

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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To obtain information about the Association's activities go to our website homepage:
www.cuphsonaa.org

- membership
- pensions
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We Have *Moved*



We have had to relocate our offices again. Please make a notation in your address book for future reference.

Our new location is:

480 Mamaroneck Avenue, Harrison NY 10528.

Phone numbers, fax and e-mail remain the same.

Reunion 2012

On September 23rd the joint planning committee for the 2012 reunion met in the School of Nursing. Representatives from both alumni associations were present and worked hard to meld the two programs into a workable plan for the gathering on Friday, May 4th, 2012. We were successful and are trying to make that day a 're-union' that all will enjoy. While many details remain to be worked through, the day will be extended and perhaps will include an optional dinner following the day's activities. We will give an update in our Spring *Newsletter* and *The Academic Nurse* will also carry information about these plans. An invitation with full details will mail out early in 2012. Classmates will be contacting those alumni in Milestone Years to encourage your participation. All are invited to enjoy this festive day.

Anna C.
Maxwell



The portrait of Anna C. Maxwell that our Association had restored now hangs in the executive administration wing of Presbyterian Hospital. We are pleased that the woman who was so fundamental to our beginnings as a school and believed in excellence in patient care has her rightful place in this hall of eminent people.

COSTS OF TODAY'S NURSING EDUCATION

A recent CUPHSONAA scholarship awardee was asked if she would recount the indebtedness she has incurred as a student in the BS-MS program at Columbia. The costs and the debt that she incurred are overwhelming. Please remember that all students must have a bachelor's degree prior to admission now so whatever loans were taken to complete the bachelor's degree program must be added to the nursing degree costs. We also should know what today's students are facing in order to pursue their nursing careers. If you are able to help out, please contribute to our scholarship program or that of the School of Nursing. Many of you went to school when the tuition was under \$1000 for all three years but that is ancient history now.

CORRECTION

The recent dues notice carried a message from our Treasurer, Louise Malarkey that was not intended for this edition. This year's dues letter should read:

June 24, 2011

Dear "Neighbors,"

Shortly after the establishment of the School of Nursing, Anna Maxwell encouraged graduates to form an association that would help fellow alumnae who became sick, in need, or retired without benefit of pension or sufficient financial support. Alumni and benefactors responded and our association was established so many years ago. As society and nursing evolved, Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association responded by adding two important additional goals - to provide for nursing scholarships and support of nursing research.

Thus, for more than a century, active members of our Association have provided financial assistance to qualified applicants through the payment of dues, contributions, and legacies from estates. These monies have been used modestly and nurtured wisely as every dollar is important. Costs, however, continue to rise. Nursing education is expensive and we have elderly members who struggle with illness and reduced finances. As a not-for-profit organization, we distribute more than \$100,000 annually to qualified members who have these needs.

The Neighbors Honor Roll in the Summer 2011 issue of The Alumni Magazine, shows that so many of you responded last year with contributions and expressions of support. We are humbled by your generosity and positive comments.

Today, I encourage you to pay your dues and be an active member participating in helping fellow alumni in meaningful ways. If you also can make an additional contribution, the money will be deeply appreciated and used carefully. In today's world, active, dues-paying members are essential to maintain the existence of this Association. Join us in fellowship and in meeting the goals and purposes of this meaningful organization.

Most respectfully,

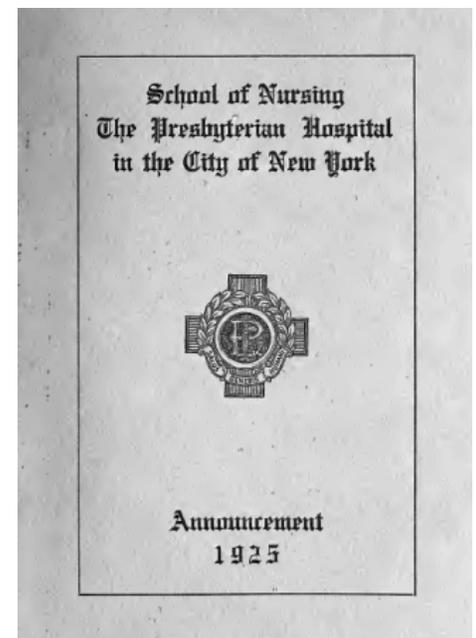
Louise M. Malarkey

Louise M. Malarkey '62, *Treasurer*

CUPH Catalogs

School of Nursing announcements (catalogs) from the year you applied for admission are available on the website: [http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=presbyterian hospital school of nursing](http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=presbyterian+hospital+school+of+nursing)

Look for your class year with the listing of the faculty who taught various subjects, the costs, the application process (as if you could ever forget!) and the program of instruction. They are fun to read and help you to recollect your years at the School. They are available from 1916-17 through 2002 with 1960-61 missing.



A return to yesteryear

See PH graduates on holiday

The George Eastman House has a collection of pictures of early PH:

http://www.geh.org/ar/strip45/htmlsrc/fisher_sum00001.html

Forty-five strips by Irving C. Fischer and Osa and Martin Johnson include photos of early PH and the nurses that are part of our heritage. The first 30 or so are pictures dating from the early 1900's. Johnsons' later ones were of travel and elsewhere of which they were famous. Why they are linked with Irving C. Fischer, the first superintendent of PH is not known. Please visit the site and see for yourself.

WHY A CAP?

Taken from Medscape.com in an article by Laura Stokowski RN, MS with a submission by Rebecca Large RN

Why a Nurse's Cap?

In 1940, an anonymous nurse historian pondered the purpose of the nurse's cap:

Why a cap? For keeping the hair in place? As an identifying mark? Or was it merely to serve some other non-utilitarian purpose? The answer is buried in the deep shadows of the past. No one has ever discovered the true origin of the cap. [2]

Around the time that nursing became an honorable calling for which one was formally trained, rather than a loathsome occupation suitable only for unsavory and fallen women, it was perfectly natural for nurses to wear caps. In fact, all women wore head coverings indoors and when going out; no respectable women would go hatless.

The practice of wearing caps may have been influenced by religion. At the earliest schools of nursing in Paris and Germany, student caps were similar to the veils that accompanied the habits worn by the nuns who ran these schools. In her 1920 Short History of Nursing, Lavinia Dock wrote that the nurse's cap was "a perpetual reminder of St. Paul's strange injunction that women must cover their heads or be shorn." [3]

Nurses continued to wear caps after it was no longer customary for women in general to do so. When Florence Nightingale, credited with being the founder of modern nursing, organized nurses to go to Scutari during the Crimean War in 1854 to care for sick and wounded soldiers, she required the women to wear a uniform and special nurse's cap, to the consternation of some recruits. Rebecca Lodge, Collections Manager of the Florence Nightingale Museum in London, England, tells of a nurse named Rebecca Lawfield, who complained bitterly to Miss Nightingale about having to wear a cap.

"I came out, Ma'am, prepared to submit to everything ... but there are some things, Ma'am, one can't submit to ... and if I'd known, Ma'am, about the caps, great as was my desire to come out to nurse at Scutari, I wouldn't have come."

After the Crimean War the Nightingale Training School was set up at St. Thomas' Hospital, which also imposed a strict uniform on its nurses. Probationers were required to wear a short, square-looking cap that Miss Nightingale almost certainly helped to design. Florence never worked as a nurse at the hospital. Popular images of Miss Nightingale suggest that she always wore a head covering, but not a nurse's cap. (Rebecca Lodge, personal communication, March 20, 2011)

From the Benefit Department

An alumni living on about \$13,000 a year recently sent a \$20 contribution because we helped her with the monthly stipend.

Letter from a pensioner was also received:

The July Pension fund check is always "extra important," because it signals the start of another year, of your important help.

Thank you, as always, your inference, as how I will live my nineteenth year, will make a difference.

Sincerely
Mary Campbell Brewster
45

I read every word of the anniversary magazine.

Distinguished Alumni Award nominations wanted

As you know, we depend upon each one of you to identify classmates and friends, your "Neighbors," to help honor those who have made significant contributions to nursing and society. With a joint reunion, we are going to continue this valued part of the day. Please go to our webpage www.cuphsonaa.org for criteria as well as nomination forms. You may send it to either Sarah Monrraga at the CUSONAA at sm3098@columbia.edu (212-305-3742) or call us at CUPHSONAA, Inc. (914-481-5787) to discuss your nominee.

CLASS NEWS

**Alumni Notes deleted in online publications
to protect the privacy of the alumni.**

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In the mail

Lee Horsman, '72, '81 learned of **JANE McCONVILLE's** death and wrote the following:

It is with honor, profound respect, and deep gratitude that I remember Jane McConville whose dedication to pediatric health care and excellence of nursing practice mentored and inspired my own practice and became a beacon of inspiration throughout my career.

Jane was my nurse supervisor at Babies Hospital when I filled the brand new position of chemotherapy nurse back in 1977-1979. It was part of her insight and creative vision that this specialty be created, a significant advance in providing safe and supportive care to the children with cancer. I was the first to fill that position, nearly a new graduate with an intimidating responsibility, yet Jane's steadying guidance and her unflagging belief both in the value of the position as well as in my being a match for it made its success possible.



When one of the children, a four year old boy from Newburgh NY, became terminally ill his parents wanted him to die in their home surrounded with his siblings. They asked Jane if she would allow me to go home with them for as many days as it would take for their son to die to support them and the family. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross was becoming popular in those days but CPMC had nothing at the time regarding hospice care let alone home-hospice pediatric nursing care. Jane was enthusiastically obliging and made all of the necessary arrangements to send me into the home setting for a 24-hour/day, six day experience of learning and loving. Having at heart the passionate and compassionate desire to meet the simple as well as the extraordinary needs of children and their families, Jane wielded her professional authority, often implementing the spirit of the law over the letter, with grace and tact - and effervescent humor - and brought about novel and effective pathways to providing excellence of care in groundbreaking ways.

When another Babies Hospital patient died (Jamie Schuman; her death is featured in Chapter 2 in Elizabeth Kubler-Ross' book, *To Live Until We Say Goobye*), her mother was invited by Elizabeth to come to California to attend one of her four day Death-Dying-and-Transition workshops and added, "Bring Lee." Jane again gave me special time off to go with Jamie's mother, Linda, to the workshop, and at that workshop (which appears in Elizabeth's book *Working It Through*) I met Vipassana meditation teacher/author/poet Stephen Levine whose work with death and dying on death rows, hospitals, and in many other settings has become legendary. Stephen had not worked with dying children and their families and asked if I might be able to arrange for him to spend some time on the floors of Babies Hospital the next time he would come to New York to teach. Through Jane

again, access to the children and families was granted to this spectacularly gifted teacher who, although famous for his work in the field of death and dying, had no medically 'acceptable' credentials. He did come, however, and spent three days visiting the terminally ill children and their families at Babies Hospital. Some of the profoundly transformative experiences of the families appear in Chapter 9 of his benchmark work, *Who Dies?* The ripple effect of each of these 'gifts' from Jane, her sensitivity, her open-hearted creativity accompanying her professionalism has had profound effects on people beyond our counting. In my remembrance of Jane as a loving, dedicated, selfless worker, perhaps she never sought to know how much healing she promoted in a world of such great suffering nor how much her gifted, beaming self inspired and mentored decades of nurses in training and professional practice. But I will add my own undying gratitude, respect, and love to what surely is a very long list of those who benefited from Jane's many gifts and continue to do so today.

In Memoriam

1933	Marie PERASS Alter	January 14, 2011
1933	Florence BURDICK Haring	April 1, 2011
1937	Elisabeth SCHAFFER Lapham	May 5, 2011
1945	Jane HELWIG Hoffman	June 26, 2011
1947	Patricia COBURN Fithian	unknown
1947	Janet WITHERS Lilly	April 2, 2011
1947	Joan MCDERMOTT McKenna	May 26, 2011
1947	Andree Lorraine POWELL	August 3, 2010
1951	Grace CLAIN Dougherty	December, 2010
1952	Elizabeth WOMELDORF Hamilton	September 30, 2010
1954	Joanne LITTLE Felton	February 8, 2011
1955	Jane RUSSELL Stoneman	January 31, 2011
1955	Patricia O'HORA Hart	July 29, 2011
1956	Alice (Miriam) PAUL Fountain	March 4, 2011
1960	Jane WICHERT Muller	July 16, 2010
1960	Margeretta WECHSLER Kutz	May 12, 2011
1960	Burwell HILLSMAN Thomas	July 30, 2010
1968	Judith Ann STRICKLAND Stutz	April 19, 2011
1969	Virginia Moore FREMON	November 29, 2010
1974	Dee FRICK Martindale	June 11, 2008
1977	Carola COLLIER Berthelot	November 24, 2010
1995	Joan FITZSIMMONS	Unknown

INNES ARDEN

In May, the completely renovated Innes Arden House at Greenwich Point (CT) was dedicated. It is an interesting model of private and public collaboration. You will be pleased to learn that their museum-to-be will have a PH uniform as part of the collection.

INNES ARDEN AND A BIT OF PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL HISTORY

– An eye witness account

May 21, 2011 was a rainy day but just as the scheduled dedication of the rehabilitated Craftsman or Queen Anne cottage on Long Island Sound was about to begin, the sun arrived, creating sparkling reflections off the water.

This early 20th century beach cottage on the estate of financier John Kennedy Tod had been abandoned and left to ruin for many years. The only funds left in the town coffers were a sum to demolish it. Along came a citizen group, the Greenwich Point Conservancy, and within a decade they had raised enough money to not only save this historic building from the wrecker's ball, but to restore it completely. Now, on this rainy turned sunny day in May, the rehabilitated cottage was being dedicated as a Town of Greenwich (CT) recreation area and environmental museum.

The building and land have a long history, beginning with Elizabeth Fones Winthrop Feake Hallett, who was immortalized in *The Winthrop Woman* by historic novelist, Anya Seton. Elizabeth was the niece of the Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony who married the Governor's son. Sadly, her husband died before she and her young daughter reached America in 1631. She was soon married to Robert Feake, an apothecary like her father. Robert was a poor choice and had periods of madness. During one period he sailed for England and left his family and estate on the Long Island Sound purchased in 1640, under the management of William Hallett. Withrop-Feake's property was called "Elizabeth's Neck," the area now called Old Greenwich, CT. When the deserted wife and caretaker became romantically involved, Elizabeth could have been beheaded for adultery. Her uncle Winthrop saved her and banished her from the Colony. She and Will Hallett and family fled to New Netherlands where the Dutch laws were more lenient than those of the Puritans. They settled first on Hallett's Cove near Hell Gate on Long Island, but after an Indian attack, moved on to Newtown, where Elizabeth ultimately died.

Fast forward by to late 1887, when John Kennedy Tod purchased the 147 acres of land from squatters and fishermen in order to build his grand manor house. In his will, he left the estate to Presbyterian Hospital in New York City as a site for a convalescent facility after the death of his wife. Mrs. Tod lived to old age and the Hospital located their nursing facility elsewhere. The Town of Greenwich subsequently purchased the land and existing buildings from Presbyterian Hospital.

Friends and family of the Tod's enjoyed the cottage but the more



lasting denizens were the women in Anna C. Maxwell's School of Nursing at Presbyterian Hospital. For a dollar a day, they could come and enjoy the sounds, aroma, clean air and sunshine of Long Island Sound because Mr. Tod gave the cottage, Innes Arden, for their use every summer.

Touring the refurbished building, the rebuilt bedrooms upstairs were full of light. Every room had a fireplace, as well as a water view. One can just imagine what it must have been like for those hard working nurses to be afforded such a vacation. They worked a six and a half day work week dealing with no air conditioning, patients with devastating injuries, fleas, lice, and more. The nurses were paid very poorly (\$10 a day for a 24 hour live-in shift in 1925), and worked very hard with little personal down time. Some had no family or relatives to rely on and some, being ill, had no place to go. Sound Beach or Tod's Point, where they could share the camaraderie of fellow nurses, was restorative for them.

The living room with its large stone fireplace kept away the cool night moisture and provided a place of relaxation and socialization. Walking through those rooms, I can just see my predecessors enjoying a period of tranquility from the hurly-burly New York City and the demands of their work.

For me, it was a homecoming, as I am not only a graduate of the same school of nursing, but Elizabeth Fones Feake Hallett is my 10th great grandmother which means that there are many generations between us.

By attending this dedication I was able to see the beach that she walked, the Sound that she looked upon daily, as well as revisit the place where my earlier colleagues enjoyed these same pleasures. The cottage was reborn and I was reunited with family.

Suzanne Law Hawes '59

