

Class Notes

To volunteer to be a class representative, please contact the Alumni Office at (212)305-3742 or nursingalumni@columbia.edu.

If your e-mail address has changed, please notify us at nursingalumni@columbia.edu.

1940s

Class Representatives:

Marion Howald Swarhout '42

Marjorie Hutchins Taylor '45

Jane Crowell Rieffel '46

Annette Cohen Squire '48

Jean Lagakis Benner '42 writes, "My professional life began shortly after graduation when I joined the staff of the Brooklyn Visiting Nurse Association. Nearly a year later, I transferred to the Nassau County Health Department and worked there for 31 years and climbed the ladder from staff nurse to nursing director. I retired in 1975. The high-point of my public health career was in 1954 when Nassau County was one of several hundred counties selected to participate in the Polio field trials, which tested the effectiveness of the Salk vaccine. We vaccinated nearly 80,000 children; half with a placebo. Thankfully, we did not vaccinate them all in the same day; disposable syringes did not exist yet. When the vaccine proved effective, we realized the impact of our long hours and seemingly menial tasks—what an impact that field study made on world health. After retiring, I served on several boards and committees and enjoyed volunteering. After living our entire lives on Long Island, my mother and I moved to South Carolina in 1992 after my husband, who I married in 1943, passed away.

We had a life full of travel and entertainment. My mother passed away six years ago at the age of 105. I still drive but am content to stay home doing puzzles and attending neighborhood and family gatherings. I did travel 70 miles to Charleston in June to attend the reception for Dean Bobbie Berkowitz. To voice an opinion, "our School is in good hands."

Elizabeth Schoonmaker Booth '42

writes, "I am still riding horses. April marked the birth of my fourth great grandson—those boys keep me young. "

Beth Martens Craft '42 turned 90 this year and is doing quite well. She continues to live in Delmar, NY.

Annette Fitch Donovan '42 turned 90 this year. She has two great grandchildren and another on the way. She remains active and is doing well.

Martha "Muffy" Pearson Freeman '42 spent Christmas in Norway. She still lives in Yarmouth Port, MA and plans to attend the Class of 1942's 70th Reunion in May.

Irene Holtan Schmidgall '42 lost her husband in December—they were married for nearly 69 years.

Marion Howald Swarhout '42 had a wonderful 90th birthday party thrown by her children. In August, Marion traveled to Washington State for a family reunion.

Jennivieve Tootel Westwick '42 is celebrating her 94th birthday this year with her family at Tuckaway Farm in Conway, MA. She stays busy at home and her orange cat, Timothy Pumpkin, is wonderful company.

Left to right: Jean Lagakis Benner '42, Dean Bobbie Berkowitz and Ellen Soley Adkins '81 at the Charleston, SC welcome reception for Dean Berkowitz





Marie Walsh Farrell '52 with her family in the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs



Left to right: Catherine Simpson Binning '59, Carol Wagner Horst '52, Barbara Simpson Riske '54, Dorothy Casper Pulliam '54 and Diana Keller Donkerton '67 at Barbara Riske's 50th wedding anniversary party

Ruth Nussbaumer Fenton '45

writes, "My husband Richard died in October 2010. However, a great-grandson arrived just prior in August and has brought me much joy. His name is Noah and he was born to Jason and Joy Fenton."

Mary Sowter Gould '46 writes, "I am doing well and keeping active. I truly wish I could have attended the Class of 1946's 65th Reunion in 2011 but we had a trip to Newfoundland planned for that summer and we just can't do it all anymore! Our family is well—we have 13 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. I speak frequently with **Barbara Love Jenkins '46**. Sadly, her husband passed away in August 2009. She is doing well and living in Johnson City, NY at an assisted living center."

Elizabeth Watling Lorenz '47 writes, "I will always treasure my days at the School and still enjoy the friendships I formed there—especially with **Dee, Laurie** and **Trudy** who still keep in touch. I am blessed with a wonderful family—a great husband and eleven nieces and nephews. Since graduation in 1947, I have worked in several healthcare settings ranging from staff nurse to public health

nursing instructor at California State University, Chico. Julian and I are enjoying retirement in Chico, CA."

1950s

Class Representatives

Jean Fisher Stonesifer '50
Emily DiYulio Scinto '51
Mary Newton Western '52
Joan Herndon Hinz '53
Nancy Weems Valsamis '54
Alida Isham Millham '57
Marian Fiske '58

Marilyn Wagner George '52 writes, "I've been retired for 12 years having done every phase of nursing from staff nurse to professor of nursing to a hospital consultant for hospitals in Southern California. Now I am enjoying my family—I have 10 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Life is good."

Mary Newton Western '52 writes, "I spend the winters in Burlington, VT where three of my grandchildren live. During the warmer months, my children and grandchildren travel to see me in West Townshend, VT; we have wonderful family reunions. I continue to sing with local choruses in both Burlington and West Townshend. I am electronically

challenged—no computer—but that is alright because there is no service up here anyway!"

Joan Tinker Keller '54 writes, "Greetings from Switzerland! Most of us from the class of '54 turned 80 years old this year! Can you believe it?"

Barbara Simpson Riske '54 and her husband Paul Riske celebrated 50 years of marriage with a beautiful anniversary celebration in Wall Township, NJ in October 2010. Among the guests were CUSON alumni: **Catherine Simpson Binning '59, Carol Wagner Horst '52, Dorothy Caspar Pulliam '54** and **Diana Keller Dunkerton '67**.

Marie Walsh Farrell '55 was flown to New York City from Texas this summer as part of a surprise birthday gift courtesy of her children. The family visited various locations in New York that held special memories for Mrs. Farrell, including a tour of the School.

Dottie Simpson Dorion '57 took first place in the lightweight veteran women's category in the 2012 International CRASH Sprints World Indoor Rowing Championship. The

event was held in February at the Agganis Arena at Boston University; there were 2,200 competitors from all around the world. Dottie said she was particularly impressed and inspired by the number of athletes who competed in a category of “Accommodated Rowing” on specially adapted rowing machines. These athletes had suffered wounds and amputations in combat. The Concept-2 rowing machine is used by athletes at universities, schools, clubs, and national teams around the world. The distance rowed is 2,000 meters and Dottie won her group with a time of 9 minutes 47.4 seconds.

Jane Pomroy Jacobson '59 writes, “My husband of 51 years passed away in December 2010. I am doing well. I am grateful to be teaching at the University of Maine—Portland two days a week. I also teach at the Intercoast Career Institute on Thursday evenings. Additionally, I spend time volunteering at a Traumatic Intervention Program (TIP) 3-12 times per month. My 11 grandchildren also keep me busy.”

1960s

Class Representatives

Grace Gage Butler '60
 Sally-Ann McCarthy Whelan '61
 Margaret J. Wilkman '63
 Doris Taylor Bowles '64
 Dianne Goodrich '65
 Marjorie Ann Boldt '66
 Mary Jane Lynch Corn '67
 Margaret Compton Beall '68
 Karen Troutman LaMonica '68
 Susie Post Roberts '69

Paula Grossman Mosher '60 writes, “I have been happily married to Paul for 49 years and I am still working full-time at my psychiatry practice.”

Nancy Hartley Adels '62 writes, “My beloved husband Harry died in August 2010. Widowhood has its ups and downs—I have more free time but find myself a bit lonely. I am doing quite well overall and finding new things to do. I just finished writing my first book, *God's Rx—Alphabet Soup* which will soon be published by Xulon Press.

Sharon Breen Heissenbittel '62 writes, “Bob and I have never strayed far from New York. Bob was a cardiologist at CPMC until his death in 2003. We have two children: Bill and his family are in Denver and Beth and her family are close by in New Jersey. I keep busy by attending athletic events and by spending time with Beth's three sons. I have recently taken up the game of bridge, which I love.”

Diana Vietor Mundy '62 writes, “I worked at the New York Hospital (Cornell Medical Center) for almost 10 years. During that time I authored a textbook on obstetrical nursing for basic level students; it was published

by McGraw Hill. I am married and have two children—a son and a daughter, one grandson and three granddaughters. My husband and I have retired to the hills of northwest Connecticut.”

Barbara Pontz Tolbert '62 has been married for 47 years and has four children and seven grandchildren—all of whom live at a distance from her home in Lancaster, PA. She is a part-time church administrator at the Samaritan Counseling Center, where she works 12 hours per week. In June she is traveling to France with **Jane Myers Stowell '62**.

Clare Gordon '63 retired in 2004 and spends much of her time volunteering at the Pasadena Humane Society.

In October, Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing and Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program director **Penelope Buschman '64** spoke at the Pediatric Palliative Care Regional Conference at Boston College's William F. Connell School of Nursing.

Barbara Baker Happer '64 is living in Princeton, NJ and has retired after 21 years working as a school nurse. She currently teaches CPR at the Heart Association through a local hospital's community education program. She enjoys traveling with her husband and visiting her six grandchildren who live in China and California.

MaryAnn Kowles Phemister '64 wrote a book called *Lessons from a Broken Chopstick* that was published by Hannibal Publishing in 2009. The book is a memoir about MaryAnn's life as a “missionary kid” in Asia.



MaryAnn Kowles Phemister '64

Deborah Weinstein Koniak-Griffin '70

Mary Rood Kaduthodil '65 writes, "I have been retired for four years after working for over 40 years in a med-surg hospital setting. I have two sons and one daughter-in-law and no grandchildren (yet!). I also have a wonderful black Cocker Spaniel puppy named Peaches.

Joann P. Wessman '65 retired from Bethel University, St. Paul, MN in June 2008. Since then, she has served as faith community nurse at her church, taught graduate nursing courses at Uganda Christian University and volunteered through her county's Medical Reserve Corp.

Eila Shea '67 has retired from teaching art after 23 years at Houghton Academy in Upstate New York. She is now working part time as a registered nurse at a nearby nursing home and is enjoying have more time to paint nature watercolors.

Joy Davis Gould '68 writes, "After 20 years in public health nursing and 20 years working on state and federal health policy, I have moved to a retirement community in Cantonsville, MD to be closer to my family. Charlestown is an active community where I can devote

more time to my passion for volunteering, reading, and politics. I also enjoy the onsite Bible studies and church services."

Susan Jaehne '68 writes, "After working at Presbyterian Hospital for 37 years, I am now retired and living in North Carolina. I keep nursing in my life by volunteering in a free care clinic."

1970s

Class Representatives

Sharon Lont Kelly '71
 Karen Davis Roberts '73
 Martha (Marty) Roberts Colen '74
 Virginia Lee Miller Royen '74
 Margaret (Peggy) DeGasperis '75
 David E. Covintree '76
 Ida Mitrani Schnipper '77

Deborah Weinstein Koniak-Griffin '70, professor and Audrienne H. Moseley Chair in Women's Health Research at UCLA School of Nursing, developed two adolescent intervention programs with grant funding from the National Institute for Nursing Research that received recognition from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and will be disseminated on a national level. The first program, Public Health

Nursing Early Intervention Program (PHN-EIP) for Adolescent Mothers, was selected as a model program for funding under the HHS's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This means that agencies and states that implement the program, which provides home health visits for high-risk, pregnant teenagers from the middle of their pregnancies through their children's first years, are eligible for reimbursement. Its first implementation was in conjunction with the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health and greatly improved health outcomes for participating mothers and their children. The second program, Be Proud! Be Responsible! Be Protective! was selected by the HHS's Office of Adolescent Health as an evidence-based model for repeat pregnancy and HIV prevention among pregnant and parenting adolescents. This intervention was evaluated and found to be effective in a sample of over 500 teens, and is now being replicated in North Carolina and Utah.

Betty Chin Jung '71 writes, "After 18 years of service, I retired in 2009 from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health; I was the state's

cardiovascular and diabetes epidemiologist. I currently work as an adjunct lecturer at Southern Connecticut University where I teach a wellness course to undergraduate students. I serve on the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC)'s Division Board for Certification of Health Education Specialists (DBCHEs), starting the 4th of a five-year term of service. I am the director of an online Public Health Expertise Network of Mentors (PHENOM) that is comprised of 50 public health professionals. I am also the Director of Alumni Surveys for the Southern Connecticut State University Public Health Alumni Chapter. In 2011, I was honored with two awards: the distinguished alumni award by CUPHSONAA, Inc. and the outstanding alumna for the School of Health and Human Services award by Southern Connecticut State University's Alumni Association.

Nanci Simmons McCleskey '71 writes, "I became a gerontology clinical faculty member at the University of Utah College of Nursing in January 2012. In January, I gathered with six of my nursing students at the Utah State Capitol for Alzheimer's Advocacy Day. We were there to support an Alzheimer's disease funding bill before the legislators. The students found it to be a very enlightening experience. They learned about the legislative process and provided support for the assistant district attorney. Since that visit, legislators passed this bill.

Janet Johnson '72 relocated to Florida from Pennsylvania in August 2010. She was certified as a CNS in psychiatry in 1993 and completed the requirements to become a psychiatric nurse practitioner in 2010 and is certified by ANCC as a PMHNP-BC. Janet is a seminar leader for Cross Country Education and has developed a

six-hour program on "Unlocking the Mystery of Women's Moods," which discusses how the relationship between the female brain and neuro-hormones impacts treatment decisions. Janet is currently writing a health blog focusing on women's unique health issues at www.janet-healthcafe.com. She was also published in *Insights Magazine*. The article can be viewed at <http://www.magcloud.com/browse/issue/205108>. Janet's husband retired from Unionville-Chadds Ford School system in 2010. They have two sons: Jonathan, 28, who is attending Penn State and Jared, 25, who lives in Florida. She recently traveled to Israel.

Babara Luke '72 is a professor of Ob-Gyn at the College of Human Medicine at Michigan State University. She also maintains a web-based practice at drbarbaraluke.com and has launched a clothing line called Barbara Luke Maternity for Multiples.

Nanci Simmons McCleskey '71 at the 2012 Utah State Capitol for Alzheimer's Advocacy Day



Elaine Thompson Trapp '72 is a clinical documentation specialist at the Hartford Hospital in Connecticut. She transferred to this role after several years working in pediatric home care.

Carole Zimmerman '72 writes, "I am currently working in the PACU at Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, NJ. I became a grandmother on February 3, 2011 and, after raising three sons, it is great to have a granddaughter! Her name is Brielle Nina."

Nancy J. Abel '75 writes, "I have been living in Fremont, CA since 1976 and enjoy the sunny weather. My parents, William Abel (P&S '46) and **Helen Thomsen Abel '45** are both doing well and are still living in New York."

Margaret E. Tracy '75 writes, "I am re-learning to play the violin and enjoying the endeavor very much—it is a lofty challenge after a 66-year sabbatical. I still enjoy volunteering with the American Red Cross—my work there reminds me that you can help heal a broken heart by simply listening."

Captain Patricia L. Riley '76 received the Hasselmeyer Award for Research Initiatives for her innovative and groundbreaking work in developing global human resources information systems (HRSI) in sub-Saharan Africa. Her efforts resulted in the Kenya HRIA project becoming a model health workforce information system for sub-Saharan Africa. As a result of her efforts, this project was recognized earlier this year with the World Health Organization's and Global Health Workforce Alliance's Award for Excellence.

Jill Nadolny Kilanowski '77 was appointed to serve a four year term on the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the National Advisory Council on Migrant Health.

Marie G. Ludwig '78 retired from nursing in March 2008 after working in the PACU of a private hospital near Cambridge, England for seven years. She also retired from the U.S. Air Force in December 1992, after 20 years' service. Marie held several nursing positions during her career ranging from post-partum and labor and delivery; nursery; medical-surgical ICU; and supervisory roles in the charge surgical ward and primary care clinic. She has lived in England since 1986.

1980s

Class Representatives

Ann Kilburn Ingram '80

Patricia McGarty Laidlaw '81

Marty Cohn Romney '81

Diane Johnson '81

Leslie Cooper '88 received a Master's of Science in 2010 from Dominican College in New York. She is currently working as a nurse practitioner in an internal medicine practice. In January 2011, Leslie received board certification from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Leslie's mentor is **Lynne Weissman '97, '09, DNP**, a recent graduate from Columbia's Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Additionally, Leslie works as a school nurse in an elementary school and at a day camp.