



URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

As we move into a new year, the Board has reviewed the Association's status at this point in time and have determined that our financial situation is dire. Changes are required if we are to remain a viable organization.

For those who attended the Annual Luncheon on November 11, 2017, it was apparent that the number of graduates had decreased. Although there were large groups from the 60th Anniversary class (40), the 50th Anniversary class (75), and the 40th Anniversary class (19), there was no 25th Anniversary class representation. This is the first time this has occurred.

Additionally, the combined number of graduates that attended from the classes 1978 through 1999 was only fifteen (15). This decrease is most likely due to the fact that during the last years of the School of Nursing ("School"), changes in the program occurred, including removing mandatory residency, and the students connection to the School and classmates also changed. Since the School closed in 1999, there have been no new members. This situation will continue as the membership decreases by attrition.

Consequently, our operating budget is at a dangerously low level, income is rapidly decreasing, and expenses are increasing. In order to maintain the Association now and for the near future, the Board has voted to take the following actions:

1. The newsletter will be sent only to members who pay dues. Currently, the Association sends the publication to over 1500 graduates, but going forward will only send it to dues paying members. The newsletter alone costs \$2590 per year to print.
2. Going forward, some announcements that are sent out to members will be inserted into envelopes with the newsletters. This is to save postage. For example, this year's luncheon reply card was inserted into the envelope with the last Newsletter. Postage costs for mailings, including the newsletter, was \$4045.00 last year.
3. The generous annual donation to the Nurses' House, and other donations will be suspended.
4. The annual dues are increased to \$50. Notices have already been mailed, and members are encouraged to return them as soon as possible.
5. The ticket for the annual luncheon will be increased to at least \$130 per person. The Association has subsidized the luncheon for the last several years in an effort to keep the cost affordable. The subsidy from the Association's general fund for the 2017 luncheon totaled \$19,050., resulting in a subsidy to each attendee of \$80 per person. Additionally, the Marriott Hotel has increased costs for the 2018 Luncheon! Therefore, subsidizing the luncheon is no longer an option.
6. The Board is seeking a new venue for the Annual Luncheon, one that is more affordable and in New York City. We have a very short time frame to determine the venue for 2018 since the new contract has already been received. This is not an easy task but the Board is committed to this effort. If our efforts are unsuccessful, we will have to sign the 2018 contract with the Marriott, and make changes to the event to keep it affordable.
7. The Association's Charter will be reviewed to determine if other cost saving measures can be taken without Charter revision, for example, decrease the annual number of membership meetings. The current attendance is low, scheduled speakers receive a stipend, and lunch is served at a cost totaling \$450 per meeting.

These measures are necessary to continue the Association. The Officers, Board, and Committee Chairs volunteer their time and service to maintain it, and we remain dedicated to keeping the Alumnae Association solvent for as long as possible.

Sincerely,

The Alumnae Association Board



CLASS NOTES

The Class of 1968 is looking forward to celebrating their 50th reunion this year! Want to help? Susan Faggiani, Bernadette Fleming Hemmer, and Maureen Garrett McElhinney are organizing a small committee to plan reunion weekend activities. Please reach out to one of them or to the Newsletter email address to lend a hand. They need contact information and alum sisters who are willing to help from near and far. A conference call will be scheduled in early February to get the party started!

Susan: sfagg29@gmail.com

Bernadette: beatlesvh68@gmail.com

Maureen: mmcelhinn@gmail.com

Newsletter: SVHalum@gmail.com

Class of 1969

Jo Ellen Stache of the class of 1969 graduated from The Wagner School of Public Service at NYU in May 2017 with a Masters in Public Administration.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2018



The New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade falls on Saturday this year!

Last year amid snow & wind 77 alums marched proudly up fifth Avenue. We need your help to keep this tradition going. It is one way to continue the legacy of St. Vincent's Hospital & School of Nursing alive.

A question regarding wearing our caps was raised and it was addressed in the spring 2017 newsletter.

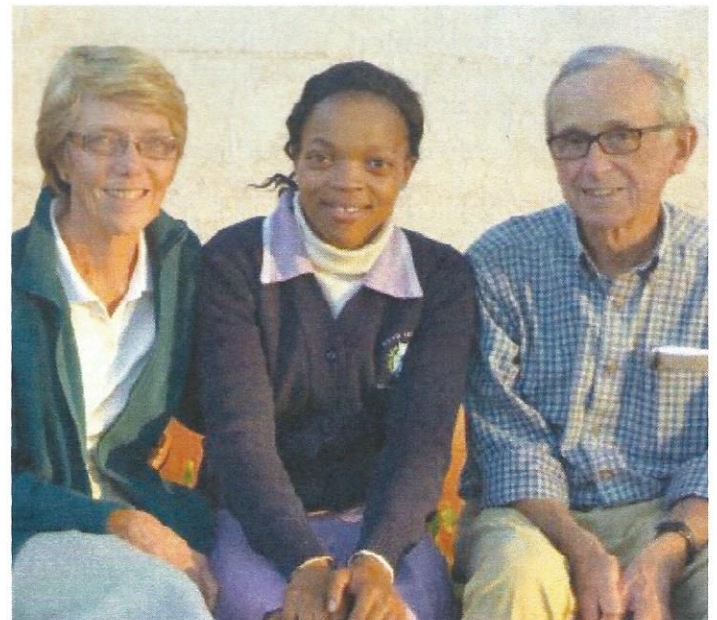
This is a reprint of what was decided. The Board of the Alumnae Association has decided that all alumnae who want to wear their caps must wear a white uniform dress or pants with white shoes & cape. They will march in the front behind the banner. All those who choose not to wear their cap will dress in business attire with their sash. Sashes can be purchased from Maureen Heitman on the day of the parade.

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION DUES

A sincere thanks to all who have paid their dues. As of January 2018 the Alumnae dues have been raised to **\$50.00** per year.

SVH NURSING TRADITION CONTINUES

We have been working at Good Shepherd Mission Hospital in rural Swaziland, Africa for many years



Two years ago we were approached by a young Swazi woman who asked for our help to become an RN. Our funds are primarily used to provide medical care for the poor and sick but we listened to her story and we were impressed by her "nurse's heart".

Patience, Fortitude, Perseverance



Tengetile had been a nursing assistant and had worked for 4 years with Doctors Without Borders caring for TB patients. Swaziland sadly, has the highest HIV/AIDS and TB rates in the world. We called her supervisors and teachers and they all commented on her compassionate care and love of bedside nursing.

Shortly after, we received an extremely generous donation from a St Vincent's School of Nursing Alumnae who had read about our work in Swaziland in the SVH newsletter. The amount was sufficient to pay for Tengetile's tuition. We did not know Eileen Kruzynski and to this day we have still not met. Eileen did not know about Tengetile's request at the time of her gift but we wrote to her and asked if we could use her generous donation to educate an RN who we thought exemplified SVH nursing tradition.

Tengetile is now in her final year and she is doing well. Her clinical skills are strong and her compassionate care and gentle manner have been an example to other student nurses.

We keep in touch with Eileen and these are some of her words in her last email:

"I believe in God's plan for us all and the article might be a way for others to respond to the need. My gratitude to SVH and my pride in the nurses educated there made helping to educate a nurse so meaningful."

We are volunteers through the support of Catholic Medical Mission Board. CMMB was started by an SVH physician in the early 1920's.

More information about our work with the home based care team can be found at: <https://cmmb.org/campaign/home-based-care-hartmanns-are/>

All donations made through this link will be used exclusively to help the people in Swaziland and are tax deductible.

Thank you,

Al and Kathleen (Maldini) Hartmann

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.

stvincentsschoolofnursingalums.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 Costello
28 Cowdrey Street
Warwick, New York 10990
845-544-2675

Faith, Hope and Charity



88TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS & LUNCHEON



The Alumnae Association of Saint Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing held its 88th Annual Memorial Mass & Luncheon on Saturday November 11, 2017 at the New York Marriott financial Center. Two hundred and thirty eight alums attended with a few spouses. Traditionally we celebrated the 50th & 25th year classes. However, this year we had no one from the 25th year class of 1992 in attendance. This a trend we have been seeing over the past few years with dwindling numbers in the later years. We know that as St. Vincent's changed from dormitory campus to a day school those friendships and shared experiences were different. As a result we are dwindling in our numbers as the years go by. However, let's not dwell on that today. It was a wonderful day visiting with old friends, catching up and sharing memories. The anniversary years were represented as follows class of 1957 had forty alumnae in attendance. The Golden Jubilee class of 1967 had seventy three alums and the class of 1977 had 20 alumnae. The class of 1952 had one alumni in attendance.

Father Frank Mulvaney CSSR celebrated the mass. The solist was June Cook. She was accompanied by Peter Barotta.

Pat Barilla Rapisarda, a member of the class of 1967 addressed her classmates.

Here is a reprint of her remarks to her classmates:

I am honored to represent my classmates, the class of 1967, as we celebrate our 50th reunion. Here we are all together again. But I must start with all our grateful thanks to Kerry Connley and all her worker bees. They put in so much effort contacting us and getting the networking started. Actually, getting here was half the fun! Kerry put out an e-vite and everyone started responding with email addresses and facebook postings. That led to so many shared memories and reunions before we even came together this weekend.



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Funny memories, like songs on the jukebox in the rec room, someone remembering that Sister Catherine heard the lyrics to one of the Rolling Stones songs and.... it was bye bye Mick Jagger. Although with some of the lyrics out today, the Stones songs sound like lullabies. And then there was the Blackout of 1965. Some of us were on duty, some of us suited up and went to the floors and the wards, and some of us went to McCoy's.

It was great to see we are all traveling down the same road of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing. Poor Kerry, she would post something on Monday and by Wednesday one of us would inevitably ask

for the same information again. Connie Di Benedetto attempted to offer us crayons at one point.

Last night many of our class came to a casual get together here at the Marriott. The love, joy, and emotion in that room and here today is palpable. You can't live with a bunch of girls for three years, sharing laughter, stress, food and clothes without establishing an unbreakable bond.

Over seventy of the one hundred and forty of our class made it here today. Some of our classmates have left us way too early, others were unable to attend due to illness or prior commitments, but they are all here with us today in our good thoughts and prayers.

We are and always will be part of the respect that St. Vincent's stood for in the health care community. St. Vincent's was and always will be unique. I say unique because there was the CAP. Those 3 points, held on with a tissue, bobbie pin and a hat pin, just flying off the tops of our heads. I live in Los Angeles and back in the day when we still wore caps a MD came up to me and asked if I graduated from that Hospital on 12th street. I said yes St. Vincent's. He simply said great hospital, great school.

Well there is no more St. Vincent's Hospital and there is no more School of Nursing, no more Seton Elevators. But it's not the bricks and mortar that brought us all here today. It is the spirit that St. Vincent's was and always will be in the history of New York City. That same spirit magically transformed my classmates back to twenty somethings this weekend, sharing love, laughter and picking up all those friendships with such ease and familiarity.

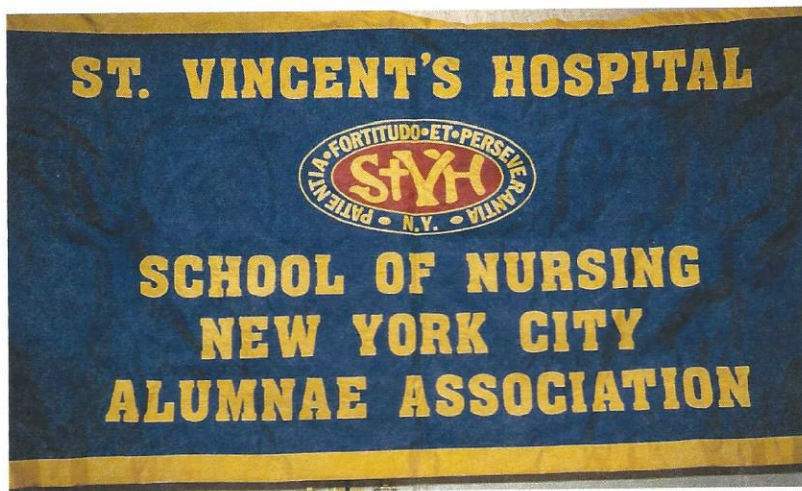
I am also pleased to announce that my classmates have donated \$3,650 to the retired Sisters of Charity who taught and served at St. Vincent's.

The Class of 1967, the Class of the Impossible Dream, will continue to stand with pride in the long line of St. Vincent's Graduates.



Faith, Hope and Charity





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Faith, Hope and Charity



ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Constance Pierce Pahlow '46
Marie Quinn O'Grady '52
Margaret Hooke Donovan '53
Sister -In-Law of Evelyn Donovan '55
Arline Keegan McDonald '56
Patricia Ann O'Connor Brown '61
Mary Rita Hayes Gannon '62
Rosemary Femiano De Paola '69
Christine Crandall McDermott '73

Thomas Brady, Brother of Elizabeth Brady Ekiziam '57 & Geraldine Brady Sweeney '62
Shannyn Ann Craig. Granddaughter of Genivieve Duffy Craig '61
Harry Nolan, Husband of Constance Rice Nolan '65
Thomas F. Crimmins , Husband of Catherine McWeeney Crimmins '74
Ann E. Gilmartin, Mother of Maureen Gilmartin Pesce '76, Ann Gilmartin DeMarco '78,
& Ellen Gilmartin Befi '79
John O'Neill & Kevin O'Neill, Brothers of Patricia O'Neill '79
Angelo Longo, Father of Angela Longo '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
6703 Riverdale Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471
Phone: 917-697-6370

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



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