

2010 Nurse of Excellence Award Reception

May 19, 2010

Woodbury Country Club
Woodbury, NY



Nassau-Suffolk
Hospital Council, Inc.



Nassau-Suffolk

Hospital Council, Inc.

The collective voice of Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals

May 19, 2010

A Message from the Council

The Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council is a regional hospital association representing the 24 not-for-profit and public hospitals on Long Island. The Council serves its members in the areas of advocacy, education, and collective initiatives.

The hospital industry provides a wide variety of health care services to the 2.8 million residents of Nassau and Suffolk counties. Many health care professionals contribute to the quality care rendered here on Long Island – care that is among the best in the state and even the nation. Perhaps the single most indispensable, multi-talented, and omnipresent hospital worker is the registered nurse.

The New York State Legislature in 1989 created a Nurse of Distinction Program. The program, coordinated at the time by Senator Tarky Lombardi Jr., recognized individual excellence in the nursing profession. Hundreds of nurses were nominated from across the State, eight regional designees were selected by peer review, and one nurse from that group was awarded. The program was highly regarded by those within the health care industry and continued until 1995.

Since then, it has been the honor of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council to continue this tradition on a regional level through our annual “Nurse of Excellence” program. The Hospital Council opted to maintain this recognition program because the registered nurse is truly the core of any hospital.

Each member hospital and nursing school selects a nominee based on specific selection criteria. The nomination in and of itself is an honor. Then a Council peer review committee selects “the best of the best.” More important than those individuals named and honored is the celebration of the entire nursing profession that pervades this program.

We are proud of the nominees and congratulate this year’s top nurse. We are just as proud of all of the nurses who care for thousands of Long Islanders, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. On behalf of our board of directors, the council staff and the leadership staff at all of our hospitals, we express our sincere appreciation to all nurses and salute their commitment to compassionate quality patient care.

Kevin W. Dahill
President/CEO



2010 Nurse of Excellence Award

ORDER OF PROGRAM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS **Kevin W. Dahill**
*President/Chief Executive Officer,
Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council*

**GREETINGS FROM THE NASSAU-SUFFOLK
HOSPITAL COUNCIL** **Kevin Lawlor**
*Chairman of the Board
Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council &
President/Chief Executive Officer,
Huntington Hospital*

**INTRODUCTION OF NURSE OF EXCELLENCE
COMMITTEE MEMBERS** **Patricia Darcey, MS, RN-CAN**
*Chairperson, Nurse Executive Committee &
Chief Nursing Officer & Vice President of Patient Care Services,
Southampton Hospital*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ALL
“NURSE OF EXCELLENCE NOMINEES”** **Gara Edelstein, RN, MSN**
*Chairperson, Nurse of Excellence Sub-Committee &
Sr. Vice President, Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer,
St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center*

**RECOGNITION OF THE 2010 NASSAU-SUFFOLK
NURSE OF EXCELLENCE...** **Dr. Steven Strongwater**
*Chief Executive Officer,
Stony Brook University Hospital*

REMARKS BY THE HONOREE **Debra Giugliano, RN, MS, PNP**
Stony Brook University Medical Center

PRESENTATION OF THE TEAPOT **Eileen M. Roberto, RN, BS, CHPN**
*Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center
2009 Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council Nurse of Excellence*

CLOSING REMARKS **Gara Edelstein, RN, MSN**
*Chairperson, Nurse of Excellence Sub-Committee
Sr. Vice President Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer,
St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center*



2010 Nurse of Excellence Award

NURSE EXECUTIVES COMMITTEE

The Nurse Executives Committee is comprised of the chief nursing officers from all member hospitals and deans and directors of schools of nursing

Kathleen Baker, RN

*Administrator- Health Careers
Western Suffolk BOCES*

Ann Cella, MA, Med, RN, NEA-BC

*Sr. VP Patient Care Services & CNO
St. Francis Hospital – The Heart Center*

Rosie Chatman, RN, MA

*Associate Director for Patient/Nursing Service
Veterans Affairs Medical Center*

Patrick R. Coonan, EdD, RN, CNAA

*Dean & Professor
Adelphi University*

Patricia Darcey, RN, MS, BC-NE

*VP Patient Care Services & CNO
Southampton Hospital*

Susan Dewey-Hammer, MN, APRN

*College Wide Nursing Coordinator
Suffolk County Community College*

Faye Duda, RN, MPS, CAN

*Chief Nursing Officer
Long Beach Medical Center*

Gara Edelstein, RN, MSN

*Sr. VP Patient Care Services & CNO
St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center*

Nicolette Fiore-Lopez, RN, MA, CNEP

*Chief Nursing Officer
St. Charles Hospital*

Pat Hogan, RN, MA, NEA-BC

*Sr. Vice President & CNO
Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center*

Catherine Hottendorf, RN

*Associate Executive Director, Patient Care Services
Southside Hospital*

Minna Kapp, EdD, MBA, RN

*Associate Professor & Graduate Program
C. W. Post of L. I. University*

Susan Kwiatek, RN, BSN, MBA, NE-BC

*Associate Executive Director, Patient Care Services
Glen Cove Hospital*

Fran LaFauci, RN, EdD

*Associate Dean & Professor of Nursing
Suffolk County Community College*

Kathy Mann-Finnerty, MA, MBA, RN

*Chief Nursing Officer
No. Shore University Hospital at Manhasset*

Kim Mendez, EdD, ANP-C, RN

*Vice President & CNO
Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center*

Margaret Minnick, RN, MSN

*VP Patient Care Services & CNO
New Island hospital*

Yvette Mooney, RN, MS, CNAA

*Sr. VP Patient Care Services
South Nassau Communities Hospital*

Carol A. Mottola, PhD, RN

*Chairperson, Nursing Dept.
Nassau Community College*

Jeannine D. Muldoon, PhD, RN

*Dean & Professor, Division of Nursing
Molloy College*

Marie Mulligan, RN, MS

*Vice President for Nursing
J. T. Mather Memorial Hospital*

Renee Muriello, RN, MSN

*VP for Patient Care Services & CNO
Mercy Medical Center*

Myrna Myers-Laque, Med., RN, NEA-BC

*VP Nursing & CNO
Huntington Hospital*

Susan Neville, PhD, RN

*Chairperson & Associate Professor
Dept. of Nursing
New York Institute of Technology*

Patricia Pispisa

*VP Patient Care Services
Eastern Long Island Hospital*

Barbara Popkin, RN, MA

*Associate Executive Director, Patient Care Services
Franklin Hospital Medical Center*

Carol Powell, RN

*Program Administrator
Eastern Suffolk BOCES*

Barbara Sands, PhD, RN

*Professor & Director, Dept of Nursing
St. Joseph's College*

Kathy Skarka, MSN, RN, CAN

*Sr. VP & CNO
Nassau University Medical Center*



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NURSE EXECUTIVES COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

Arleen J. Steckel, PhD, RN, CPNP

*Clinical Associate Professor, Clinical Professor Chair,
Parent Child Health
Stony Brook University School of Nursing*

Mary Stedman, MS, RN, ANP, CNE

*Professor /Associate Chairperson
Farmingdale State University*

Valerie Terzano, RN, MS, CNAA

*VP Nursing & CNO
Winthrop University Hospital*

Marianna Vazquez, RN, MS, NE-BC

*Associate Executive Director, Patient Care
Services
Plainview & Syosset Hospitals*

Maureen White, RN, MBA, NEA-BC

*Sr. Vice President, Chief Nurse Executive
No. Shore – LIJ Health System*

Lee Anne Xippolitos, RN, PhD

*Chief Nursing Officer, Stony Brook University Medical
Center
Dean, School of Nursing,
Stony Brook University School of Nursing*

Gerald Zunno, RN, MSN

*VP Patient Care Services
Peconic Bay Medical Center*

NURSE OF EXCELLENCE SUBCOMMITTEE

Gara Edelstein, Chairperson

*Sr. VP Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer
St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center*

Ann Cella

*Sr. VP Patient Care Services & CNO
St. Francis Hospital—The Heart Center*

Dianne Gianfelice

*Chair of Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council's Nurse
Managers Committee
Nassau University Medical Center*

Frances LaFauci

*Associate Dean & Professor of Nursing
Suffolk County Community College*

Yvette Mooney

*Sr. VP Patient Care Services
South Nassau Communities Hospital*

Lee Xippolitos

*Chief Nursing Officer, Stony Brook
University Medical Center
Dean, Stony Brook University School of Nursing*

Valerie Terzano

*VP Nursing & CNO
Winthrop University Hospital*

Eileen Roberto, Nurse Manager

*Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center
2009 Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council Nurse of Excellence*

NURSE OF EXCELLENCE SELECTION CRITERIA

Outstanding contributions to the nursing profession and to the field of health care must be demonstrated based on the following criteria:

- Significant achievement within a particular area of nursing, including clinical practice, education, research, or administration. The provision of direct nursing services to assist patients and their families to function at optimum levels of health is one example within clinical practice.
- Demonstrates leadership and quality performance that provides a role model to colleagues. Assists other nurses in their development.
- Participation in activities that foster a positive public image of nursing as a profession.

Note: All registered professional nurses employed at a Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council membership organization, or affiliated school of nursing, at any employment level or scope of responsibility, are eligible to be nominated for the award. Prior nominees are not eligible. Each hospital or nursing school member of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, Inc. is eligible to nominate one individual for the award. Each nominating entity has an internal selection process to facilitate making an appropriate nomination.



Nassau-Suffolk
Hospital Council, Inc.

2010 Nurse of Excellence Award

2010 NURSE OF EXCELLENCE HONOREE

THE NASSAU-SUFFOLK HOSPITAL COUNCIL

Award For

Nursing Excellence

Is Presented To

Debra Giugliano, RN, MS, PNP

2010

*For achieving significant accomplishments in an area of practice,
serving as a mentor and inspiration for staff, providing assistance to patients
and families, and fostering a positive image of nursing.*



2010 Nurse of Excellence Award

NOMINEES

Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center

Judy O'Shea, RN, NP

Patient Educator

Judy has been at Brookhaven for 30 years. She is a premier patient educator, mentor, academic adjunct professor, and women's health expert. Judy easily transitions her teaching style to address patient learning concerns, staff professional development, or collegial exchanges. In her role as Patient Educator, she is calm, confident and has a skilled approach when working with patients and interacting with family and other clinical staff. She has an extensive history in maternal child care and has supported the transition of many women into new motherhood. She independently researched opportunities and successfully acquired grant funding for several projects to support both the community and department of nursing professional development. She participates in fund raising events to support cancer awareness, diabetes education and other causes. She also maintains a position as an adjunct professor at Suffolk County Community College.

Eastern Long Island Hospital

Karleen Schultz, RN, MS

Registered Nurse, Psychiatry

Karleen has been a nurse for more than 34 years in varied nursing roles. As charge nurse in the Behavioral Health Service, she has consistently worked for the highest standard of care, focused on excellent patient assessment with subsequent individualized patient interventions. She demonstrates these skills with empathy and kindness. Karleen works well with all disciplines and is highly regarded by colleagues, physicians, and ancillary staff. She works with staff as a mentor and preceptor. Her approach is professional, respectful, and solution-oriented. Most recently, she made necessary revisions to upgrade the hospital's electronic medical record for Behavioral Health Services. She assisted in recommending structural revisions to the unit during a bed increase project and has recommended many procedural changes in order to improve patient care. She is patient, clear, and concise in her teaching.

Franklin Hospital Medical Center

Eileen Sica, RN, BSN

Orthopedic Coordinator

Eileen has been at Franklin Hospital for 15 years. She is the orthopedic coordinator and an integral part of the peri-operative team. She provides guidance to staff members and prides herself on being the best she can be. As a certified operating room nurse she mentors the staff and encourages them to achieve the same. She is a master trainer for the hospital's patient safety strategies called Team-STEPPS. Utilization of these strategies has helped to unify the surgical team and better prepare them for their roles in the operating room. She is the team leader for the scrub techs and nurses, and liaison among the many orthopedic line vendors. The coordination and education of new equipment is a large part of her role. She was the project leader for research involving a medical device to increase accuracy during total knee replacements, working with the surgical team to coordinate, develop, initiate, educate, and supervise the process. This device became FDA approved in the first quarter of 2010. She volunteers and participates in various charitable events.

Glen Cove Hospital

Denise R. Hernaiz, RNC, BA

Denise has been a nurse for 22 years at Glen Cove Hospital, including 15 years on an inpatient psychiatric unit. She received credentialing for Auricular Acupuncture and has been instrumental in incorporating the treatment on the inpatient unit. She also has certification in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing. Denise has a heartfelt respect for all humanity, and the belief that the patients are no different than she, just less fortunate. Despite many years working with a difficult population, she remains enthusiastic and she can often be heard chanting her mantra to patients: "We will get you better (perhaps not cured, but certainly better)". She has been a mentor for new hires and schools them in her manner of complete competence and compassionate concern. Volunteering weekly at a local men's homeless shelter, she assesses patients and mobilizes resources to meet their needs.

NOMINEES (CONTINUED)

Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center

Patricia E. Litwack, BS, MPA, CPNP

Nurse Practitioner

Patricia has been a nurse for 32 years, the last five of which have been as a pediatric nurse practitioner at Good Samaritan. Specializing in gastroenterology in a busy pediatric specialty care center, she provides initial assessment and follow-up. She takes first call for the physician group, provides telephone follow-up and assists with management of both ambulatory and inpatients. She assists in recruitment and retention activities, and serves as a mentor for new practitioners. Her clinical judgment is evident when she is challenged with complex cases. She is regularly consulted for clinical support by the inpatient staff. Patricia is a frequent presence on the inpatient pediatric unit. Her clinical expertise advances patient care and the time she spends with parents and families has proven invaluable. She is renowned for her project-management skills, having led the pediatric specialty clinic through a major expansion and move to a larger site, and facilitated the information technology implementation. She works tirelessly to provide the highest quality evidence-based care for the pediatric patients.

Huntington Hospital

Eileen Levy, MSN, PMHNP-BC

Psychiatric Consult-Liaison NP and

Employee Assistance Coordinator

Eileen has been in nursing for 33 years. She serves as Huntington Hospital's Lead Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, seeing patients in the ED, psychiatric unit and on the medical/surgical floors. She is also the Employee Assistance Program coordinator for the hospital, dealing with personal or work related problems that may impact colleagues work performance, health, or well-being. With colleagues of varied disciplines, she created a new Alcohol Withdrawal Protocol currently utilized as the standard for care at the hospital. Eileen is the consummate professional in a spectrum of challenging situations, offering both support for the staff and solutions to complex issues. In addition, she has her own private practice treating children and adolescents. She makes herself available at any time and always has a professional demeanor. She has exceptional clinical assessment and interview skills, and is able to maintain an incredible balance of courage, good advice, and consideration.

John T. Mather Memorial Hospital

Kathryn Manzi, RN, CNOR

Staff Nurse

Kathryn has been a nurse for 36 years and has worked at J. T. Mather for 24 years. She demonstrates excellent knowledge and competency in the area of peri-operative nursing. She assumed the role of preceptor for new graduate registered nurses, and new employees, and has cross-trained nursing personnel for other job responsibilities. Kathryn demonstrates leadership qualities and has assumed the role of service leader for the Vascular and Urology Services in the OR, in addition to acquiring an in-depth knowledge of surgical procedures and anesthesia techniques. As a community service, she provides rape prevention seminars and trains people in the martial art of Jiu Jitsu. Due to her proficiency and excellent nursing care, she always demonstrates a positive, professional attitude towards her patients, as well as her co-workers.

Long Beach Medical Center

Diane M. Morgan, RN, MSN, ANP-C

Home Care Visiting Nurse

Diane began her career in nursing in the early 1990s and began working as a home care visiting RN in 2003. She has a gentle, quiet, and competent manner. She easily establishes a beneficial rapport with her patients and their families, gaining their trust and confidence. She is respectful, caring and sensitive to her patients' feelings, as well as non-judgmental in all situations. She is a strong patient advocate with a special commitment to meeting her patients' needs. She believes that home care nursing allows the nurse to focus on the individual patient, one on one, in the patient's own environment, where the patient will be more receptive to teaching. Her assessment and care delivery skills are impeccable and her documentation is flawless. She also volunteers her time with community organizations. Diane is a gifted nurse who is clinically competent, extraordinarily sensitive, and compassionate.

NOMINEES (CONTINUED)

Mercy Medical Center

Jeanne Kempey, RN

Jeanne has been a nurse for 16 years, has a diverse nursing background, is well versed in all aspects of Emergency Department nursing, and is willing to help wherever she is needed. Working in a Fast Track Unit in the ED, her duties consist of coordination of patient care from the initial patient assessment after triage to treatment, pain control, medication administration, and patient education prior to discharge. She is a preceptor for new employees and familiar with the policies and procedures of the hospital. She provides thorough education about disease process, medications, and follow-up care to the patients. Jeanne implemented a reading program for young children within the Fast Track Unit to help reduce a child's anxiety while the child, a sibling, or parent is waiting to be treated. She acts as a patient advocate to make sure that all patient needs are addressed. She is an independent thinker and renders quality care. She is a resource person not only for the ED staff, but for radiology, laboratory, pastoral care, and care management staff as well.

Molloy College

Ellen R. Rich, PhD, RN, BC, FNP

Professor, Nurse Researcher for 2 Hospitals

Ellen has more than 30 years of experience as a nurse, and is a professor and practitioner teacher in the Family Nurse Practitioner Masters' program at Molloy College. She is currently a certified Family Nurse Practitioner and a tireless professor in the FNP graduate program at the college. She has demonstrated achievement in nursing education through her dedicated commitment to continuously improving the quality of practitioner education. In her educator role, she has raised the standards of competency required for students by implementing advanced clinical practice activities in the FNP program. Ellen is highly respected by her students and sets high standards of performance that are achievable with hard work and practice. She has educated more than 1,000 NP students and worked collaboratively with numerous providers to prepare students for competent independent clinical practice. In her research consultant role, Ellen serves as a mentor and role model to help clinical nurses develop ideas for improving patient care and translate research to implement evidence-based practice.

Nassau University Medical Center

Ange Previle, RN II

Pediatric ICU Nurse

Ange has been a nurse for 24 years at Nassau University Medical Center. She demonstrates exceptional clinical and decision-making skills, is a valued member of the pediatric team, and an asset to the nursing profession. She often serves as a preceptor/mentor to novice nurses, assisting them in their transition through the continuum of nursing. She is a focused and self-directed professional who challenges herself and her patients to aspire to their utmost potential and continue to achieve positive goals and outcomes. She delivers safe, effective, competent, compassionate care, and utilizes her critical thinking skills to achieve such success. She recently traveled to Haiti, as she had done a number of times previously. Her primary focus in the earthquake aftermath was to assist and be a part of the medical team caring for more than 70 children per day who had sustained devastating injuries, as well as providing emotional and financial support as she administered to their physical well-being.

New Island Hospital

Eileen Jackson, RN

Assistant Head Nurse

Eileen has been at New Island for four years and works in the medical/surgical hospice unit. She has taken the initiative to research best practices in the area of hospice or end of life care, visiting a palliative care unit in another facility and incorporating those findings in establishing a hospice unit at New Island. She is an exceptional nurse and role model, in addition to being a consummate patient advocate. She precepts students and new orientees, is looked to for advice by her peers, and is admired and respected by her administrators. She is calm and soft spoken and her moral compass guides her decision making. Eileen serves as VP/Treasurer of a charity fund that serves as a resource of last resort for individuals and families facing a financial crisis due to a debilitating long term illness or disability. She has taken her own life experience with sorrow and utilized the knowledge gained to benefit her patients. She always has a positive attitude and great spirit.

NOMINEES (CONTINUED)

North Shore University Hospital

Elizabeth Gorowski, ANP-C

Nurse Practitioner, Palliative Care

Elizabeth has been a nurse for 30 years, 20 of them at North Shore University. For the past five years, she has been a Nurse Practitioner in Palliative Care. She is a nursing advocate who successfully advocated for nurses and families to have the ability to call a palliative care consult without a MD order. She presents the case to the MD as well as initiating the discussions with the patient and family. Elizabeth is a team player working with physicians, registered nurses, fellow nurse practitioners, and ancillary staff. She does not hesitate to educate the staff on the insight of a person's pain or position at the end of their life. She educates patients in a language they can understand about the choices they have. She can approach a difficult situation with a holistic and peaceful approach. Elizabeth shares her expertise formally and informally, presenting at national conferences. She has published papers and abstracts for an international audience and focuses on sharing her knowledge of care of palliative patients.

Peconic Bay Medical Center

Denise D'Ambrosia, RN, FNP-C

Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner

Denise has been a nurse for 17 years and at Peconic Bay for one year. She took charge of working through all the planning modalities for establishing the Palliative Care Program at the hospital. She began shaping the structure for the program. This involved securing support from administration and physician staff, analyzing and predicting institutional demand and need, developing the program design and team resource requirements, determining service delivery aspects and mechanics of referrals, proposing measurement of program quality and potential research opportunities, and, lastly, marketing strategies to grow the program. She is a clinical expert and teacher in the areas of medicine and nursing practice. Through her leadership by example, she has been inspirational to all who work with her, including the nursing staff. She is extremely supportive of the nursing role and teaches nursing staff how to be better "advocates" for their patients. Along with her palliative care role, Denise has a faculty appointment as an Associate Professor at Suffolk County Community College in addition to being a Clinical Assistant Professor at Stony Brook University School of Medicine.

Plainview Hospital

Patricia A. Rosenberg, RN, BS

Staff RN Ambulatory Surgery Department

Patricia has been at Plainview Hospital for 38 years. It was in the ER department that she was first exposed to endoscopy. Plainview opened an ambulatory department where Patricia took the lead and became GI-certified. Her extensive knowledge in the GI field makes her a great resource throughout the hospital. Her leadership skills were embraced by the nursing administration as the unit flourished and broadened its scope to include pain management, as well as interventional radiology. The nursing students who rotate through the endoscopy unit are lucky to spend the day with an enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and compassionate role model. She advocates for her patients, has a wonderful sense of humor, and is well known throughout the hospital as being upbeat and personable to everyone she meets. Patricia pursues excellence with a passion, promoting quality in everything that she does.

St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center

Barbara M. Gibbons, RN, MS, FNP

Director of Education & Research

Barbara has been in nursing for 28 years. She challenges her staff and nursing department to aim higher in their pursuit of excellence at the bedside and in their professional and personal growth. She is the driving force behind implementation of standards, protocols and evidence-based initiatives. She chooses teaching strategies that make learning fun and memorable, and has a way of imparting the joy and stimulation of learning to the students she instructs. Promotion of a positive image of the nurse in all situations is her trademark. Barbara is quick to formulate new ideas and teaching strategies that facilitate learning for the entire nursing staff. She keeps abreast of current trends in health care by mentoring students as an Assistant Professor at Suffolk County Community College and Assistant Clinical Professor at Stony Brook University.

NOMINEES (CONTINUED)

St. Charles Hospital

Anne Shea-Lewis, RNC-NIC, BS, MBA

Director of Nursing

Anne has been the director of the maternal child health department at St. Charles Hospital for five years. Her vast experience and education have provided her with the necessary skills to bring this department to a new level of patient service and achieve unheralded success as she pioneered new territory with her staff. Within this department she has empowered and developed the leadership skills of her assistant nursing care coordinators through the expansion of their roles and responsibilities. She is actively involved in the development of a “clinical ladder” for the professional nursing staff; has taken on the nursing director role of such diverse services as the pediatrics and chemical dependency units; she serves as a resource for budgeting issues to peers, and is an active member of multiple hospital-based and system-wide committees. Anne constantly strives to support her teams and promote excellence in perinatal nursing.

St. Francis Hospital—The Heart Center

Ruth Reed, BSN, RN, CEN

Clinical Nurse, Emergency Department

Ruth has 28 years of nursing experience, 19 of them at St. Francis. She is certified in emergency nursing and supports the success of the ED by providing a high level of care to her patients. She is a critical thinker and excellent resource to her peers, in addition to being professional, kind, and efficient during times of high volume or high patient acuity in the ED. Ruth serves as preceptor for new nurses, volunteers at RN Orientation Skills Day and consistently provides education to her patients in understandable terms. She has developed and maintains strong collaborative relationships with her co-workers. She attends conferences and is actively involved in nursing research projects, and acts as a mentor for nurses interested in research. Ruth volunteers her time developing and mentoring the youth of her community, also volunteering as staff nurse for her church’s vacation bible school.

South Nassau Communities Hospital

Sharon Eriksen, RN

Pediatric Staff Nurse

Sharon has been at South Nassau for 32 years. She exhibits caring, kindness and humor and weaves these characteristics throughout the outstanding clinical care she provides. Sharon is a strong source of support, advocacy, and reassurance for the parents and families of her youngest and most vulnerable patients. In her professional practice as a pediatric staff nurse, she achieves the essential balance of nursing – blending the art of caring with the science of healthcare. Sharon mentors nurses and shares her knowledge and experience with new staff on the unit. She has gone on medical missions to Jamaica and most recently to Haiti. She engages in many activities volunteering her time at a local clinic for the underserved each week, and administering nursing care to elderly nuns in her religious community. She is a staff nurse who makes a profound difference in outcomes of care for children and their families.

Southampton Hospital

Elizabeth Commander, RN, BS

Nurse Manager

Elizabeth has more than 40 years of nursing experience at Southampton and is the nurse manager of the maternal child department. She embraces new and innovative techniques to engage her staff, inspire her peers, and deliver safe quality care to the patients in her unit. She has spent four years implementing and renovating a state-of-the-art maternal child care unit, in addition to participating in its fundraising efforts. She developed a plan to motivate and educate her staff to expand their knowledge and become competent in assisting with C-sections and patient recovery. She teaches prenatal, sibling and post-delivery classes to community members. She is always available for expectant families to tour and familiarize themselves with the unit. With her spirit and dedication, she has brought a new level of care to women, children, and families of the community. She is the “go to” person for new managers, the sounding board for the established manager and the social director for all.

NOMINEES (CONTINUED)

Southside Hospital

Christina Blau, RN, MS, CCRN

Staff Nurse

Christina has been a nurse for 26 years and is currently a staff nurse in the cardiology department at Southside, which performs electrophysiology studies, cardiac ablations, and device implants. She educates patients and family members about the various procedures with which she assists. She also works in the cardiac catheterization lab and has an active role in diagnostic and interventional cardiac and peripheral vascular procedures. With her wealth of experience and love of education, she is the “go to” person for information on the unit. She is the role model for her nursing staff and a resource for physicians. She volunteers to precept, nurtures the new graduates, and seeks to mentor “transition” students (those who need to complete additional hours in order to graduate). She eagerly volunteers to assist other departments and is known as a true team player. Christina is always positive and upbeat and a pleasure to work with. She volunteers for the hospital and is an active participant in community health fairs.

Stony Brook University Medical Center

Debra Giugliano, RN, MS, PNP

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Debra has been at Stony Brook for almost 20 years. Her primary focus is providing care to children with both hematologic and oncologic illnesses in the inpatient and outpatient settings. She is the co-founder and co-director of the school re-entry program to help these children return to school by addressing the student’s psychosocial, medical, and educational needs. The school re-entry program has received national and international recognition. She has co-authored several journal articles, and authored “Jessie Bounces Back to School,” a free educational tool used in schools across Long Island. She helps raise funds in various ways for childhood cancer awareness. Her friendly, enthusiastic, and reliable presence makes children and families feel at ease when they go to the clinic for treatments. She is the consummate professional nurse who excels in all her endeavors and maintains the highest standards of care for the patients and families in her care.

Stony Brook University School of Nursing

Janet M. Galiczewski, RN, MS, ANP, CCRN

Clinical Assistant Professor

Staff Nurse

Janet has been in the nursing profession for 22 years. As a clinical assistant professor, her responsibilities include both the didactic and clinical arenas. She is presently the coordinator of several undergraduate courses. She possesses a unique ability to convey complex material to a diverse group of students. Her teaching methods reach far beyond the scope of conventional teaching. She utilizes a myriad of innovative high-tech methods that she incorporates into well-developed presentations to enhance her student’s learning experience. Her lectures always contain pertinent content and updated research information. She is well respected by all of the students she has educated. Janet serves as an ideal role model for all health professionals by demonstrating her deep commitment to high quality health care, respect for human life, and advancement in her chosen profession. The nursing staff on the floor where she trains her students states that she is one of the most patient and gifted educators they have ever observed.

Suffolk County Community College

Kathleen G. Burger, MEd, MSN, RN, CNE

Academic Chair & Associate Professor

Kathleen has been a nurse for 32 years and a nurse educator for more than 20. Teaching has been a highlight of her career, where she is able to share her knowledge to the fullest. She thoroughly enjoys the nursing students, faculty, and administration at Suffolk Community where she experiences a stimulating and challenging career as a full-time faculty member and academic chair. As nursing faculty, her responsibilities include: developing and planning lectures, laboratory, and clinical experiences for nursing students; and instructing, supervising, evaluating, and counseling students in clinical, laboratory, and classroom settings. She serves as course coordinator, communicating with full-time and adjunct faculty and collaborating with faculty to make curriculum changes, and serves as a member of nursing and college committees. Kathleen is an outstanding teacher and nurse. She teaches by example and demonstrates compassion, kindness, and integrity.

NOMINEES (CONTINUED)

Syosset Hospital

Michelle Travis, RN, BSN

Michelle has been a registered nurse for 16 years and has worked primarily in Syosset's main operating room since 2001. She is devoted to her unit and always lends a hand before being asked. She is competent to float to several other areas in perioperative services and willingly does so as needed. Michelle mentors new staff and is an excellent professional nurse who sets an example for all of her peers. She stays calm in emergent situations and patients feel safe in her care. Michelle is dedicated to enhancing the professionalism of perioperative registered nurses, promoting high standards of perioperative nursing practice to better serve the needs of her patients. She is involved with quality and performance improvement monitoring on her unit and evaluating the quality of patient care. An excellent nurse must be ethical, responsible, accountable, an advocate, dedicated, caring, and reliable, and this nurse has all of these characteristics.

Veterans Administration Medical Center

Wendy M. Eberhardt, RN, BSN

Home Based Primary Care RN, Case Manager

Wendy has been at the VA Hospital for 22 years with a diverse nursing career. She has obtained specialized training to support her various specialty collateral roles including tele-medicine, Alzheimer's caregivers support program, and palliative care. Wendy shares her wealth of nursing knowledge and newly acquired technology with peers and interdisciplinary colleagues. She enthusiastically embraces new procedures and stays on the forefront of technology to improve quality care. She never places boundaries on her potential sphere of influence and ability to accomplish tasks required to provide quality care for her patients. She serves as a resource for the home care patient and family to protect rights and obtain needed services. She is a strong patient advocate whose actions support patients and caregivers in end-of-life issues, and in navigating a complex health care system. As a home care nurse, she has been highly visible in the community, among her patients and at outreach events organized by the hospital.

Winthrop University Hospital

Karen L. Hylton-McGuire, RNC, NIC, IBCLC

NICU Clinical Educator/Lactation

Karen has been a nurse for 30 years and at Winthrop for eight years. As the NICU educator, she developed a comprehensive orientation program incorporating principles of adult education, neonatal physiology, and evidence-based practice for nursing care of the premature infant and family. She conducts a monthly neonatal resuscitation program for NICU, antepartum, labor and delivery and postpartum nurses. Her expertise and enthusiasm for teaching these topics provokes positive comment from her nursing audience and orientees. In addition to instructing the nursing staff, she provides education to the medical staff in NRP instruction and provides them with a class on the principles and benefits of breastfeeding. Karen was responsible for developing the first donor breast milk program on Long Island. This milk is provided to preterm infants in the NICU whose mothers are unable to provide for their infants. She has been an integral part of several hospital committees and serves as chair of the Breastfeeding Committee.



2010 Nurse of Excellence Award

PRIOR RECIPIENTS

Long Island Nominations to the New York State Nurse of Distinction Award Program 1989 - 1995

Eleanor O'Boyle
J. T. Mather Memorial

Sr. Rita Vanson
Mercy Medical Center

Rachel Lin (deceased)
Komanoff Center for Geriatric & Rehab Medicine
(NYS recipient)

Dorothy Pessoli
Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Mildred O'Connor
Lutheran Center for the Aging

Nancy Maehl
Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Darlene Paduano
University Hospital at Stony Brook

Carolyn Van Helden
St. Charles Hospital and Rehabilitation Center

Nassau-Suffolk Nurse of Excellence Award *sponsored by the* Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council

- 1996 **Phyllis Parker**, *J.T. Mather Memorial Hospital*
- 1997 **Alice Friedrich**, *North Shore University at Plainview*
- 1998 **Elizabeth Devine**, *J.T. Mather Memorial Hospital*
- 1999 **Kathleen Miller**, *Long Beach Medical Center*
- 2000 **Kathleen Southerton**, *University Hospital at Stony Brook*
- 2001 **Susan Hovani**, *J.T. Mather Memorial Hospital*
- 2002 **Donna M. Johnson**, *Nassau University Medical Center*
- 2003 **Virginia Reichert**, *North Shore University Hospital @ Manhasset*
- 2004 **Madeline Cozzi-Gottlieb**, *South Nassau Communities Hospital*
- 2005 **Kathleen Perro**, *St. Francis Hospital*
- 2006 **May-Lynn Andresen**, *North Shore—Long Island Jewish Health System*
- 2007 **Donna A. Tanzi**, *Huntington Hospital*
- 2008 **Amy B. Pakes**, *Nassau University Medical Center*
- 2009 **Eileen M. Roberto**, *Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center*



The teapot tradition began in the 1980s with the New York State Legislature’s Nurse of Distinction Program. The first recipient of the Long Island Nurse of Distinction nomination spoke of the challenges that nurses and all of health care face, and will face, in the decades to come. In keeping with the message that day, it was recollecting her comments included, “most of us nurses are like teabags, we don’t know our own strength until we get into hot water.”

The allegory resonated among those involved in the program and it eventually became a custom for a prior recipient of the Nurse of Excellence award to bestow a teapot upon the current honoree. The teapots remind our honored colleagues of their achievement and of their strengths. Like each of us, the teapots are seldom exactly alike. They celebrate the unique value that each Nurse of Excellence brings to those they serve. And, the teapot symbolizes and reminds us that “hot water” often brings out the best in us and in our profession.



*Representing the not-for-profit and public hospitals
serving the residents of Long Island*

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