



In Memory of Dr. Sr. Rosalie Bertell 1929- 2012

Born in 1929 in Buffalo, NY, Rosalie Bertell earned her PhD in Biometrics at Catholic University in Washington, DC. She was a Carmelite and then a Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart for over 50 years. She worked at Roswell Park Memorial Cancer Institute studying the effects of low doses of ionizing radiation and was influential in preventing nuclear reactors, specifically one near Niagara Falls, NY, next to a baby food company--the first proposed reactor stopped by public opposition in the US.

She compiled much of her expertise on the dangers of low dose ionizing radiation in her first book, ***No Immediate Danger? Prognosis for a Radioactive Earth*** (1985, republished by The Women's Press, Toronto).

She had hoped to publicize more the contents of her 2010 paper on the relatively new discoveries of physicists on the vibrational energy of ionizing radiation (radionuclides) which led her to believe that there is a different mechanism by which radionuclides cause cancer than traditionally assumed and that there are potentially effective cures possible now. (CANADIAN WOMAN STUDIES/LES CAHIERS DE LA FEMME VOLUME 28, NUMBERS 2, 3, Spring-Summer 2010, ***A New Understanding of Breast Cancer and Alternatives to Mammography.***)

Among numerous honors and achievements, she received the Right Livelihood Award (alternate Nobel Peace Prize) along with Dr. Alice Stewart in 1986 "for raising public awareness about the destruction of the biosphere and human gene pool, especially by low level radiation."

She provided expert support to help people on the receiving end of the radioactive wastes and industrial poisons from Love Canal to Chernobyl to Rongelap and the Marshall Islands to Bhopal to communities in 60 countries.

Dr. Bertell challenged the self-proclaimed authority of the radiation establishment organizations such as the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and others, whose missions are to promote nuclear power and weapons technologies. She served as one of the eminent scientists on the **European Committee on Radiation Risk ECRR** which formed in 1997 in response to the European Commission Basic Safety Standards' Directive on Radiological Protection 96/29/Euratom which set a legal contamination level for release of radioactive materials into the commercial recycling stream. She was coauthor of the 2003 Recommendations of the European Committee on Radiation Risk and 2010 update that critiqued the inadequate "legal" government standards for exposure to ionizing radiation and opposed setting a "clearance" level for nuclear waste into commerce.

She formed the Ministry of Concern for Public Health and the International Institute of Concern for Public Health and other health based institutions, authored more than 100 scientific papers edited the journal ***International Perspectives in Public Health***.

Her second book is ***Planet Earth: The Latest Weapon of War*** (2000 The Women's Press Ltd, London) challenges the quest for military power that has destabilized the fragile, natural balance of the earth's ecosystem causing environmental, economic and social devastation.

In her delicate being lived strength beyond the industries, governments and corporate forces whose destructive plans and realities she challenged. She would not tolerate injustice.

Never deterred, she took on the nuclear power and weapons industry, the war machines, those who are threatening the planet with man-made disasters and those who are taking ownership of Earth's resources.

Rosalie testified at the first public meeting I ever attended on environmental issues, a meeting which lured me into a life of challenging the creation and dumping of nuclear power and weapons waste. She reprimanded of the authors of the Department of Energy report for referring to people as "dose receptors." *She challenged the dehumanizing that is such an integral part of the nuclear age.*

Rosalie's many writings and speeches, her scientific knowledge and fierce and gentle love must carry us on. She did not stop—has not stopped – as we continue her work and pass it on to the next generations. Her 2 books and are available from the International Institute of Concern for Public Health or the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart (links below).

Thank you so much to the Sisters of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart and her family for sharing her with us for many years.

Donations in honor of Rosalie Bertell can be made to the ***International Institute of Concern for Public Health*** in Toronto www.iicph.org which she founded, or to the ***Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart*** <http://greynun.org>, 1750 Quarry Rd., Yardley, PA 19067-3998. Her books can be ordered from both places.

A wonderful bio of her life up until 1998 was published in the Toronto Star <http://www.ratical.org/radiation/RBanNun.html> and a more recent one at <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=31448>

The reflection by Sister Julia Lanigan from her services is at <http://greynun.org/node/920>. Her bio and C.V. are at www.iicph.org

*Diane D'Arrigo, NIRS
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