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**Click on Nurseradio.org for Inspirational
Storytelling, Sharing
Lisette Hilton**

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Georgianna Donadio, DC, MSc, PhD, invites nurses to share their stories of courage, dedication, and creativity through a webcast at www.nurseradio.org.

Stories of courage, dedication, and creativity would fill the world's bookshelves if the daily work of nurses found its way to print. But, radio may spread the word faster. Now, there is

an electronic forum for nurses to tell those stories, and anyone with access to a computer can tune in.

Nurseradio.org is home to dozens of interviews featuring inspirational and educational discussions with nurses about topics including spirituality in nursing, healing children in Chernobyl, nursing in Vietnam, and nursing from a Nightingale scholar's point of view.

For Nurseradio.org host Georgianna Donadio, DC, MSc, PhD, the webcast is a labor of love. While in college, Donadio nurtured her fascination with writing, choreography, and directing. She ran the college radio station and wrote for the school's newspaper, while studying cinematography.

Later, she went into chiropractic practice, while doing radio and television shows about health, including a nationally syndicated cable television program called Woman to Woman.

Donadio was committed to portraying the importance of a "whole health" focus, and, out of that, founded the New England School of Whole Health Education, in Wellesley, Mass., a career training program for nurses, doctors, and others interested in whole health education. She says that endeavor, like others throughout her 43 years in health care unconsciously evolved out of her early work as an LPN and candy striper.

At the request of the American Holistic Nurses Association in 2003, Donadio began interviewing nurses about their experiences. The original forum was to do a radio show, but that concept evolved earlier this year into the current Internet-based webcast.

"In doing market research, we found out that broadcast radio is decreasing while Internet radio is dramatically increasing. One of the reasons is the cost is much less. The way our radio programming is set up, you can go on there 24-hours-a-day and listen to those programs," Donadio says.

Sonja Simpson, RN, MSN, HNC, president of the American Holistic Nurses Association, talks in an archived interview on the site about her experience with breast cancer and the

healing process.

“I talked about how cancer is a gift ... and how one mentally accepts that kind of diagnosis, and how you incorporate holistic principles into your own healing process...,” Simpson says. “The value [of Nurseradio.org] is telling our stories. I think we learn from telling our stories.”

Rev. Deanne Aime, RN, MPH, CHTP, former president of the American Holistic Nurses Association, says Donadio’s skill as an interviewer has helped to create “a wonderful early library of opinions and insights on nursing from leaders in various areas and fields.”

Aime, who talks in her interview about spirituality and grief work, says that nurses need the reinforcement of these uplifting programs. “I think [Donadio] is doing a great service to make timeless truth accessible,” Aime says.

Nurses who want to “tune in” to get inspired, enlightened, or find a renewed appreciation for their jobs need only log on to the site, choose an interview from a list of interviewees and topics, and click on an icon. Donadio says nurses can leave the inspirational stories running on their computers at work and hear occasional bits and pieces as they walk by.

“You’re in this frantic, difficult environment. You’re going over to the nurse’s desk or nurse’s station and you hear [the stories] and ... right at that moment, you’re invited to remember why you’re there.”

Elaine Ann Hanglin, RN, MSN, BC, director of wellness and integrative services, Portsmouth Regional Hospital in Portsmouth, N.H., talks on the program about her experience as a nurse in Vietnam. According to Hanglin, Nurseradio.org is a new way for nurses to share. “Often we can network with our peers, but to have this broadened opportunity serves the profession well.”

Today, Nurseradio.org focuses on whole health issues, but Donadio says the nurses interviewed come from all walks of nursing life — not just holistic nursing. Her aim is to get people who are both in and out of health care to listen to what she calls the “soul of health care.”

“These are the people who are creating the magic, who are

making care possible. We see Nurseradio as a wake-up call to invite people in the health care industry and outside the health care industry to celebrate, to appreciate, to remember, to reinvigorate,” Donadio says.

Nurseradio.org seems to be catching on. Since getting an initial financial boost of \$10,000 from the board (made up largely of nurses) at the New England School of Whole Health Education, the webcast has garnered sponsorships from Nursing Spectrum and Nurseweek, the American Holistic Nurses Association, Shriners Hospital for Children, and others.

“The way we hope to sustain this is by selling inexpensive advertising. If a hospital buys a year subscription to sponsor the program, we will interview three of its nurses,” she says. People can also make suggestions about nurses they think should be featured on a program interview.

“I can’t imagine being blessed in a better way than being in the presence of these extraordinarily loving and compassionate people,” Donadio says. “Every time I do an interview, my life is completely enriched.”

Lisette Hilton is a freelance health care reporter who specializes in news for nurses, pharmacists, physicians, and other allied health professionals.

Home

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