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VANCOUVER SYMPHONY POPS CONCERT, ORPHEUM, JAN 28th, 8.00p.m.
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January 2000 Members' Newsletter January 2000

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Retirement is no longer seen as a spectator sport but recognised as a very busy and rewarding time. There is an old French proverb saying "Forty is the old age of youth, Fifty is the youth of old age", we hope that what we have to offer you in this newsletter will encourage you to go out and try something new! Which reminds me, if you have been somewhere, seen something, done something, or found something, that you could recommend to other members let us know about it and we can put your suggestion in the next newsletter.

We had some real successes in the Fall, the matinee at the Playhouse theatre, "Two Pianos, Four Hands" was great fun just as was the snack at the L"Arenas afterwards. The Duke Ellington concert by the Vancouver Symphony was an evening to remember. The "lunchtime speaker" series is getting a bigger audience, we invite all "pre-retirees" so why not come along and meet a few of your old (sorry! I mean still working) friends? We actually get some of the pre-retirees asking if they can join SFURA even before they retire! Two of the Spring speakers might give you some ideas for a European vacation ( and we might be getting a third speaker who will talk about art and food in Tuscany) and the other speaker (Jim Wilson, Geography) will talk about what is involved in writing your memoirs. John Mills (Dept of English) leads one of the London to Canterbury walks, that he will talk to us about, between Aug 31 and Sept 8th. When you visit campus to have lunch and listen to one of the speakers you can bring your sandwich and coffee with you (the Maggie Benston Building is next to the Student Pub) and remember that we have free parking in the Visitor's Parkade (you show your SFURA members card as you exit).

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The SFU Faculty, Student and Staff photography show opening and reception, in the SFU Art Gallery, to which we were invited, was well attended. We are considering the idea of having a Retirer Show embracing a wide range of art forms, paintings, all types of wood working including furniture, quilting, pottery, jewellery...etc. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO WORK WITH THIS IDEA.

The Travel/Medical insurance plan negotiated jointly by the 3 university retiree organisations with Johnson Inc has been mailed to ALL retirees. We have received many inquiries, please realise that all we can do is to encourage you to choose a plan that best fits your particular situation. And whatever medical insurance you do choose make sure you read the fine print, you need to protect the use of your Extended Health Care Plan life time maximum and you need to know what it says about coverage of previous medical conditions. You need to protect yourself every time you pop into the States or ride off on a cruise boat! And whilst on this topic you might wish to find out about your in B.C. and outside B.C. coverage by the Medical Services Plan of B.C.

The B.C. Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors produce a small booklet "Leaving B.C.," telling you all you need to know, and Human Resources up at SFU can give you their own excellent booklet "Benefits for Retired Employees" which covers a wide range of concerns

And on to things entirely different:-

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A new Executive Committee was elected, by acclamation, at the Annual General Meeting held on May 2nd 2000. Those elected were, Janet Blanchet, Marg Jones, Don Kirschner, Donna Laws, Norman Swartz, and John Walkley. At a meeting of those so elected, held the same evening, Bev Carlson and Bill Yule were appointed onto the Executive Committee. At the first meeting of this new committee, May 11th, the officers of the Association were elected. Your Executive Committee is:-

President. John Walkley 929 6532. mcheveldayoff@telus.net
Vice President. Donna Laws 261 4691 donnalex@telus.net
Secretary Janet Blanchet 987 4349 janb@sfu.ca
Treasurer Marg Jones 434 5485 jonesa@sfu.ca
Events Chair. Bev Carlson 988 1521 carlson@direct.ca
Communications: Norman Swartz 420 7454 swartz@sfu.ca
Coordinator. Bill Yule 941 0550 yule@sfu.ca
Membership Don Kirschner 986 2302 kirschne@sfu.ca

Please note:- Our Association is growing rapidly both in membership, (now around 220), in its social programme of events, (over the past year) and in its efforts to obtain a wide range of benefits for its members, (from free on-campus parking to the "Medoc" travel insurance). At the recent Spring Dinner several members offered their help, and we will quickly make use of this help, and the more help we get the more we can do...so if you feel you can be of "occasional use" to us phone or e-mail any of the Executive Committee. Our use of e-mail and our web site to inform, alert, remind members of what is going on has been widely praised. Our Communications Coordinator, Norman Swartz, would be very pleased if someone would volunteer to help him in both these tasks....and this is something that can be done from home!
CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION  It is hoped to get a working party organised for mid-June. The garden group needs more bodies to help pull out the ivy and prepare paths with bark mulch, and volunteers to write short pieces to get funding and raise the group’s profile on campus. If interested in a few hours gardening to help make SFU even more beautiful attend the meeting May 26th at 12.30 in Room 9705 Applied Science Building, or contact Janet Blanchet (987 4349, janb@sfu.ca).

RETIREE ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW. Our members were invited to submit their work for consideration for inclusion in the Faculty, Staff and Student Exhibition in the SFU Art Gallery last November. We wondered at that time if members would be interested in having their own on-campus exhibition, an exhibition of the wide range of arts and crafts practised by our members, oil painting, sculpting, furniture making, weaving, pottery, quilting, photography, poetry.... We now have someone who is willing to organise such an exhibition if our members have things they have crafted and would submit for possible inclusion in such an exhibition. If there seems to be sufficient items to build into an exhibition then we will go ahead and organise one. So, assuming the exhibition would be at least six months away, if you have/will have something you would wish to exhibit phone or e-mail John Walkley, (929 6532, mccheveldayoff@telus.net) saying WHAT and HOW MANY, and, of course, giving your NAME. Do it NOW.

AND FOR YOUR SUMMER’S DELIGHT.
MAY 25th Thursday. Guided tour around Vancouver’s Old Chinatown and then Dim Sum lunch. Contact Janet (987 4349, janb@sfu.ca) for details.

JUNE 14th WEDNESDAY An evening at the HASTINGS PARK RACE TRACK
There are still a few places left, so if you want to join fellow retirees in the stands, enjoy a pleasant buffet dinner, and try your skill at picking a winner, contact George Suart, 925 2259, suart@sfu.ca.

JUNE 27th Tuesday. Picnic/lunch at the historic Kilby Farm and Store (Harrison Mill)
A Fraser Valley living history site. Join us on a tour of this heritage store, old-style post office, pantry, kitchen...Tour starts at 11 a.m. $6.00 for the tour and $7.00 for lunch, or bring your own picnic. We will try to arrange car pooling. RSVP by June 20th to Donna Laws for more details. (261 4691).

E-Mail If you have changed your e-mail address please let Marg Jones know (291 3360, jonesa@sfu.ca) and if you want to find out how to get an e-mail address contact Norman Swartz, 420 7454.

The SFURA Executive Committee wishes all our members a very busy and enjoyable Summer. Our next Newsletter will reach you in September and we promise you a full and exciting calendar of events for the Fall with theatre visits, lunch time talks, the Fall Dinner, a visit to the new SFU Centre for Dialogue, a guided tour of the Buddhist Temple and a new round of the very popular "lunch of the month" meetings!