

THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF THE NEW YORK TRAINING SCHOOL FOR DEACONESSES

N E W S L E T T E R

August 1967

At the Executive Committee meeting of the Alumnae Association of the N.Y.T.S.D. ... held on May 8, 1967, it was the sense of the meeting that, because of the exceedingly small attendance, it would be inadvisable to continue the holding of Annual Meetings. It would seem, therefore, that we would serve our alumnae best by sending out a yearly Newsletter.

Our Annual Dues and Gifts would pay for this and allow us to continue the contributions we have made in the past, as well as engaging in such additional projects the future may open to us.

Your comments are welcome.

From Our President

Warmest greetings to all of you from the Executive Committee members. On May 8 a meeting was held at the Church of the Holy Communion with Dss. Ramsay, Mrs. Frank Botthof, Mrs. Anthony Basile, and Mrs. Clinton J. Kew attending.

On going over the list of those living in the environs of New York, it seemed well nigh impossible to muster enough to have the Annual Meeting at the Cathedral Library. It was decided that from hence the function of the Association will be to collect dues and gifts, to get out a newsletter, and to continue as long as possible the giving of financial support to those same worthy causes to which we have contributed in the past.

You may have wondered what became of the photographs which some of you sent and which were to have been photostated and included in a bulletin. Many were in color, and there was only one really sharp black and white, so we gave it up. At the annual meeting a year ago we passed the photographs around for all to see, and it led to many warm and pleasant reminiscences.

Some may be discouraged at this turn of events regarding the Alumnae Association, but don't be. Remember "frail" faithful Mrs. Hand and all she accomplished in a life time. Our group may be fragile, but if we too are filled with faith, much may yet be accomplished. Our poor messy world still needs us. Do you really, really believe in prayer? Then you know what to do - get busy, and God bless you all!

From Deaconess Edith Booth

I know how difficult it has been for the faithful few in the New York area to keep the Alumnae Association alive and active. The members, as you say, are so scattered, and with no new ones coming in it is impossible to grow and keep the interest of the members.

It will be good, if it is possible, to keep an Executive Committee who can function through mail, with perhaps a meeting of the members at the time of each General Convention. In that way we may be able to keep the spirit of the New York School alive for a few more years but it will need much correspondence on the part of someone (corresponding secretary or such) to keep in touch with all the graduates.

The plans for Deaconess Brereton and myself for retirement are moving along well. The new Deaconesses to be in charge have been called and have accepted. The new Deaconess-in-charge will be Frances Zielinski and her associate will be Deaconess Wenonah McGhee. Both are from the Diocese of Michigan and at present are in parish work in Detroit. We have every confidence that the House will move on now into its next phase of development under their wise leadership.

Deaconess Zielinski will come into residence at the House on September 1st, and at that time Deaconess Brereton will retire to our little cottage "Jubilata Deo" in Whispering Hills in the Chain-of-Lakes area of Illinois, about 50 miles from Evanston. I will remain at the Central House until the first of January when Deaconess McGhee will come into residence and then I will join Amelia in Whispering Hills - along with Max our White German Shepherd, Tuppence our Pug-Terrier and Witches our black Persian cat. A trio which intends to keep us on our toes!

In July, one of our newly ordered Deaconesses (on June 3, 1967) Esther Davis, who has just been graduated from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, with a B.D. degree, and a candidate, Madeleine Brault who was trained in the Deaconess School in Toronto and now a Director of Christian Education in Tucson, Arizona, will come to the Central House for a three week period of Deaconess Instruction.

Our two candidates at Seabury-Western Seminary, Alice Ballard from Dallas, and Noel Knelange from Los Angeles are doing their summer field work in the Parish Training Program of the National Church in the Diocese of Minnesota. Another candidate, Marilyn Snodgrass who has been having a year of special work before being ordered deaconess, in counselling, will soon be established in a position in the Church and then will become a deaconess.

It is good of you to think of the Chapel at the Central House which was furnished in memory of Deaconess Dahlgren - though it is the natural thing to do. We have no definite fund as such for the maintenance of the Chapel. Gifts come to my Discretionary Fund which I use for the purchase of candles, wine and Communion wafers. We have no need for a fund to pay for a chaplain since most of the clergymen in the area and at the seminary are all delighted to have an opportunity to celebrate at our altar. However, if the Alumnae Association would like to start a Fund in Memory of Deaconess Dahlgren which would provide flowers for the Altar on the special feast days - Christmas - Easter - Annunciation, etc., I think this would be a most fitting memorial from the Alumnae to her memory.

If they would like to create a fund for maintaining the chapel - that would be acceptable and would take care of the special items such as the cleaning of the dossal every year or so - and other items.

We both send love to you and to all the members of the Alumnae Association and thank you all again for all you have done to help us with our work at The Central House during the past 14 years.

Affectionately,
Edith A. Booth

Mrs. Augustus Noble Hand, known and loved by so many of the Alumnae of St. Faiths, passed away on April 10th at the age of 95.

Most of us know what she did for the school. When Dr. Huntington died, the Dean of the Cathedral remarked, "It's too bad that the only person on the Board of Trustees with vital interest in the finishing of the new building for the Deaconess House is Mrs. Hand who is so frail and has such poor health!" But how she mustered her forces to be an ever-present support to the school, and our awareness of this was partly due to the lovely spring teas which she used to hold for us.

Other things about Mrs. Hand, perhaps not so well known, are that she was born in Annapolis, Md., April 4, 1872. Her father who died in 1906 in China was at one time commander of the Asiatic Fleet. Her husband, Judge Hand, who died in 1953, was placed in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals by President Coolidge. Judge Hand was first cousin to Judge Learned Hand, also a member of the United States Court of Appeals.

Beside her interest in St. Faith's, Mrs. Hand was President of the Womans Association of Grace Church and chairman of many of its committees. In 1924 she founded what later became the Lower West Side Committee of the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, the first such voluntary committee. She spent her summers in Elizabethtown, N. Y., and was on the Board of Managers of the Elizabethtown Community Hospital, and was one of the founders of the Essex County-Adirondack Garden Club; she is buried in Elizabethtown.

Deaconess Ramsay who attended the funeral which was held at Grace Church, termed it a "joyous occasion." It was attended by three grandchildren, Mrs. T. Guthrie Speers, Jr., of New Canaan, Conn., Mrs. Morton J. Baum, Jr. of Staunton, Va., and Mr. Arthur Savage of Pelham, N. Y. Ten great-grandchildren also attended. One of the hymns was, THERE IS A LAND OF PURE DELIGHT.

Mr. Arthur Savage attends Christ Church in Pelham which is also the church of Catherine Robinson Kew.

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Report of the Treasurer
May 8, 1967

Balance on hand May 7, 1966 \$ 625.37

RECEIPTS

General Fund			
Dues	\$	37.00	
Gifts		37.50	
Interest on Savings Account		10.54	
Total Receipts			85.04
			\$ 710.41

DISBURSEMENTS

To Deaconess Booth for Central House	100.00	
To Deaconess Ashcroft for Tadian	100.00	
St. Margaret's - Bronx	25.00	
Flowers (Mrs. Hand & Dss. Gillespy)	22.26	
Newsletter - September	16.48	
Stamps	10.00	
Envelopes	1.60	
Total Disbursements		275.34

Balance on hand May 8, 1967 \$ 435.07

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Gray Botthof, Treasurer

It was voted on May 8, 1967 by the Executive Committee to send \$100.00 to Deaconess Ashcroft for her training program in Tadian.

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Please return to the Treasurer:

Mrs. Frank Botthof, 851 Springfield Avenue, Summit, N. J. 07901

For 1967 \$ _____ (dues) \$ _____ (gifts)

Name

Street City

State Zip Code

Date 1967