A legend has passed. Nursing is a little less glorious today as I write this editorial because one of our true pioneers in continuing education (CE) no longer is with us. Signe Skott Cooper, one of a handful of key figures in the era when CE in nursing emerged as a force, died on July 16, 2013.

When I first began working with The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing (JCEN), Signe was one of the board members. Our paths also crossed through the work of the Council on Continuing Education (of the American Nurses Association). In fact, she nominated me for office, and I felt as if Florence Nightingale had just endorsed me. She was influential to many of us.

Dorothy Hutchison, Founding Editor of JCEN, worked with Signe through the University of Wisconsin Extension Division and thus knew Signe well. I am sure that was a highly motivating factor for her to ask Signe to serve as a member of the board. Until her death, Signe served as a consultant to JCEN. She was revered!

Signe was inducted into the American Nurses Association’s Hall of Fame and was designated a Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing. Signe not only offered CE throughout the state of Wisconsin, but also developed the first “distance” program—via telephone! Signe pioneered standards for CE and self-directed learning. To say she was ahead of her time is a woeful underestimation of her contributions.

Signe’s brilliance, I believe, rested in her unassuming manner of explaining complex ideas in such a way that everyone felt engaged and never talked down to. Mary Beth Mathews, a member of our editorial board, described her as a “gentle” leader—someone who was approachable, who would offer her view, and who expected you to decide for yourself what path was right for you. Signe’s leadership in CE was demonstrated through her work on the Council and in her writings, which included a book on CE education and of course JCEN.

Those of us who knew Signe could mesmerize you with stories of her influence and talent. Many of us in CE today may not have known Signe, but her influence is felt. Signe changed what we did in CE and as a result we have continued her influence. May you all reap the benefits from having known her or from having been influenced by those of us who were changed because of her.

As Michael Bleich, a member of our editorial board, said: “Signe put her hand in the water and forever changed the flow of the stream.” Her influence was that great. And, just like a stream, it continues on forever because we continue to nurture what she did and envisioned for CE in nursing.