

# Remembering Two Canadian Nursing Leaders:

## DR. HELEN K. MUSSALLEM AND DR. BEVERLY WITTER DU GAS

BY ETHEL WARBINEK

Within the last year, we lost our two remaining Directors of the VGH School of Nursing – Helen K. Mussallem 1937 and Beverly Witter Du Gas 1945. Both women achieved recognition not only in BC, but in Canada and worldwide. Their legacy will continue for years to come. Both were born in BC, graduated from VGH, worked at VGH, taught in the School and were promoted to Directors. Beverly was an instructor in the School under Helen and succeeded her when Helen resigned. Both were career oriented – desiring to make changes in the way nurses were educated. Both were ambitious, seeking higher education – Masters’ degrees and Doctorates and made a significant impact on international nursing. Their personalities were quite different – Helen was gregarious, loved to entertain friends, family and colleagues and at ease with almost everyone she met – remembering faces and names after many years. Beverly was a very private person, bright with a tremendous memory, hard working, dedicated, an “academic”. In her later years she shared stories about her life and family and spoke fondly of her children and grandchildren.

Space does not permit a detailed account of the careers of these remarkable nurses, so the following is but a glimpse at their remarkable careers and life.

### Helen K. Mussallem Canada’s Most Decorated Nurse January 7, 1915- November 9, 2012

Helen Mussallem was born in Prince Rupert BC, the fourth of six children of Solomon and Annie Mussallem. A few years later, the family moved to Maple Ridge where Solomon became mayor for 23 years. When Helen was a teenager, she was so impressed by two nurses who attended a CGIT meeting (Canadian Girls in Training) that she decided to become a nurse. In 1934, she selected VGH as it was the school attended by her friends. Helen’s sister, Mary, also a VGH nurse, graduated in 1939.

Following graduation in 1937, Helen worked as a staff nurse in the operating room at VGH and then attended the University of Washington where she obtained a diploma in teaching, supervision and administration in schools of nursing. In 1943 she was encouraged to “sign up” by a nursing supervisor and enlisted in the R.C.A.M.C. as a lieutenant. In 1943, she sailed on the Empress of Scotland to Liverpool and then by train to the Canadian Hospital in Marsden Green where she was in charge of the operating rooms before being shipped to Holland and Germany. Following her discharge, she obtained a Bachelor of

*continued on page 2*

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 5

PAGE 6

PAGE 7





Helen Mussallem Endowment Fund was established at the UBC School of Nursing. A prolific writer she had over 40 publications and her book *Succeeding Together: Group Action by Nurses* 1983 was a best seller worldwide. Glennis Zilm has the following recollections of Helen while she was in Ottawa as assistant editor of the *Canadian Nurse*.

"Helen was always proud of "her students" and specially greeted VGH grads and wanted to know all about their program if they were not from "her years." She was especially proud when her students did innovative things in nursing. Helen was a "foodie" and loved to serve huge Lebanese casseroles at various functions. She loved returning to Vancouver and used to come almost every winter (January / February) and often in May for RNABC and VGH meetings, until the last four years. She had a lovely Vancouver apartment with a great view of the mountains. I have memories of her returning to Ottawa after her trip with the ICN to Russia when the cold war ended. She wrote a great piece about the system of nursing in Russia for the *Canadian Nurse*." She also remembers being amazed at Helen's capacity to glide easily between a high society function at the Governor General's mansion and a lowly coffee huddle among the staff.

Over the years, Helen received numerous prestigious awards, citations and honorary degrees. A remarkable nurse leader, she contributed tremendously to the nursing profession, shaping the reform of nursing education and the Canadian Health Care System. After her official "retirement" she served as advisor to national and international health organization in 38 countries, including her ancestral home, Lebanon. A founder of the Canadian Nurses Foundation and several university scholarships, she assisted hundreds of nurses to pursue graduate studies. Her awards are too numerous to list, but include our nation's highest honour, the Companion of the Order of Canada. She was the first Canadian to receive the Florence Nightingale Medal of the International Red Cross and was the recipient of seven honorary doctorates. Helen was the ultimate communicator; a skill developed early in her career, and knew the value of social networking, which she used so effectively.

Helen Mussallem died peacefully in Ottawa in the presence of her friend and VGH graduate, Hallie Sloan, November 9, 2012 following a brief stay in hospital.

For a fascinating account of Helen's life and accomplishments go to: The Dr. Helen K. Mussallem Biography Project at [drhkm.ca](http://drhkm.ca)

**Sources consulted:**

- James E. Mattison, Still opening doors. Reflections on Nursing Leadership. Vol 22, No 2, 2003 pp.10-15.
- The Dr. Helen K. Mussallem Biography Project at [drhkm.ca](http://drhkm.ca)

Nursing degree from McGill and returned to VGH as an instructor in the School. In 1947, she received a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University and returned to VGH as a senior instructor. In 1953, was promoted to Director of the School. During this time she was very much loved and respected by the students. Many years later, when attending one of VGH Alumnae's annual luncheons, she was warmly welcomed by the graduates who were so excited to see her as they had known her when they were students. Even when Helen was unable to attend recent lunches, we were always asked if she was present.

In 1956, she left VGH to take a position with the Canadian Nurses Association, a job she was reluctant to take as it meant leaving her family. She was asked to conduct a survey of Canadian schools of nursing – a monumental task that involved extensive travel and hundreds of interviews. Her findings were published in 1969, in the report *Spotlight on Nursing Education*. This report was described as a "watershed in Canada's movement towards university-based nursing education." During this time, Helen returned to Columbia University and earned a doctorate. Her dissertation was *Path to Quality: A Plan for the Development of Nursing Education Programs within the General Education System of Canada*, 1962. Helen was appointed CNA executive director from 1963-81.

Following retirement from CNA, Helen remained busy travelling internationally as a World Health Ambassador and consultant for the World Health Organization. She sat on over twenty boards. In 1969 she presented the inaugural Marion Woodward, lecture at UBC titled "Nursing Tomorrow". In 1994, Helen received an honorary degree from UBC and in 1999, the

# Beverly Witter Du Gas:

## A visionary

June 29, 1923 – November 22, 2012

Beverly was born in Vancouver and received a BA from UBC and a diploma from VGH School of Nursing in 1945. Following graduation she moved to Seattle where she received a Master of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Washington in 1947. After several years working in Seattle and San Francisco, Beverly returned to VGH working night shifts so she could spend time with her children in the evenings. She described Helen Mussallem as her “saviour” when she offered her a position teaching psychology and neurological nursing to the senior classes in the School. She was later promoted to Senior Instructor and when Helen Mussallem resigned in 1957 was promoted to Director. One piece of advice she received from Helen was to “look after yourself” and she started on a regular exercise program which she diligently adhered to throughout her career and into retirement. She was a member of the Stroke Club for several years.

While Director, she introduced a new educational program discontinuing the outdated block system, replacing it with integrated theory and practice, adding new courses such as community health. Innovative clinical teaching methods were implemented where students observed various nursing procedures demonstrated on real patients at the bedside rather than traditional laboratory demonstrations. She recalled several humorous occasions while director one being members of the new senior class who, when changing to white shoes, strung their old black ones on a line across Twelve Avenue from the student residence to the interns residence across the street. This caused a major traffic jam as drivers slowed down to take a look.

Early one morning in 1965, Beverly received a phone call from The World Health Organization offering her a position as a Nurse-educator in Chandigarh, India – capital of the Punjab. She woke her children and excitedly told them – “We are going to India”. The decision was made to leave the three older children in Canada so they could complete their education and the youngest Dan, who was thirteen, would go with her. She had been at VGH for twelve years now and it was time to move on so she submitted her resignation. Several events were held in her honour such as a big party held in the courtyard. It was organized by the students who performed Indian dances and songs and also learned to cook chapattis and curried dishes.

So Beverly left VGH for India. She returned to Canada two years later in 1967 and in 2003 published a fascinating collection of short stories about her experiences in India. She returned to Vancouver and obtained a Doctor of Education in 1969 from UBC and moved back to Ottawa where she was hired as Nursing Consultant – later Director - of the Planning Division of the Health



Manpower Directorate for the Federal Government. Most of her time was spent travelling to such countries as Ghana, New Guinea, and Korea to assist in the preparation of primary health care workers. She left Ottawa to undertake international assignments and in 1982, she joined the nursing faculty at the University of Ottawa and later became Director, retiring in 1989. During this time she was a pioneer in developing new approaches to the delivery of distance education for nurses such as telephone conferencing.

During retirement, she carried out international consultancies for WHO and CIDA and was an invited scholar in China, the Philippines, Ghana, Tonga and India. She also served as a consultant to the Gur Nanak College of Nursing. She was a founding member of the B.C. History of Nursing Society and served as first president.

Beverly was a prolific writer particularly of nursing textbooks and published numerous articles. Her most recent book was: *The Best Damn School in the Country: The Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing 1957-1965* self published in 2009. This is a collection of stories about the School while she was director. Beverly received many awards such as the Order of British Columbia in 2000 and the Order of Canada in 2001.

Beverly Du Gas brought honour to the VGH School of Nursing. She dedicated so much of her life to the advancement of nursing. Her vision was and remains an inspiration for generations of Canadian nurses and nurses from around the world. She died on November 22, 2012.



# REMEMBERING....

BY BETH FITZPATRICK

*Two of the BC History of Nursing Society's esteemed colleagues and friends are no longer with us. Both Dr. Helen Mussallem and Dr. Beverly Du Gas were honorary members of the Society and over a long period of time, each made lasting contributions to the mission of the Society: to discover, disseminate, and preserve BC's nursing history.*

## BEVERLY DU GAS

Beverly Du Gas (Bev) served as the first and founding President of the BC History of Nursing Group. In this role she was instrumental in guiding the initial efforts to establish the group's constitution and committee structure. In her role as past President she served as nominations chair, she gave a keynote address at the 1991 Annual General meeting; she chaired the abstracts committee for the International History of Nursing Conference in 1996, and was a member of the Archives Committee. Bev joined the Heather Heritage Society and was quite vocal in supporting the preservation of Heather Pavilion as a heritage site with the hope that when renovated, it would house a history of nursing museum.

Always one to embrace "new technology" Beverly introduced the history group to her computer guru Kevin Lee, and shortly after, the group's first website was launched. On her 80th birthday her children sponsored a portrait doll for the RNABC Memorial Doll Collection.

In April 1998, Beverly was given Honorary Membership in the BCHNS for her outstanding and continuous support of the Society. When acknowledging the honour she said "I thank you for awarding me this honour and hope that we will all live to see our dream of a permanent History of Nursing archives established in British Columbia."

Beverly contributed to the history of nursing through writing. She was an accomplished author of nursing textbooks, most of which included historical nursing vignettes, and in recent years she self-published two books full of entertaining accounts of her travels and work in India and her nursing experiences at VGH.

Years before it was fashionable for working women to commit to a regular exercise program, Beverly enrolled in a swimming program at the Vancouver YWCA. Here she met a group of "pool buddies" who remained her loyal friends for over 40 years. After her first stroke she became a respected member of the Stroke Club in Tsawassen. Until about a year ago, Bev regularly attended history of nursing meetings and events, despite her many health challenges.

Bev is described by friends as "a private person". A strong minded, determined, single mother of four children, Beverly Du Gas accomplishments are impressive: we will all miss her and honour her legacy of contributions to the history of nursing.



*Beverly Du Gas enjoying tea at the home of Sheila Zerr, circa 2001*

## HELEN KATHLEEN MUSSALLEM

Helen Kathleen Mussallem, described as Canada's "First Lady of Nursing", had a special place in her heart for her BC history of nursing colleagues. As a nurse from this province who maintained a residence here and in Ottawa, Helen stayed in touch with friends, family and colleagues throughout her life. During her winter visits to Vancouver she would entertain at her lovely West Point Grey apartment or in a nearby restaurant. If you were lucky enough to be on her birthday list, each year you were sure to receive a card with greetings and often a personal note.

In April of 2000 Helen was made Honorary member of the BCHNS. Beverly Du Gas presented the tribute to Helen and talked about her as a friend and mentor. "Helen was Director of the School of Nursing at VGH in 1953 when I first met her. I was working as a staff nurse on a nursing unit and you came down one day looking for me. You were my savior, Helen! I had been work-

ing shifts and doing a double rotation of night duty so I could be at home with my children in the evenings. You offered me a teaching position and I promptly accepted your offer.”

Before Helen left VGH to join the CNA she taught Bev what she needed to know to run the school. “Besides the details of curriculum, clinical rotations, and how to run a nurses residence housing over 500 girls”—in a lighthearted vein Bev continued—“I also learned a few other things that proved valuable: I can now, with great skill, shuffle papers on my desk into neat piles at the end of the day so that it looks as if I am well organized, even if I am not. The bathtub makes a good temporary storage place for student files, when you run out of room on the couch. It is wise to get a report from the Residence Director first thing in the morning before the Director of Nursing phones about all the naughty things students have done.” And finally “Always tilt your chin up when you are smiling for the camera”.

Sheila Zerr shared some of her treasured memories of Helen: “She loved to entertain and cook and serve Lebanese food. Her parties were wonderful! In the late ‘70’s I went with Helen to the Ursuline Convent in Quebec City. The nuns knew Helen and proudly showed us their wax doll collection and beautiful hand woven lace alter cloths. It was here that the idea for creating the Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection, which pays tribute to the nurses and events that shaped the history of nursing in BC, was born. Initially the BCHNS collection began as a memorial to those who had passed away: Helen suggested that the collection should be a tribute to those still with us who wished to memorialize a particular person or period in nursing’s history.



*Helen Mussallem celebrates her 91st birthday with BCHNS friends and colleagues, 2005*



## 2012 Marion Woodward Lecture

Way back in November, nursing history enthusiasts had the opportunity to hear Dr. Sioban Nelson, Dean of the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto and renowned historical scholar, speak at this year’s Marion Woodward Lecture. Early in the day, the UBC School of Nursing hosted a panel session where esteemed scholars—Drs. Sally Thorne, Geertje Boschma, Lesley McBain, and Sioban Nelson—engaged in dialogue about The Future of the History of Nursing Scholarship at UBC & Beyond. At the evening lecture, Dr. Nelson lent a historical perspective to nursing’s status as a global occupation that has supported, and continues to inform, women’s mobility as skilled workers. Her talk was entitled: The History of the Nurse as a Global Skilled Worker: Empire, Reciprocity and the Role of the Regulatory Field. It was especially fitting that this year’s topic was historical, as it was Dr. Helen K. Mussallem who gave the first ever Marion Woodward Lecture in 1969. Her topic? *Nursing Tomorrow*.

## Save the Dates:

**2013 CAHN conference:**  
June 1-3, 2013 in Victoria

**BC Historical Federation Annual Conference** is held in Kamloops this year:  
May 9th – 11th.

**Next Newsletter Deadline**  
June 15  
Send Submission to:  
[ethel@ethelwarbinek.com](mailto:ethel@ethelwarbinek.com)

**Next Meeting: July 18**  
Summer Planning Session  
Check Website for details

# President's Report

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY



## SPRING GREETINGS!

As the days lengthen and the blossoms start appearing, it is time to reflect on our past year and plan for the future. At the end of 2012, the History of Nursing Society received significant donations from two of our members, Nina Rumen and Helen Shore, to be used for financial assistance for nursing students. Work has commenced on the details needed to ensure the awards are in keeping with the donor's wishes.

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Instead of a Spring program in March, the Executive decided to schedule a time to review the ideas generated at the summer planning session, the current terms of reference of the various committees, and the proposed budget for 2013. The people resource ideas accomplished to date are: introducing social media to attract new members and reviewing the requests for booth displays and speaking engagements. The financial resource ideas are to reduce the number of newsletters to 3 per year, commence using PayPal, use the investments for the operating budget, and consider increasing the student fee.

After discussion of the probable future of the society, the work of the various committees was considered. It was recommended that the Pages of History project be closed, that a critical path for the Archives be defined, that the website and newsletter be continued, and that the fees for both students and regular members be increased.

## CAHN Conference 2013

BY CAROLINE  
BURGESS

The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN) annual conference is being held in Victoria, B.C. from June 01-03, in conjunction with the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Sheila Zerr and Catherine Haney (BCHoNS members) will both be presenters at the conference. Catherine will describe her thesis work on the *"Historical Perspectives of Canadian Nurses and their Abortion Work"*, while Sheila will examine the use of oral histories to explore challenges faced by nurses working in Canada's North. A preconference event on May 31st will see some BCHoNS members taking part in a nursing uniform costume event. The preliminary program is now available and highlights the variety of interesting presentations offered over the three days. This is a great opportunity to meet other people who are interested in the history of nursing, so don't miss out!! Go to [www.cahn-achn.ca](http://www.cahn-achn.ca) to register and find out more information.

CONGRESS 2013  
OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

@ THE  
EDGE



# Historic Grasslands 2013:

BY NAN MARTIN - MEMBER AT LARGE

*The BC Historical Federation Annual Conference/ Kamloops / May 9 – 11, 2013  
Includes Field Trips- Presentations – Workshops – Awards Banquet  
See complete schedule on the Federation website: [www.bchistory.ca](http://www.bchistory.ca)*

## **And a little more about.....The British Columbia Historical Federation (BCHF)**

The British Columbia Historical federation has been working since 1922 with historical sites, societies, groups, museums, archives etc. throughout British Columbia preserving and promoting British Columbia's history and providing a provincial forum and united voice for local and regional historical societies. The BC History of Nursing Society has been a Member Society of BCHF since 2004; initiated by Beth Fitzpatrick. The Federation produces an excellent quarterly journal – British Columbia History, as well as a quarterly newsletter containing interesting historical articles. The Federation also offers Annual Awards and Scholarships. Our society has been the proud recipient of the BC History Web Site Prize and the Best Newsletter Award. Plus, our archivist, Francis Mansbridge, received Honourable Mention at the 2012 conference for his book about West Vancouver. The Federation's Annual Conference is the highlight of the year! Since I became the contact person for our society, I have attended several of their conferences and it has always been a great experience and made BCHF "come alive" for me. There is such a warm, friendly atmosphere and the opportunity to mingle with historians interested in all aspects of BC history. I have to miss it this year. Any member of our society can attend – plus, we are allowed 1 (one) voting delegate for each 10 (ten) paid-up members. The cost is reasonable and Kamloops Grasslands 2013 offers an exciting experience!

## Assistant Editor's Note

As the cherry blossoms begin to bloom in Vancouver (lucky us), it is time again for the Spring Newsletter. We would like to extend a huge thank-you to Lynne Esson, who edited and coordinated this issue and to Anita Warbinek Petersen, who designed the layout. We are happy to introduce Carolyn Burgess as a new member and co-editor of this issue – you can read more about her in our New Member Introduction. This issue features a compelling article by Ethel Warbinek and Beth Fitzpatrick honoring the lives and careers of Drs. Helen K. Mussalem and Beverly Witter DuGas. We hope you enjoy this issue and welcome your thoughts and news for the next installment of the HoN Newsletter.



## NEW Member Introduction

Hello, my name is Caroline Burgess, and I am a new member of the BC History of Nursing Society. I have been a nurse since 2005 after graduating from the University of Victoria collaborative program. Since then, I have worked at BC Children's Hospital in both acute and outpatient settings and currently work as a nurse clinician with the Cystic Fibrosis Team. I completed my MSN at Trinity Western University in 2012.

I have always had a keen interest in history, but never considered exploring the history of the nursing profession. During my studies at Trinity Western University, I was inspired by the work of Dr Sonya Grypma, and became excited about the prospect of one day becoming a nurse historian myself. My goal is to begin PhD studies next year with a view to undertaking a historical enquiry.

I look forward to meeting BCHoNS members at future meetings and society events.

Thank you to everyone for such a warm welcome!

# PINS AND MEDALS OF ETHEL JOHNS

BY GLENNIS ZILM



Only a few of those interested in B.C. nursing history have not heard of Ethel Johns – or missed seeing her excellent biography published in 1973 by Margaret Street. Johns (1879- 1968), director of the first nursing degree program in Canada at the University of B.C., was a Nurse Leader Extraordinaire – nurse, administrator, public policy advisor, nurse educator, consultant, researcher, editor, historian, author. And, because of a nomination by the BC History of Nursing Society, she was named a “Person of National Historic Significance” by Heritage Canada in 2009.

But even those familiar with her story might not know of the small collection of pins and medals she donated to UBC’s Woodward Library three years before her death in 1968. Even Street did not provide information. Johns was serving on an Advisory Committee related to a Nursing Collection for the Library. She donated her pins and medals and a small collection of books for the then-new Memorial Room collection. The medals are one of several important nursing artifact collections held by Woodward Library. Two of the other collections are available as digital exhibits on the UBC Library website: the Alice Smith collection of infant feeders and a collection of Florence Nightingale’s letters.

For a project in the 1980s, I arranged for photographs of the medals. In 2012, I gave the photos to UBC Archives for its online digital collection. The Library now is considering an online exhibit featuring these medals and honoring Ethel Johns. So, for this project, I began a search to find out more about these badges than is available in Street’s biography. This is a brief report, to date, on the five medals and pins.

They include her Winnipeg General Hospital School of

Nursing Pin from 1902, which she wore both with a bar and with a silver chain. She also received a George V Silver Jubilee Medal, one of 7,500 presented to Canadians in celebration of King George V’s 25th anniversary in 1935, and, in 1940, a Mary Agnes Snavely Memorial Medal, the highest honor given by the Canadian Nurses Association.

The other two are relatively rare, large, and unusual bronze coins. The Childbert et Ultrogothe Fondateves CXLII Medal recognizes the Hôtel-Dieu of Lyon, France, which opened in 542 and was one of the first major hospitals in Europe. Founders King Childebert and Queen Ultrogothe were Frankish monarchs ruling that part of France. The Marie Depage . Edith Cavell Medal honors British nurse Cavell, first director of the first advanced program for registered nurses in Brussels, and Belgian nurse Depage, wife of the school’s founder. Both nurses were killed during World War I and are considered national heroes of Belgium.

These two probably were gifts from the respective institutions while she was working at the European office of the Rockefeller Foundation in the early 1930s. During this time, several Rockefeller grants for improvement of nursing education, public health nursing, and buildings went to these institutions. Despite searches in Rockefeller Foundation reports and records and in files of Johns’ correspondence at UBC, WGH, and Columbia University archives, no mention of when and how she received them could be found. Any further information about the presentations of the French or Belgian medals would be greatly appreciated.

This article is based on a presentation at the Ethel Johns Research Day, Xi Eta Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau, February 2, 2013, at St. Paul’s Hospital. A full bibliography and list of sources is available from the author, who can be reached through the BC History of Nursing Society Website.

*Photos: Ethel Johns Pin & Ethel Johns Medals. UBC Archives, with permission; view the entire collection online at <http://digitalcollections.library.ubc.ca>*





# FROM THE ARCHIVES:

*The HoN archives have received a few new donations recently! Two of our newest artifacts are highlighted here.*

## Nurse Sara (Sally) Staples' (née Matties)

These photos are just a few of the many moments captured in a scrapbook documenting nurse Sara (Sally) Staples' (née Matties) years at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. This beautiful scrapbook was donated to us after Sally passed away on October 12, 2012. You can learn more about Sally's career and life in the HoN biographical files.



## Medals Awarded to Nursing Sister Muriel Slevin

These medals were awarded to Nursing Sister Muriel Slevin (née Ellis) by King George V at Buckingham Palace. According to the February 23, 1917 issue of The London Gazette, "His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to award the Royal Red Cross Decoration to the undermentioned Ladies, in recognition of their valuable services in Connection with the War" (p. 1947). Slevin's name appears on the "Royal Red Cross 2nd Class" list on p. 1950.

For reference, see: <http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/29959/supplements/1947>

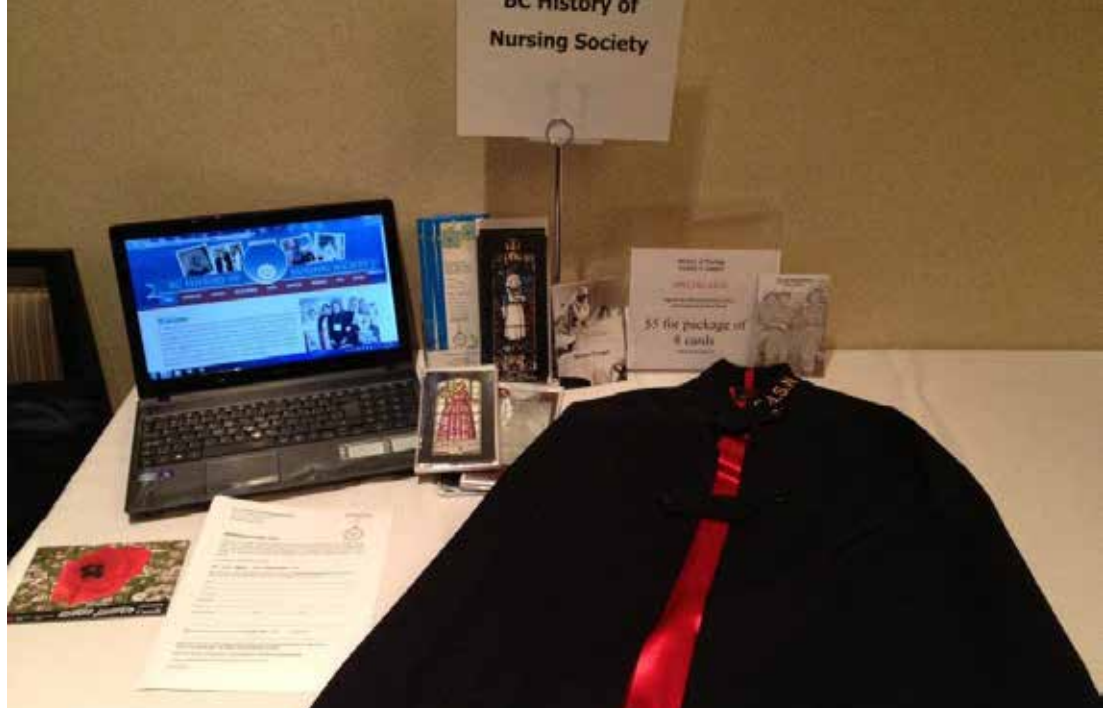
- For more information on the ceremony, see *Our Bit: Memories of War Services by a Canadian Nursing Sister* written by Mabel Clint, which is available at both the Vancouver Public and UBC libraries.

# SCHOLARSHIPS:

The Scholarship Committee reviewed the application from Melissa Suzuki, a Master of Science in Nursing student at Trinity Western University. The decision was made to award \$500 to her for her study entitled, "Public Health Nursing Education and the Child Guidance Clinics in British Columbia 1932-1950".

Member Michele Eng attended a First Nations Nurses conference this past November. She took some BCHNS note cards and set up a small, unmanned display table seen in the photo.

*(Thanks to Glennis Zilm for this information.)*



## MEMBER NEWS



**Genelle Leifso**, currently our most internationally involved member through her work with the Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS), is off to Uganda again in April. She had a trip to Kampala last October that marked a collaboration between CNIS and the orthopedic trauma surgeons at VGH/UBC Department of Surgery, who have an initiative called Uganda Sustainable Trauma Orthopedic Program (USTOP).

Genelle tells us that this team had been going to Mulago Hospital for four years and realized that efforts at improving perioperative nursing would improve the overall outcomes of their surgical initiatives. "I was keen to be involved because there are five surgical groups from UBC going to this same facility, and I thought that if each group 'sang the same song' then the potential for practice improvements would increase," she said. So she brought the parties together and discussed the potential benefits of a collaboration.

"The USTOP group were so pleased with this initial work that we [CNIS] were invited back on this trip," she said. And because obtaining independent funding for perioperative nursing projects "is virtually impossible, working collaboratively is a good alternative – and perhaps even better since the low-income professionals see us (nurses and surgeons) communicating and working together in a most cohesive manner."

Genelle adds that groups in Ottawa and Montreal may be interested in using this collaborative model in their international work as well. You can read more about the trip at the USTOP website - [http://www.orthosurgery.ubc.ca/PDFs/USTOP/2012\\_trip\\_report.pdf](http://www.orthosurgery.ubc.ca/PDFs/USTOP/2012_trip_report.pdf)

When not roving the globe for CNIS, Genelle teaches perioperative nursing in the BCIT Nursing Program and keeps her practice skills top-notch with shifts in various operating rooms. On her return from Uganda, Genelle will visit Ottawa to teach a CNIS Instructors Course there. Following that she is off to present a paper at the Operating Room Nurses Association Conference. "What

# IN MEMORIAM

## JACK, Moya Eleanor 1916 - 2013

Moya passed away on February 7 at the age of 96. She was born in St. John NB and grew up in Halifax. During WWII she served as a Nursing Sister with No.7 Canadian General Hospital in Debert, NS and overseas. She worked in Public Health for many years in Winnipeg and Vancouver, retiring in 1981. Moya was very involved in the Adlerian Society teaching parenting courses, serving on the Board of Directors, attending international conferences and courses, and was awarded an honorary Masters degree in Adlerian Psychology to recognize her commitment and contribution to the society. Her retirement years were enriched by a busy social life, extensive travel, active participation in her church, the Positive Thinkers Toastmasters Club and the Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club (which she joined at the age 83). Moya was much loved and will be sadly missed by her many friends. A Celebration of Moya's Life will be held on Friday, February 22 at 1:00 p.m. at Canadian Memorial United Church, at W15th and Burrard, Vancouver.



Moya received one of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal for her wartime service last spring at a service organized by nursing sister Shirley Ridalls at the Jehrico Mess.

# BOOK REVIEW

## Grypma, Sonya (2012)

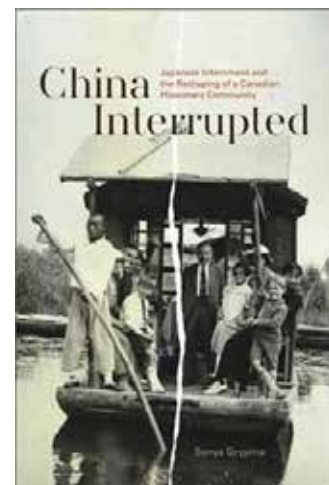
- *China Interrupted: Japanese Internment and the Reshaping of a Canadian Missionary Community.* (Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press).
- Full information is available at: <http://www.wlupress.wlu.ca/Catalog/grypma.shtml>

*China Interrupted* is the story of the richly interwoven lives of Canadian missionaries and their China-born children (mishkids), whose lives and mission were irreversibly altered by their internment as "enemy aliens" of Japan from 1941 to 1945.

Over three hundred Canadians were among the 13,000 civilians interned by the Japanese in China. *China Interrupted* explores the experiences of a small community of Canadian missionaries who worked in Japanese-occupied China and were profoundly affected by Canada's entry into the Pacific War. It critically examines the fading years of the missionary movement, beginning with the perspective of Betty Gale and other mishkid nurses whose childhood socialization in China, decision to return during wartime, choice to stay in occupied regions against consular advice, and response to four years of internment reflect the resilience, fragility, and eventual demise of the China missions as a whole.

*China Interrupted* provides insight into the many ways in which health care efforts in wartime China extended out of the tight-knit missionary community that had been established there decades earlier. Urging readers past a thesis of missions as a tool of imperialism, it offers a more nuanced way of thinking about the relationships among people, institutions, and nations during one of the most important intercultural experiments in Canada's history.

**About Sonya Grypma:** Sonya Grypma is a leading scholar in the history of nursing and global health and an associate professor of nursing at Trinity Western University. She has gained an international reputation for her work on missionary nursing in China, particularly through her groundbreaking book *Healing Henan: Canadian Nurses at the North China Mission, 1888–1947*.





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