

IN CELEBRATION

**The Story of 100 Years
Of
The Alumnae Association of
The Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing**

Part I: Overview 1894 – 1994

**Researched and Written by Members of The Association
Edited and Produced by Charlotte Isler**

**THE
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
OF
THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING
1894-1994**

by Marjorie Lewis

To celebrate 100 years of an active association is a major tribute to its founders and to all of its members, past and present. The School of Nursing has been closed for the past 23 years, yet the Alumnae Association still has about 1100 members. In upcoming editions of The Alumnae News we will present our history, including all of the who's, what's, whys, whereases, and our many accomplishments. This first section contains an overview of the Association from its beginnings to the present time.

The Organizers

On December 1, 1893, a group of graduates of the Mount Sinai Hospital Training School for Nurses met to organize their alumnae. Representatives from several classes were present. Mrs. Henry Ollesheimer, a member of the Training School Board, was elected temporary chairman, and Miss L. Adler, a graduate nurse, volunteered to be Secretary pro tempore.

It was a productive first meeting: The group appointed a committee to draft a constitution and bylaws. The committee members included Mrs. Ollesheimer and Mrs. Henry Seligman of the Training School Board, and three alumnae: Anna L. Alston (class of 1886 and superintendent of the school), May Humphrey (class of 1889), and Anna S. Barrett (class of 1884). The group also proposed that each member present be responsible for contacting other graduates about the association. They adjourned on a cheerful note, planning to meet again after the holidays.

The Alumnae Association: Alive And Functioning

On February 2, 1894, the group adopted the drafts of the constitution and bylaws. The objectives as stated in the original constitution were "to raise the standard of The Mount Sinai Training School for Nurses, to promote fellowship between its members for mutual sympathy and encouragement, and to care for members who are ill."

The election of the first officers of the Association also took place on February 2, 1894: President, Ella Davis (class of 1883); Secretary, May Humphrey (class of 1889); Vice president, Mariam Jaggar (class of 1883), and Treasurer, Frances Cook (class of 1883). There were about 15 members in the Association.

An advisory board was elected on May 1, 1894, whose members would act as consultants on financial and other matters. These original members encompassed a broad range of people interested in The Training School. They included two members of the Training School Board, Mrs. Henry Ollesheimer and Mrs. Henry Seligman, two members of the Hospital Board, Isaac Stern and Solomon Loeb, and Dr. Howard Lilienthal, an attending surgeon at Mount Sinai Hospital. At this meeting it was also decided to hold meetings on the first Thursday of every month at the Training School on East Sixty-seventh Street.

On November 15, 1894, at a special meeting, the constitution and bylaws were amended to make the annual dues \$5.00 instead of \$7.00 after the first year.

Incorporating The Alumnae Association

At a regular meeting on December 5, 1895, the Alumnae Association voted to incorporate. On February 13, 1896, the Association proudly filed a certified copy of the original Certificate of Incorporation of the Association with the Clerk of the City and County of New York. Five years later, on February 11, 1901, a copy was filed with the Secretary of the State of New York. In April of that year, the final revised copy of the constitution and bylaws, conforming to local and state regulations, was adopted. Seven and one-half years of effort had been well rewarded. Later that year, the Alumnae Association found a permanent meeting place when the Board of Directors of the Training School granted the Association a room in that building.

Branching Out To The State And National Level

At a meeting of a group of prominent nurses held in Chicago during 1893, the Chairman, Isabel A. Hampton, brought the audience to its feet with a stirring speech endorsing the formation of a national nursing organization. She believed that the development of strong alumnae associations was the primary prerequisite for the formation of a national nursing organization. Since many workers were calling themselves "nurses," it was believed that individual graduate nurses should be represented at the national level only through their alumnae associations. Therefore, the development of strong nursing school alumnae associations was a priority task.

During the next two years, delegations from alumnae associations met, and formed The Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States. During 1897, a motion was made by Mount Sinai alumnae to investigate joining the Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States. In 1898, the Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States began to meet annually, with New York City hosting the convention at the New York Academy of Medicine for the first three years. The organization eventually evolved into the American Nurses Association.

At the membership meeting on January 2, 1903, the members of the Alumnae Association voted to join the Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States, and The New York State Alumnae Association.

On December 3, 1903, Alumnae Association delegates were sent to a special meeting to discuss forming a County Association. In 1904, the Alumnae Association became a charter member of the local unit of the National Alumnae Association, New York Counties Registered Nurses Association, District No. 13. Jennie Greenthal (class of 1891) was the first Treasurer.

A plaque was presented to the Alumnae Association on May 11, 1989, "in appreciation of your charter membership." Today, the plaque is proudly displayed in the Alumnae office. Two Mount Sinai alumnae have since held the office of president of The New York State Nurses' Association: Clare M. Casey, and Elaine E. Beletz.

Transacting Business

The publishing arm of The National Alumnae Association was the American Journal of Nursing. In 1903, a letter was received from Miss Van Kirk, Secretary of the American Journal of Nursing Company, suggesting that the Mount Sinai Alumnae Association or individual members purchase shares in the Company. After consideration and investigation, the Alumnae Association purchased three shares at \$100.00 per share. (Note: Some years later, two shares were sold, and the money was given to the Isabel Hampton Robb Fund. One share was donated to the American Journal of Nursing Company).

The last meeting of the Alumnae Association held at The Training School at 149 East 67th Street took place on March 3, 1904. The new hospital on 100th Street opened on March 15th and 16th, 1904; MSH alumnae members participated in the Reception Committee.

In October, 1904, the New York State Nurses Convention met in New York City. The Alumnae Association, with the permission of Dr. S. S. Goldwater, Superintendent of the Hospital, hosted the New York State Convention. A tour of the hospital was organized, and refreshments served in the Training School on October 19.

In her annual report of 1905 Jennie Greenthal, President, stated that "Delegates were sent from our Association to represent us at the meetings of the N. Y. State Nurses' Association at Albany, and to the meetings of the National Associated Alumnae of the United States, held in Washington; through the reports of these delegates we have been enabled to keep in touch with the progress being made in the nursing profession all over the country."

The cost of sending the delegates is listed in the "Treasurer's Report of 1905" (see next page). This practice continued through the 1950s.

TREASURER'S REPORT: 1905**RECEIPTS**

Dues	\$670.00
Initiation	50.00
Records	8.50
Interest on Shares in Journal	9.00
Interest Union Dime Bank	55.14
Interest Union Square Savings Bank	43.18
Interest The U.S. Savings Bank	36.47
	<hr/>
	\$872.29

FUNDS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Union Dime Bank	\$1,617.34
Union Square Savings Bank	1,317.38
U.S. Savings Bank	1,072.97
Fifth Ave. Bank	80.00
	<hr/>
	\$4,087.69
3 shares in the Journal of Nursing \$100 per share	

EXPENSES

Benefits Paid New York County Association	\$577.00
Nurses' Associated Alumnae	26.25
Delegate to Washington	12.70
Delegate to Albany	24.00
Printing	8.65
Postals and Postage	30.25
Reception	27.98
	52.83
	<hr/>
	\$759.66

REFRESHMENT FUND

Receipts	\$ 32.25
	<hr/>
	\$ 13.49
Expenses	\$ 10.78
Debt from 1904	7.99
	<hr/>
	\$ 18.77

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Shilliday,
Treasurer

Nurses' Registration in New York State

As early as 1901, The Alumnae Association became involved in assisting members to become registered in Albany. In January 1901, the Association invited a guest speaker to discuss "State License and Regents Examination." The Association encouraged all of its members to register. In December, 1903, it was voted to give Senator Armstrong recognition for his services in helping to pass The State Registration Bill for Nurses. Mr. Abrams, a notary public, was invited to a meeting of the Association in December 1904 to sign applications of nurses who wished to register in Albany. Emma Kissinger (class of 1890), was one of the first ten nurses to be registered in New York City. The last year in which nurses could register in Albany without an examination was 1905.

The Friendship Fund

Since one of the objectives of the Association's constitution was "to care for members who are ill," Association members sought to establish a fund to help needy nurses. At that time, nurses did not receive sick pay, hospitalization coverage or disability benefits.

In June 1894, Mrs. Seligman announced to alumnae members that an annuity fund of \$4,000 had been established to aid ill or needy nurses. It was hoped that the fund would grow through private contributions and subscriptions. An advisory board was appointed to manage the fund. Its members included Mrs. William Einstein, Mrs. E. Dreyfus, Dr. Alfred Meyer (President of the Training School Board), and Mr. Henry Ollesheimer (as Secretary). The Annuity Fund became well endowed and provided the opportunity for many nurses to seek help with dignity.

The Mount Sinai Alumnae Association gradually added new funds and services for its members as the need arose. As early as 1902, the Association had been providing flowers, fruit, and other gifts for homebound or ill nurses. In addition, a Christmas Fund, established with contributions by nurses and friends, provided for gifts to ill and needy nurses during the holidays. Several other special funds were established to help nurses, including the Welfare Fund and the Sick Benefits Fund.

This last fund is now known as The Friendship Fund. During the 1930's and 40's, this fund was headed by Edith Ryan, who became famous for distributing Christmas baskets filled with food. During World War II, due to rationing, the food baskets had to be discontinued. Instead, checks were given to needy nurses, a practice that still continues today.

The Alumnae Room

The Association was active even during its earliest years in trying to secure a room at the hospital at reduced rates for MSH graduates. The original request, made in the Spring of 1894, was denied by the hospital, whose Board stated that the hospital was too crowded at the time for a separate room to be designated solely for nurses. Sick nurses were allowed to occupy smaller rooms free of charge in the back of the wards.

Alumnae members felt they had reached an impasse, but they continued to explore financial sources to endow a bed or a room for its alumnae. The Association meanwhile provided financial assistance to needy nurses from its own limited resources. At the annual meeting, held on January 3, 1896, the Treasurer's Report showed expenditures of \$203, given to ill or needy nurses.

The Association explored the possibility of using a part of the Annuity Fund to help endow an Alumnae Room, but this was deemed legally impossible. In December 1901, the Association investigated the cost of endowing a room. The hospital's Board of Directors reported that the usual donation for such a purpose was about \$20,000; however, the Board was willing to accept any reasonable amount the Association could propose.

Although the sum of \$20,000 was an impressive amount of money, the Association began to raise funds in a variety of ways. One very successful venture was a birthday party for the Association, held on April 6, 1902, at the home of Miss Switzer, 82 East Eighty-first Street. A total of \$1,203 was raised.

Finally, in 1903, Max Nathan, a trustee of the hospital, generously endowed a room for ill nurses in the new hospital building, scheduled to be opened shortly. For his magnanimous gesture, Mr. Nathan received the deep appreciation of the Alumnae Association, as well as the title "honorary member of the Association," the "honorary member" status having been established in 1898. Mr. Nathan may have been the first person so designated.

The Alumnae Room, established when the hospital moved to its present location, was a welcome gift to ill nurses who required hospitalization. Since its two separately endowed beds were still not sufficient to meet the needs of alumnae, the facilities of the Semi-private Pavilion offered a satisfactory alternative.

The Pension Fund

Flushed with the success of two major achievements, an annuity fund and the endowment of an Alumnae Room, the Association turned to another important area of need: A pension fund for alumnae. In 1905, the members initially explored using the Annuity Fund for this purpose. But as with the investigation in the case of the Alumnae Room, monies could not be transferred to set up a pension fund. However, Mrs. Ollesheimer, Chairman of the Annuity Fund Committee, was very helpful in assisting with the establishment of a pension fund during the following year.

The Pension Fund was made possible through generous contributions of time, funds, and the talents of a wide variety of people. Friends of the Pension Fund included members of the hospital's Board of Directors, the Board of the Training School, and the Women's Auxiliary of Mount Sinai Hospital. The Fund was also augmented by the nurses themselves. The Pension Fund was finally established in 1906. Jennie Greenthal, Treasurer of the Association during this time, had given many valuable hours to help make the fund a reality.

By 1906, only twelve years after its founding, the Association had established an annuity fund for sick and needy nurses; promoted and actively campaigned for an Alumnae Room; joined the National Association for Alumnae; was instrumental in the formation of the County Association, later known as District 13, and had been actively involved in the registration of nurses in Albany.

Important Issues: Suffrage, The Red Cross

In 1906, the Secretary of the Association compiled a petition on its behalf, and wrote a letter, indicating the Association's support for the Women's Suffrage movement. Both were sent to the local Congressman.

In November 1909, the Association affiliated with the New York County American Red Cross, and a Red Cross Committee was founded. The Mount Sinai Alumnae News noted in March 1916 that only alumnae members vouched for by the President and the Secretary could be enrolled in The Red Cross.

The Mount Sinai Alumnae News

Even though the Alumnae Association held monthly meetings, many members were unable to attend. The Association decided that a publication could reach all its members. In 1910, the first issue of the Mount Sinai Alumnae News was published. In addition to alumnae activities, the News also contained information such as members' marriages, professional activities, etc., which appeared

initially under the heading of "Over The Teacups." During World War II, the News was distributed to all alumnae members serving overseas, and their letters to the Association appeared regularly in its pages. During its early years, the News came out monthly; today, three issues are published each year.

The Scholarship Funds

The Association had always been interested in assisting members in furthering their education. In November 1921, the Alumnae Association established a Scholarship Loan Fund. Members could apply to the Secretary, and the application was acted upon by the Board of Directors. A loan not exceeding \$500 was then granted to the applicant. This sum was to be repaid in part or in full within two years after completion of the course of study. Today, scholarships are awarded on Alumnae Day, in honor and memory of Edith G. Ryan and Joan Herman Bilder.

The Oaks

The Association has been very fortunate throughout the years in having many friends, and in benefiting from their generosity. They include, among many others, Mrs. Henry Ollesheimer and Mrs. Henry Seligman, committee members instrumental in founding the Association. More recent benefactors include Mr. & Mrs. Charles Klingenstein. Mrs. Klingenstein bequeathed her country home "The Oaks" to the Association, along with an endowment of \$300,000.00, to be used as a vacation and rest home.

After Mrs. Klingenstein's death in 1946, Joseph Solomon, Attorney, worked with May Shamp Eberstein, President of the Association at the time, to arrange the transfer of The Oaks to the Association, obtaining tax-exempt status for this lovely estate. Ever since then, Mr. Solomon has been counselor and close friend to alumnae members, always willing to help solve whatever problems might arise. Those alumnae who have known and worked with him have come to deeply appreciate his helpfulness, generosity, and long-standing friendship.

In 1952, Jennie Greenthal, friend and active member of the Alumnae Association, endowed a room at The Oaks bearing her name with a \$15,000 bequest. Today, The Oaks continues to be utilized and enjoyed by members of the Association and their friends.

New Position: The Executive Secretary

As the affairs of the Association grew and multiplied over several decades, it became increasingly difficult for alumnae officers and others to volunteer sufficient time to coordinate all essential tasks. Thus, in 1954, the full-time position of executive secretary was created. This employee's responsibilities were to include supervising and correlating the activities of the Association, preparing various committee reports, keeping track of the funds, and providing assistance and advice to the members.

Miss Warman, Director of Nursing, generously provided an office for the Executive Secretary in the School of Nursing. The first Executive Secretary was Alumna Elizabeth Lemerich Rattigan (class of 1924), who served until 1962. She was succeeded by Donna Butler, who administered the affairs of the Association with great devotion, diplomacy, and warmth. Today, we are fortunate to have the gracious and devoted Verdelle Mann serve in that position.

1956: The Alumnae Association's 75th Anniversary

In 1956, the Alumnae Association participated in Homecoming Day during the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the School of Nursing. Membership stood at over 1,200. The Alumnae News covered the celebrations in a special 75th Anniversary issue.

1961: The First Annual Alumnae Day

During the early 1960s, the Association initiated a new tradition: Alumnae Day, to be held each year in May. The first annual Alumnae Day was celebrated on May 20, 1961, by almost five hundred alumnae. The oldest alumna attending was Minnie Laub, class of 1897. Dr. Alan Guttmacher, Director of the Department of Obstetrics at Mount Sinai Hospital, and prominent in the Planned Parenthood movement, was the guest speaker.

Setting Up The Foundation of the Alumnae Association

The following year was an active one. With the help of Joseph Solomon and Marvin Sussman, attorneys for the Association, the Foundation of the Alumnae Association of The Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing was established. This was done to make tax-exempt contributions possible, and to utilize all monies received for scholarship and social welfare purposes. The Edith G. Ryan Fund, established in memory of this alumna, and later, the Friendship Fund, became the principal components of the Foundation. The Muehlstein Fund, established with \$10,000 in 1951 to aid needy nurses by Julius Muehlstein, husband of Kathryn Lynch Muehlstein (class of 1924), was subsequently incorporated in the Friendship Fund. Gifts and contributions to these funds have continued to grow and prosper

The Archives Of The Association

During the 1960s, the Board of Directors of the Alumnae Association established the Historical Resources Committee. Miss Warman had over the years stored in her office much of the archival material relevant to the development and growth of the Nursing School. When she retired, her successor transferred many of these valuable materials to the Association, which now became the official center and custodian for all historical records.

Sylvia Barker, class of 1936, was appointed historian. In 1956, she had organized the Nursing School's historical materials with Miss Warman's help. She had also chaired the historical exhibit for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Nursing School.

In the early 1970s, Archives Committee Chairperson Charlotte Isler collaborated with Sylvia Barker in organizing and cataloguing all of the archives. These now comprised more than 80 years of Nursing School history, as well as the memorabilia donated by members of the Mount Sinai Units serving in World Wars I and II. Other alumnae members helpful in preserving archival materials included Helen Biganaisse, May Shamp Eberstein, Loretta Hoey, and Esther E. Lipton.

Recently, all the archives were transferred to the Archives Department of the Levy Library at the Mount Sinai Medical Center. This was done to allow for storage under temperature and other conditions that assure their preservation. They are available to us through the Medical center's Archivist.

1981: The 100th Anniversary of The School of Nursing

During the late 70's and early 80's the Alumnae Association was very busy planning for the 100th anniversary of the founding of the School of Nursing. The Board of Directors of the Association decided to publish a book that would describe its history. A nurse historian was hired, a publisher found, and \$18,000 was raised to defray the publishing costs.

The book, titled "**The 4700**," was presented to the members on Alumnae Day, May 2, 1981. Some 450 members and guests made plans to attend, many more than anyone had expected. Carefully laid plans had to be completely reorganized within a few weeks to accommodate such a large group. It turned out to be a great and wonderful day, with so many alumnae present to honor their School of Nursing.

In Recognition: Alumnae Awards

In 1989, The Board of Directors decided to establish a way to honor outstanding alumnae. In 1990, Sylvia Barker received the first annual Distinguished Alumna Award. This honor is conferred upon members who have made major contributions to the profession.

Another award, "The Unsung Hero Award," honors members who have been active and devoted to the Alumnae Association. It was established in 1990.

Still another honor, The Distinguished Nurse Award, was given to Gail Kuhn Weissman, former Vice President of Nursing at Mount Sinai Hospital, and honorary member of the Association, in November 1993.

1994: The 100th Anniversary of the Alumnae Association

Preparation for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Alumnae Association began in 1993. Extensive research included a survey of records, starting with the handwritten minutes of December 1883, those taken subsequently, and of many issues of the Alumnae News, covering decades of association activities. A number of historically significant categories were developed from these materials, and several Board members volunteered to write about the activities and achievements of the Association.

The categories are as follows: "History and Growth of the Organization" by Marjorie Lewis; "Shining Stars" by Sylvia M. Barker; "Women in Service" by Janet Freeman; "The Pension Fund" by Irene Sivek; "The Oaks" by Karen Attanasio Zygmunt and Barbara Tomasino; "Private Duty and the 8-Hour Day" by Charlotte Isler, and "Celebrations" by Judith Scher. All of these contributions will be edited by Charlotte Isler prior to being published in the News.

Summing Up: The First 100 Years

Since the closing of the Nursing School in 1971, the Alumnae Association has been the principal link among its members. Today, it administers its various funds, runs The Oaks year-round for its members and their friends, publishes the Alumnae News, and hosts an annual Alumnae Day for all alumnae to gather.

And just as in the past, the Association preserves its valuable archives; provides aid to any alumna in financial or social need; awards scholarships each year; serves as a resource and support for its members and all Mount Sinai graduates, and continues to have a close association with the Department of Nursing of the Mount Sinai Medical Center. At 100 years of age, The Alumnae Association is a strong and vigorous group, proud of its history, and active in preserving and utilizing its heritage. It will continue to serve its members as it has since its first days of existence.

PRESIDENTS OF THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

1894	ELLA DAVIS
1894-1896	JANE RYERSON
1896-1898	LYDIA McKOWN
1898-1902	MARY SWITZER
1902-1905	FREIDA HARTMAN
1905-1907	JENNIE GREENTHAL
1907-1909	SADIE NEWMAN
1909-1911	LAURA LOGAN
1911-1913	BERTHA A. KRUER
1913-1914	ELONA UNDERWOOD
1914	FRIEDA L. HARTMAN *
1914	HARRIET MILES **
1915-1916	ANNE MacEDWARD
1917-1919	HELEN J. MOSES
1919-1920	ANNE MacEDWARD
1920-1921	JULIA P. FRIEDMAN
1922-1923	WINIFRED FORSYTH
1924-1925	ZELLA NICHOLAS
1926-1929	ELIZABETH DIXON
1930-1934	MARGARET CALDWELL
1935-1937	CLARE M. CASEY
1938-1940	NAN CUMING
1941-1944	HARRIET BELL FORSCHHEIMER
1945-1948	MAY SHAMP EBERSTEIN
1949-1950	HARRIET M. BENSLEY
1951-1952	LEOLA S. MAYOR
1953-1956	BLANCHE D. GUBERSKY
1957-1960	EDITH SCHWEIGHOFER WOLFE
1961-1964	LEONARDA A. LASKEVICH
1965-1968	JANET HYMAN FREEMAN
1969-1972	SYLVIA M. BARKER
1973-1977	CHARLOTTE NUSSBAUM ISLER
1977-1979	LYNNE ANN COURTEMANCHE
1979-1983	MARJORIE GULLA LEWIS
1983-1987	JANET HYMAN FREEMAN
1987-1991	SYLVIA M. BARKER
1991-1994	MARJORIE GULLA LEWIS

* Resigned office to join the Red Cross in November 1914.

** Completed F. L. Hartman's term.

Distinguished Alumna Awards

- 1990 Sylvia M. Barker
- 1991 Dr. Marilyn Jaffe-Ruiz
- 1992 Marjory Gordon
- 1993 Marilyn Rubin Goldwater
- 1994 Harriet Forman

Unsung Hero Awards

- 1991 Loretta Hoey, May Shamp Eberstein, Marjorie Gulla Lewis
- 1992 Janet Hyman Freeman, Elaine Kulp Wineburgh
- 1993 Karen and Michael Zygmunt, Bernard Rosenberg
- 1994 Catherine O'Donnell, Edith Jaffe

Sources

1. ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION MINUTES
2. The MOUNT SINAI ALUMNAE NEWS
3. THE FORTY-SEVEN HUNDRED -
THE STORY OF THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING

TEXT: Janie Brown Nowak

Edited, produced, and illustrated by
The Historical Study Committee

IN CELEBRATION

**The Story of 100 Years
Of
The Alumnae Association of
The Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing**

Part II: Shining Stars
Part III: The Pension Fund

**Researched and Written by Members of The Association
Edited and Produced by Charlotte Isler**

Part II: SHINING STARS

by Sylvia Barker

Introduction

Any attempt to identify all of our graduates who have been outstanding in their chosen field of Nursing or in activities related to their experiences as students in one of this country's most prestigious schools of nursing is a little like standing on top of a mountain on a cool, crisp evening, and counting the stars above. But that is the challenge, conceived by our president as a part of a very fitting account of the Alumnae Association of the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing.

Source materials for what follows have been primarily the minutes of the Association, and the Alumnae News, which unfortunately limits this account to persons named in these sources. We are well aware, of course, that there are many other Shining Stars in our heaven, who somehow do not appear in the Association's recorded annals. Please, dear readers, understand that this account does not purport to be all inclusive. We do hope that by reading about some of the experiences, exploits, and contributions achieved by some of our fellow alumnae you will be as thrilled, impressed, and proud of our graduates as we have become while gathering these materials.

Sorting all this historical information revealed the need to establish meaningful categories in which to place our "Shining Stars." That title came easily to our Committee - the achievements of these women prompts such a title - but how to divide the subject matter further? These choices had to be largely arbitrary, and were made in the course of researching the myriad of available clippings.

Another complication soon arose, through the discovery that some of the "Shining Stars," came up in more than one category in the course of their long careers! The solution for this problem was also found: Each "Star's" works were carefully assessed, which allowed her placement in the category where she performed her most outstanding role or made her most significant contribution in a particular field of nursing.

The categories comprising these contributions are: 1. Mount Sinai's Nursing Pioneers; 2. Nursing Education/Nursing Service Administration; 3. Public Health/Community Health/Industrial Nursing; 4. Nursing Politics, and last, but by no means less significant, 5. Mount Sinai's many Non-Alumnae, whose significant help greatly enriched the history of the Association.

The task of preparing these memories for you has been thoroughly enjoyable. We hope that you, our readers, will get as much pleasure from reading about these remarkable women.

Mount Sinai's Nursing Pioneers

Among the "Shining Stars" noted through the years in the Alumnae News are a group of women who were true "Pioneers" in their respective fields. They include the following:

Miriam Jagger, class of 1883, stood thirteenth in her class of 13 -the first to graduate from the Mount Sinai Training School. That distinction makes her a "Pioneer" in this writer's book. Ms Jagger devoted much of her professional life to caring for crippled boys -most referred by missions and churches in New York City - at a home in Westchester.

At the end of the Spanish American War the home was converted to provide care for returning soldiers. Once this need was met, the home returned to its original mission of caring for youngsters from NYC. Ms Jagger remained there until it was closed.

Anna L. Alston, class of 1886. Ms Alston was Superintendent of Nurses at The Mount Sinai Hospital, the only graduate of the school to be so named. She served as the first President of "The Superintendents Society," the forerunner of the National League for Nursing.

Jean Campbell, class of 1886. Ms Campbell was a charter member of the American Nurses Association.

Kathrine Wanda Arends, class of 1889, studied medicine at the New York Medical Center and Hospital for women, graduating in 1907. She practiced pediatric nursing in New York City until her retirement.

Emma Kissinger Pease, class of 1890, was a striking figure as a private duty nurse at Mount Sinai for much of her professional career of more than fifty years. Mrs. Pease willed all her assets to the Pension Fund of the Alumnae Association.

Jennie Greenthal, class of 1891. To say that Ms Greenthal was a pioneer in the nursing profession is putting it mildly! Her experiences include private duty; office nurse and OR assistant for Dr. Brettover; contagious disease nursing; assistant Superintendent of Nursing at Mount Sinai; volunteer service in the Spanish American War at Camp Black, and she inaugurated the Social Service Department at Mount Sinai at the request of Dr. S.S. Goldwater.

Ms Greenthal was active in several professional organizations, holding the positions of officer and committee member in the Alumnae Association, and was named the only Honorary President in the history of the Association.

She was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Journal of Nursing, and a charter member of the New York Counties Registered Nurses Association. She served in the latter organization as treasurer and president. She was also active on committees of Nurses House, the Nurses Central Registry, YWCA Central Club for Nurses, and the American Red Cross.

Nana Sisson, class of 1899. Ms Sisson practiced as a private duty nurse for over 50 years. Her 100th birthday was noted in the Spring 1972 issue of the Alumnae News. Among the memories Ms Sisson shared with the interviewer was the time her family home was attacked by Indians as she was baby sitting for her younger siblings. When she thought the intruders had left, she cautiously peeked through the storm cellar window, only to find herself "eyeball to eyeball" with an Indian Brave. She received his dubious assurance that "we won't hurt your little girl." They did, however, clean out the hen house and the garden.

Ethel Byrne, class of 1909. Ms Byrne was an early advocate of the right of choice by women regarding abortion.

Helen Agnes Peace Grant, class of 1910. Ms Grant served in the mining town of Jerome, Arizona, where she delivered babies, tended men injured in mining accidents, and cared for people with sundry ailments including the most serious one at the time: Pneumonia.

Mary Bingham Urquidi, class of 1916, served in the Spanish Civil war where she organized one of the first ambulance services.

Harriet Bensley, class of 1922. Ms Bensley was a captain in the Third General Hospital during World War II, a private duty nurse, and an entrepreneur in the real estate office of J. Clarence Davis Inc.

Ms Bensley was a pioneer of her time not only in these fields, but also in the activities of several professional nursing organizations. She served the Alumnae Association as Vice President; Executive Secretary; Treasurer; Secretary; member of the Board of Directors, and as Chairman of Grounds and Maintenance of The Oaks.

Long active in Nurses House, Ms. Bensley served there in many capacities. It was during her presidency that the buildings at Nurses House were sold and the service program begun as it now exists.

Margaret (Marge) Blake, class of 1927, served in the Military Services. Although certainly a "pioneer," she will appear in the section describing Nurses in the Military. Her contributions have also been noted by the Foundation of the New York State Nurses Association in its archival display of military nursing.

Another facet of Marge Blake's contribution falls in the 'pioneer category:' her outstanding work in promoting the Todd Feld Bill (nursing legislation) in the New York State Legislature. Her ability to relate her comprehensive knowledge of the measures contained in this bill made her a popular guest speaker at women's clubs, nurses' groups, and meetings of lay people, according to an article in the April 1938 issue of the Alumnae News.

Laura Morgan Gray, class of 1939, is currently a practicing pediatrician in Connecticut.

The April 1961 issue of the News notes with pride those alumnae who had followed the call to become airline stewardesses. At first, most airlines required stewardesses to be graduate nurses. Among those mentioned are **Ada Marandi Miser**, class of 1938, who was probably the first Mount Sinai graduate to become a stewardess.

Others include **Adelynn Marshall**, class of '37, and **Charlotte Erwin**, also class of 1937. (We believe this list is by no means inclusive). Qualification requirements for this position were high. An applicant "must possess charm, personality, poise, and a generally attractive appearance. She must be able to cope with the public with tact and intelligence." Physical standards were strict with regard to age, height, and weight.

Public Health/Community Health/Industrial Nursing

Graduates of our school have made many contributions to the fields of Public and Community Health. One of the earliest entries in the Alumnae News concerning these arenas appeared in the June 1916 issue under the heading "Our Graduates at the Henry Street Settlement." The article mentions 10 nurses who had worked at the Henry Street Settlement during the preceding 21 years.

At the time of that writing, five Mount Sinai nurses were active at the Henry Street Settlement: **Rebecca Shatz**, class of 1894, spent several years during her 21 years of service there as Associate Superintendent of Nurses. **Annie Anderson**, class of 1896, **Lucile Spratling**, class of 1896, **Elizabeth Helman**, class of 1912, and **Marie O'Brien**, class of 1917, all served in various capacities with this agency.

In later years, **May Shamp Eberstein**, class of 1933, and **Rose Bottligieri**, class of 1935, served Henry Street with distinction. May Shamp Eberstein also spent a number of years as Supervisor of the OPD at Mount Sinai.

Gladys Park, class of 1917. Ms Park worked for the Henry Street Visiting Nurse Service, and gained social work training at the Charity Organization Association. She joined the New York Tuberculosis & Health Association in 1932 as Secretary of Personal Information Service. She studied at Teachers College, and authored articles relating to health issues for the journals Trained Nurse and Hospital Review, and Hygieia (excerpted from an article that appeared in New York State Nurse, reprinted in the Alumnae News, January 1949).

Emily Gleason Sargent, class of 1920. Ms Sargent was a Vassar-educated Nurse who came to the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing during World War I, graduated in 1920, and began her long career in public health nursing in Detroit immediately after graduation. She was Executive Director of the Detroit VNA for 37 years, receiving the Pearl McIver Award (ANA) in 1960. Upon her retirement, the Emily Gleason Sargent Prize was established, to be awarded annually to a public health nurse in the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan.

Beulah Ankerman, class of 1926. Ms Ankerman served as Instructor, Public Health Nursing, at University Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Ruth B. Freeman, class of 1927. Ruth Freeman's career in nursing brought her fame and international recognition. In her specialty field of public health nursing she served as a staff nurse for the Visiting Nurse Services of New York, and as Administrator of Nursing Services for the American Red Cross.

Subsequently, she became Professor of Public Health Nursing at the University of Minnesota, and then at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore, only the third woman to hold a full professorship at that institution. She held a BS degree from Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York, and master's and doctoral degrees from New York University.

Dr. Freeman wrote many articles for professional magazines. Her text "Techniques of Supervision in Public Health Nursing" is a well-known classic. Ruth Freeman was the recipient of the first Pearl McIver Award, of the Annual Award of the New York University Department of Nursing, and of the Nightingale Medal presented by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

She served on the boards of several professional organizations, and as President of the National League of Nursing (NLN) for four years, assuming the presidency during the infancy of the newly amalgamated NLN. After her death in 1983, the Ruth B. Freeman Scholarship Fund was established at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.

Pauline Tamarin Wohlrath, class of 1931. Ms Wohlrath was a nurse with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, contributing to public health in yet another arena, that of industrial nursing.

At the time of her retirement in 1979, Ms Wohlrath was Assistant to the Medical Director. She was the recipient of the Authority's Distinguished Service Medal, and the Schering Industrial Nurses Awards Program. She served on the Board of the Greater New York Association of Industrial Nurses, and as a program participant for the New York State Nurses Association.

Mary Eisenberg Lewis, class of 1940, chose a less traditional way to serve in Public Health. According to an article appearing in the Fall/Winter 1980-81 issue of the Alumnae News, Mary served in Honduras, Dominican Republic, Afghanistan, Jordan, Tunisia, Indonesia, Kenya, Hong Kong, and other far-away places as a member of teams of nurses and doctors sent by MEDICO, a service arm of CARE, to train paramedical nursing personnel in these countries.

Returning to a more settled career in New York, Mary first served as patient services coordinator at Mount Sinai, and for the past several years, as Nurse-in-charge of the health services at International House. Her years of travel abroad prepared her well to serve the residents of this international community.

Nursing Education and Nursing Service Administration

Graduates of The Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing have made numerous contributions in Nursing Education and Nursing Service. The achievements of the women noted in this section have appeared in the Alumnae News throughout the years. There are no doubt many other graduates whose contributions have been equally noteworthy. If they are not listed in this report, it is only because our source documents do not mention them. Since many of our graduates were (and are) active in both areas, Nursing Education and Nursing Service are considered together here.

Laura Logan, class of 1904. Ms Logan was Director of Nursing at Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital, Boston City Hospital, and at the St Louis City Hospital and School. She organized the School of Nursing at Cincinnati General Hospital, was the Director of Nursing at Cook County Hospital, the first Director of the Cook County School of Nursing, and Director of the Illinois Training School for Nurses.

Ms Logan was a teacher throughout her career - becoming a full professor at the University of Cincinnati, and teaching in collegiate programs in St. Louis, at the University of Chicago, Marquette University, and Stanford University. Ms Logan played an important role in professional organizations: as President of the Ohio State Nurses Association and the Ohio State League of Nursing Education, and as Secretary and President of the National League for Nursing Education.

Ms Logan was also a world traveler: She surveyed and studied schools and public health agencies in Yugoslavia, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Latvia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, England, France, and Belgium, under the aegis of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Ms Logan spoke at the International Council of Nurses (ICN) meetings in Brussels. She visited Italy, Greece, the Holy Land, and she acted as a nursing consultant in Brazil, Central America, and Mexico. She received honorary doctoral degrees from the University of Cincinnati and University of Acadia, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Elizabeth Dixon, class of 1913, was a private duty nurse. She traveled extensively with patients in Europe, the USA, and the Mediterranean. She served in World War I as a member of Base Hospital No. 3.

After the war, Ms Dixon became Director of the Irvington House Convalescent Home for Children in Irvington, New York, and subsequently, accepted the position of Assistant Director of Mount Sinai's Social Service Department, in charge of admissions to the Neustadter Convalescent Home.

Joining the Alumnae Association in 1916, Ms. Dixon served faithfully in many capacities, up to her death in 1964. She was President, Vice President, and a Board member. She chaired the By-laws Committee and edited the Alumnae News.

After joining the Pension Fund in 1930, she was elected Secretary-Treasurer, a post she held until 1964. She was the first chairperson of the Oaks Operating Committee, and an active member of the Service (Friendship) Committee.

Edith Ryan, class of 1916, spent her entire professional career at The Mount Sinai Hospital. She served the last 29 years as Supervisor, Semiprivate (later called Hausman) Pavilion.

Her devotion to the hospital was noted by the Board of Trustees and the Medical Board in the tribute that appeared in The New York Times at the time of her death. It read in part "...she served her patients with compassion, the hospital with distinction, and the nursing profession with honor."

Ms Ryan served the Association as a member of the Board, and chaired the Service (Friendship) Committee for many years. In the latter capacity she carried out one of the purposes of the founding of the Alumnae Association, namely, "to aid ill and disabled nurses" with dignity, understanding, and strong leadership.

Edith Ryan's memory is kept alive via the annual presentation of the Edith G. Ryan Scholarship of the Foundation, to nurses who are pursuing advanced educational goals.

Myeral Engleberg, class of 1919, received the Honorary ANA Membership Pin at the annual Convention of the South Carolina Nurses Association in 1965 for "continuous active membership since 1919, excellence in clinical practice, teaching, and administration."

Ms Engleberg served in professional organizations as secretary, board member, vice president, president elect, and president, at the state and district level.

Mildred Sherwood, class of 1922, was noted for her work in pediatrics, which began at Mount Sinai under Dr. Bela Schick, and was continued at Johns Hopkins under Dr. Wilbert Davison. She subsequently inaugurated the pediatric service at Duke University alongside Dr. Davison, and remained there for 30 years.

Ms. Sherwood was honored by Duke University Hospital in 1950 by the presentation of a portrait. On that occasion, Dean Davison declared her to be the "Outstanding Children's Nurse in the World."

Upon her retirement in 1960, the Department of Pediatrics paid her the following tribute: "You taught students of medicine as well as nursing and also mothers how to do the practical things so essential for good pediatric care and practice...you have been the ideal nurse dedicated to the care and welfare of children."

Clare M. Casey, class of 1927, served as Assistant Principal, the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing. Subsequently, she became Director of Nursing, and of the School of Nursing at New York's Beth Israel Hospital.

Ms Casey served as Executive Secretary, New York Counties Registered Nurses Association (District 13, NYSNA). She was President of our Alumnae Association, and of the New York State Nurses Association (one of two Mount Sinai alumnae elected to that post). She was an active champion for the welfare of nurses, and a forceful spokesperson in the campaign for the eight-hour day.

Ruth Chamberlin, class of 1928, served as Dean of the Medical University of South Carolina School of Nursing. Earlier, she was Chief Nurse of the Third General Hospital during World War II, achieving the rank of Major. She was the first President of the South Carolina League of Nursing Education, the first woman member of the Executive Committee of South Carolina's Board of Health, and President of the South Carolina Nurses Association.

Ms Chamberlin wrote for many journals, and was widely recognized for her book, "The School of Nursing of the Medical College of South Carolina, Its Story."

She was named to the Charleston Federation of Women's Clubs Hall of Fame in 1970, and was awarded an honorary doctoral degree by the Medical University of South Carolina School of Nursing in 1988. In June of that year, she was also recognized by the Alumnae Association as an outstanding nurse educator and leader, and a Distinguished Alumna.

Minnie H. Struthers, class of 1932, spent her entire professional career at Mount Sinai. She was appointed Senior Instructor of Nursing Arts immediately upon graduation (she came to Sinai with a background of teaching in Public Schools in West Virginia and Pennsylvania).

In 1935, she was selected by Ms Warman as Assistant Director, Nursing Service, and Assistant Director, School of Nursing, holding both posts until her retirement in 1962. Minnie Struthers has been described as "a perfect nurse, teacher, administrator, and friend. She is a nurse with education and purpose and with a marked ability to give guidance to others."

In addition to her role as teacher and administrator at Mount Sinai, Ms Struthers served a term on New York State's Board of Nurse Examiners, and as a special lecturer in "supervision in hospitals" at Hunter College.

Minnie served the Alumnae Association as a member of various committees, as a member of the Board of Directors, and as a wise counselor to many presidents.

Edith Schweighofer Wolfe, class of 1932, served as Assistant Supervisor in the Mount Sinai OPD, and as Associate Director of Nursing at Memorial Hospital in New York. She was a consultant in cancer nursing, and lectured at Teachers College and New York University.

In 1962, Ms Wolfe received a "Citation of Merit" from the Pennsylvania Division of the American Cancer Society. Edith served as President of our Alumnae Association, as President of the Foundation, and as a member of many Alumnae Association committees.

Marilyn Jaffe Ruiz, Class of 1968, is currently Provost of Pace University. She served previously as Dean of the Lienhard School of Nursing at Pace. Marilyn has received the Alumnae Association's Distinguished Alumna Award, and holds a doctorate from Teachers College.

Bess Wolfson Rogow, class of 1934, was a member of the staff at Mount Sinai Hospital from graduation until she retired, and moved to Florida. She served as Instructor in Nursing Arts, Surgical Supervisor, and Assistant Director, Nursing Service. She was active in the Alumnae Association as Treasurer, Secretary, Board member, and as committee chair. Bess authored several articles, and was a popular lecturer on subjects pertaining to Nursing.

Blanche Gubersky Glass, class of 1937. Ms Gubersky Glass became a nurse following a successful career as a public school teacher. After graduation from nursing school, she progressed quickly to the post of Senior Instructor in Nursing Arts at The Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing.

She subsequently accepted the position of Supervisor, Private Pavilion, followed soon by the appointment as Director of Nursing of the Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged (JHHA). There, she became an authority in the (at that time) little known but growing field of geriatric nursing, and saw the development of JHHA into a multi-facility, leading center in geriatrics.

Blanche served the Alumnae Association as President, Editor of the Alumnae News, as a member of the Board, and as Manager of The Oaks.

Ellen Fuller Zweifach, class of 1940, enlisted in the Third General Hospital Unit in 1942, but resigned her commission to marry and raising a family. She was one of the first working mothers, sharing her time between rearing her daughters, caring for her husband, and serving in whatever assignment Edith Ryan chose for her.

As time went by, Ellen became Assistant Director, Evenings, at Mount Sinai Hospital, a role in which she excelled.

The respect and affection of the medical staff, who recognized her as a colleague, a champion for the patient, an advocate for the staff, and as a friend of everyone led to Ellen's becoming the first registered professional nurse to be awarded the distinguished Jacobi Medallion, bestowed annually by Mount Sinai's Association of Attendings.

Ellen's memory is kept alive by the annual presentation of the Ellen Fuller Award to members of Mount Sinai's nursing administrative staff who best exemplify the tradition of "Ma Fuller."

Mary Ann Paduano, class of 1965, was named one of Glamour Magazines Outstanding Working Women of the Year in 1977. While serving as Assistant Professor of Nursing, Ms Paduano founded the Associate Degree Program at Pace University in New York in 1971, along with three others. This was an unusual opportunity for one who held a new Master's degree and was only 25 years old. She subsequently obtained her doctorate.

Ms Paduano was the author of several articles, and was responsible for curriculum development at Pace. Her career goals - to become dean, and an influence on international nursing - were curtailed by her untimely death.

Other Mount Sinai graduates who demonstrated leadership roles include:

Sylvia M. Barker, class of 1936, is currently Treasurer of the Association and the Foundation, and has served in several offices, as a Board member and committee chair.

Sylvia has been a member of the staff at Mount Sinai from the time of her graduation until June 1994 (with the exception of two years at Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago). During the years at Mount Sinai she has been Head Nurse, Instructor, Assistant Director, Associate Director, and Consultant.

Ms Barker has been the recipient of a number of awards, including the Jane Delano Award, District 13; the Nursing Administration and Honorary Recognition Award, New York State Nurses Association; the Distinguished Alumna Award, Alumnae Association, and the Nursing Service Award of the Nursing Education Alumnae Association, Teachers College.

Ms Barker has been active in professional organizations as a member of the Board of Directors of Nurses House, and has held elective and appointed offices in the national, state, and local nursing associations.

Catherine Vance Gaisman, class of 1940, has taught in the School of Nursing, and was Supervisor, the Private Pavilion, at Mount Sinai Hospital. Today, Ms Gaisman is a member of the Board of Trustees, The Mount Sinai Medical Center, the first registered nurse so appointed. The Catherine Vance and Henry J. Gaisman Scholarship Fund aids graduate nurses who wish to gain advanced degrees.

Jacqueline Kruman, class of 1944. Ms Kruman is a retired Nursing Administrator of the Hospital and Schools of Nursing in Pittsburgh, Columbus, Ohio, and Canton - Aultman Hospital. Ms Kruman now volunteers on an advisory committee for practical nursing schools, and in service for the Deaf.

Geraldine L. Wilson, class of 1944, has been a pioneer in the field of orthoptics, and was named Outstanding Employee of the Eye and Ear Clinic, in Charleston, West Virginia.

Following graduation, "Gerry" was Head Nurse in the Outpatient Department at Mount Sinai, until she sought training in Orthoptics in Boston. She served as orthoptic technician in the office of Herbert Katzin, MD, and at Nassau County Medical Center until relocating to Charleston.

While living in the New York City Area, Gerry served as an active member of the Board of Directors of the Alumnae Association, and as Secretary and Co-chair of the Oaks Committee.

Charlotte Nussbaum Isler, class of 1946, is currently President of the Foundation of the Alumnae Association. She has served as President, Vice President, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Alumnae Association, and as Editor of the Alumnae News.

Professionally, Charlotte became a writer and editor: She has been Senior Clinical Editor of RN Magazine, and Editor of the medical journal Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality. She has written many articles, and several health-related books for health professionals, para-professionals, and for the lay public. Her most recent book, The Teen Health Dictionary, will be published this year. She has also taught many writing seminars, and was co-Editor with Marjorie Lewis of "The 4700."

Sarah Weinstein Fishman, class of 1950 - Adjunct Assistant Professor at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Rose Britanik, class of 1953, was selected in 1967 as one of several nurses for a Mademoiselle group award to young women, distinguished during the past year for "their talent, enterprise, dedication, and professional competence." Ms Britanik was cited for her participation in the U.S. AID program in Vietnam.

Marjorie Gulla Lewis, class of 1953, is currently President of the Alumnae Association, and an active member of the Board of Directors. Past Editor of the the Alumnae News, and co-Editor of "The 4700," Marjorie was a recipient of the Ellen Fuller Award. She has worked at Mount Sinai as Head Nurse, Supervisor, and Assistant Director in Pediatrics Units, and the Women's and Children's Division. Now retired, she devotes herself to the Alumnae Association and gardening.

Joan Herman Bilder, class of 1955, was a beloved Head Nurse and Instructor at Mount Sinai Hospital, and an outstanding Nursing Administrator at the Einstein Medical Center in New York. Joan's husband, Judge Lawrence Bilder, her classmates, and students have established a scholarship in her name, awarded annually by the Foundation of the Alumnae Association to graduates pursuing an advanced degree in nursing.

Margery Gordon, class of 1955 - Professor of Nursing, Boston University; a leader in the development of the concept of "Nursing Diagnosis." Margery Gordon is a national and international author and lecturer, and a recipient of the Alumnae Association's Distinguished Alumna Award.

Suzanne Wart Goren, class of 1955 - Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Barbara Daniels, class of 1957, is a committee member of the Alumnae Association. She is active in the local Association of Operating Room Nurses, and was a 1989 Divisional Winner of the Mount Sinai Trustee Excellence in Nursing Award.

Linda Chernet Lowenstein, class of 1959 - Medical Department Chairman and full-time Instructor, Bryant and Stallon Business Institute Junior College.

Elaine Beletz, class of 1968, is currently Professor of Nursing at Villanova University. She was President of the New York State Nurses Association, and a member of the Board of Directors, District 13. Ms Beletz was the first recipient of the Amanda Silver Award, given by the New York Counties Registered Nurses Association, and was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurses.

Jane Floyd, class of 1969, was the recipient in 1993 of the first "Pediatric Nurse of the Year Award," given by Mount Sinai's pediatric house staff. Ms. Floyd has cared for sick infants at Mount Sinai since her graduation.

Catherine O'Donnell, class of 1969, has been an active member of the Boards of the Alumnae Association and the Foundation. In 1982 she became the first recipient of the Mount Sinai Board of Trustee Award of Clinical Excellence. Ms O'Donnell is currently the Editor of the Alumnae News.

Politics

Today, emphasis in Professional Nursing on the role of nurses in Politics is increasing, but this was not always thus. Nurses did, however, march in the parades that took place during the era of Women's suffrage, and nurses, following the lead of Lillian Wald, spoke out on behalf of the poor, the sick, and children.

In the March 1917 issue of the Alumnae News there is a fascinating report of the arrest, incarceration, and ultimate release of **Ethel H. Byrne**, class of 1909. Ms Byrne was Margaret Sanger's Assistant in her Brooklyn clinic, which provided information regarding birth control. Since this was against state law, the police arrested the two nurses and closed the clinic.

Upon trial, Ms. Byrne was found guilty, and sentenced on January 22, 1917, to 30 days in the Workhouse on Blackwell's Island. In protest against what she considered an unjust sentence, Ms Byrne declared a hunger strike and remained without water or food for five days, after which she was forcibly fed. Anna D. Van Kirk Geller, Superintendent of Nurses, appealed to the Commissioner of Correction on Ms Byrne's behalf, and on February 1 a pardon was granted by Governor Whitman on condition she would not again break the law.

Since Ms. Byrne was too ill to make this promise, Ms Sanger took this pledge for her. Ms Byrne was removed by ambulance to her home, and cared for by two trained Nurses. The author of the article in the News commented that "although Ms Byrne is not a robust woman she showed a tenacity of purpose which is almost unbelievable."

In later years, two Mount Sinai alumnae were featured in the News for their roles as legislators in the state of Maryland: **Marilyn Rubin Goldwater**, class of 1948, was elected to the Maryland Legislature in 1974; **Paula Colodny Hollinger**, class of 1961, was elected in 1978. Their careers continue in the political arena.

Obviously, one does not have to be arrested or elected to the legislature to be politically active. Many of our graduates, far too many to list here, serve on local boards; as members of Nurses for Political Action (N-PAC), and testify at hearings at local, state, and national levels. These nurses uniformly credit their interest in politics being built on the foundation they received during their student days at Mount Sinai.

Shining Stars from Another Galaxy: The "Non-Alumnae"

History records that a group of lay women from the Ladies Auxiliary of Mount Sinai were influential in the founding of the Training School. Their task was not an easy one, for the idea of the care of the sick being in the "hands of young, inexperienced girls" was a fearsome one for the physicians and the Board. But the Ladies Auxiliary women prevailed.

Similarly, the contributions of other individuals who were not graduates of our School of Nursing continue to be noteworthy:

Magdalene Klingenstein bequeathed her New Rochelle home "The Oaks" to the Association in 1946 as a "Vacation and Rest Home." This generous bequest continues to be a source of pride and enjoyment for alumnae, their friends and families, as well as the employees of the Mount Sinai Hospital and New Rochelle Hospital. Magdalene Klingenstein was voted an Honorary Member of the Association in 1944.

Donna Butler, the first Non-Alumnae Executive Secretary of the Association, endeared herself to the members of the Association with her sound advice and gracious manner during the years she served in the post (1962-1984).

Mae Karon came to Mount Sinai as a Volunteer Nurses Aide during World War II, working mostly in the Children's Division. During this period she developed a strong relationship with MSH nurses, and at the conclusion of the Volunteer Nurses Aide program turned her attention to the Nurses' Alumnae Association.

Ms Karon served on the Oaks Committee for many years, and she was a most effective fund raiser for all of the Association's projects. Her ever-present wit, friendly disposition, and enthusiasm were an integral part of the occasions which she graced.

Over the years, the women appointed to the post of Superintendent of Nurses, Director of Nursing, and Vice president, Nursing, at The Mount Sinai Hospital have been staunch supporters of the Alumnae Association:

Grace A. Warman was appointed Superintendent of Nurses and Principal, School of Nursing, in 1935. At her retirement, Ms Warman was presented with an honorary diploma of the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing, and thus became an honorary graduate and alumna of the school she served with such devotion for 27 years.

Ms Warman was known nationally for her innovative approaches to solving the many challenges she and the nursing profession faced during these years: World War II; staffing shortages; use of ancillary personnel; hospital expansion and construction, and the professionalization of the education of nurses.

Throughout, Ms. Warman remained dedicated to her goal - that of providing top notch education for nurses and the best possible care for patients.

Mary Jane Venger Cutler, Director of Nurses from 1962-67, continued the tradition of support for the Alumnae Association, being ever available to consult and advise.

Cynthia Kinsella was Director of Nurses from 1967-1972. It was during Ms Kinsella's tenure that the last class was graduated from the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing (in 1971).

Although this fact struck a blow at the pool of potential alumnae, our Association continues to be active and viable, celebrating its 100th year of existence in June 1994.

Among the guests were both Dr Cutler and Dr Kinsella, a real tribute to the interest these women have for the Alumnae Association of the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing.

Gail Kuhn Weissman, Vice President, Nursing, 1972-1993. During her 21 years as Vice President at Mount Sinai, Dr Weissman unfailingly included the Alumnae Association in the planning and execution of developments at the Medical Center. She was voted an Honorary Member of the Association in 1980, and was the recipient of the Association's Distinguished Alumna Award in 1993.

Part III: THE PENSION FUND

by Irene Sivek

Creating The Pension Fund - Historical background

1881 - The first class of nursing students enters The Mount Sinai Hospital Training School for Nurses.

1883 - The first class of nurses graduates.

1894 - Many nurses, and their friends recognize the need to establish a fund to provide an allowance for ill or disabled nurses. An Annuity Fund of \$4,000 is set up for that purpose, and an Advisory Board is appointed, consisting of Mrs William Einstein, Mrs E. Dreyfus, Dr Alfred Meyer, and Mrs Henry Ollesheimer (Secretary).

1904 - In June, at a meeting of the Alumnae Association, a proposal is made to establish a pension fund. Great interest is expressed in the proposal, and a committee is appointed to obtain contributions toward such a fund. As a result of these efforts, some people donate money, while others contribute various articles that are used in raffles. The Fund is beginning to grow.

1905 - In June, Mrs Ollesheimer and her committee members hold discussions with officers of the Alumnae Association concerning the establishment of a pension fund. But a plan to use the monies from the Annuity Fund as seed money for the Pension Fund turns out not to be feasible. Instead, Mrs Ollesheimer generously assists in establishing a separate pension fund.

1906 - In May, 25 years after the opening of the Training School, the Pension Fund is in existence, thanks to the generous contributions of members of the Board of Directors of the Alumnae Association, many other nurses, members of the Board of the Training School, and the Women's Auxiliary of Mount Sinai Hospital.

By October of this year, the Pension Fund has a cash balance of \$1,283.15. Annual dues for Pension Fund members are \$10.00.

Growth And Development Of The Pension Fund

1910 - The Fund continues to be a source of interest for all concerned. On March 12, a meeting is held in the parlor of the Training School, presided over by Mrs Henry Seligman. The purpose of this meeting is to establish a "Committee of Ladies" willing to raise \$30,000, the balance of money needed before any applications for pension benefits can be considered. Mrs Seligman is appointed Chairman of this committee. Donations are coming in steadily.

1913 - In February, the Pension Fund stands at \$60,000. Thirty-two members of the Fund are now eligible to receive benefits. Only 17 apply, with income from the Fund permitting a distribution of \$5.25 per month to each applicant. In May, New York State Governor William Sulzer signs the bill establishing the Pension Fund into law.

1915 - In September of this year, the Pension Fund Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$76,015.47. Also this year, the bylaws of the Pension Fund are revised, requiring applicants for pension benefits to be 55 years of age, to have actively worked for 30 years, and to have paid the sum of \$300.00 into the Pension Fund. These changes allow the Pension Fund Committee to pay somewhat higher benefits to eligible members, who now number 19, with 12 receiving \$12.75 per month.

Many benefactors have helped to make these distributions possible. They include, among many others, Mrs George Blumenthal, Mrs Charles Klingenstein, and the Misses Bertha Kruer, Anna Van Kirk, and Emma Kisslinger Pease.

Spreading The Word About The Pension Fund

1916 - On March 7, Miss Jennie Greenthal gives a talk about the Pension Fund to the graduating class. She tells the seniors (in part): "I am glad to have this opportunity to talk to the graduating class about the Pension Fund. I know perfectly well that disability and old age are the last things in the world that a young graduate thinks of in connection with herself. Our profession is so comparatively young that none of us have had to think of these things in an organized way until quite recently.

We have however, within the past few years been compelled to take cognizance of certain facts. Nurses as a class have not been able to make adequate provisions for the time when they would not be able to compete with younger graduates. We have therefore organized our Pension Fund and we want to impress upon you in the light of our riper experience, how necessary it is for all to look ahead.

Thirty years is a long time to look forward to; all young nurses expect to be dead or at least married before they have been nursing that length of time and so they naturally think there is no use in throwing away even so small a sum as ten dollars a year.

Statistics show, however, that only a very small percentage of nurses are either dead or married at the end of thirty years; the great majority of them are still plodding along in the same way, very often with some physical handicap.

Mount Sinai is particularly fortunate in being a pioneer Alumnae Association to establish a Pension Fund for its members, but others are being organized and we are constantly in receipt of requests from associations all over the country asking for information.

I wish that joining their Alumnae and Pension Fund Associations could be made compulsory for all new nursing graduates. No doubt there would be a great deal of grumbling about it at the time, but the majority would be thankful in the long run. When such matters are left to the discretion of the individual, she is apt to procrastinate and as the years go by it is usually a matter of regret that she did not avail herself in time of the opportunities which experience has found it necessary to provide.

It has been a difficult task to establish our Fund on anything like a firm basis but we have done fairly well and are now anxious that all nurses should join immediately after graduation."

More Money Needed To Keep The Pension Fund Going

1921 - 32 - Pension Fund applicants are receiving monthly benefits of \$11.91. Future payments will be even lower: Applications for benefits have increased, but there are fewer contributions. The goal of \$25.00 per month for each applicant is still far away. The Pension Fund Committee is somewhat perturbed to discover that another alumnae association's pension fund is already paying this amount to its pensioners, even though the Mount Sinai Alumnae Association's Pension Fund was organized considerably earlier.

Generous Donors Aid The Fund

1925 - Mrs George Blumenthal donates \$30,000 to the Pension Fund.

1926 - 44 applicants are now receiving monthly payments of \$10.08. The demand on the Fund has increased to such an extent that benefits may have to be cut even more.

1927 - Mrs George Blumenthal donates \$10,000 to the Pension Fund, adding another donation of \$10,000 in 1929.

1947-1949 - Mrs Charles Klingenstein donates \$10,000 in 1947. Several nurses make bequests to the Fund: Miss Bertha Kruer, one of the Pension Fund's founders, bequeathes \$10,000, and Anna Van Kirk Geller, a former Superintendent of Nurses at Mount Sinai, leaves \$10,000 to the Fund in 1949.

Alumnae Members Informed About The Fund

1949 - Miss Elizabeth Dixon, Treasurer of the Pension Fund, states in an article appearing in the April issue of the Alumnae News: "...As we frequently hear some of our members say 'Oh, I didn't know about the Pension Fund.' I believe it is advisable to bring it (the Fund) to the attention of (Alumnae) members from time to time.

The Pension Fund has been and still is a great blessing to many of our members and we are deeply grateful to those nurses whose vision and wise counsel conceived this plan. To the kind friends who so graciously and generously gave advice and money, we owe a debt of gratitude."

1951 - Emma Kisslinger Pease, class of 1890, bequeathes \$10,029.62 to the Pension Fund, which has become a memorial to its donors, and a great blessing to its beneficiaries.

The Golden Anniversary

1956 - The Pension Fund celebrates its 50th Anniversary. Ever since its inception, the Fund has been discussed, described, and praised on many occasions in the pages of the Alumnae News.

Elizabeth Dixon does so once again, as part of the anniversary celebration, writing: "... (Our) thoughts turn immediately to the Charter Members of this Fund, this fine group of nurses who were concerned about the welfare of their associates.

So at this time we wish to pay tribute to these Charter Members for their vision and wisdom in conceiving and bringing to completion this pension plan, which has been and continues to be a blessing to many. The Pension Fund started with a very small amount of capital. Pensions were paid once the capital fund amounted to \$60,000.00.

Since that time, generous donations have been received from members of the Board of Trustees of the hospital, (from) graduates of the school, and their many friends. To all of these we owe a debt of gratitude, which is expressed continually in letters received from recipients of the Fund."

1961 - In the May issue of the Alumnae News, Miss Harriet Bensley, Chairperson of the Pension Fund, gives Jennie Greenthal, who died in 1951, major credit for the organization of the Fund. Miss Bensley once again reviews the provisions of the Fund, and asks Alumnae to join. The Alumnae News frequently reports other new developments concerning the Pension Fund, coupled with appeals to alumnae to join.

The Pension Fund Committee members use occasions such as Alumnae Days to make personal contact with members, urging them to join. Letters are also sent regularly to graduates approaching the end of the 10-year postgraduation period, reminding them to join.

Bylaws Revised Again, Offering A One-time Special Enrollment

1982 - On August 3, a special meeting of the Alumnae Association is held. Purpose: To vote on the proposed bylaws revisions of the Pension Fund. Members adopt the revised bylaws, sent earlier to the entire Association membership for ratification.

The revised bylaws include a **one-time special enrollment period**, available to members between ages 40-60, that will expire on December 31, 1982. Members enrolling under this plan will become eligible for an annual pension at the age of 65.

The Board of Directors of the Alumnae Association now accepts the recommendations of the actuarial firm hired to work out the details of the new plan. Besides paying a \$2.00 initiation fee, new enrollees in the Fund will be assessed annual dues higher than the \$10.00 per-year fees charged under the old 30-year plan, to compensate for the shorter membership periods needed to receive benefits. New enrollees may also select a plan with a death benefit option at somewhat higher rates. Annual payments will remain the same to age 65.

The Pension Fund Today

1994 - This year, the annual benefits for 163 Pension Fund members are \$590.00. Total payments for members enrolled under the original plan are still \$300.00. The Pension Fund is not, strictly speaking, an insurance, an annuity, or even a "Pension Fund," however, no other plan offers so fine a return on the money invested. The capital fund currently stands at \$1,501,185.

Pension benefits are paid semi-annually, with payments determined by the Pension Fund Committee from year to year, as advised by an accredited actuary, and approved by the Alumnae Association's Board of Directors.

The Pension Fund will be evaluated at least every three years, to assure its depletion coincident with the life expectancy of all of its current and prospective members. The most current assumptions available are used to make determinations regarding investment returns and life expectancy projections.

As has been the case throughout the past, the Pension Fund Committee administers the Fund under the supervision of the Board of Directors of the Alumnae Association. The Association's Finance Committee, Financial Adviser, and legal counsel continue to oversee the administration of the Fund, and in that capacity, to serve the members of the Pension Fund.

In Appreciation

The Pension Fund Committee wishes to give credit to all those who have been instrumental in envisioning, creating, and maintaining first, an annuity fund, and since then, the Pension Fund.

Our thanks go to our many generous Friends, Trustees of the Hospital and of the Training School, to Miss Bertha A. Kruer, one of the Pension Fund's founders, Miss Jennie Greenthal, and to more recent Pension Fund Committee members, such as Harriet Bensley and Elizabeth Dixon, known to many of us. More than most, these two women have brought the Pension Fund to the attention of many of our current recipients, who will benefit throughout their life-time.

IN CELEBRATION

**The Story of 100 Years
Of
The Alumnae Association of
The Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing**

Part IV: Private Duty, and the Battle for the Eight-Hour Day

Part V: Mount Sinai Nurses Know How to Celebrate

**Researched and Written by Members of The Alumnae Association
Edited and Produced by Charlotte Isler**

Part IV: PRIVATE DUTY, AND THE BATTLE FOR THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY**by Charlotte Isler****The Early Days**

The history of the Mount Sinai Private Duty Nurse begins before 1896: An early entry in the ALUMNAE NEWS reports that nurses taking care of "contagious cases" are receiving higher salaries than those caring for other patients. (The 12-hour tour of duty was a fact of life for all private duty nurses in those days).

Registry Nurses Need Higher Salaries

In the course of a regular meeting of the Alumnae Association in December 1896, members voted to request the hospital to grant a salary increase that will bring the weekly salary to \$25.00 for all private duty nurses, including those caring for contagious cases. Such a request was necessary, since the hospital was in charge of running the Nurses' Registry. Its approval was therefore needed for any salary changes. The hospital's Board of Directors considered the request in early 1897, but rejected it.

Registry Problems

In November 1903, Mr Haas, President of the Nursing School's Board of Directors, requested a meeting with Alumnae representatives to discuss the possibility of transferring the Nurses' Registry to the Alumnae Association. After much discussion, the Association concluded that it could not at the present time take on the responsibility for this task. In December 1903, nurses throughout New York City proposed the establishment of a central registry, but the matter was tabled.

The Battle Begins For A Shorter Work Day

In early 1904, the Board of Directors of The Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing informed the Alumnae Association that all private duty nurses at Mount Sinai Hospital would henceforth have to work 12-hour shifts of duty. This became the accepted tour of duty in the hospital.

The subject of changing tours of duty from a 12-hour day to an eight-hour day was raised many times at meetings before, and during 1924, and came up repeatedly thereafter. It was a sensitive subject that caused much dissension. In late 1925, the nurses who wanted to see progress on a change to a shorter work day requested a special meeting of the Association, but the topic created so much disagreement that no special meeting was held.

In its place, District 13 of the New York State Nurses Association was asked by Mount Sinai as well as by other nurses to undertake a survey that would indicate what the majority of nurses wanted. Similar surveys, conducted by means of questionnaires distributed to large numbers of nurses, were carried out in other parts of New York State. The results would be presented to the Board of Directors of a number of hospitals after statistical analysis.

New Developments Affect The Private Duty Nurse

Meanwhile, other developments at Mount Sinai Hospital began to change aspects of private duty nursing. In December 1930, the construction of a new, 10-story building was begun, at a cost of \$1,250,000. It was to be called the **Semi-Private Pavilion**. Several of the new pavilion's rooms were intended to permit a different type of private duty nursing called group (cooperative special) nursing, which would be provided by graduate nurses. Group nursing in the new building's specially constructed and equipped rooms was expected to allow several nurses to collaborate in providing 24-hour group nursing services for a number of patients, at a cost to each patient of \$45.00 per week (\$6.50 per day). This would cut by more than half a patient's current costs for 24-hour conventional private duty nursing, given by individual nurses at \$119.00 per week (\$8.50 per day).

Three Types Of Nursing Care At Mount Sinai

In November 1931, the new Semi-private Pavilion was ready for occupancy. Three types of nursing were now made available to patients: 1) Group (cooperative special) nursing; 2) individual private duty nursing, both to be offered by graduate nurses, and 3) general floor nursing, to be provided mainly by student nurses. Group nursing was to be performed in eight-hour tours of duty, with nurses receiving one day off per week. There were, however, no provisions for private duty nurses to receive any vacation or sick time. The new, monthly salary for all nurses was now \$130.00, with two free meals per working day. The nurses were expected to live outside the hospital, providing their own housing.

Private duty nurses, who still mainly worked 12-hour shifts at Mount Sinai Hospital, continued to pursue the goal of working eight-hour shifts. Already in January of 1931 an editorial had appeared in the ALUMNAE NEWS, signed by the Committee on Eight-Hour Duty. In it, the Committee firmly called for an eight-hour day for all private duty nurses at Mount Sinai. The Committee based its recommendation on several important reasons: The general desirability for a shorter work day, the likelihood that eight-hour tours of duty would provide work for many of the currently unemployed nurses, and the realization that the eight-hour day had already been successfully adopted by several other hospitals.

New Options For Private Duty Nurses

In January 1935, Mount Sinai's Board of Trustees finally approved a new, "optional" plan for nursing. Under the plan, private, and semi-private (group) nurses could choose to work either eight-hour or 12-hour tours of duty. Nurses working the shorter hours were to be paid \$5.00 per day, and receive two free meals. Their patients would be charged \$6.50 per day for nursing services, which included the cost of the meals. The fee for the 12-hour tour of duty would remain the same, at \$8.50 per 12-hour shift. Each patient could choose the desired nursing service.

Results Of The Eight-Hour Survey

The results of the long-awaited evaluation of the nurses' eight-hour day survey held no surprises: 96% of the nurses surveyed were in favor of the shorter work day. By the mid-1930s, virtually all hospitals in New York had changed to eight-hour tours of duty. Most nurses proclaimed the shorter work hours ideal because it did not leave them exhausted by the end of their shift as the 12-hour work day had done. Some 4,000 private

duty nurses were now working eight-hour shifts, and very satisfied with the change. Comments by nurses returning their questionnaires included remarks concerning the eight-hour day such as: "It's high time we had it. I approved of the eight-hour day 20 years ago."

Working Hours Decrease; Salaries Increase

It was only in January 1946, however, that Mount Sinai Hospital introduced the eight-hour shift for all private duty nurses, a feat accomplished as a result of the efforts of the Personnel Practices Committee and its Chairperson, Margaret Dooley.

In November of that year, District 13 approved a new rate of \$10.00 for eight-hour private duty nursing. Mount Sinai Hospital, however, was still paying only \$8.00. Many further efforts were required on the part of the Personnel Practices Committee before Mount Sinai at long last instituted the same increase in rates.

Registry Problems

As time progressed, difficulties arose at the Nurses Registry at Mount Sinai, which provided employment for Mount Sinai graduate private duty nurses free of charge. The hospital administration had been considering discontinuing the Nurses Registry for some time. Chief among its reasons was the fact that it had been unable to relieve the shortage of private duty nurses, even though the eight-hour tour of duty had been expected to solve this long-standing problem.

To counteract the continuing nursing shortage, the hospital had obtained nurses from other registries who agreed to work 12-hour shifts. In turn, this action aroused the ire of the Mount Sinai private duty nurses, who had fought hard for the shorter work day, and wanted to keep it as the hospital-wide standard for all nurses working at Mount Sinai.

Inevitably, conflicts arose when Mount Sinai Registry private duty nurses worked only eight-hour shifts, while many nurses from outside registries worked 12-hour tours of duty. Meetings between representatives for the nurses and those of the hospital's Board of Trustees became increasingly hostile as the latter accused the former of discourtesy and ill behavior, holding the nurses responsible for the shortage of private duty nurses as a result of their insistence on a uniform eight-hour shift.

Yet another cause for raising the Administration's hackles involved the occasional patients' complaints about registry nurses. The hospital's Board felt that such complaints adversely affected its reputation. Board members came to believe that the in-hospital Nurses Registry might be doing the hospital more harm than good, and that it might be preferable to hire all private duty nurses from an outside registry.

The Personnel Practices Committee, which had worked hard for the eight-hour standard, now announced that most of its members wanted to resign, “....not because of the committee’s inadequacy ...but because the Board of Trustees is adamant in its insistence on 12-hour duty, which conflicts with the eight-hour schedule...”

Salary And Benefit Differentials

Still further difficulties surfaced: There were differences in both salaries and benefits between nurses providing group nursing services, and staff nurses working elsewhere in the hospital. Moreover, a number of hospitals - but not Mount Sinai Hospital - had authorized rate increases for private duty nurses, allowing them to receive \$9.00 and \$10.00 plus meals for eight-hour tours of duty.

Group nurses complained of additional problems: general hospital staff nurses were now earning annual salaries of \$2,400.00, with benefits that included laundry (uniform) services; one month of paid vacation; two weeks’ sick leave; “adequate notice of dismissal from employment” (possible only for ineffective job performance), and a 44-hour work week. In contrast, registry (private duty) nurses at Mount Sinai, while receiving the same vacation and sick leave benefits, received only \$2,208.00 annually, were expected to work 48 hours per week, pay a registry fee, and could be dismissed at a few hours’ notice, not only for poor performance but because they are no longer needed.

In January, 1947, The hospital authorities replied to the registry nurses’ complaints that the hospital had set up the registry for the benefit of Mount Sinai nurses, who were not employed by the hospital but by the patients who hired them; that the hospital was losing money by operating the registry, and that certain rules were applicable to registry nurses that did not apply to the hospital-employed nurses. Finally, the hospital maintained that registry-set fees for private duty nursing care reflected the ability of the average patient to pay for them.

Private Duty Nurses Set Their Own Salary Standards

In February 1947, these disagreements resulted in the hospital’s decision not to collect fees for its private duty nurses any longer but instead, to allow them to set their own fees and collect them directly from their patients.

In time, the Nurses’ Registry at Mount Sinai Hospital was renamed The Mount Sinai Hospital Nurses Service Registry. A “placement (fee) assessment” was established by the hospital, and periodically reviewed and revised. It is posted in the Office of Private duty Nursing. Private Duty nurses pay the placement assessment fee each week.

Changes In Health Care Affect Private Duty Nurses

Much has happened in the intervening years to change health care practices inside and outside of hospitals. Patients spend less time in the hospital. While there, many require highly skilled intensive care, given by specially educated nurses familiar with their care and the sophisticated medical technology used for diseases that did not exist or were considered untreatable 30 and 40 years ago.

The health care field itself continues to be in transition: Many surgical procedures and complex treatments, once given during extended hospital stays, are now performed in an ambulatory care setting. Health insurance plans, rather than the patient, often determine a patient's ability to hire a private duty nurse.

Today, private duty nurses no longer "request" the hospital to increase pay rates, but charge their own, competitive "going rate," at \$290-\$300 or more per eight-hour shift. Those nurses who fought hard and long for improved working conditions, shorter working hours, and higher salaries during the earlier part of this century would have difficulty recognizing their hospital today. But one of their goals, achieved at great cost, has remained a constant: The eight-hour day.

Part V: MOUNT SINAI NURSES KNOW HOW TO CELEBRATE**by Judith Jones Scher**

Throughout the history of the Alumnae Association, its members have celebrated significant events in a grand manner. They worked hard and long, but given a special occasion, they also partied with gusto. Much of the revelry was inspired by the need for fund raising, but on other occasions it was often motivated by the desire for a good time. From “tea and sweets” after Alumnae Association membership meetings, to class reunions, to well-planned extravaganzas, the gracious women of the Alumnae Association knew how to plan for and hold distinguished, sophisticated, socially appropriate, and etiquette-approved affairs.

For many years we have honored, dedicated, and installed officers and bestowed honorary memberships. Best of all, and just as important, we made sure to celebrate each of these official acts. On such special occasions as the 25th, 50th, 75th, and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Alumnae Association, and the 110th anniversary of the Nursing School we celebrated our School and our Association with momentous events.

At such times, the membership came from near and far. Members basked in the memories of interesting and exciting days in the “Training School,” those days when they were young and innocent, and eager to learn and minister to the sick. They spoke of frightful moments, sad times, and periods of great elation. They enjoyed the brief encounters with each other, and discussed the personal and professional events that had occurred during the past 10, 20, and 30 years or more. They renewed friendships, made new ones, and had a wonderful time.

Highlights of Our History of Celebrations

November 22, 1908 - The “**Silver Jubilee**” is held in honor of the first class to graduate from the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing, sponsored by the Board of Directors of the Alumnae Association. To raise funds for the event, Alumnae members sell dolls dressed in MSH uniforms, and rugs made out of their uniform material.

April 24, 1930 - The Alumnae Association holds a "**Dance and Bridge**" for the benefit of the Pension Fund. The formal affair is held in the "Nurses Home" at 5 East 98th Street. While two uniformed senior nursing students accept admission tickets, Miss Elizabeth A. Greener, Superintendent of Nurses, Miss Mary R. Erwin, Superintendent of the Private Pavilion, and Miss Edith G. Ryan, Superintendent of Nurses, Surgical Pavilion, welcome each guest.

Picture the festive scene: The halls of the first floor of the Nurses' Residence are lined with bridge tables covered with flowery cloths. There are fresh-cut flowers and plants everywhere, all of which have been donated by generous friends. Senior students take the women to a cloakroom on the second floor, while the men are escorted to similar facilities on the first floor.

Refreshments are served by students in the Nurses' dining room. A superb orchestra plays as the guests are dancing away the hours until 2:30 AM, when "Home Sweet Home" alerts everyone that it is time to leave. Yet, throughout all the revelry the main purpose of the gala is never lost: The fund raising event is a great success.

March 19, 1931 - The **50th Anniversary Dinner**, better known as **The Golden Jubilee** marking the founding of our School of Nursing, is held at the American Women's Association Club on 57th Street. The Planning Committee has encouraged every graduate of the school, Alumnae member or not, to attend this landmark celebration.

In response to requests for husbands or escorts to attend the dinner, graduates are told bluntly that their men can call for them after dinner and enjoy the postprandial program, but that they definitely cannot attend the dinner. Reason: "This is to be a reunion among ourselves."

With Elizabeth Greener as Honorary Chairman, and Edith G. Ryan as active Chairman, a special committee has been appointed to plan this gala event. A gold-covered souvenir program becomes a permanent treasure for all who participate. In the program, all the diners and their assigned tables are listed in alphabetical order.

Musical selections are rendered by an orchestra, and special guests are honored. An historical revue is performed by the Graduating Class of 1931. Although the event is intended primarily as a reunion, the Board of Directors and Friends of MSH cannot let the occasion pass without showing their love for nurses in a tangible way. Gifts are announced and presented. The festivities continue well into the night, and a momentous time is had by all.

November 14, 1938 - The renowned violinist Mischa Elman performs a private concert before a packed auditorium in the Nurses' Residence, in appreciation of the care and attention offered his father, a former patient in the Private Pavilion. This is his way of saying thank you to Mount Sinai's nurses and doctors. A large photograph of this event now hangs in the Alumnae office.

August 1, 1941 - Amid great flourish, the Alumnae Association unveils a bronze plaque in honor of **Mr. Hugo Blumenthal** (Daddy B.), in the foyer of the School of Nursing at 5 East 98th street.

Hundreds of doctors, nurses, and friends attend the celebration honoring this distinguished gentleman. For close to 30 years he has dedicated his professional career to overseeing the education and advancement of nurses, both as director and president of the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing. Following precedent, student nurses present several choral selections, followed by adjournment to the reception room for refreshments.

May 20, 1961 - The First Alumnae Day - In an effort to maintain the heritage of the Alumnae Association of the School of Nursing, the Board of Directors aspires to develop a new dimension within the structure of the Association. It hopes that this effort will increase the interest, loyalty, and active participation of members, as well as provide them with additional benefits.

The Board's aim is to turn this Alumnae Day into an annual event in which graduates of the School of Nursing can meet every year to renew old friendships, recall their nursing school days, and keep the Association abreast of the career endeavors and memorable events in their lives. Nearly 500 graduates attend the luncheon and business meeting, held at the Hospital and School of Nursing. Senior student nurses greet guests at the door, and act as hostesses throughout the day's events.

Registration takes place in the basement level Rumpus Room. A festive luncheon is served in the hospital cafeteria. As on other special occasions, there are impeccable linens, lovely flowers, delicious food, and many invited guests.

The business meeting convenes in the first floor auditorium. Doctor Alan Guttmacher, Director of Mount Sinai's Department of Obstetrics, is the guest speaker. His topic: "Recent Trends in Sterilization" is well received. Tours of the hospital campus follow these activities.

May 2, 1981 - The celebration of **the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing**. With Marjorie Lewis, President, 450 Alumnae members and graduates of the Nursing School converge on the hospital to celebrate an Alumnae Day that is like no other. Since the School has closed its doors in 1971, there are no students to greet and usher in the guests. Instead, officers and board members of the Association assume these tasks, after preparing a celebration that few who attend will soon forget.

Enthusiasm for this event is unprecedented. The planners are overwhelmed by the response to their invitations. As a result, carefully laid plans have to be changed at the last minute to accommodate all the guests.

The Kriendler Dining Room and the Fifth Floor Halls of the Annenberg Pavilion are packed solid with Mount Sinai graduates greeting classmates, instructors, and old friends. A business meeting is held, and archives are on exhibit.

Luncheon is held in Annenberg's West Lobby, the only space large enough to seat the throngs. Guest speakers make speeches, libations are offered, and a special, celebratory cake is shared by all. The highlight of the event comes with the presentation to each participant of "**The Forty-Seven Hundred - The Story of the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing**," the documentation of our history for posterity.

A commemorative journal has been published for the occasion. It includes a chronology of the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing, as well as the good wishes, prayers, and words of appreciation of many Alumnae and good friends of the Nursing School. Their generous donations help to offset the cost of publishing the book "The 4700."

June 8, 1991 - **The 110th Anniversary of the founding of the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing** is celebrated on Alumnae Day, twenty years after the closing of the School of Nursing.

Some 4,700 nurses have graduated from the School of Nursing. During all these years, the Alumnae Association has remained a viable organization. Without an active school to keep up membership, however, interest in the organization has begun to decline. To rekindle the flame of interest, an intensive effort is now made to recruit past members who have drifted away, bring them back into the fold, and encourage others to participate in the festivities.

Alumnae Day is held at The Mount Sinai Medical Center. One hundred-seventy-five members attend the meeting and luncheon, held first in Annenberg's 5th Floor Board Room (business meeting), and subsequently in the Kriendler Dining Room. A delicious luncheon is followed by the highlight of the occasion: An anniversary cake, topped with the perfect replicas of the Mount Sinai School of Nursing pin and cap, shaped with icing. It is a wonderful conversation piece, and a grand time is enjoyed by all. A special anniversary mug is distributed to all participants.

Tours of the new hospital facilities are well attended, and enthusiasm runs high. The recruitment mission is also a success: Many of the graduates renew their Alumnae membership.

June 4, 1994 - the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Alumnae Association. A stupendous celebration is held at the Le Parker Meridien Hotel in midtown Manhattan, to commemorate this very special event. One-hundred-fifty-seven members and guests participate. The organizers of this special day's activities originally intended to hold the festivities at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, but circumstances at the hospital necessitate a change in plans. Nevertheless, tours are scheduled at the hospital prior to the business meeting for those members who want to view the new hospital facilities.

In honor of the occasion, a memento tile that proclaims the day and exhibits the Mount Sinai nursing cap, is distributed to everyone. Friends and classmates gather and start the day by greeting each other over coffee and croissants. Old relationships are renewed as they have been on all preceding Alumnae Days. Squeals of "Oh my goodness, I haven't seen you in (some say 20, others mention 25 or 30) years" are heard repeatedly.

After a productive business meeting, during which scholarships are presented, and other awards are bestowed upon worthy Alumnae, the assembly moves to the penthouse for a delicious luncheon. The triple exposure views from this beautiful room across the city is a perfect setting for a magnificent affair.

Summing up - The year is now 1995, and the Alumnae Association's membership stands strong at well over 1,000 members. As this record shows, many parties and celebrations have been held since the Nursing School first opened its doors. Alumnae still meet on Alumnae Day each year, to recall past celebrations with pleasure, while looking forward to many more festive events to come. Today as in years past, **The Spirit of the Mount Sinai Nurse** is there for all time: Live right, work hard, and celebrate whenever there is a special occasion.