

SEPTEMBER 1986

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - Monday, Sept. 1, 1986

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. A few years ago, Norman Cousins discovered humor as a way to help sick people overcome some of their problems. Now comes Judith Treistman to report that poetry is helping teach nursing students about compassion for patients.

I hope none of our listeners is stuck with the outdated idea that the nurse is a person hired to rub patients' backs and wait on their refreshment needs. A nurse may indeed help in these ways. But there is so much more to the partnership in health between patient and nurse. We'll be talking with Dr. Treistman about that also.

Judith Treistman chairs the Department of Parent/Child Health Nursing in the School of Nursing at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She brings an unusual background to her health career. She earned a doctor's degree in anthropology and did not turn to nursing until she was in her mid-40s. I judge, Dr. Treistman, that one of your prime goals is building in your students the confidence needed to share a health partnership with patients.

INTERVIEW DR. TRIESTMAN:

- Holistic care
- Quick example of poem-1 (Lisel Mueller: "I live here")
- How did she get into poetry for training
- Feminist aspects (women's health unit work)
- Poem-9 Wondering If I'm Pregnant (Kathleen Fraser)
- On Birth: 10-11, Nancy Willard, Linda Pastan
- Poem-34 as completing the cycle - Ruth Whitman
- How do students learn about themselves through poetry?
- How about poetry for the patients?

14:00

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14:00

We're going to take a short break now. When I return, I'll be talking with Judith Treistman about how she applied her background as an anthropologist to nursing education. Please stay with us.

BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Hi. I'm Al Oickle and I'm at the State University of New York at Stony Brook with Dr. Judith Treistman of the School of Nursing. We've been talking about poetry and how Dr. Treistman has used it to help in the education of nursing students. As we noted earlier, nursing is a second career, following a career in anthropology. Although you seem to consider both as having become one career with inseparable parts. Is that the way to put it?

INTERVIEW DR. TREISTMAN:

- Review career in anthropology
- What turned her to nursing?
- Discuss her "trying to slip out of my past but tripped over it again and again"
- Participant/observer: subjectivity/objectivity: good/bad aspects of each
- Apply that to nursing and nursing education
- Note her comfort in "gentle chaos" of lib/arts faculty meetings and discomfort with "constraint of interplay of ideas" at nursing sessions
- Can each kind of discipline benefit by interchange?
- What lies ahead in innovative nursing education?

29:00

OUTRO

Conversations Unlimited is moving. Beginning Sept. 9,  
this program will be heard every Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. ON WUSB-FM

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