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*Coming Events**Coming Events***\* \* FALL GET-TOGETHERS PLANNED \* \*****Saturday, October 19, 1994**

Glennis Zilm and Ethel Warbinek have agreed to give a slide presentation based on the photographs from their new book on the history of the UBC School of Nursing.

The presentation will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 19, in the Faculty Lounge at the UBC School of Nursing. Please feel free to invite guests to attend as well.

The presentation will be based on *Legacy: History of Nursing Education at the University of British Columbia 1919-1994*. The book was published through UBC Press by the School of Nursing and was released this summer to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the School.

The book views university nursing education at UBC against a broad provincial social, political, and cultural context that is also concerned with society's beliefs about health, nursing as a profession, and the position of women in society. However, it also provides anecdotes as well as background information on what was the first baccalaureate nursing education program in Canada.

The presentation will focus mainly on the six women who headed the nursing program during its first 75 years.

**Saturday, November 19, 1994**

Sarah Taylor, Nursing Unit Manager of the Spinal Cord Injury Unit, Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre, will address members and guests at a meeting on Saturday, November 19, at 2 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge at the UBC School of Nursing. Her topic is *Nursing in Armenia Post Earthquake*, and is based on her experiences as a nurse working for six months with the Red Cross in Armenia following a devastating earthquake.

The Faculty Lounge is on the third floor of the Acute Care Hospital on Wesbrook Mall at UBC. Metered parking is available on the Wesbrook Mall. Other pay parking is available in an open lot to the south of the hospital and in the covered parkade west of the hospital (i.e., behind the hospital). Signs direct you to the Hospital and the Parkade parking.

For further information on these two presentations, please feel free to call a member of the executive. (Phone numbers are in the membership list enclosed with this issue.)

History of Nursing Group members are also being invited to historical events being held in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. More information on these events is given on page 6.

**\* PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE \***

As I reflect on the past few years, it becomes obvious that the History of Nursing Group has made a lot of progress. I am picking up a heightened sense of awareness of the importance of history, not just from "older nurses" but also from "young ones." Comments such as "It's really fascinating" or "I had no idea that was happening" are encouraging signs. As a Group, members have worked hard at creating this awareness.

Certainly our resolutions at two recent RNABC Annual Meetings have been a major factor in the awareness process. Our booths at the Meetings helped us network with nurses and improved our visibility. Our most recent resolution, calling for creation of a B.C. Memorial Book, passed unanimously at the April meeting. Details of how this will be implemented were discussed at the Board meeting in June. The following motion was approved: "That the Association purchase a medium-priced leather or imitation leather book and develop each page with the nurse's name in calligraphy, a photograph, biography, and artwork; further that the Awards Committee be given authority to approve Memorial Book entrants on nominations received from the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group, such selection to be based on Board-approved criteria."

It was also decided at the June meeting of the RNABC Board that the Association will continue to provide a repository for B.C. nurses' biographical files as long as time and resource requirements remain minimal.

The History Group also was successful this Spring in having our B.C. nominations for the CNA Memorial Book endorsed by

RNABC and forwarded to CNA. It was encouraging to hear the many comments by RNABC Board members when they read the material submitted on the six candidates: Mabel Gray (1880-1976); Ethel Johns (1879-1968); Evelyn Mallory (1902-1993); Ruth Morrison (1900-1978); Helen Randal (1876-1963); and Margaret Street (1907-1993).

Many seemed genuinely surprised at the wonderful contributions. The names of some nominees, such as Helen Randal, were familiar to RNABC board and staff members, but usually it was only the name -- and little was known of the major contributions that had been made. So, although it was not our intent, the biographical material proved an educational project. Files on these six nurses are now in place in the RNABC Library.

Of course Sheila Zerr's exquisite Portrait Doll collection is always a popular exhibit and helps us publicize nursing history. Thus we are making progress at making ourselves known in the nursing community. We will have to continue this momentum. At the HoN Executive meeting in September, we will take a hard look at long-range plans.

As I take over the reins from Helen Shore, I feel the Group owes much of its good position to her wonderful leadership over the last two years. We have moved forward and are well known in B.C. and beyond. Helen's commitment to nursing history is contagious. On behalf of the Group, I express heartfelt appreciation for all her hard work. She will continue on the Executive committee as past president and her counsel and sound advice will be welcome.

*-- Ethel Warbinek, President*



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\* ANNUAL MEETING NEWS \*

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The Annual Meeting of the History of Nursing Group on Thursday, April 7, 1994, proved highly successful. This year, the annual meeting time was devoted fully to business (no special guest speaker). However, the meeting opened with a coffee party for members and guests. A series of displays provided an interesting backdrop for those who attended and several non-members who were attending the RNABC annual meeting came to see these special displays.

Ron Penhold, a collector of military medals and memorabilia of the Crimean War, displayed a special brass washbowl that had been used by Florence Nightingale in Crimea



*Outgoing President Helen Shore with Ron Penhold, who displayed his Crimean War memorabilia at the annual meeting.*

as well as a special display of letters, medals, and photographs related to nursing.

Another display featured the 1994 nominees for the CNA's Memorial Book. Ethel Warbinek and Glennis Zilm showed some of the collection of photographs that were being gathered for their book on the history of the UBC School of Nursing. Sister Carignan arranged a display related to the 100th Anniversary celebrations of St. Paul's Hospital and the Sisters of Charity.

A special feature was a "meet the authors" and "book signing" session for the new nursing history book by Richard B. Splane and HoN Group member Verna Huffman Splane. *Chief Nursing Officer Positions in National Ministries of Health: Focal Points for Nursing Leadership* is a highly respected scholarly work involving years of international research related to the need for a nurse in a senior advisory position in government policy structures.

Following the opening coffee party, about 21 members stayed on for the business sessions. For those members who were unable to attend, here are some brief highlights:

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Nina Rumen reported that the 1993 budget had revenues of \$2,666.74 and actual expenditures of \$2,280.83. The 1994 budget (approved at the April 1993 meeting) called for a proposed budget of \$2,600.

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**\*\* MORE ANNUAL MEETING NEWS \*\***

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*Dick and Verna Splane (left) signing books for Shona Johansen, nursing instructor, and Pamela Bernier, nursing student, of Williams Lake.*

(Continued from page 3)

Revenues for 1994 to March 10, 1994 (date of statement prior to annual meeting) were \$1,601.50. At that time, membership income was on budget, but income from sale of Nursing Sister notecards so far was well below budget.

Discussion then took place on a proposed budget for 1995. The Executive committee had tentatively approved a budget of \$3,100 dollars -- and to raise this amount fee increases would be necessary.

### **Fees Raised**

The treasurer then proposed a motion calling for an increase to \$20 (from \$15) for fees for full and affiliate members; fees for student members would remain the same (\$5). Following discussion, which included a suggestion that fees be even higher, the motion was passed as proposed.

This means that the fees for 1995 (due January 1, 1995) will be \$20 for full and affiliate members.

### **Honorary Lifetime Membership**

Ethel Warbinek, on behalf of the Executive Committee, proposed the nomination of Esther Paulson as an honorary lifetime member and the meeting unanimously approved this nomination. Esther Paulson, a member of the HoN Group, graduated in nursing in 1928 and has been active in nursing since that time. A past president of the RNABC, she was particularly instrumental in helping to bring tuberculosis under control in B.C.

Esther Paulson joins Monica Green of Victoria in the honorary membership category of the HoN Group.

### **President's Report**

Outgoing President Helen Shore reviewed the HoN Group's progress during the last year, noting the many activities in which the Group has become involved. She noted especially  
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**\* \* MORE ANNUAL MEETING NEWS \* \***

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(Continued from page 4)

ially that a committee has been formed to provide a link between Alumni groups of nursing schools and the HoN Group. This committee will be especially active with B.C. nursing schools that have been closed for many years. Their alumni groups are becoming less active as alumni become older and numbers decrease. Ensuring that the nursing history of these schools will be preserved is the rationale for this committee.

Helen Shore also reported that the biographical files project, whereby data on nurses who have made contributions to nursing in B.C. are kept in vertical files in the RNABC Library, had come to fruition during the year. This project, which had been proposed to the RNABC annual meeting in 1993, will assist enormously in historical research in nursing and help preserve and promote nursing history.

Earlier, Ethel Warbinek, who has been in charge of this project, told the meeting that 40 files have been opened. Eight are complete, are in the Library, and are entered on the computerized catalogue to make access easier. Four or five other files are nearly ready for the Library.

#### **Elections of New Officers**

During the meeting, elections were held to fill the three positions that were open. Dr. Beverly Du Gas, chair of the nominations committee, conducted the elections.

Ethel Warbinek, former vice-president, was elected president by acclamation. Two names were presented for vice-president: Beth Fitzpatrick and Janet Gormick; Beth Fitzpatrick was elected. Two names were submitted for Member-at-Large: Joan Doree and Don Ransom; Don Ransom was elected.

A full list of Executive members is provided in the enclosed 1994 Membership List.

#### **Other Business**

Joan Doree presented the Group with a copy of a written history from Margaret (nee Bell) Haggitt, a 1933 graduate from the Queen Victoria Hospital in Revelstoke. Joan Doree gave a brief resume of the background, noting that she had practiced at the Willow Chest (TB) Survey Clinic for 23 years.

A question was asked about the RNABC Pin Collection that had been researched and collected by Irene Goldstone for the Association's 75th Anniversary. The Pin Display had been taken down during renovations of the RNABC Building, but members were assured that RNABC planned to continue the display. It was also noted that the displays of Past RNABC presidents had been redone and were more accessible now and that some nursing history displays were set up in the Library.

For further information on the Annual Meeting or for copies of the minutes, members should get in touch with one of the Executive Committee.

**\* \* HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL \* \***



*St. Paul's Hospital 100th Anniversary Display at the History Group's Annual Meeting*

In the spring of 1894, Sister Joseph, who had come from Montreal to establish the Sisters of Charity of Providence in the Pacific Northwest in 1856, dispatched two of her habit-clad sisters on horseback from Fort Vancouver, Oregon. They were on their way to Vancouver, B.C., to purchase land for a much-needed hospital for the growing Canadian centre. On May 16, 1894, the sod was turned for St. Paul's Hospital, a 25-bed institution designed by Sister Joseph (later Mother Joseph and a noted hospital architect). The hospital opened in November.

This year, St. Paul's Hospital has been celebrating its centennial birthday. Sister Therese Carignan (a member of the HoN Group) has been a chief organizer and History of Nursing Group members have been invited to attend many of the special events recognizing nursing history. As well, historical displays have been on view to the public in the hospital throughout the summer.

Sister Carignan arranged for a display for the HoN Group's Annual Meeting, and the Executive Committee and a few other members attended a special "100 Years of Fashion" event at the hospital in May.

On the evening of Friday, November 18, the "100 Years of Fashion" show will once again be presented (exact time not yet set, but likely about 7:30). The historic fashions are from the collection of Ian Sayers, a former curator at the Vancouver Museum, and the presentation shows women's clothing and styles throughout the 1894-1994 period.

The presentation likely will be held once again in the Conference Room on Level I of the Providence Wing. Parking is available in the Hospital's Underground Parking lot (about \$1.25 an hour); enter from Burrard Street. For further information about the event, you may call Cathi at St. Paul's Hospital office, 682-2344, local 2324.



**\* \* HONORARY MEMBER NAMED \* \***

At the History of Nursing Group Annual Meeting in April, Esther Paulson was awarded an honorary lifetime membership. The following, by Ethel Warbinek, is a brief account of her long and distinguished career.

Esther Paulson graduated from the Royal Columbian Hospital School of Nursing in New Westminster in 1928. Following graduation, she took a position as a staff nurse at RCH in the TB building. This introduced her to tuberculosis nursing, which became a lifelong interest. At the time, however, the heavy workload and long hours taxed her health and, on her physician's advice, she changed jobs. She enrolled in an obstetrics course at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and became interested in community health nursing.



On return to B.C., she took the one-year Diploma in Public Health Nursing course at the University of British Columbia, graduating in 1934. As this was the depths of the Great Depression of the 1930s, jobs were scarce, so Esther did private duty for a while. During this time, she became friends with two of B.C.'s well-known nursing leaders -- Helen Randal of RNABC and Grace Fairley of Vancouver General Hospital.

In 1935, she took a position with the Welfare Field Service in the East Kootenays; this combined the positions of social worker and public health nurse. She remained there for five years, then spent two years as a public health nurse with Vancouver's Metropolitan Health Committee, where she worked with Lyle Creelman (another B.C. nursing leader).

In 1942, Esther once again began work in tuberculosis nursing and in 1943 was appointed Director of Nursing of the Chest Clinic at the Vancouver General Hospital. In 1945, she helped develop the first TB affiliation course

for nursing students in Canada. This course later became mandatory for all nursing students. For the next six years she was the Senior Nurse Administrator for the Division of TB Control. In 1952, she became Director of Nursing of the newly opened Pearson Hospital in Vancouver. In addition to this new and challenging job, she continued to act as Senior Nursing Consultant for the Division of TB Control. She remained at Pearson until retirement in 1966.

During her nursing career, Esther was active in RNABC activities. She served as honorary secretary from 1944-46, first vice-president 1949-51, president 1951-1953, and past president 1953-57. She has been honored by the Canadian Lung Association, and received a Centennial Medal in 1967 for her contributions to TB nursing in Canada.

One cannot talk about Esther without mentioning her incredible memory. She has

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**\* \* BOOK REVIEW \* \***

*A Guide to Nursing Historical Materials in Ontario*, by Kathleen MacMillan and Judith Young. Toronto: Ontario Society for the History of Nursing, 1994. Available from Judith Young, Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto, 50 St. George Street, Toronto M5S 1A1. Cost \$25, plus shipping and handling.

In this excellent *Guide*, Kathleen MacMillan and Judith Young have done a remarkable job identifying primary sources related to nursing archival materials in Ontario. The document is similar to a *Survey* produced in British Columbia in 1990, but goes considerably further and contains more detail.

The authors surveyed more than 700 institutions and associations in Ontario for archival materials and artifacts related to nursing, including hospitals and nursing alumni groups, community agencies, schools of nursing, nursing associations and agencies, archives, libraries, museums and art galleries, and relevant non-nursing associations, agencies, and religious communities.

The book contains information on 279 public collections, with considerable detail on each holding. In particular, the information from such important sources as the National Archives of Canada, Canadian Nurses Association, Royal Ontario Museum, and the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library will delight serious nursing history researchers. In addition, the *Guide* includes information on 26 private collections.

This section can serve as a model for other groups, such as the B.C. History Group, as they attempt to identify privately held materials.

A subject index is also included and, although this by no means should be considered exhaustive because of the nature of the *Guide*, it will provide considerable help for researchers.

The *Guide* was published under the auspices of the Ontario Society for the History of Nursing, which received funds in 1992 from the Ontario Ministry of Health Nursing Innovation Fund for the project. Proceeds from sales of the book will be directed to the proposed Margaret M. Allemang Centre for Nursing History.

Although the authors stress that this is "merely a beginning," their diligent research has ensured that many previously unknown materials, sources, and resources now are identified and accessible. All journeys begin with a single step, says the proverb. This beginning is a giant step for nursing history!

— Glennis Zilm

**Coming Reviews:** The following was given to a reviewer, and the review should be in the December *Newsletter*:

*Chief Nursing Officer Positions in National Ministries of Health: Focal Points for Nursing Leadership*, by Richard B. Splane and Verna Huffman Splane. San Francisco: University of California School of Nursing, 1994.



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**\* \* NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS \* \***

**CAHN's Winnipeg Meeting Successful**

The annual meeting of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing, held in Winnipeg in June, brought together about 50 participants from all provinces in Canada plus guests from the United States, Australia, and Britain. Those who attended, including five members of the B.C. History Group, deemed the meeting "one of the best yet."

Guest speaker at the opening session, a wine and cheese reception on Friday evening, was Dr. Eleanor Crowder of Pennsylvania State University. Her light but thought-provoking presentation concerned the teaching of nursing history and the battles that those interested in the topic have in gaining opportunities to introduce such a course.

The opening plenary session on the Saturday morning was a panel related to the same topic. B.C. HoN Member Sheila Zerr was one of the panelists. Although there were, of necessity, several concurrent sessions, conference planners had responded to past criticisms and planned a program that had more plenary sessions and plenty of opportunities for discussion and networking.

One of the most stimulating events was a "progressive tea" that took all participants by bus to three separate locations in Winnipeg: the nursing alumni archives room at the Health Sciences Centre, formerly the Winnipeg General Hospital; the Faculty of Nursing at the University

of Manitoba; and the museum in the former school of nursing residence at St. Boniface Hospital. At each was an opportunity to see a different approach to nursing museum and archives and discuss different ways of stimulating interest in history of nursing.

**International Meeting for Vancouver in 1997**

Of particular interest to B.C. members was the motion at CAHN's business sessions that B.C. be asked to host the CAHN meeting in 1997, just before or after the Vancouver-based meeting of the International Council of Nurses. CAHN is interested in opening this 1997 meeting to international guests. Ethel Warbinek, president of the B.C. History Group and CAHN member, indicated that the B.C. Group likely would be willing to participate in planning and hosting such an event.

At the B.C. HoN Executive Meeting in August, executive members discussed possible plans for such an event and will look into some of the logistics for the planning. Sheila Zerr, active in both the B.C. and the Canadian groups, agreed to chair the B.C. co-ordinating committee. A full report will be available to members at the B.C. 1995 annual meeting.

Anyone interested in further information about CAHN or in joining CAHN (\$35 for RNs, \$15 for seniors, students, and affiliates) should get in touch with Membership Chair Diana Mansell, 430 Hendon Drive NW, Calgary, AB T2K 1Z7. More B.C. members would be great!

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

**Memorial Portrait Committee**

The History of Nursing Group's collection of sponsored dolls, which raises money for history of nursing scholarships, continues to grow. Sheila Zerr, doll maker and chair of the Memorial Portrait Committee, reports there now are nine sponsored dolls in the collection.

Three new portraits added so far in 1994 are:

1911 Salvation Army Nurse Doll, in honor of James William Rankin

Margaret Street Memorial Doll, sponsored by her family

Nurse in Military Uniform Doll, sponsored by Helen K. Mussallem

The committee plans to meet this fall to draw up a mission statement and work on a five-year plan for submission to the Executive Committee.

**Oral History Committee**

Although formal meetings of Oral History Committee members have been few and far between lately, the committee remains active in gathering oral history tapes. Sheila Zerr, chair, reports that three new tapes are ready for review. These are interviews with:

Phyllis Payton, an early Victorian Order Nurse in Surrey

Rose Spencer, who describes her work with plague victims in India during World War II

Jean Keyes, an early nurse in Surrey who also had experiences in South Africa

An article on the work of the RNABC's Oral History Committee, by Sheila Zerr, has been accepted for publication in the *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*.

The committee will be asked to meet this fall to discuss the five-year plan and to review the tapings so that these may be submitted to the RNABC Library collection. Discussions will also be held about the need to replace the chair for the coming year.

Members who would be interested in joining the committee are asked to telephone Sheila Zerr at 943-3012.

**Biographical Files Committee**

Dr. Helen Niskala, Member-at-Large, has agreed to take over the chair of the Biographical Files Committee from Ethel Warbinek now that Ethel has taken on the presidential role. Helen has served on the committee since it was set up two years ago.

The committee meets only rarely, but individual members assist in identifying nurses whose biographical files should be housed in the RNABC Library. These files assist researchers seeking information on B.C. nurses who have made significant contributions to nursing history.

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**\* \* MORE COMMITTEE NEWS \* \***

(Continued from page 11)

Biographical information, photographs, and other material has to be collected, catalogued, stored, and updated, and this is the responsibility of the members of this committee.

HoN Group members who would be interested in serving on this committee and/or assisting in collection and collation of biographical material should get in touch with Helen. Members outside the Vancouver area who might be interested in working with the committee would be welcome.

**Victoria Group**

The Victoria Group, which consists of HoN Group members living in the Greater Victoria area, has been inactive during the last year because of difficulties in coordinating meetings. Kari Moore is pursuing connections with the Royal Jubilee and Victoria General Alumnae Groups. It is hoped that these groups may form a more formal liaison with the HoN Group through the Nursing Alumni Partnership Projects.

**Constitution and Bylaws**

New members who would like to have copies of the History of Nursing Group's Constitution and Bylaws can arrange for these by calling President Ethel Warbinek (538-5066). To save both money and paper, these are no longer sent automatically to new members. An amended

constitution and bylaws was approved last year. It follows the basic standard form for professional practice groups established by the RNABC three years ago. A copy is also on file at the RNABC.

**Membership Committee**

Brenda Flynn, membership coordinator, has completed the 1994 Membership List, which is mailed to members with this *Newsletter*. There are two honorary life members, 53 full members, 16 affiliate members, and five student members, for a total of 76 paid-up members so far in 1994.

Brenda would appreciate hearing from members about individuals who might be interested in joining the History of Nursing Group. She would then send information on the Group and membership applications.

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(Continued from page 7)

the ability to recall accurately names and events long past. Esther has written numerous articles. Of special interest to HoN Group members is her excellent unpublished manuscript on the history of the School of Nursing at the Royal Columbian Hospital and on Nursing Education in Canada. She revised this in 1987 for the 75th Anniversary of the RNABC.

[Note: A biographical file on Esther Paulson is available in the RNABC Library.]

**\* \* BITS AND PIECES \* \***

**WOMEN'S HISTORY SHOWCASE**

**October 1-2, 1994  
Royal British Columbia Museum  
Victoria**

The Royal B.C. Museum and the Canadian Women's History Month Committee are co-sponsoring a celebration to launch Women's History Month (October). A showcase event will be held at the Museum Saturday, Oct. 1-Sunday, Oct. 2.

Kari Moore, head of the Victoria Committee, has arranged to place a history of nursing table and display in the showcase event in co-ordination with the alumni groups from Royal Jubilee and St. Joseph hospitals, the Victoria Nursing Sisters Association, and the Sisters of Saint Anne.

The B.C. History of Nursing Group's Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection will be on display. It also is planned to have a draw for prizes of historical nursing dolls.

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**Happy 100th Birthday!**

Alice Wright, a former Registrar and Executive Secretary of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C., celebrated her 100th birthday on August 22, 1994.

Miss Wright, a graduate of the Vancouver General, joined the RNABC in 1943. Among her major nursing accomplishments was the setting up

of an RNABC labor relations committee to protect the rights and improve working conditions for B.C. nurses. B.C. was in the forefront of the labor relations movement for nurses in Canada during those pre-union days and Alice Wright became the chief negotiator.

She retired from RNABC in 1960, but continued her active involvement by working on committees for the Canadian Nurses Association and the International Council of Nurses for several years.

Her family and friends hosted a birthday party for her in mid-August, where she welcomed friends and colleagues from nursing and commented on her active years.

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**The History Group's Newsletter**

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

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Unsolicited submissions are welcomed, but the Editor reserves the right to shorten, reject, or edit materials.

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***THE HISTORY OF NURSING GROUP NEWSLETTER***

***ERRATA: Volume 5, Number 2, Summer 1994***

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Please note the following corrections:

Page 1: "Fall Get-Togethers Planned" -- the date should be **Saturday, October 15, 1994** (not October 19). As well, the location for this presentation has been changed. It will be in Room T180 in the UBC School of Nursing. This room is also on the third floor of the Acute Care Building. Directional signs will be posted near the elevators on the third floor indicating the location of the room.