

In Memoriam—Carol Leger Picard, PhD, RN, CS
July 18, 1947 – February 14, 2016

Past President (2002-2004) of the International Association for Human Caring

Family, friends, colleagues and the global nursing community are deeply saddened by the death of Carol Leger Picard on February 14, 2016 after her long battle with cancer. Dr. Picard was loving wife of Denis Picard for 45 years, mother of Alison and Jeff Picard, and grandmother of Lucas Picard, born December 13, 2015. She was an extraordinary nursing leader, educator, caring practitioner, researcher, consultant, author, poet, dancer, visionary, and humanitarian, who wanted to make a difference on small and large scales. She changed people's lives—friends, clients, students and professional colleagues alike around the world—through her caring, flowing energy, dedicated commitment, wisdom, visions of new possibilities, mentoring, and infectious love of life. She always encouraged and inspired people on personal and professional levels to believe in themselves, to envision more and to make commitment to do their best. To know Carol was a gift and she will be missed by countless many. In the midst of our grief, we also celebrate her life and presence among us as leader, scholar, and creative spirit, an interpretive “dancer of life”. Her far-reaching legacy will influence nursing globally. In the spirit in which she always embraced life, in her last years of life's journey, she was inspired by her friend, Geoff Phillips-McEnany, PhD, RN, to create a virtual meditation group of friends, she called “Angels”, to accompany her in healing outreach of a non-boundary spiritual community.

Dr. Picard received her BSN in 1972 from Fitchburg State College (now Fitchburg State University) in Massachusetts, her MSN—Clinical Specialist in Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health, from Boston College in 1976, and her PhD in Nursing from Boston College in 1998. Her professional career included Staff Nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Boston; Associate Professor, Fitchburg State College; Associate Professor and Director, Graduate Nursing Program at MGH Institute of Health Professions; Professor, University of Massachusetts Lowell; and Professor and Graduate Program Director and PhD Program Director, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dr. Picard also served as Visiting Professor, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom and Consultant for hospitals, colleges of nursing, and corporations in the United States, United Kingdom and Russia. Her advanced clinical work included a Private Practice of Psychotherapy; Clinical Supervisor, Consultant and Lecturer at several Massachusetts community mental health services and clinics. Her last professional endeavors were serving as President of Carol Picard Associates (consulting work) and Founder of the Nursing Art Quartet.

Among Carol's many accomplishments were grant-funded research and programs nationally and internationally, including the United Kingdom National Health Service; MGH Institute of Health Professions; Sigma Theta Tau Epsilon and Alpha Chi Chapters; US Departments of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education. As a Margaret Newman scholar, her presentations, focused on nursing leadership, caring theory, compassion, creativity, mental health, family systems, and self-care, were presented innumerable times throughout the United States, Europe, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, and Taiwan. She served on many Manuscript Review Boards, Editorial Boards and Advisory Boards in the United States, United Kingdom and Russia that included *Nursing Science Quarterly*, *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing* (UK), *NT Research* (UK), *International Journal for Human Caring*, *Nursing Spectrum*, Global Institute for Nursing and Health, Holistic Nursing Task Force Massachusetts Board of Registration, *N & HC: Perspectives on Community, Medical Care* (Russian nursing research journal), and *Bay State News*.

Carol's many prestigious awards and honors included the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses Living Legend Award, 2008; the Sage Colleges Delta Phi Chapter STTI Distinguished Leadership

Award, 2007; Emmanuel College Clara Barton Humanitarian Award, 2006; Academic Keys Who's Who in Health Sciences Education, 2005; Fitchburg State College (University) Alumni Achievement Award, 2003; Massachusetts General Hospital Partners in Excellence Award, 2001 and 2002; Sigma Theta Tau Epsilon Beta Chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award, 2001 and Mentor Award, 1995; Massachusetts Association of Colleges of Nursing Faculty Development Award, 1994; and Who's Who in American Nursing, 1983.

It was not only Carol's clinical practice and her teaching that left an indelible mark on her clients and students, but her deep involvement and inspirational leadership in national and international organizations enrich her legacy. Her professional affiliations included the American Holistic Nurses Association, American and Massachusetts Psychiatric Nurses Association, International Society of Psychiatric Nurses, the Massachusetts Nurses Association, serving also as Vice President of District II, 1991-1993; Massachusetts Nurses Foundation, 1992-1995; Oncology Nursing Society, and Society of Rogerian Scholars. In addition, Carol maintained a long-standing membership/leadership in and served as President of both the International Association for Human Caring (IAHC) (2002-2004) and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (2005-2007)**.

In 2013, reflecting on her long membership/leadership in IAHC and her Presidency years, Carol wrote (from the *History of the International Association for Human Caring 1978-2013*, p. 41):

“Becoming involved in the IAHC was transformative for me. Having read the papers presented at the Denver conference in the *Caring Imperative in Education* (1989), I was convinced the organization was one I wanted to become involved with. One never knows where an invitation to participate will lead. I had an abstract accepted for the 1990 Houston Conference and met the most interesting and compelling people, many of whose work I had read: Dr. Madeleine Leininger, Sr. Simone Roach, Dr. Anne Boykin and was introduced to the work of so many caring scholars. My mother said to me when I returned home, “Ah, you were in Houston with all the saints.” When I asked what she meant, she said “Who else would attend a caring conference?” I believe she was right. The organization draws compassionate caring colleagues to participate in its conferences and to lead members by serving on the Board and committees.

I presented at a number of conferences, and also choreographed modern dance performances on caring for the Portland (1993); Ottawa (1994); Helsinki (1997); Boca Raton (2000); Stirling, Scotland (2001); Boulder (2003); and Chapel Hill (2008) conferences, often as part of my presentations or to open the conference. I served on the editorial review board of our journal from 1997-2006, as Board member for two years, President-elect for two years, during which time I co-chaired the Boston conference, and then as President from 2002-2004. The 2002 Boston conference, *Creating Caring Environments* introduced the organization to nurses from all the major teaching hospitals and universities in the Northeast, who came and heard research presentations by scholars from around the world. A post-conference dialogue with Margaret Newman on the links between caring theory and health as expanding consciousness was a highlight for many participants as well.

The 2003 Boulder conference *Calling the Caring Circle* at the beautiful Chautauqua Center brought the natural world landscape into the conference experience, as papers, dialogues and performances were held outdoors, as well as indoors. Dr. Sue Hagedorn, Dr. Jean Watson and Dr. Elizabeth Teichler created the caring circle in their planning and brought together a global group of scholars and participants. The Board held a strategic planning meeting in Boulder which identified goals of fiscal stability for the organization; advancing caring science, including social action and changing organizations.

The 2004 Montreal conference, *Caring, For the Renewed Care* provided the opportunity for French speaking and English speaking nurses of Quebec to come together with other IAHC scholars and participants and to have main papers presented in two languages. Continuing education offerings both on

line and in the journal were now a member benefit. Conference abstracts would also be published as part of the journal. The organization's financial picture improved and we were on solid footing.

IAHC has continued to grow. I envision IAHC to continue its attraction to caring scholars and its mission to disseminate this critical scholarship to the health care world through its conferences and journal."

*"In Memoriam" compiled by A. Lynne Wagner, EdD, MSN, RN, FACCE, CHMT
Carol's long-time friend, colleague, co-poet in life, and one of her virtual "angel" companions*

***The summary of Dr. Carol Picard's professional history is gathered from the "Carol L. Picard Collection, 1972-2010 (ARC-012)" held at the Florida Atlantic University Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing Archives of Caring in Nursing. For a more complete history and scope of Carol's work, please visit <http://nursing.fau.edu/archives>.*