

**The Chester County Hospital
School of Nursing Alumni Association
115th SON Alumni Anniversary Newsletter (1905-2020)**

Happy Anniversary CCH SON Alumni and a **special greeting** for the **CLASS of 1970!**

“Do not mourn what cannot be, celebrate rather what is” (author anonymous). These words certainly ring true today!

Although we cannot be together physically this year at our traditional annual alumni luncheon due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we wanted to reach out to you via a letter. We hope everyone is safe and healthy!

As you know, we cancelled our luncheon on June 6, 2020. This year 2020, we had planned to celebrate much. Florence Nightingale was born in Florence Italy on May 12, 1820, marking this year as her 200th birthday! Additionally, at this year’s luncheon we would have been celebrating 115 Years as the Chester County Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association! Last but certainly not least, we also would have celebrated and honored the 50th Anniversary of the Class of 1970! Please see the Class of 1970 alumni bio’s available on pages 4-7 and the class names on page 7.

Since we cannot physically be together this year, we invite you to join us on **Thursday August 13, 2020 for a moment of silence at 12 noon**. Florence Nightingale passed away on August 13,1910. She was 90 years young when she passed away 110 years ago! So, let us remember our foundational philosopher of modern nursing, as well as our alumni and families, especially anyone affected by the corona virus as we “virtually gather” this year on August 13th. And as the old familiar adage goes “better late than never”, we will have much to celebrate at the 2021 annual luncheon next year. So, if you already have a **2021 Calendar**, mark the date: **June 5, 2021!**

In the meantime, if you would still like **to contribute alumni association dues** for this year 2020, we would greatly appreciate your kind gift and financial support. You may mail a check made out to CCH SON Alumni Association and mail to our treasurer: Sandy Flickinger Cremi, 652 Monocacy Creek Road, Birdsboro, PA 19508. Also, please remember to email change of address to Penny VonRembow Davis at pdavis205@comcast.net. And please email Marcia at marciabowers@atlanticbb.net if you would like to place any info in the 2021 newsletter.

Let’s not forget last year’s luncheon: Highlights of the 2019 Reunion Luncheon

The luncheon was held on June 1, 2019 at the Penn Oaks Golf Club in West Chester, PA. Eighty-eight (88) alumni nurses and four (4) guests attended the luncheon. Seven (7) members of the Class of 1969 attended the luncheon and celebrated 50 years since

graduating from the Chester County Hospital. Several class members shared stories and memories of their time spent together as classmates with the luncheon group. *Photographs from the luncheon* may be found in the CCH SON section of the CCH website. You may (or ask a friend) to log onto <https://www.chestercountyhospital.org/about/nursing/school-alumni-association/events-calendar> to view all of the photographs.

The luncheon committee decided to have a very different kind of presentation last year. Thus, Linda Martin was our featured speaker. Linda was invited to speak on her love of travel! She shared beautiful photographs of her visit to Myanmar (Burma). She emphasized the role of woman in Burma. For example, she showed a photograph of “Long Neck Women” that belonged to a tribe whose custom it is to adorn their neck with metal coils. Linda also had a photograph of a sign outside of a temple that read “Ladies Are Not Allowed To Enter”. Linda shared that there once were 10,000 temples in Myanmar but only about 2500 remain. She also shared pictures of the traditional monk garb and info on the Buddhist traditions. It was a very interesting and educational presentation. Additionally, a basket of fresh Chester County mushrooms was raffled. Thank you to everyone that took a chance. The raffle earned our association \$135.00! And the winner of the mushroom raffle was Linda McGowan Glemm, Class of 1968.

President’s Ponderings 2020

My father was eight years old when the great influenza began in the United States and spread throughout the world. It lasted for more than two years. Full page newspaper ads said “Wear a mask and save your life.” (I know this because I read the book by John M. Barry.) The reading is eerily familiar today, as we work through the current pandemic. I hope that it will be at least another 100 years before we see another one. In the meantime, I pray that all of you and your loved ones are keeping your mental and spiritual health, as well as your physical health.

115th Anniversary of the CCH Nursing Alumni Association

In writing the *History of the Alumni Association* we reviewed years of alumni meeting minutes. We found that, from the beginning and throughout the decades, the Association’s dedication to the Hospital and the School of Nursing were always evident. Beautiful, readable cursive writing was evident too.

The meeting minutes show a strong commitment to the promotion of nursing leadership. Members participated in local, state and national associations. Members volunteered their time and skills in many ways, notable is the list of names of 23 CCH nurses who enlisted in the armed services in 1918. You can find the *History of the Alumni Association* on our web page.

This year, as we commemorate our 115th anniversary, we share the moment with the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. On August 18, 1920, after years of social justice activism by women, this historic amendment was ratified. Prior to this, some states had already allowed women to vote in their national elections, Wyoming being the first, in 1869, followed by Colorado and Utah.

“People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do.” (Dorothy Day, social change activist arrested for demonstrating for women’s suffrage in 1917.)

I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon on June 5, 2021,
Elizabeth

Recently Deceased Alumni Members

We sadly mourn the loss of: Shirley Craley (Class of 1952), Harriet Close Emerson (Class of 1960), Gloria Reynolds Gelsinger (Class of 1954) Margery Spann Stahl (Class of 1952), Aschi (Nancy) Meek Novich (Class of 1967), Joan Pollock Sangree (Class of 1955), Bonnie L. Stuart (Class of 1959), Ramon Parsons Waltz (Class of 1946), and Catherine Antonucci Wagner (Class of 1954) and E. Paul Rock, D.O. CCH Medical Staff. Our condolences to the families and friends of our dear classmates/medical staff. Please contact us if you hear of the passing of an alumni member.

Thanks to the volunteer 2020 Chester County Alumni Officers!

Elizabeth Maule Smoker, (Class of 1966), *President*
Christine Butkus Hinks, (Class of 1974), *Vice President*
Sandra Flickinger Cremi, (Class of 1964), *Treasurer*
Penny Von Rembow Davis, (Class of 1969), *Secretary*
Jennifer Mento DiMedio, (Class of 1992), *Media Coordinator*
Janet Conrad Dettra, (Class of 1964), *Program Biographies Coordinator*
Marcia DiEmedio Bowers (Class of 1976), *Newsletter Editor*
Mary Anne Santangelo Newman (Class of 1968), *Annual Luncheon Committee*
Maryann Bortree Irvine (Class of 1964), *Annual Luncheon Committee*
Susan Alexander Hall (Class of 1976), *Annual Luncheon Committee*
Nancy Mooney Kirk (Class of 1962), *Annual Luncheon Committee*

CCH SON Alumni Association Website

A special thank you is extended to Jennifer (Mento) DiMedio (Class of 1992) for the beautiful job she did in establishing our CCH SON Alumni Association hospital website. The site is on the CCH website in the CCH SON section or can be found at <https://www.chestercountyhospital.org/about/nursing/school-of-nursing-alumni-association>. It contains photographs of our officers, luncheon committee, last year’s luncheon, events, and highlighted alumni profiles. If you would like to highlight what you have done

throughout your career please contact Jennifer on our email address at CCHSONALUMNI@gmail.com

The Class of 1970 were invited to share a bio. The following were submitted to us. The list of names that we have records for are on page 7.

Class of 1970

Elizabeth Millard Carson

7168 Winter Rose Path Columbia MD 21045

410-381-6506 carsliz1@hotmail.com

Batty and her husband Larry have been married for 28 years. She has 3 children - April, Kim, and Jessie. She also has 6 grandchildren. She is now retired from her career as a nurse clinical specialist in psychiatry and a psych liaison nurse/psych consultation service. She enjoys reading and volunteers with Healthcare is a Human Right, Maryland. She hopes to see everyone sometime after the pandemic resolves.

Donna Bemis Cole

442 W. Fourth St. Quarryville, PA 17566

717-572-6284 donnacole715@gmail.com

Donna has 2 daughters, Jennifer and Karen, and 4 living grandchildren and sadly one deceased grandchild. She has been divorced since 2004. She has had a varied career. Donna worked at CCH 1970-75 in Infection Control, Med-Surg in Kingston, Pa, office nursing, school nursing, pediatric psych for 10 years and longterm care including dementia for 10 years. She retired 8 years ago due to disability and now enjoys gardening and is an elementary school volunteer.

Christine Hertz D'Elia

12620 Shannondale Dr. Fort Myers, FL 33913

239-561-1158 cmdelia@hotmail.com

Chris was married to her husband Joseph for 41 years prior to his passing away. She has 1 son, Angelo Joseph. Her working career included Med/Surg, school nursing, director at a nursing home, hospice, and ophthalmology. She is now retired and enjoys reading, gardening and sewing. She says, "God bless you all. Thank you for being there for me, as she is in remission from mantle cell lymphoma Stage 4.

Gail Eiceman

35 Thea Ct. Womelsdorf, PA 19567

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Gail was widowed many years ago. She has 3 children Trista, Tamara, and Thad. She also has 3 grandchildren. Early in her career she worked Med-Surg and ICU. Gail went back to school for her BS and later PhD in nutrition. She then started a Nutrition Practice with other nurses and MD's and she still works there. She enjoys traveling, swimming, reading, her dog, and she spends lots of time with her children and grandchildren. She says, "I send blessings and well wishes to all my classmates. Has it really been 50 years!

Darene Wildermuth Hazel

2117 Wrexham Rd. Wilmington, DE 19810
302-475-6439

“Dar” spent her career as a Visiting Nurse and retired in 2015. She and her husband William have been married for 43 years and have one son, William and 2 grandchildren. She enjoys going to the beach, occasional travel, and grandchildren. She says, “ Hello- Hope all are well. I hoped to see everyone at the 50th year anniversary of our graduation. Maybe next year. Be safe”.

Deborah Brown Herr

421 Hillcrest Ave. Quarryville, PA 17566
717-786-7774 kendebherr@epix.net

Debbie and her husband Ken have been married for 49 years. They have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. She is now retired. She spent her career in OB/GYN and a long term nursing facility. She says, “I cherished knowing all of you”.

Barbara Hause Jannotti

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215-657-2578 barbrn1214@aol.com

Barb has 8 children and 17 grandchildren! She and her husband Rick have been married for 2 years. Her career was in pediatrics as she worked at Huntingdon Valley Peds and also as a triage nurse at Abington Peds. She is now retired. She enjoys travel, grandkids and gardening.

Sandra Hedrick Mackie

1561 Valley Greene Rd. Paoli, PA 19301
610-647-2614 sandymackiern@gmail.com

Sandy and her husband Jeff will celebrate their 50 wedding anniversary in 2021. They have 2 sons, Jeffrey and Craig and 4 grandchildren. She worked 4 years in CCU in Camden, NJ, 4 years on a surgical floor in Natick, MA. She finished her career as a School Nurse at Hillside Elementary in Berwyn from 1992-2006. In retirement she enjoys her grandchildren, traveling, cross-stitch, gardening, crossword puzzles, cryptograms and jigsaw puzzles. In September and October she helps with vision and hearing screenings for the school district. She says, “Hoping to attend if alumni plans to invite us in 2021. Have fond memories of my years at CCH”.

Marie O’Brien Maston

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678-221-7263 mariemaston@msn.com

Marie or “OB” as she was known in training, retired in 2014. She had worked for 30 years in ICU/Trauma, then in oncology for 6 years and ended her career with 8 years in Short Term Rehab. She was married to Gerry, but was widowed 8 ½ years ago. She has 2 children, Christopher and Heather and 6 grandchildren. She enjoys drawing, reading and sports. She says, “Hope all are happy and well.”

Kathleen Cole Riegel
5429 Rt. 25 Gratz, PA 17030
717-365-3649

Kathy and her husband Ted have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! They have 2 children Michelle and Ted and 1 granddaughter, whose wedding is now on hold. She retired in April, 2018 after working in Peds at Chester County, Peds and OB/GYN at Good Samaritan Hospital and was a charge nurse/supervisor at Dauphin County/Spring Creek. She enjoys reading, needle work, antiques and miniature doll houses. She says "I was looking forward to seeing everyone-hope to see you next year. Keep safe! Give me a call. Same place, same number."

Susan Howerton Smith
171 Augusta Dr. Honey Brook, PA 19344
610-273-1227 rileyjane1@aol.com

Susan and her husband Richard have also been married for 50 years! They have 3 children, Becky, Richard and Melissa and 3 grandchildren. She worked at CCH for a year after graduation and then worked at Pocopson Home, Bryn Mawr Rehab, Barclay Friends and ended her career with 22 years at Chester County Dept. of Aging. She enjoys reading, quilting, rughooking and volunteering.

Bonnie Brown Tomeo
147 E. Pine St. Ephrata, PA 17522
717-333-6857 bonnietomeo@gmail.com

Bonnie worked in neonatal ICU nursing for 40 years. She retired from the hospital in 2012. She also has been involved in therapeutic nutritional counseling for the past 30 years. She presently is self-employed working from home with her company True Natural Answers LLC. She enjoys helping people stay well holistically. She says, "I am looking forward to seeing and visiting with you. Stay well my friends". She and her husband Joseph have been married for 27 years and have 4 children and 4 grandchildren.

Marylin Carns Zimmerman
803 Raintree Lane Malvern, PA 19355
484-401-0147 maryzimm9@gmail.com

Marylin's career took her all over the map! She first worked in Peds at CCH and also in Battle Creek, MI. She then worked in Head Trauma at Bryn Mawr Rehab, Home Health in Biloxi MS, and Drug and Alcohol Detox in Nashville TN. She was married for 23 years and is now divorced. She has 2 sons - David and Carl. Marylin enjoys sewing, reading, gardening, cross stitch, knitting, spinning yarn, weaving, crocheting and quilting.

Memories of CCH by Sandra Hedrick Mackie

Remember the curfews! No males allowed in our rooms, signing in & out, no wearing pants or shorts for all meals, and who can forget how we lived for those written letters and cards. Only phones in the dorm were pay phones on the wall in the hallway with a

cord that did not stretch very far. Frequenting 202 Drive-In, Warner Movie Theater, Woolworth's, Mostellar's, Betty's Ice Cream, Jimmy John's and Marshall Square Park. And who could forget spending the summer months at the old CHOP on Bainbridge St. Philadelphia with no air conditioning. And then there was the Institute of PA Hospital at 49th & Market Sts. in Philadelphia, where we had to use key 500 to unlock all entryways.

The Class of 1970:

Donna Bemis (Cole)
Bonnie Brown (Tomeo)
Deborah Brown (Herr)
Christine Cain
Marylin Carns (Zimmerman)
Kathleen Cole (Riegel)
Francis Crossman (Backenstose)
Iris Dixon
Gail Eiceman
Kathleen Finegan
Sharon Frazer
Nancy Gerrity
Kathleen Gorman
Christine Hartz (D'Elia)
Barbara Hause (Jannotti)
Sandra Hedrick (Mackie)
Linda Hicks
Susan Howerton (Smith)
Susan Hulitt
Dorothy Little
Thomas Lloyd
Centa Logan
Elizabeth Millard (Carson)
Marie O'Brien (Maston)
Anne Marie Pacinell (Lutz)
Virginia Sasse (Butler)
Donital Christner Seymanski
Sharon Sigman (Baron)
Caroline Smith
Harriette Warner
Darene Wildermuth (Hazel)