



Beyond the Cap

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

Produced by the MGH Nurses' Alumni Association, Inc. PO Box 6234 Boston MA 02114
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Spring 2022

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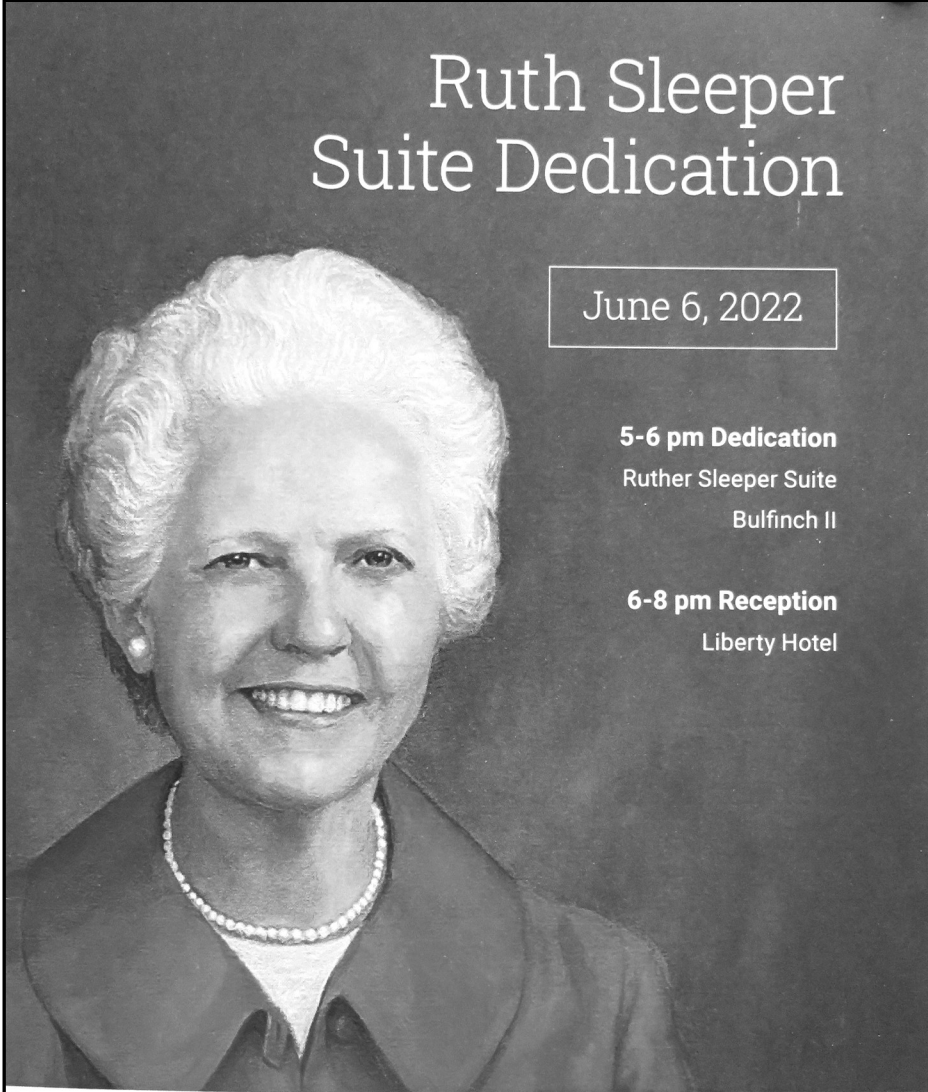
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Ruth Sleeper
Suite Dedication

June 6, 2022

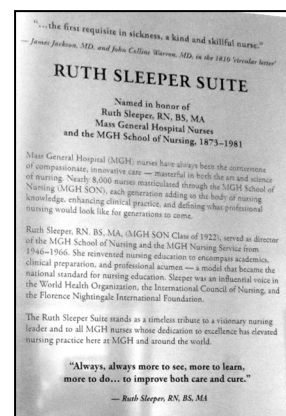
5-6 pm Dedication
Ruth Sleeper Suite
Bulfinch II

6-8 pm Reception
Liberty Hotel

 **Massachusetts General Hospital**
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham

Visit us on the Web at: MGHNAA.org
Email us at: mghnursealumni@Partners.org
Send news to the NAA either by email or to P O Box 6234 Boston MA 02114

Ruth Sleeper Suite Dedication June 6, 2022



“...the first requisite in sickness, a kind and skillful nurse.”
— James Jackson, MD, and John Collins Warren, MD, in the 1810 “circular letter”

RUTH SLEEPER SUITE

Named in honor of
Ruth Sleeper, RN, BS, MA
“Mass General Hospital Nurses
And the MGH School of Nursing, 1873-1981

Mass General Hospital (MGH) nurses have always been the cornerstone of compassionate, innovative care — masterful in both the art and science of nursing. Nearly 8,000 nurses matriculated through the MGH School of Nursing (MGH SON), each generation adding to the body of nursing knowledge, enhancing clinical practice, and defining what professional nursing would look like for generations to come.

Ruth Sleeper, RN, BS, MA (MGH SON Class of 1922), served as director of the MGH School of Nursing and the MGH Nursing Service from 1946 - 1966. She reinvented nursing education to encompass academics, clinical preparation, and professional acumen - a model that became the national standard for nursing education. Sleeper was an influential voice in the World Health Organization, the International Council of Nursing, and the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

The Ruth Sleeper Suite stands as a timeless tribute to a visionary nursing leader and to all MGH nurses whose dedication to excellence has elevated nursing practice here at the MGH and around the world.

“Always, always more to see, more to learn, more to do...to improve both care and cure.”

— Ruth Sleeper, RN, BS, MA

Monday evening, June 6, 2022, the area on Bulfinch 2 adjacent to the Trustees’ Room was named and dedicated as, “The Ruth Sleeper Suite.” Fourteen alumni were present, representing classes from 1953 - 1981. Offering remarks were the MGH’s President, Chief Nurse, and Chief Medical Officer, and our NAA President. Also in attendance were the IHP President and several members of their administration including the chair of their Board of Trustees. Two of Miss Sleeper’s great nieces also attended. The event was organized, orchestrated and decorated by members of the MGH Department of Development and the Russell Museum staff. Following the ceremonies attendees adjourned to the Liberty Hotel for a delightful wine and hors d’oeuvres reception.

It was a moment of real celebration, a fitting space in the heart of the hospital that offers tribute to one of our most distinguished graduates; that acknowledges the uniquely rich contributions of the school and all of its graduates; that recognizes the importance of nurses and nursing to the MGH and the larger community.

At our 150th anniversary celebration next year, the president’s reception on Friday evening will occur there so attendees will get a closer look.



L to R: Dr. David Brown, President, MGH; Leslie and Linda Siegel (grand-nieces of Ruth Sleeper; Bobbie Nemeskal, President, MGH NAA; Debbie Burke, Chief Nurse, MGH; Dr. Will Curry, Chief Medical Officer, MGH; Dr. Jacob Bigelow (1786-1879)



Russell Museum Staff

Sleeper Family Scrapbook



Ruth Sleeper's Family



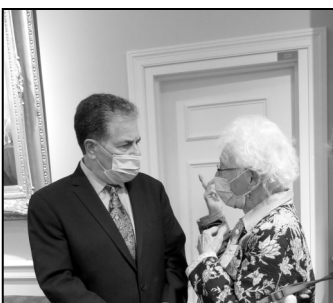
Graduate and student uniforms c.1970, and cap



Debbie Burke, MGH Chief Nurse, salutes nurses and nursing



MGH SON Alumni L to R: Terri Sorrentino '66, Susan Emery '76, Margery Eramo '57, May Chin '58, Sheila Burke '71, Roberta Nemeskal '69, Barbara Dunderdale '63, Ann Quealy '64, Christine Rich '73, Gino Chisari IHP '2011, Susan Zahka '81, Ann Collins '66, Lisa Compagnone '74, Susan Fisher '66



Photos by Katherine Labash, MGH Development Office and S. Fisher '66

~ ~ ~ What's New ~ ~ ~

~ ~ ~ **Live Homecoming is a go for September 24, 2022! See p.7** ~ ~ ~

NAA News

- * In follow-up to **Jane McCarthy's** article in **The Record**, here is a link to the YouTube video of her speech on Memorial Day at the Viet Nam Memorial. Her speech begins about minute 18: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQbSx3zk--0> She says, "it was quite a day! **Joan Kerr McWilliams** (also '69) was there for the event along with lots of my friends and family."
- * The NAA's bylaws include a mission to support community engagement and research. Our goals are to support nursing research and nurse-led activities that promote community health and patient education, ultimately improving the health and wellbeing of the community. We are delighted to be able to partner with both the **IHP School of Nursing** and the **MGH Munn Center for Nursing Research** to actualize these aspects of our mission.
- * In 2022, the NAA provided support in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3000.) to the **Ruth Sleeper Nursing Center for Clinical Education and Wellness** at the IHP. Learn more about the center at their website: <https://www.mghihp.edu/sleepercenter>.
- * In addition, the NAA provided three thousand dollars (\$3000.) to the MGH Munn Center for Nursing Research to support The Massachusetts General Hospital Nurses' Alumni Association Research Grant. The grant recipient is Allie Walpert, MSN, FNP-BC whose proposal is entitled "A Pilot Study of Research Participant Perspectives on Nurse Management and Communication of Incidental Findings Identified on Research Scans."
- * The history group is developing a plan and timeline for assuring the long-term preservation of our legacy through its archival materials (oral histories, documents, photographs, artifacts) in concert with the MGH archivist and Russell Museum experts.
- * Plans for the 150th Anniversary celebration are continuing to develop as they have been outlined previously. Contact your class agent for further details.
- * Our website is an ongoing project, with frequent updates changes. Check there for the latest news. www.mghnaa.org

MGH News

- * The hospital continues to limit traffic and non-essential activity. Though the museum has reopened to the public two days a week, gatherings are limited to 40-50 and masks are required.
- * The Russell Museum is presenting a virtual Tour of the Bulfinch Building on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, 6-7pm. Using the latest high tech gizmos, museum director Sarah Alger will walk us virtually through the building and share some of its rich history. The tour is free but you need to register via Eventbrite using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/paul-s-russell-md-museum-of-medical-history-and-innovation-at-massachusetts-general-hospital-7583611265>
Past programs can be accessed here: <https://www.russellmuseum.org/programs/>
or you can peruse their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mghrussellmuseum/>

IHP News

- * The NAA Board members continue to present our scholarships at IHP events, either virtually or in person.
- * This year, for the first time in several years, an IHP student submitted a paper for our NAA \$1000. cash grant. The paper is titled, "A Review of Evidence Regarding Hormonal Contraceptive Use and Depression in Healthy Women."
- * The **Natalie Petzold Endowed Lecture** was held May 2, 2022 on the IHP campus. This annual lectureship is named in honor of and supported by a bequest from Natalie Petzold. The last Director of the MGH SON, she then served as Director of Student Services at the IHP during the transition from the SON to the IHP. The lecturer was Tim Cunningham, RN, DrPH, MSN, FAAN. Dr Cunningham is an advocate for well-being and an expert in wellness practices. He currently serves as the Co-Chief Well-being Officer and Vice President of Practice and Innovation for Emory Healthcare.
- * The IHP will again be holding its fundraising gala September 15, 2022. The NAA will donate \$5000. for five tickets.
- * IHP is launching two new master of science leadership programs in the SON: **MS - Leadership in Nursing Administration** and **MS - Leadership in Nursing Education**. These programs will offer course work in several of the IHP's programs and focus on justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. They describe it as, "unique and boundary spanning in equipping the next generation of thought leaders in nursing."

Class News, class of 1976

Due to an ill-defined quirk of modern technology, news of the class of 1976 disappeared into the cloud or somewhere, and was omitted from the 2022 edition of *The Alumni Record*. We publish it below to correct the omission. Thanks to Connie Ryan, class agent, for retrieving the news. Editor

Marie McDonald Fahey writes “it was a very intense three-year diploma program, which I entered as a naive 17 year old. Did we really graduate almost 46 years ago? I worked initially at New England Sinai Hospital (respiratory, chronic and rehab hospital) in Stoughton and I was promoted to Head Nurse 6 months after graduation from MGH! After a year there, I decided to return to acute care nursing at a general hospital. I worked at Cardinal Cushing Hospital (now Good Samaritan) for nine years on a variety of floors...med/surg/ ortho and pediatrics. I returned to school at Bridgewater State College and got a BS in Psychology in 1995. I also attended Cambridge College and received an M.Ed. in School Nursing. I was a School Nurse Fellow at Rutgers University in the Center for Alcohol Studies. I continued taking graduate level courses in subjects such as diversity, autism, and child abuse to further strengthen my school nursing skills. I started school nursing full time in 1987 and I have been in that discipline ever since! I obtained National Certification in School Nursing in 1990. I have been the Nurse Leader for our Regional School District for over 25 years. I wrote several grants for the Health Services Department that infused over two million dollars in our school health program. I recently completed my 33rd year in School Health Services and I have officially retired from the BRRSD- Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District as of June 2020. Due to the remote learning model in March of 2020, there was not time for a smooth transition for the new nurse leader. I assisted a few hours a month to help her with the scope of conditions for the CSHS grant. For the past two years, since the pandemic began, I have been working a few hours a week for the Bridgewater Board of Health doing COVID interviews and contact tracing calls. I am finishing that work this month. My education at MGH SON was the best foundation for a fulfilling career. My focus for my future is going to include traveling with my husband Stephen and our family. We are planning to take my two sons (Brian and Sean) and their wives along with our 4 grandchildren to Disney World in June for a week. We are starting to book a couple cruises for this year also. We can't put off enjoying life...we don't know what lies ahead! I hope 2022 is a happy and healthy year for all!”

Barb Barton Zorzie writes “I have worked a variety of nursing positions in a variety of disciplines since graduating from MGH, including CCU, MICU, charter staff member of brand new Trauma/Neuro unit, occupational/foundry health, outpatient psych at a school/workshop for developmentally disabled, and retired 4 years ago after several years of school nursing. I have volunteered over the years with the Epilepsy Foundation of America, our regional epilepsy office, served on the boards of community foundation, local home health agency, and various committees and boards at our church as well as devoted time to multiple charities over the years. Paul and I have retired to Lake Greenwood, South Carolina full time almost 2 years ago, enjoying boating, swimming, bonfires and entertaining family and friends. We have 3 children, all married, and have 3 grandchildren.” Barb is also the administrator of the MGH School of Nursing Graduates Facebook page so consider taking a look and maybe posting to new tidbits.

Pat Tasca Marshall writes “I'm currently working as a Public Health Nurse Consultant with the Rhode Island Department of Health. I'm leading the clinical team for the Covid-19 Response Team that conducts case investigation, contact tracing and clinical consultation. Prior to being activated to the response I was a Nurse Care Evaluator for the Rhode Island Department of Health conducting inspections of LTC and AL facilities. It has been an amazing wild ride in the response. I have been surrounded by 300+ staff, mostly contractors, brilliant Epidemiologists, Medical Directors, Leadership and a core group of 15 of us that have been in the response since 3/10/2020. Covid has been without words such a highlight in my career, we have become a Covid family. On a personal note I have 2 Adult children, the last one was married in July. I keep my Boston connection as my son and daughter-in-law along with my 2 grandchildren live in Brookline. I hope you are all doing well and staying healthy.”

In September 2021 the Alumni Association held their annual meeting via Zoom. Our classmate **Estelle Codier**, RN, MSN, PhD presented a talk on her work on Emotional Intelligence and Nurses. She has done research in this area and written a text as well. She is now retired and lives in Hawaii.

I, Connie Ryan, worked in the MGH Operating Room after graduation and returned to Boston College for my BSN. After graduating from BC in 1980 I moved to St Elizabeth's Hospital to be the OR clinical educator. About 18 months later I relocated to Miami, Florida to be the OR Clinical Educator at the level one trauma center, Jackson Memorial Hospital. I held many positions at Jackson OR including evening shift charge nurse, nurse manager of the outpatient surgery unit and Assistant Director of Nursing for Perioperative Services. One of my proudest moments was to be part of the team that did the first heart transplant in Miami. After having our second son I stopped working at Jackson but became a full-time volunteer as a school volunteer, Cub Scout Den Leader, Cubmaster, Boy Scout Leader, patient /family advisor at a local hospital and going to Haiti as part of a team with pediatric neurosurgeons to do surgery of children with hydrocephalus. It has kept me busy, but I love it all. I am currently the Vice President for Program with the local Boy Scout Council. I have been volunteering with Mary Larkin and the Nurses Alumni Association history and video committees. Like Mary I have learned a lot of interesting information. I have been married to my husband Tom Bales for almost 35 years and we have three grown sons, Will who got married this past fall, Maxwell and Greg. Tom and I split our time between Miami and Cape Cod and love driving our little RV we call “Bubbles” up and down the east coast.

Anne Mercurio Koski says she splits her time between Maine and Grenada or on a sailboat.

Mary Larkin lives in Hanover MA with her husband 2 cats and an adopted chihuahua. Mary just celebrated her 46th year working at MGH. She is currently nurse director for the Diabetes Unit and She is an active volunteer with the MGH NAA board and urrently learning more about our school's history. It's very impressive!

Lillian Yardgood Kelly After MGH she earned a Bachelors Degree from Northeastern University. Lillian says she has kept true to her peri-operative services roots working in staff and leadership positions at MGH, Melrose Wakefield and Cambridge Health Alliance. She and her late husband were adoptive parents to 3 children. Lillian spent over two decades in a dual role as Director of Emergency Management for the Hallmark Health System. "Perhaps ahead of my time, when I noticed globalization impacting healthcare at home switched my master's studies from Nursing to Healthcare Emergency Management. I worked locally and regionally with Massachusetts based hospitals and community partners to help develop and test polices for disaster response and recovery (fires, floods, active shooters, pandemics etc. – prior to the Boston bombing, and Covid pandemic)." Lillian took a break from work to address health issues but found the imposed retirement "a frustrating bore" and jumped back into full time employment as the Nurse Manager for GI at a Boston based hospital. Lillian says she hopes to work at least another 4-5 years then grab her sand chair and martini and head to the beach.

Sandi Silvestri lives in Brighton MA, she recently retired after working 44 years in the Operating Room at MGH. Sandi says that the pandemic has put a bit of damper on my travel plans but otherwise retirement is wonderful and that she is enjoying every minute of it. Last summer she tried her hand at gardening and there were some great tomatoes that resulted and of course she cant wait for baseball season to start again for her beloved Red Sox.

If you are part of the MGH SON class of 1976, please consider sending me your update. The 150th anniversary of the school will be in 2023 and there will be a special celebration. Most of you probably recall that the 100th anniversary was celebrated shortly after our arrival at the school of nursing.

****** HOMECOMING INFORMATION ******
#1 Constitution Wharf
Charlestown, MA 02129
Saturday, September 24, 2022
8am to 3pm

Although we are still not able to gather at the hospital, reports from class agents suggest there is interest in having a live event this year. The IHP has offered a venue adjacent to their campus in Charlestown and the NAA Board has decided to go ahead there with a modified version of the event for this year. Located at #1 Constitution Wharf directly on Boston Harbor next to the *USS Constitution*, the space is lovely and large enough to accommodate all of our various needs in one building. Registration begins at 8 am. The usual continental breakfast will be available. Following the business meeting there will be guest speakers from the IHP BSN and Masters programs.

There is no kitchen however, and no way to transport hot food, so luncheon will be a cold buffet-style meal with garden and pasta salads, chicken, rolls, etc. Anniversary classes from this year and the last two years will be honored.

Free parking is available in an open lot adjacent to the building - please keep parking ticket with you for validation.

A Marriot Residence Inn is within walking distance for those seeking overnight accommodations - however, rooms average \$550. nightly before taxes. The Constitution Inn some may remember as a more affordable option, is closed.

Please complete registration form below and mail to: MGH NAA; PO Box 6234; Boston MA 02114

Registration Form, Clip and Return

Name: _____

Graduating class: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Check all that apply:

Luncheon (\$100.) _____

Dues for 2022 (\$30.) _____

Donation _____

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

Return Service Requested

SAVE THE DATE!

HOMECOMING 2022

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th, 2022

8 AM to 3 PM

#1 CONSTITUTION WHARF

CHARLESTOWN, MA 02129