

LOCKDOWN THOUGHTS

by Beatrice K. Rose MD, MPH

When the lockdown was announced and all events cancelled, my first thought was about the empty space that was created for future afternoons. The emptiness seemed vast because there was nothing there.

I began thinking about that nothingness. What was there instead? Was the nothing there in my mind or really in that space. Something was there and I thought most of it came from my mind: plans, thoughts about projects, thoughts to think about, thoughts about what other people communicated or said.

What about all the things that happened in that space before the lockdown—the many people who did or brought things to me, where are they now, where did they go? I treasure them now because they are no longer in that space and the only imprint they have left is in my mind. But they had a value that I had not recognized or acknowledged. The space became a tangible thing, an area to be explored, to be understood, an area wanting to be and waiting to be filled. Then time began to take its toll as more spaces proliferated under the lockdown and my mind needed to address all of them.

Beatrice Kartus Rose was born in 1915 in New York and celebrated her 105th birthday in California during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 1943, after working in the federal Treasury, Lend-lease, and Agriculture Departments, she entered George Washington Medical School, graduating in 1946. Later, as a professor at the Department of Public Health and Preventative Medicine at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), and in addition to usual duties, she created the first Infectious Disease Manual at OHSU, supervised medical students as Health Counselors in Portland Section 8 housing, participated in setting of CPR standards by the American Heart Association, introduced CPR into the OHSU curriculum, certified medical students in CPR, helped set standards for EMTs, and assisted in training programs that prepared ambulance attendants to become EMTs. She was President of the Oregon Heart Association, a member of the Oregon State Board of Health and Doctor-Citizen of the Year 1972, in an award from Oregon Medical Association, making her the first woman to be honored by that association.

In 1994 Dr. Rose relocated to La Jolla, CA, where she still resides. A pillar of SDIS, Bea created its Millennial Project and has held several Board positions. She founded the SDIS Neuroscience Group, which she led for a quarter century. In 2020 she is an active participant in many Zoom meetings of SDIS.

Dr. Rose served on the Board and the Scholarship Application Review Committee of the Doris A. Howell Foundation. She also was as a mentor for the UC San Diego International Center for ten years. For her residence community, she wrote a Fire Manual and revised the Disaster Plan. She also created and presented with Vi residents a six-week program of book reviews highlighting the scientific legacy that won WWII.

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