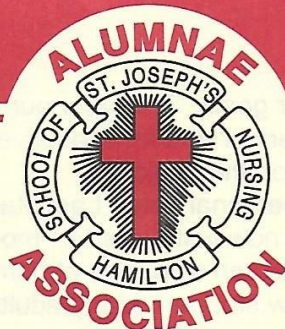


# ALUMNAE IN ACTION



St. Joseph's School of Nursing  
Alumnae Association  
Newsletter Editor  
184 Toby Crescent  
Hamilton, ON L8T 2P2  
[www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com)

January 2022

Dear Nursing Colleagues

Happy New Year to all members! We, the Executive, hope that this Newsletter finds everyone continuing to be healthy and safe. It is unfortunate that this variant, Omicron, has so quickly descended on us and has caused such havoc once again in the world! Things for a near normal Christmas Season looked quite good just a few short weeks ago and then suddenly we were in the throws of increasingly high numbers of positive Covid cases to the point where we are now facing a number of restrictions regarding public gatherings. This has created uncertainty once again, especially with Reunion Day! We will do our best to keep you informed!

Our website, [www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com) has a new look and has been updated and made much more user friendly thanks to our website creator, ROAR and the hard work of Connie Prowse '69 (our Archivist) and Kristine Rogers '69, (President and Website Coordinator). Please log on and have a look. You won't be disappointed! There is a lot of history of our School of Nursing and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton to look at! It's quite amazing actually!!

## President's Message

Greetings everyone! I hope you were able to connect with family in a safe manner over the Christmas Season. As I write this message on January 4th 2022, Happy New Year seems an appropriate greeting. However, with the pandemic numbers currently climbing on a daily basis, January and the new year are starting off disappointingly. We are all asking how long will this situation go on? The current uncertainty we find ourselves in affects all of us in so many ways.

January also signals time for the Executive to come back together, via Zoom, after the Christmas break. Paramount in the minds of the Executive is the question "will we be able to have a reunion this year?" As planning needs to start months in advance, the truth is we just don't know!!! It is **HIGHLY UNLIKELY** we will be able to have Reunion Day again this spring! Sad news for many I'm sure!

The Executive continues with our goals. This year our major goal is the upgrading of our membership data base. A vendor and an executive working group have been selected and are ready to move on this project.

I would like to share with you a personal note. Last March we added a puppy to our home, a Saint Bernard, who has now just turned 11 months old and weighs over 150 pounds! Milo belongs to our adult son who lives at home. Milo is beautiful and when he is out for a walk, he is a real show stopper! Many adults and children stop, wanting to pet him and some even take his picture. Milo has been our cure for the Covid blues!

Be well in spirit and body,  
Your President, Kristine Rogers '69





## Honorary Members for 2022

Congratulations to 13 Honorary Recipients in 2022!

**Marjorie Dyett '66**  
**Suzanne Neubauer Hayes '62**  
**Carolyn Guse Krar '68**  
**Virginia Rizzo '73**  
**Judy Flynn Skarratt '62**  
**Judy Schmidt Sloan '73**  
**Gail Beamer Tempest '68**  
**Dana Ditmars Walters '67**

**Patricia Patterson Baker '62 (deferred)**  
**Helen Reeker Henderson '61 (deferred)**  
**Sheila Todd Maggio '72 (deferred)**  
**Carolyn Field Olaski '62 (deferred)**  
**Joan Robinson Phillips '57 (deferred)**  
 (deferrals are from 2021)

Honorary status is awarded to those who have achieved 25 years of continuous Alumnae Membership, in recognition of their dedication to their Nursing Alumnae. While Honorary Members are still required to pay their yearly membership, they are awarded a beautiful gold pin usually at the Alumnae Reunion Day Luncheon in May. Because of the uncertainty of having Reunion Day this May 2022, please let Membership Secretary, **Pat Duxbury**, know if you would like to defer receiving your award until the next Reunion Day (hopefully May 2023). If you would like your award sent to you, please let

## Donations

We are happy to accept donations, either monetary or items of interest, to the Alumnae. They are always put to good use or preserved within the Alumnae.

The Alumnae continues to support various groups. We have donated to St. Margaret Mary Parish, who kindly let us use articles from the church during our Reunion Day Mass.

We also donate to St Joseph's Villa for client needs, Margaret's Place Hospice, which just opened in the summer of 2021 and to St. Joseph's Hospital to their Covid Fund.



*Joan Robinson  
Phillips '57*



*Sister Mary Margaret a.k.a. Marjorie Dyett '66*



*Helen Reeker  
Henderson '61*



*Carolyn field  
Olaski '62*



*Judy Flynn  
Skarratt '62*



*Patricia Patterson  
Baker '62*



*Suzanne Neubauer  
Hayes '62*



*Dana Ditmars  
Walters '67*



*Gail Beamer  
Tempest '68*



*Carolyn Guze  
Krar '68*



*Sheila Todd  
Maggio '72*



*Virginia Rizzo '73*



*Judy Schmidt  
Sloan '73*



## Information for the Membership

It has come to our attention that there has been a disconnect with replacing lost Graduation Rings or Pins. We do have a source for replacing these items, which is Zigmüt Jewellers, located in Hamilton. If you are in need of replacing one of these items please contact **Patricia O'Neill** (our Treasurer) at [patriciaoneill@rogers.com](mailto:patriciaoneill@rogers.com)



*Patricia O'Neill '74*

## Special Thank You

Thank you to **Karin Dearness**, the hospital Librarian, for all her help in assisting our Archivists, Connie and Janina, with storage of our donated items, pictures, books and memorabilia for our Alumnae. She has eagerly provided space, shelving and an area to work in. Karin also assists in providing help for the viewing cabinet in the main lobby of the Charlton site, where items from the Alumnae are displayed. Her assistance has been invaluable!!

## Classes Celebrating in 2022

1972, celebrating 50 years  
 1942, celebrating 80 years  
 1947, celebrating 75 years  
 1952, celebrating 70 years  
 1957, celebrating 65 years  
 1962, celebrating 60 years  
 1967, celebrating 55 years  
 1977, celebrating 45 years

## EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2021 - 2022

Position	Name
President, Website Coordinator	Kristine Rogers '69
Vice President, Raffle/Door Prize Coordinator	Rose Dzugan '68
Recording Secretary	Nancy March '72
Treasurer	Patricia O'Neill '74
Newsletter Editor	Linda Lipsitt '72
Membership Secretary	Pat Duxbury '66
Mass Coordinator	Judy Cleary '67
Mass Coordinator	Diane Poehlman '71B
Historical Archives Coordinator	Janina Berenyi '65
Historical Archives Coordinator	Connie Prowse '69
Luncheon Coordinator	Kathy Jackson '73
Luncheon Coordinator	Teresa Maas '74

## A chuckle for today...

Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement. The first patient is examined within the hour, x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week.

The second sees his family doctor after waiting 3 weeks for an appointment, then waits 8 weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another week and finally has his surgery scheduled for 6 months from then.

Why the different treatment for the two patients?

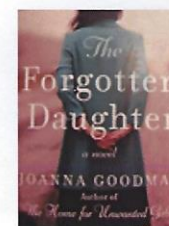
The FIRST is a Golden Retriever.

The SECOND is a Senior Citizen.

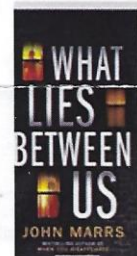
Next time take me to a Vet!!

## Recommended Reading

A moving portrait of true love, familial bonds and persistence in the face of little known injustices in 1950's Quebec when Premier Duplessis converted orphanages to mental hospitals.



The truth is more dangerous than lies!





## St. Joe's Grads Making a Difference

### Janet Dawson Kasperski '65 R.N., MHSc, CHE

Upon graduation from Cathedral Girls High School, in Hamilton, Jan entered St Joseph's School of Nursing in Hamilton to become one of the 110 graduates of 1965. "Do unto others as we would have them do unto us"...was the core value that underpinned the rest of her career. It held a deep appreciation for how privileged we were to be able to serve in our healthcare system.

Jan started her career in Emergency at St. Joseph's in Hamilton, where her passion for children in need was born. She also thrived in de-escalating situations in psychiatric crisis, the trauma and cardiac arrest rooms and addressing the emotional distress of caring for complex needs of patients and their distraught families. She also learned that humour at times was a great substitute for tears and emotional distress.

After working for one year, Jan married Sam, an incredible Einstein-brilliant, gentle man, who was by her side for over 53 years. Together they raised three children while Jan worked as a home care nurse, a public health nurse, an occupational health nurse and a psychiatric nurse before returning to emergency nursing. During this period, Jan began an undergrad degree in Psychology at McMaster University and became a Research Associate at McMaster in Psychiatry/Gastroenterology. She also functioned as a Research Associate in the Department of Anaesthesiology while completing her degree.

Jan applied to the first class of the Masters of Health Sciences program at McMaster and was one of 16 chosen from 650 applicants. Jan was awarded the "Jeanne Mance Scholarship Award" which is awarded to previous graduates from Mohawk College's Nursing program and includes nurses who previously graduated from St. Joseph's School of Nursing and the Hamilton General Hospital's School of Nursing. Jan's clinical placement was in the Department of Psychiatry and she had an opportunity to be on the ground floor in development of Behaviour Medicine. She completed her thesis on Eating Disorders with the support of researchers from the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry. She then became a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Emergency at the Hospital for Sick Children, where she helped with the development of Orientation for Residents and Nurses, the Paediatric Advance Life Program, The Poison Control Centre, The Information Call Line and conducted research on Primary Nursing. Jan then returned to St Joe's as Manager of ER where she also became involved with the design of the new ER and Urgent Care Centre in East Hamilton.

Jan was appointed Director of Emergency and Ambulatory Care at Toronto General Hospital and then promoted to the role of Assistant Vice-President of the Surgical Program and the Administrative Director of the Neurosciences Collaborative Grouping as the Toronto General Hospital and the Toronto Western Hospital merged to become The Toronto Hospital, now known as the University Health Network.



*Janet Dawson Kasperski '65*

Jan then became Senior Vice-President at Hotel-Dieu Hospital in St. Catharines. The role of Jeanne Mance, Canada's first lay nurse, became much more visible and meaningful.

Jan further developed administrative skills in regional planning, governance skills on the Board of a Registered Charity and as a Board Member of an Aging in Place Seniors complex. She participated in policy development at the provincial level and developed skills as the hospital's media and government relations officer.

After turning down several CEO positions, she joined a weekend retreat with the executive committee of the Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) and helped plan a model for the healthcare system anchored in a model that is aligned with today's inter-professional and inter-organizational Ontario Health Teams, The Northern School of Medicine, Smart EMR/EHRs, alternate payment plans to replace "fee-for-service", distributing learning in community hospitals and a focus on population health rather than treating after the fact. She spent 15 years transforming this vision (The Prescription for Excellent Healthcare) into action. In addition, Jan was heavily involved in healthy child development, palliative care, mental health and addictions and an innovative continuing professional development approach anchored in coaching and mentoring models that became The Centre for CPD Excellence. She was especially honoured to work with The Chiefs of the First Nations' Health Council and to travel all over the province celebrating family medicine in Ontario and became a faculty member of the Northern School of Medicine.

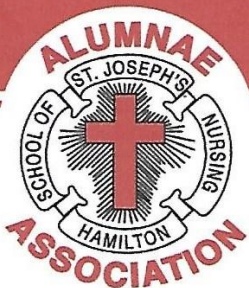
Jan thought she retired in 2018 but accepted a position with the OPA (Ontario Psychological Association) and spent time at Queen's Park with 14 different Ministries and multiple organizations on a variety of issues, like the root causes of homelessness, the poverty strategy, mental and substance abuse in the justice system, sexual assaults, domestic violence and child custody issues to name a few.

After a second retirement and the loss of her husband Sam, Jan found that her grieving process was nothing like what the strategy espoused it to be. She begged St. Joe's CEO to find a way to bring her back into the fold and became a member of St. Joe's Patient and Family Council. The long ago memory of a baby in the paediatric unit, who left with loving parents and later became a family physician, evoked a need to re-engage in the child development arena. Jan is now the proud Founder, President and CEO of Resilient Kids Canada, a role she hopes to still be in until her 100th birthday!!





# ALUMNAE IN ACTION



St. Joseph's School of Nursing  
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Newsletter Editor  
184 Toby Crescent  
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[www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com)

April 2022

Dear Nursing Colleagues

Happy Spring!! I, for one, am loving the longer days and the warmer temperatures. We, from the Executive, hope all members are safe and well. This past winter was once again difficult for many.

Things looked promising recently, but it appears the situation may be a little uncertain for the next while once again. Many restrictions have been lifted. But Covid is still a force to reckon with! We deeply regret having to cancel our Reunion Day Mass and Luncheon for the third time, but we just couldn't take the chance with our members safety and health. We are a large group of an aging population now...many of us with some health issues.

All updates will be sent to you via the newsletters and our website, [www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com).

The winter has been relatively quiet for the Executive, although many updates and Power Point Presentations are being added to the website, recognizing the Special Anniversary Years. Please have a look at these presentations. Connie Prowse '69 and Kristine Rogers '69 have been diligently adding to it!

We do request that all class representatives continue to send in pictures!

## President's Message

I am writing this message on the eve of the first day of Spring 2022. Spring brings the promise of renewal as evident by the green Daffodil shoots popping up in the garden. This is the last newsletter for the Alumnae 2021/2022 fiscal year. The accomplishments this past year include the updated and fresh new look to our website. Content revisions are ongoing by myself, with huge support of our archival material amassed by Connie Prowse and Janina Berenyi. The updating of our membership database has been contracted out and the

revisions are led by Pat Duxbury, our Membership Secretary and Teresa Maas, one of our Luncheon Coordinators. The Liaison to the Sisters' role is now jointly shared by our Mass Coordinators, Judy Cleary and Diane Poehlman.

The Covid pandemic has again, with great regret, caused a cancellation of this year's May Reunion Day. Being uncertain if we could have our 300+ Alumnae in one room and the lead time required to plan and execute the reunion, made the decision to cancel the correct and safe decision to make. We are ever hopeful to have Reunion Day in May 2023 and the venue (Michelangelo's in Hamilton) has been secured for Thursday May 25th, 2023. The Executive remains committed to our work and regular meetings via Zoom continue.

On a lighter note, our "puppy", Milo, is one year old and still gives us much enjoyment! This is a picture of Milo after his spring grooming, proudly sporting his post bath bandana! Be well and stay safe. We hope to see you all in 2023!

Your President  
Kristine Rogers '69



## Membership Renewals

If you have received a **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL /APPLICATION FORM** with your newsletter stamped **TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP**, this is your notification that your membership is expiring.

For **Membership or Renewals**, please send a cheque made out to **S.J.S.N.A.A.** to Pat Duxbury, with a self addressed, stamped envelope if you would like a membership card. Pat's address is at the bottom of the renewal form.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support of our Alumnae Association and we look forward to your continued support in the future. We ask you to consider inviting your non-member classmates to join us and keep up on the news through our 3 Newsletters every year.



## St. Joe's Grads Making a Difference

### Tom Dignan '72

Tom was a member of the Mohawk from Six Nations of the Grand River. He served as a pioneer in health of Aboriginal people for more than 30 years. He grew up in Hamilton's working class, rough and tumble east side. He was diagnosed with dyslexia. But his ambition, energy and interests led him to nursing.

Tom left high school at the age of 16 after the sudden death of his father and worked as an office boy and stockroom clerk to support his mother and sisters.

At age 18, he entered the U. S. Marine Corps and during his service, he earned his high school equivalency. After his discharge, and a six-year stint in computer operations, he enrolled in St. Joseph's School of Nursing. Tom graduated from St. Joseph's School of Nursing in 1972 and joined the Adolescent Unit at the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital, and later worked at the Outpost Nursing Station in Berens River Manitoba.

In 1974 he enrolled at the University of Alberta for his BScN, working summers at outpost stations in northern Manitoba. With his degree he returned to Hamilton and served as a Clinical Nursing Instructor at Mohawk College for two years. He was also involved in the newly developed Mohawk College Paramedic Training Program. He was the Inaugural President of the Canadian Indigenous Nursing Association.

He entered the Faculty of Medicine at McMaster University and in 1981 became its oldest graduate and first ever graduate of First Nations ancestry, fulfilling a childhood dream of becoming a doctor!

He became the "first emergency educated physician" in Thunder Bay after completing a mixed internship of 3 years of family medicine, 1 year of emergency medicine and trauma surgery and 1 year of anesthesia. He also became a licensed pilot who flew to isolated First Nations in Northern Ontario as he looked after remote Indigenous communities. He became a tireless advocate for eradicating disparities in healthcare outcomes and inequities in the quality of healthcare facing Indigenous people. He had a particular interest in the debilitating effects of institutionalized racism and oppression.

Tom was awarded several honours during his career! He received the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2002. He received the National Aboriginal Achievement Award in March of 2005 for Medicine and Mentorship of many Indigenous medical students. The Order of Ontario followed in 2006 and in 2012 he received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Ontario government. He also worked with Health Care Canada as a Medical Officer with the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch.

Dr Tom was also an enthusiastic member of the Board of Governors at the First Nations University. In 2019 he was named a member of the Order of Canada.

Dr Tom was described as compassionate, inspiring, fiery and courageous, outspoken and bold in every aspect of his life!

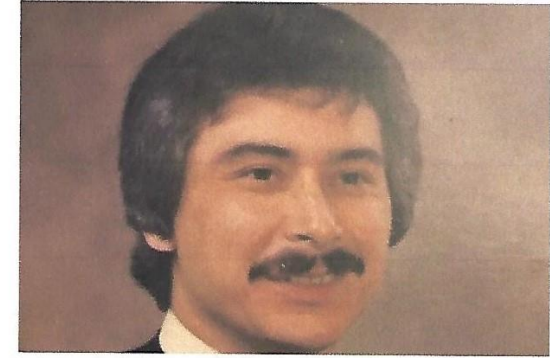


Dream Your Dreams with Your Eyes Closed, BUT LIVE YOUR DREAMS WITH YOUR EYES OPEN"

"Courage Does Not Come Easily!"

"LIVE YOUR DREAMS! NO ONE ELSE CAN LIVE THEM FOR YOU!" " WALK the WALK"

Tom unfortunately passed away January 17, 2021. He was 79. Tom was married to Cheryl and was father to two children and grandfather to two grandchildren.



### Replacement Graduation Rings

Replacing a lost Graduation Ring is possible by **Zigmüt Jewellers**, in Hamilton. The quote given to replace a graduation ring is \$435.00, not including engraving. The jeweller is **not** able to put the graduation year on the face of the ring as in the past. If you are in need of a Graduation Ring replacement, please contact **Patricia O'Neill** (our Treasurer) at [patriaciaoneill@rogers.com](mailto:patriaciaoneill@rogers.com) or **905-765-6606**. She will then make the arrangements with Zigmüt Jewellers.

**Zigmüt Jewellers is NOT ABLE TO REPLACE GRADUATION PINS.** Our Graduation Pins were made by Birks Jewellers. We have tried to contact them for information and unfortunately have been unsuccessful in securing someone who is able to replicate our Graduation Pin.



## Graduates Celebrating Special Anniversaries in 2022

1972, celebrating 50 years  
1952, celebrating 70 years  
1957, celebrating 65 years  
1962, celebrating 60 years  
1967, celebrating 55 years  
1977, celebrating 45 years

We would like to make special mention to two remaining graduates from 1947, who are Honorary Active members as well, Eileen Hunter '47 and Winnie Walker '47, who are celebrating 75 years!!!



*Eileen Hunter '47, Winnifred Walker '47*



### BEST WISHES TO MEMBERS FACING HEALTH CHALLENGES AND SURGERIES

"Good friends help you find important things when you have lost them...things like your smile, your hope and your courage."

## Class of '72 Save the Date

Please save **Wednesday June 22, 2022** for our **50th Anniversary Class get together** at **The Innsville Restaurant**, 1143 Hwy 8, Stoney Creek at **12:00!** Nancy March will be sending out email information at a later date!

Congratulations to 12 Honorary Recipients in 2022!

Suzanne Neubauer Hayes '62  
Carolyn Guse Krar '68  
Virginia Rizzo '73  
Judy Flynn Skarrat '62  
Gail Beamer Tempest '68  
Dana Ditmars Walters '67  
Judy Schmidt Sloan '73

Patricia Patterson Baker '62 (deferred)  
Helen Reeker Henderson '61 (deferred)  
Sheila Todd Maggio '72 (deferred)  
Carolyn Field Olaski '62 (deferred)  
Joan Robinson Phillips '57 (deferred)

(deferrals are from 2021 and 2022)

Honorary status is awarded to members who have achieved 25 years of continuous Alumnae Membership, in recognition of their dedication to their Nursing Alumnae. New Honorary Members are presented with a beautiful gold pin **usually** at the Alumnae Luncheon in May. Pins are being mailed out to those who have requested it and others have deferred receipt next year (2023), when we have our Annual Reunion Day celebration.

## Donations

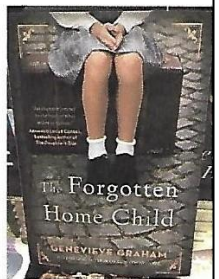
We are happy to accept donations, either monetary or items of interest, to the Alumnae. They are always put to good use or preserved within the Alumnae.

The Alumnae continues to support various groups. We have donated to St. Joseph's Villa for client needs, Margaret's Place Hospice and to St. Joseph's Hospital to their Covid Fund.

## Recommended Read

**The Forgotten Home Child** by Genevieve Graham (2020)

This unforgettable novel about a young girl caught in a scheme to rid England's streets of destitute children and the lengths she will go to find her way home. A moving novel about place, belonging and family!





## Want to Volunteer?

If you enjoy being a member of our Alumnae, enjoy reading the Newsletters and browsing through our website, and most importantly, attending the annual Reunion Day Luncheon and Mass, it might be time to consider volunteering to become a member of the Executive. If you have a few hours a month and live nearby, the Executive would be happy to have some new members come on board. Mentoring into one of the positions on the Executive is available and we would welcome some new faces and fresh ideas! We meet monthly (currently on Zoom) from September to November and January to June. There is flexibility for those members who travel for a time in the winter months as well. We have remained strong as one of the largest and most active Nursing Alumnae across Canada, even though we haven't had any graduates since 1978!

If you are a graduate of St. Joseph's School of Nursing or St. Joseph's Campus of Mohawk College, please consider becoming involved. Any member of the Executive would be happy to discuss their roles and mentor a new member through the process. We want to remain as active as we have been all along!

Executive Committee Roles are:

Immediate Past President  
President  
Vice President  
Recording Secretary  
Treasurer  
Membership Secretary  
Newsletter Editor/Dispatcher  
Archive Coordinators  
Annual Reunion Day Luncheon Coordinators  
Annual Reunion Day Mass Coordinators  
Fundraising Coordinator  
Website Coordinator

Term of office is two (2) years

The Executive formulates policy, develops procedure, administers operations and manages financial operations of the Alumnae according to the Constitution.

Please fill out the "Expression of Interest" form and send it to our President, Kristine Rogers, 241 Cranbrook Dr. Hamilton, On L9C 4T2 or contact any member of the Executive by phone or email (included with this newsletter) with your questions.



### Appendix G Executive Committee Expression of Interest Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Committee Position of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Personal Computer? Y or N

Do you have internet? Y or N

Have you reviewed the role description for the position that you are interest in?

Y or N

Do you have any past experience pertinent to the position you are interested in?

Y or N

Please give a brief explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

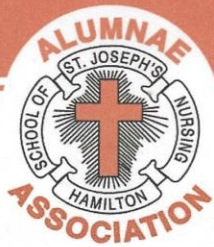
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and forward to the current President as found in the Newsletter Contact List



# ALUMNAE IN ACTION



October 2022

St. Joseph's School of Nursing  
Alumnae Association  
Newsletter Editor  
184 Toby Crescent  
Hamilton, ON L8T 2P2  
[www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com)

Dear Nursing Colleagues,

Alas the summer of 2022 has come to an end! And with it the cooler, shorter days of autumn prevail. We, the Executive, are hoping everyone was able to enjoy the past few months of summer, whether it be vacationing for a few weeks for the first time in two years, visiting with family or just being able to enjoy some of the local activities that have started up again after the last few summers of cautious closures.

The summer has been relatively quiet for the Executive this year. Some of us were able to take some time away from our work here to enjoy vacations, gardening and socializing as well. A little break from routine...which is always appreciated. But, as of September, we are up and running again, keeping the Membership informed of what's happening and thinking of planned events for the upcoming year. However there are a few upcoming changes...

As always, our website, [www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com), is being updated and so much more of our history and legacy has been added.

I hope many of you, who were celebrating special anniversary years this past spring, as well as in previous years, were able to view the tributes for the various classes that were posted on the website by Connie Prowse '69, one of our Historical Archivists. Many hours of work was put into these presentations and **I encourage everyone to take a look!**

Type in [www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com) and choose **Membership**, then **Anniversary Classes** and scroll down until you find the presentation you want to see.

**"Hug a Nurse... because you never know when you will need one!"**

## President's Message

Another season change is here and with it has come changes to the Alumnae Executive. As Heraclitus, a Greek Philosopher is often quoted as saying, "Change is the only constant in life". So too are changes with your Executive. Janina Berenyi '65, Rose Dzugan '68 and Teresa Maas '74, have resigned from their roles on the Executive. Health issues and time for a change are the reasons for these resignations.

All three of these alumnae have been great contributors to the Executive and the ongoing work of the Alumnae. Janina has held **many** roles during her lengthy time (27 years), most recently as Co-

Coordinator of Archives and producer of our Reunion Day class videos. Rose held the role of Vice President and Raffle/Door Prize Coordinator. She was also instrumental in developing the [www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com) website, and also served as MC on Reunion Day. Teresa's organizational skills shone as Co-Coordinator for the Reunion Day Luncheon and more recently in document and website revisions. Please join me in wishing these three graduates good health and happiness! The last two years with the pandemic have presented many challenges to carry on. In order to keep our Alumnae going with Annual Reunions, when safe to do so, and newsletters, we ask that anyone interested please step forward and join our Executive team. Your Alumnae needs you! I hope you have taken the opportunity to view the website with its updated look and the additions of our three historical documents: Sisters and their work in Hamilton; The Hospital and its many changes to become the state of the art facility it is today; and the School of Nursing with its proud history. The many pictures from our archives and our fellow graduates provide a wonderful walk down memory lane!

Be well,  
Your President  
Kristine Rogers '69

## Some Sad News

Planning our Reunion Day Luncheon was always made easier by Brenda Campbell from Michelangelo's. Sadly Brenda passed away May 17, 2022. Brenda was a "great fit in the hospitality industry". She was described by a number of family and coworkers as "kind, caring, giving and truly genuine". She always went out of her way to make sure every detail was met for any event. Our Reunion Luncheon Coordinators, Kathy Jackson '73 and Teresa Maas '74 found her to be very helpful and accommodating when planning our annual event. She will be missed!





## If You Are Celebrating an Anniversary Year in 2023

Classes Celebrating in 2023

1973 celebrating 50 years  
1948 celebrating 75 years  
1953 celebrating 70 years  
1958 celebrating 65 years  
1963 celebrating 60 years  
1978 celebrating 45 years

Please be sure to get your photos submitted so that they can be posted on our website.  
**If each class organizer** could submit these photos (labelled with names if possible) to **Connie Prowse '69** at [connie.prowse@gmail.com](mailto:connie.prowse@gmail.com), or **Kristine Rogers '69** at [rogerskristine77@gmail.com](mailto:rogerskristine77@gmail.com).

All of these photos will be featured in a **Power Point Presentation** at our next **Reunion Day**, scheduled for **Thursday May 25, 2023. Michelangelo's Banquet Centre in Hamilton ON** is the venue once again.

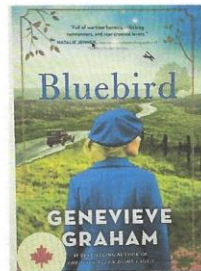
**Remember...** be sure to visit our website [www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com) to view these awesome presentations. They can be accessed on the website under **"MEMBERSHIP"** then **"ANNIVERSARY CLASSES"**

## Recommended Reading

### Bluebird by Genevieve Graham

Historical Fiction which takes us from the battlefields of WW1 overseas to the Prohibition era in Canada.  
A Canadian nursing sister, nicknamed "Bluebirds" for their blue gowns and white caps, cares for a wounded soldier and finds out they are both from Windsor ON.

Returning home during Prohibition brings more dangerous conflicts with illegal booze being ferried across the Detroit River. There is romance involved as well!



## Membership Renewals

If you have received a **Membership Renewal/Application Form** with your newsletter, this means your **Active Membership is ending and this will be your FINAL newsletter.**  
For Membership or Renewals, please contact **Pat Duxbury** at [duxburp@gmail.com](mailto:duxburp@gmail.com) or **905-632-3111**.

**The directions for renewing are at the bottom of the Membership Renewal Form.** Please send a cheque made out to **S.J.S.N.A.A.** to **Pat Duxbury** with a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like a membership card.

## Donations

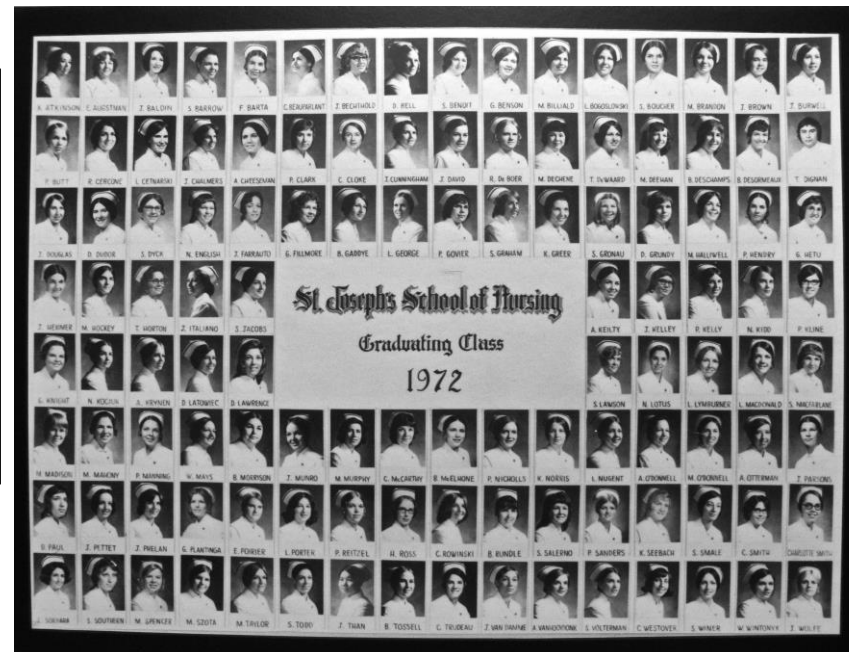
We are happy to accept donations, either monetary or items of interest, to the Alumnae.

Recently we have received donations from:

<b>Vera Summers Braithwaite Sept '55</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>Marnie Houser Green '66</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Patricia O'Brien Ruffell '70</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>Class of 1972</b>	<b>\$1000.00</b>



*Vera Summers '55*



*Marnie Houser '66*



*Patricia O'Brien '70*



## Farewell

Your executive sadly says farewell to 3 of our team as our new fiscal year begins. The following are highlights of their many contributions that have kept our Alumnae going for so long.

### Janina Muta Berenyi '65 (written by Connie Prowse '69)

Janina joined the Executive in 1995 as the Recording Secretary. She continued in this position until 2004.

In 1998, an article was written by Janina regarding the restructuring at St. Joseph's Hospital and was published in the newsletter.

June 4, 2004 was the birth of the Alumnae website [www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com)

The history of St. Joseph's School of Nursing and the Alumnae was written by Janina on the website.

Janina took on the position of Archive Coordinator in 2004 and remained in this position until 2022.



*Friday June 3, 2005*

*Reunion Day Celebrations included the unveiling of the showcase displaying our uniforms and historical archives in the front lobby of St Joseph's Hospital. A ribbon cutting ceremony by Sister Joan O'Sullivan '43, and Janina brought tears to many an eye. A luncheon was served at the hospital. The alumnae was given a climate controlled area in the hospital library. All the archival pictures, albums, pins, rings, exams from the 1930's and other treasures are housed there. Original period student uniforms have been washed, starched, and assembled for our display cabinet. Janina was involved in rescuing archival items from various areas including the Villa, executive members homes, etc. Items have been photographed, catalogued and preserved in the storage room.*



*Janina produced many powerpoint presentations for our annual Reunion Day Celebrations, using our yearbooks, pamphlets, and historical material. She has arranged displays of large composite graduation photos as well as memorabilia from our archives. She has also spent time being the Reunion Day Photographer and operating the video equipment. During this time she was also the Raffle and Door Prize Coordinator for Reunion Day Celebrations. Prizes were used as a fundraiser for the Alumnae. She worked with Beverly Shynal Greenwood'70 purchasing gifts, wrapping them and setting up the display tables. You may remember Janina selling raffle tickets!*



*In 2011, our Alumnae celebrated 100 years for St Joseph's School of Nursing. Janina contributed pictures and information for an archival calendar. She presented an archival powerpoint at Nursing Grand Rounds. She also organized an "Artist Corner" of handmade articles for Reunion day Celebration. Janina and Beverly set up a display of our archives for the Sisters of St Joseph Tea and Tour of the Motherhouse hosted by Sister Virginia '45, Sister Ann Marshall '56 and Sister Joan O'Sullivan '43.*

*In 2011, they also set up a similar display for the Tea held at St Joseph's Healthcare Juravinski Tower, to commemorate the exact day, September 8, 1911 of the official opening of the School of Nursing*

*In 2015, the Alumnae celebrated 100 years of our Alumnae. "Memories, Friends and Treasures" was written by Janina Muta Berenyi '65, Beverly Shynal Greenwood '70 and Connie Beamer Prowse '69.*

*Janina also orchestrated an Archival Oral History Film Project of Sister Virginia Hanlon, Sister Joan O'Sullivan (aka Sister Celestine, Sister Ann Marshall (aka Sister Maris Stella), Isobel Kerr, and Virginia Frere, done in celebration of the 100 years of S.J.S.N.A.A.*

*Janina organized the documentation of our books, legacy and contribution into the Canadian Catholic Hospital Digital History Book Collection. Janina and Connie spent time at the Sisters of St Joseph Convent working with the archivist there, gathering all School of Nursing documents. They then spent time with Winnie Doyle working to document our nursing history on the St Joseph's Healthcare website. Janina, Connie and Karen Wilson Martin '69 worked on documenting the transition of our School of Nursing after 1978, to Mohawk College and then to the University Program.*

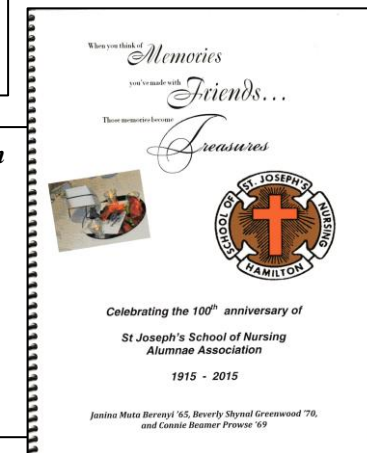
*In 2016, initial funds for the Sisters "Comfort Fund" were donated by the class of 1965. This fund was renamed "Honouring the Sisters of St Joseph". Janina administered the funds and arranged for the purchase and delivery of gifts to the nuns. Funds were used to honour special occasions such as birthdays, Christmas and personal needs.*

*Recently she was involved with the website coordinator completing the graduation photos for the Alumnae website.*

St. Joseph's School of Nursing Commemorative Calendar



1911-2011





*Janina was born in Normandy, France during World War 11. Her family immigrated to Canada in a propeller airplane that caught on fire and crash landed in Iceland. Her family moved to Brantford, Ontario where she attended St John's College. In 1962 she entered St Joseph's School of Nursing Hamilton and graduated in the class of 1965.*

*Janina was responsible for eliminating the Cuban heels from the normal student uniform. She wore a size 11 shoe and the largest Cuban heel size was a 10. She was sent to Dr Hudecki, orthopedic surgeon at the time, who was instrumental in stopping the wearing of Cuban heels by students.*

*In 1965 she completed the last few months of training in the O. R. and was hired by Sister Mary Daniel.*

*In 1966 – 1967 she did postgraduate studies at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and management courses at McGill University*

*1970 she returned to St Joseph's O.R. and worked as Charge Nurse of Neurosurgery Dept.*

*1972 – 1992 she worked as Head Nurse and Educator in the Operating Room.*



**1978** **DEKNATEL-AWARDS for O.R. EXCELLENCE (Long Island N. Y.)**

*Janina Berenyi was the recipient of this award sponsored by the Deknatel Suture Company for O.R. Excellent in North American Hospitals (Canada and the U.S.). Submissions were representative of Educational Advancements in St. Joseph's Operating Room. These included criteria by which to measure the competency of the staff in keeping with Certification and Licensure. It also included a "flow sheet" of operations as they occurred throughout an operating room day. Janina received teaching books for the O.R. plus \$2,000 and a Birks Gift certificate*

*Margaret Peart  
Director of Nursing  
Class of 1944*

*Eva Staneff  
O.R. Supervisor  
Class of 1951*

*Janina Berenyi  
O.R. Head Nurse  
Class of 1965*

*1992 she worked as the Urology Charge Nurse.*

*1995, 2000, and 2005, she was certified as a Canadian Perioperative Nurse CPN*

*2002 she was asked by Infection Control to work in the Medical Device Reprocessing Department as the Education Coordinator to initiate a quality assurance program and upgrade the orientation program. The department became a Bench Mark for Canada.*

*2003 she won an award from St Joseph's Hospital for Excellence in Nursing in Mentoring of staff.*

*She was involved in the implementation of an instrument tracking system in Medical Device Reprocessing Department.*

*2004 she was on the panel for Health Canada's Scientific Panel for 2 years to standardize medical device reprocessing in Canada.*

*2006 Janina taught at Mohawk College in Continuing Education for Medical Device Reprocessing department and Post Graduate Program in the Operating Room.*

*2008 she developed four semesters and 205 hours of theory for a certification program for medical device Reprocessing for Mohawk Continuing Education at McMaster health Sciences.*

*She has been an active member of O.R.N.A.H.D. and St Joseph's school of Nursing Alumnae association.*

*2012 Janina received an award for her work in Infection Control at the World Operating Room Congress.*



**JANINA BERENYI CLASS 1965**

Janina was born in Normandy, France during the World War II, close to the area where the Impressionists came from. In 1945, her family immigrated to Canada in a propeller airplane that caught on fire and crash landed in Iceland.

Her family moved to Brantford, Ontario where she attended St. John's College and played basketball in the St. John's College Drum Corps. In 1962 she entered St. Joseph's School of Nursing Hamilton and graduated in 1965.

Her legacy? Janina was responsible for eliminating the Cuban heels from the normal student uniform. Her feet were a size 11 and Cuban heels were only made to a size 10. Her painful feet (along with the rest of her body) were sent to Dr. Hudecki who stopped the use of Cuban heels from that time on.

In 1965 she went to work in the Operating Room during her last months as a student and was hired full time by Sister Mary Daniel.

She remembers being sent to get fallopian tubes from Microbiology by Dr. J.J. Carroll...!!

After a month orientation she was in charge on shift with Jerry McDermott and did the first case with Dr. Parisi on an evening shift. There were no special instruments for him. She also witnessed the first Kidney Transplant. From 1965-1967 she did a Post Graduate at the Royal Victoria Hospital and management Courses at McGill University.

In 1970-1972 she returned to St. Joseph's Operating Room and was made Charge Nurse in Neuro Surgery. From 1972-1982 she was Head Nurse and Educator in the operating Room. She mentored new staff, residents/interns/clerks and student nurses. Her first student was Linda (Bogdanowski) and her last student was Dee Frisina.

In 1977 she won a "Deknatel" prize for North American Hospitals on her concept of "Resource Manuals for Operating Room Medical Devices" with specific pictures on instrumentation. It wasn't until 2002 that she finally was allowed to put that concept into practice in SPD.

1982 she worked as an Urology Charge Nurse and started to initiate changes in the Surgiscope Kortex systems. In 1995, 2000, 2005, she was certified as a Canadian Peri-Operative Nurse CPN. In 2002 she was asked to work in SPD by Infection Control and reported to Infection Control as an Educational Co-ordinator with a mandate to initiate a quality assurance program and upgrade the orientation program. Soon SPD became a Bench Mark for Canada.

In 2003, she won an award from St. Joseph's Hospital for Excellence in Nursing in Mentoring of staff. Also in this same year she was responsible for the concept of initiating an instrument tracking system with Mr. Jansen.

From 2004-2006 she was asked to work on Health Canada's Scientific Panel for "Medical Device Reprocessing" and is proud to say that her resource information for Medical Devices on Pictures that she developed in SPD, were endorsed by Health Canada. The Canada's Manufacturers were directed to replace their generic instructions with her model of clearing instruction for Medical Device Reprocessing.

2006-2007 she taught at Mohawk College in Continuing Education for SPD staff wishing to work in an SPD and Nursing Post Graduate Program in Operating Room. She has been an active member of ORNA, Regional Operating Room Nurses Hamilton and District, and is on the St. Joseph's School of Nursing Executive an Archives Co-ordinator. She is responsible for the lovely display cabinet in the front lobby of the hospital.

2008 saw her set up the four semesters and 205 hours of theory for a certification program for Medical

**Her biography was published in the S.J.S.N.A.A. newsletter in 2010.**



**Rose Dzugan '68** (written by Connie Prowse '69)

1968 – 1974

Following graduation Rose worked at St Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton in the Emergency Department, and then in Intensive Care and Coronary Care Departments as the Nurse Manager.



*1974 – 1976 Rose worked in Queensland Australia at Thursday Island Hospital and then at Cairns Base Hospital as Charge Nurse.*

*1976 – 1980 Rose worked at McMaster Medical Centre, Hamilton Ontario working in Obstetrics and Family Practice Medicine.*

*1980 – 1982 Rose worked in the Canadian Armed Forces, in SLT Health Care*

*1980 – 1983 She worked with the College of Nurses of Ontario*

*1988 Rose is a member of the Council of the College of Nurses of Ontario*

*1988 – 1987 – 2003 Rose worked at Hamilton Health Sciences, Hamilton as a Nursing Information Specialist.*

*1998 Rose worked in Haiti with the World Health Organization for 2 months*

*2000 Rose worked under contract as a Nursing Informatics Specialist at the King Faisal Hospital, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates*

*2003 – 2006 She worked as the Manager of Gynecology, Reproductive Medicine.*

*2006 – 2007 Rose worked as the Manager of Royal Outpatient Clinics at King Faisal Hospital, Saudi Arabia*

*2008 2013 She worked as a Nursing consultant for building a new hospital at Sidra Hospital Doha Qatar, Arabia*

*2013 – 2014 Rose worked as a Clinical Consultant for Hamilton Health Sciences, Bay Area Health Trust Interhealth Canada*

*2014 – 2015 Rose was a member of the Reg. N. staff at the Kundi Family Medicine Clinic*

*2020 Rose was the Reg. N. Placement Care Coordinator at the Home Instead Senior Care*

*2020 – 2021 Rose worked as a Reg. N. in the Covid Vaccination Clinics for Niagara Region Public Health*

*2001 Rose joined the Alumnae Executive as a "Member at Large"*

*2002 Rose presented a suggestion to set up a data base to centralize members information. She also suggested the setting up of a S.J.S.N.A.A. website.*

*2003 The suggestion was to produce an Alumnae website with an initial cost of \$3500.00. A survey was taken and over 50% of the Alumnae membership voted in favour of a website for the Alumnae*

*2004 An Ex-Officio member is a member of the Board of Directors from St Joseph's Healthcare who also sits in on alumnae Executive meetings. They cannot vote and are more of a liaison between the St Joseph's Health care and the S.J.S.N.A.A.*

*2004 Rose became the Website Coordinator. June 4, 2004 was the birth of our website [www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com). Graduates were invited to the inaugural launching at the Reunion Dinner. The alumnae offered thanks to Rose's vision and guidance to achieve this goal.*

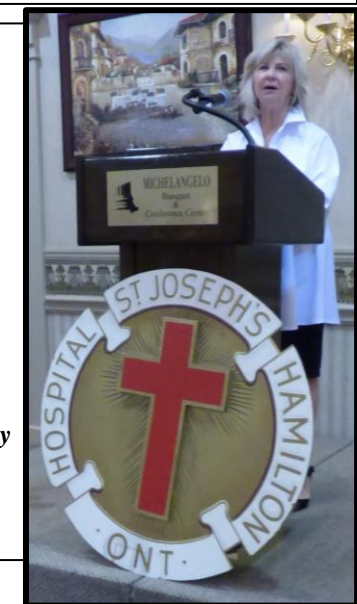
*2005 Rose served on the executive as Website maintenance, Member at large and Recording Secretary.*

*2011 Rose served as the Raffle and door prize Coordinator*

*2015 She was the Temporary Assistant to the President. She was involved with revamping policies and also revision of the Constitution of the Alumnae*

*2016 Rose served as the Assistant Luncheon Coordinator*

*2018 – 2022 Rose served as the Vice President and also as the Raffle and Door Prize Coordinator. She was the M.C. at many Reunion Day Luncheons and created a template for the role of Master of Ceremonies for Reunion day Celebrations.*





**Teresa Maas '74** (written by Connie Prowse '69)

Following graduation Teresa worked at St. Joseph's Hospital on the Paediatric unit.  
Over a period of 40 years at St. Joseph's, she also worked in the Intensive Care unit, the Nursing Float, and the Diagnostic Imaging Department.

Teresa joined the Alumnae Executive in 1978 as the Treasurer.  
She continued in that position until 1980.

- 1979** Teresa convened a project to create and publish a recipe book using recipes donated by Alumnae members. The project was used as a fund raiser for the Alumnae.
- 1980** Cookbooks were sold for \$3.50 each. The cost was \$4.50 if the member wanted the book mailed to them.

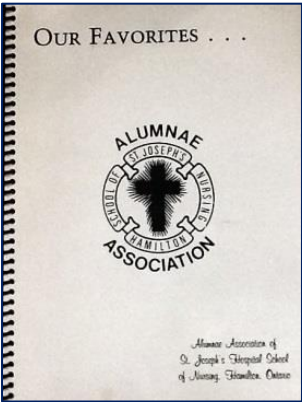
**2018 – 2022** Teresa joined the Alumnae Executive as the Reunion Day Luncheon Coordinator, working with Kathy Alexander Jackson '73

Recently Teresa worked with Kathy Jackson '73 and Patricia O'Neill '74 to revise the Constitution and Terms of Reference documents for the Alumnae.

Teresa was also instrumental working with Patricia Faulkner Duxbury '66 (membership secretary) in the redevelopment of our membership database.



**Honorary Member Pins 2018**  
**Teresa Maas'74, Jeannine Giavadoni Heil'65**



**Alumnae Cookbook 1979**



**Teresa collecting luncheon tickets 2017 for the door prize draw**

**Class of 1970 Celebrates 50 Years**

Plans to celebrate the 50th Reunion of the Class of '70 were sidelined by the pandemic. Every 5 years since graduation they have marked the occasion with a 2 day getaway following the Reunion dinner/luncheon. With the assistance of an active reunion committee and an up to date contact list, classmates have enjoyed 2 days of laughter, tears, reminiscing and feeling like teenagers again.

Fifteen classmates enjoyed a stay at Fern Resort in Orillia, from September 5-7 2022 (2 years later than planned), eating meals together, walking trails and enjoying other outdoor activities including 2 heated outdoor pools. One of the highlights was winning a Trivia contest by 1 point thanks to the knowledge of NFL penalties by Marg Reynolds Leatham. The opposing team had picked this category hoping to stump a group of grey-haired women to win the match!

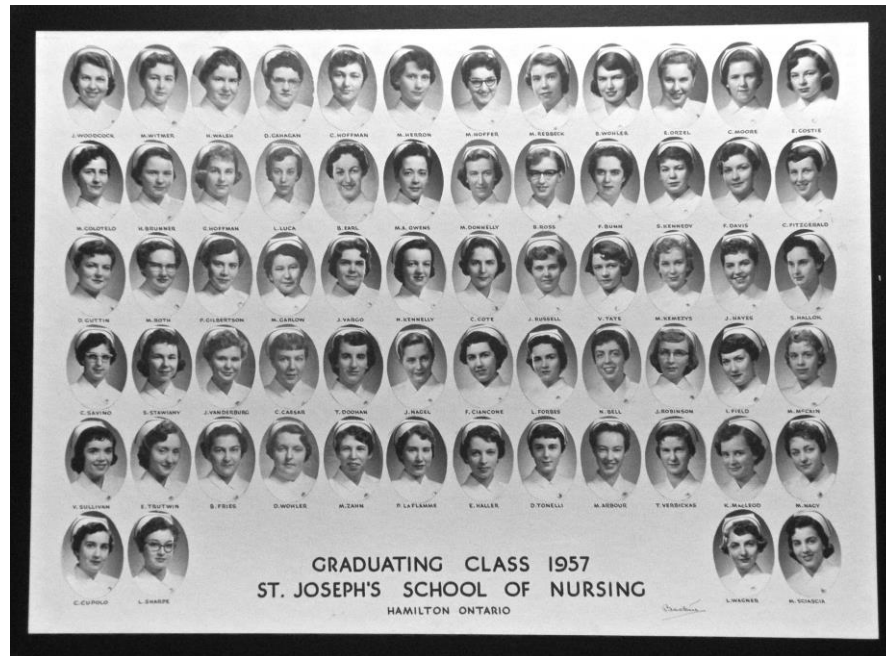




## Looking Back...Some Memories and Pics from Classes Celebrating in 2022



**Joan Robinson Phillips '57** worked for the Registry for 1 year before joining St Joseph's in 1958 working on Paediatrics. During her time at St. Joseph's she was part of the team creating the Nurses Union. For several years she served as Vice President. She was also a member of the Grievance Committee and was a member of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee. While working as the "Tonsil Nurse", Local 75 was the first local to create the "job sharing" position using her part time position as the prototype. Joan later worked with Alan Grieve and David Savage for the 25th Anniversary of the St. Joseph's Foundation creating the Long Service Awards Banquet. Joan also worked with Hugh Greenwood setting up the United Way Donations Program. At Reunion Day 2007, Joan's Grandson Luke, played in the Brass Duo leading 40 members of the Class of '57, celebrating their 50th Anniversary into the Dining Hall, playing "76 Trombones".



*Ready for the Mother Daughter Tea*

*Graduation 1962*



*Left to right*

*Lois Balfe, Marion Battey, Sue Smith, Maureen Davis, Lynn Chapman, Irene Turville, Isobel Farrell, Mary Jessop*



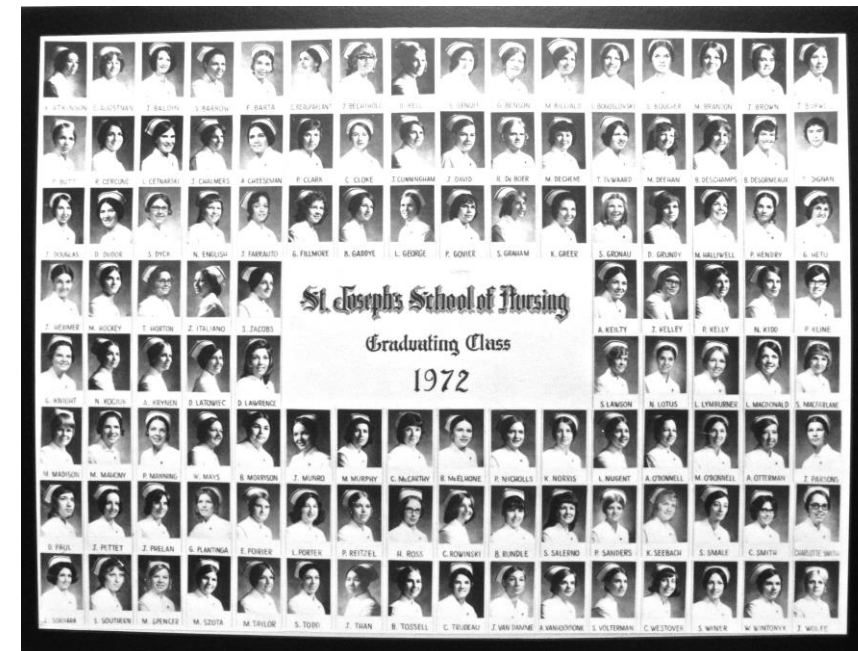
## Graduation Day May 17, 1967



Gisele St Amour (Nielsen) sings Ave Maria



Three male students graduated with 101 female students.  
L to R Stanley Bembenek, Francis "Frank" Demers and David Daigleish along with twin graduates Shelagh and Colleen Murphy



## Class of '72 50th Year Reunion Luncheon June 22, 2022 High Tea at The Innsville in Beamsville

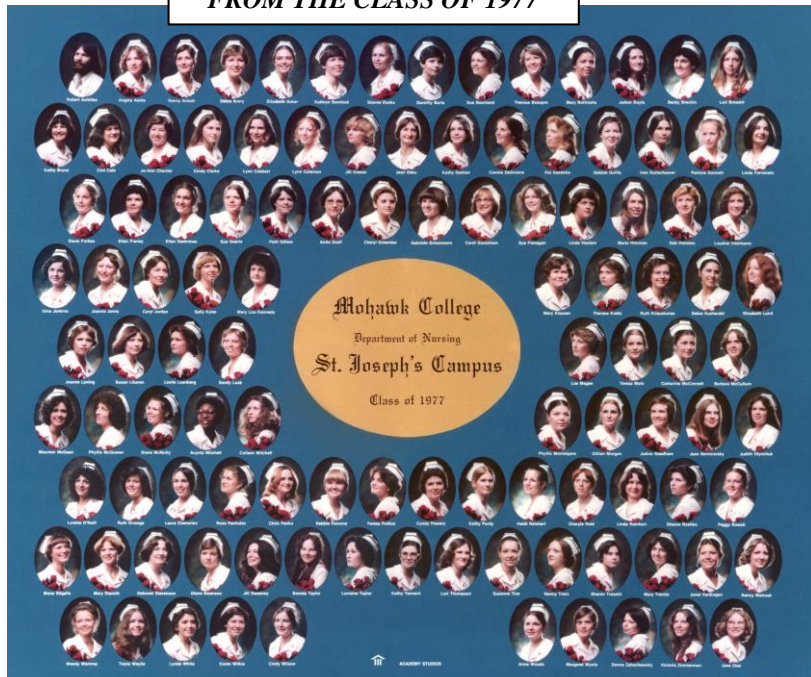


Forty-seven members of the Class of '72 met for High Tea on a very hot June day to celebrate 50 years since graduation, thanks to Nancy English March, who organizes and keeps track of classmates who respond to her request for updated contact lists. Memorabilia was shared for viewing, including a detailed scrapbook made by Patricia Kline Hussack, who still had the stuffed animal left by her "big sister" on arrival to the school of nursing. Sadly we have lost 12 of our classmates from a class of 122 graduates.





## FROM THE CLASS OF 1977



Linda Haslam-Stroud graduated as a Registered Nurse from St. Joseph's Campus, Mohawk College, Hamilton, Ontario in 1977. She worked at St. Joseph's Healthcare as a kidney transplant nurse. Linda was involved with ONA for 40 years – 25 years as an ONA member and Bargaining Unit/local leader; then 14 years as President of ONA, representing 65,000 nurses and other Ontario Healthcare workers. Linda worked with compassion and leadership to improve nurses' working lives and that of their patients.

In 2017, Linda was an Alumni of Distinction Award Recipient at Mohawk College and in that same year, received an RNAO Lifetime Achievement Award.

Linda retired from ONA as President on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. She is a Director for The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference which will be held in Canada in 2023.



L. HASLAM



## Your Alumnae Needs You!

Your Executive is actively recruiting for three (3) positions left open by members' resignations. If you would like to become a member of the Executive, please contact one of us on the Executive Contact List, listed in this newsletter.

Currently we are recruiting for:

**Vice President / Door Prize and Raffle Coordinator  
Luncheon Coordinator (1 of two)  
Historical Archives Coordinator (1 of two)**

If you enjoy being a member of our Alumnae, enjoy reading the Newsletters and browsing through our website, and most importantly, attending the annual Reunion Day Mass and Luncheon, it might be time to consider volunteering. The meetings are monthly from September to November and January to June. If you have a few hours a month and live nearby, the Executive would be happy to welcome some new faces and fresh ideas. Mentoring into a position is available. We have remained strong as one of the largest and most active Nursing Alumnae across Canada and would love to continue doing so with willing and able members coming forth.

If you are a graduate of St. Joseph's School of Nursing or St. Joseph's Campus of Mohawk College, please consider becoming involved.



## GRADUATION DAY OCTOBER 1, 1977

**FRONT ROW:** Lori Browett Burns, Teresa Pollice, Sandra Lusk, Cheryl Greenlaw

**BACK ROW:** Wendy Wannop Verticcio, Debbie Duffie, Caryl Jordan, Colleen Mitchell, Jill Sweeny

Executive Contact	
Position	Name
President, Website Coordinator	Kristine Rogers '69
Vice President, Raffle/Door Prize Coordinator	TO BE FILLED *
Recording Secretary	Nancy March '72
Treasurer	Patricia O'Neill '74
Newsletter Editor	Linda Lipsitt '72
Membership Secretary	Pat Duxbury '66
Mass Coordinator	Judy Cleary '67
Mass Coordinator	Diane Poehlman '71B
Historical Archives Coordinator	TO BE FILLED*
Historical Archives Coordinator	Connie Prowse '69
Luncheon Coordinator	Kathy Jackson '73
Luncheon Coordinator	TO BE FILLED*