

# The Alumni Newsletter

Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.

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*The Newsletter is published to bring together members of the Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni*

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- membership
- pensions
- sick benefits
- scholarships
- research awards
- news
- reunion

## THE SWINE FLU (H1N1) UPDATE

*By Peg Fracaro '70,*

*Patient Care Director for the Department of Epidemiology, New York Presbyterian Hospital*

Influenza experts knew that an Influenza pandemic would occur and it has arrived with the H1N1 swine flu. Estimates from the CDC indicate more than a million people in the United States became ill with the H1N1 virus from April 2009 to July 2009; most had a mild form of the disease. It has been estimated that flu pandemics occur about every 30 years, the last occurring in 1968-1969. For this reason many older individuals have some immunity to this strain of influenza; H1N1 has a disproportional affect in young children, adolescents and young adults who have had the most complications including death. There is an increased risk in pregnancy that is well documented. Underlying conditions such as obesity, respiratory illnesses (asthma) cardiovascular disease, diabetes and immuno-suppression can increase the severity of illness.

The new H1N1 vaccine will soon be available for high risk groups and health care providers who will receive the vaccine first, then the general public with schools the first in line.

There have been many unfounded reasons and rumors not to get vaccinated with the H1N1 vaccine but I believe the vaccine is safe and we all should get it. We all need to get the seasonal vaccine as well this year as the H1N1 vaccine will not protect against the seasonal flu so two injections are required.

Antiviral medications are also available if you have contraindications for getting the vaccine. These are known as *Relenza* and *Tamiflu*. You need to check with your

physician to see if these medications are for you.

One of the many concerns that hospitals face is the large numbers of patients that require hospitalization, Will our emergency rooms be overwhelmed with patients? Many of us in Infection Control are very active in the Emergency Preparedness Committees in our hospitals and clinics. These are multidisciplinary in nature and represent all levels in the organization. We discuss how to handle bed shortages, critical supplies (gowns, gloves, masks, antiviral agents, antibiotics, ventilators) and staff. We know there will be a number of staff that will become ill. Each department has a plan to staff their units, have enough supplies and be able to provide the best care for our patients.

Measures such as hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene are very important for all staff and visitors. We place signs in the lobbies and clinic areas asking visitors not to visit if they are ill and we offer masks to those who need to be seen. There are stations with alcohol rubs for hand disinfection. Senior hospital administration as well as Columbia University work together to insure we do the best for our students, staff and faculty and as well as our patients. With a little luck, good planning and teamwork we will get through this pandemic.

I would extend an invitation to any of you willing to serve if you have an active nursing license and would like to volunteer if we need assistance. Please call or email the Alumni office if you are available – 914-966-3699.

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARD

### Lois Muller Glazier '60 - Secretary

After graduation from CUPH in 1960 I worked for two years in the Emergency Department at Vanderbilt Clinic followed by a career switch into nursing education at the invitation of Elizabeth Gill and began teaching medical-surgical nursing. I taught at Columbia during the 1960's, earning my masters degree in nursing education in 1965. In 1970 I went to the University of Kansas on a Nurse Scientist Fellowship to study for a doctorate in cultural anthropology with an emphasis in medical anthropology. While at KU I met and married Dale Rimmer, an IBM systems engineer and became an instant stepmother to his son Conrad.



As I was completing my doctoral degree, I was hired as one of the founding faculty for a new baccalaureate nursing program at Washburn University in Topeka KS. We literally created the new program, designing the curriculum, courses and setting policies for such things as student admissions and grading procedures; subsequently we then sought initial accreditation. I was to spend the rest of my professional career on the nursing faculty at Washburn and became the Assistant Dean in 1983. I retired in 2000. I regard my years at Washburn as my most significant and fulfilling professional accomplishment.

My husband died of colon cancer in early 1999 and following my retirement I remarried and moved to the charming seacoast town of Mystic, CT, where I have lived for the past nine years. I maintain nursing licensure in both Kansas and Connecticut, but am no longer active in nursing. I continue to be a member of ANA and Sigma Theta Tau and since 2004 have been privileged to serve on the board of our original Columbia University Presbyterian Hospital Nursing Alumni Association. In Mystic I serve the community as president of the Mystic Woman's Club and am on the boards of the Episcopal Church Women's group and the Mystic River Historical Society. My husband has three sons and five grandchildren and I have two grandchildren.

### Louise M. Malarkey '62, -Treasurer



After her initial education at the School of Nursing, Louise completed master's degree in nursing at Hunter College and then MEd and EdD degrees from Teachers College, Columbia.

She began her nursing career in Babies Hospital and later continued in Puerto Rico in medical-surgical nursing and pediatrics. On return to the mainland, she hoped to fulfill her dream of a career in teaching and that she did, an effort that was very satisfying;

she remained in nursing education for the next 37 years until her retirement in 2008.

At the College of Staten Island, CUNY, Louise rose to the rank of full professor and served as chairperson of the Nursing Department for many years. As a faculty member, Louise taught medical-surgical nursing at various levels and also taught various courses to returning RNs who would complete their baccalaureate nursing degrees. She published many articles in nursing journals and seven books, primarily in the area of clinical nursing laboratory and diagnostic tests. She states: "teaching was a great source of joy and satisfaction. Nursing students are a delight because of their caring and commitment to excellence in their profession."

As Chairperson of the Department at the College, she guided the expansion of nursing programs from an initial associate degree in nursing to include a baccalaureate degree program and then the first of two master's degree programs in nursing. She was awarded many federal grants to support student scholarships and various nursing programs in development. In volunteer activities for many years, Louise served as a federal grant reviewer for nursing special projects grants and as an accreditation site visitor for the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. She currently serves as a faculty counselor for the College's chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

In our alumni association, Louise has served in various capacities for more than 20 years. These areas include chair of the Scholarship Committee, member of the Strategic Planning Committee, and currently as chair of the Finance Committee and Treasurer of the Association. She states again that: "my great delight is to nurture the finances to grow, so that we can continue to provide assistance for alumni in need and also assist the school when they are ready to participate with us once again"

Louise has two sons and five grandchildren. In retirement from work, she is delighted to have more free time to devote to volunteer efforts such as with CUPHSONAA, travel, and to spend more time with her family.

# Alumni News

## 1942

**Marion HOWALD Swarthout** writes: It is such fun to gather the class news, and talk to so many of my old friends. I try mail, e-mail and phone, and still don't reach everyone. Still, 16 out of our remaining group are very good about responding. If anyone else would like to take over the fun, let the Alumni office know of your interest. I am impressed that we are a pretty hardy lot, keeping busy, still learning new things, many still traveling.

**Jean LAGAKIS Benner** is still living independently, driving and sounding very positive. **Elizabeth DILLINGHAM Bliven** and her husband will both reach 90 this year, and celebrate 65 years of marriage. **Elizabeth SCHOONMAKER Booth** is doing well. Still riding at 92! **Rose BENDOCK Carr** still has the travel bug; Tanzania in 2007, Switzerland in 2008. **Beth MARTENS Craft** and her husband are cruising with a stamp collecting group, and traveling to Iowa for a granddaughter's wedding this year. **Dorothy WEINBERGER Cribbs** is enjoying rural retirement community living in a beautiful countryside, and learning to play bridge. **Alice HAMILTON Davies** lost her husband in 2008 but continues to lead a grief fellowship group. Doing well after a spinal fusion. **Virginia ANDERSON DeLuke** enjoys retirement living. She is proud of her 4 sons, all dentists, practicing together, and her daughter, who has a PhD in Autism. **Annette FITCH Donovan** is doing well, busy volunteering. **Barbara TANIS Fetzer** uses a walker as she tends to fall without warning; her husband is her full time caregiver. **Jo HALLORAN Finan** has moved to Texas, but is reserving judgment on TX until she has been there a year! **Muffy PEARSON Freeman**: Each summer returns to her cottage in Norway where she can see her children and grandchildren, and the new great grandson, born in October 2008. **Doree SAWYER Jimison** is healthy (takes NO Rx meds), plays duplicate bridge and enjoys Sudoku. She has recently purchased a house and is having it remodeled for her son, who uses a wheelchair. **Lois PERINCHIEF McNulty** enjoys her independent living arrangement. Her daughter is nearby, and takes her to doctors as necessary. **Irene HOLTAN Schmidgall** and her husband are both well. Their 7th great grand child, a baby girl, gave them an excuse to travel

to Florida after all their Salvation Army work at Christmas. **Vivi TOOTELL Westwick** had a huge celebration for her 90th birthday and the 25th anniversary of the farm, with more and 100 friends and family.

## 1945

**Ruth HIRSCH Silverman** went to Baltimore in May, 2009 to attend the fourth annual William Silverman Lecture -- established by the perinatal section of the American Academy of Pediatrics after Bill's death and then went for visits with daughter, Jen, and his son Dan, and their spouses. Dan is fire chief in town of Wellesley. Granddaughter, Rachel, works in DC as communications director for Democratic Congressman George Miller of California. "I'm still getting around, but use a walker. Couldn't make the reunion it conflicted with my visit East."

**Marjorie CHILDS Black** writes, "I made the best decision in my life in June of 1945 by marrying Norman Black and we're now celebrating 64 years together. We have a son and a daughter and two grandchildren who are wonderful adults. I particularly enjoyed 16 years at my last place of employment as a manager of the associated nurses at TRW Aerospace. It was most rewarding! I retired in 1980 from the position of Manager of Occupational nursing, spent 20 years in Escondido, CA. In 2000 moved to Leisure World, Seal Beach (retirement living).

## 1956

**Harriet JOHNSON Herrick** writes, "Bob and I have five boys and 14 grandchildren. One grandchild is married, two are getting married this summer, two are in graduate school, one in college, one graduated from high school this summer and the rest are in grade school or preschool. Only one is still a toddler. Since I retired as chairman I have published three books. Two were written with my son, Dr. Charles Herrick, and the other two were: *100 Questions About Alcohol* and *100 Questions About Smoking*, all published by Jones. Currently, I am writing a book on Nursing Case Management with two other colleagues. I recently received an award for leadership by the International Society of Psychiatric Nurses.

## 1959

**Harriette BURNS Ritchie** writes this correction to the Summer 2009 volume of

the CUPHSONAA *The Alumni Magazine*, "Correction: "Harriette BURNS Ritchie is owner and chief cook and bottle washer of her own vineyard in northern California where she raises Barbera varietal grapes." Licenses in all of the credits listed for me are serious business, so I am given too much credit not earned. I do recall many decades ago the term "chief cook & bottle washer" tossed around in the "diet kitchen" clinical experience as an undergrad at Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital. Today the culinary arts and bottling businesses require serious education and licenses. I spent the same amount of time gaining licenses to earn a living in nursing and education as careers in culinary arts and bottling distribution of wines/beverages, require today. George Ritchie, my husband, and I owned and expanded the wine grape vineyard while we each earned salaries in other areas. We knew our retiree years required continuous work in the vineyard after retiring from salaried jobs. Working fulltime as a nurse in NYC from graduation in 1959 until August 1963, I gained a lot of experience for "hard work." The US Government granted a Public Health/Institute Mental Health scholarship for me to attend the masters program at the University of Colorado 1963. In California I was public health nurse first. Later I combined grad school, with part and full time nursing work. I combined giving birth to three children with school and career positions. I hold "Life Time California Credentials" in school nursing, public health, growth & development. We were the first CUPH class to obtain public health nursing credit. I held professorship positions at C.S.U.S., and Sacramento City College. Finally I fulfilled enough requirements become a tenured, full professor in nursing at the Los Rios Community College District, Sacramento. The U.C.S.F.M.C., San Francisco, CA. was a valuable program for a door opener in my career. While teaching nursing I was accepted as a doctoral candidate in the first Cluster Program, External Degree, at the Nova Southeastern University Florida where I earned an Ed.D. I remained in nursing at the Los Rios Community College and later in the psychology, behavioral-social sciences. In 1997 I was awarded *Professor Emeritus* status as a California State retiree. Not desiring to exit the state's employment system

I entered a post-doctoral program in Psychopharmacology after my husband died, 1993 and graduated in 1996. Today job positions are at a premium and I am grateful to be able to hire myself at my own vineyard-ranch.

## 1962

**Melinda GILLIS Morgan** writes, “I moved to a retirement community and finally have time to travel, play golf and spend precious time with family, especially two granddaughters ages 3 1/2 and 1 1/2. I’m staying in touch with others in geriatric nursing especially adult day health programs -- now in jeopardy with budget cuts here in California.”

## 1970

**Amanda Joann BURR** writes, “At long last I was admitted to Sigma Theta Tau in 2009.” Besides her BS from Columbia, Dr. Burr holds a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Claremont School of Theology. She currently serves as the full time Senior Pastor of the United Methodist Church of Palm Springs CA. She gave up work on her MSN 30 years ago to answer a call to the ministry and continued working as a nurse in the clinical setting until 2006. She has worked at the bedside in peds, ICU, ER, cardiac rehab and hospice and finally as the nurse manager of a telemetry unit. She has worked in New York, Colombia, South America, Boston, Tucson, and all over Southern California proving that nursing is, indeed, not only a portable profession and one that offers a wondrous variety of settings in which to practice. Now after 30 years she is completing her MSN in Health Care Systems Management with Loyola University, New Orleans. Her Master’s degree practicum project entails designing a patient practical and patient friendly Medication Management Program. Amanda lives in Cathedral City CA with her three dogs and pet cat.

## 1980

**Bach-Tuyet NGUYEN Pham** writes, “our family is truly a Columbia family: my husband, Tuan Duc Pham, received his PhD in anatomy. Our daughter Tim received her M.D. and MPh as did our son-in-law David Cone, M.D. Our son Philip received his M.D. and PhD in 1998 and our daughter-in-law Andrea Nicolas received her PhD and LL.D. I myself received my BS in nursing and MS in nutrition, all from Columbia.”

## INNES ARDEN HOUSE



uncovered a trove of pictures from that place taken by George Eastman, a friend of Anna Maxwell’s and now in the archives in Rochester.

The name may not be familiar to you but it was a beloved place for the early graduates of Presbyterian Hospital. Located in Greenwich CT along the vast shoreline of the Long Island Sound, this craftsman cottage housed Presbyterian nurses for over a decade during the hot summer months.



Communication with the Greenwich Point Conservancy, the group involved in restoring this cottage, informed us that had been



left to ruin (it was originally deeded to PH but because Mrs. Kennedy lived so long, there was little left in the bequest and PH decided on Mary Harkness site in-

stead for their convalescent facility). The property was donated to the town of Greenwich and they budgeted no money for its upkeep for many years; hence the need to restore it before it is razed.

The Greenwich Point Conservancy runs an upscale benefit each year to help bring this historical house back to its former splendor. They have raised enough to put on a new roof and help with drainage. The next step will involve doing some interior work, for which they have pictures to assist them.

The officers were delighted to have someone from the Presbyterian heritage to assist them with some of the history and they received some of the original articles from the Magazine that added to their gala brochure.

It was a most impressive evening, two large tents, a nine-piece orchestra and 450 guests attended. I understand they raised over one million dollars that evening.

We will continue to work with this dedicated group of people with historical information and perhaps, once their museum room is established, we can provide them with a PH uniform to add to the charm of the house.

On July 17th, through a fluke of communication, I was pleased to represent the Alumni Association at a benefit for Arden House at Greenwich (CT) Point. Why was this important? The early editions of the Magazine contained many references to Arden House and it was soon learned why that was so.

John Kennedy Tod, a nephew of John S. Kennedy, an early president of Presbyterian Hospital and a man instrumental in helping to establish the nursing program at Presbyterian, purchased what was once Elizabeth Neck, then Tod’s Point and now Greenwich Point. He was of the ilk of the “robber barons” of the late 1800’s who made money in banking and railroads. In addition to his mansion on that former island, he built a sound-front craftsman cottage on the Sound.

Why is that important to us? It seems that the Kennedys and Anna Maxwell were friends and each summer he opened that cottage for the use of the nurses at Presbyterian. There, for about one dollar a day, they could enjoy the “country” and waterfront, away from the heat of New York City. The event planners have

## In Memoriam

- 1937 Helen FIMBEL Nienstedt  
September 12th 2009
- 1941 Barbara STIMSON Kunz  
August 28th, 2008
- 1946 Patricia BRINKLEY Adams  
April 16th, 2009
- 1960 Elizabeth Hauber Davies  
2005
- 1960 Barbara LYNCH Orlando  
August 14th, 2009
- 1960 Betty KAPP  
April 30th, 2009
- 1960 Mary Bleecker Simmons  
October 24th, 2004
- 1960 Elizabeth RICHARDS Sink  
April 30th, 2009
- 1960 Willis BUTLER Walker  
June 27th, 2009
- 1962 Nancy HOUGHTON Lothrop  
April 30th, 2009
- 1962 Dorcas Mandrodt  
March 9th, 2008
- 1962 Patricia REIMER Stermloff  
September 7th, 2008

**Helen Louise FIMBEL Nienstedt '37**, passed away peacefully at home in Burke, Virginia on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at age 93. Her family - Diane Nienstedt and Helena McGevna and mother-in-law of John McGevna and grandson, Denis Stojanovic survive her. She graduated from PH in 1937 and worked at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center as an Instrument nurse in Neurosurgery and as head nurse in the ER from 1937 to 1950. She continued to work in nursing at hospitals and in private practice for over fifty years in New York and Florida. Helen was an avid photographer and loved both local and international travel. She was interested in animals; If desired, donations in her memory may be made to her favorite organization, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah.

**Alice HAMILTON Davies '42** passed away on March 3, 2009 at Maine Medical Center. Her daughters, Susan DAVIES '74 and Elizabeth DAVIES Young '76 are both Columbia-Presbyterian graduates. Susan writes, "Alice's lifelong calling had been to faith and ethical issues in health and medical settings, advocacy for equal ac-

cess to health care for all, and education in congregations about lay ministry and ministries of healing and pastoral care at the end of life. She was born in Englewood NJ and married Dean Fletcher Davies in 1946 while he was a medical resident at P&S. After working and raising young children in St. Louis MO and Tenafly NJ, the Davies moved to Memphis. While there, Alice received a BS in Public Health Administration from the University of Memphis and worked as Health Director of the Memphis Headstart program. The city of Memphis recognized Alice for her founding and leadership role in organizing an interfaith and interracial volunteer service. They trained 500 volunteers from 1971 - 78 to "Stand with the poor who are sick". Dean's work took them back to NYC in 1978. Following a call to the ministry, Alice returned to school again in 1984, and earned a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in 1988 and began working as a full-time chaplain, organizing a new Department of Pastoral Care at Wayne General Hospital in New Jersey. Alice and Dean made their home in Maine during the summer season to be near their children and grandchildren, and to fellow their lifelong longing to live near the ocean. . Most of all, Alice Davies will be remembered for her untiring spirit, offering the gift of herself, with undying love, to her family, her friends and the greater community.

**Barbara LYNCH Orlando '60**, passed away on August 14, 2009 after a lengthy illness. She was the daughter of Joseph and Mathilde (Doring) Lynch. She was married to Charles J. Orlando for 51 years and had three children: and five grandchildren: Elizabeth Zagorski, Alison Goerg, and Charles III. Barbara graduated in 1960 and practiced nursing in a variety of nursing positions including public and school health, industrial nursing, as a nursing supervisor and most recently as a staff nurse at Acadia Hospital in Bangor. She and Charles relocated to Mount Desert Island ME after many years in Demarest NJ. On Mount Desert Island, she continued to volunteer at Southwest Harbor Library, Arcady Music Festival and served on the advisory board of MDI Nurses Assoc.. In lieu of flowers, her family asks that those who wish may make a memorial contribution to MDI Hospital, [www.mdihospital.org](http://www.mdihospital.org) or to EMMC - Champion the Cure, c/o Healthcare Charities, [www.championthecure.org](http://www.championthecure.org) in acknowledgement of the excellent care she received especially during her final battle with cancer.

**Elizabeth Richard Sinks '60** died suddenly in her home in Williamsburg Landing on April 30, 2009; she was 71 years old. Born to Francis Henry Richard and Elizabeth (Eagan) Richard. She attended Bucknell and while at Columbia, she met and subsequently married Preston Sinks, who became a Vice-President at Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. They raised four children in Cold Spring Harbor, New York. Betsy resumed her nursing career as the school nurse and thereafter she worked as a visiting nurse for Visiting Nurse Services of Oyster Bay, New York. After earning her MPH at Adelphi University in New York, she subsequently became a Director of the Home Care Department at Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn NY serving in that capacity for more than 12 years. Upon retirement they moved to Dataw Island SC and after her husband's death she moved to Williamsburg VA. There, she was active in the adult care-nursing program until her death. She is survived by her four children and two grandchildren. Donations may be made to: Friends of Caroline's Hospice of Beaufort, 1110 13th Street, Port Royal, South Carolina 29935. Her children: Christopher is an attorney in Washington DC; Richard is a financial planner in Wilton CT; Elizabeth lives in Alexandria VA and works in the public sector evaluating government programs; Anne (Sinks) Kuskowski MD currently resides in Guam (husband is an OB/GYN and naval officer).

**Dorcas MANRODT '62** died March 9, 2008 at Chilton Memorial Hospital in Pompton Plains. Dorcas was the daughter of the late Kurt and Donna Manrodt. Dorcas had earned a diploma from the Paterson General School of Nursing, a B.S. From Seton Hall University, and a Masters of Nursing from Columbia University in Nurse Midwifery. She was the director of the Morris County Visiting Nursing Association and she then worked for the Montclair Community Nursing Service in Montclair for 26 years and retired as the director. In addition, Dorcas was a veteran of the US Army Nurse Corps during the Korean War and served in Guam and San Antonio TX. She was the founder of the Chilton Memorial Hospital Mother/Baby Education Program and helped expecting parents with both prenatal and postnatal care.

## VOLUNTEERING, CUPH STYLE

The Editors want to thank those that took the time to tell us how they volunteer -now and in the past. Your efforts represent a wide range of interests, time commitments and dedication. "For the health of humanity." This motto over the front door of Presbyterian Hospital has been a central focus of the graduates of the Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing and continues to be thus.

It is interesting to take note of this because President Obama is appealing to our citizenry to volunteer, something that seems to have been bred into us somewhere along the line of our educational experience, although there was no designated curricular activity in school to do so.

As expected, attempting to quantify the amount of time we have collectively spent in volunteer activities was impossible. However, the sense of the data accumulated leads us to conclude that many Americans have been significantly affected by the assistance our graduates have given. From reading class notes over the years, what is displayed below is only a minor fraction of time given over to volunteer activities.

The breadth of activities to which our alumni have contributed was impressive. We have, and always have, contributed our abilities, expertise and caring in so many different ways. Given that preamble, let me tell you about your "Neighbors."

One member from 1943 continues to volunteer in the realm of breast cancer. A Class of 1946 alum is working in a soup kitchen and has been doing so for over twenty years. A second member of that class had to discontinue her efforts due to her own Parkinson's disease.

Four graduates of the Class of 1949 took the time to write to us. Their interests and energies are directed toward senior citizens, food and clothing drives, chauffeuring others to appointments, hospice, saving the gopher tortoise, symphony guild, historical museum, church activi-

ties. Remember, these graduates were of the World War II generation and have now spent over 60 years in professional or volunteer activities.

Twelve members of the classes during the Fifties wrote to tell us that while they volunteer their efforts, the satisfaction that comes from their work is very rewarding believing they gained more than they offered. Churches, nursing homes, blood centers, court appointed special advocate, ESL teacher, event support and planning, Red Cross, hospice, Girl Scouts, Hand-crafting Justice in developing countries, interesting three year olds in reading, Kindred Spirits, a choral group that entertains in residential facilities, food bank, free health clinics, Habitat for Humanity, assisting immigrants toward citizenship, garden club, high school health professions program, alumni organizations, Mobile Medical care, presidential campaign, fund raising, Meals on Wheels, program to assist elderly to live at home and assorted administrative positions in not-for profit humanitarian agencies.

Two poignant incidences occurred that bears repeating:

"I had a school class in for a special tour (we have a special exhibit room with a WW II display including a mannequin in an Army uniform – one of the 3rd grade boys walked in to that room, hugged the mannequin and said "Hurry Home Daddy," "Broke us all up."

"The event I remember is my OB doctor in Wichita saw me through a difficult pregnancy with support and friendship in 1958. When he became my Hospice patient. I was able to "give back" to him before he died."

The sixties alumni were busy as well; twenty-one respondents were doing similar work as mentioned above but a few were in other fields of interest. A alum who volunteers from 12MN to 4AM in her local hospital ER; imagine spending those hours and how grateful patients must be to have someone to talk to as they wait!

Hotline and suicide prevention, soup kitchen or community meal programs, Sigma Theta Tau, hospital board member, Alumni Association, parish nursing and bible study, working with the Sheriff's department in the community, an innovative dog visitation program in hospitals, palliative care and ethics in SNF's, working with children upon the death of a parent, doula assistance, camp nurse for dialysis kids, presidential campaigning, letter writing to armed services in foreign lands.

Some of their most memorable events were:

"This fall we were talking about where you lived as a child and how you got to school. One many from China said that he had lived at school. In talking we found out that he lived in an orphanage as his parents had been killed when Japan invaded China. Another man from China said that his parents were also killed in this invasion and was raised by his older brother. They must have lived through the Cultural Revolution as well. I will try to get them to talk about that experience. Most of these students are living here now because their adult children are now working in the Seattle area. Most of the children are professional people in the fields of teaching, medicine, computers etc. My students are true survivors. I can't imagine moving from China at my age and learning to write Chinese characters and speak their language. I have such admiration and respect for these people."

"One of the most memorable events for me was when Chukker and I had a request from a little boy who had just had a liver transplant and wanted a visit from my dog. Chukker (the first animal allowed in the Ped. ICU) climbed onto the bed, placed his head on the little boy's chest and was stroked by him. I might add that the entire staff of doctors and nurses had all crowded into the room to watch and not a dry eye was to be had. This program began in the children's hospital and later was expanded throughout the entire hospital was covered

by the New York Times on July 28th 1996.”

Many of the classes during the Seventies were still busy with their careers yet some found time to volunteer and to write to us. One was conducting alumni surveys of public health agencies and providers (online). She writes:

“...what I will always remember from the years I have spent volunteering is the chance to inspire others to also volunteer for worthy causes, from voluntarily providing alumni feedback to improve the academic experiences of others, to rallying public health professionals to voluntarily offering to share their academic and professional experiences with others as those who contact them online for mentoring.”

Another alum, with her family served Christmas dinner to families staying at Ronald McDonald House, knitting prayer shawls and working at a psychiatric hospital in programs for the arts and volunteering in the Netherlands to assist elderly survivors of the Holocaust.

Can you imagine a more diverse and dedicated group of alumni doing this, not just recently but for many years? If the number of hours could be calculated, it would be in the many thousands as so many people did not respond but continue to volunteer their services. Add that into being the “neighborhood nurse” whose countless hours of helping local neighbors certainly demonstrates that all of us are “Neighbors.”

If wish to contact any of these volunteers to find out more about their work, write to the Alumni Office and we will forward your request.

As an after thought...although most alumni received the newsletter, the classes from the 1980's-2000 did not respond. We hope in the future that many of them will become interested in the Original Alumni Association as we have much to offer them and they to offer to us.

## REUNION 2010

### NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, APRIL 23rd

This is the year for the special classes ending in “0” and “5” and we have a wonderful day lined up for you. The 50th Class is already hard at work getting their classmates together and 1965 and 1970 are right behind them in enthusiasm. Each year the reunion seems to get better and better.

We will begin with a continental breakfast followed by the Annual Meeting of the Association following our time-honored traditions. Only active members are permitted a vote should one come to the floor; all, however, are welcome and each year spouses have joined us as well. We then present our Distinguished Alumni and Scholarship Awards. To hear what accomplishments our graduates have evidenced is truly awe inspiring. We then hear a presentation by our keynote speaker.

This year, a distinguished member of the Class of 1960, Mathy Mezey, who is nationally and internationally recognized, will present her thoughts about geriatric nursing, of which she is a specialist. She currently serves as the Director of the John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing at NYU. She has also served as a Trustee of Columbia University and now is a *Trustee Emerita*. She surely can help us to understand what life and medical care is all about for the older population.

A leisurely buffet lunch will follow where you can enjoy sitting with friends and classmates. Luncheon will be followed by the videotape of the Class of 1960 that includes dubbed in voice commentary from some of the classmates, done this year.

The day winds down with a wine and cheese and continued conversation and reminiscences. Bring pictures, memorabilia to share. We look forward to seeing you.

### PREPARING FOR THE THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

All alumni are being asked to nominate eligible candidates for the Distinguished Alumni Awards. These awards will be presented at our Annual Spring Alumni Meeting and Reunion, which will be held on April 23, 2010, at the New York Athletic Club in New York City. Alumni may nominate more than one candidate; self nominations are also welcomed.

Awards that are given to alumni include the following:

1. Award for a Distinguished Career in Nursing: to recognize and honor a nurse alumnus who has had a distinguished career in nursing and meets all the criteria in at least two or more of the following categories: Nursing Education, Nursing Practice, Nursing Administration, Nursing Research, Health Policy:

a. Award for Nursing Education: to recognize and honor a nurse alumnus who has exhibited excellence in nursing education and professional development.

b. Award for Nursing Practice: to recognize and honor a nurse alumnus who has exhibited excellence in nursing practice.

c. Award for Nursing Administration:

to recognize and honor a nurse alumnus who has exhibited excellence in nursing administration.

d. Award for Nursing Research: to recognize and honor a nurse alumnus who has exhibited excellence in nursing research.

e. Award for Health Policy: to recognize and honor a nurse alumnus who has exhibited excellence in health policy.

2. Neighbor's Award: to recognize and honor a nurse alumnus who has exhibited outstanding humanitarian service.

3. Memoriam for Life-Time Achievement: to recognize and honor a deceased nurse alumnus for life-time achievement in nursing.

An Honorary Award for Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association is provided to recognize an individual or organization.

Nonimation Forms are available on the website at <http://www.cuphsonaa.org/applications.html>. Nominations must be submitted by mail, e-mail, or FAX to the Alumni Association office by February 1, 2010.

# DID YOU KNOW???... WHERE OUR FUNDING COMES FROM

By Louise Malarkey

In 1905, the by-laws of the Presbyterian Hospital Training School for Nurses Alumni Association were published in The Quarterly Magazine. The object and purposes of the organization were to:

- 1) Promote a common fellowship among graduate nurses (alumni of the school)
- 2) Advance in every way the interests of all graduate nurses
- 3) Provide a benefit or loan fund for its members when ill or otherwise in need and to send them financial and other assistance
- 4) Secure a permanent home or clubhouse for its members to carry out the purposes of the organization.

Admission to membership in the alumni organization was open only to graduates of the school and was accompanied by a \$5.00 admission fee in 1905 and annual dues were \$3.00 per year per member. Not every graduate joined, but many did.

To carry out Association purposes, there had to be sufficient money in the bank so benefits could be paid from investment income only, but the principal was to be kept intact. So, where did the money come from? By 1910, that issue was in full discussion and fund-raising efforts were clearly under way.

Early patrons of the school donated monies help to get the Association's benefit funds started. Generous donors included Mr. John S. Kennedy, Mr. Edward S. Harkness and Mr. Frederick Sturgis. The nursing class of 1898 was also a contributor. Right from the beginning, many of these contributions were designated for sick benefits, pensions or to provide financial assistance to those graduate nurses in need.

These contributions, membership fees and dues were invested in stocks, bonds and some was placed in savings accounts. The interest and dividends began to accumulate. Alumni members also contributed from a very early time. In early fundraising efforts they sold pencils for 10 cents each, sponsored theater parties and began to hold annual fairs. (Do you remember participating as students in the annual fair? It was a tradition that lasted for

many, many years.) Another initiative was the introduction of "birthday boxes". The members could receive an empty box and add money to it throughout the year. The boxes were then collected and money turned in to the Association for the May 20th party that celebrated Florence Nightingale's birthday. The collections were done each year and raised considerable money to fund pensions.

The organization that is described here is known today as the Columbia University- Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc. It is interesting and reassuring to know that we continue to maintain the same purposes and goals as they were originally formulated in 1905. Although we do not own a clubhouse or permanent home, we do have a separate office that maintains the business and the communication network of the Association.

The original monies and donations of the early 1900s have been permanently restricted and they continue to generate interest, dividends and profits from sale of stocks and bonds. Additional income comes from member dues, contributions, legacies, and small fund-raising projects. All monies are invested and the profits from these investments are used to maintain the Association and help alumni. Over more than a century, our Association has donated generously to the school, and provided alumni scholarships, research grants, pension benefits and assistance to members in need. The "promotion of fellowship" is maintained through annual alumni reunions and the publications of newsletters and *The Alumni Magazine*.

Although the treasury is not really rich by today's standards, it has a solid financial base and is sustained by a strong core of active alumni members. We all can feel proud to belong to an Association that has an impressive heritage and unique history of helping fellow alumni.

Postscript by the Editor: You can help us save wasted dollars so that more alumni can benefit from our philanthropy. Be sure to advise us of our change of addresses and pay your dues promptly as the cost of sending reminders by first class mail is expensive. Thanks for your support and interest.

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