

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
Editor: Susan Fisher email: mghnursealumnae@partners.org

New Series Volume 4 No.2

Fall/Winter 2020

Message from the NAA President

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

2020 has certainly been a trying and challenging year. Even as I write, Covid-19 numbers are increasing, though the good news is hospitalizations and deaths are at least holding or somewhat decreasing. We are 7+ months into this and will hopefully benefit from learned medical care. Expert prediction though is scary with winter months ahead, flu season coming, and more indoor gathering.

The NAA is certainly busy and surviving. We are all learning new ways to communicate and gather, most importantly using Zoom. And of course, to do that one has to be able get around a computer. Covid-19 cancelled the 2020 Homecoming but the annual business meeting had to go on. Approximately 78 members from across the country attended virtually with lively discussion. The NAA board has expanded to 15 members and we have a part time office assistant, Tara Harris, who also works full time in the Knight Center in the Founders House at the MGH. We now have a very up to date and active website [www.mghsonalumnae.org]. We are also using email more often than ever before. Our name will be changing: no longer *Alumnae* but *Alumni* in recognition of our male members. Active members number 767. Letters were sent October 1st to active members who have not paid their 2021 dues on reminding them to do so. Come January 2021 letters will be sent to inactive members asking them to reconsider joining the NAA.

We have sad news. Mary Flannery Caira 1959 a lifelong NAA board member who retired last year passed away on September 27, 2020. She had also been the class agent for her March 1959 class. In recent years Mary moved to North Carolina, living with her son Christopher and his family. She had been having health issues and had a recent hospitalization followed by a rehab stay. She died with family around her. May she rest in peace.

Unfortunately, with Covid-19 still "raging," NAA plans for 2021 are either cancelled or uncertain. We had planned a luncheon in the Russell Museum for the 2020 anniversary classes for May 1, 2021. We were recently informed that Russell will not be re-opened until at least July 2021, thus effectively cancelling that luncheon. We also know that until there is an effective Covid-19 vaccine that the likelihood of a 2021 Homecoming is very questionable.

We do have some exciting news though. 2023 marks the 150th birthday of the MGHSON. We have a number of very active groups working plans to mark this event. Plans being considered are a possible 3-day event for September 22, 23, and 24 2023. We are talking with the MGH IHP for an educational session likely on Friday; MGH catering has the Homecoming on its calendar with a possible brunch for Sunday September 24, 2023. Much more information will be coming to you as plans evolve and finalize. But though this message is early, mark your calendar. In closing, please stay safe and stay well.

My Best, Roberta Nemeskal
President, MGH NAA

Alumnae Board 2020-2021

President
Roberta Nemeskal

President Elect
Ann Quealy

Vice President
Sheila Burke

Treasurer
Susan Zahka

Secretary
Sheila Burke

Board of Directors

May Chin
Gino Chisari
Ann Collins
Elizabeth Compagnone
Barbara Dunderdale
Susan Emery
Susan Fisher
Mary Larkin
Lucy Nisotel
Christine Rich
Mary Beth Schmidt

Administrative Assistant

Tara Harris
mghnursealumnae@partners.org

Visit us on the Web at: MGHSONAlumnae.org

Email us at: 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,

You will note that Roberta Nemeskal assumed the presidency of the organization as of the virtual meeting in late September. Bobbie has been active with the association since her retirement from MGH. As chair of our annual Homecoming celebration she brought the event back to the hospital campus several years ago, an accomplishment of which she is justifiably proud. Always a good time.

With an infusion of new volunteers generated over the past year, our ongoing projects have been revitalized, particularly the oral histories and the planning around the 150th anniversary celebration in 2023.

I have used part of this issue to present some links to sites or lectures which may be of interest to readers. You will need to copy the addresses for now; but look for the links online when this issue is posted.

Please submit class news items before 1/31/2021 to our email box or to your class agent for publication in the next *Record*.

What's New

NAA News

We lost one of our most active and treasured members, **Mary Flannery Caira**, '57, on September 27, 2020. She served the NAA in many capacities for over 50 years including co-chair of the 125th anniversary of the SON in 1998. NAA was represented at the local services by **Lisa Compagnone**. Look for more about Mary's life and contributions in the next *Record*.

As you know, **Homecoming is cancelled for this year**. We had hoped to honor this year's anniversary classes with a luncheon next spring but with the hospital's restrictions we will **not** be able to gather in person. Stay tuned for other ideas.

Our first meeting of the expanded Board was held virtually October 20. With several new committees and some restructuring over the past year we have been quite busy. A review of the new structure will appear in the next *Alumnae Record*.

The board has, with guidance from Mary Larkin, '76, a nurse researcher, approved a new grant of \$3000. annually to a nurse researcher at MGH under The Institute for Patient Care in the Nursing Department. Each year in a dedicated event, excellence in nursing research is recognized and encouraged with awards and grants. This year's event was held October 6, 2020 and includes an annual Nursing Research Lecture, this year's entitled: "**The Gifts of the Hero's Journey: Revealing the Extraordinary in Ordinary Nursing Practice**," given by: Marlaine C. Smith, RN, PhD, AHN-BC, HWNC-BC, FAAN; Professor and Helen K. Persson Eminent Scholar, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, Florida Atlantic Univ.

The entire program, which includes some descriptive material, can be viewed at:

<https://externalmediasite.partners.org/Mediasite/Play/1189a99e1c8c437ebe43a1081672dec51d>

MGH News

Access to the hospital will continue to be restricted until at least July, 2021. Staff of many departments are working from home, some doing jobs other than their own. Venues such as the Russell Museum are closed for the duration (there is currently a flu clinic running there). But their Facebook page presents unusual and interesting facts about things medically-related, in a weekly squib called, "Your Medical Museum at Home." Here is the entry for 10/20/20: "Next in your medical museum at home is a notebook. Today is the third World Statistics Day, an event observed every five years. Statistical analysis wasn't regularly applied to medicine until the 19th century. Pioneering nurse Florence Nightingale was an eminent statistician during her work in the Crimean War in the 1850s. She deputized other nurses to collect data on the numbers of wounded, ill, and dead soldiers as well as collecting data herself, and of course, it was all recorded by hand." For more on Nightingale, see their online exhibit from earlier this year: <https://www.russellmuseum.org/.../florence-nightingale.pdf>

The museum is also producing occasional virtual lectures. A recent one is titled, "Resident Reflections From the Front Lines," in which residents read their own writing about their COVID experiences, which I find pretty compelling. An address for one lecture is: <https://externalmediasite.partners.org/Mediasite/Play/b951d928f49641e28572bf583d87c1531d> And you can also find them by scrolling through the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mghrussellmuseum/> I ran across this, also freely available, the address for MGH Medical Grand Rounds:

<https://www.massgeneral.org/news/coronavirus/grand-rounds/>

IHP News

Some of our scholarships are being presented next month, virtually, the rest are given out in the spring. The NAA is no longer involved in the scholarship selection process, since the faculty knows the individuals and we do not. We are asked to present the scholarships using a prepared text provided by IHP.

History/Archives News

We all seem to have adapted to the Zoom way of life even more quickly than we did the cell phone! The pace of the collecting of oral histories has increased with two members aggressively seeking respondents and conducting small group interviews, some with specific foci such as Covid experiences, last class, men and faculty.

A major project for the foreseeable future will be planning for the 2023 celebration of the 150th anniversary of our founding. Several sub-committees are working on this including a Video Committee which is researching and organizing a video about the school and its graduates; a group working on a physical memorial to Ruth Sleeper and the MGH SON nurses,

to address the anticipated demolition of the current Ruth Sleeper Hall; a group working on displays, and another working on the events over that weekend, September 22-24, 2023.

Our article, "Voices Echoing Forward: One Institution's Efforts to Preserve Nursing History," was published in the *Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*, 5/31/2020, with Mary Larkin as the lead author.

We celebrated another distinguished graduate when several of us attended (virtually) the 2nd annual **Eva Allerton** (class of 1885) lecture held at the school she founded in 1891, The Homeopathic Hospital and Training School (now part of Rochester Regional Health) in Rochester, NY. The lecture was titled, "'Oh, My Daughter, I Wish You Were a Boy,' Women Activists' Voices from the Past Still Speak to Us Today," by Gertrude Hutchinson, Asst. Professor, Russell Sage College of Nursing.

Tech Notes

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

Oral histories completed since that project began in the late 1990s are being transcribed from their original media to a permanent, uniform format and also into word documents as well. Their ultimate destination will be the MGH Archives with the rest of the nursing artifacts for long-term storage and availability for research.

Zoom has been a real boon to us through this pandemic so far. It has enabled us to continue our work and enhanced our communication with members.



Eva Allerton, class of 1885

NEW!

INSPIRATION | INNOVATION | TRANSFORMATION

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL
THE INSTITUTE FOR PATIENT CARE

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL NURSES' ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (MGHNAA) GRANT

THE YVONNE L. MUNN CENTER FOR NURSING RESEARCH

- The MGHNAA grant is supported by and named for the Alumni Association of the MGH School of Nursing (1873-1981) whose mission is to support nursing education, professional development, research, community engagement and to record and maintain the history of nursing at Massachusetts General Hospital.
- \$3,000 grant provides funding for 2 years
- Applicant must be Registered Nurse graduate of:
 1. Doctor of Nursing Practice
 - or
 2. Master of Science in Nursing
- Employed full-time at MGH
- Allowable project types include EBP, Quality Improvement, Original Research
- Applications will be accepted beginning November 2, 2020
<https://www.mghpcs.org/MunnCenter/index.asp>



Screen shot of the just-announced NAA grant for nurse researchers in the MGH Nursing Department.

Dues Reminder

NEW THIS YEAR!

PAY DUES ONLINE at our website:

NEW THIS YEAR!

[HTTP://WWW.MGHSONALUMNAE.ORG/](http://www.mghsonalumnae.org/)

Alternatively, you may clip and enclose this coupon with your membership check and mail to:

PO Box 6234 Boston, MA 02114

Annual dues of \$30.00 makes you an active member of the association. Membership benefits include voting, eligibility to hold office, volunteer opportunities, receipt of our publications, ready access to the association's scholarship and loan funds and current information about association activities.

Dues are used to support philanthropic projects such as educational grants scholarships, and member activities such as homecoming and our nursing history efforts.

Dues for 2021 enclosed _____

Name: _____ Graduating Class: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Please keep us informed if your contact information changes.



Screen shot of a slide from the Nursing Research Day presentation. An impressive accomplishment. Trainers included some of our own alumnae.

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

Return Service Requested