Guarino Rizzuto would love to hear from classmates (12/81&4/82). Nancy's email is nrm81@gmail.com

ATTENTION ALUMNI DUES

Once again we need to remind everyone to pay their ALUMNI DUES. As of this newsletter there are still over 200 members in arrears. If you have an issue just let Pat Costello know.

CAPEs

The Alumni Association is looking for Capes. Anyone wanting to move their cape along to another member who is looking for one please get in touch with Pat Costello at pcostellosvh@gmail.com

CAPS

Our caps can be purchased from KAY's CAPs. They are \$24.50.

Go to info@kayscap.com or phone 516 791-8500.

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:

Please visit the site for review of Class Notes, Photo Gallery, SVH Shop, and more.

stvincentsschoolofnursingalums.org

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

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ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Joan Kelly Shapiro '54

Mary Earley Hillebrecht '56

Rita Murphy '57

Elizabeth Dooley '63

Mary Ann Walsh Elder '63

Suzanne Brown O'Donnell '63

Virginia Greges Svoboda '63

Mary Farrell O'Shea '69

Nora Palmer Liebman '69

Francis Zukovsky '73

Debra Batson '74

Cynthia Munoz Delle Site '91

Edward Cryer, husband of Carole Flynn Cryer '59

John Cavendish, husband of Roberta Salomone Cavendish '60

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