

◆ HISTORY OF NURSING NEWS ◆

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ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 15

The 10th Annual General Meeting of the B.C. History of Nursing Group will be held Thursday, April 15, 1999 from 8:30 to 10:30 am in the Lord Byron Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Coffee, juice, and muffins will be served from 8:15 am for "early birds."

The meeting will be primarily a business event, including election of officers (two-year terms for secretary, treasurer, and one member-at-large). As well, approval of the budget, review of the past year's business, and planning for the coming year will be important topics on which your views are needed. Significant in this regard are the progress on plans for the Group's project to establish an Archives for B.C. Nursing by the year 2012.

The Executive is arranging for special displays and there will be numerous door prizes and other special events. Please do try to attend.

The meeting, as usual, will be held immediately before the annual general meeting of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. so that many of our members from other regions of the province can attend. As well, this year the History Group is presenting two resolutions to the RNABC AGM (see pages 3 and 10). The executive hopes that any members who can attend the RNABC meeting during presentation of these resolutions will do so to lend support.

The History Group also will be setting up a display table at the RNABC meeting to sell notecards and inform others about our activities. If you can help there during the Thursday or Friday, please call Nina Rumen (733-7529).



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year is the 10th Anniversary of the History of Nursing Group. One of our most important mandates is the preservation of nursing history. Over the past ten years we have worked to collect nursing histories and to prepare biographies of British Columbia nurses to be entered into the RNABC Library Biographical Files.

We have accomplished many milestones in our first decade. Oral histories, biographies, nominations of British Columbia nurses to the RNABC and CNA Memorial Books, two nursing notecards [the military nurse in the Canadian Memorial Church window and the nursing memorial window at Christ Church Cathedral], an outstanding collection of memorial portraits in miniature, a Nursing Scholarship Fund, maintenance of a membership just under 100 strong, and a dedicated executive committee.

Happy 10th Birthday History of Nursing Group!

As mentioned in the February History of Nursing News, a temporary "small museum" has been established in an office at the UBC School of Nursing. Offers of nursing artifacts and requests for nursing history information continue to be made. [Please see appeal on page 3 of this newsletter].

The History Group has been mak-

ing steady progress in accomplishing each of the goals enumerated in the "White Paper" presented at last year's AGM. Everything seems to be going ahead like clockwork. The Group is now at the stage of seeking support in principle from the RNABC. Therefore, a Resolution will be placed before delegates at the 1999 RNABC Annual General meeting.

Next, we intend to seek financial support from RNABC members, nursing organizations, retired nurses, and corporate sponsors. An important announcement, critical to the launch of the fund-raising drive will be made at the 1999 History of Nursing AGM. Please come to the meeting to hear this exciting news and to see the third nursing notecard, showing the Lennie sculpture, which will be launched at this meeting.

The History Group needs your continued support and participation. Let's work together to make our next decade as exciting and as productive as our first. Please join us at the AGM for coffee, juice, and muffins at 0830 hours on April 15 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

-- Helen Shore

RUSSIAN PROVERB

Dwell on the past, you lose an eye.
Forget the past, you lose both of them.

Found by Shirley Holzman

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

A recent phone call requested information about the tradition of nurses carrying bouquets of roses at graduation. The caller told me a story about St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

The following is the story as excerpted from M. Patricia Donahue's *Nursing the Finest Art* (St. Louis: Mosby, 1985, pp. 163-166):

St. Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-1231) was renowned among women tertiaries of St. Francis and her virtues have been recorded in prose, poetry, art, and music. Daughter of a Hungarian king, she was married to King Ludwig of Thuringia. With her husband's support, she built hospitals and humbly ministered to the sick with her own hands. "Daily, she administered alms to the poor, fed the hungry, nursed the lepers, bathed newborns and comforted their mothers with special tenderness."

The story of the miracle of the roses is perhaps the best known of a number of stories about her. One winter day while Elizabeth was carrying a basket of food to the poor, she met her husband. Irritated by family complaints against Elizabeth's work with the poor, Ludwig demanded to see what she was carrying. When she opened her cloak, Ludwig saw an armful of blooming white and red roses.

I confess I am skeptical of the likelihood of this story being the foundation for our Canadian hospital school tradition of carrying roses at graduation. It just seems too long ago and too far away to be credible. If any of our readers have any ideas about our Canadian traditions of bouquets of roses at graduation, please let me know (731-9588).

— Helen Shore

CELEBRATING NURSING'S PAST: CLAIMING THE FUTURE

London, England is the location for the International Council of Nurses Centennial Conference, June 27-July 1, 1999. The theme of history will permeate the conference, which celebrates the ICN centennial 1899-1999.

Key speakers will be Gro Brundtland, Director General of the World Health Organization, and Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF. Joan E. Lynaugh, Emeritus Professor of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, will give a presentation jointly with Dr. Barbara Brush on the History of the ICN.

For further information contact the Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0AB.

Note: Helen K. Mussallem plans to attend the ICN Centennial Meeting in London at the end of June, followed by a trip to Beirut.

BEYOND HISTORY: MEMBERS MAKE NEWS

Nina Rumen was a participant in a workshop conference held in Charlottesville, Virginia in the fall of 1997. The purpose of this unique meeting was to convene international experts and breast cancer survivors to address problems of treatment of estrogen deficiency symptoms in women surviving breast cancer. Nina was one of 13 patient advocates who attended, along with 47 breast cancer experts from a wide range of disciplines. Her contributions to the discussion are found in 2 recently published articles: *Obstetrical and Gynecological Survey*, Vol. 53, No. 10, 1998 (Lippincott and Williams) and *Oncology*, April, 1999.

In sharing this information, Nina notes: "I think it is so ironic -- everybody else works so hard to get published and all I had to do was to get sick!"

Glennis Zilm's recent book, *The SMART Way* is named in the books by UBC alumni section of the *UBC Chronicle*, Vol. 53, No. 1, Spring, 1999, page 25. Her book examines essential elements of written communication with the needs of nurses and nursing students in mind.

Judith Hibberd, one of our Associate members from Alberta, recently had an article (with co-author Diana Mansell) published in the *International Journal of Nursing History* (Vol. 3, No.

4, pp. 4-11). Titled "We picked the wrong one to sterilise": The role of nursing in the eugenics movement in Alberta, 1920-1940, the article discusses "a nurse's duty to care... complicated by the attitudes and values of the society in which she existed."

Dr. Hibberd, recently retired professor at the University of Alberta School of Nursing, also has recently seen the publication (with co-author Donna Smith) of the second edition of her text *Nursing Management in Canada* (Toronto: Saunders, 1999).

Past President **Ethel Warbinek** as well as being involved in HoN Group resolutions (see page 10) is the main contact for another resolution for the RNABC annual meeting. The Richmond-Delta Chapter is proposing the RNABC investigate its structural organization, which relies heavily on chapters as the main form of communication with members.

Newsletter Editor **Beth Fitzpatrick** recently donated part of her collection of nursing books and artifacts to the growing History Group collection housed in the office at the UBC School of Nursing. Beth donated 81 books, including her collection of early obstetrical texts and related maternal-child health books. One of the artifacts is a rare "Florence Nightingale Baby Bottle," with an ivory nipple, cleaning brushes, and tubings in its original box.

HONOURING SHEILA J. RANKIN ZERR

At this year's annual meeting, the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. will honour **Sheila Zerr** with its prestigious Award of Distinction in Nursing. The executive of the B.C. History of Nursing Group made the nomination for Sheila on behalf of all members of the History Group and we are proud of her achievements.

Her award, along with other RNABC awards, will be presented at Special Ceremonies from 6 to 8 pm on Thursday, April 15, 1999 in the Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

All History of Nursing Group members are invited to attend the ceremonies and reception.

The Award of Distinction is one of RNABC's highest awards and honours a nurse who is *a recognized expert in a wide number of areas*. Most of us in the History of Nursing Group know Sheila well for her outstanding work with our Group and with the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing and as a teacher of history of nursing, chair of the Oral History program, and developer of the Memorial Portrait Collection. Some of us may not be so well aware of her many outstanding contributions in other areas.

Letters of support from 18 well-known individuals accompanied Sheila's nomination and these letters praised her excellence as an outstanding bedside nurse, educator, administrator, and coordinator as well

as an exceptional clinician, author, consultant, and researcher. Sheila has been active in RNABC's chapters, professional practice groups, workplace representative program, and committees. She is known locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally.



This photograph shows Sheila Zerr (left) presenting a copy of the Nursing Print from the 1997 International History of Nursing Conference to Mary Ellen Jeans, Executive Director of the Canadian Nurses Association. The presentation was made in June 1998.

HISTORY OF DIALYSIS NURSING IN CANADA

Shirley Holzman and Ruth McIlraith, both well known to our History of Nursing Group members, provided an exciting overview of the History of Dialysis Nursing in Canada at a special program meeting at St. Paul's Hospital in March. Although little has been recorded about dialysis nursing in Canada, it was apparent from their presentations that Vancouver nurses were in the forefront in these technological changes in renal care.

Shirley Holzman, who had worked in dialysis care in Saskatoon during the 1950s and who has taught renal nursing to students, provided stimulating illustrated historical highlights on renal care throughout the centuries. She said that the Egyptians and Romans had attempted treatments for renal problems in prehistory and peritoneal dialysis had been tried in rabbits in 1927. However, it was not until various streams of knowledge and technology merged in the 1940s that patients with kidney failure had a chance for effective treatment.

During the Second World War, a Dutch physician developed a rotating drum and used collodial tubing to pass the patient's blood through a rotating drum of fluids designed to draw out the urea and other impurities. This physician, Dr. Kolff, is credited with the first survival on an artificial kidney, and he brought the development to the USA in 1948.



Shirley Holzman and Ruth McIlraith

At this point, Shirley introduced Ruth McIlraith, who had been a nursing sister with the Canadian Medical Core in Holland during the War and for a period following. During this time, she had worked with a Vancouver physician, Dr. Russ Palmer, who arranged for the Canadian nursing sisters to attend lectures with Dr. Kolff at the nearby university and learn about the advances in hemodialysis. On her return to Vancouver in 1948, Ruth McIlraith was surgical supervisor at Shaughnessy Hospital where she once again met Dr. Palmer. They set up a surgical team to begin doing hemodialysis treatments.

Ruth said that the treatments, which at that time were extremely primitive compared to later developments, took 24 hours. Patients were admitted from all over the Lower

Mainland. One of her references noted that these were the first such care in Canada.

Shirley once again resumed the chronological tale, noting that treatments at this time relied heavily on good nursing techniques for there were no blood pumps to assist with the flow of blood through the drums, no antibiotics, no heparin.

Still, the treatments were effective and better kidney machines were developed over time. Some patients at Vancouver General Hospital have been on hemodialysis treatments for more than 30 years.

Shirley concluded her presentation with comparisons of the roles of the nurses in treatment of kidney failure in the 1930s and the 1990s.

Nina Rumen, who had arranged the program, thanked the speakers and encouraged comments and questions from the floor. The 14 History Group members who attended were highly enthusiastic about the presentation.

-- Glennis Zilm

!!! SALE !! ONLY \$5 !! SALE !!!

The (in)Famous History of Nursing
CAHN TEE SHIRT

Canadian Association for History of
Nursing Tee shirts from the 1997
International History of Nursing
Conference in Vancouver will be on sale at
the History Group's AGM. If you cannot
attend, send cheque for \$7 to Sheila Zerr
(5333 Upland Drive, Delta, BC V4M2G3)



*Don Ransom and Nina Rumen at the
March program presentation on History
of Renal Nursing in Canada.*

RECENT ACQUISITION

The History of Nursing group recently received a copy of *Nursing History Review*, Volume 7, 1999, the official journal of the American Association for the History of Nursing (AAHN). This issue contains a wealth of information for nursing history scholars. The 225-page, soft-cover journal has 9 articles and 22 book reviews, some from Canadian nurse historians.

Copies of this journal are available in the RNABC Library, but must be used there. If you would like to borrow the Group's copy, please get in touch with one of the members of the executive for further information.

MORE ON TB NURSING

Editor's note: Esther Paulson, one of the panelists at the October 1998 program meeting on "Historical Aspects of Tuberculosis Nursing", adds this follow-up to enhance the information by Joan Doree presented in the last issue of the *Newsletter*.

Follow-up

A complete directory of all patients in British Columbia was maintained in the Records office at the stationary clinic in Vancouver (Willow Chest Centre), including a card file for each patient with current address and location of the stationary or traveling clinic the patient attended. The whereabouts of the patient's medical records was also recorded and a new address was noted when the patient moved. If the move were to a different chest clinic area, the records and reports were sent to the appropriate clinic. A change of address was also sent to the public health nurse. The patient and the public health nurse were notified when a traveling clinic was in the area.

Payment for Care

Patients were assessed on ability to pay, but most had free treatment as the majority were unable to pay for the prolonged treatment in hospital -- particularly if the patient were the breadwinner and income was terminated. Home help and child care were augmented if the patient were the

home-maker; it was not known to hospital staff whether the patient paid or not. Beds in single, two-bed, and four-bed wards were assigned entirely on the patient's condition and needs, regardless of the payment factor. Admissions were also based on needs of the patient, not on ability to pay.

Bed Shortages

Pearson Hospital opened April 9, 1952, with the first admissions being Japanese patients from the internment camp at New Denver. The wards were soon filled to full occupancy from the waiting list of more than 200. The temporary units of 60 beds in the modular unit on the tarmac adjacent to Willow Chest and the Jehrico Beach Hospital acquired from the military after World War II, could not be closed until two years later -- 1954. By that time the long waiting list was reduced due to the effect of the anti-TB drugs, shorter hospital terms, earlier discharge, and continuing use of anti-TB drugs as out patients. However, all TB beds were used to full capacity, including the Tranquille Sanatorium until 1958. There were no surplus TB beds for other clinical services until 1963 when two wards at Pearson were converted for long-term medical patients. The Marpole Infirmary was then closed and the patients transferred to Pearson.

The shortage of beds and long waiting lists and control of tuberculosis was due also to the

Continued on next page

intensive case finding program of the stationary and traveling clinics and the survey units in buses with miniature x-rays to examine large numbers of people as well as the anti-TB drugs. By the late 1950s, it was realized that the anti-TB drugs were more effective if combined with physical activity. A project was introduced at Pearson with conversion of two wards as self-help areas for patients on more generous exercise grades. That happened in 1960 and was written up and published in an article for *Nursing Outlook*, an American journal (Vol. 8, Nov. 1960).

Mutation of the tubercle bacillus was evident in the 1950s and required frequent change of the three anti-TB drug combinations -- the beginning of the resistance to antibiotic TB drugs, and resurgence of TB on a global scale, which is the current problem of the 1990s.

-- Esther Paulson

WHAT IS NURSING HISTORY?

History provides current nurses with the same intellectual and political tools that determined nursing pioneers applied to shape nursing values and beliefs to the social context of their times. Nursing history is not an ornament to be displayed on anniversary days, nor does it consist of only happy stories to be recalled and retold on special occasions. Nursing history is a vivid testimony, meant to incite,

instruct and inspire today's nurses as they bravely tread the winding path of a re-invented health care system.

-- From the home page of the *American Association for the History of Nursing* (www.aahn.org).

VIRGINIA HENDERSON REMEMBERED

Virginia Henderson died three years ago on March 19, 1996 at the age of 98. Called "the most famous nurse of this century," her life work symbolized the finest in caring, teaching, writing, and research in nursing.

At the time of her death the Alberta Registered Nurses Educational Trust established an endowment fund in her memory. The Virginia Henderson Prize was awarded for the first time in 1998, and is given annually to an Alberta RN who best exemplifies excellence in nursing studies in a post-basic baccalaureate nursing program. Shelley Winton of Edmonton was the worthy recipient.

Tax deductible donations, which are still being accepted, have been received from educational institutions, nursing groups, and individuals in memorial tribute to Miss Henderson's contributions to nursing.

For further information contact Margaret Nolan, Development Office, Alberta Registered Nurses Educational Trust, 11620 -- 168 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5M 4A6.

BE IT RESOLVED:

The Executive of the B.C. History Group has put forward two resolutions this year to the annual general meeting of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. These two resolutions deal with matters that pertain to preservation of nursing history for which we are seeking support from the general RNABC membership.

There are only four resolutions altogether to be dealt with by RNABC delegates this year – fewer than usual. They will be presented during the business sessions Thursday afternoon between 2 and 4 pm or, if not completed then, during the Friday business sessions.

Resolution 2, put forward by the HoN Group, deals with the closure and possible dismantling of the Library and Archives at the Canadian Nurses Association in Ottawa. The resolution basically calls for RNABC to ask its delegates to the CNA Board of Directors (1) to express concerns about the ramifications of the closure and possible dismantling of these unique resources and (2) to ask CNA to communicate fully its intentions about the Library and Archives to its provincial and territorial members.

The background to this resolution is that the CNA Administration closed the CNA Library and its related Archival collection last year and proposed to dismantle these collections. In their place, CNA Administration has proposed development of a Canadian

Nurses Knowledge Network (CNKN), which will use on-line computer technologies. However, several members of the B.C. History of Nursing Group still have grave concerns about the closure of the Library and possible dismantling. In response to these concerns, the CNA Administration has somewhat ameliorated its decisions but, in the views of the B.C. HoN Group executive, still has not addressed the real questions about the possible loss of control of library and archival resources. This is a complex issue, and members of our Group are urged to attend the sessions if at all possible.

Resolutions 3, also put forward by the B.C. HoN Group, deals with the proposed RNABC Archives that the Group presented in its HoN "white paper" last year. The resolution asks the RNABC Assembly to support, in principle, the HoN Group's quest for a permanent archival facility for B.C. nursing and for our efforts to raise funds for such a goal.

Members of the HoN Group have already been on "speaking tours" to some of the RNABC chapter meetings and the intent of the resolutions was well received.

The B.C. History of Nursing Group Executive has also sent a resolution, similar to RNABC Resolution 2, to the Canadian Nurses Association for presentation at its annual meeting in Ottawa in June.

GUEST EDITORIAL

The History of Nursing Group has about 90 members, with more than one-third of these living well outside the Lower Mainland area. Included are members or associates in the United Kingdom, Israel, and Alberta, and in B.C. in Comox, Salt Spring Island, Kamloops, Wasa, Castlegar, Prince George ... and so on! Among the Professional Practice Groups of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. and among other national "interest groups" this kind of membership is considered an unparalleled success.

One of the reasons is the Group's *Newsletter*, one of our most important assets. The *Newsletter* is produced four times a year by a volunteer editor and takes about four or five days of concentrated work to put together the pages, arrange their printing, and label and mail them. The actual content is collected in dribs and drabs throughout the rest of the time.

Thus our members owe a great deal of thanks to **Beth Fitzpatrick**, who has been Editor since March 1995. Thanks to Beth, who purchased a desktop publishing program so that she could design it more professionally, the *Newsletter* has taken on a great new look. However -- and this is a vital point for a small organization such as ours -- she has managed to keep costs to a bare minimum. Every single newsletter costs about \$1.50, plus mailing. At each executive meeting, Beth wonders aloud how she can

improve the issue. For example, she would desperately like the quality of the printing of photographs to be improved -- but knows that better printing would raise costs well beyond our Group's budget. So she makes up for it by ensuring the content is newsy and current.

One of the ways you can best help is by keeping in touch with Beth in return -- letting her know your news and happenings.

It has been a great pleasure to be the Guest Editor for this issue (especially as about one-half the content was supplied by Beth or others!). As the original editor, I know just how much work she does. We owe her a great deal of thanks.

-- Glennis Zilm

ORDER OF CANADA AWARD

Jean Buchan, an 88-year-old nurse and medical missionary from New Westminster, was recently awarded the **Order of Canada** by the Governor General. She has been called "Canada's Mother Teresa" which she modestly says, "I don't deserve."

She runs a clinic called the Women's Christian Dispensary in the town of Bansi just south of the border with Nepal. She has no plans to retire and has recently published her autobiography. A B.C. film-maker plans to produce a television documentary on her life in the future.

From The News Leader, Nov. 1, 1998

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

June 18-20, 1999: Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN), 12th Annual Conference, Edmonton. For more information and program: Dr. Judith Hibberd, Faculty of Nursing, Clinical Sciences Bldg., University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2G3

Saturday, May 15, 1999: "Celebration of Nursing and Research." Sponsored by University of Victoria School of Nursing, RNABC, and Capital Health Region. For information: S. Mullen, UVic School of Nursing, PO Box 1700, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

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: D. G. Ransom, Treasurer, 1200 West Georgia Street, Apt. #908 Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4R2.

R.N.A.B.C. NURSING HISTORY



Web site
<http://members.xoom.com/bchn/>

THE HISTORY GROUP'S NEWSLETTER

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