



# Beyond the Cap

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

Produced by the MGH Nurses' Alumnae Association, Inc. P. O. Box 6234 Boston MA 02114  
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*Alumnae Board/  
Committee Chairs  
2017-2018*

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## Message from the NAA President

Dear Colleagues,

As we head toward the holidays and year's end, it is a natural time of reflection. One of the things I often reflect upon is the good fortune I have to be an MGH grad. I know many of you share the same feeling and enjoy a special camaraderie and reputation being from MGH. It never ceases to amaze me when I talk with my fellow graduates at Homecoming and hear about their achievements, witness their passion for nursing and notice their ongoing commitment to caring, education and excellence in whatever phase of life or work they may be. The education we received at MGH was second to none and its gifts have served us well!

It is my hope during my time as President that I can rekindle these feelings you may have and inspire you to reinvest in the NAA by "coming home" and volunteering for the Alumnae Board. I guarantee that you will not be disappointed! The Board is very active, has several initiatives and needs more hands to get the work done. If you think you have an hour or two to spare to give back to this splendid institution and efforts of the board, I welcome you to contact me, join a board meeting as a guest or sign up for one of our many committees.

As I invite new members to serve, I'd also like to acknowledge a few who have been dedicated for many years. Recently Mary Cairra a 50-year volunteer, has taken a less active role on the board, moved south and is spending time enjoying no snow and caring for family and friends, Linda Orrell who served the board in many roles since the 1970's retired to be able to spend more time with her family in Maine, and Marlene Norton also a 40-year volunteer will retire in 2018 to enjoy her travels. We are so thankful for their work, sage advice, the endless dedication, countless hours and their expert contributions. I know for me, its hard to envision the Board without them. To do so, we need you to step forward and help us "fill their shoes" which will be challenging. However, I know we are up to the task - after all, we are MGH grads!

I hope you enjoy the new features in this issue of *Beyond the Cap* including our "Board Member Spotlight" and "What's New" column. Hoping to see you at Homecoming 2018 on September 21 and 22.

Sincerely, Mary Larkin, 1976

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy holiday season on behalf of the Board of Directors



Christmastime at the MGH, 1950

Visit us on the Web at: [MGHSONAlumnae.org](http://MGHSONAlumnae.org)

Email us at: [mghnursealumnae@Partners.org](mailto:mghnursealumnae@Partners.org)

Send news to the NAA either by email or to P O Box 6234 Boston MA 02114

Message From the Editor

Greetings,

With Linda Orrell's retirement I have taken on the job of editing our bi-annual newsletter in addition to *The Alumnae Record*. This publication goes out twice a year to every alumna and alumnus for whom we have an address, active members or not. Its purpose is to keep alumnae informed about the activities and events of the association and to encourage membership and participation. In addition to continuing our strong support of nursing education, focus on documenting our history and elucidating our legacy, a mandate came through loud and clear at our retreat this year that we needed to modernize our ways of "doing business" and to update our tools. The return of our homecoming location to the MGH since 2012 has been a resounding success and has strengthened our ties with the hospital. Our alliance with the MGH Nursing Department grows steadily through the work of the Nursing History Group and through the good work of those alumnae still on staff at the hospital. Our significant support of the IHP through scholarships and endowment proceeds continues. As we work to modernize our communication methods, including this one, we hope that you will join us in those efforts. With several Board members active for decades having retired recently, new perspectives and energy are needed for us to continue as a viable organization.

Regarding *Beyond the Cap*, I have changed the format slightly, reflecting my personal preferences, and to mark the transition. Content changes are the result of discussions at the Board's retreat last spring. As always, input from members is most welcome. Susan Fisher '66

What's New

We plan to use this space for recent news/updates from the association, the hospital and the IHP.

You will note that some of the items you are used to seeing here such as items for sale, scholarship and loan information, are absent from this issue. You can now find them, updated, on our website, <http://www.mghsonalumnae.org/> Those without internet access may contact our office for further information, 617-726-3144.

Institutional News

\*MGH - A new Chief Nurse begins January 1, 2018, **Debra Burke**. A graduate of Northeastern University and the IHP's Doctor of Nursing Practice program, Debra has worked at the MGH her entire career, beginning as a staff nurse on the thoracic surgery unit and most recently as Associate Chief Nurse under Jeanette Ives Erickson, who leaves the post December 31, 2017 to continue her work in global health. The NAA recently recorded an oral history with Jeanette to add to those done with previous directors, Ruth Sleeper and Mary McDonald.

\*IHP - The IHP has also welcomed a new president, **Dr. Paula Milone-Nuzzo**, who had been Dean and Professor of the College of Nursing at The Pennsylvania State University since 2008. She assumed this role August 15, 2017. Her predecessor, Dr. Janis Bellack, retired earlier this year.

In October 2017, the IHP inaugurated a new, multi-disciplinary follow-up clinic in its own neighborhood of Charlestown, where some patients in need of services not covered by insurance, currently focused on rehabilitation therapies, can receive those services from supervised IHP students.

NAA News

Mary L. has noted the recent retirements from the Board of three very long-time members, leaving a significant gap in the members available to complete the work of the association. The remaining members have been able to step up so far but we are much in need of additional volunteer support.

Susan Emery, '76, has accepted the challenge of maintaining our database, which contains the most current demographic information we have for all of our graduates, including those who are deceased. It is used for all of our mailings and notices thus (**Insert: it is**) crucial that it be as current as we can make it. We have found a number of our "lost" alumnae through publication of that list in *The Record* so that will continue as long as it's useful. We are always seeking to update this master file so please contact the office by email or phone should you become aware of current information about your fellow alumnae.

History/Archives News

The Nursing History Group is about to conclude its series of eight World War One articles commemorating America's entry into the war in April, 1917, written for the MGH nursing newsletter, *Caring Headlines*. Over two hundred of our graduates served overseas during that war and created a remarkable record. You can read the series online at:

<http://www.mghpcs.org/nursing-history/>

This group will participate with representatives from the Victoria General Hospital Nurses' Alumnae Association of Halifax, NS, in the annual tree-lighting ceremonies on Boston Common in late November, this year commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Halifax harbor explosion on December 6, 1917. (The tree travels each year )(replace with **Each year the tree travels**)from Nova Scotia to Boston, given in thanks (each year)(**redundant, delete**) by the people of Canada for services provided by Boston physicians and nurses in the immediate aftermath of the largest man-made explosion ever until 1945. The MGH nurses who went recorded some of their experiences in our *Quarterly Record*, which, thanks to digitization, you can read here:

<https://archive.org/stream/quarterlyrecord1789mghs#page/n137/mode/2up/search/halifax>

#### Website Notes

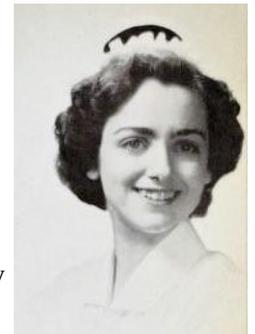
For several months an NAA Board sub-committee has been researching ways to improve our website. The first thing we learned is that a complete overhaul is cost prohibitive right now, as are changes to individual design or programming elements. Adjusting our goals accordingly, we have begun to try and modernize it and bring the information therein current. Sections that have been updated are: events, publications, scholarships and loans, items for sale and links. The address is: <http://www.mghsonalumnae.org/index.htm>

### ~~~~ Board Member Spotlight ~~~~



Marlene Norton, RN, BSN, MSN graduated in 1961 having entered MGHSON fresh out of high school, not yet 18 years old. She became a pediatric nurse, was granted a BSN and MSN from Boston University, and spent her lengthy career at MGH in various roles in pediatric nursing except for the 5 years she worked at Shriners' Burns Institute. She was an instructor of pediatrics at the MGH SON for several years and is fondly remembered by many of her students. She retired from MGH in 2005 and has been a dedicated volunteer serving on the Alumnae Board and volunteering for the New England Rose Society. She loves cats, roses and traveling. Her recent journeys include several trips within the US and a trip to Egypt. When she is at home she's in Danvers, where she has been a lifelong resident and active community member.

Marlene has been chair of the Scholarship Committee since 1979, Board Secretary since 2000, office worker since 2005 and chair of the McCrae Loan Fund since 2004. Her dedication to the activities of the NAA has been remarkable. She has given countless hours to answering phone calls, mailing letters and notices, managing our Alumnae office and basically keeping us all on track. The Alumnae Association relies on people like Marlene. Having served for an amazing 40 years, she is hoping that her story will inspire others to step up and serve their association. She looks forward to retiring in 2018 and spending more time traveling, enjoying visits with her extended family and many friends, and caring for her roses and her cat.



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### Dues Reminder

Annual dues of \$30.00 makes you an active member of the association. Membership benefits include *The Record*, which is our annual magazine, two issues of this newsletter, *Beyond the Cap*, ready access to the association's scholarship and loan funds and current information from the Board.

Dues are used to support philanthropic and member activities such as Homecoming. Kindly clip and enclose this coupon with your membership check and mail to: PO Box 6234 Boston, MA 02114

\_\_\_\_\_ Dues enclosed

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduating class: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

***SAVE THE DATE!***

**HOMECOMING 2018**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st Continuing Education Day**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd Homecoming Day**

**Massachusetts General Hospital  
Nurses' Alumnae Association, Inc.  
P O Box 6234  
Boston MA 02114**

**Return Service Requested**