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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I have been an environmental activist for more than five decades. The birth of my first child 52 years ago catapulted me into the realization that my daily choices had a direct bearing on his health and the well-being of the Earth. I've been an active participant in the movement ever since.

As a nurse, I watched people dying prematurely of cancer. As an air pollution inspector in the middle of New Jersey, I was inside factories – or on their roofs – writing violations and bringing companies to court. As an employee of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Hazardous Waste Management, I was a one-woman road show carting slides of hazardous waste sites and a car full of non-toxic products to educate audiences about the ways in which traditional consumer activities help create toxic dump sites.

As Co-Director of the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice, I travelled throughout the Northeast and Midwest for 15 years with my husband and founder of the Coalition, John. We started a worker-owned coop with a handful of women who designed and sewed clothes using organic cotton grown in the U.S. and selling those garments (plus items from other socially-responsible companies) in churches and colleges. Then we both switched our emphasis to climate change. Our shared vision is to work with people to create a more just and loving world.

Over the years, I gravitated toward writing/reporting/proofreading jobs and have spent a great deal of time working for newspapers or even creating my own, thereby gathering numerous skills and doing mountains of proofreading. This is the kind of work I love.

Currently I'm devoting all my spare time and energy to educating, activating and inspiring people through The Go-Back Club newspaper, *Groundswell News*, a project of the Grassroots Coalition. Our goal is to bring thousands, and eventually millions, more people into the growing movement to urgently and seriously combat global warming.

To further those ends, I publish a monthly, online newspaper. The objectives are to:

1. Provide hope and encouragement to people who read the paper,
2. Inspire environmental activists with success stories from around the world,
3. Inform readers about issues which are often ignored by mainstream media, and
4. Foster creativity, courage and tenacity in readers' efforts to restore and protect the environment.

WORK HISTORY

Giant Food Stores, Cashier; May 2018 to present

Mercersburg Journal, Proofreader/Reporter; November 2017 to present

Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department, Planner I; 2016 to 2017

Experience Works! Participant Assistant; 2014 to 2016

Started The Go-Back Club (a Simple-Living/Action Brigade) and online newspaper; September 2013 to present

Edited second edition of *The Long, Hard Road to Korean Medicine* by Dr. Chung-Whan Byun.

Launched alternative, global warming newspaper, *The Order of the Earth News, Views and Musings* (later changed to *Earth News*); 2008 to 2012

Phase II Presenter for Al Gore's *Inconvenient Truth* educational outreach program; Spring 2007 to program's conclusion in Winter 2008

Wrote cover story for Land Trust Alliance magazine, "Climate Change: Land Trusts Take Action;" Summer 2008

Article published in *H.E.R. Local: Her Everyday Resource*, The Herald-Mail Company, "How and Why I Started My Own Newspaper;" Fall 2008

Machine Operator, Dallco sewing factory; 2008 to 2013

Freelance Writer, *The Valley Log*, a weekly newspaper (Orbisonia, PA); 2006 to 2007

Acting Editor, *The Valley Log*; March to August 2006

Kindergarten Teacher Aide, Southern Huntingdon County School District; 2005 to 2006

Grants Coordinator, MD Department of Natural Resources, Cunningham Falls State Park; 2003 to

2004

Teacher, Community Learning Center, Minority Achievement and Intervention Program, Sykesville Middle School, started Life Savers Environmental Club; 2003 to 2004

Office Manager, Dr. Marianne Rothschild; 2002 to 2004

Reporter, *The Gazette* (a *Washington Post* product), Frederick, MD; 2000 to 2002

Co-Director Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice, Shade Gap, PA; 1990 to present

Senior Area Coordinator, Bureau of Community Relations, Division of Hazardous Waste Management, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Trenton, NJ); 1987 to 1990

Air Pollution Inspector, Middlesex County Health Department (Perth Amboy, NJ); 1986 to 1987

Environmental Inspector, City of Paterson Health Department (NJ); 1985 to 1986.

Teacher, Brick Township Public Schools, New Jersey (Ocean County Conservation Teacher of the Year); 1975 to 1981

Nurse (various institutions and private duty cases), New Jersey; 1965 to 1985

EDUCATION

Licensed Practical Nurse, Hartwick and Wagner Colleges

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education, Magna Cum Laude, Kean University; 1975

Public Health and Environmental Law, Rutgers University; Summer 1985

Environmental Accreditations Previously Earned:

- Detoxifying Heavy Metals and Evoking the Immune Healing Response B
ELISA/ACT Biotechnologies LLC
- Pulmonary Update B - Department of Medicine, Union Memorial Hospital,
Baltimore
- Nutrient Management Consultant Certificate – Maryland Department of
Agriculture
- EPA Asbestos Inspector – Maryland
- Licensed Sanitary Inspector First Grade – New Jersey Department of Health

Certificates from Rutgers:

- Atmospheric Chemistry and Transport
- Visual Emission Analyzation
- Community Noise Control
- Certificate in PGT Lead-in-Paint Analyzers – New Jersey Department of Health

Attended seminars covering:

- Environmental Impact on Peri-Natal Outcome
- Hazardous Waste – Interacting with Administrative Agencies
- Hazardous Waste – Emergency Spills
- Hazardous Waste – Waste Reduction: How to Make It Happen

AUTHOR

Wrote and published *Metamorphosis*, autobiography depicting divorce from both angles – as a child and as a parent; 1982

Wrote and published mini-booklet, *The Order of the Earth*, offering ideas for living an environmentally-benign life and maintaining fiercely-independent ways of thinking; team of us made and distributed 11,000; 1995

Co-authored and published *Off Our Rockers: Earth, Hearth and Wanderlust* (with Barbara Erakko Taylor; an exchange of letters between a suburbanite and an environmentalist about managing a home with Earth-based decisions); 2002

Wrote and published memoir, *Becoming a Pacifist Activist: 50 Years in the Environmental Movement – On the Ground, In the Field, Over the Moon*; 2015

Wrote *A Doctor for People and Planet: Chung Whan Byun*, published in Korea; 2016

FREELANCE ARTICLES

- “Prospects for Peace Between Palestine and Israel: Dan Adams and Alanna Hartzok Share Their Views from South Central Pennsylvania,” for Earth Rights Institute website; June 2018
- Book Review on Amazon for Michael Mann's *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars: Dispatches from the Trenches*; March 2014
- “State's Wilderness Needs Congress and You,” *The Daily News* (Huntingdon, PA); 6/14/07
- “An Act of Congress,” *Patriot-News* (Harrisburg, PA); 7/1/07
- “Through the Pinelands by Bike and Backpack,” *The New York Times*; 6/13/82
- “A Personal Approach to Pinelands Preservation,” *Secaucus Home News*; 5/17/84
- “Liberty State Park Needs No High Tech,” *The Bergen County Record*; 6/1/84
- “Lessons to be Learned in the Meadows,” *The Spokesman*; 7/18/84
- “Sowing Seeds,” *Today's Catholic Teacher*; 3/8
- Eight environmental action guides for students (prepared and written by students), Sheed and Ward Publishers; 1995
- “Gifts That Last” (alternative holiday shopping), *Catholic Digest*; 12/9
- “Action Plan for Adopt-a-Highway Volunteers,” *Village News*; 11/96
- “Environmental Lifestyles and Hormone-Disrupting Synthetic Chemicals,” *Baltimore Resources* and *Village News*; 1997
- “Invitation to a Lifestyle Rebellion,” *Earth Quarterly*; 1997

ARTICLES WRITTEN FOR THE MERCERSBURG JOURNAL

- “Local Community United in Song;” 12/6 & 12/13/17
- “The Journal Goes to Africa;” 1/31/18
- “County Residents Gather Knowledge, Strength and Members to Defeat Power Line;” 2/7/18
- “Date Night: Anything Goes;” 2/14/18
- “Meeting Scheduled on February 26th to Try Stopping Transource Power Line;” 2/21/18
- “Path Valley Couple Transform Barn into Wedding & Event Venue;” 2/28/18
- “Who Cares about Canadian Indian Genocide in Canada Anyway?” 3/7/18
- “Area Schools Deliver Positive Message on National Walk Out Day;” 3/21/18
- “Titanic the Musical at JBHS Fills Auditorium with Friends, Families and Fans;” 3/21/18
- “Butterfly Gardens Gets its Wings Back;” 4/4/18
- “Franklin & Fulton Educational Institutions Mark Earth Day with a Variety of Activities;” 4/18/18
- “Greencastle Family's Love of Animals Spawns Fun Avocation: Goat Yoga;” 5/9/18
- “New Day-Care Center in Mercersburg Planning Fundraiser Painting Party;” 5/16/18
- “Benjamin Troupe Named University of Kentucky's First Pickering Fellow;” 5/30/18
- “Better Days Animal League Carries On, Needs Reliable Volunteers;” 6/6/18
- “Animal Lovers Work and Shop at Better Days;” 6/13/18
- “Miss Dicey's School of Dance Prepares for its Annual Recital;” 6/13/18
- “National Ham Radio Association Plans Annual International Field Day, Includes Local Teen;” 6/20/18
- “Franklin County Commissioners Oppose Transource Project;” 6/27/18

ARTICLES WRITTEN FOR *THE VALLEY LOG*

- “Would You Mow Less Lawn if You Knew More About Global Warming?” 9/21/05
- “Can Solution be Found to Gerald Booher/Tire-Fence Controversy?” 10/19/05
- “Ten Tips for Conserving Fuel and Energy;” 10/26-05
- “Wildlife Corridors Imperilled in Pennsylvania and Maryland Mountains: Help Coming?” 11/16/05
- “What Kind of Neighbor is Wal-Mart Going to be in Our Community?” 12/21/05
- “Great-great-granddaughter of Gettysburg Soldier Gives Talk” (in Gettysburg); 3/15/06
- “Shade Gap Resident Speaks to Acupuncture Students;” (two parts, 4/19/06 and 4/26/06)
- “They’re Still Standing After Second Senatorial Debate;” 4/26/06
- “Shirley Township Residents Do NOT Want Hog Factories;” 5/17/06
- “Curtis Starr, 6th-grader at SHCMS Bravely Deals with Lymphoma;” 5/17/06
- “PA Sportsmen Concerned About Global Warming;” 6/14/06
- “Orbisonia Residents Suffer from Route 522 Roadwork;” (two parts, 6/28/06 and 7/5/06)
- “Gardening Adds Joy to Life and Good Food to Table;” 7/12/06
- “PA CleanWays Meets to Plan Next Cleanup;” 7/19/06
- “What Killed the Crayfish?” 7/26/06
- “Local Women Carry on Art of Making Their Own Clothes;” 8/2/06
- “Hand-stitching Creates Clothing;” 8/16/06

ARTICLES WRITTEN FOR *THE GAZETTE*

- “Students Create Culture of Caring;” 10/19/00
- “Parents Push for First Charter School;” 1/18/01
- “Some Learning Disabilities Could Be Linked to Toxins;” 1/25/01
- “Parents Target Discrimination in Public Schools;” 2/15/01
- “Frederick to Host Special Olympics;” 2/22/01
- “Parents Look to Home Schooling as Needed Alternative;” 3/1/01
- “Kempton Parents Lose Long Struggle but Find New Home;” 3/8/01
- “Frederick High School Students Seek Peace, Tolerance;” 5/10/01
- “Eighth-graders Learn About Disabilities First-hand;” 5/10/01
- “River Reflections: Flotilla Focuses on Education, Enjoyment;” 5/17/01
- “Civil Rights Office Eyes ESL Program;” 5/31/01
- “Parents Say Due Process Causes Undue Hardship;” 6/14/01
- “Method Helps Dyslexic Students Hit Books;” 8/2/01
- “New ADHD Treatment Guidelines for Children Released;” 11/15/01
- “World Loses Beloved Teacher” (Margaret Rawson); 11/29/01

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Fulton County Environmental Action Group
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Carbon Sequestration Committee: attended as the only volunteer grassroots activist
Secretary, Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks
Founded Catocin-Monocacy Climate Change Alliance to educate people about actions they can take to reverse human-induced climate change and to restore and protect the environment of our bioregion
Created and edited five newsletters for various non-profit organizations
Board of Directors, Youth Environmental Society, NJ
Founded Hackensack River Coalition to protect Meadowlands
Brick Township (NJ) Environmental Commissioner
Board of Trustees, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions
Started recycling program in 550-unit condominium complex
Founded Citizens' Alliance for Rural Preservation to fight the widening of Route 32 in Howard County, Maryland
Founded The Order of the Earth to encourage people to live simply and peacefully on this planet

SPEECHES AND WORKSHOPS

Go-Back Club talk at the Bricktown Senior Center (Mount Union, PA); April 17, 2014
Go-Back Club talk at the Natural Connections Wellness Center (Huntingdon, PA); April 4, 2014
The Go-Back Club talk at the Three Springs Senior Center (Three Springs, PA); February 11, 2014
Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" program for PA Green Party annual convention, distributed *The Order of the Earth News* (Harrisburg, PA); February 2, 2008
Participated in Focus the Nation event at Dickinson College, distributed *The Order of the Earth News* (Carlisle, PA); January 31, 2008
Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" program Home Party (Frederick, MD); September 17, 2007
Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" program at Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church (Mount Union, PA); September 15, 2007
Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" program at Tuscarora Blended Learning Charter School (Huntingdon, PA); June 5, 2007
Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" program plus my own Global Warming Program at the Common Market's Earth Day celebration (Frederick, MD); April 21, 2007
Global Warming Program for Juniata Clean Water Partnership's annual dinner (Huntingdon, PA); March 2, 2007
Global Warming Lifestyles Talk at Dickinson College's Environmental Issues Luncheon (Carlisle, PA); February 6, 2007
Global Warming Talk with fourth- and fifth-grade Science students at Spring Farms Elementary School (Three Springs, PA); January 29, 2007
Environmental Health and Global Warming's Health Effects course at Tai Sophia Institute for Acupuncture (Laurel, MD); November 20, 2006 and January 11, 2007
Global Warming Program at Kean University's Center for Science, Technology and Mathematics Education (Union, NJ); November 14 and 16, 2006

Sustainability Day, Juniata College: Gathered and disseminated all local candidates' positions on global-warming legislation and made hand-out for students, faculty and attending citizens; also educated participants about letter-writing campaigns to protect Allegheny National Forest, gathered signatures for the People's Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol; October 25, 2006

Global Warming Presentation for St. Luke's United Methodist Women; October 9, 2006

Global Warming Presentation at Wilson College "Life After Cheap Oil" conference; several people bought my materials so they could do their own programs; September 16, 2006

Global Warming Home Meeting for Juniata College professors and their spouses (Huntingdon, PA); August 3, 2006

Training session for Kyoto Protocol Working Groups, Families, Neighborhoods and Individuals (Westminster, MD); May 27, 2006

Global Warming Presentation sponsored by Wesley Freedom United Methodist Church (Sykesville, MD); April 29, 2006

Global Warming Presentation sponsored by McConnellsburg United Methodist Church and McConnellsburg Ministerium (McConnellsburg, PA); Earth Day, 2006

Environmental Health and The Precautionary Principle plus Global Warming Class, Tai Sophia School of Traditional Acupuncture (Laurel, MD); March 23 and 30, 2006

Global Warming Presentation for American Association of University Women at Juniata College (Huntingdon, PA); March 16, 2006

Global Warming Presentation for Gettysburg residents sponsored by Adams County Green Party and Democracy for America; February 25, 2006

People, Planet and Profit: Growing Sustainable Businesses in New Jersey's Ridge and Valley (sponsored by Genesis Farm and the Sustainable Business Network of the Ridge and Valley), breakout session on Green Choices for People and Business; July 23, 2005

Instructor, Gaia Healing Center, created and taught class on Precautionary Principle: Playing it Safe in a Toxic World; Summer 2003. (Article about the class appearing in the *Frederick News-Post* won an Associated Press award from the Chesapeake Chapter)

Instructor, Frederick Community College Continuing Education program, created and taught Earth Ethics and Actions: A Plan for Busy People Who Care About the Planet; Spring and Summer sessions 2004

TEACHING CERTIFICATES

Maryland # 50-104-36-9623, dated 1/1/04-1/1/09; Elementary Grades 1-6 and Middle School, Reading through 12 and Special Education

New Jersey #104-36-9623, dated 2/75; Elementary School Teacher

SHORT STORY ABOUT A NAME CHANGE

by

Iona

(1997)

Chapter 1:

Susan Wynne Norris Hnatt Topf Conner
WAS my name.
3 birth names + 3 husbands' names = 6 names
But you can call me Iona.
No last name.

Susan. Lawsuits. Sue.
Wynne. Family name. Win.
Norris. Parents' name.

Hnatt. First husband's name. I'm 19, Susan Hnatt now.
"How do you spell that?"
"Hnatt."
"Nhatt?"
"No, Hnatt."
"Nhatt?"
(I give up.)
For 15 years this conversation continues.

Chapter 2:

Topf. Second husband. I'm 37.
Striving to maintain my identity, I hyphenate both names.
Now it's Susan Hnatt-Topf.
YIKES!
Nobody can spell this one.
I have a community relations job in a state agency.
I spell my name dozens of times every day.
My cube-mates are going crazy!

An idea emerges from this mess.

I will name myself.
By my 50th birthday, I promise that I'll have just one name
which any moron can spell.

I draft a list, adding names as they burst through my brain:

Sunflower
Sunshine
wildflower
Violet

Evergreen

(I'm an Earthy woman.)

Serendipity.

(No good. It will have to be spelled.)

...a name I'll never have to spell...

what shall it be?

who shall I be?

Chapter 3:

I discover a group of women working to increase their knowledge of, passion for, and ability to communicate about Earth. Each month I vanish for a weekend with them. We work. We study. We laugh. We cook. We do dishes. We share lives. We climb a mountain to watch the sun rise. We welcome each new day with song.

One weekend a young couple brings their infant for a naming ceremony. Our focus is now names. Twenty-five of us gather around a comfortable, old room Friday night relaxing, chatting, leaving our world for another. Our coordinator suggests that we each talk a bit about our name.

Most people have pleasant memories of a grandmother or an aunt or at least a family story associated with their names. I express my misery about the two husbands' names that I am SO TIRED of spelling.

The discussion about names ends.

Chapter 4:

Our guide silently lights a candle in the middle of a low, round table. The flame shimmers alongside a space photo of Living Earth. The lights are off. Miriam sits on the floor and slowly reads a mystical story about an island off the coast of Scotland -- a place of soul and imagination, of the sacred and the feminine. Iona.

My heart stops.

My breath ceases.

My eyes expand.

I sit motionless.

I know instantly and without doubt.

I am Iona!

Chapter 5:

I'm 45, five years ahead of my target date. Great happiness! My search is over. Do I tell anyone that weekend? No. I remain quiet. It's the baby's weekend.

Do I tell my husband the moment I walk in the door when the weekend is over? Yes.

what's his reaction? Dumb idea.

what do my teenage sons think? Mom's nuts.

How does my boss take it? She's horrified.

what do my parents say? They hate this whole idea.

Chapter 6:

Next month, back with my Earth friends, I tell them. They LOVE my new name and start calling me "Iona" immediately. It feels good. So good. But I use it only in their company.

Chapter 7:

A year later. I fall in love again and marry John Conner. I move to Maryland and fearlessly tell all the new people I meet that my name is Iona. It's that simple.

John and I are working on environmental issues in hundreds of churches. Most people are rather traditional. They expect me to be Iona Conner. OK, OK. I'll use "Conner" whenever I need to, just to make life easier for us. Conner seems like an easy name.

WRONG!

"Is that -er or -or?"

-S-C-R-E-A-M-

Chapter 8:

I am 51 today. I adore my husband of six years but can think of no good reason to use his name.

I have one of my own.

It's Iona.

Period.