

Alumni Board Members

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Interim Dean of Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing

Susan Birkhead
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www.sphp.com/samaritan-hospital-school-of-nursing-alumni-association

Samaritan Hospital
School of Nursing

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From the Desk of the Vice President

Spring is here! When we think of spring we think of new beginnings. I'm thinking of all the new beginnings nursing has seen. From paper charting to computer charting (paperless lol!), modular nursing to primary nursing, and now virtual nursing, just to name a few. Every specialty from pediatrics to primary to geriatrics all have seen many changes yet the basics remain the same. We are all in this profession of nursing as a calling. Over the years, nursing has seen its share of struggles. Currently, with an average age of registered nurses at 52 {www.ncsbn.org/public-files}, we will soon be seeing more struggles.

Our Alumni association is no different with the challenge of continuing the services that are important to the Alumni. We are having a difficult time attracting students to become members and participate in the alumni association. It is becoming challenging to maintain our membership as recent graduates are not backfilling it.

As Vice President, I ask each of you to actively participate in the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association. Reach out to your fellow classmates and encourage them to become active members as well. There is camaraderie, friendship, and networking, just to name a few benefits. There is a financial incentive for furthering your nursing education. Being involved in this professional organization can be added to your resume.

I invite you to set aside the second Tuesday in May for the Annual dinner meeting. Come and mingle with friends and enjoy a good meal.

At the same time, consider joining the alumni association associated with the school that made you the nurse you are today!

Ellen Nicpon, SHSoNAA Vice President

Bits and Pieces

Spring/Summer 2024

Colleen D. D'Amico '85 I am currently working as a Facility educator at River Glen Health Care Center in Southbury, CT, a care-one sub-acute rehab and nursing facility.

June M. Rock '55 Graduated Samaritan Hospital in 1955. 1956-1966 US N Nurse Corp after graduating from Univ of Michigan Hosp - anesthesia school - worked at Dartmouth - Hitchcock Med Center for 25 years - Retired 1991.

Robin J. Campbell '68 Happily retired with three beautiful great-granddaughters.

Sandra H. Baboian '60 My husband, Rev. Charles D. Baboian, died on June 4th, 2023.

Margaret A. Kaplan '75 51 years ago the class of 1975 started in 1972. We all benefitted! I had forty-plus years of work as an RN. I would not change a thing. Wishing Samaritan another 120 years!! 😊 Happiness & wealth to all of my fellow class members!

Linda J. VanKessel '72 Retired and proud grandmother of nine.

Tamara F. Yankowski '92 Currently work per diem at Troy Pediatrics and Adirondack Health & Wellness. Enjoying grandsons, two, 16 and 14, granddaughter, 3.

Michele Peetz '82 Currently working as a Nurse Practitioner for Prime Care Medical at Saratoga County Correctional Facility.

Marylalice Donlon '55: At 89 years old, I remain active. Vacationed in France and Iceland recently. Have five children and five grandchildren, plus three great-grandchildren.

Joy A. Aloian '77 Retired June 2023, still working some per diem hours for SPH Informatics Dept. Enjoying life in the South and my granddaughters - Katelyn (12) and Allison (8)

Theresa J. Potter '75 Continue to work part-time in the Dermatology office.

Katherine Rubin '78 I had to retire in 2017 due to chronic autoimmune syndrome leading to pulmonary fibrosis. I'm stable now, thanks to modern medicines!

Lou Ann T. Savoyski '75 Enjoying my granddaughters, traveling, and working per diem in the wound healing center at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital

Gale H. McCarthy '71 Enjoying retirement!

Anne L. Coonrad '84 I am a city court judge in Troy. I am acting family court judge in Rensselaer County.

Deborah Saffan '75 Retired - Traveling to California for the holidays.

Lisa A. Piscitella '90 Still working for Albany Med (13 years). PPS Coordinator for the PM&R unit (E8). About to celebrate my 26th wedding anniversary in November. Our daughter, Jenna, just started her master's in educational psychology at St. Rose.

June Metzger '50 As one of the two remaining members of the class of 1950, I have been living at Hawthorne Ridge for the last 13 years. I am active and in good health. I still walk to the YMCA, which is next door to us, every morning to swim.

Chelsea R. Zellar '17 Currently working as a registered nurse at the Mother/Baby Postpartum unit at Bellevue Women's Center in Niskayuna, NY!

Tracy Ivory '81 Working as an infusion nurse at Hematology Oncology of Central New York. Father died this past February 2023, age 96.

From the Dean's Desk



Dear Alumni,

Spring is in the air, and we are halfway through the semester! I have truly settled back into this role and am enjoying seeing our students thrive. They are supported in their growth by experienced, dedicated faculty members. The education they receive prepares them well for practice and, of course, passing NCLEX! To our knowledge, all but one of our December grads who have sat for the exam have passed it.

We are going to receive some significant grant support from the NYS Department of Health to grow our practical nurse program.

To that end, we have been able to invest in social media and advertising for recruiting. I have also gone to several of the SPHP long-term care and rehab facilities to recruit techs and aides who want to become LPNs. It is paying off - we are seeing a significant increase in applications to the PN program. The opportunity to apply is open to anyone, not just SPHP employees.

St. Peter's Health Partners also received a sizable grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation to support the career development of entry-level employees who want to become either LPNs or RNs. It is called the Mission Scholarship Program, and it is open to anyone who has been employed at SPHP for at least one year.

Susan Birkhead, DNS, MPH, RN, CNE, Interim Dean

SAVE THE DATE

St. Peter's Health Partners

Annual

Nursing Alumni Gala

We look forward to you joining us for a great night of dinner, dancing, and fun!
June 14, 2024 - Hilton Garden Inn, Troy

Condolences to the Families of:

Barbara Kemp Powley '63 2/2/24
Linda H. Larson '71 1/22/24
Gerry Moss '71 1/4/24

Condolences to:

Ellen Giroux '73 on the loss of her sister Lynn
Sharon Bass '84 on the loss of her Father and Mother
Sandra H. Baboian on the loss of her husband
Rev. Charles Baboian on 6/4/2023
Tracy Ivory '81 on the loss of her father 2/2023

Shirley J. DeCamp ‘90 Retired 2010

Kathleen Forrister ‘78 Retired June 2020 (39 years OB)
Now a substitute school nurse.

Marsha A. Smith ‘71 Still working after all these years with a flexible work schedule to travel.

Helen E. Millard ‘66 Had hip replacement in June, still recovering. Still have to have a second knee replacement. I have 19 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Still singing with the church choir.

Christine T. Rem ‘70 In 2023, I was awarded Veteran of the Year by the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga, NY. My picture has been on display for one year, and I received the Walter F. Larson Excellence in Nursing Leadership Award from the Rev. Francis A. Kelly Military Society in October 2023.

Nancy C. Magliocca ‘82: Two awesome adult children, both well! Chief of Staff/Associate VP at St. John’s Riverside Hospital, Yonkers, NY.

Susan G. Caesar ‘77 Retired and enjoying life with my family and two grandchildren. Traveling with my husband after spending over forty years as a public health nurse with the VNA of Albany.

Elaine M. Libruk ‘78 Twenty-four years NCCSD school nurse.

Andrew C. Irish ‘76 Finally retired! Knee replacement in March. Still working out volunteer opportunities.

Jessica L. Plackis-Useman ‘88 Continue to work as a clinical educator for Pediatric Home Care (12 years). My twin men turned 25 years old this past July. I purchased a patio home in Colorado Springs this past June.

Diana B. Mertrude ‘75 Nothing new – still working in ICU @ UCSD

Nancy Post ‘64 Retired and traveling, mostly on cruises. Enjoy playing bridge, golf, and mahjong.

Valerie S. Falzo ‘71 Continuing to work on my course “Documenting Care at Home by Valerie Falzo, RN, PLLC!” Expect to launch it in the spring with a fully functioning website.

Shirley A. Diven ‘81 Retirement very soon!

Christine M. Lutringer ‘72 Enjoying retirement. Have six grandchildren ages from four to twenty-four. Spending three months a year in sunny Florida.

Muriel F. Dufendach ‘53 I will be 91 this month and just glad to be alive and functioning.

Elizabeth Baldwin ‘75 Busy with my grands and looking forward to some travel in 2024. Five places on my bucket list!

Nancy W. Davis ‘59: Grateful for Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing for making service to others possible for me!

Jacqueline C. Fitzpatrick ‘69 Finally, totally & happily retired. Lots of volunteer work. I was awarded the Greater Rochester Citizen of the Year “23-’24. Most of my work is in support of the homeless and food insecurity. PS-I will always be thankful to Samaritan for my education.

Linda Gerteisen ‘68 Retired R.N. for fifteen years after forty years of nursing. Enjoying retirement, grandkids, and traveling (when able)

Barbara L. Holmes ‘63 After a very slow recovery from a life-threatening event, I was grateful to join five classmates for our 60th nursing reunion at the gala in June! Who would have guessed this in 1963?

Marilee Biel ‘66 Retired nineteen years from thirty years at a Cleveland Clinic ICU. Both of my granddaughters are now ICU nurses!

Joanne F. Reynolds ‘78 Still retired! 😊

Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Spring Dinner Meeting

When: Tuesday, May 14th, 2024

Where: Paolo Lombardi’s Ristorante,
104 West Sand Lake Road, (Rt 150),
Wynantskill, NY

Time: 5:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Valerie Falzo RN ‘71

Topic: “Documenting Care At Home”
discussing the website, updated tools
and progress in making necessary
changes to improve the course and its
increased availability to the general
population.

Program: 5:00 PM gathering (Cash Bar)
6:00 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Aumni/Foundation Meeting

Dinner Choices: Pollo Alla Milanese (Chicken)
Melanzana Rollatini (Eggplant)
Pesce al Forno (Haddock)

Dinner Meeting Reservation

Please return reservation with \$20.00 (member) or \$25.00 (non-member) with the fee payable to Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc by Thursday, May 4th, 2024.

If you are a student and have an interest in attending, there is a fee of \$10 per person.

Mail to:
Claudia Graham, 1 Bridge Rd., Menands, NY 12204

All reservations must be honored. If a cancellation is required, please contact Sharon Bass at sbassrn18@gmail.com. If anyone has a topic they would like to see presented at an Alumni meeting, please contact Sharon Bass or another Board Member.

Print Name: _____ Class: _____

Student’s Name: _____

_____ Chicken _____ Fish _____ Eggplant

We would like payments as soon as possible. Walk-ins are not allowed due to COVID restrictions. No more than 50 people in attendance per restaurant’s request.



Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing

Alumni Association, Inc.

ST. PETER'S HEALTH PARTNERS
Center for Philanthropy
310 South Manning Blvd.
Albany, NY 12208-1771

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Belknap Scholarship Fund

Scholarship monies are available for Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing graduates who are alumni members in good standing. Member must be matriculated in a Masters or Doctoral program in Nursing. If you are interested, please visit the SPHP website to schools of nursing to Samaritan to Alumni Association. Applications are accessed there.

— *Claudia Graham, Belknap Chair*

Seber Scholarship Fund

The William F. and Josephine H. Seber Scholarship Fund

Seber awards will be awarded at the end of the semester to ensure compliance with Seber Fund rules. The applicants must be in good academic standing and supply proof, such as a copy of grades for the semester for which they are applying, with their application. Furthermore, registered nurses seeking funds for graduate assistance must be in good standing (dues paid or waived according to association rules) with the Alumni Association Inc. Please see the rules of the Seber Fund attached to the application. If you are not compliant with established fund rules you may not be eligible for future awards or you may be required to return funds received. Applications for the Seber Fund may be found online via the St. Peter's Healthcare Partners website, under Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Inc. We encourage anyone eligible to apply.

Currently we have 4 applications for the Spring semester.

— *Claudia Graham, Vice President*

Welsh Fund

Eleven applications for Annual Recipients were mailed out in October 2023. The Welsh Committee met and decided upon the amount of gift (\$150.00) given to each applicant.

The following shows the breakdown of the responses:

Applications for Annuals sent out = 11

Applications received back = 4

Number of Gift Checks sent out = 4

Number of Declinations = 1

Number of No Responses = 5

Number Returned by Post Office (No forwarding address) = 1

— *Valerie Falzo RN '71, Chairperson*