
SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association is thrilled to announce its brand new book offering for National Nurses Week 2013: Poems from the Heart of Nursing: Selected Poems from the American Journal of Nursing. This compilation is sure to inspire and inform nurses of all ages during Nurses Week and beyond.

This diverse collection of poems, initially published over the first 50 years of the American Journal of Nursing, includes works written for such celebrated nurses as Florence Nightingale and other extraordinary nurses (many of whom are inductees of the ANA Hall of Fame) as well as inspirational poems by and for ordinary nurses, nursing students, and patients.

The editor, Teresa Stone, BSN, RNC, PRP, CP, inspired by her love of nursing history, spent countless hours reading early AJN volumes only to uncover this hidden treasure of poems nestled among professional articles on critical issues of the day. These works, ranging from solemn to celebratory to whimsical, from the 1918 influenza epidemic to the dedication of a groundbreaking new facility to touching observations of a nurse’s daily tasks, are a unique part of that history and a vital entry in nursing’s story.

One such poem. “Ballad of the Red Cross Nurse.” penned in the Pacific Theater during World War II by American Pulitzer Prize-winning Herman Wouk (now 95 years old), author of such works as The Caine Mutiny and The Winds of War, was recited by actress Helen Hayes (1900–93) at a ceremony held on March 12, 1946; an occasion at which she received the Red Cross Award of Merit for her contribution to recruitment of nurses for war service.

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“I began to collect the poems simply for my own enjoyment, but as the number grew and each one tugged at my heart more than the last, I knew the richness of this legacy must not stay a hidden treasure. I wanted to find the means by which to share this heritage once again, to give to the nurses of today what had been given to me,” said Stone. “Many of the poems have no record of ever having existed, the poets’ names lost forever in time, but their legacy is no less valuable than Oliver Wendell Holmes or Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The style, the rhyme, the quality of the poems varies greatly, but each is to be cherished for what it is, a valued link to our past, a past that shaped each of us into the nurses we are today!”

Poems from the Heart of Nursing will be treasured for years to come. It’s an ideal gift for nurses, colleagues, educators, students, researchers, and historians, as well as friends and family in the profession. Go to http://www.nursesbooks.org/Quick-Links/Nurses-Week-Specials/Poems-from-the-Heart-of-Nursing.aspx to order. Books will ship on May 1, 2013.

Press copies are available upon request by contacting Francine Bennett at francine.bennett@ana.org. Please include name of publication, organization, reviewer name, and address information including phone and email address.

ABOUT THIS BOOK
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Teresa Stone BSN RN PRP CP initially practiced community health nursing in Oregon and Washington D.C., but her love of direct care nursing lead her back to the hospital setting. She started her career in neonatal intensive care nursing at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Billings, Montana and later at Doernbecher Neonatal Care Unit at Oregon Health and Sciences University Hospital in Portland where she cared for critically ill infants for the next 27 years as the charge nurse and clinical nurse educator. Teresa served two terms as President of the Oregon Nurses Association, one term as a Director on the ANA Board of Directors and is now serving her second term as ANA Secretary. While practicing nursing full-time, Teresa attained the level of Professional Registered Parliamentarian through the National Association of Parliamentarians and certification through the American Institute of Parliamentarians, and currently serves as the President of the Oregon Association of Parliamentarians.

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ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation’s 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent and state nurses associations and its organizational affiliates. ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.