

MSS  
81-10

St. Joseph College of Nursing, San Francisco. Alumnae Association.  
Records, ca 1945-79.  
2 boxes + oversize photographs.

Includes admissions requirements, constitution and bylaws, 1928 (first) and 1973 (last) yearbooks, class photographs, manual of nursing procedures, course outlines.

Materials on the history of the College.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY**

St. Joseph's Hospital was founded in San Francisco in 1889 by a group of five Sisters of the Order of Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart (originally a German group founded in 1866). The first hospital building was a ten-room house on the southern slope of Buena Vista Heights which had been given to Archbishop Patrick W. Riordan by Miss Jeannie O'Meara with the stipulation that it be used as an institution for the sick and poor as a memorial to Miss O'Meara's deceased mother. The facility was twice expanded during the 1890s, and in March of 1928 the large concrete and steel structure on Buena Vista Terrace that still stands today was opened. The hospital closed in 1979 and the building was converted to condominiums in the early 1980s.

From the time of the hospital's foundation in 1889 to about 1920 all of the general nursing care was given by the Sisters. Most of the Sisters were very competent practical nurses although very few had had a formal education in a nurses' training school. Around 1916, the hospital established a training program for the Sisters in order for them to obtain credentials as graduate nurses; this program was discontinued in 1918. In 1921 the School of Nursing was organized and established; it offered an accredited twenty-eight month course. The school was granted the approval of the Department of Professional and Vocational Standards of the State of California in June of 1921. The school's first alumna, Barbara Taffi, is listed as having graduated the same year. Classes were held in the hospital until 1946, when a separate building for the nursing school was erected on the hospital grounds. In 1939, the school was incorporated as a College under the laws of the State of California and was empowered to offer a basic diploma program in professional nursing. This corporation was dissolved on October 28, 1965, but the program (by then a three-year curriculum) was still called St. Joseph College of Nursing. Temporary accreditation was given by the National League of Nursing Accrediting Service in 1952 with full accreditation by NLN in 1957, and academic approval by the state Department of Professional and Vocational Standards in 1958. The program was renamed St. Joseph School of Nursing in 1966 and remained such until 1973, when its last class graduated and the school closed. Clinical affiliations over the years were with St. Joseph's Hospital, Children's Hospital (1921), County Hospital (1939-1972), Kaiser Foundation Hospital (1966-1973), Letterman General Hospital (1968-1973), St. Francis Hospital (1972), and the county-owned North-East Mental Health Center (1972); an academic affiliation with San Francisco College for Women (later known as Lone Mountain College) was discontinued in 1972. The school accepted male students from 1932 to 1955, graduating forty-nine men during that period; of two male students

admitted in 1970, one graduated with the last class.

The first Alumnae Association of St. Joseph's Hospital was organized in 1924 by thirteen members of the graduating class. The association's object, as stated in its constitution, is "educational and social; to encourage the adoption of a higher educational standard in the profession of nursing; to cultivate closer professional relationships and fellowship among the members." By 1973 the association's membership included over 600 alumnae. The Alumnae Association was active until 2015.

## **CONTENTS: BOX 1**

1. Newsletter with announcement of establishment of archives, 1981
2. Admission requirements form letter and other correspondence re: entrance, 1947
3. Contract for clinical experience at St. Joseph's Hospital, 1978  
**[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2025]**
4. CNA agreement with Affiliated Hospitals of San Francisco, 1978-79
5. Newspaper clippings re: hospital closure and conversion, 1979, 1982, 1987
6. Alumnae Association constitution and bylaws, 1971 revision
7. List of graduates, 1921-73
8. Class of 1950 photographs
9. Class of 1952 photographs
10. Pictorial history of St. Joseph Hospital and College, 1966
11. **The Lamp** (yearbook), 1928
12. Yearbook, school seals on cloth, and form letters regarding school closure, 1973

## **BOX 2.**

13. St. Joseph Hospital Golden Jubilee volume, 1939
14. Manual of nursing procedure, ca. 1948-52
15. Nursing arts course outline, ca. 1949-52

**MAP CASE:** oversize class photographs, 1945-69

MSS  
94-35

St. Joseph College of Nursing (San Francisco, Calif.)  
Addenda to papers, 1933-82. Additional 1952-2004  
3 boxes

Received from A. Politeo, 6/94.  
Includes correspondence, student papers and notes, memorabilia,  
newsletters.

## CONTENTS:

### Box 1

1. *The Stimulus* (alumnae newsletter), 3/18/82 and Constitution and Bylaws, 3/26/71 revised
2. Alumnae correspondence, 1984, 1992
3. Memorabilia (coaster, postcard) & invitations, 1984, 1990
4. *Caps & Belles* (student newsletter), 1954
5. Class of 1955, individual photographs

### Box 2 – filed under AR 94-35

1. Lecture notes and papers, Louise Gray, 1935-1937
2. Case studies, Louise Gray, 1936-1937
3. Student paper, Louise Grant, 1964
4. Student paper, Louise Grant, 1965

### Box 3 – filed under AR 94-35

1. Hospital procedure papers, 1933-1960, 1981

Material which was added to MSS 94-35 Box 1:

folder 6 – photographs from Hazel Nolan were added from the control file  
folder 7 – 1 photograph of RN's on St. Joseph's Operating Staff, 1952 or 1953  
folder 8 – mailing sent to Class of 1952 about school closing  
folder 9 – Class of 1952 reunion material  
folder 10 – Class of 1952 reunion, material from Sisters of the Sacred Heart  
folder 11 – Katherine Ellen Reidy, class of 1952 memorabilia  
folder 12 – obituary of Beatrice Read, faculty member, 2004

8/4/03 1950 framed class photograph donated, o/s