



Beyond the Cap

M G H N U R S E S ' A L U M N I A S S O C I A T I O N , I N C

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Message from the NAA President

Dear Colleagues,

What a year we have had! Do hope you are all well, have been COVID vaccinated, and are getting to be "mask-free". I am cautiously optimistic that our lives will in time return to some semblance of normalcy.

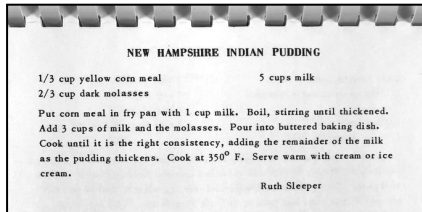
Your NAA Board has been busy over these past months. We have become very adept at Zoom meetings whether they be for bi-monthly board meetings or various committee meetings. A big focus for all has been the 150th birthday celebration of the MGH School of Nursing in 2023. You will be getting the current known details about it from Barbara Dunderdale, the chair, later in this newsletter.

We have an active lecture group through the MGH NAA History Group and the Professional Development, Research, and Community Engagement Committee, with e-mail blasts going out to alumni. Our website, www.mghnaa.org has had serious attention as well. It is now current and informed. Please, take a look. Let us know what you think via your class agent or email us at: mghnursealumni@partners.org

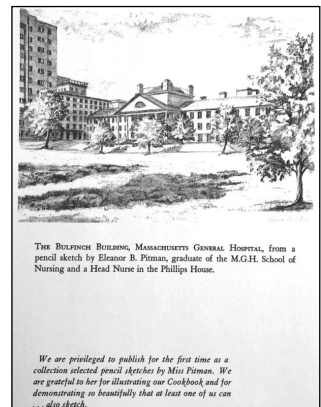
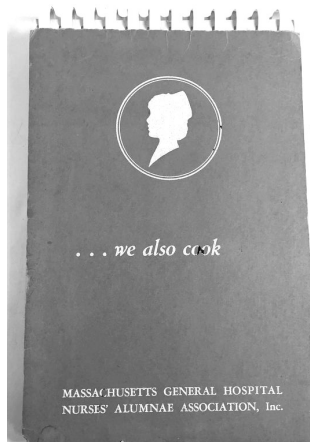
A reminder that the 2021 Homecoming has again been cancelled this year due to MGH's Covid reopening restrictions but the annual business meeting will be held as we did last year via ZOOM conference. We plan to have a speaker this year who will follow the business meeting. It will be an MGH graduate. Alumni will receive an e-mail in July [with likely a few reminders to follow] with registration information etc.

In closing, I hope you all stay well. My best,

Roberta Nemeskal, 1969
MGH NAA President



Cookbook produced by the NAA for sale at the 150th anniversary of the hospital in 1961. Eleanor Pitman was class of 1925.



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~ 150th Anniversary Plans ~

Dear MGHSON Alumni,

As the Chairperson of the 150th Anniversary 2023 Celebration of the MGH School of Nursing, I want to suggest that you begin making plans to attend the events at MGH on September 22, 23, & 24, 2023. If you have not heard from your Class Agent/Class Representative, please be in touch with them. This is a momentous time and a momentous event for the MGH Nurses' Alumni Association, MGH Nursing, and the MGH Institute of Health Professions School of Nursing. The MGH School of Nursing, founded in 1873, closed its doors in 1981 with a profound history having trained and educated close to 8,000 nurses caring for patients worldwide. It is a truly remarkable history of advancing patient care, nursing education, and professional nursing. Every graduate of the school is a part of and a tribute to this heritage. The celebration will not be the same without you!!!

Committees are hard at work now conducting historical research, reviewing oral histories, and collecting pictures that will contribute to a splendid historical video. An effort in concert with MGH nursing and administrative leadership to secure a prominent and permanent site to recognize Ruth Sleeper, the MGHSON & MGH Nursing is in process.

Planned events so far include **Friday 9/22/2023** at the MGH Institute of Health Professions SON with seminars, luncheon, and tours, and later a welcome cocktail reception hosted by the MGH NAA on Bulfinch II. **Saturday 9/23/2023** will be our traditional Homecoming Day at MGH, a full day with Russell Museum reception & breakfast, business meeting, luncheon, speakers, gifts and awards, anniversary classes recognition (1953, '58, '63, '68, '73, '78), and the world premiere of our MGH SON video. On **Sunday, 9/24/2023** a brunch at the hospital will bring us updates from the MGH, the MGH Department of Nursing and the MGH Institute. It doesn't get much better!!!

I will be providing further information about local lodging, expenses, guests, parking, class pictures, and other, both in our publications and on our website. Classes should begin to plan, especially anniversary classes. I am available to you for questions: bdunderdale@msn.com

Barbara Dunderdale, MGHSON Class of 1963; MGHNAA BOD
Chair, 150th Anniversary 2023 Celebration of the MGH School of Nursing
Email: mghnursealumni@partners.org Website: <http://www.mghnaa.org>

~ What's New ~

NAA News

Sadly, we report the death of one of our very active members, M. Honor Keegan, class of 1963, unexpectedly on April 6, 2021. Honor was known to many of us, either as a classmate, an instructor in the school, a colleague at the hospital, a volunteer in the archives, just a few of the many hats she wore. A full remembrance will appear in the next issue of *The Record*.

The NAA will be one of the sponsors of the third annual **Eva Allerton Nursing History Lecture**, a free program to be held on **Tuesday, September 28, 2021**. The speaker will be **Robyn Hillard, MSN, CMSRN, NEA-BC**, Interim Director of Nursing Practice & Policy, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Her topic is titled, "Historical Contributions of Blacks in Nursing," examining historical stereotypes associated with black nurses and contributions of black nurses to the profession. Whether the program is in person or virtual is yet to be decided. Updates will be posted on our website. The Professional Development Committee continues to send out email notices of lectures & events of interest to alumni.

Reminder: If you haven't already done so, dues may be paid online at: **WWW.MGHNAA.ORG**. You may still send dues by check & regular mail to: PO Box 6234; Boston MA 02114

MGH News



MGH President **Dr. Peter Slavin** has announced his intention to retire after 18 years as president and 40 years of association with the hospital beginning with his medical residency. He will continue to serve until a replacement is appointed. This news follows the earlier announcement by Mass General Brigham (nee Partners Health Care) that it will aggressively pursue the total merger of the two institutions with decision-making powers resting within the corporation rather than the hospitals.

Access to the hospital will continue to be restricted until at least the fall of 2021. Venues such as the Russell Museum are closed for the duration, but their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/mghrussellmuseum/> presents unusual and interesting medically-related facts in a regular squib called, "Your Medical Museum at Home."

IHP News



The School of Nursing has named its new Dean, **Dr. Kenneth R. White**, beginning July 1, 2021. Dr. White's BSN, MSN, and PhD were completed at Virginia Commonwealth University. He holds a Master of Public Health degree in health administration from the University of Oklahoma and a Post-MS Certificate as an Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. In his work as a certified nurse practitioner, he worked in the areas of hospice and palliative care.

Most recently, he completed service as the Associate Dean for Strategic Partnerships in the School of Nursing and Endowed Professor of Nursing at the University of Virginia and continues in that affiliation as an emeritus professor. He also held joint appointments with the Darden School of Business, the McIntire School of Commerce, and the School of Medicine. Earlier in his career Dr. White was an executive with the Mercy Health System, an international provider of health care. During his tenure with the Mercy System, he led the civilian hospital on Guam and served in various administrative roles with Mercy Health Center in Oklahoma City.

Dr. White has published many refereed articles, as well as chapters and texts on several areas important to the practice of nursing including: intensive, palliative, and hospice care; nursing entrepreneurship; the evolution of Catholic health systems; and many areas of hospital leadership and management. Later this year, Dr. White will begin a two-year term as the President of the American Academy of Nursing, an organization with which he has been actively involved for years.

History/Archives News

The work of transcribing completed oral histories is nearing completion; it offers a rich trove of lived history and anecdotes in both audio and written formats. When finished they will be in permanent, uniform formats (digital and written hard copies). Their ultimate destination will be the MGH Archives with the rest of the nursing artifacts for long-term storage and availability for research.

We recently discovered that the oral history one of our graduates, **Mary Pickering Barker**, class of 1916, had been recorded by the University of California in 1965. In it she talks about her work at UCSF (she was an organizer of the collegiate nursing program there in 1927) and reminisces about her student days at MGH. She lived in England after her marriage in 1934. It's freely available at: <https://californiarevealed.org/islandora/object/cavpp%3A13722> Favorite quote: "I don't think one's training could have been bettered, except in the one respect that they sometimes forgot you were a human being."

A major project for the foreseeable future will be planning for the 2023 celebration of the 150th anniversary of our founding. Several sub-committees are working on this including a Video Committee which is researching and organizing a video about the school and its graduates; a group working on a physical memorial to Ruth Sleeper and the MGH SON nurses, and others culling through transcribed histories and issues of the *Quarterly Record* for interesting anecdotes and quotes. We look forward to being able to access the archives in person again to dig deeper into the history.

Tech Notes

The website has been updated. You may now pay dues online; access applications and forms; find upcoming events including relevant lectures and programs available virtually; read this newsletter; review scholarship and loan criteria and find your class agent. www.mghnaa.org

~~~~ VIRTUAL HOMECOMING ~~~~

September 25, 2021
12noon

- ~ Annual business meeting with reports from the officers and committees
- ~ Speaker (see below)
- ~ Questions and comments

Our speaker will be **Estelle Codier, RN, MSN, PhD, MGH SON 1976**. She is currently Assistant Professor of Nursing, University of Hawaii. She has been involved in clinical, academic and scholarly pursuits continuously over her entire career, concentrating her research in the specialty field of emotional intelligence. She is the author of two books, most recently, The Emotionally Intelligent Nurse, published this year, and many book chapters and articles.

Of note, Estelle's brother **David Codier, MGH SON 1979**, has also had a career of significant achievements, some of which he has shared in an oral history for our archives. He has co-authored several articles with Estelle.



Marlene Groetz Lester, class of 1953, passed away Saturday, July 11, 2020 at age 87 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Born in Amesbury, MA, Marlene graduated from Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing in 1953. She worked in Boston, San Francisco, and Lakeland before settling on the Suncoast of Florida. Her career at Venice Community Hospital began in 1971 and she rose to manage a 45-bed floor before retiring in 1994. She studied nights to earn a Bachelor of Science in Management from Nova University in 1987. She left medicine to work in administration at her husband's construction company. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Daniel, her three sons and extended family. She was active in her church, volunteering in several community service activities through them. Her pleasures included ballroom dancing, world travel, aerobics, and lunches with her dear friends, the "Gabby Girls."

*Editor's Note: Marlene's obituary was omitted from this year's edition of *The Record*. We apologize for the oversight.



MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL NURSES' ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION REUNION - 1915
 Front row from left to right

ANNABELLA MACRAE	M.G.H. 1895	Instructor of Practical Nursing 1902 -
SARA E. PARSONS	M.G.H. 1893	Superintendent of Nurses 1910 - 1920
PAULINE L. DOLLIVER	M.G.H. 1889	Superintendent of Nurses 1899 - 1909
CARRIE M. HALL	M.G.H. 1904	President, M.G.H. Nurses' Alumnae Assoc. 1915 - 1918
ANNA C. MAXWELL	B.C.H. 1880	Superintendent of Nurses 1881 - 1889
SOPHIA F. PALMER	M.G.H. 1878	Editor, Am. Journal of Nursing 1900 - 1920
LINDA RICHARDS	N.E.H.W.&C. 1873	Superintendent of Nurses 1874 - 1877

Some of our pioneers. First major reunion,
 1915

**Massachusetts General Hospital
 Nurses' Alumni Association, Inc.
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Return Service Requested