

**FROM THE VOLUMINOUS MM MAILBAG -  
THE REPLY RATTLING IN FROM TORONTO AT 4AM JAN. 6 /99....**

Dec. 29/98

Dear Cyril Greenland,

Sorry I didn't connect with you after the discussion at Rendezvous \*-  
The Sterilization of Leilani Muir. Still have your card in my notes so thought  
I might keep in touch.

I was pleased that I got a chance to talk with Ms. Muir on the way to the  
airport that Sunday and she seemed to forgive my seeing the other side's  
perspective. She might come to my venue if I can afford her expenses. So we  
parted with no bad feelings.

Since I got back I've been winding down my year's garden maintenance  
business and gearing up for my first REEL MADNESS FILM FESTIVAL --five  
days of films and discussions about mental illness and recovery - Jan 14-  
18/99. There's a rundown of the films and what we're doing with them on  
our site - [www.islandnet.com/~dsaunder/MM.html](http://www.islandnet.com/~dsaunder/MM.html)

Our *stunning* poster is up on the home page too.  
My program has evolved separately from Rendezvous but I've been in  
touch for 4 years and suggested this years Gala.

In the History of Psychiatry has anyone done what I'm doing? My  
program has been running weekly for 5 1/2 years - 300 events - not a miss. I  
was a patient in this same hospital recovering (a second time) from suicidal  
depression, part of my manic depressive illness. I started showing films  
downstairs a few weeks after I got out. It has built into something quite  
powerful, and I've stayed better than ever because of it. We m/d's aren't  
expected to do this sort of thing.

It's a hell-of-a-good-news story. In the History of Psychiatry - has the  
psychiatric/professional/helping community always ignored the successes?  
Man, it's lonely out here sometimes!

Enjoyed understanding a dissenting point of view with you.

\*Rendezvous with madness ([rendezvous@sympatico.ca](mailto:rendezvous@sympatico.ca))

best regards, Bruce Saunders  
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Bruce Saunders,

1.1.99

Dear Bruce,

Delighted to receive your Dec. 29 Fax.

Of course, I can't speak for the "history of Psychiatry"  
but it wouldn't surprise me to learn that your Film program is  
unique. Is this something that can be researched via. E. Mail ?

However, I think that you are wrong that m/d's aren't  
expected to do this sort of thing. In my experience m/d's are  
the "yeast " that makes it possible for the arts to flourish . Painful  
though it must be at times, our world would be a duller place without  
the imagination, energy and humour that you and your colleagues  
provide.

Agreed, the sense of isolation and lack of recognition  
is a problem. You have probably explored the prospects of forming  
strategic alliances with organizations such as the B.C. div. of the  
CMHA. The disadvantage is that you would probably lose a great deal  
of the freedom that you currently enjoy. Now that Fax and E-mail is  
available your sense of isolation should be easier to tolerate.

At least, let us try to keep in touch. With all good  
wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,



Cyril Greenland

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History of Canadian Psychiatry

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*My favourite paragraph!*