

WAGNER COLLEGE GUILD

Founded in 1918

11th edition

Spring 2021

An Update Letter from President Aletta Diamond

Greetings from the Hill,

The past year has been daunting for all, but we as a group seem to have soldiered on and the Wagner Guild has come together via ZOOM. Although it is far from what we have when in-person, it has kept us connected to the college we love. Our April event had our largest audience to date and highlighted the *Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing*. We enjoyed hearing from Dean Patricia Tooker '79 M'95 D'16 and the virtual tour of the SIM Lab was an "eye opener" for many of us! The SIM Lab was especially important during the pandemic when our students were not able to be in the actual hospital setting. Thank you to Dean Tooker and to our nursing alumni, and Guild members, Theresa Nauta '74, Elissa McDonald '76 and Kathy Vollano '70, who shared their experiences as Wagner Nursing students and how our school of nursing prepared them for their future careers.

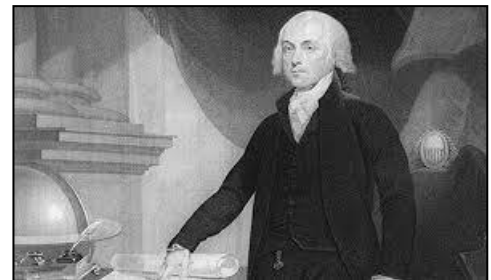


Our Zoom luncheons have also helped the Guild raise \$9,000.00 for the *Make a Difference Fund* which helps students who are experiencing financial difficulties during these unprecedented times, so a BIG THANK YOU TO ALL!

Aletta Kipp Diamond '65 H'15

The Founding Fathers Conservative Lecture Series

Here is another event that you may enjoy. On Monday, April 26 at 7 p.m., please join us for the online presentation of this year's *Founding Fathers Lecture*, "What Would James Madison Think About 'Cancel Culture?'" Our guest lecturer will be constitutional scholar Dr. Colleen Sheehan of the School of Civic & Economic Thought & Leadership at Arizona State University. To register, please visit: <https://alumniconnect.wagner.edu/2021-founding-fathers-distinguished-lecture-series>



Remembering Jean Edith (Rosin) Unhjem

Jean Edith (Rosin) Unhjem passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 7, just a few days short of her 97th birthday. She was a long-time member of both the Wagner College Guild and Trinity Lutheran Church. Jean was an inspiration to many with her strong faith and grace right up to the last days of her life. She was an advocate for Wagner College, where her husband, the Rev. Dr. Arne Unhjem, had been a professor for many years. She will be remembered for her kind and generous heart, and will be greatly missed.

Member Spotlight: Dolly Smith



Dedication to service is the best way to describe Dolly Smith. The list of organizations that have benefited from her sixty years of volunteer assistance is truly amazing. Since she retired from her career at Columbia University, this list includes Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, Visiting Nurse Association of Staten Island, Staten Island University Hospital, Staten Island Historical Society/Richmond Town Restoration, Staten Island Garden Club (her own garden was highlighted in a television production) and of course, Wagner College. Dolly's association with Wagner goes back many years. Her grandfather, Otto Koehler led the building of Main Hall and her father, Daniel supervised the construction of one of the school's first high-rise dormitories. In

1952, when her husband Ken was a naval officer overseas during the Korean War, Dolly was the only female student in two economics classes she took at Wagner that were given by legendary professor Charles Kraemer. When Wagner College president Norman Smith lived next door, Dolly and Ken developed a true love for Wagner's Theater. This strong attachment led to their creating and endowing the annual *Dolly Awards* for Theater at Wagner College in 2017. Dolly's love for Wagner continues in her valued participation in the Guild. We will announce the winners of the 2021 *Dolly Awards* in the next Guild newsletter.

Meet Danielle Gaglia '21 - Spiro Nursing Scholar - A Passion for Nursing

Danielle Gaglia'21 is a senior nursing student from Concord, New Hampshire. When she originally came to Wagner College, Danielle did not plan on studying nursing, she entered as a business major with a concentration in marketing. When looking back on her decision to change majors she recalls, "I didn't feel passionate or excited about my decision to study marketing. I had always had an interest in the medical field and knew many nurses who loved their jobs. With their guidance, as well as the professors in the Wagner Nursing department, I was able to find the passion I had been lacking and realized the drive I had to help people and make a difference. I have seen through my work as a nursing assistant the difference nurses can make in people's lives and I cannot wait to begin my career as a nurse." Danielle's hard work and good academic standing earned her a *Spiro Nursing Scholarship* two years in a row. "I am forever grateful to the Spiro family for their support of my education at Wagner."



In addition to Danielle's diligence in the classroom, she is also very active on campus. She is a member of the Student Nurses Association and the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority. She also worked for many semesters in the Financial Aid office and now works as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Carmel Richmond Nursing Home on Staten Island. Her time at Wagner went by quickly but she looks back with great fondness, "I love how close the community is. I have never walked around campus or gone to a class without seeing a friendly face." Danielle will be graduating this May and she plans to work as a Registered Nurse on a Critical Care Unit in New York City or the Boston area. We wish her much luck and know that she will have a bright future ahead of her!

SAVE THE DATE!

Our next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, June 9. Details to follow!