



Western Conservancy of Nursing History Newsletter



Message from Western Conservancy of Nursing History President, Phyllis Esslinger

2020 Accomplishments

In spite of pandemic restrictions, the Western Conservancy of Nursing History (WCNH) members accomplished amazing things during 2020, including keeping in touch

by phone, computer, and Zoom!

—Since St. Vincent Hospital in Los Angeles closed, the Sisters of Charity (the hospital founders) generously transferred items from their former conservancy, including nursing records and their memorabilia related to St. Vincent Hospital's unique history as the first hospital and first school of nursing in Southern California. They also included glass display cases. What wonderful gifts and contributions for WCNH! Two board members packed up two large moving vans and found a location for storage of it all until it can be displayed.

—WCNH is delighted to announce a \$10,000 Azusa Pacific University (APU) Faculty Research Grant, awarded to WCNH Board Member Kathy Ruccione, Associate Professor of APU School of Nursing. Dr. Ruccione and her team will conduct grounded theory research on graduates of the Class of 1953 of Huntington Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. The study addresses the influence of relationships of class alumni with each other over time on their respective decisions to remain in the nursing profession over their careers. The study seeks to generate themes to inform retention of professional nurses in nursing careers today ([see article on page 4](#)).

—WCNH submitted a proposal for curriculum modification to the APU PhD Nursing Program to add an emphasis in historical nursing research. Preparation of the proposal included a national survey for need and proposed new courses for the historical emphasis. The proposal received approval by the APU School of Nursing and is in the final review process at the University level. Once approved, the new courses could be offered as early as Fall of 2021. This opens the door for students to gain experience with WCNH!

—Lastly, we completed a video of the Florence Nightingale reenactment performed by one of our board members, Dr. Connie Brehm. The video was shown during the spring 2020 online Sigma Theta Tau induction ceremony. The plan is to make it available for educational purposes through WCNH.

In summary, I'm gratified to report that despite our limited communication and movement due to Covid-19, it's been a most successful year. We look forward to 2021 when we hope to expand WCNH membership and continue working to preserve and promote the history of nursing in Western States.

From your president, Phyllis Esslinger



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Nursing History Brought to Life.....	2
What Can We Learn from the Class of 1953?.....	4
About WCNH	5
Tell Your Story of Pandemic Nursing..	5
Membership Application.....	6

WCNH BOARD OFFICERS

Phyllis Esslinger, President

Diane Hara, Vice President

Joyce Johnson, Secretary

Margaret Souza, Treasurer

Connie Brehm, Membership Chair

Trish Hanes, Education Director

Tricia Hunter and Connie Brehm, Newsletter Co-Editors

Office Location and WCNH Archives

**Azusa Pacific University
School of Nursing
Monrovia Site**

606 E. Huntington Dr.
Monrovia, CA 91016

Website: <https://westernconservancyof-nursinghistory.com/>

Email: info@westernconservancyofnursinghistory.com

Office Phone: (626) 815-6349

Nursing History Brought to Life!

Live Reenactment of Florence Nightingale Performed during Nurses' Week

Sponsored by the Western Conservancy of Nursing History

In celebration of 2019 Nurses' Week on May 9, the WCNH presented a live reenactment of Florence Nightingale performed by Dr. Connie Brehm who is Professor Emeritus of APU School of Nursing. This one-woman biographical drama replete with costume and props, carried the nursing audience back to the 19th century life and times of Florence Nightingale. Renowned as the founder of modern nursing her life story was recounted by Dr. Brehm who became Miss Nightingale for the evening. This storytelling adventure described Nightingale's service in British Army Hospitals during the Crimean War in 1854-56, where she applied newly

discovered principles of sanitation, public health and statistics in a military hospital setting, resulting in dramatic improvement in patients' recovery from injury and illness. Later Nightingale's unwavering commitment to high standards of nursing practice at St. Thomas Hospital in London provided a sound basis for founding the Nightingale School of Nursing. Her military accomplishments, her contributions to nursing education and to public health, all contributed to Nightingale's reputation as the Mother of Modern Nursing.

Talking History 2021: A Series of Webinars

from
*American Association for the
History of Nursing (AAHN)*

Midwifery and Race

February 20, 2021
Available on the AAHN website (<https://www.aahn.org/>)

Nursing Education

March 19, 2021
11a-12:30p ET (8a-9:30a PT)

War and Nursing

April 16, 2021
11a-12:30p ET (8a-9:30a PT)

Identity and Nursing

May 21, 2021
11a-12:30p ET (8a-9:30a PT)

Register at American Association for the History of Nursing: <https://www.aahn.org/>

Webinars are Free for AANH members; Or \$25 per session for non-members.

CEUs offered



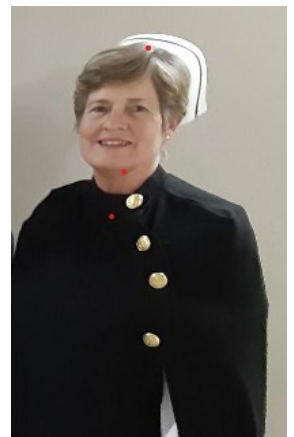
Florence Nightingale,
the Mother of Modern Nursing (1820 – 1910)



Dr. Connie Brehm
as Florence Nightingale in May, 2019

Photo (at right) of Dr. Connie Brehm in costume for live reenactment of Captain Edwina Todd, WWII Navy Nurse. A live performance will be scheduled when it is safe to do so.

About Connie Brehm PhD RN: Dr. Brehm is Professor Emeritus of the Azusa Pacific University School of Nursing. Dr. Brehm is a board member of Western Conservancy of Nursing History and continues to contribute to the nursing community by performing live reenactments of notable nurses in history.





Captain C. Edwina Todd served in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps from 1936-1966. She was captured by the Japanese Army at the start of World War II and was imprisoned for 3 years. After the war, she continued to serve in the Navy. Among other accomplishments she was Chief Nurse of a navy hospital ship..

**Next Reenactment is Captain C. Edwina Todd,
WWII Navy Nurse
Performance for 2020 is postponed due to pandemic...
To be rescheduled!**

Sponsored by Western Conservancy of Nursing History

Dr. Connie Brehm has prepared and performed the story of Captain C. Edwina Todd of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. After three performances (as part of a storytellers group), performances were suspended due to pandemic precautions. Live reenactments will resume, including for the APU nursing community, once it is safe to do so. The story of Capt. Todd is a heroic one! As a young hospital nurse, Capt. Todd was stationed at a U.S. Naval Base outside of Manila when the Japanese army invaded the Philippines at the start of World War II. After being captured by the Japanese army, she and 77 other U.S. military nurses, spent 3 years in Japanese internment camps where they continued to provide nursing care to their fellow prisoners of war (POWs) suffering from illness and malnutrition. In 1945 the U.S. military liberated the Philippine population along with the surviving POWs among whom were the army and navy nurses. After the war Capt. Todd chose to continue serving in the Navy Nurse Corps, and once again volunteered for overseas duty a decade later for the Korean War. During the Korean War she was commissioned Chief Nurse of the Navy hospital ship, *The Consolation* (later known as *The Hope*). Capt. Todd served 30 years in the Navy Nurse Corps and reached the rank of Captain, the highest rank a nurse could hold at the time. She retired from the Navy in 1966 having been highly decorated for her heroism and dedicated service. Also notable is that Capt. Todd is the aunt of Professor Pamela Cone of the APU School of Nursing.

Pandemic Nursing Storytelling

**Nurses are invited to tell
their stories of pandemic
nursing: A WCNH oral
history project to capture
nurses' stories**

In January of 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) made their official proposal declaring **2020 the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife**. Who would have known then the tremendous significance of that designation, given that the world was yet completely unaware of the approaching Covid-19 pandemic? Word is out that WHO is extending the **Year of the Nurse and the Midwife** to 2021.

As the pandemic quickly spread from country to country, continent to continent during winter/spring of 2020, the work of nurses was suddenly thrust into the spotlight in an unprecedented way, making all of us aware that our profession would be central to the history of this event! How do we capture this time for nursing history? How can we answer phenomenological questions such as "What is the experience of practicing nursing during a pandemic?" Future generations of nurses and historians will want to know.

The Board of our WCNH wants to capture the stories of nurses in our geographical region, the Western States. The format will be through a recorded "oral history" with guiding questions, anticipating each interview to take about one hour of time. The intent of WCNH is to capture this historic time of nursing's history by recording the stories while still fresh.

If you, or nurse acquaintances, are interested in participating please contact:

Connie Brehm RN, PhD
Board Member of Western Conservancy of Nursing History
Professor Emeritus
School of Nursing
Azusa Pacific University
(909) 732-2997 or
cbrehm@apu.edu

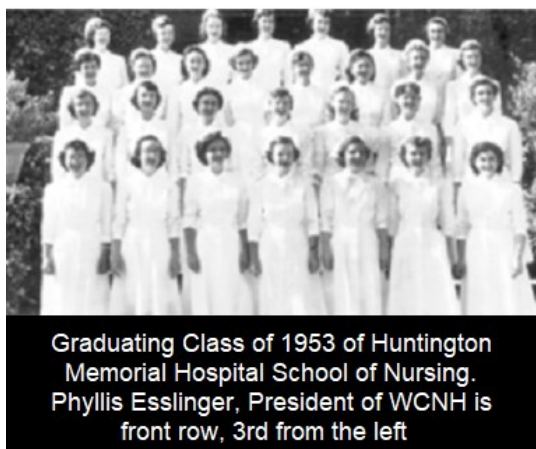
What Can We Learn from The Class of 1953 of Huntington Memorial Hospital School of Nursing?

By **Kathy Ruccione**, Associate Professor, APU School of Nursing and WCNH Board Member



What keeps a class of nursing students who graduated in 1953 in close touch with each other and committed to nursing as a profession for 70 years? That's what we want to learn from a study, led by a team from APU and the WCNH. The study, entitled, "*Factors Influencing Career Development over Time in a Cohort of Nursing School Graduates*," is funded by APU. The study team includes APU SON faculty, members of the WCNH board of directors, and consultants who are experts in grounded theory (GT) research methodology and nursing informatics.

Officially, the purpose of the study is to learn about nursing professional socialization and career development from a cohort whose relationships began in the Huntington Memorial Hospital (HMH) School of Nursing and continue to the present.



Specific aims are to: (1) systematically collect and analyze data from members of the cohort; (2) apply an analytic process that discovers categories and themes in the data; (3) identify attributes, antecedents and consequences of professional socialization and long-term friendship; and (4) develop a theory that describes critical influences that guide the process of professional socialization leading to long-term commitment and dedication to nursing.

We are interviewing surviving members of the class of '53, and using a grounded theory approach to

characterize the cohort, their experiences and perceptions. We are fortunate to have a rich trove of other data sources, too, including class newsletters, reunion data, school yearbooks, and recorded oral history and focus group interviews. All documents are being scanned and stored securely on a cloud drive. Print materials, audio files, and interview transcripts are being converted to digital file transcripts, which will be printed/bound to facilitate initial coding by members of the study team using open, thematic, and selective coding. Constant comparative analysis will be used to develop an emergent theory to advance understanding of nursing professional socialization on career development over time.

From the 1950's to today, major changes have occurred in nursing practice, education, and research. Capturing the individual stories of a long-term cohort of nurses offers an opportunity to reflect on changes over time that can inform the discipline's preparation for nursing and health care in the future. And we expect that the results of this study will contribute to the heretofore relatively unrecorded history of nursing in Southern California. We look forward to sharing what we learn as we complete the study in the next year. From the 1950's to today, major changes have occurred in nursing practice, education, and research. Capturing the individual stories of a long-term cohort of nurses offers an opportunity to reflect on changes over time that can inform the discipline's preparation for nursing and health care in the future. And we expect that the results of this study will contribute to the heretofore relatively unrecorded history of nursing in Southern California. We look forward to sharing what we learn as we complete the study in the next year.

Study Team

Kathy Ruccione, PhD, RN, MPH, CPON, FAAN, Principal Investigator, Phyllis Esslinger, RN, PHN, MSN, Joyce Johnson, PhD, RN-BC, Barbara Artinian, PhD, RN, Katharine West, DNP, MPH, MSN

Western Conservancy of Nursing History

ABOUT US

WCNH Board of Directors	
President – Phyllis Esslinger	pjnie81@gmail.com
Vice President – Diane Hara	krazy4peace@aol.com
Secretary – Joyce Johnson	jjohnson1221@aol.com
Treasurer – Margaret Souza	MAS24od@aol.com
Membership Chair – Connie Brehm	cbrehm@apu.edu
Education Director – Trish Hanes	phanes@apu.edu
Newsletter Co-Editors – Tricia Hunter and Connie Brehm	Thunter930@gmail.com cbrehm@apu.edu
Board Members at Large	
Joyce Jacob	joyceajacob@aol.com
Kathleen Ruccione	kruccione@apu.edu
Brent Wood	bwood@apu.edu
Arlys Veen	theeens@veen.com

Board Meetings are 2nd Saturday of each month, starting at 9 am, in-person or virtual. All members are invited.

Contact Information

Website: <https://westernconservancyofnursinghistory.com/>

Email: info@westernconservancyofnursinghistory.com

Office Phone: 626-815-6349

Phone (alternate): 323-663-2008

Office Location and WCNH Archives Western Conservancy of Nursing History

Azusa Pacific University School of Nursing

Monrovia Site

606 E. Huntington Dr.

Monrovia, CA 91016-3637

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Western Conservancy of Nursing History is to preserve the history of the nursing profession in the Western United States. We believe in the importance of understanding the historical and scholarly significance of nursing's past in order to effectively promote its future. Therefore, we pledge to preserve the culture and heritage of nursing through the acquisition, organization, interpretation, preservation, and exhibition of nursing documentation, artifacts, and other media. These collections will be available as a resource for research and other scholarly pursuits, as well function as a medium to communicate to the greater community the pride and honor of a noble and caring profession.

"The longer, the fuller the history, the better the understanding of today and the more accurate the prediction of the future."
–Winston Churchill

WCNH

Western Conservancy of Nursing History

Membership Information

Becoming a member of WCNH provides you with a spectrum of opportunities to both enrich your interest and contribute to the field of nursing history with particular focus on nursing history in the Western United States & Pacific. Annual membership is: January to December.

Membership Categories

Regular Member – Open to professional nurses as well as anyone who has an interest in nursing history. Membership includes all member benefits listed below. Dues \$50.

Supporting Member – A regular member who makes an additional donation of \$75 or more to support the work of WCNH.

Student Member - Full-time students with an interest in the work of WCNH. Dues \$20.

Institutional Member – Schools, colleges and departments of nursing, as well as organizations, agencies or corporations with an interest in the purposes and work of WCNH. Dues \$200.

WCNH Member Benefits

- Access to Virtual Presentations (1-2 hours each) on topics related to nursing history in the Western US and Pacific. Free CEUs awarded for attendees.
- WCNH Newsletter (semi-annual)
- Updates on events and news of interest to the nursing and health care history community
- Connection and networking opportunities with WCNH members
- Opportunities for involvement in WCNH's current endeavors, such as:
 - Continued development and organization of the WCNH Archives at Azusa Pacific University School of Nursing (Monrovia Campus)
 - Interviews and recording of oral histories of nurses in Western states & Pacific
 - Board membership and holding office in WCNH
 - Eligibility for grants and WCNH nursing scholarship awards
 - Participation in nursing history education at Azusa Pacific University

[ONLINE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION](#)

Membership Application

Membership Type (mark one): ☐ Regular; ☐ Supporting; ☐ Student; ☐ Institutional;

Individual Name: First Name _____ Last Name _____

Title _____ Credentials (i.e. RN, BSN, MSN, PhD, etc.) _____

Institutional Affiliation _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mailing Address (if different from above) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Cell / Mobile _____ Home _____ Work _____

Email _____

Dues Amount: Payable on-line or by check as follows:

☐ Regular Member = \$50 ☐ Student Member: \$20 ☐ Institutional Member: \$200

☐ Supporting Member: \$50 + additional donation amount below (minimum \$75)

Circle amount: \$75 \$100 \$150 \$200 \$500 \$1000 or Other amount \$ _____

Interest Category (please check all that apply)

☐ Board membership or office holder in WCNH. Note: Board meets monthly via Zoom.

☐ Development & organizing of WCNH Archives at APU School of Nursing

☐ Communications: Newsletter, email updates, posting presentations for members & website

☐ Interviewing and recording of oral histories of distinguished nurses

☐ Membership and Networking Team: Recruit, retain and connect members for WCNH

☐ Represent and make presentations for WCNH at nursing conferences and other events

☐ Nursing history education: Such as mentorship of graduate & undergraduate students and development of continuing education programs

☐ Other type of participation (please describe): _____

I'll be paying by the following method:

Pay by check _____ Please mail to: Western Conservancy of Nursing History
c/o APU School of Nursing
606 E. Huntington Drive
Monrovia, CA 91016

Payment on-line: _____ See next page for on-line payment information



Capping Ceremony of students in Huntington Memorial Hospital School of Nursing (class of 1953). Note: Capping occurs at the end of probation upon successful completion of students' first semester in their nursing program.

**Western Conservancy of
Nursing History**

Azusa Pacific University
School of Nursing
Monrovia Site
606 E. Huntington Dr.
Monrovia, CA 91016-3637

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

