



Swedish  
Covenant  
Hospital

WINTER 2011

# THE *Caring* TIMES

A SWEDISH COVENANT HOSPITAL PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNAE OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

*Letter from the SCHNAA Board*

## Dear Nurse Alumnae,

This year I celebrated my 43rd SCHNAA anniversary and I am one of the “kids”!! I graduated in 1968 and the school closed with the 1969 graduating class. For most of those years I have served on the SCHNAA Board.

I tried but could not come up with several milestone numbers: How many hours of nursing care have been delivered by our alumnae over the years; How many years of faithful missionary services have been delivered all over the world; How many blessings our Heavenly Father has bestowed on our members? I may not be able to reach an answer, but I have seen and heard it at each reunion over the years.

We have celebrated many joys such as the funding and building of the hospital Chapel. We have mourned the death of members but could celebrate their lives as one of the faithful. Many of those that showed the way to me had an impact on how I practiced in both my professional and personal life.

This year was not unlike past reunions. We are growing a bit smaller each year but our spirit is still mighty. My most favorite part is the roll call and to hear the great stories about the anniversary classes training days. It is amazing how many classes still remain in contact with each other between anniversaries. Some have newsletters while others develop a special reunion memory book.

A highlight this year was getting many of the gals to gather around the piano and sing *Eternal Life* as one voice. I know Mr. Toren was smiling in heaven as we sang our hearts out.

Thanks to all who made the journey in June. And a larger thanks to all the alumnae members who continue to support our association. May God continue to bless you in your life and I look forward to seeing you at our next reunion on **June 30th, 2012**. Mark it on your calendar now and save the date!

Maggie Hennebery  
*Class of '68*





**Class of '46**  
Elsbeth (Carlson) Helgerson,  
Miriam Eavey, Grace Nelson



**Class of '51**  
Adele Richardson, Julie (Holmquist)  
Klint, Shirley (Starr) Klint



**Class of '56**  
First Row: Arlene Peterson, Yvonne (Hunter) Wolfenberger, Marilyn (Leet) Simon, Ruth (Longman) Pontier  
Second Row: Annette (Nelson) Anderson, Bette Lou (Klingler) Obinger, Helen (Lindroth) Vaporis, Marjorie (Holmquist) Scheltema



**Class of '61** First Row: Pat (Sandbloom) Grovatt, Cathy (Erb) Cousins, Marge (Johnson) Johnson, Sandra (Wistrom) Cole, Elaine (Marschman) Gorton, Anita (Spencer) Anderson, Mary (Balbach) Ohman  
 Second Row: Faith (Weber) Newberg, Judy Johnson, Carol (Cromley) Olson, Phyllis (Palmberg) Friesen, Ethel (Franson) Steffey, Asta (Rafos) Solie, Karen (Akerlund) Adell, Joyce (Peterson) Anderson  
 Not pictured: Margaret (Roloson) Maloon, Eunice (Benson) Walton



**Class of '66** First Row: Phyllis (Dahl) Bruce, Nadine (Wycinsky) Campbell, Mary Ann Ahlgren, Jeanette (Austin) Myra, Karen Benson, Nancy Arsenault, Martha (Johnson) Frisk  
 Second Row: Mary Ellen (Johnson) Peterson, Judy (Gordon) Benson, Deanna (Oberg) Turner, Judith (Upson) Schreiber, Karin (Anderson) Essen



Lovely singing from the class of '66



**Marge Johnson and Pat Grovatt, happy to have their class together for a wonderful 50th reunion celebration**



**Arlene Peterson and Yvonne Wolfenberger, from the class of '56, looking at a previous reunion picture**



**SCHNAA board members (Sharon Eager, Phyllis Anderson, Carol Olson and Sue Tanner) posing for a picture at the event**



**Shirley Klint, class of '51, enjoys a moment with our nursing school scholarship recipients, Neal Johnson and Kari Nelson**

## Alumnae Spotlight

# SCH Nurse Alumna Featured in Local NY Newspaper

Ethelyn Nelson, 93, is a small round woman, contemplative and quiet, yet burning with stories to tell and is equipped with a mind like a computer. She has been a resident of Loyalist-Emeritus (Lakewood, NY) since 2001 when she decided to retire to an assisted-care facility to quietly live her life in serenity and comfort, after long and activity-laced years which left her with many gentle memories to sustain her. She is a very fascinating woman and one who Jamestown welcomes home.

Ethelyn was born in 1917, in Jamestown, to John and Hillman Nelson at the start of the notorious flu epidemic which swept the country. Her father worked at the furniture company and her mother cleaned house, a family accustomed to work. She graduated from Jamestown High School in 1935 as part of what is known as the "orphan class," one which had no school as the present high school was being constructed that year. This did not hinder Ethelyn in her life's explorations and from there she went to Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago, studied nurses training and received her RN degree in 1940. After Pearl Harbor had been attacked and America was at war, she returned to Jamestown and worked at WCA and Jamestown General Hospital. Then, she and her friend, Alice Lindblad, decided to see adventure and they enlisted in the U.S. Navy as Navy nurses in 1943.

Shortly, she was ordered to Washington, D.C. to "fight the battle of the Potomac," as she puts it, but her main duty was in the Main Navy Building Dispensary in Arlington, Va. After serving there for several years, she again returned to Jamestown and the Jamestown General hospital. She made some quick trips to California during this time and worked at the

county hospital, in the operating room, though in a few years she was recalled to the Navy and in 1950, at the time of the Korean War, she spent two years at Mare Island submarine base in Vallejo, CA. Later, she also served during the Vietnam conflict.

After years of hectic nursing service with returning war servicemen, Ethelyn decided, in 1957, to resume a search for a degree in nursing and enrolled at Case Western Reserve in Ohio and in 1957, received a Bachelor of Science degree and felt fulfilled, and for a short time worked at the Veteran's Hospital in Cleveland. Still feeling a pull to the U.S. Navy, she returned again and was stationed at Beaufort, S.C. and from there was sent to Argentina, Newfoundland and St. Albans in New York City. Her last duty was at Naval Medical Center in Bethesda where she worked tirelessly in the open-heart surgery department. Also, while here, she remembers being part of the ambulance corps at President Kennedy's inauguration. For a decade she went where the Navy sent her and finally, in 1973, after 25 years of service and the rank of lieutenant commander, she decided to retire. She retained her apartment at Grosvenor Place in North Bethesda and embarked upon the last phase of her life's adventure which involved the Kennedy Center in Washington and the White House.

She began, at age 54, with volunteer service at the Kennedy Center Gift Shop, this lasting 20 years and a position in the White House Greeting Office, which also lasted 25 years. She served during the Reagan, "Papa" Bush administrations and the Clinton, then the "junior" Bush administrations. She recalls many pleasant experiences while at the White House and a singular Christmas party at which Barbara Bush presented

her with a needlework kit she has hanging in her apartment. She also recalls a friendly encounter with Hilary Clinton, though she does remember that Mrs. Clinton was always in a rush. She also amusingly recalls a woman who pleaded with the White House Correspondence Office not to send her an 80th birthday card, as she didn't want her boyfriend to know her age!

One horrifying memory involves the events of Sept. 11, 2001, when the planes were reported heading for the White House and all personnel were evacuated. They spent the day, under guard by the Secret Service, in the lobby of the World Bank. Like everyone, she says that the date 9/11 will always hold crushing memories for her and all the occurrences of that time led her to decide that full-time retirement was her next adventure.

She decided to come home to Jamestown and live with the sweet memories and the many friends and contacts she had made over the years. In 2001 she moved to Loyalton-Emeritus, determined to relax and see to her personal, long-time aspirations, maintain her contacts and file her memories, as well. It appears that she has maintained herself and her desires very well for the 10 years she has been here. She likes the camaraderie among the residents and she finds the meals satisfying. Contemplating the wounded veterans and the many sailors who received her nursing attention during the nation's wars is probably a long-running preoccupation. It is a fine and vigorous life she looks back on and it is hoped she has many more years of contemplation.

*Article courtesy of The Post-Journal: Jamestown, NY*



# Missionary Updates

## **Marj Schmucker Koop '49**

Marj is enjoying retirement in Alberta, Canada. She is keeping active with involvement at her church, particularly in her role on the Prayer Team.

## **Charlene Dial Curtis '63**

Charlene and husband, Harold, have transitioned from Evangelical Baptist Missions to a new mission agency, Central Missionary Clearinghouse. They live in Kalamazoo, MI, and continue sharing Christ with the international student community at Western Michigan University.

## **Karen Benson '66**

Karen retired from a missionary career which started in Zaire and continued for many years in the Central African Republic. She now enjoys serving as a parish nurse for the Covenant Church in Winthrop, MN, and keeping in touch with friends and other missionaries in Africa.

## **Beth Ziegler Trimble '68**

Having served in Brazil for many years, Beth and husband, Mark, are planning to finish their service at the end of the year. Much of their time these days is spent preparing their Brazilian brethren to successfully take over the seminary. They ask for prayer that God enables the Brazilians to meet the challenges of their work without outside financial assistance.

## News at Swedish Covenant Hospital

### **Certified Primary Stroke Center**

Swedish Covenant Hospital has earned certification by the Health Care Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP) as a Level 1 Primary Stroke Center for meeting more than 40 standards related to stroke diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, patient and community education and follow up.

This designation means Swedish Covenant has achieved the highest national standards to provide the best stroke care possible. It also means that EMTs on the north-side of Chicago will recognize SCH as a Primary Stroke Center and will bring acute stroke cases to SCH's Emergency Department in accordance with new IHA guidelines. This achievement demonstrates how the hospital is leading the community in stroke education efforts to help people recognize the signs of stroke, and reduce their risk factors.

### **Revamped Orthopedics Program**

A growing number of patients — particularly the large population of baby boomers who are entering older adulthood — are looking for personalized orthopedic care. Swedish Covenant Hospital's orthopedic clinicians and administrators recognized this growing call for services and have spent many months enhancing the Orthopedic Program.

"People are more and more active these days and are putting more demand on their joints," said Dr. Gabriel Levi, an orthopedic surgeon at Swedish Covenant Hospital. "We see more arthritis and sports-related injuries in patients of all ages."

Recent changes to the Orthopedic Program include the addition of new, talented orthopedic physicians; an orthopedic care navigator; investments in new orthopedic procedures and technology; and a renewed emphasis on orthopedics as a premier offering at the hospital.

### **Chest Pain Center**

Swedish Covenant was recently named an accredited Chest Pain Center. With this distinction, the Cardiology team and entire staff has proven that SCH is maximizing cardiac care capabilities, integrating best practices and constantly improving patients' care, quality of life, treatment and communication.

Ten minutes may be just a matter of moments in our daily lives. But for a patient having a heart attack, ten minutes can mean the difference between life and death. Patients who come to Swedish Covenant Hospital's Emergency Department with chest pain symptoms will be comforted to know that they can begin treatment in the Cardiac Catheterization Lab ten minutes faster than the national benchmark. This process is known as door-to-balloon time — the quicker, the better the likelihood of saving a life.

## From the Desk of **Mary Shehan, RN**

*Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer*



**O**ur efforts in nursing continue to focus on the successful transition of our new graduate nurses into practice. This past summer fourteen nurse interns from several schools of nursing completed an eight week internship. We hope to see many of these nurses return upon graduation. In addition to working side-by-side with experienced nurses, they spent time learning about the importance of customer service and valued-based purchasing.

In addition, we have partnered with the National Council for State Boards of Nursing in their three state (Illinois, Ohio, and North Carolina) study on Transition to Practice. Swedish Covenant Hospital is an experimental hospital, in which we have implemented a standardized program for teaching our preceptors as well as six modules for the new

graduate nurse to take during their first six months on the job. It is our expectation that the study results will indicate that a standardized program for transitioning our new graduate nurses is needed. This is an exciting time to be part of research that could potentially impact the future of all nurses.

Last, but not least, Swedish Covenant Hospital is embarking on a Succession of Clinical Leadership development program. This program meets three needs: to identify highly performing nurses, key positions in the organization, and mechanisms to support these nurses as they transition into new positions. Fifty percent of our nursing workforce is anticipated to turnover within the next ten to fifteen years. It is never too soon to be prepared to meet the demands of the future.

## From the Editor **Cam Johnson**

*Liason to SCH Nursing Alumnae*



**A**s another year comes to an end, please take time to reflect on the work of the nursing staff at Swedish Covenant Hospital. Our nurses continue to provide the very best care to all patients. Nursing Alumnae support, through year-end annual gifts, helps to sustain our nursing program's level of excellence. In addition, those of you in attendance at the previous reunion will recall Carol Olson's comments on how the Alumnae Association is now focusing its support on awarding scholarships. Your annual dues allow the Association to provide scholarship support to North Park University nursing students who have interned at Swedish Covenant Hospital and/or have shown an interest in employment here.

Last year, a Nurse Alumna's significant gift created the Virginia M. Ohlson Scholarship Fund in tribute to the life and significant accomplishments of one of SCHNAA's eminent alumna. This endowed fund provides needed scholarship support to SCH nurses pursuing advanced degrees in nursing. By now you should have received a year-end appeal letter from the hospital. Please give careful consideration to investing in the future of SCH nursing.

There are other ways to support nursing at the Hospital. Simply by including SCH Nursing in your estate plans, you will ensure the legacy of Nursing Alumnae in the future of the Hospital. Through other, more creative methods of planned giving, you and your loved ones and nursing may all benefit at the same time. Here are several examples of the many possibilities:

- You can make a gift through an IRA and avoid taxable income.
- You can receive an income stream for life in return for your gift.
- You can make a gift that costs nothing during your lifetime.
- You can give appreciated stock and realize large tax savings.
- You can donate your house, continue to live in it, and receive a tax break all at the same time.

If you have any questions about planned giving or simply want to learn about some great ways to partner with Nursing at Swedish Covenant Hospital, please do not hesitate to phone me at (773) 989-6256 or email at [cjohnson@schosp.org](mailto:cjohnson@schosp.org).

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is a publication of Swedish Covenant Hospital's Nursing School Alumnae Association and the Foundation Office.

Mark Newton, President and CEO

Editor: Cam Johnson

We try to be as accurate as possible with the information that we have available. Please inform us of any misspelled names or inaccuracies by calling (773) 989-6256. We value your input.

To learn more about the Hospital's current programs, upcoming events or to make a gift in support of Swedish Covenant Hospital, please call (773) 989-6256.

Please send any class notes or address updates to  
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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
*For the 2012 Reunion*  
*Saturday, June 30th, 2012*

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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Swedish Covenant Hospital



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