

# Mount Sinai Phillips School of Nursing Alumni Association

148 East 126<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10035

<https://www.mountsinai.org/locations/mount-sinai/pson/alumni>

T: 646.396.4498    E: [PSONAA@mountsinai.org](mailto:PSONAA@mountsinai.org)

---

## Welcome to the PSON Alumni Newsletter

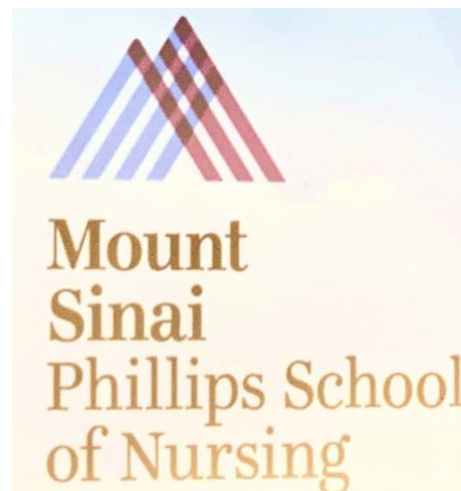
In this issue, you will get to know our President, Patricia McKenna (Class of 1989), hear from the cochairs of PSON, read a poem “Ode to a Nightingale” by Rita Wynne Herzig, catch up on what’s happening at our school, and welcome new members.

Our goal is to help alumni keep in touch and stay connected to our alma mater; feel free to share the newsletter with a classmate and invite them to join the alumni association. Dues remain at \$50.00/year. Our plan is to publish your news, suggestions, and articles; let others know what you’ve been up to and have updates about our school and fun surveys.

---

## President’s Message

I would like to share a bit about my background and my journey as a nurse, I am the current president of the PSON Alumni Association and a very proud graduate of the class of 1989. I worked at Beth Israel for 8 years after graduation on 11 Linsky, the Attending Oriented Service. This was a great opportunity as a new grad because we did not have interns or residents, we worked directly with the Attending MD’s. In this role we drew our own bloods, started IV’s, telemetry monitoring and did EKG’s etc. I was fortunate to work with the best group of PSON graduates who were highly skilled and extremely professional. I also explored other clinical areas such as Emergency nursing and home care. That is when I found my true love - home care. I loved that no matter how busy my day was or how complex my



## Welcome and President’s Message

### Special Message from PSON Cochairs

### School Update

### “Ode To A Nightingale” by Rita Wynne Herzig

### Welcome New Members

---

## Announcements

We have updated our email address. You can now reach us at:

[PSONAA@mountsinai.org](mailto:PSONAA@mountsinai.org)

Become an Active Member. Pay your Annual Dues via [Zelle](#) or [PayPal](#) **and** complete the [PSON Alumni Registration Form](#)

Join us for our Annual Luncheon in October – Date TBA. We will be honoring the classes ending in 3s (1943, 1953, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003, 2013 and 2023)

---

## President's Message Cont.

patient's care was - they were always happy when I left because I gave them my undivided attention even though it might have only been 30 minutes, they felt heard and cared for completely. I went on to move up the clinical ladder into leadership roles that have led me to my current role as the Regional Director of a LHCSA and A&T Certified Home Health Care. I continue to enjoy any opportunity to mentor and support my nursing staff. I also enjoy when I have an opportunity to get out in the field for example administering vaccines during the pandemic. A few words of advice for those of you that are beginning your journey as a nurse: you already took the first step by choosing to go to PSON for your education, you now have a firm foundation. Next, take the time to hone your clinical skills. Working in the hospital is a great start. Don't be disheartened if you don't love your first or even second position. Nursing offers you endless opportunities and you will find your calling. The hospital offers vast opportunities to work in specialty areas of interest but remember nurses are needed in many areas outside the hospital setting as well. Nurses are needed in IT roles to create EMR's and to train staff to use them correctly. Nurses are needed as lobbyists to advocate for laws that will protect our patients and our staff. Nurses are inventors, pharmaceutical reps. Nurses are needed to work consulting for movies and TV shows. The list is too long to include here but remember you are part of an Alumni Association that has nurses who have worked in all these roles and can help guide you as you begin your journey or if you want to explore more areas as a seasoned nurse, we are here for you.



### Special Message from PSON Cochairs

To our dear Alumni,

*As PSON's cochairs, we want to express our gratitude for your participation in the most recent Alumni survey. Your input is taken very seriously, and we hope to share with you the differences it has made in future Alumni news. Meanwhile, thank you! Yours is the generosity of spirit and caring nature that PSON hopes to have nurtured in its graduates, and we thank you on behalf of those to come!*

Janet Green and Ruth Nerken

## Board Members

### Officers

Patricia McKenna – President

Alisa Gadon – Vice President

Virginia Klunder – Treasurer

Edwina Thompson – Assistant Treasurer

Rita Williams – Recording Secretary

### Directors

Rochelle Bokow Bronson

Danielle Brown

Miriam Fridman

Mary Anne Gallagher

Rose Otero

Bernice Rosario

Audrey Schmerzler

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

“To do what nobody else will do, in a way that nobody else can do, in spite of all we go through...that is what it is to be a nurse.”

Rawsi Williams

### Update On Our School

- Todd F. Ambrosia DNP, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, FNAP resigned his position as Dean of PSON in April 2023  
Accomplishments include establishing an accelerated BSN and upcoming graduate programs.
- Laly Joseph DVM, DNP, CNE, ARNP, ANP-BC, FNAP, Vice Dean, resigned her position in June 2023.
- Vivian Lien, MSN, RN, CNE is the interim Dean during the transition.
- The August 2023 graduation has 40 students in the ABSN cohort and 24 students in the RN-BSN cohort.
- The December 2023 graduation cohort has 105 students.

### Alumni Fun Survey

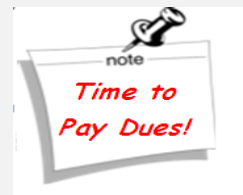
Click on the link [PSONAA@mountsinai.org](mailto:PSONAA@mountsinai.org) and let us know what your favorite restaurant was when you were in nursing school. Besides your name, include Graduation year, school location, and name of restaurant.

### Stella Jacobs 1911

In the wake of World War 1, there was an acute need for food, medicine, and Health professionals in Palestine. Stella Jacobs class of 1911, in 1918 joined the first Hadassah Health Mission to Palestine and provided expertise on contagious diseases.



Today, Hadassah has a nurse's council. And the PSON Alumni Association have had conversations with Hadassah and look forward to partnering with their nurse's council on programs that are of interest to our alumni.



Annual Membership Dues remain at \$50.00. Fill out the PSON [Alumni Membership Application](#) and either send dues via [Zelle](#) or [PayPal](#) to [PSONAA@mountsinai.org](mailto:PSONAA@mountsinai.org). You can also mail a check to PSON Alumni Association at the school Address.

### Share Your News

Do you have a special memory, story, something you'd like to share? E-mail your story to: [PSONAA@mountsinai.org](mailto:PSONAA@mountsinai.org) Include your name and year of graduation. And we will include this in our newsletter.

### Would You Like to Mentor a Student?

Make a difference in a student's life. A mentor relationship is rewarding to the mentor and the student. It can provide guidance, support or simply listening ear.

If yes, please send your name, specialty, and contact info, including phone number to: [PSONAA@mountsinai.org](mailto:PSONAA@mountsinai.org)

Now more than ever, our students need your advice, guidance, and expertise.

## “Welcome New Members”

### **Anneka Ward 2012**

Anneka Marielle Ward, class of 2012, earned her BSN from Chamberlain University in 2014. She started her Nursing career as a school nurse in 2013 at a school for grades pre-K through 12th grade. She is currently working full-time as a lower school floating nurse in Westchester, NY where she resides with her wonderful husband, amazing two-year-old son, and mischievous cat.

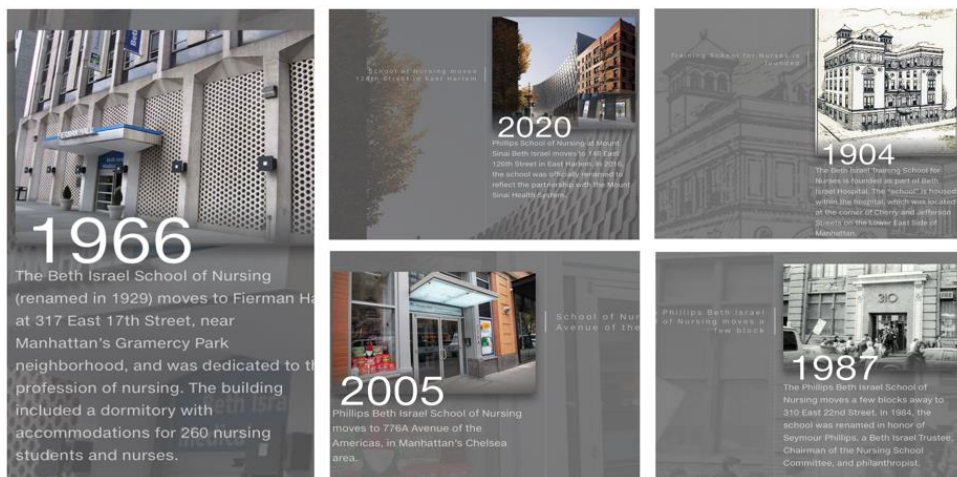
### **Daryle Seid Abeshouse 1979**

Daryle Seid Abeshouse recently retired after 23 years as an elementary school nurse based in Long Island, New York. Proceeding her position as school nurse, Daryle was an at-home Mom to twins Rachel and Harlan, now 32 years old. Before that Daryle was employed as a Hospital Risk Manager in two major metropolitan hospitals in New York and prior to that, she was an Emergency Nurse at Beth Israel. Daryle currently resides in East Meadow, New York with her husband David of 36 years. Daryle is looking forward to “The Next Phase”.

### **Elise Gropper 1979**

Elise I. Gropper, PhD, RN, CPHQ is a proud graduate of the class of 1979. Being able to use the skills she was taught she has had a wonderful nursing career as a nurse administrator, educator, and practitioner. Currently, for the past 28 years, Elise is a nationwide regulatory compliance consultant for hospitals. She helps them to get ready for Joint Committees and other types of surveys. She also helps them with adverse survey decisions. She is married and the mom of two children. She loves being connected with her other BI classmates.

## Which School Did You Attend?



## PSON Evolution

### History of our School of Nursing Part 2 (2006-2023)

#### **2006:**

Janet Green and Ruth Nerken appointed Co-Chairs, Board of Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing.

#### **2006:**

PBISN added a Center for Continuing Education to the school.

#### **2007:**

PBISN established an Evening Program.

#### **2008:**

PBISN instituted the Artist-in-Residence Program.

#### **2009:**

PBISN awarded full re-accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (2009-2017).

#### **2009:**

Introduced the International Nursing Project.

#### **2010:**

The Ruth Nerken Simulation Lab opened.

#### **2011:**

Sam's Tranquil and Restorative Space (STAR Space) opened.

#### **2011:**

PBISN developed Eye-to-Eye Program with BIMC physicians.

#### **2011:**

PBISN publishes the children's book, "I Want To Be A Nurse, Do You?"

#### **2012:**

PBISN Honor Society founded.

#### **2012:**

PBISN achieved Regent's Accreditation as a college (2012-2017).

#### **2013:**

PBISN receives approval from NYS to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN).

#### **2014:**

First Class Admitted to the RN to BSN program.

#### **2014:**

PBISN is designated a Center of Excellence (COE) in Nursing Education by the National League of Nursing (NLN) for the years 2014 to 2018. Designation was received in the "Student Learning and Professional Development" category.

**“Ode to a Nightingale” by Rita Wynne Herzig**  
(Reprinted from Nurses' Alumni News Winter 1990-1991 Vol 1. No 3)

October 29<sup>th</sup> 19-OH-Four  
The year Beth Israel Nursing School  
Started With a “Roar”  
Do You Remember When We Were Young  
The Things We Used To Do?  
When Work Was Hard, But We Were Strong  
And Struggled to Make Ten Dollars A Month  
Ankle Length Dresses, Aprons with Long Sleeves  
Black Shoes And Stocking  
Handkerchiefs Tucked In  
To Cover A Sneeze  
Work Days Were Long, Many Housekeeping Chores  
Some Students Even Had to Scrub Floors  
Helping Sick Patients Was Their Life's Ambition  
Trying To Cure The Human Condition  
Night Duty A Must For Five Years After Graduation  
Five Dollars More Pay A Month,  
The Only Consolation Twelve Hour Shifts Laboring In Open Wards  
Helping Sick Patients Get Well  
Enough Reward  
Call Interns To Take Blood Pressures,  
Give IM Injections  
Learn About Sterilization To Help Avoid Infection  
Make Cotton Balls, Applicators and Dressing Packs  
Such A Heavy Strain On Young Student's Backs  
Leisure Hours, Sunbathing On Dazian Roof  
Surveying The New Interns  
Pretending to be aloof  
Dating Between Doctors and Nurses  
Strictly Forbidden  
Love and Romance  
Had To Be Hidden  
When Doctors Asked For Patients Charts To Inspect  
Students Were Taught to Stand, out of Respect  
Capping, A ceremony much revered  
Done By Favorite Head nurses  
While Students Cheered  
Hospital Food Full of Starches and Calories  
Where Else could We Eat with Our Meager Salaries?  
No Matter How Little Or Much You Ate  
Many of Us Were Sure To Gain Some Weight  
Hattie Hect Checked Your Bed At Night  
By Shining in our Eyes  
Her All-Seeing flashlight  
Sometimes We Fooled Her, Put A Dummy in Bed  
While Off To Adventure, We Surreptitiously Fleed

**2015:**

Todd F. Ambrosia, DNP, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, FNAP Distinguished Fellow, National Academies of Practice, Bravewell Fellow in Integrative Medicine, appointed Dean of PBISN.

**2015:**

PBISN Establishes Affiliation Agreement with National Taipei University of Nursing and Health Sciences (Taipei, Taiwan).

**2016:**

Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing is officially renamed Phillips School of Nursing at Mount Sinai Beth Israel.

**2016:**

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accredits PSN's Baccalaureate Degree Program through 2021.

**2016:**

The New York State Education Department approves PSN's request to offer a second degree accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) beginning Spring 2017.

**2017:**

PSN joins AACN member schools across the country in "Joining Forces" a national initiative to support and honor America's service members and their families focused on: healthcare, education, and employment.

**2020:**

The school moves to 148 East 126<sup>th</sup> Street in East Harlem.

**2020:** The school moves to remote learning due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and students and faculty lend support as essential workers at Mount Sinai Health facilities throughout NYC.

**2022:**

Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing is officially renamed Mount Sinai Phillips School of Nursing.

**2023:**

Dean Todd Ambrosia resigns, and a search begins for a new Dean.

Follow-up on Belle Weiss at  
these links:

[Happy Birthday Belle!](#)

[106-year-old Alum Recalls Beth Israel Nurses Training](#)



## **UPDATES FOR THE MOUNT SINAI PHILLIPS SCHOOL OF NURSING**

- We received official notification from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education that the school is in candidacy status—this is a huge milestone for us. Accreditation is a voluntary, peer-review process meant to ensure current and future students and the public that an institution is providing a high-quality educational experience for students. Additionally, accreditation is required for students to gain access to federal financial aid, including loans, grants, and work-study administered by the U.S. and enables our graduates' academic work to be accepted by other educational institutions nationally.
- A new certificate course is being offered by the school's Center for Continuing Education: The Wound Treatment Associate (WTA) Program. WTA is a 12-week hybrid, training course that provides the non-specialty nurse with the ability to provide optimal care for the patient with chronic or acute wounds under the direction of a Wound Ostomy Care specialty nurse. The course prepares participants to take the certification exam offered by the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Society.
- Academic Practice Partnerships with MSHS include 10-14 Week Student Nurse Internships in High Need Areas (e.g., Emergency Medicine, Acute Care). Students participate in a six-week internship during their last semester in the nursing program, which is followed by an additional six to eight weeks of clinical hours post-graduation. The internship is a paid experience offering additional didactic and clinical components and ongoing mentoring for the first year. PSON is the only school to offer the internship while students are in the nursing program.
- A HRSA Nursing Workforce Diversity grant is providing 10 to 12 students annually with a scholarship that covers about 75% of the cost per semester, along with a stipend to help with other costs, such as transportation, rent, food, etc. In addition to tuition support, students receive tutoring and mentoring.
- Faculty Nurse Attending Model: To help addressing staffing challenges and gaps between experienced and novice nurses at MSHS, the Department of Nursing and the Mount Sinai Phillips School of Nursing implemented a Faculty Nurse Attending (FNA) initiative. The FNA model incorporates seasoned senior faculty, including school administrators, who function as Attending Nurses for two weeks (every semester) on various units within the hospital. The addition of an Attending Nurse on a unit assists in identifying areas where practice support is needed. The attending nurse model is an exemplar of how existing expert nursing resources can be leveraged to help clinical staff learn and practice skills required for effective patient care.