

*Don't Forget*

**MEETING -- FEBRUARY 12, 1994, 1400 hours**

**"CORRECTING THE BIAS"**

**"Avoiding Romantic Notions in Nursing History"**

**Speaker: DR. BARBARA KEDDY**

Dr. Keddy teaches in the School of Nursing at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

Renowned for her work and research in feminist theory and nursing history,

she is a Visiting Scholar 1993-1994 at the University of Victoria.

She is a founding member of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing.

**Time: 2 p.m. Saturday, February 12, 1994**

**Place: Faculty Lounge, UBC School of Nursing**

**Third Floor, Acute Care Hospital Building, UBC Campus Hospital**

**Parking: Metered parking in front of the hospital and along Wesbrook Mall**

**Parking lot to the South of the Building is inexpensive**

**Parkade behind the hospital is close, but expensive**

### **Newsletters Delayed**

This issue of the Newsletter (December 1993, mailed February 1994) is the fourth and final edition of 1993. It was delayed because the editor was busy in other areas. All 1993 members will receive this newsletter, plus a reminder that 1994 fees are now due. The mailing will also go to new 1994 members.

Four Newsletters are planned for

1994, with the next issue scheduled to appear late in March. The editor would appreciate hearing from members who would be willing to assist with writing and preparing the March issue.

Special thanks go to Sheila Zerr, who was guest editor for the previous edition. Special thanks also to Nina Rumen and Brenda Flynn for mailing assistance.



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**\*\* EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS \*\***

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The following is news from the December 7, 1993 meeting of the Executive Committee.

\* The Annual General Meeting of the History of Nursing Group has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 1994, either late afternoon or early evening. The meeting will take place during the RNABC's Annual Meeting (April 7-8, 1994) at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver. The RNABC's annual convention for 1994 has been cancelled, which has altered the plans for this year's HoN meeting as well.

\* Because of the limited times available, the Executive Committee has recommended that the HoN Group Annual Meeting focus only on business. Although there will be no special guest speaker, displays are planned.

\* The Executive is looking into ways to promote the Group during the RNABC annual meeting. A "silent book auction" featuring history books has been suggested. Anyone who has ideas for displays at the RNABC meeting or for the HoN Annual Meeting, please get in touch with a member of the Executive.

\* The Executive, through President Helen Shore, is following issues related to the disposition of historical information and artifacts related to the closure of Shaughnessy Hospital. Michael Gourlay has been appointed Hospital archivist to assist with the disposition of materials from Shaughnessy.

\* Biographical Committee Chair Ethel Warbinek reported that files on several B.C. nurses have been completed and added to the collection housed in the RNABC Library. Most recently the Bio Files on Frances Benedict and Esther Paulson were added.

\* The Biographical Committee also is looking after nominations for the CNA Memorial Book. Biographical submissions are being prepared for nurses who died during the 1960s and 1970s and during 1993, including Ethel Johns, Evelyn Mallory, Mabel Gray, Alice Wright, and Helen Randall.

\* Treasurer Nina Rumen reported that a Finance Committee has been established to help keep an eye on finances and to do the annual check of the HoN Group's books for year-end and for the annual meeting. Don Ransome and Edith Lees have been named to the committee.

\* President Helen Shore has started to organize liaison with Nursing Alumni Groups from early B.C. Hospitals. The first hospital to be so involved is Saint Eugene's Hospital of Cranbrook, B.C.

\* Sheila Zerr arranged for the typing of the Job Descriptions for the Executive of the HoN Group. Working from the disk obtained by Sheila, Glennis Zilm will try to prepare a small booklet which can be used when nominations are being sought for positions at the annual meeting. (Copies of the booklet are not yet ready, but will be available sometime in March.)



**\*\* NEWS \* NEWS \* NEWS \*\***

**RESOLUTION SUGGESTS  
B.C. "IN MEMORIAM" BOOK**

The HoN Group, through its Executive Committee has submitted a resolution to the Annual Meeting of the RNABC calling for a B.C. "In Memoriam" book.

The proposed book would be modelled on the "In Memoriam" book of the Canadian Nurses Association, but would also recognize nurses whose contributions have been mainly provincial (rather than national). For example, last year Dr. Margaret Campbell's nomination was not accepted for the CNA book despite her significant contributions to nursing including those toward development of a Nursing Model.

A resolution to this effect has been drawn up and submitted to RNABC to be brought forward at its Annual Meeting April 7-8, 1994. A main difference proposed for the B.C. Book from the CNA one would relate to presentation. Apparently, the beautiful CNA book, with hand lettering and illumination as well as photographs, is costly to produce. The proposal for the B.C. book suggests a more modest presentation.

**UBC SCHOOL OF NURSING HOSTS  
RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

The UBC School of Nursing will host an International Nursing Research Conference in Vancouver in May 1994 as part of the School's 75th Anniversary celebrations.

Sheila Zerr, one of the History of Nursing Group members, has had a paper on history of nursing accepted for presentation at the conference.

For further information about the Conference, please get in touch with the School of Nursing or with HoN Group Secretary Anne Karl.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Dr. Beverly DuGas, past president of the HoN Group, is chair of the Nominations Committee and is seeking names of individuals who would be willing to let their names stand for positions on the History of Nursing Group Executive. (Phone 327-0602.)

Positions to be voted on at the HoN Annual Meeting in April include: President, Vice-President, and one of two Members-at-Large. Elections were held last year for Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, and the other Member-at-Large.

All members of the Executive recently prepared job descriptions, which will give you more information about the duties. The positions involve attending executive meetings (approximately 8 times a year, usually in conjunction with other Group events, such as speakers) and, in some cases, heading committees of members interested in some special area of the Group (such as the Biographical Committee).



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\* PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE \*

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In the summer of 1993, the History of Nursing Group undertook a new initiative for the preservation of nursing history in British Columbia. A new committee, named the History of Nursing/Nursing Alumnae Partnership, is committed to a cooperative liaison with nursing alumni groups in B.C. Our concern arose as we considered how many hospital schools of nursing have already been closed and how much valuable historical material could be lost.

The alumni from nursing schools will be valuable resources in helping to preserve nursing history. Some schools have recorded their history, others have not. Sometimes the only nursing record may be held in the memories and stories of their graduates. There are photographs, biographies, oral histories, and other such materials to be collected.

We believe the Nursing History Group has gained valuable knowledge and experience over the past several years that would assist in the collection of biographies, taping of oral histories, and preservation of artifacts. We are willing to share what we have learned and we are eager to enter into partnership with others who care deeply, as we do, about the preservation of our nursing history. The History Group does not see itself as a repository, but does seek to find safe repositories and cataloguing for nursing materials.

So we began by contacting one of our History Group members, Sister Mary Celestine, who provided us with information about other graduates of St. Eugene's

Hospital School of Nursing, Cranbrook, B.C. We sent each of them some background information and a request for completion of a biographical form. We hope to hear from these graduates and develop our collaboration as time goes along.

Will you help? We need your assistance in providing names of nursing alumni groups and the name and address of the individual to contact. **This information is not available in the RNABC Library.** Your ideas and suggestions are very warmly welcomed. Please write or telephone.

-- *Helen Shore, President*

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### PATCHWORK HISTORY

Queen's University's School of Nursing found a unique way to commemorate its 50th birthday in 1991 -- a History of Nursing Patchwork Quilt.

The magnificent handicraft quilt represents more than 1,000 hours of work by members of the Kingston, Ontario, Heirloom Quilters. Designed by local artist Roslyn Hanes, the design incorporates a scene showing three graduating nurses and the tower of the nursing building, plus significant symbols related to the School of Nursing and its history.

The quilt now is part of the collection at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre in Kingston.

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**\*\* IN MEMORIAM \*\***

**MARGARET STREET**

1907 - 1993

Margaret M. Street, one of Canada's most distinguished nurses, died December 7, 1993, following a relatively brief illness. A renowned nursing educator, administrator and historian, she was the first honorary life member of the B.C. History of Nursing Group and attended most Group meetings.

Born May 20, 1907 in Toronto, her family moved to Winnipeg when she was eight. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba in 1928, then took her teaching certificate and taught in Manitoba schools. In 1933, she began her nursing education at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, graduating in 1936. From 1936 to 1941, she taught nursing in Victoria and Vancouver.

She took a post-baccalaureate diploma in teaching and supervision at McGill in 1942. During this time, she met Ethel Johns, editor of The Canadian Nurse, when she submitted a paper for publication. Following graduation, she taught nursing in Winnipeg, where she met and become close friends with Gertrude Hall, one of Canada's outstanding nursing leaders. In the next 20 years, she held a number of senior administrative or elected positions with provincial nursing associations in Manitoba, Quebec, and Alberta. In 1962, she obtained her master's degree from Boston University.



She then joined the faculty of the School of Nursing at the University of B.C., where she held distinguished teaching honors until retirement in 1972. As well as her teaching responsibilities, she was deeply involved with planning for the Health Sciences Centre Hospital at UBC.

While at UBC, she renewed her acquaintance with Ethel Johns and later wrote a biography of this noted nursing leader. Watch-fires on the Mountains: The Life and Writings of Ethel Johns was published by the University of Toronto Press in 1973. This has been acclaimed as an

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outstanding biography of a North American nursing leader and is considered a classic in history of nursing.

She received many honors, including the Walter Stewart Baird Medal from the Faculty of Medicine at UBC for her "contributions to the history of health sciences." She received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 and was invested into the Order of Canada in 1982.

She lived quietly in retirement in Vancouver, but retained her interest in nursing activities, especially those related to history of nursing.

She is survived by one brother and by many nieces and nephews.

A few years ago, she was interviewed for the Oral History collection of the RNABC. Copies of this tape are available from the RNABC Library.

**HELEN MUSSALLEM TO BE HONORED BY UBC**

Dr. Helen K. Mussallem, one of the HoN Group members, will be recognized for her many outstanding contributions to nursing with an Honorary Doctorate from the University of B.C. in May. This is another of the many awards she has received for her contributions. A former executive

director of the Canadian Nurses Association, she has been described as "a nurse of the world."

Since retirement from CNA in 1981, Dr. Mussallem has continued to serve as consultant and advisor on nursing to groups such as the World Health Organization. A graduate and former director of nursing of the Vancouver General Hospital, Dr. Mussallem has maintained her links with B.C. throughout her career.

**SURVEYS AVAILABLE**

A few copies of the Survey of Nursing History Materials in British Columbia, published in December 1990 by the RNABC, are still available. Copies were sent to members in 1991 and the History Group has sold a few since then.

If you are interested in a copy of this 64-page document, which identifies archives, libraries, and museums in B.C. that house nursing materials, please get in touch with Treasurer Nina Rumen (phone 733-7529). Price is \$10 including shipping and handling.

**INTERESTING BOOK TO LOOK FOR:**

Keele, Mary (Ed.). (1981). *Florence Nightingale in Rome: Letter written by Florence Nightingale in Rome in the winter of 1847-1848*. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Association.



\*\*\* SHAUGHNESSY CLOSURES THREAT TO LENNIE SCULPTURES \*\*\*

The government closure of Shaughnessy Hospital in the summer of 1993 marked an end to a 74-year-old Vancouver landmark. The closure also raised concern about Beatrice Lennie's stone sculptures framing Shaughnessy's entrance, one of them honoring nursing.

In high relief on the three huge (three-ton) panels, each measuring 8 x 5 feet, are pairs of allegorical figures. One panel shows a nursing sister encouraging a wounded soldier. The panels were commissioned by Mercer and Mercer, architects for the hospital, in 1940 and installed in 1941 at the new entrance.

Edith Beatrice Catherine Lennie (1904-1987) was a significant and active sculptor in Vancouver's artistic community. She attended Crofton House School, took art courses at Lowell, Massachusetts, and was one of the first pupils enrolled at the Vancouver Art School when it opened in 1925. She studied sculpture under Charles Marega (sculptor of the Bridge lions, Captain Vancouver's statue, and the Harding memorial) and painting under F.H. Varley, one of Canada's famed "group of seven." After post-graduate courses at San Francisco's School of Fine Arts, she opened a studio in Kerrisdale. She is remembered as the first professional woman sculptor in B.C.

The stone panels at Shaughnessy are highly respected by individuals and groups in Vancouver and B.C. When the threat of Shaughnessy's closure became imminent, local groups spoke out on the need for their preservation. Petitions were circulated and sent to city and provincial governments



requesting proper de-installation and deposit of the panels in an appropriate Vancouver museum if the hospital is demolished. If the building is not torn down, it is requested the panels be designated as Class A Heritage.

The Vancouver Historical Society President, John Spittle, sent letters to the mayor of Vancouver and to the provincial ministers of tourism and health. Positive replies were received from each. In September 1993, the newspapers reported a change in positions of every one of these officials.

Vigilance and prompt, concerted action may be required once again, depending on the final outcome determined for Shaughnessy Hospital. Please keep abreast of the happenings and make your concerns known about the protection of these important memorials.

— Helen Shore  
President, HoN Group



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\*\*\* EDITORIAL \*\*\*

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**Of Volunteer Time**

I apologize for the lateness of the last two issues of the Newsletter for 1993. I have been extra-ordinarily busy and paying commitments have kept me from being able to work on the Newsletter in the way I would wish. Anyone who is involved with volunteer efforts knows that these take time. However, sometimes it is not possible to find someone else to take over on short notice when work piles up. Often it is not even easy to find someone to read proofs when you have only two hours, as you finish typing, to get the edition photocopied and ready to send (as with this issue!).

My sincere thanks go to Sheila Zerr, who took over the third issue of the 1993 Newsletter as guest editor and produced a wonderful issue. I also have received much support and assistance from Helen Shore, Nina Rumen, and Brenda Flynn. Despite their assistance, however, production of a newsletter still takes me a minimum of ten hours even for a small, roughly produced issue such as this one. (Possibly someone else could do it quicker -- but I am not a skilled typist, and I have to write much of the material as I go along.) Getting ideas for material is no problem -- I have a box full of materials, but it all needs work before it can be used. Even when I receive ideas and materials for submission, it still takes me many hours to put these into a newsletter format. For example, I have received much information recently from well-known nursing leaders and HoN Group members Dr. Shirley Stinson and Dr. Helen Mussallem. Their news is not included in this issue simply because I did not have time to organize it and type it up.

I also have a number of leads for "articles" from papers submitted to a course I taught recently -- but to pursue these leads would take an additional several hours -- which I do not have.

So this editorial is a plea for your patience and for your assistance. I sincerely hope that I can get the first issue of the 1994 Newsletters ready for March. However, if you have time and would like to volunteer to act as assistant editor for the next edition, please get in touch! (Phone 535-3238.

-- *Glennis Zilm*

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**CORRECTION**

In the 1993 Membership List, there were two errors. Esther Paulson should be listed as a full member (not associate), and her address is incorrect. Please change to the following:

Esther Paulson  
#507 -- 1755 West 14th Ave.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 2J6

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**THE HISTORY GROUP'S NEWSLETTER**

The History Group's *Newsletter* is published irregularly four times a year by the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C.

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 Glennis Zilm  
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