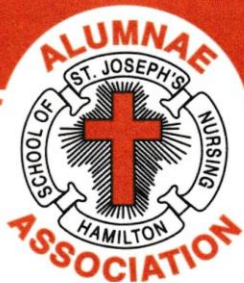


# ALUMNAE IN ACTION



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 2025

Dear Nursing Colleagues

Happy New Year to All! It's hard to believe that we are at 25 years into the 2000's! It just seems we were anticipating Y2K and wondering how it would all pan out! This newsletter is written with lots of anticipation for the upcoming year and I hope everyone enjoys some of the stories and information we are sharing with all of you!

## Alumnae Members Alert

Due to the postal strike, we have made some exceptions for those whose membership ended in 2024 and were unable to get their renewal form sent. We have extended the membership renewal to April 2025 to give you a chance to send in your renewal form. Therefore it is only these people who will receive a Membership Form enclosed or attached to this January 2025 Newsletter. Please send your cheque for **\$20.00** made out to **S.J.S.N.A.A.** (St. Joseph's School of Nursing Alumnae Association) to: **Pat Duxbury, 515 Hillfair Place, Burlington, ON, L7N2W4**. For a membership card, **please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope**, along with your cheque and/or Membership Renewal Form.

## Donations

All donations are gladly accepted, including articles and items of interest from the School of Nursing, pictures and posts of reunion gatherings. Monetary donations can be sent to our Treasurer, **Pat O'Neill '74**. She can be contacted at [patriciaoneill@rogers.com](mailto:patriciaoneill@rogers.com) or **905-765-6606**.

## President's Message

I hope you all enjoyed a joyous and peaceful Christmas season!

Planning is well underway for **Reunion Day on Thursday May 22, 2025**. I am deeply grateful to the Alumnae members and the Executive Committee who dedicate their time and energy to making this day special, and our activities throughout the year, such a success.

Our Executive remains steadfast in its commitment to preserving, maintaining and protecting our archival materials. These historical treasures were proudly showcased during Nurses Week at St. Joseph's Healthcare, Charlton Campus and at our Reunion Day celebration last May.

Please take a moment to visit our website at [www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com) to learn more about our history, activities and celebrations.

Thanks to your generous financial support, through membership and donations, we were able to make meaningful contributions this Christmas season to:

- **St. Joseph's Villa** for patient care
- **Margaret's Place Hospice**
- **St. Margaret Mary Parish:** Funds were directed to their lunch program as a token of our gratitude for loaning us liturgical items for our Annual Reunion Mass, organized by Sacristan Jeannine Giavedoni (Heil) '65

Additionally, our "**Honouring the Sisters of St. Joseph**" Fund allowed us to recognize the Sisters on special occasions, such as Christmas and Birthdays. Remembrance for our nursing Sisters was also arranged through Novena Masses at Christmas and Easter.

As we enter 2025, we are still seeking Alumnae members to fill key Executive roles, including **Vice President, Recording Secretary and Luncheon Co-coordinator**. If you are interested or would like information, please reach out to me at [mandkjackson@gmail.com](mailto:mandkjackson@gmail.com)

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and fulfilling New Year!

Warm regards  
Kathy Jackson (Alexander '73)  
SJSNAA President

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR REUNION DAY MASS and LUNCHEON

**THURSDAY MAY 22, 2025  
MICHELANGELO'S BANQUET CENTRE  
1555 UPPER OTTAWA ST, HAMILTON**

**MASS @ 10:00 AM  
LUNCHEON @ 12:00PM**

**Cathy Smith '71B** is the Luncheon Coordinator for Reunion Day 2025. She can be reached at [sjsnaareunion@gmail.com](mailto:sjsnaareunion@gmail.com)

**Class Organizers of the Special Anniversary Classes, please let us know who you are for any requests or notifications.**

There is also a call out for **VOLUNTEERS** to assist on Reunion Day. Any help is greatly appreciated! Please contact [sjsnaareunion@gmail.com](mailto:sjsnaareunion@gmail.com) if you can help out.

### Movie Recommendation (for those on Netflix)

#### Six Triple Eight

An inspiring true story that has remained largely untold...until now. During WWII, the first and only U.S. Women's Army Corp unit of colour (Unit 6888), were stationed overseas in 1945. They were deployed to England to take on a seemingly impossible mission, to sort through and prepare for delivery, more than 17 million pieces of mail to U.S. soldiers, fighting abroad and to their loved ones back home, often mislabelled or without an address. The 855 women faced segregation and sexism within their own military, but their tireless efforts brought messages of hope to the front lines, helped raise morale and win the war. The movie stars Kerry Washington as the Major of the unit. An article in the Toronto Star on January 1, 2025, says it deserves an Academy Award.

### Our Website is Viewed!!

We received a wonderful note from a graduate of the Class of '49 that we wanted to share with our members...

Hello,  
I graduated from St. Joe's in Hamilton in 1949. My maiden name was Jane Grant, and my daughter Elisabeth has just found this website for me to peruse! What a wonderful trip down memory lane it has been, looking through all the photos and reading about the history.

Sister Mary Ursula (or SMU we called her!) was Director of Nursing while I was there and I remember her fondly, steering my career away from being a stewardess (which I thought I wanted) to teaching Nursing, which I did at St. Joe's Hospital in Hamilton for several years and at St. Joe's in London for several more!

As I recently turned 96, I can look back and enjoy wonderful memories of my time at St. Joe's School of Nursing in Hamilton. The laughter and camaraderie will always be with me, and I just wanted to thank you for having this information available online.

Sincerely,  
Jane Grant Wilcox



*Jane Grant '49  
Barbara Pinnington '49  
Ruth Moore '49*



*Jane Grant , Kay Callaghan*



*Jane Grant, Antoinette McLaughlin,  
Margaret Scharbach*

## Message To The Class of '75

If anyone has a Class Picture or a Grad Picture that you would like to be added to the website as part of the Class of '75, please send your picture to **Kristine Rogers '69** at [kristinerogers77@gmail.com](mailto:kristinerogers77@gmail.com) or **Connie Prowse '69** at [connie.prowse@gmail.com](mailto:connie.prowse@gmail.com). We would like to make a composite picture of your Class of 75 to be displayed at Reunion Day in May where your class will be celebrating your 50th Anniversary.

Please submit these to **Connie Prowse '69** at [connie.prowse@gmail.com](mailto:connie.prowse@gmail.com) or to **Kristine Rogers '69** at [kristinerogers77@gmail.com](mailto:kristinerogers77@gmail.com). All pictures submitted are put into Power Point Presentations to be shown on Reunion Day. They will also be loaded onto our website [www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com)

## Anniversary Classes Celebrating in 2025

1975, celebrating 50 years  
1950, celebrating 75 years  
1955, celebrating 70 years  
1960, celebrating 65 years  
1965, celebrating 60 years  
1970, celebrating 55 years

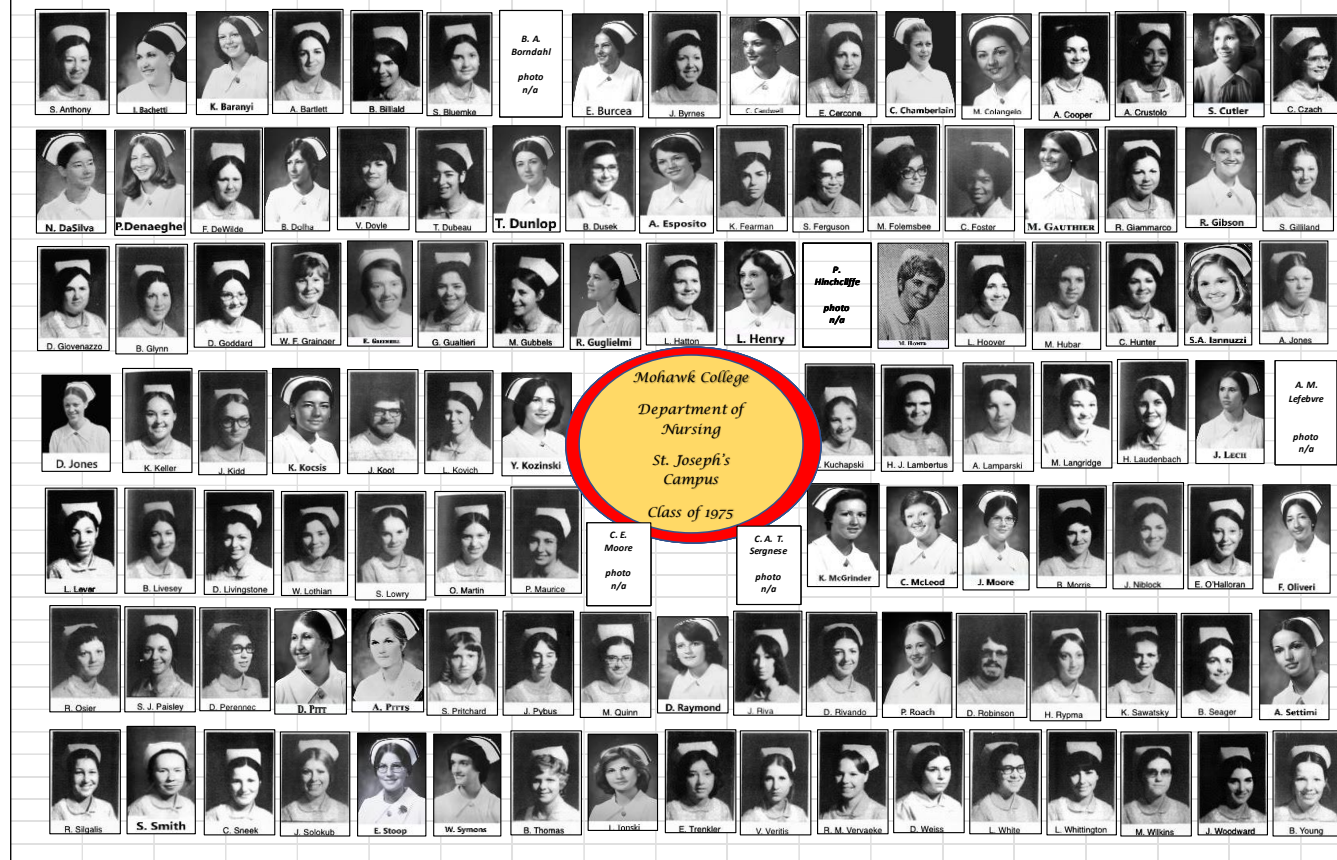
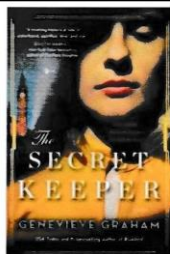


We are happy to accept submissions by class organizers, of any pictures depicting student days, graduation or past celebrations.

## Recommended Reading

**The Secret Keeper** by Genevieve Graham (2024)

A deep dive into the world of women at war...Dash and Dot, twin sisters from Oshawa, join the Wren's in WWII and overcome male prejudice to make a massive contribution to the defeat of evil. The author takes us deep into the top secret world of codebreaking and aviation in this thrilling and imaginative story.



## Honorary Membership Recipients for 2025

### Congratulations to 6 New Honorary Members!

**Concetta Savino Sills '57**  
**Jane Meraw Selkirk '65**  
**Catherine Mundier Husser '69**

**Carole Reichheld Peterson '64**  
**Judy Sherman Cleary '67**  
**Maureen Deehan Timmins '72**

Honorary membership status is awarded for **25 years of continuous Alumnae membership**. New Honorary members are awarded a beautiful gold pin at the upcoming Alumnae Luncheon in May, in recognition of their dedication to their nursing alumnae. **Please let Membership Secretary, Pat Duxbury**, know if you will be attending the 2025 Reunion Day events, so that we can have your pin and congratulatory letter ready for you. **If you are unable to attend** and would like a designated member to pick it up for you, also let **Pat** know at **905-632-3111** or **duxburp@gmail.com**



*Concetta Savino Sills '57*



*Jane Meraw Selkirk '65*



*Carole Reichheld Peterson '64*



*Catherine Mundier Husser '69*



*Judy Sherman Cleary '67*



*Maureen Deehan Timmins '72*

### \*Note To Members\*

We kindly request that graduates do not add pictures or make changes to the Gallery on the website. Our Website Coordinator Kristine Rogers '69 looks after adding any pictures that are submitted. Our website creator, ROAR, has specific guidelines when adding pictures to the Gallery.

### Executive Members January 2025

| POSITION                                         | NAME                 |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Immediate Past President and Website Coordinator | Kristine Rogers '69  |
| President                                        | Kathy Jackson '73    |
| Vice President                                   | To Be Filled         |
| Recording Secretary                              | To Be Filled         |
| Treasurer                                        | Patricia O'Neill '74 |
| Membership Secretary                             | Pat Duxbury '66      |
| Newsletter Editor/Dispatcher                     | Linda Lipsitt '72    |
| Mass Coordinator                                 | Judy Cleary '67      |
| Archives Coordinator                             | Connie Prowse '69    |
| Archives Coordinator                             | Janny Bruyn '69      |
| Luncheon Coordinator                             | Cathy Smith '71B     |
| Luncheon Coordinator                             | To Be Filled         |

# Alva Greenslade Charter Class of '49

written by Janny Bruyn '69

At 97, Alva has only recently moved from her own home to Meadowlands Retirement Centre. Her rooms there are a bright reflection of her sense of artistry, with lush plants and vivid, wonderful art and needlework, all of which were produced by either Alva or her son James.

Alva was born February 19, 1927, to William and Eva Leota Greenslade, of Port Dover, Ontario. She was the second of three children and the only daughter. Alva's father, William, was a fisherman at a time when the Port Dover fleet became the largest fresh water fishing fleet in the world. A fisherman's life was seasonal and dangerous and Lake Erie is infamous for storms. Through adversity fishing families became a close knit community, supporting and helping one another and everyone knew the names of the ships. Family did not accompany the fishermen on the lake, but Alva fondly remembers the excitement of a wonderful excursion on her father's fishing boat, the Almadart, with the whole family, to Long Point, for swimming and a picnic. The Almadart, built in 1932, now rests on a metal pier as part of the Port Dover Harbour Museum. Nowadays the number of fishing boats has steadily dwindled to a mere few, many scrapped for iron!

In Port Dover, Alva attended both elementary and high school in the same building. There were three rooms for high school and four or five elementary classrooms. It has long been torn down, initially replaced by Port Dover's Composite School and eventually by Lakewood Public School. In September of 1945, at 18 years of age, Alva left home to enrol in the nursing program at St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Hamilton. She was one of 17 classmates in the September cohort with another 16 students in the February class. All nursing students lived in the Undermount residence, where a strict bed time curfew was always enforced by the Sisters, except when the Knights of Columbus hosted a dance. Sister Ursula would be at the door at midnight to check them in! One infamous incident occurred when 3 of Alva's classmates on the 3rd floor were horsing around in their room and one of them jumped up on the wall sink, which broke away and ruptured the water line. Water streamed out, soaking the 3 girls and leaking down through all 3 floors. Repercussions ensued, but they were all allowed to graduate with the rest of the class!

Alva has had an over 40 year nursing career. Following graduation, she worked for VON doing private duty on the weekends, but advanced to become one of a handful of Case Workers for VON, directing nurses in the downtown area. At that time, VON nurses attended and provided post-op care for Tonsilleotomies done at home and also, on occasion, attended home deliveries for women who could not afford a hospital delivery for their baby. As a case worker, Alva oversaw one of the last home deliveries by VON, sending RN, Maude Haslem to a Hess St North address to deliver a healthy baby boy.

In the summer, Alva often attended dances at the Summer Gardens, a glorious old style dance pavilion in Port Dover, that hosted big names such as Guy Lombardo, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie and later Ronnie Hawkins, The Guess Who and many others.



Alva Greenslade



Alva Greenslade Jane Simpson



Alva Greenslade, Jane Simpson

Don Ivey "Pop" was the Master of Ceremonies, holding sway with his iconic white suit with a red rose in his lapel. "Pop" recognized and promoted talent and was instrumental in giving many big names in the industry a start. It was a popular destination for servicemen and this is where Alva met her husband, Robert Charter, who was on leave from the Canadian Air Force.

A little over a year after graduation, Alva and Robert married on October 10, 1950 at Grace United Church in Port Dover. They began their married life in their apartment on East 36th Street in Hamilton. On May 18th, 1952 they welcomed their firstborn, James, followed by Donald on April 18, 1956 and then Nancy in December 1957. In 1960, with the help of the Veteran's Land Act, the family built and moved into a beautiful home in Jerseyville. Even with a very busy household, Alva continued to enjoy a vibrant varied nursing career. After working for VON, she worked for a time in the nursery and then as Case Manager for Home Care at Henderson Hospital. Alva later worked at Brantford General Hospital on the Ladies Psychiatric Ward where she recalls many incidences and hectic times. When Alva's mother became ill, Alva stepped up to help and subsequently returned to the more flexible hours at the VON. In the late 80's, Robert began experiencing cardiac issues and required bypass surgery. Alva, now in her early 60's deservedly retired, as Robert required care and further surgery. Sadly she lost Robert in 2000.

On September 11, 2001, son James, working from home at New York City's financial district, witnessed, with his 9 year old daughter, McKenzie, the tragedy that struck the World Trade Centre. His 12 year old son, Mason, was at school in downtown New York. Luckily he was rescued by his mother safely and was brought home in all the chaos. Alva and family made desperate attempts to get in touch with James for hours before they made contact! They were all safe but James' brother-in-law, Geoffrey Cloud, perished in the inferno of Tower One. Alva found solace with her church group at Jerseyville United and her nearby family during this difficult time.

These days Alva keeps busy with knitting, painting and needlework. She is a self described "fanatic" when playing competitive bridge with her Ancaster group!

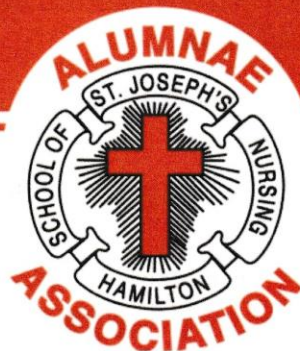
Alva has a granddaughter, Danielle, who lives in Australia and writes poetry to Alva, her "Best



Friend" An ode to Alva begins: "In a cozy abode where mothers reside lives dear Nanna, her heart full of pride; but now comes a time to embrace a new phase, leaving her home for a "retirement maze". In May Danielle made an extended journey to Norway to join her parents and then came to visit her cherished Nanna in Canada along with Alva's son James. Such a wonderful reunion...Thank you Alva for sharing your story with us!

Alva is pictured 4th from the right at Graduation in June 1949

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April 2025

Dear Nursing Colleagues

The winter of 2025 is behind us and we are now enjoying longer daylight hours and some warmer weather. It feels good to get outdoors again, after the long winter! Soon we will see the regrowth of Mother Nature when things turn green once again!

Your Executive has been hard at work over the winter and our **Luncheon Coordinator Cathy Smith '71B** and our **Mass Coordinator Judy Cleary '67** are working hard on our Annual Reunion Day Celebration taking place on **May 22, 2025** this year. This newsletter contains **very important information regarding buying tickets for Reunion Day! So please look carefully at the Flyer provided with this newsletter!** We are also looking for **VOLUNTEERS** to help out at the event. If you can help, please contact **Cathy Smith at [reunionsjsnaa@gmail.com](mailto:reunionsjsnaa@gmail.com)** or **289-684-1810**. As well you can contact anyone on the Executive. The Contact Information is also included in this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday May 22, at Michelangelo's Banquet Centre!



[www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com)

1915 - 1978

*All St. Joseph's School of Nursing Grads, St. Joseph's Campus of Mohawk  
College Nursing Grads, Nursing Instructors, and Nursing Friends of the  
St. Joseph's School of Nursing Alumnae*

## ANNUAL REUNION DAY MASS and LUNCHEON

**Thursday, May 22, 2025**

at

**Michelangelo Banquet Centre**  
1555 Upper Ottawa St., Hamilton ON L8W 3E2

**Mass: 10:00 am Luncheon: 12:00 pm**

**Celebrating Anniversary Classes**

**Door Prizes – 50/50 Draw**

**Ticket Price is \$65.00**

For ticket information, please contact: **Cathy – Luncheon Coordinator at**  
[\*\*reunionsjsnaa@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:reunionsjsnaa@gmail.com)

**All tickets must be purchased by Thursday May 8, 2025.**

## President's Message

As you read this newsletter, we thank you for your continued support as Alumnae members...we truly appreciate you!

**Nurses Week is May 12th to May 18th.** To celebrate, our Alumnae Executive will be showcasing archival materials, including photos, uniforms and a slideshow in the foyer of **St. Joseph's Healthcare, Charlton Campus**. We did this last year and received wonderful interest from staff, patients and visitors. If you are in the area, we'd love for you to stop by!

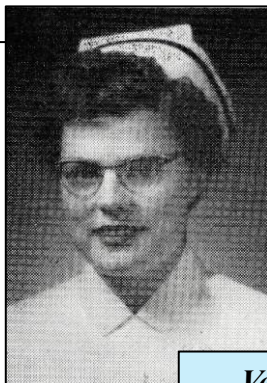
Meanwhile, the **Executive Committee** has been busy planning our upcoming **Reunion Day on Thursday May 22nd** - a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with our nursing family. This year, we are especially excited to celebrate the **50th anniversary of the graduating class of 1975** - the first class to graduate from **Mohawk College Department of Nursing, St. Joseph's Campus!**

We are still looking for volunteers to fill a few key **Executive roles: Vice President, Recording Secretary and Luncheon Coordinator**. If you are interested or would like more details, please reach out to me at [mandkjackson@gmail.com](mailto:mandkjackson@gmail.com).

We wish you all the best  
Kathy Jackson (Alexander '73)  
President SJSNAA

## Donations

**We have gratefully accepted a generous donation from Vera Summers Braithwaite, Sept '55 for \$1000.00, in memory of her deceased family members.**



Vera Summers '55



## Executive Members April 2025

| POSITION                                         | NAME                 |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Immediate Past President and Website Coordinator | Kristine Rogers '69  |
| President                                        | Kathy Jackson '73    |
| Vice President                                   | To Be Filled         |
| Recording Secretary                              | To Be Filled         |
| Treasurer                                        | Patricia O'Neill '74 |
| Membership Secretary                             | Pat Duxbury '66      |
| Newsletter Editor/ Dispatcher                    | Linda Lipsitt '72    |
| Mass Coordinator/ Liaison To The Sisters         | Judy Cleary '67      |
| Archives Coordinator                             | Connie Prowse '69    |
| Archives Coordinator                             | Janny Bruyn '69      |
| Luncheon Coordinator                             | Cathy Smith '71B     |
| Luncheon Coordinator                             | To Be Filled         |

# Honorary Membership Recipients for 2025

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congratulatory letter ready for you. **If you are unable to attend** and would like a designated member pick it up for you, also let **Pat** know at **905-632-3111** or **duxburp@gmail.com**.



*Concetta Savino  
Sills '57*



*Jane Meraw  
Selkirk '65*



*Carole Reichheld  
Peterson '64*



*Judy Sherman  
Cleary '67*



*Catherine Mundier  
Husser '69*



*Maureen Deehan  
Timmins '72*

# Alumnae Membership Renewals

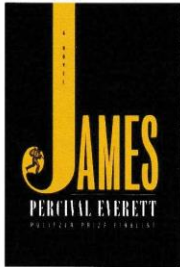
If you have received a Membership Renewal/Application Form with your newsletter, it means your **Active Membership is ending** and this will be your final newsletter. For Membership or Renewals, please contact **Pat Duxbury @ duxburp@gmail.com** or **905-632-3111**. Please send your cheque for **\$20.00** made out to **SJSNAA** (St. Joseph's School of Nursing Alumnae Association) to **Pat Duxbury, 515 Hillfair Place, Burlington ON. L7N 2W4**.

For a membership card, please send a **self-addressed, stamped envelope**, with your cheque and/or Membership/Renewal Form.

## Recommended Reading

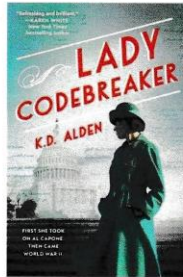
### James by Percival Everett

This is a reimagining of the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn - both harrowing and ferociously funny- told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. "Everett has mastered the movement between unspeakable terror and knockout comedy."



### Lady Codebreaker by K.D. Alden

Based on a true story of a female codebreaker, a wife and a mother in the U.S.A. who cracked the secrets of foreign governments and caught spies. Over 4 decades, she tangled with rum runners and Al Capone, foiled a Nazi plot and helped found the modern NSA. Covering WW I, WW II and into the 1950's, she had to go up against powerful men like J. Edgar Hoover and won.



## Anniversary Classes Celebrating in 2025

1975, celebrating 50 years  
1950, celebrating 75 years  
1955, celebrating 70 years  
1960, celebrating 65 years  
1965, celebrating 60 years  
1970, celebrating 55 years.

**Class Organizers**, please submit any pictures of student days, graduation, or past reunion celebrations to **Connie Prowse '69** @ [connie.prowse@gmail.com](mailto:connie.prowse@gmail.com) or **Kristine Rogers '69** @ [alumnae@sjsnaa.com](mailto:alumnae@sjsnaa.com). Please submit these pictures by **MAY 1, 2025**

## Class Organizers for Special Anniversary Classes

Please contact the following Class Organizers for Reunion Activities

**Class of 1975, celebrating 50 years-** Natasha Charles  
[natashacharles54@hotmail.com](mailto:natashacharles54@hotmail.com) or 905-547-7288

**Class of 1955, celebrating 70 years-** Phyllis Brown  
[phyllis.bro1933@gmail.com](mailto:phyllis.bro1933@gmail.com) or 905-835-1588

**Class of 1960, celebrating 65 years-** Mary Romeo  
[mmromeo@rogers.com](mailto:mmromeo@rogers.com) or 905-383-3551

**Class of 1965, celebrating 60 years-** Janina Berenyi  
[janinaberenyi65@gmail.com](mailto:janinaberenyi65@gmail.com) or 905-627-9521 (h) or 289-381-9310 (c)

**Class of 1970, celebrating 55 years-** Barb Howe  
[barb.howe1949@gmail.com](mailto:barb.howe1949@gmail.com) or 905-522-8191

## \*CLASS of 1975\*

**We are looking for your Graduation Photos!! Please send to the above contacts as well by May 1, 2025! Connie and Kristine are working on a Class Composite Portrait to be shown at Reunion Day!** As well, all graduation pictures will be included on our website [www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com) in our Photo Gallery. All Class Composite Portraits are kept with our Archives. Also, a Power Point Presentation of your class is being prepared to be shown at Reunion Day during your march in with the Piper, as your Class is our 50 Year celebration this year!



## More News and Events for the Class of 1975

Each year **Mohawk College Alumni** host the **"Golden Grad Event"**. This year honours the **Class of 1975** and will take place on **Friday May 9, 2025** at the **Mohawk College Fennell Campus (The Arnie), 135 Fennell Ave. W. Hamilton, ON, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.** This event celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Mohawk College graduates. Mohawk College would like the **Grads of 1975** to update their profiles with the College so you can be included in the upcoming communications and celebrations!

Please contact:

<https://www.mohawkcollege.ca/alumni/alumni-events/golden-grad-celebration>

## Margaret Gauthier Class of '75

Why Nursing for me? My mother, Marie, was a nurse before she married, but stayed home to raise her children...5 boys and 3 girls. My mother's nurses training came in handy with such a large family. My grandmother, Mary, went into nursing at age 50, so she could earn a pension for her family. She loved working and making a difference with her patients. I wanted to be like her! My sister Mary became a nurse and later my daughter, Melissa. My daughter in law, Melanie and my sister in law Leslie are also nurses. I guess you could say we are a family of Nurses!

In 1973, women generally had three options for careers after high school: Teaching, Nursing or Secretarial Work. I chose Nursing and decided on the 2-year diploma course over a 4-year degree program, since I wanted to work as soon as possible. My volunteer work on Pediatrics at St. Joseph's, initiated my love for caring for patients, especially children.

So in 1973, I started my training, living in residence at St. Joseph's Hospital. In those days, we took classes on the main floor of Fontbonne and went to wards under the street via the tunnel to the hospital. All our meals were in the hospital cafeteria. I fondly remember the toasted bacon and tomato sandwiches made for us by the cooks in the evening! Residence was fun and I made many friends! We could ease the pressure of studying by getting thrown in the showers or using 50 cc syringes as water guns. Our residence was listed in the phone book and we were invited to many parties, especially by Mac engineering students! One time our director announced that all the students were invited to a party by the Captain of a Scottish ship docked at James St. North. The director lived to regret this as many of us went to this notable party!

We appreciated our instructors...Vi Jennings, Sister Rita, Karen Martin and Cathy Laws to name a few. We worked hard and in the end we graduated in 1975 as Mohawk College nursing students, even though we had the St. Joseph's School of Nursing program and lived in residence at Fontbonne! But something didn't feel right! On our last day of training, we marched down to Gore Park in our student uniforms and got into the fountain! It was invigorating! Most of our Class of 1975 attended graduation at Mohawk. The students from The Hamilton General campus totally boycotted the graduation as a protest!

There were lots of options as a graduate nurse and you could travel anywhere in the world. In 1973, the Ontario Nurses Association was formed, and nurses started earning more money, especially after the 1975 contract. Because earnings were much better, employers started to think twice about hiring. In fact, I was hired by The Hospital for Sick Children but before even starting, I was given notice, along with 90 other nurses. It was a very distressing time since I had turned down 2 other job offers! Regina General in Saskatchewan was hiring. I applied and was hired over the phone. I set off for Regina with another graduate and her boyfriend. I stayed and they returned home. Many from my graduating class were hired there as well, so I was not alone. I worked on Pediatrics and I remember the level of responsibility that I needed to take on. Before I knew it, I was starting IV scalp veins and caring for patients independently. However I was horribly homesick. All my salary seemed to go to my phone bills, calling my boyfriend and family back home! I decided to come home. Hamilton hospitals were still in a hiring freeze, but I managed to get a job with the Hamilton Community Nursing Registry. I worked in Palliative Care and although the agency would find jobs for me, I had to bill my patients. I found it hard, especially if a client passed and I had to ask the family for payment. Finally in the spring of 1976, I was rehired at Sick Kids and what an exciting time it was! I learned so much, had so many interesting patients and worked with top-notch medical staff and teams. I enjoyed my beautiful apartment and was able to walk to work. In August 1977, I was married and my new husband was accepted at the University of Alberta in Edmonton for a Bachelor of Education Degree. I worked on Pediatrics at the University of Alberta Hospital on



**M. GAUTHIER**



*Reunion Day 2024  
Natasha DaSilva,  
Anita Pitts Purmalis,  
Margaret Gauthier*



*Margaret Gauthier &  
Natasha da Silva Charles*

the surgical unit for ages 6-12. One particular patient I got close to, was a ten year old girl from the Northwest Territories, who was awaiting open heart surgery. She was missing her family and the head nurse allowed me to take her home for dinner so she could have a home cooked meal. I cooked her favourite foods and we played games. Looking back, this would never be allowed today!

We returned to Hamilton in 1978 hoping to start a family. I worked at St. Joe's on Pediatrics and it was a very busy unit! We had up to 100 patients on both sides of the long corridor. We had surgical patients, medical patients and everything in between. We looked after babies and kids up to the age of 16. Many of my coworkers became lifelong friends...Natasha Charles, Marianne Walker, Louann Elliott, Christa Parsons and MaryAnn Martino to name a few. We were all in the same stage of life, becoming mothers and balancing work and home life. At one point in 1980, there were 13 of us pregnant. A staffing nightmare!

I loved to learn and throughout my time at St. Joe's, I took advantage of any course that was offered. I took Fetal Health Surveillance and was a Preceptor for Mohawk College and McMaster University nursing students. I received an award for Nursing Excellence for Education. In 1988, I received a certificate in Perinatal Nursing High Risk Pregnancy and with that I transferred to Labour and Delivery in 1989, my dream job. I continued to take courses such as the Perioperative course, and part time studies at McMaster all while working full time. My daughter got a BScN from Western and it inspired me to do the same. So in 2007 I received my BScN from Brock University. This opened opportunities for me. I worked as a Diabetes Educator and then as a Clinical Instructor in the Practical Nursing Program at Mohawk College.

I retired from St. Joseph's Healthcare in 2015 but soon decided to work again. I joined the Hamilton Family Health Team working in various offices and was selected to be one of the triage nurses who cared for some of the 900 Syrian Refugees who arrived in Hamilton, a very challenging yet rewarding contract position. In June 2016 I returned to Labour and Delivery at Joseph Brant and happily stayed until 2019. During Covid I worked with vaccine administration for a short while. My final job was School Nurse until 2022, when I decided to hang up my Nurse's Cap. I have no regrets and had a full career with so many great memories of patients and wonderful colleagues. I now enjoy my 3 children, Melissa, Brent and Brandon, my son in law Marc and daughter in law Melanie and especially my 4 Grandsons, Hunter, Nolan, Jacob and Cody, who are my sunshine. I stay young by babysitting and watching lots of hockey games. I had been divorced since 2010 and thought I would be alone. In 2023 I met Philip while singing at an Open Mic in Dundas and we married on September 21, 2024. We have a blended family with the addition of his 2 married children and 5 grandchildren, all who took part in the big day, with my children and grandchildren. There are now 20 of us at get togethers.

This summer we are planning a trip to Edinburgh Scotland to attend Philip's 50th Reunion from Stirling University. I continue to sing with the Kaleidoscope Singers and volunteer with the YWCA and my church. I organize Canada Day block parties every

year on my street and work for Elections. I've had 2 knee replacements and bilateral foot surgery as a result of the wear and tear in Nursing. Despite all this, I'm so happy I chose Nursing and on May 22, 2025, Reunion Day, I will celebrate with my classmates from 1975, our 50th Anniversary!



## Lola Bott Timms Class of 1955

written by Janny Bruyn '69

On March 8th, I spoke with Lola from her home in Fonthill. I was immediately struck by her youthful voice belying her soon to be 92 years of age. She was and is a force to be reckoned with!

Born on March 22, 1932 to Thomas Wesley and Addie Bott, she was the eldest of 2 daughters. Her childhood years were "Idyllic", growing up along the banks of the Pottawatami River. Her father was described as a "soft touch" and her mother the "tough one" In 1940, the family moved to Allendale, near Barrie, where Thomas ran the farmer's Co-op, selling farm equipment, milking machines, grain and such. But as World War II raged, there was a pressing need for armament production and Thomas became a tool and die maker for Massey Harris, producing tractors, tanks and self propelled artillery vehicles for the military. The family relocated to Echo Place, a small community near the Massey Harris plant in Brantford and directly across from the army camp. Lola loved living here. Indeed she described 'loving' virtually every phase of her life.

At 20 years of age, Lola left home to enrol at St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Hamilton. She loved it, although she said she was always getting into some kind of hijinks or trouble...like the time she was caught smoking in her room. Sister Virginia marched "Miss Bott" down to Sister Bonaventure's office, but after speaking sharply to Lola, the conversation somehow turned into a discussion of how best to redecorate the aging and tired Undermount building. That was followed by a note to see Father O'Brien for a tongue lashing. Father shook his head and declared that Lola must be converting to Catholicism judging by the things she managed to get away with. Despite her sometimes troublesome nature and maybe because of it, Lola was voted Class President!



In October of 1957, after a meeting at the Brantford Y to recruit general interest speakers, a handsome young man walked in and caught Lola's eye. Sidney George Timms was a Brit, in Canada for a short stay. Needless to say, Lola and Canada captured his heart and he stayed! They began dating and by February were engaged and married on September 6, 1958.

Because of the turmoil in Britain during the war, Sid had missed high school almost entirely, but Lola cherished Sid's broad scope of knowledge. The YMCA talked Sid into going to university as he needed a degree to continue on working for the Y and Lola agreed. He was accepted at Sir George William College (later called Concordia University) and the couple moved to Montreal. Lola was able to get a position nursing with the VON. At the end of the school semester in May, they bought one way tickets to England and from May to October, they hiked and hitchhiked throughout England and Europe. In the Netherlands they found themselves welcomed with open arms and treated to free lunches and haircuts! The Dutch had not forgotten their liberation by the Canadian Armed Forces.

Sid received confirmation that he had been accepted at McMaster University in the Honors Geography Program. So in October they came home to Hamilton and Lola began working at the Hamilton VON. After graduation, Sid's first teaching position was at Caledonia High School, where co-incidentally he taught Andre Scholten, my twin brother. Andre fondly remembered Mr. Timms as "an amazing Geography teacher, nice guy and a lot of fun!"

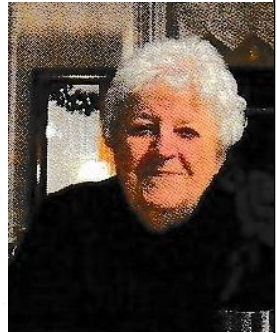
Settling into family life, they raised two daughters and in 1968, bought a stone house in Walkerton, which had been part of a larger estate. The severed farm land was owned by four delightful bachelor farmers who grew vegetables and raised Hereford cattle on 160 acres. Lola loved it there

and the children thrived and had a blast roaming the property and playing in the barn. Lola and Sid landscaped the yard, building flower beds and rock gardens.

In the late 80's, Sid took early retirement and now Lola and Sid could travel in earnest. And travel they did! First on their own, far and wide, including South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. But perhaps the most memorable was an around the world plane trip with a group of 120 teachers. They managed to charter a plane and an amazing, wonderful pilot and crew. The journey began in Aruba, then went on to Chile, Easter Island and Hong Kong. They touched down on some "sketchy" airports but it was fantastic!

After Sid's passing in 2007, Lola moved to Fonthill, to be closer to family. She remains active, engaged and delightfully opinionated. She still drives herself to her weekly hair appointments and enjoys rug hooking, which she calls "painting with wool". She also proudly (and unapologetically) refuses to set foot in the U.S. since "that man" was elected - her sense of humour and convictions as sharp as ever!

Through every chapter, Lola has embraced life with wit, resilience and a touch of rebellion. As her yearbook once said, "Whatever Lola wants, Lola gets".



Thank you for sharing a delightful glimpse into a fascinating life and sharing it with our Alumnae as the Class of 1955 celebrates their 70th Anniversary on Reunion Day 2025!



*Reunion Day 2023*

*Lola Bott Timms, Doreen Hallowyn Hodnett, Louise Cronkwright Bennett, Phyllis Simone Brown*

## Ivanna Bachetti Wilson '75

When I was 4 months old, in 1956, my family immigrated to Canada from Italy. Education and hard work were instilled in me from a young age and nursing with its deep roots in care, compassion and service ultimately felt like the right career choice. After applying to several nursing schools, my interview at St. Joseph's School of Nursing sealed the deal with its atmosphere, sense of purpose and the compassionate energy of the faculty. It felt like home. I was overjoyed to receive my acceptance letter along with several other friends from Niagara. However, our class was about to become the first nursing class under the newly established Mohawk College program...a surprise to many of us. We had to embrace this unexpected shift. The majority of the Class of 1975 identified primarily as St. Joseph's School of Nursing when we entered Fontbonne Hall in September of 1973.

I was fortunate to share a room on the 6th floor with my hometown neighbour and childhood friend, Anna Esposito. Other familiar faces from Niagara were Rita Guglielmi, Kathy Kocsis, Karen Baranyi, Dorothy Giovenazzo, Cathy Chamberlain, Genny Gualtieri, Evana Cercone and Yvonne Kozinski.

We shared many memorable moments such as the Scavenger Hunt throughout the neighbourhood during our first week.

Pat Turner, my first year instructor, was warm and supportive and we were introduced to Pre and Post Conferences and how to write Nursing Care Plans. Our Skills Lab was eye opening with advanced tools for learning the art and skill of nursing. Even more impressive was Karen Martin, our Clinical Instructor. She embodied dedication, warmth, knowledge and understanding. I think of Karen with deep respect and affection and she is one of those instructors we will never forget! Walking through the "long dark tunnel" to the hospital for clinical rotation was both intimidating and exciting. The friendships we formed during those years provided a lifetime of memories. The



I. Bachetti



### CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

*Rita Guglielmi Talosi, Yvonne Kozanski Van Lankveld, Anna Esposito MacPherson, Dorothy Giovannozzo Smith, Brenda Dolha, Natasha da Silva Charles, Ivana Bachetti Wilson*



support we gave each other, both in and out of the classroom, created bonds that have endured decades. Looking back at old photos reminds me of social events also, such as the Spring and Christmas formals. I also recall engagements that took place...none more memorable than when our classmate Ann Marie Settini became engaged to her handsome boyfriend, Angelo Vecchi. The diamond "rock" was stunning and provided great awe and conversation among us.

In second year, along with my lifelong friend and classmate, Rita Guglielmi (Talos now), we organized the Father/Daughter dinner at the Hillcrest Restaurant. The dinner reinforced our sense of community and gave us the chance to share our journey with those who had supported us along the way. I am so very grateful for my parent's love and guidance!

At the end of second year, we had the honour to wear our black bands on our caps as symbols of great achievement and responsibility.

Our official graduation was September 20, 1975, at Mohawk College. We had our St. Joseph celebration at the hospital where we had a luncheon in the hospital cafeteria. Afterwards many of us, with our uniforms and black bands, walked down James Street to Gore Park, where we gathered around the fountain...the symbolic gesture marking the transition from student to professional.

Our class faced a tough job market upon graduation. Many travelled long distances to secure work. I was fortunate to be hired full time by Mrs. Ida Green and Mrs Donna Gravis, the Head Nurses on 6 Surgical, where I had completed my practicum.

Our classmates from 1975 have each followed their own unique path. Some dedicated their entire careers to nursing, serving with compassion and commitment until retirement. Others pursued advanced education, stepping into leadership roles and making a broader impact in healthcare. And some classmates chose to follow different paths for their own reasons, finding fulfillment in new directions beyond nursing. And sadly there are those whose lives were taken far too soon after graduation - their presence is still felt and their memory remains a cherished part of our story.

My career spanned both hospital and community. After my years at St. Joe's, I started with St. Elizabeth Visiting Nursing and then in a role as a Nursing Supervisor with a community agency providing services to patients at home. I also had a brief period of employment as a Resource Coordinator with Contact Niagara (an agency providing services for adults with developmental disabilities and children's mental health). My journey at the Hamilton Wentworth Home Care Program (Ontario Health at Home) as a Care Coordinator began in 1986. I became an RNAO Wound Care Best Practice Champion, a CHRIS Champion and a Preceptor - adding a "teacher" component to my portfolio. I retired in June 2020 at the height of Covid 19.

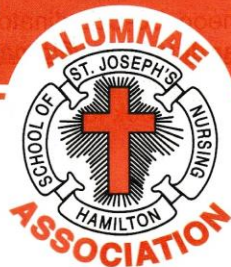
St. Joseph's shaped more than just my education. It shaped my life! It's where I met my husband Jack, in 1976 and where I gave birth to my son, Michael, who is now 43.

I'm grateful for the memories and when I reflect on those years, I'm filled with love, laughter and a few tears. The good times far outweighed the bad times. Looking back over 50 years, I feel nothing but gratitude. The friends we made all those years ago still leave a lasting impact. The bonds remain a comforting presence. Though years may pass without a word, the warmth of those bonds remain unchanged, as if no time has passed at all!

Happy 50th Anniversary to all my Classmates of the Class of 1975! What a remarkable and memorable journey it has been!



# 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)

October 2025

Dear Nursing Colleagues

The hot summer of 2025 is now a memory. I hope this newsletter finds everyone well. After our disappointing cancellation of Reunion Day 2025, we have now secured a new venue for Reunion Day 2026! It will be held at **LIUNA Station** on James St. N. in Hamilton on **Thursday June 4th, 2026**. We will be able to celebrate Mass as well as enjoy a lovely luncheon. More details will follow in the January newsletter. **Tickets will not be available until April 1, 2026** So good news for our Alumnae!!

As usual please check out our website [www.sjsnaa.com](http://www.sjsnaa.com) for any updates. Many pictures from all the classes celebrating this year have been added for your perusal. The Class of 1975 has a special 50 Year section. We would like to thank everyone for sending in your photographs.

Also thank you for those who offered to volunteer for Reunion Day. Your time is always valued to make the day go smoothly. Please keep us in mind for next year!

## Alumnae Membership Renewals

If you received a **Membership Renewal** this means your **Membership is ending**. Please send your cheque for **\$20.00** made out to **SJSNAA** (St. Joseph's School of Nursing Alumnae Association) to **Pat Duxbury, Membership Secretary, 515 Hillfair Place, Burlington ON. L7N 2W4** (Instructions are on the bottom of the Membership Renewal form)

**For a membership card, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your cheque.**

## President's Message

It's the start of our new membership and fiscal year, 2025-2026!

First, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to our members and friends of the Association for their ongoing support, both emotionally and financially, following the cancellation of Reunion Day 2025. While this was disappointing, many individual classes still gathered at alternate venues. A special congratulations goes to the Class of 1975, celebrating their 50th anniversary, who quickly organized a wonderful "Plan B" celebration at Columbus Hall. Kudos to all of you and to the Executive Committee for working together so effectively to reach out to everyone affected by the cancellation.

The last-minute change came as a shock not only to us, but also to the staff of Michelangelo's, many of whom have faithfully served our group for years. We extend our very best wishes to them. A special thank you to Cathy Smith '71B, who, in her inaugural year as Luncheon Coordinator, managed both the planning and the difficult task of overseeing the cancellation with professionalism and care.

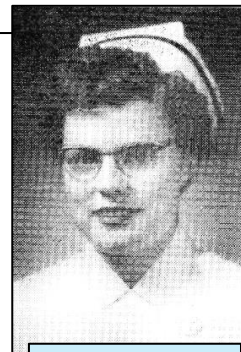
We are also pleased to welcome Donna Bain '74 to the Executive as Recording Secretary.

The positions of Vice President and Luncheon Co-Coordinator remain vacant. If you are interested serving either role, please contact me at [mandkjackson@gmail.com](mailto:mandkjackson@gmail.com).

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer and I look forward to the year ahead.

With warm regards,  
Kathy Jackson '73

**Interesting to note...**The Class of 1955 had 2 members registered for Reunion Day Celebrations, to celebrate **70 Years** as a St. Joe's Grad. They were Vera Summers Braithwaite and Lola Bott Timms



Vera Summers



Lola Bott

Frances Harold

From the Archives on Alumnae Membership

From: "Frances Harold" <frances.harold@sympatico.ca>  
To: "Cheryl McQueen" <mcqueen@bereavement.net>  
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2006 10:43 AM  
Subject: Frances Report 2.doc

Executive Members October 2025

2006

Classes of 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978 were granted eligibility for active alumnae membership.

RE: ALUMNAE MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

PROPOSAL: To bring nursing graduates from St.Joseph's School of Nursing Campus.....years '75 thru '78 to full alumnae membership eligibility (Active).

HISTORY: In late '73 nurses' education was transferred from hospitals to community colleges. As a result the students from class of '75 having already been accepted into St.J.S.N were then graduated from Mohawk College.  
All classes were held at St.J.S.N and they studied the leading edge curriculum related To self-directed learning that St.Joe's had started in '71.  
The classes of '76, '77, '78 were accepted into St. Joe's campus of Mohawk College And were educated at St .Joe's but studied the new Mohawk College curriculum.  
All of their clinical experience (except maybe Psychiatry) took place at St .Joe's school / hospital

After '78 the nursing education program was transferred to Chedoke location.

ALUMNAE MEMBERSHIP DEFINITION: (please refer to constitution or website)

- 1; Active member
- 2; Life member
- 3: Associate member.

At some time the alumnae executive committee voted to restrict all St.J.S.N. grads from '75 on to be eligible for associate membership only.  
As well only graduates from St.J.S.N can serve on the executive committee according to The constitution.

PURPOSE: To give these grads appropriate recognition.  
This is a group,who because of their sensitivity to being given this lower status, declined (many) to even apply for membership.  
These four classes represent quite a few hundred members.....younger ..and possibly could be our future executive.  
What better way to keep our alumnae alive.

VOTE: I respectively propose therefore that all St.J.S.N grads from classes...'75, '76,'77, and '&'78 be granted eligibility for active alumnae membership.

Frances Harold '46



Shelley Cutler'75

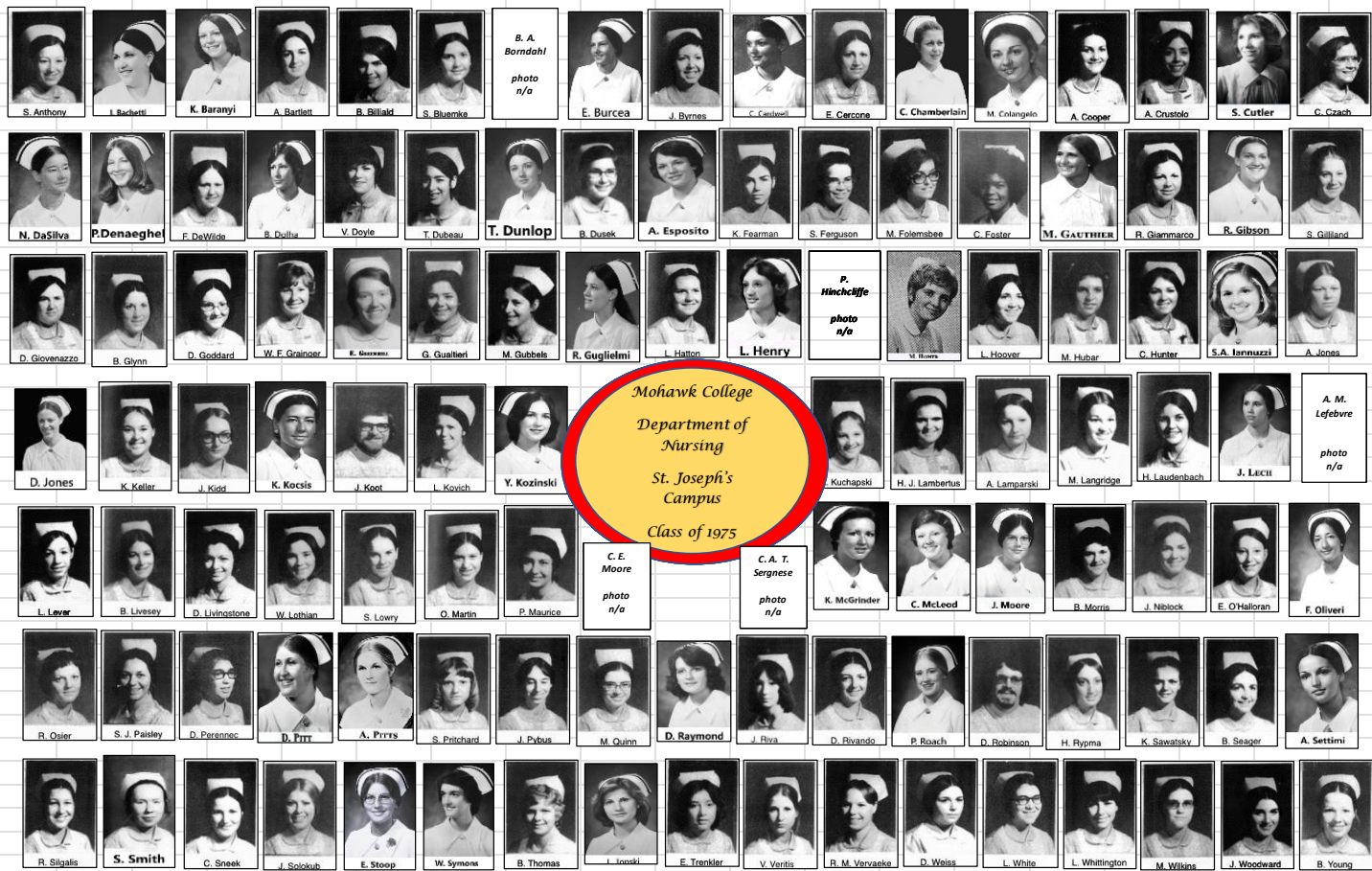


Shelley Cutler '75 with Frances & Rosemary Ruffing '46  
Rosemary was her mother.

Frances was her aunt who started the proposal for the class of 1975 – 1978 to be "active" members of the Alumnae

Passed by Alumnae Executive April 12, 2006

| POSITION                                         | NAME                 |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| President                                        | Kathy Jackson '73    |
| Immediate past President and Website Coordinator | Kristine Rogers '69  |
| Vice President                                   | To Be Filled         |
| Recording Secretary                              | Donna Bain '74       |
| Treasurer                                        | Patricia O'Neill '74 |
| Membership Secretary                             | Pat Duxbury '66      |
| Newsletter Editor/ Dispatcher                    | Linda Lipsitt '72    |
| Mass Coordinator/ Liaison To The Sisters         | Judy Cleary '67      |
| Archives Coordinator                             | Connie Prowse '69    |
| Archives Coordinator                             | Janny Bruyn '69      |
| Luncheon Coordinator                             | Cathy Smith '71B     |
| Luncheon Coordinator                             | To Be Filled         |



**STANDING:** Terry Dunlop Lumb, Sigi Bluemke Vinson, Ann Marie Settimi, Pat Denaeghel Sharp  
**SEATED:** Anita Pitts, Natasha da Silva Charles, Margaret Gauthier



Natasha da Silva Charles



**STANDING:** Lydia Tonski Morrow, Debra Pitt Re, Bev Morris Faught, Kathy McLeod Bennett  
**SEATED:** Janice Lech Dusek, Brenda Dusek, Yvonne Kozinski VanLankveld



Ivana Bachetti Wilson



Yvonne Kozinski Van Lankveld



Floral Arrangement  
sent by the Class of 1974



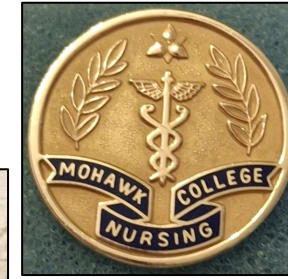
Kathy Alexander Jackson '73  
President S.J.S.N.A.A.

# CLASS OF 1975 CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

*The class of 1975 had 29 members registered to attend Reunion Day Celebrations.  
Class of 1975 had 30 members attend to celebrate at Knights of Columbus Hall.  
There were 4 members from the class of 1973, 2 members from the class of 1976 and 2 members of the S.J.S.N.A.A. executive.*



**FRONT ROW:** Rita Guglielmi Tolosi, Kathy McGrinder Noon, Janice Moore Frayne, Anna Esposito MacPherson, Pat Denaeghel Sharp, Margaret Gauthier, Natasha da Silva Charles, Bev Morris Faught, Lydia Tonski Morrow  
**STANDING:** Ivana Bachetti Wilson, Eileen O'Halloran Bain, Mary Colangelo Stodolak, Terry Dunlop Lumb, Janice Lech Dusek, Brenda Dohla, Emilia Burcea Kosiuk, Elly Stoop, Catherine Chamberlain Feduck Brule, Yvonne Kozinski Van Leckveld, Debra Pitt Re, Diane Raymond Killick, Daphne Jones Brine, Brenda Dusek, Sigi Bluemke Vinson, Ann Marie Settimi Vecchi, Shelley Cutler Forsyth, Anita Pitts, Francine Oliveri Sakalauskas, Cathy McLeod Bennett



*Sigi Bluemke Vinson brought her Graduation Pin & Year Pin.  
The grad pin cost \$55 and the year pin cost \$10 in 1975*



*Sigi also brought a St Joseph's School of Nursing charm.  
They were sold on Reunion Day 1976*



*A Special Cake ----- Delicious*



**Margaret Gauthier, Natasha da Silva Charles,  
Terry Dunlop Lumb**



**Margaret Gauthier, Rita Guglielmi Talosi,  
Natasha da Silva Charles, Ivana Bachetti Wilson**



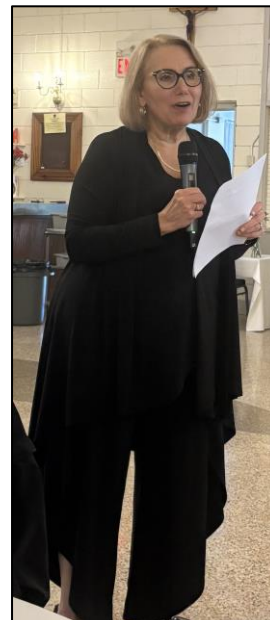
**STANDING: Julie Bostock Blaskivish '76, Daphne Jones Brine,  
Brenda Dohla, Mary Colangelo Stodolak  
SEATED: Christa Rybak Parsons '76, Kathy McGrinder Noon,  
Francine Olivieri Sakalauskas**



**Ann Marie Settimi Vecchi  
Ivana Bachetti Wilson  
with flowers sent by the Alumnae**



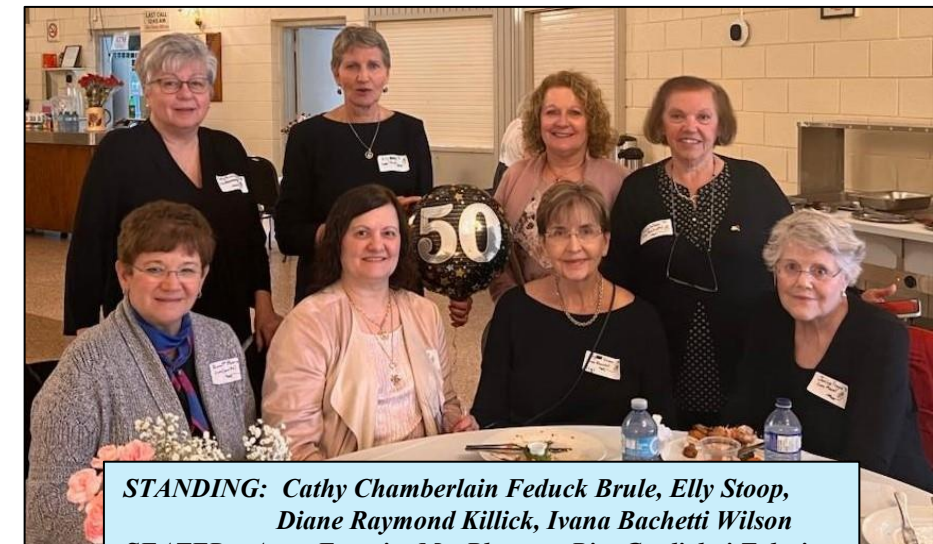
**Ann Marie Settimi Vecchi  
Ivana Bachetti Wilson**



**Janice Lech Dusek  
Toast to the Alma Mater  
Class of 1975**



**Sandra Forster (friend), Emilia Burcea Kosiuk,  
Eileen O'Halloran Bain, Shelley Cutler Forsyth**



**STANDING: Cathy Chamberlain Feduck Brule, Elly Stoop,  
Diane Raymond Killick, Ivana Bachetti Wilson  
SEATED: Anna Esposito MacPherson, Rita Guglielmi Tolosi,  
Sigi Bluemke Vinson, Janice Moore Frayne**

Toasting the Alma Mater – Class of 1975

**This I know...**

It is my great privilege and honour to speak to you today and to offer a toast to our 1975 nursing class.

As I contemplated what I would say today, I began to recall the many fun and challenging times we experienced during our years in nursing school. I also found myself reflecting on the many changes our profession has undergone over the past five decades.

Looking back to the day we all began at St. Joseph’s School of Nursing—52 years ago—we were so young, naive, excited, and very nervous. All those new faces, so keen and eager to learn, to grow, and to become part of a profession.

**This I know** — we are a group of courageous, brilliant individuals who walked through the doors of St. Joseph’s School of Nursing and proudly graduated from Mohawk College in 1975. Each of us has made a meaningful difference in the lives of those we’ve cared for along the way.

Just look at how quickly we adapted and found an alternative venue for our celebration—proof of our resilience and resourcefulness. A heartfelt thank-you to Margaret and Natasha for their incredible efforts in securing this venue and personally reaching out to each of us to ensure this celebration could take place!

Between 1975 and 2025, the nursing profession has undergone remarkable transformation. We’ve witnessed the rise of advanced practice roles, a growing emphasis on evidence-based practice, and a stronger focus on health equity and person-centered care. Additionally, there has been a growing integration of technology in nursing practice and the phenomenal rise of nursing research over this time.

The bedside nurse of today has a most powerful role in supporting health care and without the frontline nurse, the health care system would crumble!

Over the decades, we’ve faced immense challenges including the downsizing of nursing in the 90’s—HIV, SARS, COVID-19, and the ongoing opioid epidemic have all devastated our communities and deeply affected our profession. Many of our colleagues have been stretched to their limits, yet continued to provide unwavering care during those incredibly difficult times..

As nurses, we are united by a profound commitment to serve those in need and to ensure that every individual we care for receives the compassion, dignity, and quality of care they deserve—delivered through the strength of our knowledge and the tenderness of our hands

**WE are ever present!**

Today, we gather to renew our school friendships, reflect on our careers, and revisit the memories of our time at St. Joe’s—with just a touch of excitement as we reconnect and reminisce.

Now, 50 years since our graduation, we look back with pride at all we’ve accomplished and the lives we’ve touched.

- Did we achieve the goals we once set for ourselves?
- Did we find our place in the areas of nursing we had envisioned?
- Did we practice with confidence, compassion, and purpose?
- Did we use our knowledge and passion to influence the world around us?

These are powerful questions—because no matter how we each answer them, one thing is certain: our impact has been real, and it continues to echo through the generations we've inspired.

Today, it is our time to celebrate both our individual and collective accomplishments—remembering that we have supported not only our patients but society as a whole.

So, let us raise our glasses and celebrate ourselves—as well as our many friends and colleagues—on this wonderful day!



Janice Lech Dusek

## Rita Guglielmi Talosi '75

Deciding on a nursing career wasn't my first choice interestingly enough. I always thought I would become a teacher. However, in Grade 12, I was discouraged from teaching when I realized the job situation for teaching was bleak. A family member gave me some encouragement and I applied to St. Joseph's School of Nursing in 1973 and was accepted into the 2-year Diploma Nursing course. Getting ready to move away from home and connecting with friends also accepted was inspirational and encouraging. I cried all the way from Welland to Hamilton as my parents dropped me off that day in September 1973.



**R. Guglielmi**

I had a lot to learn! Coming from a European home where Nonni looked after every need, I needed to learn some life skills...making beds, boiling water, laundry. Fortunately meals were provided in the hospital cafeteria and for a time things were good. But in time, I yearned for gnocchi, ravioli and homemade bread! Having some home town friends in the same situation was comforting and we were fortunate to become closer friends and support each other in homesickness, class work, clinical discussions and learning to navigate the bus system. Eventually we became familiar with St. Joseph's Hospital and found our instructors to be caring, supportive, empathetic, knowledgeable and committed to our success in becoming nurses. We proudly wore our student uniforms and caps as we went about on our clinicals. (Learning to fold the starched diaper into a cap was challenging!) The Skills Lab was a great place to practice taking vitals, and learn how to do patient care.

We also took courses at Mohawk College and found climbing the steep road to the college could be difficult. Many times drivers going up the hill knew we were student nurses and often stopped to offer rides and they became appreciated! In two short years, we graduated in June 1975 and lots of jobs were offered. I accepted a full time position on a surgical floor, found an apartment one block from the hospital and prepared to start my nursing career. I even learned how to cook, bake, decorate cakes and make chocolate from courses I took between working shifts! This independence and life skills I achieved have benefited me in all aspects of living over the years, whether it be in the classroom, at the arena, at ball parks or retirement homes.

My high school sweetheart, Steve, surprised me with a marriage proposal, one month after graduation and we were married on May 8, 1976. After purchasing a home in 1977 in Burlington, we prepared for the birth of our first child. We moved back to Welland in 1978 when Steve accepted a job opportunity and I started working for Niagara VON. I loved Community Nursing. Two more children followed in January 1980 and February 1981 and for a time I worked part-time. It was the news that stated "Nurses need to have their BScN" that prompted me to go back to school. My children thought going to school along with them was great! So in 1991 I graduated with my BScN from Niagara University across the border. My graduation day was a family earned degree and I also was awarded a scholarship for continuing Graduate Studies. I received lots of encouragement from my husband, children and parents and continued on at D'Youville University where I received a Masters of Community Nursing and Education in 1993. My thesis was "Puppetry Simulation and Children with Asthma". All my children suffered with asthma so it was a fitting topic. I also did asthma education at Camp Superkids with the Lung Association.

I now was the teacher I always wanted to be! I was offered an Educators position with the VON for nursing staff and for the community. As well, I developed several community programs that went provincial and nation wide. These included: The Living with Parkinson's Program, Senior Fitness Programs, Support Programs, Volunteer Programs, Almost Allstar program (which was line-dancing),

Vaccination and Wellness. I sourced funding through proposals and created partnerships with local agencies, stores and churches.

My Educator role included concurrently teaching part-time at the Niagara College Continuing Education Program (1987-1999). Courses included Physical Assessment for RN's, Math for RN's, RPN Medications, RPN Nutrition for Health and Programming for the Aging Population.

In 1999, MOSAICS opened its doors and as Directress/Practitioner the Wellness Center offered Craniosacral Therapy, Reflexology, Zero Balancing, Life Coaching, Pilates and Fitness classes, Wellness and Rehabilitation Programs. I was able to create the framework to ease Certification in all modalities offered. Unfortunately post Covid, the Wellness Center folded.

From 2000-2003, VON Canada empowered me as the National Educator to oversee Accreditation across all sites in Canada. This required travelling to each province and working with each branch to ensure all were ready for Accreditation visits. And it was successful and the first of many Accreditations followed.

From 2003-2014, I became a part-time Educator in the RN Program at Brock University and as well, assisted with Clinical Practicums (Communications, Health Promotion, Gerontology, Chronicity, Mental Health, Health Assessment, Leadership and Management, Trends and Issues and Community Health Nursing).

In October 2007 I accepted the position of Program Manager for VON Canada National Aboriginal Initiative. I was honoured and recognized with the Liberal Party Award: Woman of the Year and VON, Excellence in Education, Excellence in Quality and National Educator Service Award.

A partnership with Health Canada from March 2008-2021, solidified to create an Integrated Quality Management Framework for First Nations across Canada. I visited 10 National Sites in different provinces and worked closely with representatives from each site and throughout the research analysis, a Quality Framework transpired. I authored an Integrated Quality Management Framework Educational Resource and a Workbook. Upon completion of the project, I was offered contracts with First Nation Sites to educate on Quality Management and facilitate the Accreditation processes. In 2016 a Blood Tribe Alberta Elder, Duane, designated me with a Blackfoot Name, INSKIMAKII. To this day we still keep in touch.

My family has faced many health challenges throughout life, beginning with the diagnosis of Asthma for all 3 of my children. We have faced a learning disability and the discovery of a pituitary tumor in our son Ryan, a kidney cancer diagnosis for my husband in 2010, ovarian cancer for our daughter in 2011 and myself being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2012. Also, aging parents presented with brain bleeds, TIA's, strokes, dementia, placement in retirement facilities and then there was COVID. My nursing background enabled me to advocate for my parents in these trying times until they passed in 2022. Our family has come to understand and appreciate the importance of loved ones. I have 2 grandchildren and they played a big part, not only with curiosity but also love, hope and thanksgiving. I wrote a book, "Nanna Feels Better Now" to share my experience and help others in similar situations. I also created a Love, Hope and Thanksgiving Journal and a Medical Notebook as tools to empower the magic of making dreams come true. And currently I am battling Long Covid.

I am grateful to St. Joseph's School of Nursing for the opportunity to start my professional career and I feel it gave me many opportunities to fulfill my desired wants and dreams...becoming disciplined, independent, facing the real world and creating the strong framework of a career beyond my expectations. I express my heartfelt appreciation to my family who so lovingly supported my career growth through all the challenges and opportunities we encountered. Heartfelt gratitude to all our teachers, clinical instructors and nursing colleagues for the HUGE introduction to our 50 year Stories of Success. And to the friends for being a part of my life beyond nursing. Happy Golden Anniversary!



**CLASS OF 1965 CELEBRATING 60 YEARS**

*Class of 1965 celebrating 60 Years. The class had 25 people registered for Reunion Day Celebration.  
32 classmates celebrated at Ye Olde Squire in Hamilton.*



**FRONT ROW:** Jenny Smutniak McDermott, Pat Dowling DiCiommo, Dorothy Battey Richardson, Sue Curry Pennington, Elaine Harper Bock, Janina Muta Berenyi, Helen Gadoury Strecker, Dana Peszat Longchamps, Loys Scott McElhone  
**SECOND ROW:** Jeannine Heil Giavadoni, Kathy Graham Borden, Carole Holmes McFadden, Hazel Ferguson Minnett, Barb Kirchen Chapman, Judy Weiler Lumsden, Louise Portsmouth Sidorkowicz,  
**BACK ROW:** Judy Almond - Best, Margaret Bald Zuliani, Ruby Montour Jacobs, Judy Blake Webb, Betty Rowley Ramming, Ann Barrett, Velma Andreychen Columbus, Edda Gris Engel, Sonja Vrba Klein, Nancy O'Brien Melnyk, Arlene Hayter Lawlor



*Edda Gris Engel, Janina Muta Berenyi,  
Louise Portsmouth Sidorkowicz, Brenda Got Westlake*



*Barbara Kirchen Chapman,  
Elaine Cimek Vyroстка*



*Elaine Harper Bock*



*Kathryn Graham, Velma Andreychen Columbus*



*Class of 1965*

*Reunion Day 2025*

*The Reunion executive for the class of 1965 was Jeannine Giavadoni, Jenny McDermott, Barb Chapman, Helene Gadoury, Louise Sidorkowicz and Janina Berenyi.*

*We had a wonderful afternoon from 11 am to 5 pm. Master of Ceremonies was Jeannine Heil Giavadoni and she was on time & on schedule. Louise Sidorkowicz was giving out the tickets for the door prizes & Helene Gadoury looked after the name tags.*

*Velma Andreychen was responsible for ordering the cake, which turned out to be a multilayered rum cake. A thank you gift was given to Jeannine and a floral arrangement to Janina for their work in organizing the reunion.*

*It was an intimate afternoon with a lot of good food, door prizes and gifts for everyone. Door prizes were donated by Judy Almond, Louise Portsmouth, Janina Berenyi. Barb Kirchen Chapman had beautiful cookies made with Nursing emblems. They were made by her daughter.*

*The catering by the Squires restaurant was delicious and left overs were taken home. The rum cake that Velma ordered was delicious and many took home to families along with muffins & Swedish pastries.*

*With the money that we had saved in the bank since 2020, we were able to buy gifts for everyone. Any money that is left over will be given to Jeannine for the Sisters of her Margaret Mary Parish to feed the poor. Janina asked if everyone was still interested in a fall dinner reunion at the Mandarin & everyone wanted this to take place.*

*by Janina Muta Berenyi*



*Judy Weiler Lumsden*



*Ann Barrett,  
Betty Rowley Ramming*



*Hazel Ferguson Minnett  
Velma Andreychen Columbus*

## CLASS OF 1970 CELEBRATING 55 YEARS



*Class of 1970 had 18 members registered for Reunion Day Celebrations.  
20 members of the class of 1970 celebrated at Fern Resort in Orillia.*

**FRONT ROW:** Susan Merritt, Ann Fuller Northcott

**SECOND ROW:** Gerri McManamy Galassi, Beverly Shynal Greenwood, Margaret Reynolds Leatham, Audrey Malcolm Copeland, Judy Heaney Ferguson, Patricia O'Brien Ruffell, Barb Mollineaux Howe, Joyce Martin Jackson, Judy Parsons Harris

**THIRD ROW:** Daphne Smith, Maryann Vasko Yeo, Jane Hardy Schott, Wendy McKenzie Farkas, Lynne Nicholas Edwards, Marnin Faulds Lloyd, Pat Kardas, Marlene Smith Goyette, Elva Zuccolin Polo



*Pat Kardas, Audrey Malcolm Copeland, Ann Fuller Northcott,  
Lynn Nicholls Edwards, Marnin Faulds Lloyd*

## Honorary Membership Recipients for 2025

**Congratulations to 6 New Honorary Members!**

Concetta Savino Sills '57  
Jane Meraw Selkirk '65  
Catherine Mundier Husser '69

Carole Reichheld Peterson '64  
Judy Sherman Cleary '67  
Maureen Deehan Timmins '72

*All 6 members received their honorary membership pins & congratulatory letter.  
Members of the executive delivered these to 4 members.  
The other 2 members received theirs by mail.*



## Thank You for Your Generosity

Thank you to Robin Innes Hill '78 for her \$150.00 donation to the Alumnae as well as the cost of her Reunion Day ticket.

Thank you to Beverley Vannatter Peck '58 for her \$50.00 donation to the Alumnae as well as the cost of her Reunion Day ticket.

We would also like to thank those of our many members who generously donated the cost of their Reunion Day tickets due to the cancellation of Reunion Day 2025. It helped to cover the loss of funds when Michelangelo's closed their doors just a few days before our event.



*Robyn Innes Hill '78*



*Beverly Van Natter Peck '58*

Vera Summers Braithwaite '55

written by Janny Bruyn '69

On May 30, 2025, Kristine and I visited our cherished alumnae member Vera Summers Braithwaite at her niece Laurie's home in Copetown. Vera had travelled from her home in Boca Raton Florida, where she lives with her husband Allen, to attend our ill fated 2025 Reunion Day. No time was wasted however as Vera was kept constantly busy during her two week visit getting together with her many friends and relatives.

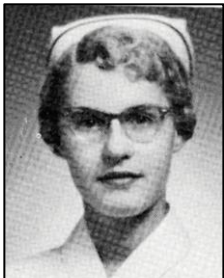
Vera was born on December 22, 1933, to Leroy and Irene Summers in a wartime house on Wallace Street near the Hamilton Steel Company. It was a lively household. Vera's father, Leroy, was originally from Norway. He had an ear for music and played the harmonica and violin and the house was full of music and children. Vera would be the eldest of 12!

Sometimes it would be a struggle, for by the time Vera was 10 years old, there were five more mouths to feed and the family was struggling financially. Eventually, unable to pay the rent, they were evicted from their home. Worse yet, Mr. Flatt from the Children's Aid paid a visit. Although Vera hid under the bed, Mr. Flatt pulled her out by her feet and all six children became wards of the Crown. From that time on, Vera and her siblings were placed in a series of foster homes.

The first placement was with a family in Caledonia who seemed more interested in budgies and canaries they raised than the children they fostered. The good thing was her beloved sister Beverly was with her. The next placement lasted 6 months. It was a very lonely time for Vera, as the family left her at home alone all day while they went off to work. This time she was separated from Beverly. But the two sisters always managed to keep in touch with each other. Beverly was lucky this time. She had found herself in a caring home. That Christmas, Vera was one of several foster children inexplicably brought to Hamilton City Hall to wrap presents for the children of staff members, feeling envious by what they saw. However they themselves were not given any gifts. It was about this time that Vera became very ill and was admitted to hospital with a strangulated hernia requiring a bowel resection. She recalls that it was Mary Lepinskie who started her IV. Vera then lived in a foster home in Winona on Lake Ontario and the last foster home was a large 21 room stone farm house in Troy where all six of the older children lived. The family was wealthy and had children of their own, but the foster children were essentially treated like "slaves". They were required to do farm chores such as milking cows, messing out stalls and help with haying. One of the more onerous jobs was to dig up rocks for a laneway. If they had any spare time, they were tasked by the Felician Nuns to help with chores such as shovelling snow. School was an over 10km walk or bike ride to a one room school house in Sheffield. It was hard strenuous living with little joy. So at 13 years of age, Vera ran away, only to be returned. There was after all little choice! Vera was with this family for over 5 years. When she was 18, perhaps the most wonderful decision was made that she would go to nursing school. In September, the family drove Vera first to the General Hospital but their classes were full. St Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing was still accepting students.



Vera Summers



Mary Ann Dubois



Maryanne Dubois Graham, Vera Summers Braithwaite

So began a wonderful new chapter in Vera's life. She loved it! The Sisters thought highly of her and she excelled. After graduation in 1955, Sister Bonaventure wanted Vera to work on Pediatrics. Vera became a dedicated proficient and compassionate children's nurse. She received special training at the Mountain Sanitorium (Chedoke Hospital) where many Inuit children were receiving treatment for Tuberculosis. In 1961, she was sent to Washington DC Children's Hospital (now Children's National) for post graduate studies for childhood leukemia. Vera loved working on Pediatrics. One of her best skills was starting IV's and taking blood on even the tiniest patient...much valued on a Paediatric ward. Vera embraced life fully. Though busy with work and continuing education, she became an avid downhill skier, becoming known to all as the "Blue Bomber". She and her roommate, Ann Donovan, would take the train to Jay Peak in Vermont on their days off and had a wonderful trip to Austria to ski the Alps.

Then there was Allen. Vera had known Allen since 1951 and had remained friends with him. One day in 1969, Allen marched up to Vera's door on Bay Street and asked everyone to leave. He proposed to her then and there and on August 22 they married in the small stone church at 271 Wilson Street in Ancaster. When in Hamilton Allen worked at International Harvester. But soon after their wedding, the couple moved to Fort Lauderdale in Florida, where Allen had been living off and on. In Fort Lauderdale, Vera became manager of several florist shops, tasked with hiring, doing timesheets, payroll etc. As if that was not enough, she became a jack of all trades, trimming hedges, gardening and became an unofficial health care consultant, advisor and care giver for her neighbours in need. One of her neighbours, Aileen Ruby, lived to be 107 and a 1/2 under Vera's watchful eye. In 1981, Vera and Allen moved from Fort Lauderdale to Boca Raton. Three years ago, while shopping in downtown Boca Raton, she was severely injured when she was struck and run over by an SUV. Doctors did not hold out much hope for her recovery as the injuries to both her legs were significant. They did not know Vera! The injury to her right leg has never fully healed and continues to require treatment. It is a hindrance but it does not stop Vera.

Vera not only overcame an extremely difficult and challenging childhood, she excelled in all her endeavours and is able to say that all of her family thrived and prospered in their chosen careers and

family life. She is also proud to point out that eight of her family members also chose nursing as their profession. Vera has maintained her Canadian Citizenship and she regularly visits family and friends in Canada. Arriving in Canada for Reunion Day 2025, she was disappointed when it was suddenly cancelled. But she was still able to visit with family and more importantly, her beloved brother Daniel, who tragically and unexpectedly passed away two days later. Kristine and I were delighted that we had the opportunity to visit with lovely, spirited Vera during her visit here and we thank her for telling her story.

Vera Summers Braithwaite '55 (L) visiting with Maryanne Dubois Graham '55

Vera with Maryanne, Colleen (Maryanne's daughter) and Laurie (Vera's niece)



LEFT TO RIGHT: Maryanne Dubois Graham, Colleen (Maryanne's daughter), Laurie Summers (Vera's niece), Vera Summers Braithwaite

# Nurses Week May 12-18, 2025

Once again, our Alumnae was asked to participate in Nurses Week at St. Joseph's Healthcare Charlton Campus. Below are a few pictures of members of the Executive with the display of archival material from the School of Nursing.



**FRONT:** Janny Bruyn '69, Kristine Rogers '69  
**BACK:** Connie Prowse '69, Kathy Jackson '73



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Connie Prowse '69, Janny Bruyn '69, Pat O'Neill '74, Kathy Jackson '73, Donna Bain '74

## Donna Ireland Bain '74

I am a proud graduate of 1974. Upon graduation I started my nursing career at St. Joe's on 6 Surgical. After 2 years I transferred to I.C.U. and then to part time when my son was born. As a "float" nurse I probably worked on every unit of the hospital. I finished my 42 years at St. Joe's in Day Surgery.

When I started working on 6 Surgical, the Eye Charge Nurse was Cathy McQuillan. She was also the President of Local 75 of the Ontario Nurses' Association. St. Joseph's Hospital was, in fact, one of the founding members of the newly formed provincial Nurses Union (ONA). Her influence led me to join the Executive and ultimately I became the local's President in 2006. This is when the President at the time, Linda Haslam Stroud (a St. Joe's Campus Class of 1977 graduate), was elected as ONA's Provincial President.

I always viewed my involvement with the Union as a way for me to "care for the people who cared for people"

I have been enjoying my retirement and now have time to pursue golf, water colour painting, help care for my 5 year old grandson, William, as well as volunteering at the Mark Preece House. I am happy to now be able to give back to my Alma Mater as Recording Secretary for the St. Joseph's Alumnae Association.



**Donna Ireland '74**



**Donna Ireland Bain '74**

## 2025 Alumnae Display Showcase



## A \$600,000 Estate Gift Benefits Endoscopy Care at St. Joe's

*Former R.N. leaves provisions in her Will for people and pets alike*



Juanita Isobel Hodge wanted to be a nurse for as long as her friend and estate executor, Frank Genesee, principal of the Hamilton law firm, Genesee & Associates, can remember.

"She received her nursing degree and then promptly spent the majority of her career working at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. It was truly her calling."

In her personal life, Juanita was a loving wife to her husband Don. They lived in Hamilton all their lives, happily sharing their home with a sequence of much-beloved family dogs. Juanita developed a particularly strong bond with their Dalmatian, Charlie.

"When Don passed away in 1986, Charlie was such a comfort to Juanita," recalls Frank. "He was a big dog, so whether they were cuddling on the couch or heading up to bed for the night, Charlie was always with her and made her feel less alone in the home she and Don once shared."

Juanita lived a full life until the age of 88 and passed away after a short battle with cancer on December 14, 2019. Juanita and Don didn't have any children (save for their furry four-legged companions) so they decided to leave the bulk of their estates to three charities that were close to hers and Don's hearts.

In recognition of the years Juanita spent working as a nurse, one-third of her estate was directed to the charitable foundation of a Toronto-area Hospital. And in honour of the dogs who had brought so much joy to hers and Don's lives, another third of Juanita's estate was directed to an animal welfare charity. The final one-third of Juanita's estate was designated to support the endoscopy unit here at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton.

St. Joe's performs more than 12,000 endoscopic procedures every year to help prevent, detect and diagnose illness and disease. Our Hospital is a Cancer Care Ontario affiliate site for the screening and detection of colon cancer, the most common cause of non-tobacco-related cancer deaths in Canadian men and women. Following the settling of Juanita's estate, her planned gift totaling more than \$600,000 will help to create a new endoscopy unit at the Hospital while also funding related research at St. Joe's.

"We feel quite privileged to have received such a significant donation and we're committed to ensuring it is put to good use by funding two specific clinical care and research initiatives in endoscopy," says Dr. Waël Hanna, a leading thoracic surgeon and the head of endoscopy and thoracic research at St. Joe's.

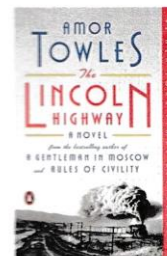
Juanita's gift will bring a new diagnostic imaging technology called the GI Genius to St. Joe's. "GI Genius leverages artificial intelligence to improve the sensitivity of colon cancer screenings by reducing the incidence of missed polyps by approximately 10 per cent. This will enable our team to catch cancer at its earliest stages, improving the rate of cure for our patients while reducing strain on the healthcare system, too," says Dr. Hanna.

Beyond this advancement in care, Juanita's gift will also enable St. Joe's to create a new Endoscopic Radiofrequency Ablation Program. At present, patients with pre-invasive cancer of the esophagus are referred to a hospital in London or Toronto for this treatment. But thanks to this donation, St. Joe's will be able to purchase the equipment and put the infrastructure in place to deliver this cancer treatment closer to home.

"As a nurse for so many years, Juanita must have had a keen sense of how much our communities rely on the care provided in hospitals like St. Joe's," says Sera Filice, President and CEO, St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation. "Juanita's gift will help countless patients to get the life-saving screening tests and cancer treatments they need closer to home in a brand-new space built with hope and healing in mind."

To learn more about including St. Joe's in your will or estate plans, please contact Lisa Gonnering Manager, Estate & Gift Planning at (905) 536-9073, by email at [lisa@stjoesfoundation.ca](mailto:lisa@stjoesfoundation.ca), or you can visit our website for additional information at [www.stjoesfoundation.ca/legacy](http://www.stjoesfoundation.ca/legacy).

## Recommended Reading



### The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles (2021)

The Lincoln Highway is the longest highway in the U.S. stretching from New York in the east to California. When an 18 year old is driven home to Nebraska by the warden from a juvenile work farm after serving 18 months, he intends to pick up his 8 year old brother and drive to California to find their mother who abandoned them years ago. However, 2 friends from the farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the car and they have a different plan for the future. The story spans just 10 days with many entertaining settings, characters and themes.