



ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING



Alumnae Association Newsletter

Volume 66 Number 3 - Summer 2025

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Marilyn Lynaugh Strafer, '80

As the summer passes and cooler days are upon us, it's time to get busy with our upcoming calendar of Alumnae Association events and general updates.

I am delighted to report that the 2025 goals set by the Board of Directors in January have been achieved and several new initiatives have been identified and already started. We have established new interest-bearing bank accounts; worked with our accountant to streamline the financial reporting system; and created a formal acknowledgement of contributions to the Association for member's tax deduction purposes.

We have also updated the computerized database of current members, deleting those who have been inactive since 2023. This update will assist with a variety of communications, including listserv announcements. We will continue to facilitate easier access to the website by launching a new mobile app for both Apple and Android cell phone users. The availability of the app will be announced soon.

The newsletter staff has added a new member, Kathie Shea Contello, '74. The Newsletter team is actively recruiting alums who are interested in writing and editing to produce content for publication. Kathie's direct SVH newsletter email is: **kacontellonews@gmail.com**. This email can be used in addition to svhalums@gmail.com via our website for member updates and death notices.

The gold and/or silver cap charms from Wayne Silversmith will be available for order when we have secured a final price. More info to follow...

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 20, 2025, The General Membership Fall Meeting via Zoom at 12:00 PM

"Global Health: Palliative Care and Home-Based Health in Eswatini"

presented by Dr. Al and Kathleen (nee Maldini) Hartmann, '68

Postcards for members will be mailed via USPS.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4432070682?pwd=d2J0OHdzeE0yR3RhWnhDY0dtbVlnZz09&omn=83847941282>

Meeting ID: 443 207 0682

Passcode: 544629

November 8th, 2025, The 95th Annual Mass and Luncheon

Mass 10:30AM, the Church of St. Francis Xavier, 46 West 16th St, NY

handicapped entrance at 55 West 15th Street

Luncheon 12:00PM – 4:00PM at the Manhattan Penthouse, 80 Fifth Avenue at 14th Street
with Cocktail Hour (Open Bar) followed by Business meeting and Luncheon

General members of the Alumnae Association may begin registration on 9/24/25
and no later than 10/7/25 or until capacity of 200 is reached.





St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City Alumnae Association of the School of Nursing

95th Annual Mass and Luncheon

Mass to be celebrated at The Church of St. Francis Xavier

Date: November 8th, 2025

Time: 10:30AM

Location: 46 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011

(Handicap accessible entrance 55 West 15th Street)

Luncheon Venue: The Manhattan Penthouse

Location: 80 Fifth Avenue, South/West Corner 14th Street - NYC 17th Floor

Cocktail Hour-12:00PM

Luncheon/Open Bar/Business Meeting 1:00PM – 4:00PM

Cost: \$130 per person

Reservation preference is given to the Golden Jubilee Class (1975) and will begin to be accepted starting 9/15/25 and remitted no later than 9/23/25 to be guaranteed a seat.

Questions for the Golden Anniversary Class of 1975 may be directed to Kathryn (Katie) Scofield at: katch54@aol.com

General members of the Alumnae Association may begin registration on 9/24 and no later than 10/7/25 or until capacity of 200 is reached.

Active members of the Alumnae Association have priority for attendance.

You will receive an e-mail if your reservation is received after capacity is reached.

No substitutions of guests or early birds will be permitted.

We regret health care assistants are the only non-Alumnae that can be accommodated.

NYC Parking Garage Corporation located at 7 East 14th Street by Union Square

If you are unable to attend on November 8th, the Mass will be live streamed and available for future viewing at: <https://youtube.com/live/XBDXjOd-W5c>

FROM ST. VINCENT'S NURSING STUDENT TO CHIEF NURSING OFFICER: THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF CAROLYN SANTORA

When Carolyn Santora first stepped into Saint Vincent's Hospital as a teenager, she had no idea that moment would set her life's course. It was the summer between her junior and senior year of high school, and her father had become ill while he was working in the city and wound up hospitalized in Saint Vincent's Hospital for six weeks. Visiting from Long Island on weekends, Carolyn was struck by the nurses in their starched white uniforms, professional, confident, and deeply committed to their patients.

But the spark that ignited her career was as much about humanity as it was about healthcare. On her father's last day, a nurse stopped by to say goodbye before heading out in bell-bottom jeans and a flowing white blouse to spend the afternoon in Greenwich Village. "That was my deep motivation for becoming a nurse," Carolyn laughs. "You could be a respected professional and still have a vibrant, joyful life outside of work."

If that sounds lighthearted, she is quick to point out that the reasons you start do not define the nurse you become. "It doesn't matter where you start—nursing will change you. St. Vincent's changed me. You come out the other side with an internal drive to always do what's right for the patient and to support each other."

Carolyn's nursing school stories are plentiful enough to fill a book—and in many ways, they already do, woven into the fabric of her presentations. One of her favorites is titled Everything I Ever Needed to Know About Nursing Leadership I Learned in Nursing School.

Lesson one: "We're part of a greater whole." At St. Vincent's, every nurse represented the entire profession—right down to polished shoes and perfect uniforms. "You reflect on every other nurse you work with. If you give great care but the next nurse doesn't, the patient walks away with that image of nursing."

Lesson two: Listen to the patient—really listen. She recalls preparing to give eye drops to a man's "right eye" (OD) when he insisted she had it wrong. "I checked the chart, came back, and he said, 'Go ahead—but that's a glass eye.'"

Lesson three: See the big picture. Santora remembers caring for a combative dementia patient while watching a classmate struggle to adjust a bed for a woman recovering from major surgery. "From my angle, I could see disaster coming—and then, boom, it happened. You have to be able to step back and take in the whole scene before acting."

Despite her natural authority and dedication, Santora never planned on becoming a leader. "I call myself the accidental CNO," she says. From her start as a staff nurse at Stony Brook to her rise in management, she continually embraced new challenges, often stepping into roles that blazed a trail for others to follow.

When she was first asked to serve as interim Chief Nursing Officer, she agreed without hesitation. Then, on February 1, 2020, she stepped into the role again—just in time for the first wave of COVID-19. Within weeks, the hospital's command center was open, and Santora was leading through one of the most challenging chapters in modern healthcare. "After that, this was my nursing service. I couldn't leave until I retire."

To Santora, empowering nurses starts with listening—and then acting. "It's not enough to hear their voice. You have to respond to it. That's when people feel empowered—when they see their input leading to change."

She is equally committed to representing the nursing voice at every level, from the medical staff to the CEO. "It's not about opinion; it's about science and facts. We're an evidence-based profession, and we set standards we all can follow."

Santora has no plans to slow down, at least not until one final goal is achieved. "We're going to get Magnet designation before I retire," she says with determination. In 2026, when she turns 75 and marks over 50 years in nursing, she intends to

Patience, Fortitude, Perseverance



pass the baton to the next generation, leaving a legacy of excellence and mentorship.

Through it all, she remains proudest of her roots. "I'm so proud to be a St. Vincent's nurse. It was a demanding education, but it gave us the skills, the standards, and the spirit to lead."

As she prepares to celebrate her 50th reunion with her St. Vincent's classmates, Carolyn Santora carries those lessons forward—proof that even a journey sparked by a Greenwich Village evening can lead to a lifetime of leadership and impact.

GREETINGS FROM ESWATINI

Kathleen Maldini Hartmann '68 and her husband, Dr. Al Hartmann, have dedicated over two decades to volunteering in Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland. Their relentless efforts have brought essential healthcare services to the impoverished communities in the region.

Kathleen updated the Alumnae Association recently and we reprint her letter here.
July 27, 2025

Dear SVH Alumnae,

In June we sent a newsletter to family and friends asking our donors to write to their representatives, pleading with them to prevent the discontinuation of funding for PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief). PEPFAR has been one of the most successful programs in the history of public health.

Since 2003, when President George W. Bush started PEPFAR, approximately 21 million people have been on antiretroviral medications (ARVs) and 26 million lives have been saved. PEPFAR has helped developing countries build health care systems, open clinics, and provide medical supplies, such that by 2030, HIV/AIDS was predicted to no longer be a global public health threat. PEPFAR also served as a wonderful example of Americans' compassion and was a diplomatic success, with strong bipartisan backing, including from Senator Marco Rubio, now our Secretary of State and acting USAID chief.

The voices of the people across our country have been heard! Congress voted to amend the current Administration's bill, passed on July 1, 2025, exempting PEPFAR from the rescission, a procedure to rescind previously appropriated funding.

ARVs remain available in Eswatini but getting them has become increasingly complicated. Due to USAID cuts and early pauses in PEPFAR payments, many services in Eswatini have already been discontinued and thousands of people fired from their jobs, leading to many new cases of HIV/AIDS and increased mother-to-child transmission at birth. The infrastructure for distributing medications and food has been severely disrupted.

Some say PEPFAR is still doomed. Others are hopeful, given its bipartisan history. What does the future hold? Let us all continue to speak out and advocate for people in dire need who look to us for help.

There is an African Proverb, "A person is a person because of other people."

Thank you for your support and prayers for the Swazi people and all those in the world who need us to **SEE** them.

Al and Kathleen Maldini Hartmann '68



Dr. Al Hartmann speaking with King Mswati about healthcare needs for the people of Eswatini.

Faith, Hope and Charity



AN EVENING WITH ADRIANA TRIGIANI

By Mary Carmody, '73

Our General Alumnae Meeting in April was a truly memorable evening, featuring a special encore performance by New York Times bestselling author, award-winning playwright, and film director, Adriana Trigiani.

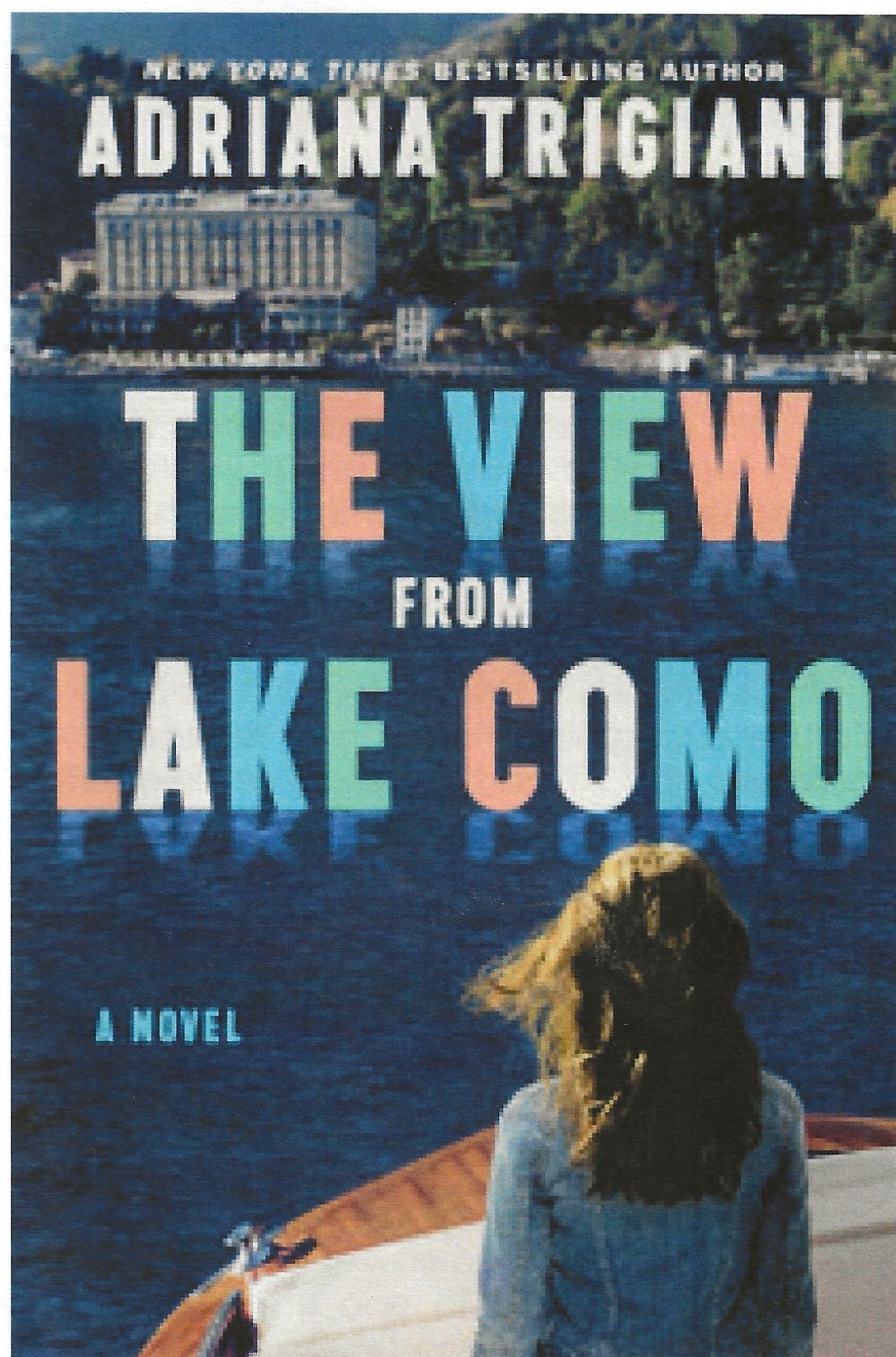
Many of you may remember Adriana from a previous in-person presentation. As a Greenwich Village resident, she holds a deep connection with St. Vincent's and has always been a devoted admirer of SVH nurses. Despite her busy schedule, when we extended our invitation, she enthusiastically accepted, telling her assistant, "say yes, I love those girls"!

Adriana has cherished memories of St. Vincent's and expressed her sadness over its closure. It was a beacon in her life, and she often attended Mass there. To this day, she visits the site to remember and pray.

When Adriana joined the call, it felt like welcoming a kindred spirit home. Her humor and engaging style immediately captivated us, creating a profound connection. She began with a beautiful reflection on the life and work of Pope Francis, highlighting his courage and perseverance. Adriana shared an endearing story that illustrated the Pope's humility and deep respect for all people. She urged us to celebrate the Pope's life and draw parallels between his service to humanity and the nurses' service to patients and their families.

Throughout the evening, Adriana's deep affection for the nursing profession was evident. Her compliments were sincere and heartfelt. She intriguingly suggested that we consider the similarities between writers and nurses. Writers possess great empathy for their readers, while nurses build trust and alleviate suffering through their empathy and skill. Adriana reminded us that there is no greater art than alleviating another person's suffering.

Spending time with Adriana transported us to a place where the love of family and the mystery of the divine intertwine into a beautiful tapestry.



She invited us to glimpse her writing process and see how she develops her stories and characters.

Adriana is truly an inspiration to us all. Be sure to visit our website to view a video of Adriana's presentation:

<https://stvincentsschoolofnursingalums.org>.

We eagerly await her next novel, *The View from Lake Como*, set to release this July. For more information, visit <https://adrianatrigiani.com>.

You can also listen to Adriana and other luminaries discuss the books that shaped their lives on the "You Are What You Read" podcast, available everywhere:

<https://linktr.ee/youarewhatyoureadpodcast>

Patience, Fortitude, Perseverance



SHOWCASE OF A NURSE TURNED ARTIST

By Barbara Woods, '72)

Many of our graduates have achieved remarkable success in various fields. One such individual is Susan Egan Barnard, Class of '80. I have had the pleasure of knowing Susan since she moved to North Carolina, just north of my home in Myrtle Beach. Susan, a retired nurse, has become a prolific painter. Her artwork spans various themes, with my favorites being her landscapes and seascapes. I have attended several of her shows at a gallery near me in Myrtle Beach, and my homes in Myrtle Beach and New York proudly display many of her paintings.

Susan has written about her journey, and her words are far more eloquent than anything I could write. For those interested, she has a Facebook page—Susan Barnard Art—that features many of her paintings, as well as her regular Facebook page, Susan Egan Barnard. If you're in the area, I highly recommend visiting one of her exhibits.

Here is Susan's story, shared in her own humble words. She has won numerous awards for her work.

Susan Egan Barnard, '80



My first job was at Sloan Kettering in New York City during the onset of HIV. Many bone marrow transplant patients returned infected with the virus. After marrying and having my first child, Lisa, who is now a Nurse Practitioner, I moved to Brewster, NY. There, I worked at the local hospital as a head nurse, then as a relief supervisor, and eventually in interventional radiology. Life had its challenges, and after a divorce, I moved with my two children to Connecticut. I then worked in geriatrics as a Director of Nursing until relocating to Maine, where I was employed as a consultant for Genesis Health Care. I retired in 2020 to support my husband, who has Parkinson's Disease from Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam.

While in Maine, I spent much of my creative time designing and hooking rugs, running a small cottage business selling patterns and supplies. In 2023, we made an impulsive decision to leave the cold of Maine and retire to North Carolina. It was there that I rediscovered my passion for art. I have always enjoyed drawing and painting, experiencing creative bursts over the years. I also love nature photography and birding, which often inspire my artwork.

Since moving to North Carolina, I have found that painting causes less stress on my wrists than rug hooking, and I have embraced it with renewed vigor. I paint almost every day and participate in two local groups that meet weekly. I have made wonderful friends, and we actively participate in art exhibitions and sales in Wilmington and Southport, NC, as well as Myrtle Beach, SC. Last year, I served as President of our local art guild, the Waterway Art Association. Currently, I am the workshop and education manager, organizing art programs for our group and community. I am a member of eight art guilds, each offering opportunities to showcase my work in themed shows and galleries.

My first show earned me a merit award, which fueled my desire to create more. Recently, I won "Best in Show" at the "Indigo Mood" exhibit at Sunset River Gallery in Calabash, NC. I currently have artwork displayed in two galleries in SC and four in NC, and I always have entries in local guild shows. Most of my work is done in acrylic paint, but I also enjoy creating mixed media

Faith, Hope and Charity



pieces with textures, layers of colors, stencils, and diverse paints and inks, often resulting in abstracts. Recently, I have returned to oil painting for its depth and rich visual presentation. Oils take longer to dry, which tests my patience, but I manage by working on multiple paintings simultaneously.

Much of my artwork features landscapes of beaches and water scenes, sometimes with people. I also enjoy painting my two English Setters dressed in human clothing, placing them in various scenes. One of these paintings was featured in Wilmington BIZ magazine. I am always open to new subjects and styles, never repeating the same thing. I don't have a defined "style" of art, as I continuously explore new ideas. Often, I wake up in the middle of the night with an idea and start working on it. One of the best parts of retirement is the freedom to create at any time, knowing there's always a nap around the corner!

CLASS NOTES

Class of 1955

Make Plans to attend your 70th Anniversary !!

2020 would have been our 65th anniversary or our 13th quinquennial [occurring every five years] celebration. As a class we attended the first five years luncheon and then made it our plan to attend every five years hence.

There were five of us at the 2020 luncheon and we had the good fortune of sitting with members of the class of 1958. They were freshman when we were seniors and we shared some nice memories as we enjoyed a very lovely luncheon. Saint Vincent's was a experience which we share with great pride. It has been and always will be like meeting up with family.

Our graduating class has lost just about half our members. Those of us, who remain, will always look upon that experience as a defining part of our lives. We are happy to join in celebration of what we have gained from attending that exceptional School of Nursing.

It has been a wonderful journey and we, the members of the class of 1955, wish those who

came after us many more luncheons with our School of Nursing family. Join the Alumnae Association and keep abreast of what goes on. We have learned best from the best. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as caregivers. Know that our impact is felt in everything we do.

We hope that, this year 2025, there will be a cohesive and robust luncheon attended by alumni who have missed the opportunity to join those with whom they share three wonderful years. We hope that our classmates will make an effort to join the celebration.

Phone a friend and plan a trip to the Big Apple to connect with people who have made a difference. You will enjoy the ride.

Please contact Irene Atlanasio Munno
(631) 398-3595
iamunno@optonline.net

Class of 1965

The class of 1965 is planning to hold a class reunion on Friday afternoon, November 7th, at a venue in midtown Manhattan and to join the Alumni Luncheon on Saturday, November 8th. For information and to be included a class email list contact:

Irene Conley Millet
missy10710@icloud.com
phone (646) 436-8672.

Class of 1966:

Plans are being made to celebrate our 60th reunion.

Location:

University of Mount St. Vincent
6310 Riverdale Ave., Bronx, NY 10471

Date:

still being arranged- September 2026

Please contact with questions and /or ideas:
Joan Clerkin Anderson
jbbkcm@aol.com

Patience, Fortitude, Perseverance



Class of 1975

To the Class of 1975

The 95th annual Alumni Mass and Luncheon will be held on November 8th, 2025. This marks 50 years since we graduated from St. Vincent's School of Nursing. Our class will be recognized for our Golden Anniversary. Hope to see you there.

For questions contact
Katie Barnett Scofield at katch54@aol.com

GENERAL ALUMNAE MEETING

Join us on **Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 12 Noon via Zoom** for a compelling presentation by Dr. Al and Mrs. Kathleen (Maldini) Hartmann:

GLOBAL HEALTH PALLIATIVE CARE AND HOME-BASED HEALTH IN ESWATINI

Al and Kathleen have been volunteering their services in Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, for more than 20 years. Hear all about how the ideals learned and fostered at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center have helped them bring vital health services to the Swazis, a resource poor country.

ATTENTION ALUMNI

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 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

28 Cowdrey Street

Warwick, New York 10990

845-544-2675

pcostellosvh@gmail.com

Faith, Hope and Charity



ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Theresa Casey Zachowski '50

Joan Blumenauer Beckert '55

Elaine Carey '58

Jane Ann Glennon Donohue '59 sister of Grace Glennon O'Hare '68,
sister -in-law of Ellen Hammerbacher Glennon '68

Carolyn McGill Almassy '64

Pamela Schultz Corrigan '66

Ann Borowy O'Brien '67

Linda Golon Goess '72 , sister-in-law of Patrice Goess Bogart '72

Manuela Minendez-Schoolcraft '75

Mark Damien Meaney, son of Barbara Rossi Meaney '59

Dr. James Barone, husband of Mary Woods Barone '72

Dr. John Hoo, husband of Sally Dagnone Hoo '74

Teresa Reilly, mother of Margaret Reilly Breig '86

Philip Equiguiurens, husband of Renee Kidger- Equiguiurens '91

David Gilsenan, husband of Paul Quinn- Gilsenan '91

Patience, Fortitude, Perseverance

