

President's Report
Bellevue School of Nursing Alumnae Day
May 18, 2019

Today we celebrate 130 years since the establishment of the Bellevue School of Nursing Alumnae Association. After all these years, we are proud to report that we still have over 1,200 active members.

We are the oldest Nursing Alumnae Association in the United States. Since the early 1900's our distinguished graduates have led the way in establishing nursing schools across the United States.

Isabel Hampton Robb, an 1883 Graduate, was a brilliant leader . She fought to limit hours of work and extend the course of nursing study to three years. In 1889 she was able to influence Teachers College, Columbia University to offer nursing courses. She was the first President of Nurses Associated Alumnae of U.S.A and Canada which became the ANA. Ms. Robb also led the Association of Training Schools of Nursing which became the NLN.

Lavinia Dock, an 1886 Graduate, Charter member of the NYSNA, was a most influential leader. She was a founder of the first State, National and International nursing organizations. She authored the first History of Nursing and numerous articles. Ms. Dock was a suffragette and understood that nursing problems were part of the broader issue of women's rights.

Jane Delano, an 1886 graduate, was Superintendent of Bellevue School of Nursing and later the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. During WW1 she was in charge of the US Army Nurse Corps and later expanded the nursing section of the American Red Cross.

These outstanding leaders were joined by many other Alumnae who influenced nursing throughout the U.S.A.

Bellevue nurses served with distinction in hospital units during WW1. Our very own Thelma J. Ryan led the outstanding Bellevue Unit Base 1 Hospital in WW11.

There is a list some of the many of Bellevue Nurses who have influenced nursing throughout the last 50 years.

- Eileen Grace Hasselmeyer '46, Rear Admiral Assistant Surgeon General, did extensive research concerning premature infants.
- Helene Lightbourne '50, a clinical practitioner in rehabilitation, excelled as a community advocate.
- Roberta Goldberg Cohen Olsen '57 - Psychotherapist
- Carol Nicol O'Brien '59 - Nursing Administrator
- Ruth Smalley Stepulus '60 - Lt.Colonel, US Army Nurse Corps.
- Joan Lohnes '63 – Advisor on HIV/Aids
- Carol Ann Mitchell '63 - Geriatric Nurse Practitioner
- Denise Murphy '66 - Occupational Health, Infection Control
- Joan Marren '69 – Visiting Nurse Service, Chief Operating Officer.
- Mary Beth Petraco '69 - Pediatric Nurse Practitioner: Active in vaccinations and mentor of student nurses.

We are also proud of our Mills Graduates. They served with distinction in the Spanish American War, WW I, WW II and the Korean, Vietnam and Desert Storm wars. To name a few of our Mills graduates:

- William Bryant '64, James Mann '64 and Peter Ungvarski '64 served in Vietnam war. Peter is a wonderful historian of nursing and worked at the VNS and authored a comprehensive book on HIV/Aids.
- Dr Sheldon Ornstein '59, an expert on aging continues to write articles about the aging process. John Philipps '62, Scholar, worked at NYU, James Arrington '54, a devoted Honorary Member of the Association.. The men we have mentioned are but a few of the dedicated Mills graduates that have made a difference in the lives of many.

We recall and honor the memories of these women and men who organized and shaped the Nursing Profession during our last 50 years.

Most of our Alumnae remember Myrtle Byron '29, the Director of the Residence, and the 'guardian' of the Beau parlors. Ms. Byron was President of the Alumnae Association and was instrumental in starting Alumnae Day. We began at the residence, moved for a short time to the 12th floor in the hospital, and finally selected the Sheraton Hotel, which we enjoy and think of as our other home.

During the time when Alumnae Day was held in the Residence, the Blue Corn Flower Boutonnieres became a tradition. Today Mimi Gonzalez wanted to bring this tradition back. The Boutonnieres you received were donated by Mimi and Board members painstakingly put them together. Special thanks to Mairead McGetrick, Regina Shane, Daphne Moss and Mary Beth Petraco

As a result of our diversified history, the Alumnae Association voted to endow the Center for Nursing History at the Foundation of New York State Nurses. In 1997 the Center became The Bellevue Alumnae Center for Nursing History. Our school will continue in perpetuity. Our members continue to donate to and support the Center.

Moving to the activities of the Alumnae during the past year. The Board of Directors met for 5 meetings and multiple work sessions.

The membership meetings: a September dinner at Connolly's with 24 in attendance, a November lunch at Nino's with 21 members present and the March luncheon meeting held at Villa Berulia with 23 members present. Thanks to Mary Ann Dorsey Smith for arranging these meetings.

The Service Chairs, Mairead McGetrick '59 and Mary Beth Petraco '69, sent 331 birthday cards and 133 bouquets of flowers. They also sent 855 Christmas cards and two checks to life members.

At the September Board Meeting Life Membership was awarded to 51 alumnae from the '68 class, 1 from '66, 2 from '65 and 2 from '63.

The 2017-2018 Bellevue Bulletin was sent to 1,220 members. Special thanks to Regina Shane '68, Daphne Moss '69, Frank Morra (friend of the Alumnae) and to Joan Murray and Staff in the Mail Room.

It saddens me to announce the passing of 24 members and 3 non-members. Donations will be made to the Bellevue Alumnae Center for Nursing History in memory of our deceased members.

The generosity of our membership has been very encouraging. The total amount of donations from June 2018 to May 2019 was \$23,696. This has enabled the Board to continue our activities throughout the year.

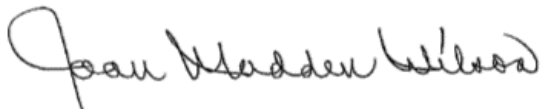
We continue to remind members to notify the alumnae office when there is a change in their address. We receive return mail stating address unknown. Also please include your apartment number to assure delivery.

The Bellevue School of Nursing Center for Nursing History continues to gain recognition both nationally and internationally. We thank Deb Elliott Executive Director and her very valuable and knowledgeable volunteers Dr. Catherine A. Welch and Susan Birkhead. I invited Mary J. Finnin Vice President and Deb Elliott Executive Director of FNYSN and Dr. Welch to say a few words.

Our thanks to the Alumnae Day Chairs Mairead McGetrick '59 and Regina Shane '68 and to all the volunteers who make our Alumnae Day a success.

As your President, I extend my personal thanks to the Officers and Board of Directors who have worked diligently throughout the year to ensure that the alumnae office and all our activities ran smoothly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Madden Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Joan Madden Wilson MA, BS, RN
President