

# BEYOND THE CAP

# MGH NURSES' ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC

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Spring/Summer 2024

## **Message from the NAA President**

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#### **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!**

Our NAA Committees have never been more active, and we could use some more help. Most meetings are held via Zoom, so you can participate from wherever you are, except where noted below. **Volunteers are needed on these committees:** 

#### Membership

The committee develops and implements member recruitment and engagement; oversees/advises on dues collection process; oversees maintenance of member database; recruits and supports Class Agents; coordinates with Finance Committee on member fundraising. Meets every other month for a 1-hour Zoom meeting.

### History

The committee oversees the preservation of MGH SON nursing history, digitization of archives and oral history project; supports creation of articles/publications on history of nursing; collaborates with the MGH Nursing History Committee; undertakes special history-related initiatives. Meets bi-monthly via Zoom as full committee with interim meetings as needed depending on project work being done.

#### Publications and Communications

The committee writes, edits, produces The Record and Beyond the Cap. No regular meetings are held. Help is needed from volunteers with strong writing/editing skills to do any of the following: brainstorm content; write articles of interest or coordinate with others to write; compile and edit Class News (sent by the Class Agents), obituaries, and pictures; track and compile news of MGH Nursing Department and IHP SON pertinent to our membership; and assist with proofreading/editing the publications.

#### Community Engagement

The committee develops and implements programs to support professional development (lecture series), nursing research (annual NAA nursing research grant), and community engagement mission (support of nurse led health care delivery). Meets quarterly as a full committee with interim meetings monthly for lecture series planning group.

#### **Awards**

The committee handles the awards that the NAA presents to IHP nursing students. Meets annually around November to review how the past year's awards and scholarships went and to offer any suggestions for the next year. In addition, volunteers are needed to represent the NAA in presenting the awards at IHP ceremonies, usually held at One Constitution Wharf in Charlestown. Volunteers for the latter would need to be based in the Boston area and comfortable with public speaking.

To volunteer, please contact Ann Quealy, NAA President, at aquealy.NAA@gmail.com

#### **MGH NAA News**



Nurses' Week at MGH has grown into a month-long celebration. A highlight was Research Day on May 23, 2024. Posters of recent and current projects were on display in the hospital corridors. The **Munn Center for Nursing Research** presented its annual review of research projects and upcoming grants, including our NAA annual nursing research grant. The featured speakers presented their work on the role of nurses with doctoral preparation in a professional practice setting. And in a special tribute, **Mary Larkin '76** was honored for her significant contributions to the development of nursing research at MGH. Mary is retiring in July 2024 as Nurse Director of the Diabetes Research Center after a forty-eight year career at MGH.

The 2nd lecture in the joint NAA-IHP-MGH Nursing series, "Managing COVID in the Community," took place May 21st. It was led by **Kathy Whittaker '73**, offering a public health nurse's perspective and **Stephanie Lubin Levy (IHP 2012)**, presenting her experience as a pediatric NP in an outpatient setting. The third and final lecture of the series, "Responding to Long Covid," will be presented by members of the MGH Department of Nursing on October 22, 2024.

Our website is undergoing some positive changes and updates, led by May Chin '58. Check it out at mghnaa.org

#### **MGH News**



Plans announced last year to fully merge members of the former Partners Health Care, now called Mass General Brigham (MGB), are proceeding. *The Boston Globe* reported in March that, "The process will result in the merging of 34 departments across the two medical centers that together employ about 50,000 doctors, nurses, researchers, and other staff. For the first time, each new integrated department will be led by a single chair." As part of the process, the MGH has a new President, **Dr. Marcela del Carmen**, who came to MGH as a gynoncology fellow in the 1990s. She's had a distinguished career there as a clinician, researcher and administrator. Meanwhile out front, the construction continues at a rapid pace and the surrounding traffic just gets slower.

#### **IHP News**



Pictured is **Kimberly Glassman**, **PhD**, **RN**, **NEA-BC**, **FAONL**, **FAAN** and **MGH SON 1976**, this year's speaker at the IHP's annual *Natalie Petzold Lecture*. Her talk was titled, "Leading Through Calm and Calamity," and was based in part on her experience as chief nursing officer at the NYU Langone Medical Center when Hurricane Sandy hit the New York/New Jersey area. She was recently named Dean of the Mount Sinai Phillips School of Nursing and Vice President for Nursing Academic Affairs of Mount Sinai Health System in NYC.

A farewell gathering for several retiring faculty, among them Kenneth White, Dean of the IHP SON, was

held in late May and attended by several NAA board members. We wish the retirees well as they begin a new chapter.

#### **History/Archives News**

Our two nursing history committees have decided to become one, chaired by Mary Larkin. Redundancy of members and agendas led to the decision. Small groups within the larger one will continue work on current projects (digitizing, oral histories, research and publications, et al) and add new ones. Two alumnae have recently joined the group with more coming in the Fall.

Over 450 photographs (fronts and backs) have recently been posted on **archive.org**. A new project might be to organize them for ease of viewing: https://archive.org/details/mghschoolofnursingarchives?tab=collection

This Fall **Ann Collins'66** and **Mary Larkin** will present at the 41st Annual Conference of the American Association for the History of Nursing (AAHN). They will show our terrific 30 minute video about the school and its graduates, created by the NAA to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the school's founding and to showcase the contributions of its alumni to the profession of nursing. A discussion of the process of the video's creation will follow the screening. Thus, our MGHNAA video and our story will reach an audience with nationwide representation, one of our goals for all the work, time and energy we invested. Congratulations to our video team and to the people who got us onto the national stage! You can view the video at **mghnaa.org** 

Mary Larkin will also be presenting at the International Association of Clinical Research Nurses (IACRN), in October 2024. The title of her talk will be, "Lifted from obscurity: Visibility of Clinical Research Nursing Practice circa 1925." It has been inspired in part on our research into Ward 4 (the Mallinkrodt Unit) and by several pioneering alumnae nurse researchers at MGH.

We continue to develop projects with the MGRI (Mass General Research Institute) and are preparing two more nurse biographies for their blog, Bench Press, https://mgriblog.org You can sign up there to receive their postings.

Once again we have to correct an omission of class news, this time for 1957. Three members checked in and are updated herewith. The editors apologize for the oversight.

Maureen Corbin Cooley: "I am still on this side of the turf! Life is good - have the normal aches and pains but doing most of the things I love - collecting for charities from my community, lunching with my friends, minding my yorkie and toy poodle and big cat. My youngest daughter lives and hour away so we get together when she is not working in real estate. My oldest daughter is waiting for a liver transplant in Colorado - she retired as a journalist - has a great supportive husband. It is challenging waiting for the phone to ring... I am eternally grateful for my MGH education...I think back on those days so often. Wishing you and all of those still with us blessings and thanks Marge for hanging in all these years...so appreciate you. Much love to all, Midge."

Margery Howe Eramo: "I'm no longer on the NAA board but stay involved as a member of the History Committee and your class scribe. Nancy Lyons Wechsler and I had a wonderful time at the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration. Please go online and watch the video, it was a magical two days. I'm now at my summer home but "worked" 3 hours a week as the nurse at the Westwood Senior Center. It was fun and being able to interact in a professional capacity was special. I am recuperating from a rotator cuff tear and with the help of MGH Sports Medicine, I have avoided surgery. We're all aging but I try to keep active; still serving as the Faith Community Nurse at my church and still involved with the town. My youngest grandson just graduated from U of S. Carolina and oldest grandson is getting married Labor Day weekend. Two grand girls - one is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and other is an RN at MGH! Stay well everyone and keep the news coming.

Nancy Lyons Wechsler: "Hope all is well with everyone, Blessings to you all. I am going to answer your note right away, because in a couple of days, I am going to Arizona for the month of February. It'll be wonderful to get away and feel sunshine again. This has been a very difficult year for me and I look forward to getting away from my very good senior retirement community. I really need a change of scenery at this point. It was wonderful to be able to spend quality time with you at the 150th celebration. I don't have much to tell the alumnae news, except that I enjoyed the reunion and learned more about the very interesting history of the MGH School of Nursing. I was very sorry that more of our classmates were unable to attend. The planning for the event was unfortunately chaotic. My husband, Alfred Wechsler, died on January 20 2023. We had been married for nearly 62 years. Many of you have had the experience of loss and grieving for loved ones. I can now feel profound empathy as well as sympathy. I am send greetings to everyone along with the hope for health and well-being for all of you and your families."

Nancy Obrien: "I have moved into Independent Living in a local care facility and am happily settling in. Moving was difficult but now is behind me and I'm meeting interesting people and working on keeping moving ahead. Peace, Nancy "

# \*\*\* MGH NAA HOMECOMING INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

The Board is pleased to announce that Homecoming returns to MGH this year, for the first time since 2019!

Date: Saturday, September 28, 2024 Time: 8am - 3pm Place: Wang Building lobby level  Register online at mghnaa.org or complete registration form below and mail with payment to:			
		Address:	
		Email:	Telephone:
Email: Luncheon: \$100.00 Vegetarian meal			
Luncheon: \$100.00 Vegetarian meal			

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At the Petzold lecture: Mary Larkin'76, Chris Rich'73, Dean White, Kimberly Glassman'76, Ann Quealy'64, Kathy Ryan'76. They are standing in front of, not the actual MGH, but a huge photo of the front entrance to the hospital.



Views November, 2023.

The Bulfinch stands on a precipice, looking as if it's about to be devoured by the long-necked monsters grazing in front of it. We've heard it can take as long as 40 minutes just to exit the garage around 5pm! That's the new MGB logo at upper left on a pennant on the Wang building.

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