



Lillian Sholtis Brunner

March 29, 1918 - March 23, 2016

Nursing Education Legend, Lillian Brunner, Deceased at Age 97

Lillian Sholtis Brunner, nursing-author, is well known internationally as co-author of two major nursing classics: *Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing* and the *Lippincott Manual of Nursing Practice*. Her books, co-authored with Doris Suddarth, were written over a span of 40 years and released in numerous editions. They are used worldwide - having been translated into French, German, Thai, Spanish, Japanese, Portuguese, Italian, and Greek.

Dr. Brunner graduated from the School of Nursing at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (1940), the School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania (1945), and Case Western Reserve University (1947). She was operating room supervisor at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania for several years and taught at the Schools of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, Bryn Mawr Hospital (outside of Philadelphia), and Yale University.

Dr. Brunner was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian Medical Center (in Philadelphia) and was their first Vice Chairman for Education and Research. She co-founded (with Dr. Theresa I. Lynch) the History of Nursing Project, which became the Nursing Museum at the Pennsylvania Hospital. She also served as Chairman of the Advisory Board of

the Center of the History of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Brunner was a past president of the Pennsylvania League for Nursing, and a past national secretary of the National League of American Pen Women, centered in Washington D.C.. She served as a board member on the New Ralston House in West Philadelphia, and chaired the Advisory Nursing Committee as well as the History/Archives Committee at the Presbyterian Medical Center. She was also a member of the Trustees' Council of Penn Women at the University of Pennsylvania.

Lillian's honors include recognition for outstanding achievement by the National League of Nursing, the Pennsylvania Nurses Association, and the Pennsylvania League for Nursing. She is the recipient of honorary doctorates from Cedar Crest College and the University of Pennsylvania. In 2002 she was named a Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing.

Dr. Brunner's legacy at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing also includes the Mathias J. Brunner Instructional Technology Center, which she established in honor of her late husband in 2000, and the Lillian Sholtis Brunner Chair in Medical-Surgical Nursing established to support Penn Nursing faculty in 2001.

Dr. Brunner lived in Lancaster County, PA and then in Fairfax County, VA during her later years. She is survived by two daughters, a son, and a granddaughter. Her memorial service was private, and she has been laid to rest next to her late husband in Valley Forge, PA.

The family requests that donations in memory of Lillian Brunner be sent to either The University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, The Francis Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University, or to The American Nurses Association.

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *It was with sadness that I heard of Lillian's passing. She was a true nursing leader. I remember having her textbook as a freshman nursing student and then using it as a faculty member. She was a remarkable woman and made her mark in the world.*

Mildred Slocum RN MSN



Millie Slocum - April 04, 2016 at 09:23 PM

JC

Thank you for your kind words.

Janet Cramer - April 16, 2016 at 11:12 PM

JC

It was fall of 85 when I first met Mom. She was Mrs. Brunner to me, at the time. She was in Boston on business and had dropped by our home in Taunton. She was on a mission.... to check me out. Janet was very nervous and had given me many warnings about Mom. After all, we were living together and not married! As I remember however, it turned out to be a very pleasant evening. Mom was absolutely charming, and I was charmed. Janet was stunned, it went so well, but happy, for it was to become the catalyst for many of our visits to Berwyn and Lancaster.

We would drive 8 hours down just about every Thanksgiving. We would have Turkey and frozen corn. Pie & Ice cream for desert. Dad loved desert. Mom's big feast for the year. Getting to meet and spend time with Doug soon to become "Bro" while sparring with Carol who enjoyed tweaking me made the trips a lot more fun.

When Janet and I made our relationship legal and married in 91 up at the lake in NH, I can honestly say I never saw Mom and Dad happier. They were all smiles and literally beaming from the rehearsal dinner through Sunday. Realizing how happy our marriage made Mom and Dad that day is one of our recurring joy full memories. It made me realize how right it was and wonder...why had we waited so long! How Lucky was I to find the Love of my life, marry her and become part of this incredible family.

Mom was an incredibly extraordinary woman. Mary Domingo Thomas, Janet's best friend, refers to Mom as a "Trailblazer."

Mom certainly charted her own path through life. Raising a family while concurrently striking out as a one woman entrepreneur was very unusual in her day. Her factory was her house where she wrote and published what was to become the standard for nursing textbooks for the world. Mom accomplished all this without today's tools and computers. No copy machine, or xerox. She used a typewriter, carbon paper, correcting tape, tape, glue, scissors, erasers, pen and pencil. Today when we think about cutting and pasting, it is highlight, click and click. When Mom had to cut and paste to create some 1200 pages, it was find the scissors, cut, glue and place, wait to dry.

What incredible focus, vision, and persistence she had to create both the Lippincott Manual of Nursing Practice and Textbook of Medical & Surgical Nursing.

And what a fantastic legacy. Imagine a legacy that essentially helps improve the life of every person who has ever had or will receive medical care. A legacy that is a building block for the training of every nurse. How big is that?? Her books were not just any medical textbook...they became the standard. Creating a standard is a huge undertaking. For an individual to create a standard is incredibly extraordinary.

Indeed Lillian S. Brunner aka "Mom" was incredibly extraordinary. How fortunate I was to be able to call her "Mom"

Janet Cramer - May 30, 2016 at 08:46 PM