

ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING



Alumnae Association Newsletter

Volume 58 Number 1 - Winter 2017



St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Reunion and Luncheon was held on November 12, 2016, with approximately 295 alum in attendance. The Rev. Richard Cabezas Ed.D Pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Fort Lee, N.J. officiated the mass. The Lectuer was Paul Quinn '91. The vocalist was Erin Sullivan, daughter of Peggy Madden Sullivan '70. The photograph was Brigid Helen Leahy RN, daughter of Betsy Arnold-Leahy '78 and Granddaughter of Kathleen Arnold '56.

The anniversary years were represented as follows. The class of 1956 had 22 alums in attendance, The class of 1961 had 18. The Golden Jubilee class of 1966 had 78 The class of 1971 had 23. The class of 1976 had 31. The class of 1981 had 7 The class of 1986 had 6. The class of 1991 had 7.

Joan Clerkin Anderson, a member of the the Class of 1966 spoke to her classmates and the alumnae in attendance. Their class made a donation of \$1200 to the New York Foundling. They did a clinical rotation at The Foundling and remembered Dr. Fontana lovingly.

Here is a reprint of Joan's remarks :

On September 8th 1963 175 excited...but anxious young ladies (actually teenagers) passed through the bronze doors of 158 West 12th Street to begin their journey toward becoming a registered nurse. Personally I can remember getting off the elevator, with Skippy at the controls and walking toward my assigned room...812. As I passed the room next to mine I saw two names on the door tag and said to my parents "WOW I've got 2 guys living next to me. I thought this was a ALL girls nursing school". In a short time I met Kevin Brennan and Francis Candia who are two beautiful, friendly and wonderful ladies. We had no guys in our class. On June 16, 1966, 164 students, SVH Class of 1966 exited the bronze doors of St. Patricks Cathedral in their pursuit as Registered Nurses. Cardinal Terrance Cooke presided at our ceremony. In two years and nine months our lives forever changed! Today we come together to celebrate our 50 years of friendship and professional practice in a multitude of settings.

Our probie months flew by with the expertise of our NF instructors. Who can forget Ann Dibble, Anne Frain, Joan Caruana and many other talented faculty? At times some of us struggled with exams and learning complicated nursing skills, wondering if we'd ever make 'capping'. Yet on May 10th, 1964 as we helped each other 'don' our white caps, bibs, and uniform with one stripe we came to realize we had successfully made it through the so called "rite of passage". We now enjoyed later curfews and no more lights out at 10pm. YEAH! Along came little social life, less formal classes and non-stop working. When you got a weekend off REMEMBER How you worked the previous 10 days straight.? When I hear nurses complain about working 3 days in a row I can only laugh and think 'you have no idea'!

Lets talk about our GOURMET MEALS as student nurses. It was a lot different than what teenagers typically wanted to eat. The cafeteria lines were endless. I remember coming off Joe's west one day ... hungry as a bear. As I walked through the food line I kept seeing green lima beans...everywhere! They were mixed in salad, there was a lima bean casserole & lima bean vegetables!! When I arrived at the dessert section (my favorite) there was a cherry jello with lima beans mixed in. I'm sure each graduate in this room could share a similar food story. Our food choices were unique! However since that day



I've never seen lima beans in cherry jello except at St. Vincent's. We were told someone had made a generous donation.... of lima beans to the hospital & school and we were the lucky recipients, along with the patients.

Our 1st year ended and we were feeling pretty confident! With getting our 2nd stripe, along with more responsibility. We didn't enjoy endless evenings and nightshifts but we learned alot! We were now in different clinical areas throughout the hospital. On November 9th 1965 at about 5:17 pm " The Great Northeast Blackout " occurred. Fifty one years ago last Monday REMEMBER THAT? It was the biggest power failure in US history, with all of NY State and portions of 7 neighboring states & parts of eastern Canada plunged into darkness. It affected 13 million people for upwards of 13 hours. While being very scary working in the dark, it was amazing to see the camaraderie & work ethic exhibited by so many individuals. Imagine Mary Gunning trying to get to central supply in the basement by herself, using the stairs and a flashlight, coming from the Peds unit on Rascob 8. I can remember the longest extension cords I had ever seen, running along the sidewalks from 11th street across 7th Ave., down 12th street and then up the concrete walls of the Smith Building to get suction machines working for our Head & Neck patients on Smith 5. and to get lights working for the Operating Rooms. How about our patient census? Anne Marie, do you remember your St. Lawrence West night rotation with 47 patients, multiple IV's & 1 transfusion and you were ready for the priest to give Communion that morning. What about the famous " Two Little Orphans?" We all had amazing experiences at St. Vincent's.

Today 50 years later we've come together to reunite and relive our memories both happy and at time not so happy. Fifteen of our classmates are with God. We lost Bonnie Blades within two months of starting nursing school. Sadly, some of our classmates are too ill or their loved ones too ill to be here with us today. Many classmates told me "to tell everyone I'll be there in spirit". Fellow classmates came from twenty seven states and Canada. Janice Wolff Andre came the greatest distance from Seattle, Washington.

We started our 50th Reunion Weekend Get-Together on Friday with Mass at St. Patricks Cathedral , celebrated by Monsignor Ritchie. We then had a wonderful lunch at Connolly's Pub & Restaurant followed by enough 'Do you remember this stories' to last a lifetime. We had a great time with our Trivia Game & Pam Schultz Corrigan's Multi media presentation .

We reminisced... as nursing students we lived together, worked together, supported each other, and depended on each other. We formed wonderful and lasting friendships in our time at St. Vincent's. We found a family here! It left an indelible mark! This weekend we're able to renew acquaintances with so many outstanding women and men who have developed an extraordinary understanding of and important response to all our patients needs.

One hundred fifteen of the Class of 1966 stayed and worked for St. Vincent's Hospital. The New State Education Department now required an RN by on every nursing unit . As years went by classmates became staff nurses, school nurses, public health nurses, directors of nursing, nursing professors, corporate nurses, home care nurses in just about every arena of nursing. Some got their PhDs, many started their own businesses. Three of our classmates went into the Navy and served in the Vietnam War.

While St. Vincent's is gone .. OUR LEGACY IS NOT! One way of keeping St. Vincents Hospital School of Nursing's legacy alive is by wearing our nursing pin especially at our work locations. A pinning ceremony is all about honoring and celebrating nursing students and their journey to become a nurse. Our pinning ceremony was a time to celebrate our success for the amount of dedication and effort we put into our nursing education. Its a meaningful event and a true testament to our nursing profession. We learned to appreciate the importance of compassion and competence which identified St. Vincent's nurses as providers of the highest quality of patient care.

For our younger SVH nurses here today , always remember we provide genuine caring and concern. We take special care of our patients and their families. We dedicated our lives to the standards and spirit we learned while at St. Vincent's.

Now fifty years later let us remember we were educated to be the best and I have always been proud to say as I know all of you are, that 'I am a St. Vincent's graduate". With humility, all nurses are not equal and we are very fortunate to know WE ARE THE BEST!

Patience, Fortitude, Perseverance



REFLECTIONS : CLASS OF 1956 60TH REUNION

Florence George Marchi, New Jersey

It was a wonderful day as always. I am grateful to see everyone and it is amazing how we go back as if we never parted over all these years. It warms my soul to share our lives. God put us all in the right place , so thankful!

Maureen Long Keating, Illinois

It is mind boggling to realize that we met 63 years ago as young 18 year olds and now here we are renewing our friendships and remembering the good and trying times as if it happened just yesterday.

Kathryn Graham Ross, Connecticut

To be able to celebrate our 60th reunion from St. Vincent's was gift. Sharing the memories of our days on 'the wards', rotations at Willard Parker and in Harrison can only be done with those who were there. I am enormously proud of the training I received and the friendships I made, many of which continue to this day. St. Vincent's Hospital is our roots and the bond that unites us is truly the gift that keeps on giving.

Patricia McNicholl Quill, Florida

Memories of another Alumnae Luncheon

But..This was very special. The St. Vincents' class of 1956 celebrated at the Annual Luncheon. How lucky were we to have a place to reminisce in the twilight of our years, how lucky to visit again with our classmates for a very special day. How many alumnae could say that they visited with a classmate and 60 plus years melted away. We again relived our youth with the stories of St. Lawrence, St. Therese and St. Joseph. We mourned for our classmates who could not share in our joy. How lucky were we that we could pick up a conversation without missing a beat. Only a student nurse could understand the great friendships that were born and grew out of hardship, adversity and just plain grit. It defined who we were through life's challenges and the joy we experienced when we met again. For the intervening years we had hard work, family life and many challenges..but we endured thanks to the Sisters of Charity who had the patience to transform girls into women and the skill to mentor to our patients for whatever challenges we encountered.

To the class of 1957 enjoy your long friendships of classmates when you too celebrate your 60th in 2017.

Janet Manning McGlaufflin, New Jersey

Always feel at home with SVH people

Walked all around 'our place' 11th, 12th Streets. Hung by the beautiful brass doors. Happy to know they are still looking as they did so many years ago. Peeked in and could remember the lovely refined receptionist who sat at the switchboard to the left. Sorry her name escapes me. Any messages were addressed to us as "miss"... Straight ahead from the front door was a classroom a bit down the hall where we met for our 105 hours of A&P with dear Saverio Morati. Over to the right was a staircase. Early on we learned "no men above the second floor"

We gazed at "160" where we lived in senior year. A triangular building . It had a sewing machine where Judy punctured her finger with a needle. She was alone in the building so she removed the needle from the machine and ran across the street to the ER to have it removed.

So many positive thoughts (mostly) of the Charities.

Remembered " In the ward situation, improvise and don't fan the linen" I think all the ward patients got the same loving care from the students as did the patients in Smith and Rascob. How many back rubs did we give???

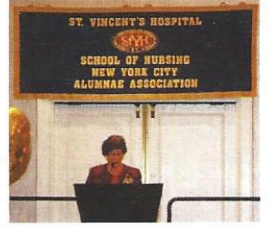
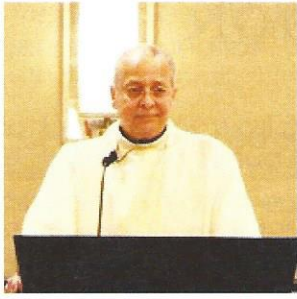
It is almost like a dream that it all happened and now really cannot believe that it is all gone and just a memory

Patricia Wilkie Kingsley, Nebraska

What a warm, deep and heartfelt summation of our class and the women who will always represent the unique qualities imbued into our being in a short three years , We came of age in the best of times and carried with us those attributes of hard work, loving concern and compassion that made us St. Vincent Women.

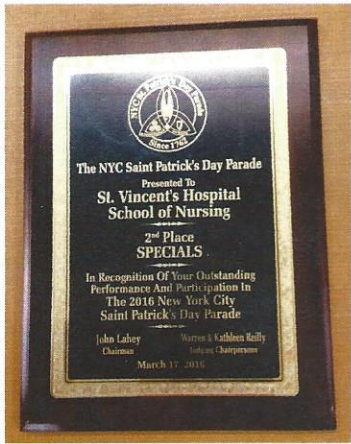
Faith, Hope and Charity





Patience, Fortitude, Perseverance





ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

The New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee presented to St. Vincent Hospital School of Nursing a 2nd place Plaque in recognition of our outstanding performance and participation in the 2016 New York City St. Patrick's Day parade.

Last year the temperature was sixty-six degrees and seventy-seven alumnae gathered to show their commitment to the memory of St. Vincent's Hospital and School of Nursing.

This year the St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Friday, March 17th. All alumnae are invited to come and march in memory of our beloved hospital, school and classmates who are no longer with us.

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION DUES:

A sincere thanks to all who have paid their Alumnae Association dues & especially to those who have donated so generously to our organization.

GENERAL ALUMNAE MEETING

The SVH General Alumnae meeting was held on January 28, 2017. Pat Caffrey '79 and Betsy Arnold-Leahy '78 presented a discussion on cyber security.

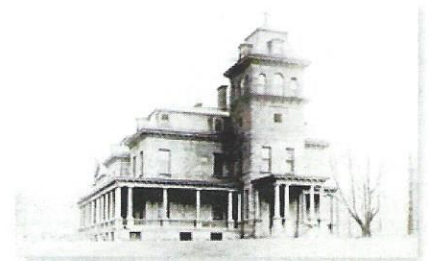
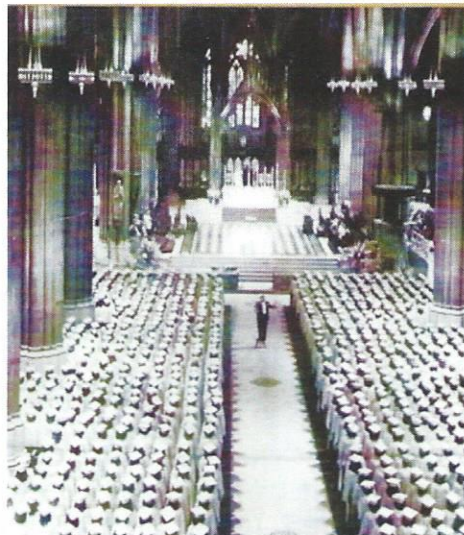
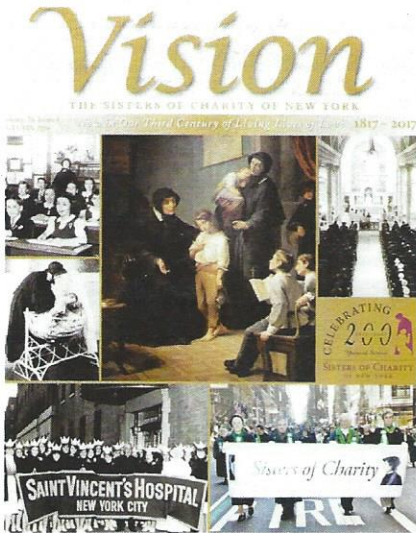
The next General Alumnae meeting will be on Saturday, May 20th at 12 noon. The topic has not been determined as of this printing.

SISTERS OF CHARITY CELEBRATE 200TH ANNIVERSARY

2017 marks the 200th anniversary of the Sisters of Charity. In the publication **Vision** they share some of the history of the order and wonderful archival pictures. If you haven't seen **Vision** enjoy these photos, along with information on the celebrations planned for this year.

Celebrate the History & Contributions of the Sisters of Charity of New York

*Luncheon at The Staaten
697 Forest Ave., Staten Island, NY
April 29, 2017, 11:30 am – 3:30 PM*



Original St. Vincent Hospital, Staten Island

*200th Anniversary Gala
The Lighthouse
61 Chelsea Piers, New York, NY
May 18, 2017, 6 – 9 PM*

*Please Join Us!
CALL 718-549-9200 EXT. 239*

Faith, Hope and Charity



CLASS NOTES

Class of 1956

Patricia McNicholl Quill writes:

I am attaching an article from The University of Virginia which is the largest depository on nursing memorabilia. I have sent my St.Vincent's treasures where there is a collection called 'The Quill Collection". I don't know where the archives of St.Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing are located but my goal is to get the Quill Collection renamed St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center School of Nursing. However they need more to have a major collection. Graduates of SVH are encouraged to donate memorabilia, with the hope that the "Quill Collection" will be renamed to Linda L. Hanson, Administrative Assistant, The University of Virginia School of Nursing, 202 Jeanette Lancaster Way, Charlottesville, Va. 22903-3388. If you would like to view the University of Virginia Newsletter where you can read this article go to www.nursing.virginia.edu/media/Windows%20in%20Time%202016%20October.pdf.

Class of 1966

Mary Jans Mason writes on her thoughts of her 50th :

As I sat at table 6 at the most recent Alum luncheon, the celebration of my graduation 50 years ago, I watched the others at the table. They had been apartment-mates way back then and subsequently moved to different area around the country. They rarely get together because of it. They were comfortable sitting there with each other as though they'd graduated last June. I saw this at several tables of '66 grads. It's wonderful to have still, after all this time, one or two friends from way back but for an entire apartment to come together is amazing and fantastic—and enviable.

I abhor the trite phrase "sharing a bond". The glue that keeps us close is love, of each other, of our profession, of the way in which we learned our profession and love of others in the spirit of charity.

If this is difficult to agree with, observe those from some other institutions of learning. The difference in their outlook, attitude, level of caring and even professionalism, is stark! More than once I've bitten my tongue, waited for the other nurse to leave and then done what I knew should have been done—a touch, a smile, a word or service.

The saying is that we don't choose our family but our friends. At St.Vincent's we were family, we are

family still and we are friends as well. It doesn't get any better than that!

When I was dithering about which school of nursing to apply to, Sr. Luke SC suggested St.Vincent's. I asked "What is St.Vincent's?"

WE are St.Vincent's. Its essence and spirit live on in us, in our hearts and in our hands.

Anyone from the class of 1966 who wishes a flash drive of our 50th celebration needs to get in touch with me. My email is mjmason2@gmail.com.

Class of 1968

Mary Ellen Carbin Johnson writes:

My journey took me many places and ultimately I became a Mid-Wife. I have worked on Navajo and Lakota Indian Reservations, participated in a program to train mid-wifery in Haiti. I had a private practice for 13 years, and have delivered over 2,000 babies, and now continue serving women at a family planning office. I thank St. Vincent's for the support that sent me on this incredible journey.

I also have two daughters (both nurses), five grand kids (one in nursing school) and two great grandsons crawling and toddling along.

Kathy Maldini Hartman writes:

Dear Friends, Family, and Colleagues, Summer is over and we are again planning for our return to Swaziland this coming January. It has been a very difficult year for the Swazis due to a terrible drought, but they never seem to give up hope so neither will we !

This year , in addition to our usual appeal for funds to support our work in Swaziland, we are trying to raise funds to purchase an Ultrasound Machine for the mission hospital where we work. This will help us to provide better care for the patients. All donations will help us to continue supplying medicine, food, school fees, lanterns, water and other critical supplies or services to help improve the quality of life for the Swazi people.

We couldn't do this work without the support of all of you.

If you are considering making a donation please do so through **CMMB (Catholic Medical Mission Board) or our Crowdrise page , www.crowdrise.com/building-a-legacy/fundraiser/kathleenhartman , or send a check to Al & Kathleen Hartman, 500 East 83 St., Ny, Ny 10028. Write Good Shepherd Mission in the memo line. Your donation will be Tax Deducible.**

Patience, Fortitude, Perseverance



Class of 1969 & 1984

Eileen Piacante '84 and Harriet McGreal '69 put together a lovely evening at Aston Alley, 825 3rd ave, Manhattan, this past October. It started as a gathering for the OB/Gyn people but soon morphed into a St. Vincent's reunion. Forty seven people enjoyed good food , great conversation and reminiscing . Lets hope we can do it again soon!



Class of 1975

Joanne Billott '75 writes:

Six SVH Alums had a wonderful cruise up the New England coastline this past October. Here are Joanne Billott '75, Theresa Fazziola '77, Francene Lanigan '77, Susan McDerby '73, & Patricia Greene '77. Sue Harnett '73 is missing from picture taken at the Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia



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. Mel Blumlein, SC
C/O Archives: Boyle Hall
College of Mount Saint Vincent's
6301 Riverdale Avenue
Bronx, New York 10471

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 \$35.00**

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

Faith, Hope and Charity



NEW OFFICERS AS OF JANUARY 2017

This year there were opening for President and two board members. All candidates ran unopposed.

President: Marie Brady '66

Board of Director: Susan Faggiani '68

Board of Director: Marilyn Lynaugh Stafer '80

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Rita Lucy Keator Halloran '39
Constance Pierce Pahlow '46
Loretta M. Delaney O'Brien '49
Elizabeth Anderson Fennessy '50
Monique Carment '56
Rita Fitzgerald Costello '59
Carol Mackin Lindo '59
Eileen Smyth Faletti '62
Kathleen Walsh Reid '62
Patricia Costello Flynn '62

Jack Dolan , Husband of Marilyn Lorenzo Dolan '61
Jim Callopy, Husband of Loretta Kost Callopy '62
Pearce Flynn, Son of Patricia Costello Flynn '62
Edward Hughes , Brother of Beth Hughes Nyberg '62
William McLoughlin, Brother of Maureen McLoughlin Early' 65
Eileen Klien, Mother of Alice Frainer Dmochowski '73
Theresa Crawley, Mother of Kara Crawley Reimer '77
Patrick Whalen , Father of Maureen Whalen '79

And they rise again !!

The golden Jubilee class of 1966 regrets they mistakenly added
Ann Frain Ray '59 to the Obituary Board at their luncheon celebration.
Ann is alive and well and living in Manchester, New Jersey.

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
67 South 5th Avenue
Mount Vernon, NY 10550
Phone: 917-697-6370

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



Patience, Fortitude, Perseverance

