

The Exceptional Nurse Newsletter

January, 2007

www.ExceptionalNurse.com

Happy New Year to all Exceptional Nurses and supporters!

Hurricane Katrina

ExceptionalNurse.com Disabled Nurses Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund

The needs of our colleagues continue to be great. ExceptionalNurse.com continues to receive requests for assistance every day. Donations (large or small) are needed. Mail checks to ExceptionalNurse.com, 13019 Coastal Circle, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410.

Publications of Note

Book Review of "Leave No Nurse Behind: Nurses working with disAbilities" appears in the "Nursing Standard" (UK)

<http://www.nursing-standard.co.uk/professionaldevelopment/bookreviews/index.asp>

Employment Opportunities

Become an Independent Distributor

Learn from a nurse with a disability. Audrey works as an Independent Distributor for the country's best nutritional supplement company, Shaklee. These supplements have aided in improving her health, and she is confident of the scientific foundation on which this company is based. Shaklee believes in people...in giving ANYONE who wants to work the opportunity to do so. Audrey's goal is to assist nurses like herself to remain in the workforce, making a difference, improving self-confidence, and earning a living. Visit her web site at <http://www.shaklee.net/audreyhill>.

RN Consultant and RN Chronic Care positions

The Human Services Department of the City of Seattle has several RN Consultant and RN Chronic Care vacant positions that they are looking to fill. Email: Becky.Schmidt@Seattle.gov

Telephone Triage

Nursing Spectrum offers a ceu program called:

"Telephone Triage: Help is just a call away"

By Connie Goldsmith

Cost is \$10.00

http://www2.nursingspectrum.com/CE/Self-Study_modules/syllabus.html?CCID=3775

Rex-The Talking Prescription Bottle

"Rex" is fully automated through text-to-speech technology, allowing pharmacists to electronically record the label information to the pill bottle in a natural sounding computer generated voice using the pharmacy's current software and data. As the pharmacist sends the label information to the printer, the label information is recorded into the base of the bottle.

Features & Benefits

- Easy to use - one push button
 - Requires no special "reader"
- Disposable - no batteries to purchase or recharge
 - No ancillary equipment necessary
 - Highest quality speech synthesis
- Multiple languages available including Spanish
 - No usage training for patient
 - May be refrigerated
- Disposable to prevent cross contamination
 - Inexpensive to provide to patients



Rex and the accompanying technology assists pharmacies by allowing the dosage instructions and other critical information to be read "out-loud" to patients in addition to providing the instructions on the standard label. <http://www.rxtalks.com>

Research study

Nurses and Nursing Students with Blindness:

You are invited to participate in a qualitative nursing research study about your experiences as a blind nurse or nursing student. During the last four years I have worked as a school nurse for blind students at Washington State School for the Blind. The students' repeated interest in becoming nurses sparked my desire to learn more about blind nurses and nursing students. I feel this is a study that will greatly benefit both the blind students considering nursing and the larger nursing community as this is a yet unstudied area of nursing. For more information about participation in this study,

please contact:

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Graduate Student

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Inspirational Messages for the New Year

Two Horses

Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if you stop your car, or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing. Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing.

If you are nearby and listening, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her halter is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her.

As you stand and watch these two friends, you'll see how she is always checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is; trusting that she will not lead him astray.

When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need.

Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those who God places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others see.

Good friends are like this. You don't always see them, but you know they are always there.

Please listen for my bell and I'll listen for yours.

On (almost) passing

Reasons you cannot be deaf
You don't talk funny.
You don't talk too loud.
You have such a nice voice.
You're so normal.
You can wear hearing aids.
You can turn up your hearing aids.
You can try harder.
You don't have any trouble hearing me.
You can do better if you try.
You can hear anything you want to hear.
You can try harder.
You can never really learn sign language.
You didn't grow up deaf.
You didn't go to a deaf school.
You tried to pass as hearing.
You try to pass as hearing.
You don't fit in.
You don't get jokes.
You don't understand the language.
You don't understand the language.
You just don't understand
the language.
Reasons you can't be hearing:
You can't hear.

Ilene C. Caroom
"Like Love, This Choice of a language"

Badges for nurses with hearing loss/ Ear Wear
<http://www.earwearinc.com/catgD.html>
http://www.hearingconcern.org.uk/shop/sh_badges.html

Mentors

Exceptional Nurse is always looking for mentors. If you are interested in helping others, please email ExceptionalNurse@aol.com. Only email addresses are listed on the web site. In addition, a reminder to our current mentors, if you change email addresses, please remember to let us know.

Continuing Education

"Teaching Nursing Students with Disabilities" by Donna Maheady, ARNP, Ed.D.

"Writing Your Way to Health and Healing: An interactive workshop for nurses with disabilities" by Connie Adleman, RN

"When your student is Deaf" by Martha McElyea, MSN, Rockhurst/Research College of Nursing
Visit the Continuing Education page of ExceptionalNurse.com for details.

Volunteer opportunities

<http://www.redcross.org>, <http://www.missingkids.com>, <http://www.nod.org>

http://www.uniteforsight.org/intl_volunteer, www.invisiblechildren.com, www.savedarfur.org

Keep the faith and get involved in our advocacy efforts. Please forward this newsletter to colleagues. Subscribe/ unsubscribe to this newsletter at www.exceptionalnurse.com/maillist.htm

Live generously. Minds are like parachutes, they function only when open.

Happy New Year!!

Donna

Donna Maheady, Ed.D., ARNP

Founder and President

Contact me with news, ideas or suggestions for future newsletters. ExceptionalNurse@aol.com