



THE ALUMNI CONNECTION

Alumni Happenings

By Vicki Clements, President

The Alumni Association is hoping to publish an updated *History of the Reading Hospital School of Nursing* this year. It has been several decades since the history was updated and our committee of volunteers has spent many hours gathering information and compiling it to add the recent years to the old booklet. The committee consisted of Sue Arnott, Carol Ann Ottey, and Barbara Steslow. As a committee they have spent many hours writing and researching information for the history. Also, thanks to Lorna Ramsey, Debbie Rahn, and Debbie Williamson who provided information, facts, dates, and photos to the committee. In 2014 the School of Nursing will celebrate its 125th year. Our history will help to emphasize the changes needed to continue to maintain an excellent nursing program. Nursing Education has changed tremendously. Students practice skills on animated mannequins. Lectures are done with computers and students answer questions with clickers, so instructors know immediately what has been learned. Graduates of the Reading Hospital Nursing Program should be proud of their education as it continues to be an excellent nursing program.

MEETINGS

The RHSN Auditorium

April 23, 2013 at 6:30 PM
"Cultural Competence in Nursing".

Theresa Adams, PhD, RN
1 Contact Hour will be awarded

May 21, 2013 at 6:30 PM
"Simulation in Nursing Education"

Robyne Eisenhauer, PhD, RN
1 Contact Hour will be awarded

June 11, 2013 at 5:30 PM
Annual Reunion Dinner at
The Inn at Reading

Second Level Student Nurses Win Third Place in Student Nurse Challenge

By Carol Ann Ottey MSN, RN

Six second level student nurses from the day tract program successfully competed in the Second Annual Student Nurse Challenge held this year at DeSales University on March 15, 2013. The group, spearheaded by Alicia Becker (vice president of the Reading Hospital Student Nurse Association) earned a third place award for correctly answering questions just like the questions that could be on their upcoming NCLEX examination. Samantha Cremi, Shelby Hetrick, Sarah Angstadt, Danielle Kohler and Alexa Menapace made up the team and participated in what they called the "NCLEX BOWL." Registered nurses from days gone by will recall similar test questions back in the days of "State Boards." Some of the responses our student participants made regarding this experience include "Our team was the only team to get a Select All That Apply question correct." We felt "it was a great experience" and "we all worked wonderfully as a team and we surprised ourselves with how much application and recalling we did to answer the questions." These student nurses have set a goal for a first place award for the upcoming class of students to earn next year. Way to go to the participating members of the Class of 2013.



Reinstated Members

Susan Raber Ofrichter 1972
Carrie Corbett Moyer 2010
Lori Guido Shoumlisky 2004

Paid Life Members

Brian E. Thomas 2010
Jeanne Edwards Lanser 1976
Martha Lykens Delon 1950
Beverly Wanner Herbein 1982

Nightingale Member

Nancy Kauffman Abt 1968

Deaths

Dorothy Weiss Collier 1931
Died in 2010
Helen Louise Motter Thwing
1935 Died in 2007
Eleanor Jeffries Texter 1936
Kathleen Burtner Weinerth
1937
Sara Beamsderfer Shea 1939
Virginia Ohlinger Atkinson
1941
Phyllis Wenger Carr 1945
Elizabeth Roberts Nelson*
1949

Deaths Cont.

Ella Tellam Reuther 1949
Joan Boyle Kochinsky 1954
Laura Banyai Ziegler* 1954
Georgene Zerby Pahl 1955
Ruth Hafer Ebling 1956
Anna Zimmerman Wenger,
PHD* 1958
Dorothy Shirey Kracht 1958
Died 9/13/2011
Patricia Kubilus Plasko 1958
Died 3/24/2012
Dorothy Slachter Dembrosky*
1958 Died 9/20/2011
Carol Rathje Umphrey* 1966
Eloise Smith Bricker* 1966
Barbara Snyder Freethy 1968
Mary Blasko Bazar 1969
Denise Kline Maharg* 1973
Margaret Lockner Stone Innis
1975
Heidi Specht Hawk* 1980
Elizabeth Lynch Miller 1986

* Denotes is not a member of Alumni. A memorial donation was made to the scholarship fund in honor of deceased Alumni members.

Contributions to The Alumni General Fund

Class of 1940

Jane Reider Terry

Class of 1947

Betty Fritz Bankes

Class of 1951

Lois Miller Persing

*Memory of classmates
Class of 1951*

Eleanor O. Dower

Class of 1952

Shirley Schwalm Howe

Memory of Gloria Stengel

Gosch

Class of 1953

Helen Skrha Serafino

*Memory of Audrey Hudson
Falbo and Lillian Hartman Lutz
McCue*

Class of 1958

Rita Mainguth Royer

Class of 1959

Barbara Walters Caltagirone

Sandra Haag Bond

Class of 1960

Elizabeth DeFrehn Barnette

Class of 1963

Louise Harting Olmstead

Rochelle Renninger Boyle

Class of 1967

Kay Dalrymple Bukowski

Ellie Gogliuzza Kercher

Arlene Weaver Wiens

*Memory of Virginia Shugar
Hinrichs*

Send All Correspondence
To: Alumni Association of TRHSN, POB 6248, Wyomissing, PA 19610

**Contributions to
The Alumni General Fund
Cont.**

Class of 1968

Karen A. Krick
Geraldine R. Essick
Harriet Pyshnik Layton
Sandra Zimmerman Leiby
Memory of Linda Hill Hull '68

Class of 1971

Sharon Wade Lutz
Honor of Friends from 1971

Class of 1972

Karen Pautsch Bugg
*Memory of mother, Arline
Schey Pautsch 1951*

Dr. and Mrs. George Kershner
*Memory of Eleanor Jeffries
Texter*

**Donations to BCCF
Graduate Scholarship Fund**

Donna K. Bowman 1970

Rebecca L. Pontius 1970

Jane Steiner 1951

Observational Medicine Team of
RHMC

*Memory of Eleanor Jeffries
Texter 1934*

**Donations to BCCF
Nursing Program**

*In Memory of Emily Kulp Lin-
denmuth 1962 & Grace Dougherty
Faith 1962*

Class of 1962

*In Memory of Eleanor Jeffries
Texter 1934*

Observational Medicine Team of
RHMC

**Donations to BCCF
Nursing Program**

Donna Campbell Miller 1969

Jane Steiner 1951

Sandra Haag Bond 1959

*In Honor of Betty Lou Boger-
Plano 1965*

Theresa Mazzaro

*In Memory of Kathryn
Romanisko Bitler 1944*

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence E. Reber
Women's Health Center at the
Reading Hospital
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Huddle-
ston Jr.
Judith Bitler

*In Memory of Dorothy Reed
Krause 1960*

Class of 1960

*In Memory of Fern A. Hoffman
1944*

Mr. & Mrs. George E. Ar-
good
Dr. & Mrs. George H. Kersh-
ner

*In Memory of Nancy Burk Pres-
ton*

Class of 1961

*In Memory of Deceased Class-
mates 1940*

Geraldine A. Houp 1940

*In Memory of Mary Wagner
1922*

Suzanne E. Stahl

*In Memory of Deceased Class-
mates 1967*

Class of 1967

*In Memory of Mary Blasko Ba-
zar 1969*

Susan J. Kramer 1971

Recent Acquisitions

Fern Hoffman Class of 1944
Cape and Nursing cap

Sandra Staudt Yost Class of
1966 Scrub dress and head
covering worn in nursery and re-
covery room in the 1960's

Joanne Rohrbach Wilkins
Class of 1963 Graduation and
capping ceremony invitations and
memorabilia

Barbara Henry Steslow Class
of 1957 RHSN yearbooks

Carol Kerstetter Class of 1967
Collection of RH "Around the
Clocks"

Kaaren Boyer Orquiza Class of
1963 Medical equipment and
instruments

Please remember the Alumni Center
when disposing of treasures pertain-
ing to your days at RHSN. We will be
happy to have them in our archives.
We have an ample supply of nursing
capes but all uniforms are being ac-
cepted.

Doors Locked

Due to safety reasons,
the back doors to the School
are now locked at all times. To
enter the School the front door
must be used, so visitors can
register. Alumni members try-
ing to access the building dur-
ing the day will need to follow
this procedure. For Alumni
meetings, we will try to post
someone at the back doors a
half hour before the meeting
starts. This person will be in-
side the doors, but can open
the doors for you to enter
through the back doors. So we
now need a Greeter to stand
inside the door and open it for
others. Please let me know if
you are willing to be a greeter
for the Alumni. By Vicki Clements

Correspondence

Mary Blasko Bazar class of 1969 died suddenly in May 2012. She worked Monday and Tuesday, admitted to the hospital on Wednesday and died on Friday. She worked at Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield as a medical information researcher and was an analyst. She earned a BS in Nursing from Alfred University and then an MS in Psychiatric Liaison Nursing at the University of Rochester. She loved working with people. She is survived by her husband Andy Bazar at 2783 Scottsville Road, Scottsville, NY 14546.

The family of **Phyllis Wenger Carr class of 1945** sadly announces that Phyllis-originally of Lebanon, PA- and beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother passed away unexpectedly on Monday, November 19, 2012 in Lowell, Massachusetts at the age of 88. Phyllis had spent the past 46 years living in Massachusetts. Her husband, George Carr survives her. Condolences may be sent to George at 199 Chelmsford, MA 01824.

Wendy Lynn Rotkiske Landis class of 2011 started working full time third shift with TRHMC on a Med-Surg floor. In Sept. 2012 she started a new dayshift position on a Cardiac floor to expand her telemetry skills. As a RN II she has made many new friends with fellow employees and patients she has cared for.

News from Class of 1961.

At the 50th reunion, the class decided to hold an annual mini reunion. This year we had 15 members attend the mini reunion held at the Stockyard restaurant in Lancaster, on Oct. 3 2012. A fun time was had by all. A decision was made to continue to memorialize any classmate who passes on. We have been doing this for 51 years. The next mini reunion will be held Oct. 2, 2013 in Reading time & place to be announced later. Sally Miller

Beth Snyder Hufford class of 2005 graduated with her BSN from Alvernia University in August 2012. She received the Honor Society of Nursing Award.

Joanne Snyder Taylor class of 2009 received her BSN from Kutztown University in May 2012 and her Cardiovascular Certification in Nov. 2012.

Beverly Wanner Herbein class of 1982 graduated Summa cum Laude with a BSN from Alvernia University in Dec. 2012.

Class of 1958 announces that they will have their 55th reunion August 18th, 2013 at VIVA, Park Road, Wyomissing. Contact Julianne Pahl Arnold at 610-678-1625 or SUNJULI@comcast.net for information.



Alumni Center Update

The Alumni Center Committee has had a very busy winter. After getting information from the Berks County Historical Society as to how best to conserve and document the items in our collection and the assistance of Jason Rhode to set up a data base to record each item in the Alumni Center collection, we dug in and got to work. We have many interesting and cherished items which were in need of proper care before left to deteriorate.

We started by sorting books, pictures, newspaper clippings, graduation memorabilia, uniforms, caps, pins, medical equipment and instruments, historic letters, Alumni records and much more. Every item in our collection will have an identifying number as to description and where the item is located. Most are in, or will be in, acid free sleeves and folders stored in acid free boxes or albums.

Hundreds of newspaper clippings were copied (originals deteriorate) and arranged by decades in albums by Marianne Russ Weiser, the "scrapbook queen".

As of now there are over 850 database entries thanks to Sue Reiber who manned the keyboard while the rest of the worker bees fed her the information. The committee has spent over 300 hours to date with all related activities. Our last big hurdle is to take care of the hundreds of photos in our possession. Plans are to scan the pictures to the database, identify, sort and conserve as necessary.

Yes, it has been work but the rekindling of many memories made each day an adventure. Now we will better be able to share these memories with all of you. All this will be put to good use when we celebrate the 125th anniversary of TRHSN in 2014.

We are still in need of memorabilia you may care to donate. We especially need casual photos of nursing school life since the 1980's. We will greatly appreciate that any pictures be identified with names and dates. We also are missing a 1954 yearbook and any yearbooks after 1987. Any baccalaureate, graduation invitations or programs will be greatly appreciated.

Alumni Center cont.

Class of 1967 Holds Reunion

So keep the Alumni Center in mind when doing your spring cleaning. Unfortunately we cannot accept any more nursing capes due to space constraints. Uniforms and caps are always welcomed.

We would be delighted to add your name to the list of worker bees. Don't be shy.

Gloria Trough Meek '63', Chairman
Carol Kerstetter '67'
Carolyn Nichols Lee '64'
Nadine Weiser Moran '85'
Kaaren Boyer Orquiza '63'
Suzanne Scheffey Reiber '67'
Marianna Russ Weiser '62'
Cecie Shrom Weller '63'

In October 2012, 41 members of the class of 1967 gathered for a luncheon reunion at Reading Country Club. Earlier in the day many classmates met at the School of Health Sciences for a tour and discussion of what nursing education is like today. This tour was presented by Debbie Rahn, RN, MSN, Director of the School. Many of us were amazed at the changes in cost, education, and in the facility that current education takes place. What a difference from our classrooms in G Building to this new environment! I think we all agreed that while today's students get a good education, it cannot compare to our experiences of forty-five years ago. We are most grateful for the great education and experience we received during our three years in the school.

Before lunch we talked a lot and renewed acquaintances. Unfortunately we lost track of several class members, and ten others have died since graduation. We were lucky enough to find some members who had not communicated with us for many years, but also lost some others. Modern communication methods have made it possible to hear from members who live all over the country. Several members who were unable to attend this year expressed that they are looking forward to our 50th reunion in 2017. The committee also hopes that reunion will be a spectacular one.

Birthday Milestones

Eleanor Jeffries Texter, Class of 1934, celebrated her 100th birthday on September 9, 2012.

Representatives from the Alumni Association visited Eleanor the week of her birthday at her residence at Berks Heim Nursing Center where she was enjoying activities in a sunny cheerful day-room. She spoke about her days working as the Assistant Head Nurse in the Emergency Room at The Reading Hospital and her devoted family who visits her several times a week. She was looking forward to the party planned for her by her family and was expecting about 30 family members to attend. She was thankful to be pain free and to be well taken care of. She attributed her long life to no smoking or drinking alcohol and trusting in the Lord. The Alumni Association presenting her with roses to celebrate the event and cards signed by those attending the Annual June Dinner.

Eleanor's nursing career included working for local physicians, including Drs. Earl Loder, Clem Shemanski and Philip Weist. She also did private duty, worked in the emergency department at Reading hospital from 1958-1963 and at the former Caum Home and in the Topton Lutheran Home before retiring. She was a Sunday School pianist, choir member and soloist for many years at the former United Methodist Church in Reading.

Sadly Eleanor passed away on November 12, 2012. She is survived by sons W. Lee Texter, Dr David Texter, 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Aline Fegley Berberian, Class of 1933, celebrated her 100th birthday on October 26, 2012.

Members of the Alumni Association also visited Aline in her room at Homestead Village in Lancaster, delivered roses and the birthday cards signed by alumni members at the Annual June dinner, a few days before her actual birthday

She had just returned from having her hair styled. She is able to walk around her room and takes great pride in making her bed in a very exact manner. She was happy to have visitors and was looking forward to visits from her sons who live in the area. The nursing staff informed us that there were to be two parties in her honor. She spoke of growing up and living in Boyertown before relocating to Lancaster.

Aline's nursing career included being a staff nurse at Pottstown Hospital and 25 years as an industrial nurse at Wagner Division of Cooper Industries in Boyertown.

**Ruth Clawser Gebhart Barley, Class of 1969
Nurse and Musician**

I played the bassoon at Palmyra High School, Lebanon County, PA in the band from 9th grade to 12th grade. August 1966 I started my 3 year education in the Reading Hospital School of Nursing. In my second year at RHSN I joined the Reading Philharmonic Orchestra until graduation in 1969. Spring of 1970 while living in Wyomissing at the Delta Apartments and working on A-3 orthopedics with Mrs. Wiswesser I started to rehearse and perform with the Hershey Symphony Orchestra as my family lived nearby in Campbelltown, Lebanon County. I have been active with the Hershey Symphony since then only missing a few concerts when my 2 children were born and as young babies. They are 36 and 40 years old now.

I always say Music has helped me keep my Sanity. In the medical world one needs an outlet release from the stress of responsibility, physical work, and emotional strain. Music is my passion.

With the Hershey Symphony I have performed on stage in the beautiful Hershey Theatre many times over the years. I organized the Keynote Woodwind Quintet (flute, oboe, clarinet, french horn, bassoon). This quintet actually participated in the celebration for The Reading Hospital and Medical Center's 125th year in 1992. I performed in Paris, France in 1995 with the VA- National Medical Musical Group which has recently changed its name to Medical Musical Group (MMG). Its home base is Washington DC. It performs for Flag Day in June and Veterans Day in November each year. I have performed with the MMG 8 times over the years, twice in the Kennedy Center in Washington DC. This November I will travel with the MMG to perform in Toronto, Canada. I also traveled to Vienna, Austria in 1998 with the Elizabethtown College Chorus.

Locally I freelance when requested in areas of Annville, Palmyra, Lancaster, York, Harrisburg and Delaware County, PA. Presently I perform with Principally Winds (flute, oboe, bassoon) and continue with the Hershey Symphony (in my 40th year). I do not have any college level music education. I have sat next to and with musicians who have BS, Masters, and Doctorate level education and can "carry my own" in my opinion. (laughing).

Of the 40 years as an active Registered Nurse 1969 to 2009, the last 30 years I worked at the Lebanon VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Lebanon, PA in the Intensive Care Unit as a staff nurse. I always looked forward to Thursday evening Hershey Symphony rehearsals even though work was a tough shift that day. Many great friendships have been made in music over the decades.

We need your news to make this a NEWSLETTER!

Share the news about marriages, births, new positions, promotions, retirements, class reunions, special interest groups, hobbies and other items of interest to: Editor, The Alumni Connection, Box 6248, Wyomissing, PA 19610 OR you may e-mail the Editor at v.clements@comcast.net Please Note: news/articles may be edited for space and content

Make the Connection

NAME (First) _____ **(Maiden)** _____ **(Last)** _____

Name at Graduation _____ **Class of** _____

Mailing Address

News:

Please attach additional paper for your announcement if needed.

PLEASE SAVE THESE FORMS AND USE THEM FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE AND OURS

RHSN SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Please accept my donation of \$ _____ to be used as follows:

My donation is In Honor Of, In Memory Of,

Other _____

(name of honored person or institution)

Please make check payable to: Berks County Community Foundation, 237 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601

Donor Name (first, maiden, last) _____ Class _____

Address: _____

Phone(____) _____

Please acknowledge my donation to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

You have my permission to print the above information (____) YES (____) NO Amounts will not be published.

The official registration and financial information of Berks County Community Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS

Please accept my donation of \$ _____ which is ____ In Honor of ____ In Memory of _____.

Make check payable to: The Alumni Assn. RHSN, P.O. Box 6248, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Donor Name (first, maiden, last) _____ Class _____

Address: _____ Phone _____

Acknowledge the Donation to: Name _____

Address _____

You have my permission to print the above information (____) YES (____) NO Amounts will not be published.

PAID LIFE MEMBERSHIP

I am currently a member and want to become a paid life member.

NAME (first, maiden, last) _____ Class _____

Address: _____

Please make check for \$300 payable to: The Alumni Association RHSN, Box 6248, Wyomissing, PA 19610

During your lifetime the fee will be invested. Interest earned will be used for operating expenses, thereafter the entire fee will be transferred to the General fund.

NIGHTINGALE MEMBERSHIP

I am currently a life member and want to become a Nightingale Member

NAME (first, maiden, last) _____ Class _____

Address: _____

Please make check for \$200 payable to: The Alumni Association RHSN, Box 6248, Wyomissing,

PA Law request us to inform you that "a copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free, within PA, 800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement."

**The Alumni Association of the
Reading Hospital School of Nursing**
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Wyomissing, PA 19610
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**June Reunion and Scholarship Award
Dinner**

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

The Inn at Reading

Honored Guests: Class of 1963



To make sure that you get your newsletter as timely as possible notify the Association of any changes.

MAIL THAT IS POSTED USING A BULK RATE PERMIT CAN NOT BE FORWARDED BY THE POST OFFICE.

The Association is charged first class postage for each piece of bulk mail returned.

Deadline for articles to be printed in the Fall 2013 Issue is July 15, 2013

Remember to include your year & name upon graduation.

Send items of interest to:

Editor, Alumni Connection, POB 6248, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Or

You may e-mail the Editor at v.clements@comcast.net