
❖ The Alumni Newsletter ❖

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

Volume 14 Issue 2

Fall 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Suzanne Law Hawes '59



Photo Credit: Lynn Saville, Columbia University School of Nursing

Sue Law Hawes '59, Midge Fleming '69, Mary Henderson '64, Dean Bobbie Berkowitz, Sally Stone '69, Sandra Johanson '64, Keville Frederickson '64

On September 1st the School of Nursing welcomed their new Dean, Bobbie Berkowitz, Professor Emerita from the University of Washington School of Nursing. A graduate of the University and Case Western Reserve University, she comes with impeccable credentials. To help celebrate her arrival we were very pleased to have attended her welcome reception in September. Several of our Board members attended as did alumni living in the area.

It was a most enjoyable evening with everyone socializing and renewing friendships and getting to know the Dean.

If you would like to view the event, the School has an internet link: <http://tinyurl.com/34xwkzk>. Another link brings you to the School's webpage <http://cumc.columbia.edu/dept/nursing> to review other events. Click on "Alumni Events" and then on to "Past Events."

Perhaps you have already received communiqués about the Dean's upcoming or recent activities moderating a panel discussion on the Future of Nursing and also sponsoring a reception for Dr. Suzanne Bakken who occupies the Alumni Chair and is Professor of Biomedical Informatics. She has been awarded a Pathfinder Award from the Friends of the National Institute of

Nursing Research. If you are in the area for these or future events and can attend, you would be showing support for the Dean as well as our unification efforts.

I will be meeting with Dean Berkowitz in November to discuss our mutual concerns and we are both interested in seeing a resolution to the division that has occurred.

As to other matters, you may be surprised that we now have a new home since we have been at our present Yonkers address for over twelve years. That location is now undergoing major redevelopment and our building will be closed by the end of the year making it necessary to relocate. Our new building is in a lovely part of Westchester County alongside a small river and convenient to all major highways and is a full service office building. See page three for our new address.

Please be sure you make a note of our new address information for future reference or check our website for those changes.

We are also pleased to learn that Marie West, Class of 1944, has willed the Association a substantial legacy. Her wishes and the generosity of our membership enable us to continue our primary mission.



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

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To obtain information about the
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website homepage:

www.cuphsonaa.org

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

ADA MUTCH at 105

"Hold courageously the passes which I entrust to you; do not betray them. You are in duty bound, and you may act heroically by remaining at your own battle station.

Love danger. What is most difficult? That is what I want! Which road should you take? The most craggy ascent! It is the one I also take; follow me! Learn to obey. Only he who obeys a rhythm superior to his own is free. Learn to command. Only he who can give commands may represent me here on earth.

Love responsibility. Say: "It is my duty, and mine alone, to save the earth."

Ada Mutch '36 - Symbol and Symbol Bearer ...of a Life Well Lived

Jessie Margaret Ada Mutch has been the symbol and symbol bearer for the words written above. She was born in Scotland on February 2, 1905. When she was just seven years of age she immigrated to America with her family. Her father, Reverend Andrew Mutch moved his family into the manse of the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

Anne Frank wrote, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." It wasn't just her father who focused on service to others. In 1918 the people of Bryn Mawr experienced a severe flu epidemic that took the lives of many in the community. The local hospital was unable to accommodate those who were ill so the old, closed Lancaster Inn was reopened as an emergency hospital. Thirteen year old Ada and her older sister started to improve their world volunteering as kitchen help preparing food and serving meals to the doctors, nurses and staff. The Mutch sisters prepared the visitors, dressing them in protective gowns and masks before they were permitted to see their ill family member. The young girls escorted the gowned visitors to the appropriate patient rooms. Amazingly, none of the Mutch family became ill with the flu.

Ada's interest in nursing took her to Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing, graduating in 1936. Following graduation she was employed as a head nurse and later as a faculty member while attending classes, graduating with her bachelors degree from Teachers College in 1941.

In World War II she enlisted to serve in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps earning the rank of lieutenant colonel. She distinguished herself in the European Theater of Operations. Upon her discharge from the Army Nurse Corps in 1946 she returned to CU-PH to pursue her career in nursing, along with her education, receiving a master's degree in 1948. She held a dual position as assistant director of nursing and assistant professor of nursing at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center.

In 1955 at the age of 50, Miss Mutch accepted a position as director of nursing and nursing education at Lankenau Hospital in Philadelphia affording her the opportunity to be near her aging parents. She provided 15 years of leadership and service to Lankenau Hospital. Even after her retirement from Lankenau Hospital in 1970, she

continued to give herself to others in service as a volunteer within the hospital and through the larger community.

Jessie Margaret Ada Mutch has been the recipient of numerous awards over her lifetime. She has been recognized for her contributions to health care through her nursing career and her volunteerism in community service.

Now at the age of 105 Miss Mutch finds her friends and the community she served are graciously giving back to her in similar ways. There is mutual appreciation for one another in this role reversal. Dr. Linda B. Mills Woolsey has said, "Live a generous life by living for something larger than yourself." Ada Mutch has been living that adage all her life.

All of us, as alumni of Columbia University – Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing can take great pride in Ada Mutch ... and others like her who have served as examples living lives of service through nursing careers and community participation. They are symbols and symbol bearers of lives well lived ... giving witness to what our alma mater has been committed to since its establishment in 1892.

Join us in recognizing and celebrating Ada Mutch's life of 105 years!

Vi Ruelke Gommer '60



Ada Mutch and her 100th birthday cake

WE HAVE MOVED!!!

Please note our change of address:



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Phone: (914) 481-5787

Fax: (914) 481-5788

The website is www.riverviewatpurchase.com

Our email and website addresses remain the same:

Email: admin@cuphsonaa.org

Website: www.cuphsonaa.org

Editor's note:

Ada Mutch was honored by this Association with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1987. Testimonials at that time refer to her as "clear thinking, dynamic, motivated, a doer, a role model and a lady. She is truly a "neighbor." She was a board member and chairperson for a variety of Pennsylvania organizations – Student Nurses Basketball League, her church, a pre-kindergarten program, tutoring, sending clothes overseas, working with physically handicapped, the elderly, foster home for girls and emotionally disturbed children. She drove for FISH, taking patients to doctors' appointments, was a blood bank volunteer, worked with the Medical Missionary Society and YWCA. One wonders where she found the time to do all of these humanitarian activities. NEF (Nurses Educational Fund) has established a scholarship in her name.

Did You Know? ? ?

While cleaning up our office in preparation for the move, we came across a volume of the *Early Days of Presbyterian Hospital* by D. Bryson Delavan MD who wrote about three outstanding women who helped the Hospital and the School of Nursing come alive prior to the arrival of Anna C. Maxwell.

Jane Woolsey was appointed Resident Directress when the hospital was built on 71st Street between Madison and the then 4th Avenue. Robert Lenox had purchased two parcels, one at \$6,429 and the other at \$500 and his son, James, donated the property called "Lenox Farm" to Presbyterian Hospital sometime after 1865. This territory was inhospitable to farming or other uses and nearby was a squatters' camp nestled in the rocky prominences. Later Frederick Law Olmstead was able to change the landscape into what we now know as Central Park. Also in the area was a menagerie that was later to be moved to the Bronx to become the zoo.



Jane Stuart Woolsey

Mr. Lenox was appalled when a physician told him of trying to have a person of color admitted to the existing New York City hospitals and found that he wouldn't be admitted. Given this mission and the assistance of Mr. Lenox, plans went forward to build a facility that would accept all people. Hence the plaque inside the main entrance –

“PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL FOR THE POOR OF NEW YORK WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, CREED OR COLOR. Supported by voluntary contributions.”

The property on 71st Street was so far away from anything that it took almost a day from downtown to reach it and staff had to depend upon the premises for their food, lodging and entertainment as the nearby saloons were too dangerous to patronize.

It was Jane Stuart Woolsey and her sister Alma who, after serving in the Civil War, came to the new hospital to establish the organizational structure and ongoing care of the buildings, supplies and services such as drugs, dietary, maintenance and staffing for those departments as well as finding and training women to be nurses to care for patients. These were formidable women who stood up to a physician that admitted an infectious disease patient, despite restrictions, and he was subsequently fired. Quite a feat for the pre-suffrage era!

Unfortunately, after these strong-minded women retired patient care deteriorated and it was only through the efforts of one Miss Rafferty that nursing care was done at all. Delavan writes of her efforts:

“But whatever may be said in favor of modern training, no nurse I have ever known excelled in skill, judgment, kindness and obedience the (sic) for many years head nurse and general guardian of the wards of Presbyterian Hospital, Miss Rafferty.”

Despite her administrative responsibilities, this nurse also took on the supervision of nurses training utilizing every opportunity to teach.

Realizing that her burdens were overwhelming, John S. Kennedy, the hospital president, took action, having heard of a young woman who had set up a training school for nurses at St. Luke's Hospital in the City. Anna C. Maxwell is highly acclaimed for bringing excellent nursing care to the Presbyterian Hospital in ensuing years and the rest is history.

We might wish to consider then, that excellence in nursing was not just the work of Anna Maxwell but three other devoted women who believed that the sick deserved good care. While men put up the bricks and mortar of Presbyterian Hospital it was these four women who forged standards of excellence in the care of the sick.

Dr. Delavan writes:

“Like Florence Nightingale and Miss Woolsey, she [Anna Maxwell] taught the spirit of universal kindness and consideration to all patients alike that refinement in the nurse is no less than efficiency.”

It is no wonder that Frederick Sturges coined the title “Neighbors” for all of us engaged in the care of the sick.

In Memoriam

- 1932 **Natalie BOOTH Lass**
May 23, 2010
- 1934 **Sarah BREWSTER Crawford**
July 1, 2010
- 1940 **Constance CRITES Prescott**
July 5, 2010
- 1941 **Florence GORDON Cantrell**
July 16, 2010
- 1941 **Ruth SHAFER Huntington**
July 26, 2010
- 1944 **Aino KARNA McDonald**
June 21, 2010
- 1944 **Rheba ROBINSON Kraft**
July 6, 2010
- 1946 **Edith BATCHELLER**
Hazlehurst Unknown
- 1949 **Mary WHITESELL Mogavero**
April 17, 2010
- 1960 **Burwell HILLSMAN Thomas**
July 30, 2010
- 1961 **Delores SAMILIN Oestreicher**
January 28, 2010
- 1971 **Sheila ACHESON**
October 7, 2009

1932

Natalie BOOTH Lass – Natalie passed away May 23, 2010 in Plantation FL at age 99. Natalie was a graduate of Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in New York City and served as a nurse with the Red Cross during World War II. In 1950 she moved to Poughkeepsie with her husband, Dr. Paul M. Lass. Natalie was active in many civic organizations including the Vassar Hospital Auxiliary, Women's City and Country Club and New England Women. She is survived by her daughter and two grandsons.

1934

Sarah BREWSTER Crawford passed away on July 1, 2010. "Sarah Louise was very proud of her education at Presbyterian Hospital. She was 100+ years old on her passing."

1944

Aino KARNA McDonald - Aino Caroline (Karna) McDonald died peacefully at the VA Hospital San Diego on Monday, June 21, 2010. She was a resident of Escondido CA for 38 years. While waiting to be 18 years old to go to nursing school, her mother suggested that she go to Barnard College in New York and she did for one year and then completed her studies and nursing training at Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in



1944 followed by service in the Navy Nurse Corps during WW II. Following discharge from the Navy, Aino married Donald P. McDonald. She graduated with both a bachelors and masters degree from Teachers College, Columbia. A school-nurse teacher for 24 years in Escondido as well as Portchester and Nyack NY. Often she gave the gift of nursing care to friends and family who needed a private duty nurse. Aino was one of the founders of ENACT (Escondido Neighbors against Chemical Toxins) and was instrumental in the clean up and closing of a toxic waste dump in Escondido by the EPA. She is survived by her daughters, Ann C. McDonald of Escondido, and Ida J. Raduc of Halifax, Mass, three granddaughters and one great-granddaughter. Another daughter, Laura B. McDonald, preceded her in death as did her husband.

Rheba ROBINSON Kraft died on July 6, 2010 from pneumonia; she was 88. She was born into a prominent Rhode Island family. Despite her mother's reservations she attended Barnard and was a '44 alumna of the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing – doing post-graduate work in pediatrics at the University of Michigan. In her middle years, she taught nursing at the Community College of Rhode Island where her exacting standards and tart wit earned her the nickname RHEBA THE AMOEBA. In the late '50s she married secondly violin prodigy and LIFE magazine photojournalist Victor Kraft who introduced her to the inner circle of Aaron Copland, Nadia Boulanger and Leonard Bernstein – plus the concert scene of Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and Tanglewood. She is survived by a son, Jeremy.

1960

Burwell HILLSMAN Thomas, age 72 of Wilmington, DE, died on July 30, 2010 after a short illness. She was born in Teaneck NJ, attended Wilson College and graduated from Columbia University with a BS degree in nursing. She was a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the honorary nursing society. Burwell worked as a nurse educator for most of her career, starting in New Haven CT as a nursing instructor. Following a move to Wilmington DE, she worked at Planned Parenthood, the University of Delaware College of Nursing, and at Wilmington Medical Center as a preparation for childbirth instructor. At the same time, she was a crisis intervention counselor and lactation specialist. Subsequently, she was a nurse and teacher at the Wilmington Friends School. She married Wilkin E. Thomas, Jr. and enjoyed the years they lived in Tokyo, Japan and traveling extensively in Asia Pacific and the world. A member of the Wilmington Country Club, Burwell was an avid golfer and on the golf committee for many years serving in numerous positions including president. She was also a

member of the Jamestown Society in recognition of her father's family as original settlers. Her husband, three children and seven grandchildren survive her.

1961

Dolores SAMILIN Oestreicher - Dolores died on January 28, 2010 from a massive stroke. She is survived by her husband, Lloyd four children; and four grandchildren. Dolores graduated from Barnard College in 1957 and Columbia University School of Nursing in 1961. She also obtained her masters degree in Counseling in 1981 from Southern Connecticut State University. Dolores worked at Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville, New York, and served as a visiting nurse and school nurse for the City of New York after graduating from nursing school. She later worked in Danbury Hospital from 1973 until her retirement in 2005. Dolores was the psychiatric nurse clinician on the crisis intervention unit. She also volunteered her time after retirement working in the emergency room several nights a week. She will be receiving a Nightingale tribute, a tribute to registered/licensed nurses for many years of service, and she was entered into the Connecticut Nurses Association Honor Roll at the state convention in November 2009.

CORRECTION

The 2010 Alumni Magazine incorrectly attributed Rosanna Forman Hess's note to another alumnus. The note is reproduced here in its entirety:

“Rosanna FORMAN Hess has had several journal articles published, including: Hess, Weinland, Salinger (2010). “Knowledge of female genital cutting and experience with women who are circumcised: A survey of Nurse-Midwives in the United States.” Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health, 55(1), 46-54, Hess (2009). “Healing After Abortion. A search for forgiveness.” Journal of Christian Nursing, 26(3), 154-158. Rosanna is also the Founder and President of Research for Health since 2005: www.research-forhealth.org. “

WE GET LETTERS

A recent scholarship recipient wrote:

To the members of CUPHSONAA, Inc:

“Thank you for recognizing me at the Annual meeting and Reunion. I am honored to have been selected as a Scholarship recipient and was delighted to meet some of you that made that possible.

I would like to take this time to thank each of you for your generous support and ongoing efforts to aid students like myself. You have not only assisted me in the pursuit of my dreams but have also inspired me to one day give back as each of you have done.

Indeed I believe that success is the result of collective effort; and our scholarships will be of immense assistance to me as I embark on the journey to become a family nurse practitioner.”

And a stipend recipient writes:

To one and all

When the check arrived yesterday, it meant more than the usual “Thank God,” It means that you have generously renewed my pension for another year. It will be meted out even more judiciously than before.

I thank you, sincerely”

An alumnus wrote that, due to deteriorating vision, she had her husband read the entire issue of the Alumni Magazine and thought it was an excellent edition.

And Margaret Gunn Kane '41 wrote:

I beat Carol Heeks Brice '59, the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award Winner, to Alaska by a number of years. After Henry Street Nursing Service and Maternity Center, I went to Alaska under the then Alaska Native Service and worked on Kodiak Island with the Aleuts. Alaska was rather different in 1947-1950 – much T.B. among the natives.

At the age of 87 I had a Kayaking trip in Iceland. Now 96, I'm a homebody with my husband of 56 years – on my ancestral home of Skiff Mountain in Kent, Connecticut. We have one daughter who is a veterinarian for large and small animals with a busy practice.

We have deer, coyotes, an occasional wandering moose and lately panthers. And there are always black bears as people insist on bird feeders.

Between Alaska and home I worked in Public Health on Long Island.

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Since 1892

Reunion 2011

CHANGE IN REUNION DATE

The date has been moved from April 22 to

April 29, 2011

due to the Easter weekend.

We will host our 118th reunion

at the New York Athletic Club at that time.

THE NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB
180 Central Park South, New York, New York