



# HISTORY of NURSING NEWS

VOLUME 17  
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July 2006

# Florence Nightingale Opera

We had a busy spring in anticipation of presenting the Florence Nightingale opera – an idea initially promoted by our own Nina Rumena a couple of years ago. As it became a reality, the excitement increased as did the urgency to ensure its success. Three groups came together to sponsor the opera: UBC School of Music, UBC School of Nursing and the BC History of Nursing Group.

The first promotional event was a “High Tea” at Hycoft on St. Patrick’s Day. Attended by 40, this event featured seven talented students from the UBC School of Music under the able direction of Nancy Hermiston. They sang excerpts from famous operas such as Carmen, The Magic Flute and Don Giovanni. We were so impressed with the quality of the singing and the students’ professionalism.



Lois Blais dressed as “Florence” along with Helen Mussallem and Helen Shore

Hermiston and the orchestra conductor was Richard Epp. Two performances were held - Friday evening May 12<sup>th</sup>, Nightingale’s birthday, and a matinee on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>. Both events, held in the Old Auditorium at UBC, were to an almost sell-out crowd. History of Nursing members and friends dressed in historical costumes added to the ambience. It was such a pleasure to have Timothy Sullivan present at this memorable concert.

A specially designed Florence Nightingale note card was produced by the History Group. Jo Scott-B provided the line drawing for the image on the card. It was sold at various events to promote the opera and was also on sale at the opera. A few cards are still available - 8 cards for \$10.00. Contact Glennis Zilm at 604 535 3238.

Excerpts from the opera were also performed at the CAHN banquet on June 9th at the Wall Centre Ballroom, much to the delight of the guests. See the next issue of the HoN News for a full report on the CAHN/ACHN Conference.



## The Opera

What a thrill – the opening of the anticipated opera – *Florence: The Lady with the Lamp* by Canadian composer Timothy Sullivan and librettist Anne McPherson performed by the UBC School of Music, Voice & Opera Division. It was directed by Nancy

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## NOTE from the editor

As many of you were unable to attend our Annual Meeting in April, we are including the Annual Reports in detail. These highlight the excellent contributions of our executive and committee members. All are to be congratulated especially Sheila Zerr and her committee for the outstanding and memorable CAHN conference. A report of this will be included in the next newsletter.

The cover story is about the opera – *Florence: The Lady with the Lamp*” which was a huge success and a wonderful way to publicize nursing history and the upcoming conference.

Two book reports are included – one submitted by Naomi Miller, a regular contributor, on *Diamonds in the Sand*” the story of a remarkable nurse – Katy Penner – a missionary nurse who was posted to the Belgian Congo, later Zaire. The second is by Marjory Ralston who reviewed the book *Faculty of Nursing on the Move: Nursing at the University of Calgary, 1969-2004* by HoN member, Geertje Boschma. Thank you for these excellent reports.

This year we lost one of our executive members, Janet Gormick who died on April 27, 2006 and long-time member and supporter Ferne Trout, who died on March 24, 2006. Tributes to both are included in this issue.

Our summer meeting will be held at the home of Glennis Zilm on July 13, 2006. It gives us the opportunity to spend time reflecting on our future goals in a relaxed setting.

Hoping you take a break over the summer, even a short one, we will. We appreciate hearing from you and welcome your comments and suggestions.

ETHEL Warbinek | *editor for this issue* | warbinek@telus.net

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Lois Blais, Diana Bright, Lynne Esson, Beth Fitzpatrick, Chair, Beverly Leipter, Naomi Miller, Ethel Warbinek, Sheila Zerr

*The HoN Newsletter is published 4 times a year. Submissions are welcome. Please submit articles and news by September 15, 2006 to Lynne Esson at [esson@nursing.ubc.ca](mailto:esson@nursing.ubc.ca) or Sheila Zerr at [szerr@telus.net](mailto:szerr@telus.net)*

# 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**AR**  
**2005**

Our Annual Meeting was held on April 24, 2006 in the Constable Room at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver from 8:00 – 10:00 AM before the first meeting of the newly established College of Registered Nurses of BC. A continental breakfast preceded our meeting and was enjoyed by all. Annual reports were presented by the various committees and are included in this issue. If you have any questions regarding the content of these reports, please contact the committee chairs.

A surprising announcement was made by Glennis Zilm, informing us she would be receiving an honorary doctorate from Kwantlen University College in May 2006. We were thrilled at hearing this news. See page 16 for more information on this memorable event.

Outgoing executive members Jackie Ratzlaff and Lois Blais were thanked for their valuable contributions as Member-at-Large and Vice-President. We are so pleased Lois has agreed to take on the role of President in 2007 and welcomed Glennis Zilm as vice president and new member at large Isobel McDonald.

Our display table at the College meeting was an obvious attraction as members promoted the Florence Nightingale Opera and the upcoming CAHN conference. A raffle was held: prizes were a ticket to the CAHN banquet, 2 tickets to the Florence Nightingale opera, conference spoon and a package of Florence Nightingale note cards.



# President's REPORT

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## THE FIRST 6 MONTHS (May 2005-October 2005)

by Beth Fitzpatrick

The History of Nursing Group and friends celebrated Nurse's week 2005 and the birthday of Florence Nightingale at a **Spring Afternoon High Tea** at historic Hycroft in May. Our guest speakers, Betty O'Keefe and Ian Macdonald, authors of the book *Dr. Fred and the Spanish Lady: Fighting the Killer Flu*, entertained us with readings from selected passages in this fascinating story of Dr. Fred Underhill, Vancouver's medical health officer. Thanks to Kathy Murphy and Lenore Radom who organized this very successful event.

In July the History of Nursing Group "took to the high seas" for a very successful visit to Victoria where members and guests enjoyed the exhibit and displays at St. Ann's Academy. The exhibit featured the contributions to HealthCare made by the Sister's of St. Ann, from 1858 to the present. During the ferry trip and at our September meeting the previous year's goals and objectives were reviewed and goals were set for 2005-2006.

The B.C. History of Nursing Group endorsed the mission of the National Museum of Health Care, located in Kingston Ontario. We are proud to note that Glennis Zilm sits on the national advisory committee to the Museum's volunteer board of directors.

The History of Nursing logo was revised to reflect the change in title of our professional association and your President or a delegate regularly attended the PPG Council meetings.

# President's REPORT

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## SECOND SIX MONTHS (November 2005 - April 2006)

by Ethel Warbinek

Our group has been extremely busy over the past six months as plans for the CAHN conference and Florence Nightingale opera are finalized. This is in addition to the usual work of the various committees whose reports will be presented. We were required to revise our logo when the RNABC became the College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC). We are in the process of changing our various forms, most have been completed.

We received substantial donations to our Archival Development Fund. The most recent one was received on April 21, 2006. A donation of \$10,000.00 was made by HoN member, Janet Gormick, which she wishes to be used towards the purchase or long term rental of a permanent archives, artifacts, museum site or in lieu of that, to be used for serious fund raising.

We continue to plan interesting programs for our members, the most recent one a Tea at Hycroft in March which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Our note card inventory is larger than we had realized and Glennis Zilm has kindly agreed to look after the cards. She will be promoting sales in attempt to reduce the inventory. A new card was added this year, the Florence Nightingale one, to promote the opera as well as the CAHN conference and dinner in June.

Our membership is holding steady with an increase in student members over previous years. We are looking forward to the CAHN conference June 8-10, 2006 and will take a much deserved summer break.

# Archival Committee REPORT

**AR**  
**2005**

by Lois Blais

## MEMBERS

Don Ransom, Helen Niskala, Michelle Rooney, Lois Blais (Chair)

We were all saddened to learn of the death of Janet Gormick who was a long standing member of the Archives Committee.

## GOAL

Our goal is to have a provincial history of nursing center in the Lower Mainland that is linked online with other agencies and /or schools of nursing in the province holding nursing artifacts or other archival materials. The provincial center will be an archival museum with easy access for nurses and the general public. It will house our provincial nursing archives, oral history tapes, biographies of our nursing leaders, and artifacts that we have collected. It will also include a virtual museum online and an online catalogue of artifacts and other archival items held by the BC History of Nursing Group, as well as those held by other BC agencies.

## OBJECTIVES

The Archival Committee initiatives are the second most important function of the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group. The long-term objective is to establish a "Home of Our Own" as outlined in our goal above.

## SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES FOR THE YEAR 2006/7:

1. Maintain the processes and collections for Archival donations to the BC History of Nursing Group: and update the database.
2. Begin clearing the UBC office of nursing books and transfer them to the UBC Archives as a storage strategy for our collections.
3. Hire a new archivist.
4. Review and update the Finding Aid for General Collections
5. Review the BC History of Nursing Policy and Procedures Manual and add the Policy and Procedure for PPG's.
6. Collect documents and completed transfer forms from executive members and committee chairs and add to intra archival material.
7. Determine the best way to care for and store the collection of uniforms.

## ACTIONS

1. Three meetings were held through 2005/6. One meeting was held at the Special Collections branch of the UBC Archives with Chris Hives (Head of UBC Archives).
2. The Archives continues to receive requests for information through our website and Voice Mail in the UBC Office.

## PLANS

The Archives is always a work in progress. We continually receive materials from nurses, their families and colleagues, which makes our collection valuable. Over the years more nurses and the public have become aware of our archives. It is now gaining recognition among the nursing community. Plans for our website include pictures and information about the archival collection.

## THANK YOU

A special thank you to Melanie Hardbattle (Archivist), who for over four years maintained our Archives, taught us various aspects of archival priorities and principles. She built a foundation for our collection which places our nursing treasures on a solid base for a future "Home of Our Own." Thank you also goes out to all who have donated to the Archives and committee members: Janet Gormick, Don Ransom, Helen Niskala and Michelle Rooney who help maintain the workings of the committee.

# Nominating Committee REPORT

by **Beth Fitzpatrick**

## MEMBERS

Kathy Murphy, Sheila Zerr, and Beth Fitzpatrick. The following individuals named have all agreed to let their names stand.

### For two year terms of office:

**PRESIDENT**                    *May 2006 to October 2006*  
    *November 2006 to April 2007*  
    *May 2007 to October 2007*  
    *November 2007 to April 2008*

**Ethel Warbinek**  
**Kathy Murphy**  
**Sheila Zerr**  
**Lois Blais**

**VICE PRESIDENT**        **Glennis Zilm**  
**MEMBER AT LARGE**    **Isobel McDonald**

### Remaining on the Executive for one more year:

**SECRETARY**                **Inga Von Maydell**  
**TREASURER**              **Faye Meuser**  
**MEMBER AT LARGE**    **Lynne Esson**  
**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**    **Genelle Leifso**

Thank you to the nominees for their willingness to let their names stand for the designated positions. Thanks also to Jacki Ratzlaff for her contribution as member at large and to Lois Blais who has been our Vice-President.



*"High Tea" at Hycoft on St. Patrick's Day.*

# Editorial Board REPORT

AR  
2005

by Beth Fitzpatrick

The Editorial Board held 4 meetings in the past year and continues to produce the *History of Nursing News*. We also take responsibility for updating our web site ([www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca)). The plan to develop part of our web-site into a virtual museum is in the formative stages. The team of guest editors produced 4 newsletters during the 2005-2006 calendar year. We continue to enjoy the variety of formats and focus in each edition. The Editorial Board instituted two changes: the newsletter volume and issues now correspond with the calendar year and our financial year (January to December), and the size of the newsletter paper changed from legal to tabloid (11 by 17).

Thanks to Ethel Warbinek, Glennis Zilm, and Naomi Miller for their work as guest newsletter editors. Anita Warbinek once again assists us with the design of some editions and Genelle Liefso provides us with the mailing labels. This year we invited Diana Bright from Naramata to be a member of the Board and we regretfully accepted the resignation of Glennis Zilm after 17 years of dedicated service. We still qualify for Canada Post Publications Mail rates which is about half the cost of regular first class postage. The average cost of each issue is modest (approximately \$2.00). We send out about 20 complimentary issues per mailing and are planning to send these "free" issues by e-mail as a PDF attachment and we will be considering sending student newsletters the same way.

Once again, thanks to all the members of the History Group who regularly submit news items, book reviews, stories and articles for publication. This is much appreciated.

## Membership REPORT

by Genelle Liefso

In 2005, membership was at a record high with 136 members at year end. It is encouraging to note that there has been a steady increase in members – 1999 (85), 2001 (118), 2003 (130).

As of April 17, 2006, current figures are 2006 (to date)

Honorary	6	Full	47
Affiliate	35	Student	36
<b>Total: 124</b>			

2005 (year end)

Honorary	6	Full	65
Affiliate	36	Student	29
<b>Total: 136</b>			

Membership renewals continue to trickle in, and some members take the opportunity to renew while they are attending the AGM this week. I am optimistic that our current membership will continue grow.

You will see that we have many student members. Most of these memberships are due to the generosity of current members. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Dr Helen Niskala who spon-



sored 15 students and Drs Shirley Stinson, Phyllis Giovannetti, and Janet Ross Kerr who also sponsored 15 students. It is wonderful that in this way nursing history in BC is shared with the next generation of nursing leaders. And on graduation, occasionally these students continue as full members.

I would also like to thank the Executive for their patience with me this year as I became Membership Chair. In particular, the marvelous records and templates kept by my predecessor, Glennis Zilm, made this job easier than expected. As well, I would like to express my thanks to Faye Meuser, our Treasurer, who works closely with me in tracking new and renewing members.

As we continue to “discover, disseminate, and preserve Nursing history in British Columbia,” please continue to recruit new members for the HON group.

## Memorial Book Report

by Lynne Esson

During the year, the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group either initiated or assisted with **Three Nominations** for the **CRNBC Memorial Book (Formerly the RNABC)**. All three nominations were submitted to the CRNBC Awards Committee in January and were accepted. These individuals will be recognized during the Awards Ceremony and will be entered into the book.

### THIS YEAR THE NOMINEES FOR THE CRNBC MEMORIAL BOOK WERE:

**Monica Green** (died 2004) Nomination prepared by Sheila Zerr

**Edith Landells Lees** (died 2004) Nomination prepared by Glennis Zilm

**Margaret Neylan** (died 2005) Nomination prepared by Lynne Esson with assistance from Glennis Zilm and Sheila Zerr.

The above individuals were also submitted for inclusion in the CNA Memorial Book, however, due to time constraints were not reviewed for submission this year, but will be forwarded for next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked so hard to prepare these nominations. I would like to express my thanks to Elizabeth Bruce of the CRNBC for her assistance and support during the nomination process and wish her all the best in her new position.

If you know of or hear of someone who should be nominated please let the Chair of the Committee.

*Faye Meuser, Lenore Radom, Cheryl Entwistle and Sheila Zerr dressed in costume at the Annual General Meeting*





# Oral History Committee

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## REPORT

AR  
2005

by Ethel Warbinek

### MEMEBRS

Inga Von Maydell, Isobel McDonald, Sheila Zerr, Delcie Hill, Ethel Warbinek – chair

### INTERVIEWS COMPLETED APRIL 2005-MARCH 2006

Muriel Bamford, Phyllis Bernez, Nancy Bunn, Marilyn Dumont, Stephany Grasset, Jean Loney, Dr Verna Splane, Gloria Stephens, Betty Wynne

### PLANS FOR 2007

The first interview has been saved on a CD as well as on a cassette. The plan is to copy selected tapes onto CD's as many nurses no longer have cassette players. For now, the library requires both cassettes and CD's. A new tape duplication machine was purchased

# Pages of History

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## REPORT

by Sheila Rankin Zerr

### MEMBERS

Sheila Zerr (chair) Lenore Radom, Sandra Broad

### FUNDS

Funds raised go to the Archival Fund of the History of Nursing.

### PAGES TO DATE

Complete: 73      To complete: 6

### DISPLAY ALBUM:

Three duplicate display albums of the first 72 pages of history are now complete. One set has been placed in the CRNBC library. The other 2 albums are available for display at conferences etc. The original first 72 pages will placed in the archival collection

### ON-GOING PROJECTS:

The flyer, promoting the pages of history, has been revised to correlate with the web page description of the pages project and request for sponsors. As RNABC chapters closed around the province they were encouraged to buy a page of history for retiring executive and members. Plans to have a section of the web page is planned for the pages project and a system to rotate different pages on the web page is under development. The committee will continue to work on promotion of the project and will consider increasing the \$25.00 cost of a page of history.



*Lois Blais was "thanked" for her work as Vice President by Ethel Warbinek at the Annual General Meeting*

# Program REPORT

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by Lenore Radom

May 6, 2005 A very successful celebration of Nurses Week at Hycroft Mansion with guest speakers Betty O'Keefe & Ian Macdonald, authors of *Dr. Fred and the Spanish Lad: Fighting the Killer Flu*. It was attended by 60 people from the History Group & the Military Nursing Sister's Group.

July 19<sup>th</sup> was the summer meeting to Victoria to visit the Nursing Exhibit at the Sisters of St. Ann's Academy attended by 19 members.

CAHN planning has been the main focus for this year's planning/ program

Thw March 17<sup>th</sup> , 2006, Nurses Week event was repeated at Hycroft Mansion where we were entertained by the UBC Opera Singers, under the direction of Nancy Hermiston, to promote the May 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> Opera. Forty attended. Another thoroughly enjoyable event.

Proposed events from April 2006 are May 12 & 13 Opera "Florence: the Lady with the Lamp" and June 8 -10 we are hosting the CAHN Conference

# Scholarship Committee REPORT

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by Kathy Murphy

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that there were three winners in 2005.

## LEONORA MARCELLUS

Lenora Marcellus, a doctoral student at the University of Alberta, received her award for her research paper about the children nursed at the Queen Alexandra Solarium in Victoria. It is entitled "Tiny Cripples and the Sunshine of Life: 15 Years of Children's Nursing at Vancouver Island's Queen Alexandra Solarium 1927-1942". This paper was the first historical manuscript published in the Journal of Pediatric Nursing.

## JACLYN MADSEN

Jaclyn Madsen, a baccalaureate student in the Kwantlen Nursing programme, used her award in her research paper on "The Changing Image of the Nurse in History".

## DEBORAH HAMILTON

Deborah Hamilton, a doctoral student at UBC, received her award for her thesis about "An Historical Analysis of *The Canadian Critical Care Nursing Journal* 1985-1992".

# CAHN 2006 Conference Planning Committee REPORT

AR  
2005

by Sheila Rankin Zerr

## MEMBERS

Sheila Zerr, Chair, Beth Fitzpatrick, Linda Lister, Faye Meuser, Lois Blais, Lenore Radom, Lynne Esson, Jackie Ratzlaff, Cheryl Entwistle

## CONFERENCE DATE, PLACE, THEME AND PROGRAM:

Theme: Frontline Nurse: *Historical Milestones*  
Place: St. Paul's Hospital – Vancouver, B.C.  
Date: Thursday June 8, 2006

## REGISTRATION/ WELCOMING SOCIAL AND ADDRESSES

### Friday June 9, 2006 AM

Opening Hannah Lecture by Dianne Dodds  
Concurrent paper sessions  
Box Lunch CAHN General Meeting

### Friday June 9, 2006 PM

Concurrent paper sessions  
Evening – Banquet/Opera

### Saturday June 10, 2006 AM

Concurrent paper sessions  
10:45 – 12 noon – Hannah Lecture by Glennis Zilm - Closure

## Call for Abstracts:

We received and accepted 25 abstracts.

## SOCIAL EVENTS:

Thursday evening open to public as well as Nightingale Opera/dinner Friday evening. Jo Scott developed conference image/and David Roberts set design of cards and program.

**HOTELS:** Block of rooms at the Wall Centre.

**MAILING LIST:** Lenore developed a master mailing list and is arranging catering.

**PROMOTION:** Special spoons used as door prizes and gifts, to promote conference. Nursing contacts from around the province, sent posters and flyers.

**BUDGET:** Faye Meuser developed a draft budget and an account has been opened. Advance of \$1000 from CAHN and B.C. History Group provides start up money.

**DISPLAYS:** Plans for displays and store for sale of historical materials being developed by Beth Fitzpatrick and Linda Lister. Volunteers will be sought to assist with conference tasks.  
olunteers, Promotion



Members 'dressed up' at the Opera

# Treasurer's REPORT

by Faye Meuser

<b>General Account</b>		<b>Archival Account</b>	
Cash in Bank	\$1,945.27	Cash in Bank	\$6,531.99
		GIC's – total	\$33,008.91
<b>Scholarship Account</b>		<b>Conference Account</b>	
Cash in Bank	\$ 680.22	Cash in Bank	\$1,496.2
GIC's total	\$18,000.00		

## Donations to the BC History of Nursing Group Funds 2005

by Faye Meuser, Treasurer

During 2005, donations to the BC History of Nursing Charitable funds totalled \$17,054.55

### THE DONATIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

<b>Archival Fund</b>	\$16,974.55	<b>General Donations</b>	\$16,013.55
<b>CRNBC Resolution</b>	\$766.00	<b>Pages of History</b>	\$275.00
<b>Scholarship Fund</b>	\$80.00		

Below is a list of the donors and a big THANK YOU!

#### \$1000 & over

BCORNG	\$2,500.00
Esther Paulson Estate	\$5,000.00
Monica Green Estate	\$5,000.00
Nina Rumen	\$1,000.00

#### \$500 to \$999

Kathy Murphy (in kind)	J. Frances Sutherland
Sheila Zerr (in kind)	

#### \$200 to \$499

AGM-raffle	Janet Gormick
Pediatric Nurses Group	Glennis Zilm

#### \$100 to \$199

Barbara Bavinton	Nanaimo Chapter (RNABC)
Naomi Miller	Harriet Sloan
Anonymous	

#### \$0 to \$99

Lois Blais	Linda Boon
Joan Doree	Beverly DuGas
Lynne Esson	Brenda Flynn
M. Garrett	N Garrett
Marg Gorrie	Dr. Sonja Grypma
Bett Lauridsen	Genelle Leifso
Sharon Leitch	Carolyn Lush
Isobel McDonald	Faye Meuser
Kari Moore	Michelle. Rooney
Margaret Scaia	Sharon Simpson
Verna Splane	Karen Stewart
L. Temple	Anne Williams
F. Zabkar	Anonymous

# Display Committee REPORT

**AR**  
 2005

by Sheila Rankin Zerr

## MEMBERS:

Sheila Zerr, Chair, Lenore Radom, Lois Blais – St. Pauls,  
 Glennis Zilm/Ethel Warbinek/Lynne Esson – UBC

## RNABC DISPLAYS

Boardroom Display Case, Lobby Mannequin, Library /Bulletin Board and Display Table

**THE “CELEBRATE SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNAE”** revolving display, initiated in September 2003, continues throughout 2004 and 2005. The purpose is to draw attention to the history of nursing and activities of the various schools of nursing alumnae in B.C. and to join in partnership with them to promote and preserve the history of nursing.

**Sept 2004 – Feb. 2005** St. Paul's Hospital  
**Feb. 2005 – Sept 2005** Royal Columbian Hospital  
**Sept 2005 – February 2006** Royal Inland Hospital Kamloops  
**February 2006 – June 2006** Florence Nightingale

## LIBRARY HISTORICAL CORNER

A section of the library has been designated for historical purposes. This holds the Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection on permanent display. Also on display, 2 albums of “Pages of History” and the Oral History Collection. There is also a section of nursing history books catalogued with historical labels. A miniature doll tribute to Margaret Neylan was added in 2006.

## UBC DISPLAY

Displays at UBC are managed by Lynne Esson, Ethel Warbinek and Glennis Zilm. Displays have featured UBC's first graduating class, UBC Nursing Undergraduate Society, 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UBC School of Nursing, Books published by UBC Faculty, Celebrating 100 Years of the Canadian Nurse Journal, Lest we Forget and Florence Nightingale. Glennis Zilm has initiated a nursing history display in the School's Learning Centre. This includes a mannequin showing various nursing costumes and a table of historical materials that provides the opportunity for students to enjoy “hands on” books and artefacts for their review and study.



# Book reviews

1

ONE

## *Diamonds in the Sand*

Submitted by Naomi Miller

*Diamonds in the Sand*, Katy Penner, Windflower Communications, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 2001, 260 pages Paperback

Katy Penner was born in a Mennonite colony in the Ukraine, arrived in Saskatchewan in 1926, grew up in the Depression years, finished high school by correspondence then took nurses training in Winnipeg. She graduated as an RN plus Bachelor of Religious Education in 1952. She immediately signed up to work in the Belgian Congo. This posting required studies in Belgium to learn tropical medicine and to speak French. She came second in a class of 86 nurses and sailed for Africa in August 1953.

First came public health internship in Leopoldville (now Kinshasa) covered vaccination programs, water and sanitation, plus record keeping. From there she went to a busy hospital in Kikwit where the volume of patients necessitated speedy procedures. Example: 8 hernia repairs done in 4 hours by the same surgeon wearing the same gown, using instruments rinsed but not sterilized while one nurse or aide tried to shoo flies off the surgical field. Lesson Two was to learn the lab work to calculate medication doses for trypanosomes in spinal fluid. That was followed by actually doing spinal taps with the patient seated on a stool and the nurse on her knees on the floor. Other lessons were designed to show the way to do as much as possible with few supplies, medicine and personnel.

The next move was to her first bush posting. She was driven over a road barely worthy of the

name, arrived at dusk, had her first emergency call at midnight and discovered that her newly learned French would not suffice. She needed to learn Bantu.

Four months later she was transferred to Kajiji. There the dispensary and most of the mission residences had been lost to a fire. Her new duties included directing the building of a large ward made of bamboo with thatched grass roof and walls. Nurses and aides were men. No girls were allowed. Penner and a series of white medical missionaries adapted to local foods, customs, climate and the people. For almost ten years they worked comfortably together, feeling welcomed into a family atmosphere.

The Liberation movement began in 1960. Many missionaries left the Congo and returned to

their homes. Penner was one of the last to leave and the first to return. The author was driven from her work three times by rebels, yet responded to calls to serve whenever and wherever needed in the new country of Zaire.

In 1976 she returned to Saskatchewan to care for ailing family. She arranged to complete her degree and immediately went on staff at the University of Saskatchewan School of Nursing. In 1982 she returned to the Congo to start a new school of nursing. Previously all nurses in the Congo had been men but finally women were permitted to attend classes.

Miss Penner is now retired and living in Kelowna next door to HoN member Ferne Trout (Ed. Ferne Trout died on March 24, 2006). Katy Penner lived a very full life, undertaking nursing duties in

conditions unfamiliar to her Canadian peers. Her story is very interesting. In some chapters medical and church activities flow concurrently. Some later chapters concentrate on various Christian mission endeavors. Some chapters contain mini biographies of the Congolese stalwarts who worked with her. (The names of those individuals are tongue twisters for me.) She concludes with a thumbnail history of the Congo/Zaire. Her work was proof read by friends but might have benefited by guidance from a professional editor.

“The author was driven from her work three times by rebels, yet responded to calls to serve whenever and wherever needed in the new country of Zaire”

## 2 Faculty of Nursing on the Move

TWO

Reviewed by Marjory Ralston.

Geertje Boschma. *Faculty of Nursing on the Move: Nursing at the University of Calgary, 1969-2004*. University of Calgary Press, 2005, 291p.

This book describes in detail the history of the University of Calgary's nursing program from its beginnings in 1969. In a 1964 report on nursing education in Canada, Dr Helen Mussallem commented: "Unless more and better-qualified nursing personnel are prepared, new health programs, or an expansion of present ones, may be seriously hampered." Dr Boschma sets forth in a scholarly fashion the many faceted responses to this report and describes with great accuracy, the cultural beliefs, the nature of nursing, and the place of women in Canadian society in the 1960s. She chronicles controversial issues surrounding university education for nursing and also the political climate in building an accurate recreation of the environment in which the School of Nursing at the University of Calgary was inaugurated.

It is within this historic setting that the principal players in the establishment of the Bachelor of Nursing program are introduced. The decisive impetus for the program came from the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, which considered that the best approach was a four-year integrated baccalaureate degree program. Under the leadership of Director Shirley Good and her faculty, a curriculum incorporating the notion of "patient-centred" care was developed and a group of 50 students entered the first year of the program in the fall of 1970. The difficulties faced by the faculty both as nurses and as women, again in the context of the political and social attitudes of 1969-1970 and the politics within the university, are described in detail. The first class graduated in May 1974 and in 1979 the first post-diploma class graduated. In 1974, Marguerite Schumacher instigated a theory-based curriculum in line with the current philosophical approach toward nursing. Constant change was the order of the day regarding research, graduate education, and affiliation with diploma programs. The ongoing discussions about the changes, challenges, and advances are discussed in detail, giving the reader fascinating insights into ten-

sions and decision-making over the years.

In 1979 Margaret Scott Wright became Dean, bringing with her a wealth of experience from her work in Britain and Canada. Under her leadership the graduate program was developed. Having already introduced such a program at Dalhousie University, Dr Scott Wright had the expertise to accomplish this feat in the Calgary setting. Throughout her tenure, many changes took place in all programs related to the increasing acuity of critically ill patients. Many new approaches such as articulation and affiliation, distance learning, and a learning resource centre were established during this time. In 1985 Dr Joy Calkin became Dean. Under her leadership, the undergraduate program came into focus again as well as an initiative toward affiliation, articulation, and integration of diploma and degree programs. Nursing research became another important focus, with Shirley Stinson, Margaret Scott Wright, and Joy Calkin as lead players. Commitment to nursing practice and to community service remained strong amongst faculty. Again, all this activity is portrayed against the political and financial climate in Alberta in the 1980s. Many more changes took place under the leadership of the new Dean, Dr Janet Storch during the severe restraints of the 1990s. The specific restraints of this period are well documented with increasing emphasis on the political climate. At this time, increased need for advanced academic preparation for faculty became an issue; the underlying reasons are well documented, again examining the issue in light of other women faculty in the university. In 1997, Dr. Deborah Tamlyn became Dean bringing new ideas and initiatives, including the first regular doctoral program and a nurse practitioner program. These changes reflect changing attitudes and social issues of the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This most readable and interesting book is of great value for anyone interested in trends and changes in nursing in the last 35 years for it consistently places events within an historic context. Throughout the book, faculty's previous credentials and contributions are recorded making fascinating reading about many well known nursing leaders. Throughout, concurrent events give the reader insight into the triumphs and setbacks of the remarkable achievement of establishing a university nursing program.

This book is available at the C.R.N.B.C library and the U.B.C. Woodward library.



# Celebrating Glennis Zilm

*Kwantlen University College celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and we were so pleased to hear that our very own Glennis Zilm would be receiving an Honorary Doctor of Letters at the convocation Ceremony on May 30, 2006. The following is taken from the Convocation Connections: Special Edition May 30, 2006.*

Over her 46-year career, **Glennis Zilm** has effectively combined nursing practice, education, and journalism into her work as a researcher and advocate of nursing history in BC and across Canada.

For her many immeasurable contributions to the betterment of her profession and her peers, Kwantlen University College recognized Glennis Zilm with an Honorary Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) at the 2006 convocation ceremony

"I love being able to combine my careers as a nurse and a journalist. I have had many widely different work experiences since I graduated largely because I am willing to take a risk and try something a bit different. I am deeply honoured to accept this honorary degree, and in turn, thank work I do."

Glennis was born in Saskatchewan and was raised in New Westminster, BC. In 1958, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UBC. A few years later she studied journalism at Carleton University and in 1982, received her Master of Arts and Communication from SFU. Now semi-retired, she continues to write and keeps herself busy with her own projects.

When asked about her greatest accomplishment, the Surrey/White Rock resident values many but considers her 2004 John B. Neilson Award from Associated Medical Services (formerly the Hannah Foundation) the most rewarding as it is given annually to a non-professional historian who promotes preservation of health care history in Canada. Glennis was the first Canadian nurse to be honoured in this manner.

Other achievements she values relate to her work as a journalist with the Canadian Press (CP). Glennis worked with the wire service in various parts of Canada, including covering football games and figure skating in Edmonton and science on Parliament Hill. "It was a great opportunity and privilege to be one of the few women journalists on Parliament Hill at the time," says Glennis. A highlight of those journalistic days was two trips to Canada's far north. Glennis was one of a select group to accompany then – Governor General Roland Michener on a special summer tour of the Arctic.

Even as a beginning journalist, Glennis had the honour of having some of her nursing articles appear in journals around the world – including one translated into Japanese.

As a tireless advocate for nursing historical research, Glennis wants to instil a love of history in the next generation of health care professionals. Twice a year, she meets with Kwantlen nursing students, often in costume as Mrs. Miller, the first nurse to serve with Canada's military forces. Her goal is to inspire students by making them aware of how individual nurses of the past have shaped nursing history.

"I hope that Kwantlen students take away a belief that they are agents of change," says Glennis. "I look out over a room full of fledgling nurses, knowing that each and every one of them will likely save many lives." Glennis is a shining example of what an "ordinary nurse" can do. Drawing from history, her experiences and those of her classmates 50 years ago, Glennis inspires students who may not realize that they have the power within themselves to be extraordinary.

"I would like to tell all this year's Kwantlen graduates that they possess this power – and to go out and make use of it! And remember to have fun too!"



*Skip Triplett, President, Kwantlen University College  
and Glennis Zilm*

*Congratulations Glennis! well done!*

# News about members

**NAOMI MILLER** is once again in costume as a guide and interpreter at Fort Steele, a provincial park and historic site, for the summer. Fort Steele, once a gold rush boom town, is located just northeast of Cranbrook. Naomi published a history of the town and area in 2002. Now that the Conference of the B.C. Historical Federation, for which she was Conference Chair, is over, she has become a regular contributor of "a snatch of history" for Wasa's monthly newsletter.

## ROSE MURAKAMI

We were so shocked to learn that Rose Murakami's house on Salt Spring Island burned to the ground on Friday May 5, 2006. Fortunately Rose, her brother Richard and sister Violet got out safely. They lost everything including irreplaceable family photos and all personal belongings. The fire which began around 6 AM, spread quickly so that by the time the volunteer fire fighters arrived on the scene, it had engulfed the entire home.

The Murakami family has been pioneer residents of Salt Spring since the turn of the last century. During WWII they were interned in the interior of BC and later in Alberta. They lost their home and all possessions. By 1954, the family had raised enough money to return to Salt Spring. By sheer determination and hard work they purchased property on Rainbow Road and established a successful farm, starting all over from scratch. This is the house that was destroyed in the fire.

Presently Rose and her family are living in a trailer on the property awaiting the rebuilding of the family home. As Rose wrote in her book *Ganbaru: the Murakami Family of Salt Spring Island*, published last year, "With dignity and courage, our parents brought the family safely through some terrible, terrible times in our journey through life and ensured that our family prevailed." Knowing Rose, she will overcome this recent set back and the family will be reunited in their newly built home. A trust fund - the "Murakami Fire Friendship Trust" has been established by the Salt Spring community.



## Summer Meeting

Our summer meeting will be held at the home of Glennis Zilm on July 13, 2006. It gives us the opportunity to spend time reflecting on our future goals in a relaxed setting.

The History of Nursing group meets on the second Thursday of every month at the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia at 4PM.

*All members are welcome to attend!*



# REMEMBERING

## Janet Gormick

OCTOBER 12, 1940 - APRIL 27, 2006

**J**anet Gormick, a long standing member of our History of Nursing Group, died on April 27, 2006, following a courageous struggle with adrenal cancer. The last few weeks of her life were spent on the Palliative Care Unit at the Vancouver General Hospital. Close friends stayed with her for comfort and support.

For the past several years Janet chaired the biographical committee, collecting valuable information on many BC nurses. The number of files increased under her watch. She also sat on the Archives Committee and was strong advocate for the preservation of nursing history. She, along with her dear friend Helen Shore, promoted the dream of a "Home of our Own", a permanent site for a nursing history museum and archives. Shortly before her death, she made a generous \$10,000.00 donation to our Archival Development Fund. This money is to be used for a permanent archives and /or to be matched by fund raising.

Janet enjoyed a lifelong career in Professional Nursing beginning in 1958 at St. Joseph's Hospital

School of Nursing, Syracuse, NY where she nursed in paediatrics following graduation. In 1964, she completed a Bachelor of Science with a major in Public Health Nursing in a joint program at the Upstate Medical Centre and Syracuse University. Janet then helped open the first Psychiatric Daycare Unit in North America at St. Joseph's where she served first as Head Nurse and then Supervisor for 3 years. She then began teaching paediatric and psychiatric nursing in one of President Lyndon Johnson "Great Society" Manpower Programs. In 1971 she completed a Master of Nursing program at UCLA as a Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist and a Post Masters Community Mental Health Consultant program. At UCLA Professor Dr. Muriel Uprichard (who was moving to UBC as Director of the School of Nursing) invited Janet to teach Psychiatric Nursing at UBC for one year. Thus began Janet's 26 year career at UBC during which time she was involved in development of a UBC model for nursing, theory development and curriculum building as well as clinical practice in psychiatry, community and family health at both the undergraduate and graduate level. As a 26 year member of the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing, she served 8 years as Vice-President, President and Past-President of the Western Region and received an Honourary Life Membership upon retirement.

In addition to her involvement in our group, Janet was a member of the Vancouver Historical Society, Friends of the Vancouver City Archives and the VGH "Save Heather" Society. She was also a member of the planning group for the Bladder Care Centre and Regional Programs for the Vancouver Coastal Health Region. She swam for 20 years on Saturday mornings with a group at C.G. Brown Pool in Burnaby

A memorial service was held on May 5, 2006 at the University Golf Club. Two scholarships have been established in Janet's name. One will be awarded to a student in the basic Undergraduate Program and the other to a student in the Masters Program. Cheques can be sent to the UBC School of Nursing and made out to the JANET GORMICK SCHOLARSHIP FUND. Donations can also be made to the Palliative Care Unit Fund, Vancouver General Hospital Foundation

We will miss Janet's laughter, her good sense of humour, her wit and most of all her steadfast devotion to finding a permanent home for our nursing archives.

**Submitted by Ethel Warbinek**



IN MEMORY

## M. Ferne Trout

1919 - 2006

**M**argaret Ferne Trout once noted that, in retrospect, some of her nursing experiences seemed almost unbelievable – but she enjoyed every moment and her career was “all I ever dreamed of and more.” A long-time member and supporter of the B.C. History of Nursing Group, she spent considerable time in her retirement composing her memoirs. (Copies will be available in the CRNBC Library and the Group’s Archives.)

Born in Saskatchewan in 1919, she spent her childhood on remote homesteads in the Cariboo district and other parts of central B.C. She entered the University of B.C. when she was barely 17 and graduated with a B.A. in 1939, then entered the School of Nursing and graduated in 1943. She had a roving and varied career that took her into prominent positions throughout B.C. and Canada.

During her student years at Vancouver General Hospital, she contracted tuberculosis and spent six months in Tranquille Sanatorium. Following graduation, she was offered a job with the Division of TB Control to run the new affiliation pro-

gram – the first provincial compulsory TB affiliation in Canada for all student nurses. In 1948, she left the Division and moved into a number of innovative positions, including a one-year stint as a travelling instructor for the Registered Nurses Association of B.C.; this was an early continuing education course designed to help nurses keep current on advances in nursing. From 1952-1954, she was Assistant Director of Nursing at Pearson Hospital in Vancouver, which had opened to care for an influx of TB patients following World War II but which was now being converted into a hospital for patients with long-term, chronic care conditions, including poliomyelitis.

After leaving Pearson, she once again moved through a variety of senior positions, including Director of Nursing Education at Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops, then Director of Nursing at Penticton Regional Hospital and later Lions Gate Hospital in North Vancouver. She took a one-year special course offered by the University of Toronto in Hospital Administration in 1964. Following her time at Lions Gate, she was appointed a surveyor and later Associate Executive Director for the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation. The Council set standards for and accredited hospitals all across Canada. She later wrote that “the Council was the greatest challenge of my career” but she was given opportunities to use her organization, planning, and writing skills. Her next career move was as Director of Patient Services at Shaughnessy Hospital in Vancouver from 1978 to 1980, and her final move was as Director of Special Projects at Vancouver General Hospital from 1980-1983.

She retired in 1983 first to Penticton and later to Kelowna, and, despite health problems, continued to lead an active life. She travelled widely, including a safari to Africa when she was in her 80s. She died peacefully in Kelowna on March 24, 2006.

**Submitted by Glennis Zilm**

*Ed Note:*

*The following message was written by Ferne Trout on March 17, 2006, shortly before her death :*

*It is time to go. I have had a wonderful life and am grateful that you were part of it. May God hold you in the palm of His hand till we meet again. (Memorial Service – April 21, 2006)*

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