

# Alumni News



Saint Marys School of Nursing

Summer, 2009

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year with our annual reunion rapidly approaching. This year we will be celebrating the graduates of 1944, 1949, 1954, 1964, 1969, and my class of 1959, celebrating our 50th. The class of '59 was a special one. Sister Julie thought we were born ahead of our time. our class was an exceptionally close class perhaps related to all the trouble we caused making changes to the usual traditions.

I didn't travel much this past year. Russia last May and returning to United Arab Emirates in the Fall was the extent of my traveling. The economy has kept me on a short leash. A Christmas cruise that I had planned for my family was postponed due to my son's Air Force recall to Afghanistan. Hopefully, we'll all go this December.

In April, I had a cochlear implant hoping to improve my hearing as hearing aids do not help my type of hearing loss. I have had only 15% hearing all my life (depending upon lip reading) and was excited to think this might change. So far the results have not been positive. I was so hoping to be able to hear your responses at the reunion but this is not to be. So you'll have to continue to put with my Norwegian stubbornness and my inability to hear.

Last year's reunion gathered 129 alumni and guests. Kay Bach Entiwistle represented the class of 1958 with Mary Streit Lent representing the class of 1948. Mary's class was the last class of cadet nurse of WWII. Mary, if you all remember made the early student nurse uniforms for our centennial celebration. Sister Generose spoke on the Vanderstein Fund and the Poverella Fund. The group sang Happy Birthday to Sister Generose who will be 90 this coming September.

Though our investments for the Alumni are few, our returns this year were not good either. Which brings me to the current status of our proposed Saint Marys School of Nursing recognition. We have been informed by the Mayo Clinic nothing can be accomplished at this time. As soon as the economy improves we will move forward on this project. The Alumni Board is looking at various methods to speed this process. To move forward on the project, we may need to be responsible for the cost. We do have funds that we could utilize. What would your response be to asking each alumni to donate \$10 or \$25 for a stained glass window in the old entrance or the old taxi entrance to Saint Marys. Just know we have not stopped our efforts to accomplish this long overdue recognition. Additional information is located in the newsletter.

A recent phone call regarding old student textbooks reminds me we are still interested in any correspondence you might have had with any of the Sisters or instructors we had in training. Old textbooks after 1930 can be tossed.

Each year we lose many of our Alumnus. This year was not an exception. Last June, Sister Amadeus Klein '50 died. Sister Amadeus was know to many of us as a gentle, kind lady who cared about her students as well as her patients. She was respected by patients and their families, nurses and doctors. Margaret Miye Ouchi '46 served in the U.S. Navy Nurses Corps after graduating from SMSN. Margaret worked with legislators are the state and national levels lobbying for many important changes in the nursing profession. Ida Chiyoko Sakohira Kawaaguchi '46 was a great support to Thelma Robinson assisting to recruit nisei cadet nurses to participate in Thelma's second book which has been translated into Japanese.

My sincere sympathy to all of you that have lost family and friends this past year.

I receive so many emails and cards from Alumni thanking the Alumni Board for keeping the Alumni and reunions "alive". We will continue our goal of annual reunions through 2020, the year the last class of 1970 to celebrate their 50th. Thank you all who take the time to write. These notes are much appreciated.

Thank you also who sent their change of addresses. As you know postage has increased again this year and mailings for our newsletter is costly. More importantly, we want to be aware of your current location to keep you informed of Alumni news. Remember also we have a web site which contains the past two newsletters, a brief history of our school and contact information.

May your lives be filled with blessings of good health, family, friends, joy, and laughter. A safe journey of all Alumni attending the September Reunion.

Sincerely,  
Monica Mellem Van Kirk '59  
812 Memorial Parkway SW  
Rochester, MN 55902  
monicavk@charter.net  
507-289-1741

## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The general meeting of Saint Marys School of Nursing Alumni Association was called to order by president Monica Van Kirk at the annual alumni banquet. The minutes of the 2007 annual meeting were read by Virginia Simons Wentzel '59 with no corrections or additions. The minutes of the Board meeting of August 26, 2007 were read and approved. Mary Kennedy Price '66 gave the treasurer's report:

Wells Fargo Checking	\$13,228.00
Wells Fargo Savings	\$1,742.85
Vanguard Group	\$8,044.85
300.90 shares	
Mayo Credit Union	
Regular Savings	\$2,215.00
1 yr certificate	\$4,028.81
3 yr certificate	\$14,633.89
Total	\$43,633.89

### New Business

There was no new business presented

### Old Business

Monica presented the commemorative design that Mayo has come up with. The Alumni has had no input and no meeting was called since last November 2007. The panel shows the tower section of the Francis building and below it is a small imprint of the school pin and below that to the left the Good Samaritan and to the right the motto of the school "Enter In To Learn, Go Forth to Serve". A plaque below that says 1906-1970. There is no mention of the school of nursing.

Comments and suggestions from the Alumni:

It looks like an ATM machine

Superimpose a picture of a student nurse over the Tower (as done on a school brochure in the 1950s.)

The name of the school need to be stated clearly and prominently.

Teaching concept

Dr. Charlie always stated: anyone could do surgery on him but he wanted the Sisters and Saint Marys nurses to take care of him.

The Mayo's were proud of their association with the school and something more fitting needs to be pursued.

The Board will present the Alumni's displeasure and will pursue this further.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Simons Wentzel '59

## REUNION DATES

September 12 and 13, 2009

September 11 and 12, 2010

September 10 and 11, 2011

September 8 and 9, 2012

September 7 and 8, 2013

## REUNION PARKING & LODGING

Parking is complimentary in the Rochester City Public Ramps beginning at 5 p.m. Friday thru Sunday. Mayo and Kahler Hotel ramps charge a fee. Parking for Sunday Mass and farewell coffee is also complimentary on the flat lot on 2nd Street East of the hospital. Handicap parking is available in the hospital ramps.

The Kahler Hotel is offering a lodging discount if reservations are placed by August 12. Identify yourself as SMSN alumni when placing your reservation. Rates this year are \$77 plus tax. The hotel phone numbers are: 507-282-2281 or toll free 1-800-533-1655

## CLASS OF 1959 REUNION SCHEDULE

**Friday, September 11,** a wine and hors d'oeuvres gathering at Sue Strander Hindermann's. We will meet at the West door of the Kahler Hotel at 5:15 p.m. to pool rides. For those of you who have a GPS, Sue's address is 7606 100th St. 55963. Take Hwy 52 north toward Mpls, take exit 64 to 100th St. (CR-12) and turn left follow for 3.1 miles. Sue's home is on the left Northridge Ranch.

**Saturday, September 13,** 11:30, a luncheon at Michael's 5:30, social hour Kahler Mezzanine

6:30 banquet with photo session immediately after banquet

**Sunday, September 13:** mass at Saint Marys Chapel 8:30

Farewell coffee following Mass in Sisters' Dining room, main floor Domitilla South wing.

Brunch at Monica's come anytime, serving at 1:00 pm

A note of thanks to Virge Simons Wentzel who found any addresses of our Class of '59. We are still missing some addresses. Do any of you know the current location of Juliann Bennett Stoewer, Betty Jane Pacholl, Nancy Patenaude, Patricia Flanagan Rust, Eleanor Walsh, Joan Ward Bodak, Janet Box, Yvonne Erickson, Agnes Williams, Janet Zimmer Olson. If you do have any information please send it on to me We are planning a fun filled weekend and need your replies soon if you are attending the reunion. This may be the last time we all have the opportunity to gather so come with your canes, walkers, wheelchairs, 02 whatever, just come. We want to see and spend time with you. Need assistance with transportation, let us know we'll help.

A reminder for those who bring guests. It is important that the Class of '59 sit together so if you have a guest they may not be able to sit with you. The tables are set for 10 and if we have 61 registered that one guest will need to sit else where.

## ALUMNI NOTES

Betty Lou Spencer Gladen '58 sent in her current address and that she was not attending reunion.

Ardith Paul McCarville '54 sent an artist's name for consideration if the alumni do a sculpture.

Coreinne Weiss Edomonson '55 "a life without travel is like a steak without salt". Enclosed her current address.

Mary Lou Massa Massie '51 "Sorry to have missed the 100th celebration".

Sharon Rowland Larson '59 wrote she has lost contact with Jolene Wing Olson, Julie Milek, Joanne Kopel, and Ella Mae McCormick all from '59.

Phyllis Haggerty Riley '44 sent her address change.

Nancy Long Jensen '62 send word of Marlene Morris' death in Custer, SD. Nancy is a long time friend of Peg Kenan '62.

Joan Martin Griffin Anthony '54 wrote a change of address influenced by her grandson who reminded Joan it was wasteful of gasoline to drive to pick mail at the post office. Joan works 1 days each week at Hospice doing telephone triage.

Betty Koopman Coleman requested our book, Sincere et Constanter. "The spirit of excellence created by everyone at Saint Marys & the memories that evolved from being a student still warm my heart these many years later".

Barbara Munson Oshesky '55 "I still treasure the memories of the 2006 celebration and to see some of the classmates once again". Barb had bio-aortic valve replacement recovering well.

Avenell Hibbing Arnsberger '39 sent in her address

Shirley Whitworth Gorder Bertram '57 sent news of her marriage and living in the mountain area of mid Arizona. She is "throwing" pots and involved in a classic car club in Payson. She and her husband travel abroad.

Irene Ryan Weis '48 wrote "another interesting and entertaining alumni banquet and reunion".

Dannette Schneller Prikl '58 wrote "Enjoyed the entire weekend. Nine of us from the Oct. '58 class extended our reunion by spending time at a resort in Iowa. It is great, actually hilarious with 9 women in a condo kitchen with half of us hard of hearing and most of us overweight. What a truly grand time we had."

Betty Jane Springborn '61 requested the address of her "little sis" Carol Brown Tom '62.

Gertrude Hogan Wirth '35 her daughter, Bridget Wirth Froner sent her Mom's diploma and other items.

Sharon Tanagi Aburano '47 sent in news of Ida Sakhrir Kawaguchi's death. Sharon was included in the stories of the Japanese-Americans in Thelma Robinson's book, Nisie Cadet Nurse of WWII. In the book, Sharon stated "Graduation from SMSN was an important day in my life."

Helen Haggerty Sell '48 wrote her thanks for a great reunion. "The 60 year class had a wonderful time together. It's always special and fun from Saint Marys nurse to get together."

Mari Loeff Silva '46, Sorry to have missed reunions and still has fond memories of her time at Saint Marys.

Lois DeBois Kraft '51 sent address changes for two of her classmates. Also send Jean Flaherty Cloheey's obituary.

Mary Schumacher Giffin '52 wrote that her husband, Francis had died last Fall.

Mary McWhorter Collett '48 sent her annual Christmas greetings.

Barbara Steigerwold Sukkar '52 sent her address change.

Susan Rechner Louchheim '69 wrote requesting reunion plans and her current address.

Maryann Witwer Starin '53 wrote "I can't believe it, 55 years. Today I don't feel that old. So sorry I can't be there, I would love to see you all. I read the Alumni Newsletter from front to back."

Donna Roering '59 wrote she is unable to attend her 50th reunion celebration this September due to poor health. "During my career I found that the nursing principles, skills and ethics I learned at Saint Marys formed a solid base for my professional life no matter what the job was. Greetings and best wishes to all of my classmates. Looking back I doubt any of us realized that the class of 1959 were dynamic women who would make an impact on others and the nursing profession."

Bernadette Allen Schwanemann Schalm '55 emailed re her marriage and address change.

JoAnn Lueth Seltz '58 sent a thank you for their 50th reunion stating it was fun time and great to see so many.

Joan Tobias Branterr '58 wrote a special thanks for replacing her Saint Marys pin. Joan received Pauline Messatti Popko's '58 school pin.

Bea Walker Zeman '58 wrote thank you for arranging the reunion.

Shirley Strand Clemens '58 wrote "I'm writing a letter to the Mayo Clinic regarding recognition of the student nurse. What they offered looked like an ATM machine". She also enclosed her sisters' address: Doris Strande Doom '62.

## IN MEMORIUM

Gertrude Quinn Johnson '33  
Laura Quinn Bryan '35  
Helen Greenlee Richardson '37  
Pauline Philips McCart '39  
Cartherine Stoddard Gagnon '40  
Bonnie Jean (Caroline) Wade '41  
Jane Rachor O'Connor '42  
Dorothy O'Donnell George '43  
Ardith Aitchison Thompson '43  
Evelyn Olsen Barchardt '45  
Margaret Miye Ouchi '46  
Ida Sakohira Kawagushi '47  
Adela Garcia Joralmom '50  
Sister Amadeus Klein '50  
Jean Flaherty Clohessy '51  
Audrey Fowler Wobschall '52  
Elizabeth Heiss Fredick '53  
Doris Rausch Wilson '55  
Angeline Langevin '59  
Marlene Morris '59  
Margaret Aspel '59  
Maurine Henninger Shambarger '57  
Jolene Lowenberg Freimuth '57  
Ruth McCabe Hornback '46

## MEMORIALS

In memory of Jean Flaherty Clohessy '51  
Mary Purtell Hanson '51  
Shirley Martinsen '51

In memory of Dorothy O'Donnell George '43  
Joseph George MD

Mass Flowers in memory of Laura White Healy '58, Carol Earl Colburn '58, Marcia Edwards Mellang '57  
Gloria Hoffine Hostak '58

## GIFTS

Kathryn Courtier Kessler '53  
Joan Martin Griffin Anthony '54

## HISTORY OF SAINT MARYS' NATIVITY SET

In the early 1930s, Sister Joseph Dempsey found an advertisement in the newspaper about a Nativity set and sent away for it, thinking it was a table top set. Many months passed and Sister Joseph forgot all about having placed the order. Then one day she got a call from the railroad station that a huge crate had arrived for her. Not remembering what she had ordered she asked the station master to open the crate. She learn that the crate contained a large Nativity set, she went the railroad station to have a look at it. The set was so beautiful, she decided to keep it. This particular set is unique because the nearly lifesize figures are of a single piece. Once the figures had been delivered to Saint Marys Hospital, Sister Agnella painted the background and Joseph Howlett, the hospital carpenter,

built the creche. Since that time, the Nativity has had a special place of honor in Saint Marys Chapel.

The Nativity Scene was on the front of our Christmas card from Sister Generose and Sister Lauren along with this history on the back of the card. Thank you Sisters.

## SITES OF INTEREST IN ROCHESTER

Alumni may be interested in: Mayo has a Statuary Park on the West side of the Gonda Bldg (Across from St. John's Church), a historical section on the first floor of the Mayo Bldg., Saint Marys and M-K Schools of Nursing have provided artifacts of 20th century nursing on the third floor of the Plummer Bldg. The art display in the Sibens Atrium. In the Mayo nurses Atrium of the Gonda, take time to see the Forever Caring Tableau commissioned by the Mayo Clinic to honor the nursing profession. Soldiers Field Park has a nursing memorial. All is within walking distance of downtown. The Memorabilia Room in Marian hall is open throughout the reunion and year. Tours of the hospital will be available following the farewell coffee on Sunday. Independent walking tours of both hospitals and the clinic are available. Pamphlets available at all information sites.

If you have a car you might want to take a drive up to Assisi Heights (Mother House). Mayo Clinic has an agreement with the Franciscan Congregation to utilize half of the space. Mechanical, electrical communications and plumbing systems were updates. The Sisters' wing has been remodeled with larger rooms, walk in closets and with large handicap-accessible bathrooms. There has not been major changes in 50 years.

## TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts are available by writing:

Mayo Records Management  
North Warehouse 1-117  
105 5th Street NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

Your request must include your name, maiden name, year you graduated, and your current address. There's no charge.

## ALUMNI WEBSITE

We have a website through the Mayo Clinic. [www.mayo.edu/alumni](http://www.mayo.edu/alumni), click on Saint Marys School of Nursing Alumni, or do a search on Google for SMSN Alumni Association. The current newsletter and Alumni information is found on the site.

## ALUMNI BOARD

Monica Mellem Van Kirk '59  
[monicavk@charter.net](mailto:monicavk@charter.net)  
507-289-1741  
Brenda Rizzo Rossman '67  
[jbrossman@myclearwave.net](mailto:jbrossman@myclearwave.net)  
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507-288-2550  
Mary Kennedy Price '66  
[marp98@aol.com](mailto:marp98@aol.com)  
507-288-2262

## BOOKS OF INTEREST

Sister Mary Brigh's book of poetry  
History of Saint Marys School of Nursing, Sincere et Constranter  
The Sisters' Story  
The Sisters' Story Pt Two  
These books are available for sale during the farewell coffee.

## COMMEMORATIVE UPDATE

As of this writing, we have had a total of four meetings relating to the SMSN student nurse recognition. A larger committee with Mayo staff and three alumni met twice following our centennial reunion. We were told then a statue on Saint Marys Hospital grounds would not be allowed. We then talked about an etched glass glove with our nursing pin. This would be placed in the corridor of the hospital near the old taxi entrance and the hospital's memorabilia location.

Monica was notified that a design had been developed. Monica presented the design at last years' banquet. This design was turned down by the Alumni.

This winter the Alumni were informed that the project was on hold related to the economic constraints. We were told however, there is strong support for the project when conditions improve. Later this winter, Virge and Monica met with two members of the Mayo Heritage committee and provided input on appropriate articles from the SMSN memorabilia to use in an exhibit to honor nursing in Iraq.

Several Alumni have provided time and input to furthering this project. We are considering different options and one of these is a stained glass window in the Tower Area of Saint Marys Hospital. Monica has briefly presented this idea to Matt Dacy, Director of Mayo Clinic Heritage Hall. Matt is supportive to our quest.

Do we have a member of our Alumni that is creative to assist creating a design for a stained glass window? If so please contact me.

The importance of this commemorative project is know to you the Alumni of Saint Marys School of Nursing and the Board who serves you. In this time of economic difficulty we may need to be financial responsible for this project if it is to be completed during our life time or at anytime. Is it important enough to us to donate what we can to reach our goal? This is the question I put to you.

This will be discussed during our annual meeting in September.

Those of you not attending in September please email or write your thoughts to a board member.

50% recycled  
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Editor's note: Alumni News features items of interest about SMSN Alumni, as well as items about Saint Marys Hospital and Mayo Foundation. Your comments, suggestions, and news information are appreciated and should be sent to SMSN Alumni Association, Siebens 533 Mayo Alumni Center, 200 SW 1st Street, Rochester, MN 55905.

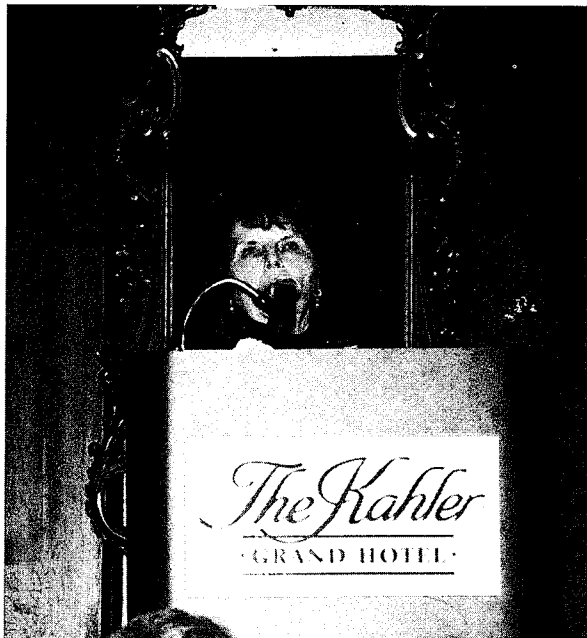
<p><b>Is A Correction Needed?</b></p> <p>If your Alumni News was incorrectly addressed, please check the appropriate space below, make any needed correction next to the mailing label at the right and return it to Saint Marys Alumni Association, Siebens 533 Mayo Alumni Center, 200 SW 1st Street, Rochester, MN 55905.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My name was misspelled</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My address was wrong</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I received more than one copy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (enclose mailing label from both copies)</p> <p><b>the year I graduated</b></p>
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# Alumni News





# 2008 SMSN ALUMNI REUNION

## Schedule of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
September 11	Party for Class of '59	5:30 pm	Hindermann's
September 12	Brunch for Class of 59	11:00-1:00 pm	Michaels Restaurant
<b>Parking in any downtown public ramp is complimentary on weekends</b>			
<b>Michaels Restaurant also has complimentary parking on their lot.</b>			
	Banquet for all Alumni & guests		
	Social Hour	5:50-6:30 pm	Kahler Hotel Mezzanine
	Dinner	6:30-9:00 pm	Elizabethan Room
	Photo sessions for celebrating classes of 44, 49, 54, 59, 64, 69 following banquet		
September 13	Mass for Alumni & guests	8:30 a.m.	Saint Marys Chapel
	<b>Parking: flat lot, East end of Domitilla Building on Second Street</b>		
	Farewell Coffee	Following Mass	Sisters Dining Room

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(Cut here and mail in registration form)

### REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Maiden) (Current)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (Zip)

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Friday's Party for Class of 1959 only \_\_\_\_\_ I will attend

#### **Brunch** (Class of '59 only)

\_\_\_ I will attend (complimentary)

#### **Banquet**

\_\_\_ I will attend \$35.00

\_\_\_ Number of guests (\$35)

#### **Coffee**

\_\_\_ I will attend

\_\_\_ Number of guests

### **THE BRUNCH & BANQUET ARE COMPLIMENTARY FOR THE CLASS OF 1959**

#### **Class photo** (for classes of '44, '49, '59, '64, '69)

\_\_\_ I am enclosing \$9.00, please mail me a copy of my class photo. Photos mailed in October.

**PAYMENT MUST BE ENCLOSED WITH YOUR RESERVATIONS AND MAILED NO LATER THAN AUGUST 19, 2009.** Make checks payable to SMSN Alumni Association.

**MAIL TO SMSN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, SIEBENS 533, ALUMNI CENTER, 200 SW 1ST ST., 55905.**