



ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING



Alumnae Association Newsletter

Volume 67 Number 2 - Spring 2026

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

By Doreen Foley, '94



On Tuesday, March 17, 2026, Saint Patrick's Day arrived, and with it, the 265th New York City Parade. Once again, we gathered with fellow classmates and alumni on East 46th Street to celebrate our Irish roots. We greeted one another warmly and reconnected with familiar faces, including our escorts from the Richmond County Pipes and Drums Band.

Six of us, dressed in full uniform, proudly escorted the alumni up Fifth Avenue. We had a hearty, spirited group this year marching up the avenue to the cheers of the crowd—especially those calling out in support of the St. Vincent's Nurses. Their enthusiasm brought smiles to our faces and added to the joy of the day. As we approached Saint Patrick's Cathedral, we paused briefly to pay homage to the new Archbishop, Ronald Hicks, marking the moment with a coordinated flip of our capes—a proud and meaningful gesture.

Blessed with sunshine, we maintained our composure and formation throughout the march, even as the wind tried to carry off our caps near Central Park. Along the route, we waved to family, friends, fellow nurses, and St. Vincent's graduates who had come out to celebrate. Our banner was carried with pride and we flipped our capes once more at the grandstand—where, we were told, "we made TV!" It was truly a wonderful experience, and a great time was had by all.

Marching in the parade remains one of the best ways to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day, and we look forward to continuing this cherished tradition. We hope to see everyone who marched this year return again next year—and encourage you to reach out to former classmates to join us in 2027.

There are still a limited number of capes available for those interested in marching in full uniform. Please contact Pat Costello regarding capes, and Kay's Caps if you are in need of a cap.





Patience, Fortitude, Perseverance



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Marilyn Lynaugh Strafer, '80

If you look forward to our triannual newsletter, then you are among the hundreds of graduates who eagerly await its delivery to catch up on our events and reminiscence of the glory days of the School of Nursing.

Many of us will remember our former instructor, Joan Caruana, '61 as the Editor Emeritus who was responsible for many editions starting in 1975 and forming the newsletter we know today. Joan passed the care and craft of the newsletter to Maureen Garrett McElhinny and Bernadette Fleming Hemmer, roommates and besties from the Class of 1968. This dynamic duo has edited and produced our publication since 2012 and now have passed the baton to Kathie Shea Contello, '74 as of January 2026.

I speak on behalf of the SVH Board and Committee members, as well as the Alumnae Association at large, to offer our gratitude to Maureen and Bernadette for the countless hours over the years that they have invested in arranging this jewel of our organization. Their leadership and perseverance have continued to forge our memories and friendships and can never be underestimated. They will continue to serve as advisors to the newsletter committee.

We also thank Kathie for taking on this position as Editor-in-Chief and offer her our thanks and support for bringing the newsletter into the next rendition of our legacy. Brava ladies!

On a new note, it is never too early to plan for our 96th Annual Luncheon on October 24th, 2026. After careful review of the previous luncheon expenditures, we have made the difficult decision as a Board to increase the cost by **\$20** due to increases at the venue and other administrative fees. The new amount will be **\$150**, and we regret any hardship this may cause. The Alumnae Association does underwrite approximately \$17,000 each year for expenses such as administrative venue costs, church expenses, photography, and printing fees.

Concerning the luncheon, our new vice president, Mary Carmody, '73, has secured contracts with two local hotels for a discounted rate for our graduates. Please see the accompanying article for details.

And finally, I thank everyone who has taken the time to reach out via mail or digitally to express your appreciation to the Alumnae Association for extending friendships and memories. It is our honor to serve you, our members for years to come.

LUNCHEON UPDATE

Saturday, October 24th, 2026, has been set for the 96th Annual Alumnae Association Mass and Luncheon. We will be returning to The Church of St. Francis Xavier and The Manhattan Penthouse, so please mark your calendars now. The Summer/Fall newsletter will be mailed in August with response envelopes, and on-line registration will be available in mid-September for a nominal fee. There is a maximum of 200 attendees permitted at the Penthouse so organize your friends and classmates now.

The Class of 1976 will be celebrating their golden anniversary and Lorraine Fisher and Peggy Soufer have volunteered to organize the celebration. They may be contacted at:

Lorraine Fisher - lorrainefisher350@outlook.com
Peggy Symon Soufer - psoufer@gmail.com

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION FOR ANNUAL LUNCHEON

If you are seeking information on local accommodations for our annual Mass and Luncheon, the Alumnae Association has secured courtesy rates at two excellent hotels near the Church and the Manhattan Penthouse. Please see details below. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mary Carmody via our email address: svhalum@gmail.com

WALKER HOTEL GREENWICH VILLAGE

52 West 13th St, NY 10011

(212) 375-1300

<https://www.walkerhotels.com/walker-hotel-greenwich-village/>

Check In: Friday, October 23, 2026

Check Out: Saturday, October 24, 2026

Room Type: Grove Queen

Room Rate: \$440 per night, with taxes \$508.40

Room Type: Bedford Double

Room Rate: \$465 per night, with taxes \$537.09

Faith, Hope and Charity



Concessions: Waived nightly facility fee, typically \$40 per night, plus tax. Group Rate available 2 days before and 2 days after the main date, in case anyone wants to extend their stay.

Terms: You must reserve by September 16, 2026, to access this special rate.

Individual cancellation policy is 7 days prior to arrival.

Website Link: <https://www.walkerhotels.com/walker-hotel-greenwich-village/?selfbook=true&hotel=69634&group=STVINCENTS&startdate=2026-10-23&enddate=2026-10-24>

Telephone: Guests can call the hotel directly at 212-735-8000 and ask for reservations. They will need to mention the "St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing Group Block"

E-mail: reservations@walkerhotels.com

"The discounted group rate is available for a limited number of rooms and will be honored until the block is fully reserved."

Kindly note that any guests looking to arrive early or depart later than the main block dates should make their booking directly with reservations.

THE WASHINGTON SQUARE HOTEL

103 Waverly Place, NY

(212) 777-9515

<https://washingtonsquarehotel.com/>

Please note: ADA assistance is limited at this hotel

Check In: 3:30 p.m.

Check Out: 11:30 a.m.

Room Type: Queen \$390 + taxes and fees. See details below.

Room Type: 2 Twin beds \$405

You can book using the following link:
<https://gettaroom.b4checkin.com/washingtonsquarehotel/rlp/StVincentHospitalSchoolofNursing2026>

If you prefer to call the hotel directly, please mention the special rate for the St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association.

Please note: The booking link does not allow the total price to be displayed on the first page. However, once you select the dates, it will show

the complete breakdown, including the total rate and taxes/fees.

Terms: You must reserve by August 7, 2026, to access this special rate.

All rates include Wi-Fi internet access.

All rates are subject to the prevailing city taxes. The current tax is 14.75% + USD 3.50 per night and is subject to change without notice.

Storage service is available to assist with guest luggage before and after check-in.

Here are some other hotels in the vicinity that you may want to consider. Please note that we do not have any special rates with these hotels.

THE MARLTON HOTEL

5 W 8th Street New York, NY 10011
(Between 5th & 6th Aves.).

(212) 321-0100

<https://www.marltonhotel.com/#contact>

THE W HOTEL

201 Park Ave S. NYC 212 253 9119

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/nycnuw-new-york-union-square/>

HYATT UNION SQUARE NEW YORK

134 Fourth Avenue, New York, NY, 10003

(212) 253-1234

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/new-york/hyatt-union-square-new-york/nycus>

GREETINGS FROM ESWATINI

by Dr. Al and Kathleen, (nee Maldini) Hart

Dear Friends,

We usually send a letter in December to share the work that has improved the lives of so many Swazi people, thanks to your generosity, compassion and prayerful support.

February 11th was the World Day of the Sick. It reminds us to be present and understand the pain of others. Our palliative care team provides dignified care to people living with serious illness through compassion, relief of suffering, and spiritual accompaniment for patients and their families.

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2025 was a difficult year for so many countries around the world and Eswatini was no exception. We have been without morphine for almost 2 years causing incredible suffering from untreated pain. Resources are scarce, funds have been cut, the price of food has escalated, the census of palliative care patients has doubled, and floods have devastated homesteads and reduced the ability to reach the sick due to impassable roads.

But we have so much to be thankful for and we wish there was a way to thank you for making so much possible to improve the quality of life for so many people.

- The Home-Based Palliative Care (HBPC) team continues to visit patients daily to bring care and hope.
- ELNEC (End of Life Nursing Education Consortium) sent a team of palliative care experts to teach a Palliative Care (PC) Course, and we opened it to health care professionals throughout Eswatini in hope of advancing PC for all Swazi people.
- Medical University of South Carolina has provided a grant to help initiate PC education for nurses at Good Shepherd College of Nursing.
- We were able to purchase a second truck, increasing our ability to visit more patients more frequently.
- We were privileged to be invited to send 2 nurses to Salzburg, Austria to attend a global

PC course, completely paid for by OMI (Open Medical Institute).

- ELNEC continues to support our team with mentorship, donations and education.
- CAPC (Center to Advance Palliative Care) continues to provide all their teaching modules at no cost.
- 4 young doctors from the UK, who we met while they were doing a 6-week externship at Good Shepherd, spent a great deal of time developing a data collection system to validate how PC impacts patient's symptom management and quality of life.
- We continue to provide needed medications, emergency food packs, wound care, solar lights, mattresses, blankets and many other needs to help improve the lives of the sick and their families. Our mission is to Be Present to each individual and family who needs care and help.

So many of you have donated this past year and we are so grateful for your incredible generosity. We ask if you have not received a personal note from us to please let us know so we can track your gift and make sure it is in the Home-Based Palliative Care restricted fund at Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB).

For anyone who would still like to send a donation, please use this link and let us know so we can ensure it will be added to the HBPC account.

<https://cmmb.org/hartmann>

We are deeply grateful for all your support and wish you a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2026!

Al and Kathleen Hartmann

CLASS NOTES

Do you have any old photos from nursing school or reunions that you wish to share? Reach out to svhalum@gmail.com and we can help you get them posted in future newsletters. Add names of people in pictures with year. REMINDER: NO PATIENT PHOTOS.

Have you ever been at a loss when your family asks what you would like for a gift? Consider asking for a SVH cap charm for birthdays, Mother's Day, or Christmas.

Faith, Hope and Charity



Class of 1966

Dear Pat,

Thank you for all you do!!

Please add my husband's name to those loved and lost Dr. Robert (Bob) Pascotto. After internship and surgical residency, some alumni may be interested and proud to know of some of his accomplishments.

He founded and developed the cardiac surgery program in Lee and Collins counties of Florida, then established pro bono cardiac surgery for indigent people from the Dominican Republic. We both cherished our years at St. Vincent's!!

Again, Thank you!!

Joan Cleary Pascotto '66

Class of 1966

The Class of 1966 has secured Friday, September 18th, 2026, at the University of Mount St. Vincent to celebrate 60 years since graduation. Please note that this is a separate event from the SVH Alumnae Association Annual Luncheon at the Manhattan Penthouse.

Class of 1967

Jane Schraeder, '67 is residing in Sarasota, Florida and is looking forward to hearing from her classmates or other graduates living in Florida. She may be reached at: janiejanept@gmail.com

Class of 1974

From Marybeth Roubal Forcina

I have been a volunteer at Nurses Serving Our Neighbors (NSON) from its inception in 2016. NSON is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to educate, advocate and navigate our complex health care system. I am a Certified Faith Community Nurse (CFCN) and work with clients to bring peace and joy in everyday life and in their final days.

An example of my experience:

I made an initial visit to Charlie (name changed). I knew he had been a professor and was a lover of science, lizards, music and foreign food. He was living in a holistic support facility. Upon entering his room, I found it dark and dismal. My nursing intuition was that he was depressed. I made a small change by opening the curtains.

This simple act of letting the sunshine in created a subtle change in Charlie's demeanor. I began my initial nursing assessment. He slowly opened up but declined prayer. He agreed to have the team follow him regularly. By my next visit his health had deteriorated. He smiled when he saw me and after spending some meaningful time together, he agreed to allow the team to pray for him. He handed me a small piece of paper on which he had written a prayer. His prayer was not to die alone. I informed the team of CFCNs and they were able to be present at his death as he wished.

St. Vincent's gave me the fundamental education to assess and intervene for all the needs of this client: physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual. I am forever grateful for the nursing traits instilled in me by St. Vincent's and the Sisters of Charity.

Class of 1981

John Harvey, '81 is hoping to organize his class for their 45th graduation anniversary at the 96th Annual Luncheon. John's contact info is: **John. Harvey@Skanska.com**

THE SPRING GENERAL MEETING

SVH Spring 2026 General Alumnae Meeting featuring Susan Morrison, MD, '72

Time: Apr 15, 2026, 07:00 Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: "Penicillin Allergies in Children and the Elderly"

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4432070682?pwd=d2J0OHdzeE0yR3RhWnhDY0dtbVlnZz09&omn=88628175659>

Meeting ID: 443 207 0682

Passcode: 544629

COMING SOON... SVH STORE 2.0

We are putting the finishing touches on our reintroduced website store. You will be able to order cap charms, apparel and SVH Christmas ornaments through third party vendors connected with SVH Alumnae Association using a credit card or PayPal.

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We will also add a link to order a new cap directly from Kay's Caps: (516) 791 8500 or at **info@kayscaps**. Cap type WCC Style #5404B

SVH FACEBOOK RULES REMINDER

After recent polarizing world events, our official FaceBook page experienced some controversy. We regret the fallout but need to reiterate the rules of the site. The Board wishes to remind everyone that it is not our intention to censor opinions but to offer a platform to share memories and connect with former graduates.

- Be kind and courteous
- Respect everyone's privacy
- Do not post pictures of former patients
- No political posts or hate speech
- Only graduates of SVH School of Nursing in NYC

ATTENTION ALUMNI

Dues:

We wish to remind everyone to pay their Annual Alumni Dues. We ask that your dues be paid by May 1st. Dues can be paid on the SVH website: stvincentsschoolnursingalums.org or by mailing to Pat Costello. If you have an issue 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:

Caps can be purchased from Kay's Caps. They are \$24.50 plus shipping

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

Transcripts:

Information about transcripts can be found on our website: **stvincentsschoolofnursingalums.org**

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, and more.

stvincentsschoolofnursingalums.org



NEWSLETTER STAFF

Kathie Shea Contello, '74 - Editor in Chief

Marilyn Lynaugh Strafer, '80 - Associate

Susan Faggiani, '68 - Associate

Bernadette Fleming Hemmer, '68 - Advisor

Maureen Garrett McElhinney, '68 - Advisor

SVHalum@gmail.com

Change of Address, Correspondence and Annual Dues of \$50.00

Forward to Mrs. Patricia Costello
28 Cowdrey Street
Warwick, New York 10990
845-544-2675
pcostellosvh@gmail.com

Faith, Hope and Charity



ETERNAL REST

GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Mary Brophy Schryver '52

Julia Hynes Durr '54

Mary E. Yerkes '56

Mary Louise Linthwaite O'Brien '60

Anne Marie Healy Wendling '61

Eileen Delcampo Meade '62

JoAnn Olivetto Gratt '67

Susan Poss Rooney '68

Mary Himmel Fabian '71

Catherine Schiotis Lafferty '71

Sr. Maureen C. Bernius '76

Catherine Sica '78, sister of Nancy Sica Reid '80 and

Susan Sica Howell-Hinchy '85

Dr. Thomas Belezza, Department of Medicine/Cardiology

Dr. Jesse A. Blumenthal Chief of Trauma Services

Dr. Dennis Greenbaum, Department of Medicine/ Critical Care

Dr. Jane Rivas, Department of Pediatrics

Dr. Robert Furey, Department of Surgery

Karen Burgin, former instructor

Jack Galleher, husband of Mary Donhue Galleher '59

Dr. Robert (Bob) Pascotto husband of Joan Cleary Pascotto '66

Thomas Killeen, son of the late Catherine E. Riley '53 and
brother of Karen A. Killeen '77 and Kathleen Killeen Fanelli '84

Zina Cipriano, mother of Nina Cipriano '86

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