















## ICIRN — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Henderson dates the origin of the Council from the work of the National Committee on Nursing Service founded after World War II and chaired by Marion Sheahan. As the members discussed specific research they thought was needed, it became clear that studies were duplicated and often lost. They realized that lack of control over the literature in nursing would mean wastefully repeating studies unless a way could be found to record what had been done. A small grant of less than \$30,000 was secured from the USPHS to produce a clarification of nursing research, to identify what had been done and where reports could be found and read. The group was charged with creating a blueprint for nursing research identifying the areas that had been covered and those that had not and to make some recommendations for the future. Leo Simmons, then in the Department of Sociology at Yale University, was named Director. The project was administered by him and Virginia Henderson was appointed to his staff in 1954. Other staff included Ray Abrams and a female sociology student. Henderson's salary was paid by Yale University School of Nursing. Their report, published in 1964 by Appleton-Century-Croft, was titled *A Survey and Assessment of Nursing Research*. While an attempt was made

to include the body of nursing literature in an index, this was not then possible. However, Henderson and her colleagues began a system of file cards that were a significant source of information to students at Yale. When Simmons moved to Teachers College, Columbia University, as Director of the Institute of Nursing Research, Yale's Dean Florence Wald recognized the significance of the index file and suggested it be made generally available to nursing students. The USPHS provided grant money to edit and organize these files in 1959. Henderson directed the project. Her staff consisted of a librarian and a secretary (Noel). Henderson's work became known as the Yale Nursing Studies Index and included over 5000 studies in its card file. During this period a freestanding advisory Council made up of nurses involved in publishing nursing information was convened. Representatives included organizations such as the American Nurses Association (ANA), National League for Nursing (NLN), the American Journal of Nursing (AJN), the American Nurses' Foundation (ANF) and Hortense Hilbert who was interested in publishing abstracts as opposed to indexes. It was clear to the group that it was not libraries that created the problem; rather it was the lack of intel-

lectual control of literature and library tools. Thus began the Interagency Council on Library Tools for Nursing (now named Interagency Council on Information Resources for Nursing, ICIRN). Librarians involved in developing library tools were invited to join the Council. Because of the nature of their work, librarians have often outnumbered nurses. There has been a conscious and consistent effort to include representatives from all branches of nursing in order to get their input into what kind of information nurses need to have (Noel).

At about the same time the Glendale Sanitarium and Hospital in California published *The Index to Nursing*, later renamed *Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature* indexing 13 publications from 1956 through 1960. In 1966 with Lucille Notter as editor, several nursing organizations, including the National League for Nursing, the American Nurses Association and the American Journal of Nursing sponsored publication of the *International Nursing Index*. By 1996 over 350 publications were indexed in this publication using the NLM's classification system (DuBois). The classification system first recommended by the Yale group was revised to follow the Index Medicus because it



## AAHN Elections

The ballot for the 2009 election has been sent out to all AAHN members who are eligible to vote. Be sure to cast your votes for the members who will help to shape the future of AAHN! If you have not received either an email ballot or a paper ballot, be sure to email [AAHN@aahn.org](mailto:AAHN@aahn.org), or telephone 303-422-2685, and we will provide one for you. Hurry, your votes must be in **before midnight on July 15, 2009** to be counted!

would be more “user friendly.”

The Council had no financial base for many years, depending on members paying their own expenses in any way possible. In general, agency members felt a strong commitment. For many years the nursing organizations sent a representative, sponsored programs and contributed free booth space at conventions. The National Library of Medicine provided computer demonstrations. The publications of the ICIRN together with applications for help from individual schools of nursing provided helpful advice in developing nursing libraries.

After years of informal structure, the Council created a formal structure, developed a measure of financial stability through its dues requests, and obtained incorporation. All of this has made it possible to apply for research funds. Currently ongoing research originally funded by American Medical Informatics Association (AIMA) Nursing Informatics Working Group is focused on surveying the information needs of nurses. Research conducted by Pravikoff, Pierce and Tanner (2005) documents that many nurses lack knowledge of how to search data bases and evaluate information for use in clinical practice. Consultation is available to librarians and nurses nation-wide.

Every second year the Council publishes and puts on-line its premier publication, *Essential Nursing Resources*, a comprehensive list of both print and non-print resource information considered essential to accessing information on all aspects of the nursing profession. Publication began in 1967 as a research tool for nurses and continues to be an important resource for nurses and librarians. The goal of ICIRN has not changed; “to establish an effective system of information resources in nursing to advance the pro-

*fession through the promotion and use of its literature.”*

On a personal note it has been my privilege to represent AAHN on this Council since 1981 and to contribute nursing history resources in this listing. I have met Virginia Henderson and was inspired by her lasting interest. I was even more inspired by the dedicated librarians and nurses who have shaped ICIRN and kept it strong for the benefit of all of us. Please visit our web site for more details about ICIRN. <http://www.icirn.org>

### Sources

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### Editor’s Note

*Dr. Hiestand has been the Archivist for AAHN and represented AAHN on ICIRN since 1981. She has tendered her resignation as Archivist and the organization is seeking a replacement. Please consider continuing Wanda’s important work – contact Sylvia Rinker for more information.*

## Call for Papers

### 2010 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM)

The AAHM invites submissions in any area of medical history for its 3rd annual meeting, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, April 29 through May 2, 2010. The Association welcomes submissions on the history of health and healing; history of medical ideas, practices, and institutions; and histories of illness, disease, and public health. Submissions from all eras and regions of the world are welcome. In addition to single paper proposals, the Program Committee accepts abstracts for sessions and for luncheon workshops. Please alert the Program Committee Chair if you are planning a session proposal. Individual papers for these submissions will be judged on their own merits. Presentations are limited to 20 minutes. Individuals wishing to present a paper must attend the meeting.

The AAHM uses an online abstract submissions system. We encourage all applicants to use this convenient software. A link for submissions and other information will be posted to the website at <http://histmed.org>. If you are unable to submit proposals online, send eight copies of a one page abstract (350 words maximum) to the Program Committee Chair, Keith Wailoo, [kwailoo@rci.rutgers.edu, Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research at Rutgers University, 30 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ, 08901, (732) 932-8419].

Abstracts must be received by **15 September 2009**. E-mail or faxed proposals cannot be accepted.

## Florence S. Wald, RN, MSN, FAAN: 1917–2008

**F**lorence Wald, the visionary leader of the American hospice movement, died November 8, 2008 at age 91. Prior to 1974 there were no hospice programs in the United States. Today, approximately 900,000 patients benefit from hospice care in their homes, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and free standing hospice facilities. Appointed Dean of the Yale University School of Nursing in 1958, she was introduced to hospice by Dame Cicely Saunders, the British physician who organized the world's first hospice in London. In 1966 Mrs. Wald left her position at Yale to focus on setting up hospice in America. She traveled to London to learn about hospice under Saunders and returned to Connecticut where she and some colleagues opened the first American hospice program in 1974. This in-home program was joined by a free standing hospice home in 1980. Mrs. Wald's latest project was the

introduction of hospice care into the prison system. Once again begun in Connecticut, inmate volunteers are trained to comfort and care for dying prisoners.



Mrs. Wald was born in the Bronx in 1917. Her nursing career was spurred by her childhood experiences in the hospital for recurring respiratory problems. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1938 and received her master's degree from Yale in 1941. Among her many honors were the Founder's Award of the American Hospice Association and induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame. She was also named a Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing and received an honorary doctorate from Yale University.

\*\*The information reported above was summarized from an obituary written by Dennis Hevesi, published in the *New York Times*, November 14, 2008.

### AAHN is going Green

At the May, 2009 Board of Directors meeting, 1st Vice President, Carla Schissel brought to the Board's attention the large amount of material that is generated at the annual conference each year that can be recycled. As a result, Board members are asking for your input for ideas on how AAHN can reduce its negative impact on our environment, and to inspire individuals to take small actions, which cumulatively can significantly increase the sustainability of our local and global resources. Send your tips and suggestions to: **Carla Schissel** ([scootermoe1942@yahoo.com](mailto:scootermoe1942@yahoo.com)).





# I Want to Join AAHN!

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## Where in the World?

Lavinia Lloyd Dock died in 1956.  
Where is her gravesite?\*

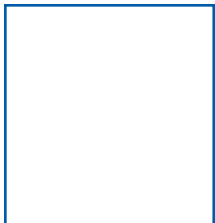
- a. A cemetery across from the Henry Street Settlement House in New York City
- b. A memorial park in Jacksonville, FL
- c. In a mausoleum in Atlantic City, NJ
- d. A park in Harrisburg, PA

\* Answer available at [www.aahn.org](http://www.aahn.org)

headstone photo by: Dr. Marry Ann Burnam.



1864 LAURA DOUGLAS DOCK 1954  
1858 LAVINA LLOYD DOCK 1956  
1869 EMILY GILLIARD DOCK 1957



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