

This Project was Funded by The HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Treatment Unit, Health Canada . Additional Support was given by Sunnyside Children's Foundation, Kingston, Ontario; The Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph and Volunteers of Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston, Ontario; Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Substance Abuse Bureau and AIDS Bureau.

Carol Roberts is an Associate Professor at Queen's University School of Nursing. Her doctorate degree focused on studies of women who use illicit drugs. She has conducted several studies examining the etiological and contextual factors contributing to drug use among women in Canada and the U.S.

Sharon O. Burke's research area is children with a chronic health condition and their families as well as health in high risk populations. Currently, she is the Core Researcher for health in the Better Beginnings, Better Futures Research Coordination Unit and is conducting a study on health and development of children and women at socioeconomic risk. She teaches nursing research methods and women's and children's health to graduate students.

Ron Shore has spent close to ten years in the design and delivery of harm reduction-based health centres. He is the Coordinator of the Street Health Centre in Kingston and is completing his masters in Public Administration at Queen's University.

Penny Lavalley is the Director of the Infectious Disease Prevention Program at the Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington Health Unit. Penny is responsible for the Sexual Health/STD programs which also includes the needle exchange program, housed at the Street Health Centre.

References

- Health Canada. "HIV, AIDS and Injection Drug Use: A National Action Plan." Ottawa, 1997.
- Pursley-Crotteau, S. and P.N. Stern. "Creating a New Life: Dimensions of Temperance in Prenatal Crack Users." *Qualitative Health Research* 3 (1996): 350-367.
- Roberts, C. "Managing Loss: The Process of Drug Use Among Inner-City Women." *Qualitative Health Research* 9 (1999): 620-638.
- Roberts, C., S. Burke, and B. Simons-Chambers. "Creating a Better Life: The Process Of Mothering Among Injection Drug Users." *Journal of Addictions Nursing* 11 (1999): 112-122.
- Rosenbaum, M. "Difficulties in Taking Care of Business: Women Addicts as Mothers." *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse* 6 (1991): 431-446.

DESI DI NARDO

Alas We Were

Of those moments
When turning dirt over in our thoughts
Reworded our blind paths
We trailed arms over shoulders like belt-hung
words
Dragging ourselves without relief or certainty
Pointed, spear-shaped tragedies
We nestled them in around us
One last time and
Forgave ourselves
For knowing that the next day would bring
stiff necks
And an abysmal haze of lust
We wrestled with sympathetic eyes and
panted
Waking to find ourselves
With orange rinds between our toes

Save the Last Dance for Me

like a fly on the wall, she looks bigger today
swollen with derision and saddened
growing and shrinking
pulsing with oddity
she rubs her hands with curiosity
looming at me
like a déjà vu
backwards
behind big thimble eyes
vision splits and scatters
and I am secreted
in every direction but down
because she is there
there she is
awaiting my next move
sprawling clues of me
swarming me with the knowledge
that she is coming

Desi Di Nardo's work can be seen in journals like Fireweed and The Toronto Review of Contemporary Writing Abroad. As well as teaching English in College, she is currently working on a novel and a collection of poetry.