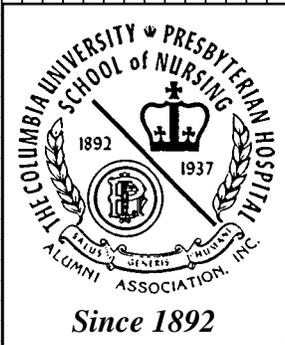


# ❖ The Alumni Newsletter ❖

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## We Thank You, Mr. Sturges: For Making Us All “Neighbors” A Story About Our School Pin

by Debra R. Hanna, '81, PhD, RN

Shortly before 10AM on May 13, 1981 retiring Dean Helen Pettit walked into Sturges Auditorium where we lined up. She gave us a few parting words before we filed out to our graduation ceremonies in the garden. It was one of her last actions as the retiring Dean. She told us that we should always be proud of the education we had received at Columbia University School of Nursing. Silently, many of us thought of how hard we had studied and how hard we had worked on the wards of Presbyterian Hospital, Neurological Institute, and Babies Hospital. She told us that there would probably be times in our careers when we would come across colleagues who would challenge us because of the education we had received. She advised us to continue to do the good job we had been taught to do, and to always uphold standards of integrity and goodness that we had learned at Columbia University and in Presbyterian Hospital.

In these last few moments of our undergraduate education Dean Pettit was helping us understand that we had been entrusted with a precious gift, a pearl of great price. We had worked very hard to obtain our education. Yet, I understood that we were meant to give away the gift of ourselves to others in our service as professional nurses. Within the hour, we each received our nursing school pins which bore the motto, “Salus Generis Humani,” meaning “Health of Humanity.” The motto was selected by Anna C. Maxwell, who was the first director of the School of Nursing. According to the writings of the late Helen Marie Anderson, Class of 1942, Miss Maxwell stated:

*It is the aim of this school above and beyond all to inspire the pupils with a reverence for their work, and the desire to carry with them, into whatever branch of nursing they enter, that true love of humanity which makes the helpful and successful nurse.<sup>1</sup>*

As we examined our pins, we began to realize that the reverse side of the pin was inscribed with our names, a number, and with the single word that was a guiding principle of our role as graduates of the Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing—“Neighbors.”

The first school pins were personally given as a generous and unexpected gift to each member of the graduating class of 1896 by Mr. Frederick Sturges, Sr. The pins were originally designed by Heming and Company, LTD of London. The word “Neighbors” inscribed on the pins referred to the story of the Good Samaritan, a parable that was told in response to the question “Who is my neighbor?” In a speech he gave to the graduates that day, Mr. Sturges said:

*In what way then can we hope to keep up our connection with you [graduates], and to feel that we are partakers with you in the good work you are doing, and to keep alive in your minds the source of training which you are finding so valuable. The diploma doesn't do it, nor the simple pin. We have resolved then to institute for you in our Hospital the “Order of Neighbors,” “neighbors to them that fell among thieves,” and the pin bears upon the reverse the simple word, “Neighbors.”*



(continued on page 4)

# Class News

## 1936

**Emma KAISER Mountan** writes: First of all thank you so much for your item in the Summer 2006 *The Alumni Magazine* of Elizabeth Hinson and me. Secondly, I was delighted to see that the organization was financially stable. Congratulations in view of all your difficulties re the other Alumni Association! Did not send in my dues thinking you were ready to go "belly up". Enclosed find check for \$25 to make me current for this year. For Suzanne Law Hawes' attention regarding wanting to do something re the history of the school I have our 1936 yearbook which I think was the first time a yearbook was printed. It is full of historical information and I would be glad to send it up for copying. Another historical note of interest to me – when the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center was in the planning stage, my father, Christopher Kaiser was a consulting electrical engineer and head of the firm Kaiser, Muller & Davies. His firm was chosen to do all the electrical planning for the project and worked closely with Helen Young. When I graduated from high school I decided I wanted to study nursing, but my father, a staid and old fashioned man would not approve saying, nurses were whores, but after getting to know Miss Young as a stable, dependable and honest woman decided that I could study nursing but only at Columbia Presbyterian under Miss Young's patronage. Fortunately, I was accepted and the rest is now history. Stick to it and the association will win out.

## 1942

**Ella MARTENS Craft** writes: I would like to correct a small error in the class of 1942 news in the summer issue of 2006 magazine, in which I'm credited with two grandchildren. In truth, I have two great grandchildren, and seven grandchildren. Of course, it's also makes for some interesting times, the seven grandchildren want to know which two are my favorites and I reassure each one who calls that they're one of the two! Someday my "cover" will be blown; but until that time I'm going to "milk" it for all it's worth. I truly look forward to your issues of our alumni association! Keep up the good work.

**Archibald G. Fletcher, MD** writes: A copy of *The Alumni Magazine* has just arrived, addressed to Huldah BLAIR Fletcher, RN. I'm sorry to have to inform you that my beloved wife, Huldah, passed away on November 19, 1999, after 53 wonderful years together and five wonderful sons, two of who are practicing physicians today. I'm sure the sad news of Huldah's death was communicated to Columbia-Presbyterian, where Huldah and I both graduated in 1942 - she in nursing and I in medicine. We were married in 1946 after Huldah had served for three years as a missionary nurse in Costa Rica and I as a medical officer in the U. S. Army. After my residency in surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, we served together for 38 years as a medical missionary team under the Presbyterian Church (USA) in India, Nepal and Cameroun. In case you are interested, this whole story is told in a book, "To India and Beyond. Memoirs of a Missionary Surgeon", which, was completed a few years after Huldah's death. The book naturally includes details of Huldah's part in this mission and our life together and a number of photographs of Huldah. Some time ago I sent a copy of the book to Dr. Anke L. Nolting, Associate Dean of P & S. You might be able to get it from her or from the med school library, if you are interested. In fact, now that I think of it, I am quite sure that I sent a copy to the College of Nursing. However, in case I did not, and if you are interested, I would be glad to send one to you now if you write to request it. It is a relatively small volume of 250 pages.

## 1945

**Ruth HIRSCH Silverman**: I have moved to a smaller apartment in the same retirement facility since Bill's death. My new apt # is 703 and new phone is 1-415-464-1662. I have a gorgeous view of Oakland, Berkeley and the SF Bay. Also I can see San Quentin, which is pretty ugly by day but a beautiful cluster of lights at night. I enjoyed the arrival of the summer issue of *The Alumni Magazine*. I am still in touch with my "big sister" after 64 years. She was Kitty SINCLAIR, class of 1943. She is now Kitty Raynes and lives up in the Gold Country. Bill and I visited her and husband, Sheldon, many years ago. I am still involved with Hospice of Marin, but less so than when I was a very active patient care volunteer. They refuse to "fire me" since I have been with them as a volunteer since 1983. I am going to Seattle to visit son David and his wife, Stacya, for two days on July 17 then David will drive me to Flat Head Lake, Montana to visit Bill's "baby brother" (81) and his wife for a few days. In August I will fly to Boston for a few days with daughter, Jen, then will join friends on an Elderhostel to the Canadian Maritimes, then back to Boston and part time with son, Dan and wife, in Wellfleet on Cape Cod. Dan is now Fire Chief there since March. I'll stay in the East, dividing time between Boston and Wellfleet so I can celebrate my 86th birthday on Sept. 5 with family, then back here on Sept 7. I hear from Helen CRAIG Kaffitz several times a year. She was also '45 and spoke to "Tweet" GILLIAM Shumaker '45, about two weeks ago. She is in the assisted living unit at her retirement home in PA, near Philadelphia. Don't hear from anyone else in my class, but would love to. Was so sad to learn of Lil BROWN's death. We had been good friends during our PH days. You requested our e-mail addresses. Mine is: [roosil@aol.com](mailto:roosil@aol.com). Often wonder if I'll make it to my 65th reunion. Traveling alone to NY is formidable and that's why I didn't make it to my 60th.

## 1947

**Mary Ann LISTER Pomeroy** writes: Thanks for forwarding the letter from **Alexia BECK Bivings** (Lexie). She had read in the last publication of my travels to Sedona, AZ to attend by son Ray's daughter's wedding. Lexie lives in Tucson and reports she is now 80 – hikes and is no longer playing tennis. She loves going to Mexico. She remembers our time in Nantucket where I worked and met my husband, Edwin. Our class of 1947 was special and I remember the war with Japan coming to an end. I loved my days on the staff of PH. I remain a letter writer and keep in touch with my classmates and Columbia Club of NJ. Since I am now a widow and we had the trauma of 9/11, I do day trips with friends at the senior center; family always is in "touch." I play golf, tennis and bowl in the winter and enjoy current events, celebrity speeches on international concerns and the opera.

## 1948

**June PATTERSON Rounds** writes: Dear "Keepers of the Faith" up there in Yonkers. Yonkers was my first address in 1948. I was newly graduated and newly married to a medical student. We and three other married medical student couples rented rooms in a very large old mansion owned by a medical student and his in-laws on an abrupt slope toward the Hudson. Huge foyer and a "decorative" elk or maybe it was a moose-head mounted there. "Impressive." The commute too, was an adventure. We were paying \$35.00 a month and considered very lucky to have been able to find a used car post WWII. It was a kelly green Plymouth and, of course, it was a stick shift and even had a throttle.

You'd have to use the throttle especially in the cold winter – difficult to start and it liked to “die” on you too. I was a new driver. But at least work was still “fun!” I worked on fracture service with a compatible staff and a very good head nurse – can't remember her name. It was kind of a neat institution at P.H. So – I am living in a new home at 552 Sussex Ave., Spring Lake Heights, NJ 07762 with a new telephone 732-449-1691.

## 1955

**Edna PASMIK Nelson** writes: My dear husband, Alan died on June 6, 2006 at the Westchester Medical Center as the result of a fall. Despite the quick action of our Ambulance Corps and the helicopter flight from our home, life support could not help him. We would have celebrated our 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Last year we did not celebrate because my sister had just died from pancreatic cancer.

## 1959

**Ellen ROGOWSKI Landowne, Carol CARTER Wall, and Mary NEWMAN McMahon** got together again at their Mt. Holyoke 50th Reunion. Carol and Mary are both still employed in health-related fields, and Ellen is happily retired.

## In Memoriam

1932 **Hannah Glass Clark Russell**, September 13, 2006

1939 **Edith Purick Wackenheim**, October 6, 2005

1941 **Katherine Mulcahy**, April 28, 2006

1943 **Alice Hoffman Rainer**, July 2006

1944 **Jane Lincoln Richards**, Date Unknown

1945 **Doris Kinkead Holcombe**, Date Unknown

1946 **Margaret Hughes Niewenhous**, April 15, 2006

1947 **Stephanie Benet Mahin**, 2005

1949 **Jo Ann Jackson Merrill**, January 12, 2006

1951 **Virginia Walsh Lynch**, Date Unknown

1956 **Joan Owen**, May 21, 2006

1958 **Esther Farrington Privett**, June 12, 2006

## Making Memories: The 1957 Class Reunion DVD

by *Debra R. Hanna '81, PhD, RN*

Was there a moment in nursing school where you thought that you were truly meant to be a nurse? A moment when you know you had “arrived” as a nurse? For the past several years, members of the Alumni Association have created, shown and distributed a souvenir video or DVD to those members who attend their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion. We can credit Louise Bobrow '69 for thinking of putting the yearbook photos, songs of the era and a short conversation among classmates together for a unique and fun walk down memory lane. Drs. Joan Arnold '69 and Debra Hanna '81 will conduct the interviews of the graduates from the class of 1957 this year.

You might wonder about what would be asked during this interview. The interviewers want to know of your fondest or funniest or most poignant memories from Maxwell Hall and from your classroom and clinical learning experiences. What kinds of social or outside activities were you engaged in during nursing school? Any memories of your senior dance, or the Beau Parlors in Maxwell Hall? What do you recall about your capping ceremony? What about Graduation Day – any special stories from the moment you received your pin or your diploma? The interviewers will also ask if you recall anything special about going to the beautiful Davison Estate on Long Island before you began your first classes. Do you have any stories about Eleanor Lee or any of the faculty or supervisors? Do you remember your senior interviews about future goals with Miss Lee, Elizabeth Gill, Mary Crawford or Miss Pettit? Any memories of your instructors or your classmates? Where did you have your clinicals? Were you familiar with Manhattan and NYC or were you from somewhere else? How did you adjust to life in Maxwell Hall and NYC?

The goal of the interview is to provide an ongoing history of life in Maxwell Hall, life as a nursing student at Columbia University and Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, and your memories from the

time in your life as you learned to become a nurse. Each era has its own special flavor, which is revealed in the different types of memories reported by different classes. However, as alumni always want to know what has happened since graduation, the interviewers also want to include any information about how you have fared over the years of your career as a graduate from Columbia University Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing. Any stories of how you were identified years later as a graduate of the Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing because of your pin? How did your education here prepare you for the world of work as a registered nurse? What kinds of positions have you held over the years? Any other comments or stories to tell?

These are the type of questions the interviewers will ask. Yearbook photos will be incorporated in the DVD, both the formal photos of all the students and the candid shots. It is helpful if you can look at your yearbook ahead of time and explain the stories behind the photos. The interviews are not very long. If there are several people on the phone line at the same time, the interview can last about an hour, but if interviews are conducted individually, they last only as long as the volunteer has information and stories to tell; usually about 30-45 minutes. For the 1956 class, Drs. Arnold and Hanna read the class history that was written into the yearbook so that parts of the history were incorporated into the DVD and the stories were interspersed.

Interviewing is conducted by phone through the assistance of a company that specializes in recording, editing and producing these souvenir “memory” DVD's. The interviews are recorded in January so they can be edited and merged with yearbook photos and music. It will soon be time to record the interviews. If anyone from the class of 1957 would like to join their classmates in sharing their memories, please call the Alumni Association office at 914-966-3699.

(continued from page 1)

*If you will always bear in mind that you can be a neighbor in every sphere of life, you will recognize the value of the training you have received here, and will give to us the happiness of feeling that in your hands our work is going forward with ever increasing results.<sup>2</sup>*

Over the years, our school pin changed slightly to represent the different changes the school underwent. In 1937, Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing merged with the Faculty of Medicine of the Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons. In 1976 the golden PH letters over the red lacquered dome were replaced with a crown to symbolize Columbia University.

Graduates of the Columbia University School of Nursing are still awarded this pin at graduation from the combined BS/MS program.

How many of us have great and wonderful stories to tell about the day that our nursing school pin was recognized in some remote place of the world by someone who had once been connected with our school of nursing or with Presbyterian Hospital? I have several stories of appreciative attending physicians who not only knew which school my pin was from, but who understood immediately upon seeing it the excellence of the basic education I had received.

We can always find ways to remain "Neighbors to them that fell among thieves." Do you have any stories related to your school pin? If so, I'd like to hear about them and share them with other alumni. I'm sure there are many others among us who would love to read these stories. Please write your stories and send them to me at the Alumni Association office or send an e-mail. We will print them in future issues of *The Alumni Newsletter* and *The Alumni Magazine*.

1. Anderson, H. M. (1942). "The History and Significance of the Presbyterian Nurses Pin," Appendix in, Lee, E. (Editor), *The History of the School of Nursing 1892-1942*, (pp. 25-26, 28) New York, G.P. Putnam's Sons.

2. Sturges, F. (1967). Speech Given to the Graduating Class of 1896, Appendix in, Lee, E. (Editor), *Neighbors. The History of the Department of Nursing Faculty of Medicine Columbia University 1937-1967* and its predecessor, *The School of Nursing of the Presbyterian Hospital New York 1892-1937*. (pp. 298-299).

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## PLEASE BE AWARE

If you are planning to provide a legacy in your will for our Alumni Association, the one founded in 1892, please be aware that the new name of the School's Alumni Association is a rearrangement of our name and confusion may result as to which association the legacy is designated and also be aware that money given to us will be used to support alumni and graduate scholarships for both Columbia students and those that go elsewhere. However, money left to the School's Alumni Association will be used for Columbia University purposes only.

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

Graduate Scholarship money is available; you need only to apply. Awards are distributed by the Alumni Association directly to qualified alumni applicants upon the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee and approval of the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. Applicants can seek advanced degrees at Columbia or any other recognized, accredited college or university. For information call 914-966-3699. Applications are due March 1, 2007 and are available at the Alumni Association Office and on our web site [www.cuphsonaa.com](http://www.cuphsonaa.com).

## UPCOMING PROJECTS

In addition to producing DVD's of Anna C. Maxwell and Nurses of Valor, the Class videos of 1947-1956 will be available for sale in the coming year. Watch for announcement.

The Alumni Magazine, also know as The Alumni Quarterly, is in the process of being indexed. Herein lies a treasure-trove of history of our School and its graduates over the last 100 years. The first volume was published in 1906 and contains early graduates' names as well as articles by graduates about their work and lives. To date there has not been an index that allows for easy scanning and it will become a major source of historical reference for alumni and future generations.

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