

# PUSH



SPRING 2014

## *The Midwives are coming to Albany!*

### **Annual Lobby Day 2014**

On Tuesday, April 29, midwives and midwifery students from around the state will be coming to Albany to meet their state legislators. This is an opportunity to greet old friends and introduce ourselves to newly elected members of the Assembly and Senate.

Every year we honor a legislator who has pursued and supported important health issues for women. In 2013, our honoree was Senator Liz Kruger from NYC. This year, we will be thanking Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee from Rockland County for her strong advocacy on women's health issues.

In addition to other legislation affecting maternal-child health and midwifery practice issues, NYSALM supports the passage of the Women's Health Agenda; we thank the Assembly for its support of this important step and hope the Senate follows soon with its passage.



President Pat Burkhardt and Senator Liz Krueger, 2013

### **New York Needs Birth Centers Led by Midwives**

NYSALM has been working with Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, Chair of the Health Committee, to introduce a bill that would make it easier for birth centers to open in our state. Birth centers offer a home-like, safe environment for women who are looking for an alternative from more regimented hospital birth. Birth centers which are accredited by a national organization meet strict standards for safety, while permitting women to have a physiologic birth with fewer interventions.

When the bill is introduced, we hope our legislators will see its merit and pass it swiftly.



### **Congrats to the Nurse-Practitioners!**

And thank you to the legislators who helped pass the Nurse Practitioner Modernization Act this year! Like midwives, nurse practitioners have proven that they not only offer quality care, but can help fill the gaps in our health care system. With federal passage of the Affordable Care Act, more New Yorkers will be seeking access to primary care, and in many instances, NPs will be able to diagnose and treat them in collaboration with other health professionals.

## On PBS, you can “Call the Midwife”

NYSALM is excited that Season Three of the BBC series *Call the Midwife* is being shown on PBS stations around the country. The first episode aired on Sunday, March 30 and again portrayed the skill and dedication of the midwives who served the poor in the East End of London in the late 1950s. If you missed Seasons 1 and 2, they are available on Netflix and for purchase from PBS, but don't miss Season Three!

NYSALM sponsored public service announcements before the show during season two on six PBS stations around the state. Unfortunately, budgetary constraints have precluded that expenditure this year, but we are excited that many Americans are learning about professional midwifery, albeit in a different era of scientific advances. Last spring when several of the actresses from the show visited New York City, we learned that a midwife is always on the set during shooting to insure the accuracy of the scenes.



## Fellows of the American College of Nurse-Midwives

NYSALM is a state affiliate of our national professional organization, the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). Each year, ACNM invites several outstanding midwives into the ACNM Fellowship at its annual meeting. This May in Denver, Pat Burkhardt LM, President of NYSALM, and Julia Lange Kessler LM, director of the NYU midwifery education program, will be among the inductees. Fellowship is an honor bestowed upon those midwives whose

demonstrated leadership, clinical excellence, outstanding scholarship, and professional achievement have merited special recognition both within and outside of the midwifery profession.

Pat and Julia join at least fifteen other midwives from New York who have been recognized by our national organization for excellence. Congratulations, Pat and Julia!

## NYSALM's 2013 Annual Meeting Recap

Our 2013 Annual Meeting was held in Seneca Falls in October in tandem with the induction of nationally known midwife Ina May Gaskin into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Other inductees last year included Nancy Pelosi and Betty Ford.



## Doctorate in Midwifery

Ronnie Lichtman, director of the SUNY Downstate midwifery education program, is awaiting final approval from the State Education Department to offer the Doctorate in Midwifery program which has been developed. This will be the first doctorate offered specifically in midwifery in the United States!

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