



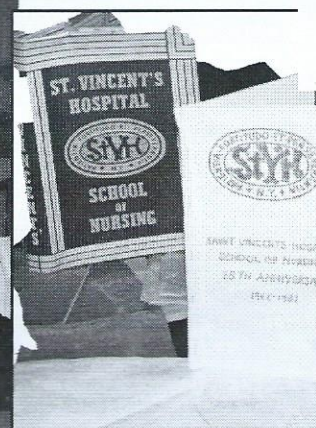
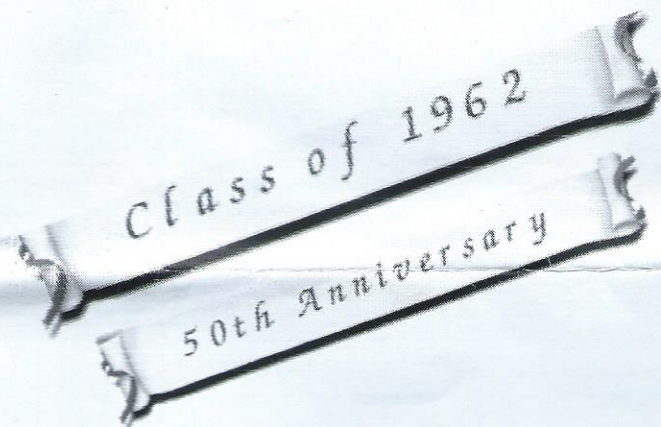
Saint Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association



Alumnae
Newsletter

Vol. 54 No.1

Spring 2013



Golden Jubilarians Meet

The aftermath of Hurricane Sandy may have necessitated the cancellation of the annual St. Vincent's Alumnae Luncheon for the first time in history, but it did not deter the Golden Jubilarians! Ginny Kenny worked tirelessly from the state of California, along with her committee, to organize a new luncheon and on April 13, 2013, 70 members from the Class of 1962 met for mass at St. Joseph's Church in Greenwich Village, followed by lunch and libation at Trinity Place, located in the Financial District of NYC. Memories and memorabilia were shared by all and on a more somber note, the graduation pictures of 26 deceased members of the class were displayed on a poster board.

Thanks to the generosity of the Class of 1962, funds were raised and donated to classmates Ellen McDonald and Diane Symkowski, who both sustained severe damage to their homes as a result of the storm.



CLASS NOTES

The Class of 1963 is starting to make preparations for their 50th anniversary this year. You can contact Gert McGovern or Judy O'Brien Hanrahan for more details. Gert and Judy can be reached at:

Judy O'Brien Hanrahan

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St. James, NY 11780

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Judyhanrahan@gmail.com

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Ridgefield, CT 06877

203-244-5042

G-McGovern@comcast.net

Class of 1968: If you're interested in participating in a 45th reunion, please email SVHalum@gmail.com.

Gail Cangiarella Lindsay '79 has authored a new leadership e-book Dragon Slayers-A Story of Conquering Change. Visit Amazon to purchase her book and decide if you're a dragon or dragon slayer!

Paul Quinn '91 has volunteered to organize his classmates for a reunion. We are happy to report that Paul just earned his PhD in nursing. Congratulations Dr. Quinn! Paul can be reached at PGQ723@aol.com or call him at 845-942-2160 (home) or 845-480-1685 (cell).

WEBSITE



Have you seen the new and improved SVH Alumnae website? Pat Caffrey has done an OUTSTANDING job with the site! Kudos Patty!!

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

<http://stvincentschoolofnursingalums.org/>

GENERAL ALUMNAE MEETING

Report of the General Alumnae Meeting On Saturday, January 26, 2013, Ms. Francine Owen Kelly '82 gave a lecture at the business meeting, "Transformational Leadership in Nursing, the New Frontier." Fran, a former Nurse Manager at SVH, is

currently the Associate Director of In-Patient Services at New York Hospital Queens. Fran's presentation included detailed descriptions of nursing care past and present. Her explanation of TCAB (Transforming Care at the Bedside) and CIT (Care Innovation and Transformation) included the similarities as well as their differences. TCABs strong points include increased quality of care, decreased adverse effects, attracting and retaining high quality nursing staff and engaging patients and families to improve their care experiences. The American Organization of Nurse Executives is implementing a \$1.5 million dollar grant to initiate quality projects that include TCAB as a major component. The presentation was well received and stimulated discussion and shared experiences. Thank you Fran!

TILES from the floors of the School of Nursing will be available at the meeting in a limited supply and can be obtained by making a donation to the Sisters of Charity in the amount of \$50. Please make checks payable to Sisters of Charity. Sorry, the tiles cannot be shipped so you must be present at the meeting to obtain a tile.

SAVE THE DATE:

2013 Business Meetings: Saturday, September 28, 2013, 12 Noon. All meetings are held at 20 Washington Square North.

PLEASE NOTE: Since the dates of Business Meetings are subject to change, please wait until you received the postcard notification in the mail before planning to attend the meeting.

PAY YOUR DUES!

Have you paid your annual Alumnae Association dues? If you haven't already done so, please remember to send a check in the amount of \$35.00 to:

Patricia Holland Costello

ATTN: St. Vincent's Alumnae

C/O St. Francis DeSalles

School For The Deaf

260 Eastern Parkway

Brooklyn, New York 11225

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Mary Ann Byrnes '64

Board of Directors:

Joan Caruana '61, Maureen Heitman '61

Patrick Caffrey '79, Chris Colligan '73

Marybeth Forcina '74,

Betsy Arnold Leahy '73

The Alumnae Association will not deny membership in the organization to any graduate if you are unable to pay dues. Please write to Pat Costello at the address above if the dues are a hardship for you. For those graduates that we haven't heard from in the last 3 years, your name will be dropped from the Alumnae Association mailing roster.

EDITORS NOTES

As new Editors of the Alumnae Newsletter, we are still feeling our way. We're sorry for the delay in responding to your emails but we are making progress and welcome any of your suggestions for improvements.

Important Information:

Save for future reference!

For those inquiring about the website, please visit <http://stvincentschoolofnursingalums.org/>

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

Sr. Constance Brennan, SC or Sr. Mary

Ellen Blumlein, SC

C/O Archives: Boyle Hall

College of Mount Saint Vincent's

6301 Riverdale Avenue

Bronx, New York 10471

The Alumnae Association received an acknowledgement from the Foundation to Save the Jersey Shore for the donation made to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Our donation will be used to help rebuild a park in Sea Bright, NJ.

RESURRECTION!

The Editors happily report the resurrection of Michele Keating Brosnan '54! Her obituary was mistakenly published in the last newsletter and we were happy to hear from her! We sincerely apologize for this error, Michele.

St. Patrick's Day * March 17th, 2013



On Saturday March 16, 2013 almost 50 SVH Alumnae marched in the 252nd St. Patrick's Day parade. Despite the cold, rainy, and snowy March weather, our SVH sisters from as far as Florida, California, and the Canadian border, gathered on West 44th street for almost 2 hours before stepping off into the parade, some members wearing their caps and capes. They held our banner high, enduring blinding snow, as they marched proudly to the cheers of other alumnae on the sidelines.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editors
 Joan Caruana '61 Emeritus
 Susan L. Faggiani, '68
 Bermadette Fleming Hemmer '68
 Maureen Garrett McElhinney '68

Class Information Change of Address, and
 \$35.00 dues to
Patricia Holland Costello
 Attn: St. Vincent's Alumnae
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 260 Eastern Parkway
 Brooklyn, New York 11225
 (718) 439-8418

No alumna/i shall be denied active membership because of inability to pay dues.
 Email news to SVHALUM@gmail.com
 If you are notifying us of the death of an alum or relative please include the name and address of those to whom a mass card should be sent.
NEW Web Site: To gain access to the website email svhalum@gmail.com and you will be sent the link to the site. If you are currently linked to the old site hit F5 or refresh button or use the above Email to reach the new site.

Peggy Cahill Gorky

The chance to speak to you today came with a little anxiety and the need to think long and hard about September 1959 to September 1962.

I always knew my time at SVH had an impact on who I became, but the extent is incredible.

The most intense things I can remember before SVH were the date of the Council of Trent and Latin declensions for translation contests. And then I found myself dealing with people of every race, ethnicity, class, religion, educational level, sexual orientation - the gamut of multiculturalism before multiculturalism was a concept - during some of their most significant experiences.

- ☐ *I found strengths and weaknesses in myself that I had no idea I possessed.*
- ☐ *I had no idea I could stay up all night every Thursday studying for Friday's anatomy exam.*
- ☐ *I never would have thought I could last through a 3-hour microbiology lecture in the auditorium with my entire class and remember only the phrase "Microbes are not elephants."*
- ☐ *I learned that I could work harder and longer than I would have thought possible.*
- ☐ *I learned that the needs of our patients were the most important considerations.*
- ☐ *Getting to know people in such intimate circumstances gave me such a strong sense of our shared humanity, and what priorities were.*
- ☐ *I learned to live with the fact that sometimes things didn't go according to our hopes. These are patients from 50 years ago I'll think of on my last day.*
- ☐ *I learned that the search for better ways to practice never ended, from Golden's tape to CPR.*
- ☐ *I remember throwing patients out of the bed to the floor in those huge rooms in the Seton building because the bedsprings couldn't support compressions. No wonder the World War II vets were always having nightmares about the Gestapo.*
- ☐ *We all had bald spots from ripping our caps off to do mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.*

So many influences shaped us in those years - our instructors, the nuns, the medical staff, the graduate nurses and older students - but one of the strongest for me was all of you. The feeling that we were all going through this together, always having someone to talk to when a shift ended no matter what time of day or night, the intimacy we achieved with each other when we worked together, the laughs, the escapades, the friendships - these were then and are now priceless.



Sue Brenner Caffrey:

In retirement I've finally started to "clean out" some things. I'm a pack rat and come from a long line of pack rats, so this can be an intimidating activity. I came across a box of "stuff," papers, notes and actually some notebooks from SVH, and among all this, I found a 5x7 index card with the beginning of a speech written on it. At the top I'd written, "Nursing as a Vocation." I used to do a lot of talks about nursing in my younger years, usually to Future Nurse's Clubs at local high schools and also to groups when I represented MCOSS, now VNA of Central Jersey, as a public health nurse. When I knew I would be replacing Leila as a speaker, I reread the card. It began:

"Nursing is the closest a person can come to a vocation in a lay profession. It requires intelligence, patience, fortitude, perseverance, understanding, empathy, an absence of prejudice and a sincere desire to do something useful. This hardly sounds like the dramatic and exciting and sometimes romantic lives of nurses portrayed in TV and movies. But these "virtues," as it were, are the TRUE description of this profession."

Wow! Please remember that I was still young then and I must have been talking to a catholic school group! But when I reread this statement, all it said was true. Remembering my 50 plus years in various nursing positions, these are the things that kept me going. These are the "virtues" that I gained as a student at SVH. Oh, I did plenty of complaining about shift and nights and all the other things that bothered us as students, but when you come right down to it, all our experiences, good and bad, molded us into clinically proficient and caring professional nurses.

I still believe that our profession is a vocation, and the "virtues" I listed are those that make us all good nurses. Whatever path our careers took, we took those building blocks and developed into wonderful, professional women.

Judith Lynch Sauer:

Hey Class of '62.

Glad to see all of you, and honestly, we don't look a day older than we did in '62.

My task is to talk about where nursing is now 50 years after graduation and how my professional preparation at St. V's has and continues to provide a strong foundation for what I have been doing and am currently doing.

For the last 43 years I have been involved in educating nurses, so I really have learned to know and understand students, both undergraduate and graduate, and have had a great

vantage point to observe the changes that have occurred over the years. In addition, I have been intricately involved in curriculum development, as well as teaching in both spheres.

I really experienced the change in students in 2001 with the first admissions of the Millennial Generation. These students were not going to sit in a lecture hall and take in what we had to say. They needed to learn interactively, have choices (within reason) as to how and what they wanted to study, and understand why they needed to learn what was in the curriculum. They were also very vocal when things were not going the way they wanted them to and felt very comfortable letting faculty members in on how they thought. As the Director of Student Affairs, I got to meet with students who were dissatisfied with something in the academic world, heard the student's perspective about what was going on, and often I could understand what it was that was at the root of the student/faculty conflict. Students definitely were ready and wanted to take on more independence and didn't seem to need the rigid structure that the older faculty members traditionally provided. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing provided faculty with guidelines to assure that nursing curricula would address the expectations of our changing health care delivery systems and as I personally became involved in making drastic curricular revisions, I realized that we were also beginning to address the needs of the students we were currently educating. Our graduates are now ready to enter nursing as independent thinkers, able to use technology for optimal patient outcomes, have a global perspective, and work successfully in complex patient care environments.

My foundation from St. V's helped me continue my growth in a changing health care system, both as a practitioner and educator. I had learned compassion, how to listen to people as they moved through difficult situations. Thanks for listening. I guess this talk helped me realize that I will continue to be a professional nurse as long as I have the energy to do so. I still have the competence and confidence of a St. Vincent's graduate.





William F. Panke, M.D.
August 12, 1924 - December 16, 2012

Dr. William F. Panke, Professor Emeritus of Surgery at New York Medical College in Valhalla, died peacefully at home in Washington, DC on December 16, 2012 after a long illness. He was 88. Dr. Panke was born in South Boston to Rose and Karl Panke. He attended Fordham University for his undergraduate studies, New York University Medical School, and was Professor Emeritus at the NY Medical College. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marilyn, seven children - Irene (Dan Hopkins), Bill, Joan, Claire, Marianne, Msgr. Robert, Aileen (Daniel dos Santos), and five grandchildren, as well as two sisters Rose (Quinn) and Mary Lou (Matthews). His brother John Panke pre-deceased him.



Dr. Panke's daughter, Joan, a 1984 graduate of SVH, shared her thoughts on her father, beloved to all of us. Excerpts follow:

Dr. William F. Panke loved St. Vincent's Hospital where he spent his internship, residency and his entire career as a general surgeon, a member of the Board of Trustees, Chairman of Credentials Committee and President of the Medical Board. He was the driving force behind the creation of St. Vincent's Health Care Ethics Committee and served as its chairman from 1982 until his retirement in 1996. He was a gifted and dedicated surgeon, a member of the New York Surgical Society, past president of the NY Celtic Medical Society, Fellow of the NY Academy of Medicine and American College of Surgeons and co-authored articles in dozens of medical journals. In 1989, Pope John Paul II named him a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great.

My father was delighted when I decided to start my nursing career at St. Vincent's. He consistently praised the dedication, skill and commitment of the St. Vincent's nurses in providing the highest level of care to patients and families. He gave the address to my graduating class in December of 1984 and I wanted to share with you some excerpts in order to hear his words rather than mine.

"I have a special regard and admiration of the St. Vincent's nurses. During my surgical training, they were a tremendous source of encouragement, and contributed greatly to my understanding of the art as well as the science of healing. In the practice of surgery, they have been indispensable partners in the care of patients..."

The St. Vincent's Nurse is unique, and I believe that uniqueness had its origin way back in 1633 when St. Vincent de Paul founded the world famous order of the Sisters of Charity. Your school was founded in 1892 by the Sisters of Charity who, incidentally, founded this hospital 43 years earlier in 1849.

The health care profession includes many (disciplines). Although we all cooperate in healing, you, the nurse often

have the most intimate, hands-on relationship with human beings in their most vulnerable states. You are the one who is continuously at the bedside of those in need of healing. Because of this intimacy, you need not be told that you are not treating (diseases), but more importantly, people. They may be fearful of losing their ability to earn a living, afraid of dying, people in great need of moral and spiritual, as well as physical support. Their needs, and your response to those needs, based on the dignity and intrinsic value of every human being from conception to the last breath of life, is the essence and focus of your profession.

Many of the challenging issues in health care that my father mentioned in his address in 1984 still hold true today. He went on to note "many hospitals are closing, while those remaining are stressed with over-crowding and inadequate reimbursement. You are no doubt aware of the increasing time given by nurses to comply with regulations at the expense of patient care. And regulation, itself, is part of the problem of increased costs."

Dad never knew of the closing of St. Vincent's Hospital. His illness would not have allowed him to process the details of the closing. Instead, our family, who were blessed to care for Dad during his long illness, recounted (to his delight) stories about the people he'd known and the wonderful work he so loved. Dr. Panke died on December 16, 2012 at his home in Washington, DC surrounded by his family. His son, a Catholic priest, had just offered Mass at his bedside, and we were praying the rosary when he suddenly became alert and smiled in his last moments. As I re-read his address, particularly the closing (below), I was filled with admiration for the man, the surgeon -my father - whose counsel and example have shaped my life and my practice as a nurse. His closing words continue to offer hope and encouragement to all of us, and exemplify the man many of our St. Vincent's family knew and loved.

Some of you will be closely involved in major political and educational efforts of the profession, but most will be where we are all needed - close to the patient. To effectively respond to his or her needs, you will have to continue to grow, to read, to further educate yourself as, what is new today, becomes obsolete tomorrow.

And I believe - most importantly - you will need a strong religious faith. A person with strong faith and understanding of their religion will have a tremendous stability and the confidence required in dealing with the needs of the sick. If you believe in God, and that you are the image of God, and that your patients - the executive, the patient with terminal cancer, the infant, the homeless person, the AIDS patient - are all in the image of God, and that you are going to have to account in eternity for what you are doing unto others today, you are going to behave differently than a person who lacks such faith.

Strong religious faith is a foundation for a strong person. It gives great hope in confronting the problems we all have. None of us will be able to rise above problems, whether in professional or private life, without strong faith. You will be constantly called upon for support, honesty, strength, advice and courage - you cannot give what you do not possess.

Although your work will, at times, bring fatigue, frustration and discouragement, you will have in abundance the happiness and satisfaction that comes from a life dedicated to the service of others. The St. Vincent's graduates who have preceded you have exemplified the highest quality, proficiency and decency in the nursing profession. I have no doubt that you 20 beautiful, spirited young men and women will continue to justify the national reputation of the St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing.

Congratulations! And God Bless You.

St. Vincent's Alumni Association
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