

# HISTORY OF NURSING NEWS

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3

JANUARY 2000

## ***Mark Your Calendars!***

## **ENCORE! ENCORE!**

**Saturday, Feb. 12, 2000 1:30-3:30**  
Vancouver General Hospital  
School of Nursing Residence  
at 12th and Heather

You, and friends and guests, are invited to a special presentation of History of Nursing papers on **Saturday, February 12, 2000 from 1:30 to 3:30** at the Vancouver General Hospital's old School of Nursing Residence at 12th Ave. and Heather St. Three of our members (**Ethel Warbinek, Glennis Zilm, and Sheila Zerr**) gave referred historical research papers at conferences last year, and the Group decided to present these once again so HoN Group members could have the opportunity to hear them.

The Vancouver General Hospital Nursing Alumnae Association will host a Valentine tea following the presentation.

Two papers were presented at the Conference of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN) in Edmonton last June, and one at the University of Victoria' Research Day last May. All were well-received. Each paper will take about 20 minutes to present. (See enclosed flyer -- and please post it where others can see it and attend.)



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### President's Pen



Best wishes for a prosperous and healthy New Year from the History of Nursing Group Executive to all our members and friends.

The Executive is meeting now to plan for the Annual General Meeting on April 13, 2000 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver. The History Group's AGM will be held during the Registered Nurses Association of B.C.'s meeting April 13-14, and we hope we will see many of you at that time. The room location will be posted on the Hotel directory.

The HN Group has been given permission to set up a display in the RNABC foyer and library to promote support for the museum/archives being planned for 2012. Glennis Zilm and Jill Thompson are preparing this display.

I am also very pleased to announce a new display in the HN display case in the Board Room at RNABC.

"Highlights of Collective Bargaining by Nurses in BC: 1912 - 1981" is based on a study done by Irene Goldstone and we are so happy she collaborated with HN Executive members in mounting this display. Try and drop in to see it.

The RNABC Leader's Conference, held on November 19-20 at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel, was attended by HN Executive members Lois Blais, Janet Gormick, and Nina Rumen. They put up a HN display and sold note cards and tee-shirts. Total sales were \$357 to support the Archives project. Groups in attendance were Board members, Chapter presidents, PPG presidents, Workplace Representatives, Guests and Staff.

The program included presentations on Being a Mentor, Giving and Receiving Peer Feedback, the Continuing Competency Program, and information on the Registered Nurse Foundation (RNF). (See also more news under "Fundraising" on page 3.)

*Helen Shore*

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**DON'T FORGET: MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2000 ARE NOW DUE**

## FUND RAISING EFFORTS FOR ARCHIVES PROJECT

The Archives Committee made a plan for fundraising in the Fall of 1999. It was decided to begin with the groups closest to the project and to ask them for support prior to going to other groups. The Archives Committee started the ball rolling by suggesting and receiving \$100 from each of its members. They then asked the HN Executive to follow their lead and for each of them to contribute \$100. The challenge was accepted.

On November 15, President Helen Shore attended a Leader's Council meeting (made up of Presidents of the PPG's) and discussed a plan to make a fund-raising request to the participants at the upcoming Leader's Conference. Her plan was given general approval and support. So during Open Forum at Leader's Council, Helen requested each group present -- Chapter Presidents, PPG Presidents, and RNABC Board and Staff -- to go back to their groups and consider making a donation to the Archives Project. Workplace Representatives were asked to consider donating a Page of Nursing History recognizing a member of their

workplace group. To date donations have been received from the Pediatric and the Geriatric PPGs.

Now I am making the request to the HN membership. Would each of you please consider making a donation to the Project? You can make your cheques out to the Archives Development Fund, c/o Lois Blais, Treasurer, and a charitable receipt will be returned to you.

Thank you for your assistance. When we go further afield in our search for funding it will be very helpful to be able to say that we have the monetary support of nurses who have already made a donation. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

*-- President Helen Shore*

## NEARLY 100 MEMBERS!

Membership Chair Jill Thompson reports that, in 1999, the History of Nursing Group achieved a record 99 members. If you peruse the Membership List sent out in early January you will note that we have 5 Honourary Members, 56 full members, 30 affiliates (those who are not members of RNABC), and 8 student members.

## ARCHIVAL DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Regular meetings of the archival development sub-committee take place each month. Sometimes we meet in the History of Nursing office at UBC, but most often we meet around Nina Rumen's dining room table where ideas and plans flow. Each committee member reports on an area of responsibility.

Beverly DuGas seeks out publications. We are proud of her article "A Place Of Our Own" which appeared in the November-December 1999 issue of *Nursing BC*. Please read Bev's article and get a bird's-eye view of archival plans and activities.

Helen Shore is attending to our education and knowledge of the archival process. She set up a meeting with Bill Purver, B.C. Archives Association Advisor. Bill provided us with many important archival issues to consider.

Helen and Janet Gormick's work on organizing the UBC office is most impressive. Janet and Lois Blais, our treasurer, are working on fund-raising plans. With the help of Beverly Du

Gas, the committee met with Brian Chittock, Executive Director of the Delta Hospital Foundation, on November 16, 1999. We learned about effective fund-raising methods and hope to make use of the many valuable ideas Brian shared with us.

Nina Rumen and Sheila Zerr attend to on-going projects. The "Pages of History" project continues to grow with 17 pages in the album to date. Other fund-raising projects are being planned, such as a joint dinner/evening with the Registered Nurses Foundation of B.C., formal tea parties, exclusive dinner parties, a nursing calendar, and so on.

Lois Blais and Nina Rumen have been busy carrying out an immunization/ flu shot program. All earnings have been given to the archive development fund. Ask them about their reputation for giving the best needles in town!!

We have lots of work ahead. Establishing a clear picture of our archive plan is our first priority for 2000. We will keep you posted.

-- Sheila J. Rankin Zerr,  
Chair, Archive Development  
Sub-Committee

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**BOOK REVIEWS**

*A WHOLE LITTLE CITY BY ITSELF*, by Wayne Norton. Kamloops, Plateau Press, 1999, 192 pages, soft cover, \$21.95.

The subtitle, "Tranquille and Tuberculosis" gives the focus of this well researched book. The author takes Tranquille and the British Columbia Anti-Tuberculosis Society through the years of establishing this western sanatorium -- through WWI when a veteran's TB hospital had to be created temporarily in Balfour, through the disputes with soldier patients, to provincial takeover, to needed and welcome expansions and modernization of facilities (especially the operating room), to impending closure.

The citizens of Kamloops alternated between acceptance and rejection of this institution housing patients with an infectious disease. There were many changes in public perception, politics, and patient care over the years. The fears of locals, when added to the isolation of the Fortune farm, forced the sponsors operating the site to create "A Whole Little City By Itself."

The community of Tranquille had its

own farm to supply meat, milk, fruit, eggs and vegetables. There was staff housing and a school for employee's children. In early years access was by boat but when the Canadian National Railway pushed a line on the north side of Kamloops Lake, a station was built with a spur for Tranquille deliveries. Later as labor regulations necessitated extra personnel a bus ran between Kamloops and the sanatorium. Some staff commuted regularly. Recovering patients used the bus for an exciting taste of civilization with a rare half-day pass.

Initially the patients were working class white males. Gradually space was created for female sufferers. No natives and no Asians were accepted as patients or hired as staff until after WWII. Also noted was the fact that no one on staff became infected with the tubercle bacillus. Nurses or physicians who became patients at Tranquille were infected in a general hospital or private home setting when working with patients with illnesses of injury unrelated to TB.

When the Government knew Tranquille was about to be abandoned by TB patients an advisory committee dithered for two years before finding a

new use for the lovely buildings. The period of vacancy hastened the deterioration of the buildings. From 1958 to 1984 mentally disabled citizens were cared for here, when one scheme after another failed. What was once a peaceful, beautiful hospital complex is an unsafe jungle of weeds and falling structures.

The book is a thought provoking report on a British Columbia institution which served its clientele so well that it became superfluous.

-- Naomi Miller

[Naomi Miller is a relative newcomer to the History of Nursing Group, but was for many years Editor of the *B.C. Historical News* and a long time heritage/ history researcher and writer. A graduate of Vancouver General, she worked at Tranquille, then later at the Willow Chest Centre and at Pearson Hospital. -- Ed.]

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**MAINSTAYS: WOMEN WHO SHAPED BC**, by Cathy Converse. Victoria: Horsdal & Schubart, 1998.

Described as "short, lively

biographies of 20 memorable women," Cathy Converse's book entertains us with her intriguing descriptions of BC women in education, community building, art and literature, public health, politics and law, and science.

Enhanced by wonderful (and numerous) black and white photos, the author presents the inspiring stories of women whose lives often took unexpected turns. All are of interest; many were amazing because of what they accomplished in their time. To quote the back cover, women "weren't all ironing shirts and baking bread."

The chapter dedicated to "Women in Public Health" opens with the story of Frances Dalrymple Redmond (1854-1932) who was Vancouver's first public health nurse, and who was referred to as Vancouver's "Little Florence Nightingale." Redmond founded one of the earliest hospitals in Vancouver and acted as superintendent for years, later developing a training school for nurses. Wounded in the Boer War, Redmond was one of the few women in the world to receive the Victoria Cross.

Sister Redmond, as she is called in this book, completed her studies in

nursing and midwifery at Montreal's Laval University. This she accomplished while her son was attending university in England and at a time and place which necessitated leaving her physician husband at home to carry on with his professional responsibilities.

There is much more of interest in the life of Sister Redmond. And there is much more of interest in the lives of all the fascinating women in the book. We need to know our history -- and Converse's book is not only inspiring but it is great fun to read. From Evelyn Farris through Pauline Johnson to Rosemary Brown among others, one cannot help but feel proud of the accomplishments of these fine Canadians.

-- Jill Thompson

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**CASSANDRA AND OTHER SELECTIONS FROM SUGGESTION FOR THOUGHT**, by Florence Nightingale, edited by Mary Poovey. New York: New York University Press, 1993. (Available RNABC Library BL 50 N47 1992 VARN)

The "essays" that make up this book

were originally written by Florence Nightingale circa 1850 to 1860 and some were privately printed in 1860. One -- *Suggestions for Thought to the Searchers after Truth among the Artizans of England* -- is printed here for the first time.

Poovey, an historical scholar, has made a selection from the privately printed version. These are moralistic and religious essays, and rather hard slogging for today's times, but are interesting in that they reveal a young Florence Nightingale as a moralistic thinker and scholar. Some of these essays were shared with John Stuart Mill.

Poovey's "Introduction" to the book is good -- and there is a chronology, a complete list of Nightingale's works, and a fairly complete list of books about Nightingale's life and work.

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#### **DISPLAY AT RNABC: MEMBERS AS AUTHORS**

The display at in the History of Nursing display case in the RNABC Board Room during September and October of 1999 is worth mentioning as

part of the book review pages. Although it is easy enough to arrange a display of nursing books, this one represented an impressive body of work by nurse authors who also happen to be members of our BC History of Nursing group. They are to be congratulated for their successes and we applaud them for their hard work and wise words.

Honorary members **Monica Green**, **Verna Splane**, and **Beverly Du Gas** were represented by their highly successful books in the fields of public health nursing history, nursing administration (chief nursing officers), and nursing education respectively. Dr. Du Gas' many textbooks have been well received by Canadian schools of nursing (as well they should) and have in several instances been translated into other languages.

HON member **Lynne Esson** was one of two co-authors of Du Gas' new comprehensive nursing text, which interestingly featured History of Nursing vignettes written by member **Glennis Zilm**. From among other full members, six authors were included in this display. Two books by **Glennis Zilm** were shown: one, written with **Ethel Warbinek**, tells us the fascinating history of the UBC School

of Nursing; the other is a very useful guide with which to improve one's writing skills (including the suggestion not to overuse the word "very").

Also in this display was **Sheila Zerr's** book that she co-authored as a pharmacology and nursing process text and which successfully sold in several editions. **Glenora Erb's** book, written with **Barbara Kozier**, was part of this display while member **Sally Thorne's** books were a feature of a display at the UBC School of Nursing's "faculty authors" during the 80th anniversary Open House during the same time.

Finally, **Kirstine Griffith's** small yellow book describing religious aspects of nursing care was displayed along with **Edith Landells Lees's** three volumes of stories by military nurses.

All of our member authors are to be thanked for their contributions to the literature of our profession of nursing. Our apologies to any member authors we may have inadvertently missed. The display was not meant to be definitive, but a representative tribute to all our members who write. Please consider the display a work in progress!

-- *Jill Thompson*



## UK PLANS CENTRE FOR HISTORY OF NURSING

The United Kingdom Centre for History of Nursing will open July 6, 2000 at the Royal College of Nursing's History of Nursing Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland. The Centre aims to:

- \* create an awareness of the history of nursing
- \* advance education in nursing history
- \* encourage and facilitate research in history of nursing.

The Royal College of Nursing Archives and Queen Margaret University College Edinburgh are founding members. In the initial phase, three founding associates have joined in the work of the Centre: the School of the Humanities at Oxford Brookes University, the Department of Nursing Studies at University of Edinburgh, and the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine of the University of Glasgow.

The Centre will be launched at an evening event during the Millennium Conference, which takes place in Edinburgh July 6-7, 2000. Further information can be obtained from Glennis Zilm at (604) 535-3238 or by e-mail at < Glennis1@aol.com >.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Joan Doree was interviewed by Vancouver *Sun* reporter Rebecca Wigod and the story of some of Joan's wartime experiences written up in the paper for Nov. 11, 1999. Joan, who worked in a base hospital in Basinstoke, England, cared for some of the most seriously burned patients. Also written up in the same article was Ruth (Littlejohn) McIlrath, who attends many HoN functions and, like Joan, has made presentations to the Group.

(Source: Wigod, R. [1999, Nov. 11]. Nurses' war experiences vivid in remembrance. *Vancouver Sun*, p. 17c.)

Don Ransom, former treasurer for the History of Nursing Group, is recovering from emergency coronary surgery. He was hospitalized at St. Paul's in December. Get Well wishes go to Don.

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## IN PRINT

Zilm, Glennis, & Warbinek, Ethel. (1999). Profile of a leader: Scharley Phoebe (Wright) Brown. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Leadership*, 12(3), 24-26.

## OBITUARIES

**Marilyn Jackson**, a long-time member of the History Group, died January 2, 2000 after a long battle with cancer. Our deep sympathies go to her husband John and family.

A graduate of Wellesley Hospital, Toronto (1954), University of Manitoba (1969), and University of Toronto (1977), she then joined the faculty of University of Victoria where she taught until her retirement in 1995. She will be especially remembered for her major contributions in gerontological nursing.

Among her honours were a World Health Fellowship, honorary life memberships in the Vancouver Island Multiple Sclerosis Society and Canadian Gerontological Association, and an RNABC Award presented in 1999.

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English Nursing Historian **Monica Baly** has died. She was 84. Author of *Nightingale and the Nightingale Legacy*, *Nursing and Social Change*, and *Miss Nightingale Said*, she was an outspoken critic of the myths surrounding Florence Nightingale's contributions. Dr. Baly completed her doctorate in history after retirement in a long career as an officer of the Royal College of

Nursing (RCN). She was also the first Chair of the RCN's History of Nursing Society and one of the founders of the Florence Nightingale Museum.

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## ANOTHER MONUMENT

Member **Lynda Thornton** recently noticed a small fountain in a grove of trees at the Ocean View Cemetery in Burnaby, and on closer inspection found that the pedestal is inscribed:

Erected by  
the Citizens of  
Trail, BC  
to the memory of  
**Nurse Mildred Neilson**  
1890-1925  
"So greatly loved"

At the moment, we do not have further information, but are checking. Lynda's photographs will be added to the collection the Group has on "monuments to nurses." (Thanks, Lynda)

We are always interested in receiving news of monuments, especially those from outside the Vancouver area.

## COMING EVENTS

- \* First Thursday of every month: History Group Executive Meeting from 4 pm to about 6 pm, usually at the RNABC. All members are welcome to attend. For further information, call President Helen Shore at (604) 731-9588.
- \* March 18, 2000: History Group Program, with Lois Blais speaking on *Nursing Ethics*. This St. Patrick Tea Meeting will be from 1:30 to about 3:30 at the B.C. Lung Association Building on Broadway. For further information, call Nina Rummen at (604) 733-7529.
- \* April 13, 2000: History Group Annual General Meeting at 8 am at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver. Watch for further information in next Newsletter.
- \* June 8-10, 2000: Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN) Conference and General Meeting, Fredericton, NB. For further information, Dr. Ann Rheaume, Ecole des sciences infirmieres, University of Moncton, Moncton, NB E1A 3E9.
- \* June 18-21, 2000: Canadian Nurses Association Convention and AGM, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver. Further information, call CNA or check website [www.cna-nurses.ca](http://www.cna-nurses.ca)
- \* July 6-7, 2000: Royal College of Nursing (UK) Millennium History of Nursing Conference, University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Further information: Andrea Stirling, Conference Coordinator, RCN Scottish Board, 42 South Oswald Rd., Edinburgh, UK EH9 2HH or e-mail: [archives@rcn.org.uk](mailto:archives@rcn.org.uk)

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## COLLECTIBLES

A retired nurse in Ontario has a collection of 125 different nursing caps from across Canada. **Gloria Kay**, a member of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN), began collecting caps several years ago and has had several articles written about them and their history.

If any of our members have a cap and would like further information about donating it to Mrs. Kay, please get in touch with Glennis Zilm at (604) 535-3238.

## HISTORY OF NURSING PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE GROUP OF THE REGISTERED NURSES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The History of Nursing Professional Practice Group provides a forum for those interested in the history of nursing to exchange ideas and information. The Group, formed in 1990, strives to stimulate interest in history of nursing and promotes study of and research into history of nursing in British Columbia. The Group also encourages the teaching of nursing history in educational programs and can assist in the preservation of historical nursing materials.

Membership categories are honorary, full, affiliate and student. **Full members** must be paid-up practicing or paid-up non-practicing members of RNABC. Interested individuals not paying RNABC practicing or non-practicing fees may join as **affiliate members**. If you are enrolled in a nursing education program or are a registered nurse enrolled in a graduate program, you may join as a **student member**. Please get in touch with any member of the executive if you are interested in membership.

Dues for 1999 are: Full and Affiliate \$20; Students \$5. Membership year is January 1 to December 31. Send name, address, telephone number, or name of the educational program. Make checks to "History of Nursing Group" and send to: **Lois Blais**, Treasurer, 4074 West 16th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6R 3E1.

### THE HISTORY GROUP'S NEWSLETTER

The History of Nursing News is published irregularly four times a year by the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia. Unsolicited material is welcome, but the Editor reserves the right to shorten, reject, or edit materials in consultation with the author(s). APA style preferred. Editor Beth Fitzpatrick, Box 444, Brackendale, B.C. VON 1H0 1-604-898-3156 E-mail address:

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