



The Tragic Hockey Crash in Saskatchewan Hits Us All

By Marv Wideen

The tragic road accident that occurred in Saskatchewan to the Humbolt Hockey Team--the Broncos--has struck the hearts of people across Canada.

Sixteen people connected to Humboldt hockey team were killed and thirteen others injured when the bus carrying the Broncos team and its coaches collided with a semi-trailer truck near Armley, Saskatchewan. The Bronco team was traveling to a play-off hockey game in Nipawin, Saskatchewan. Investigators are still trying to piece together why the accident occurred. The driver of the trailer truck survived the accident and he has not been charged.

Recent news articles have suggested that in our country with our historical and cultural boundaries, hockey is one of the things that gives Canadians a connection, a common sense of purpose. A recent *Globe and Mail* article uses the title, "Hockey Binds Us Together, Keeps Us Moving". These articles and many other TV stories plus the accident itself have caused me to reflect on my own experience in growing up in rural Saskatchewan where hockey programs acted as a binding process within the community. My early memories of the farm I grew up on and the fun days of my high school experience in Canwood, Saskatchewan, include games in the hockey rink that we, like all small towns across Canada, had at the centre of our social lives.

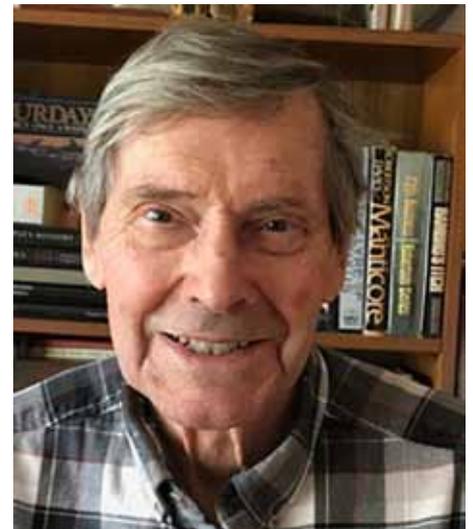
I remember the hours my family also spent gathered around the radio listening to the NHL games on cold winter nights. At that time only six teams played in the NHL, but that was sufficient to have a favorite and enjoy when they won. I recall my older brothers and other young guys clearing the snow off the ice on a lake nearby to create an area for playing hockey. And play they did.

Some cold, crisp days I went to a nearby lake and cleared a skating lane about two meters wide to skate on and stickhandle the puck, practicing my dekes and moves. Why would any kid walk a half-mile with a shovel, skates and hockey stick, clear the ice and practice alone on a Saskatchewan winter day? Probably, "the driving force of hockey" says it all.

The other hockey memories that came to me involved playing hockey in Canwood where I spent my high school days. Nearly every small town such as Canwood had a skating rink where I remember playing hockey. I was not very good, but it was a lot of fun. The hockey greats such as Gordie Howe from Floral and Saskatoon, and Haley Wickenheiser from North Battleford will always be remembered. The list of our famous

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It has been my privilege to serve as the President of the SFU Retirees Association for the past year. Following are highlights of our many activities, events, and initiatives over the year. The goals of these activities were to promote community among fellow retirees, to keep retirees informed about key topics and happenings of interest, and to liaise with the university on behalf of retirees' interests and concerns.

Our regular schedule of social events over the year included some new elements. Particularly notable was the Harbour Cruises boat trip along the Burrard Inlet and up Indian Arm, in August 2017. The trip was a big success, with many members and guests participating. Great weather and evident camaraderie among participants throughout the trip made for a very special occasion. The SFURA Board evaluated feedback received and is considering adding some form of summer outing, possibly bi-annually, to our regular calendar.

SFURA's regular Fall social activities included the September 2017 Annual Welcome Back Lunch in the DAC on Burnaby campus, and the November 2017 Annual Fall dinner at the Italian Culture Centre, a venue we have used only rarely in the past. Feedback on the venue was very favourable, as were comments about the excellent food and the humorous recitations given by one of our members, Ron Baker, about the early days of SFU. The Board agreed we should keep this venue on our list for future events.

Another new element in our social calendar was to hold the Ides of March Reception and Membership Drive for 2018/19 in the Segal Building downtown. The choice of venue was in response to feedback from a member survey in which respondents expressed keen interest in having some events occur in the downtown area. Attendance at this year's Ides of March Reception was considerably higher than in former years, and feedback about the venue and food was overwhelmingly positive. At the event we honoured our members who are at least 90 years of age, as a mark of respect for their resilience and wellbeing. We presented lifetime memberships to three elders who attended the event in person: Klaus Rieckhoff, Tony Arrott, and Ron Baker.

Last Fall we were all very saddened by the passing of John D'Auria who served as President of SFURA and on other Board positions for five years. John was always hard working, enthusiastic, and generous to work with. He left a significant legacy on behalf of SFURA, notably including the SFU Retirees Association 50th Anniversary Scholarship that is awarded annually to two students, and our book *Remembering SFU On The Occasion Of Its 50th Birthday* that continues to sell well at Convocation and on other occasions. We were honoured to present a signed copy of the book to John's family at his memorial service in Mount Seymour United Church in November,

and to make a brief speech at the gathering acknowledging John's contributions.

This year we offered another eclectic and interesting series of talks under our Speakers Program, details of which are included in a separate AGM report. We were sorry to say goodbye to our Speakers Program Coordinator, Yasmin Jamal, who after playing a principal role in building this program into the vibrant entity it has become, stepped down after 3 years of service due to pressures from her many other activities. We were pleased that Apollonia Cifarelli agreed to take on the role of Speakers Program Coordinator and welcome Apollonia into that role as well as thanking her for her coordinating work already undertaken. Details of all current and past talks can be found in the <http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/current-year.html> section of our website.

Over the past year the Board undertook a number of outreach initiatives, including looking into forming a local area mini-community on the North Shore; participating in SFU's pre-retirement workshop that this year was attended by some 400 people; forging stronger links with SFU's 55+ program; discussing our participation in the May 2018 Burnaby Festival of Learning that is jointly organized by The City of Burnaby and SFU under Vice President External Relations Joanne Curry; attending and speaking at President Petter's Spring Reception in Honour of SFU Retirees last May and scheduled again for this May; and creating a proposed new mentorship program where SFURA members would mentor early- and mid-career SFUFA faculty and instructors. Much work remains to be done on the latter initiative, and the next Board will look into that.

The SFURA walking group has continued to organize weekly hikes (rain or shine) on Wednesdays at a variety of locations in the lower mainland. The group has expressed concern to the Board about the necessity to have younger members become organizers of this group activity. I invite interested people to contact one or more of the current organizers: Ted Cohn (cohn@sfu.ca), David Ryeburn (david_ryeburn@telus.net), Parveen Bawa (bawa@sfu.ca), or Brenda Harrison (Brenda_harrison@sfu.ca).

This year the SFURA Financial Interest Group (FIG), comprising Philip Mah, Tom O'Shea, and Marv Wideen, organized two seminars covering estate planning and investment fees, details of which can be found in a separate AGM report.

SFURA was the host this year for the Tri-Universities Summit of Retiree Associations from the 3 largest B.C. Universities, on April 25th at the Wosk Centre downtown, organized by Jim Boyd who invited three more local Retiree Groups to participate. Details can be found in a separate AGM report.

While membership in SFURA remains steady, increasing our membership is always of significant concern to ensure the Association remains strong. The Board is looking for someone to help build our membership base and retain our existing base. If you are interested in undertaking this effort, please contact me (frances@sfu.ca). I also encourage all current members to invite retired work colleagues to join the Association, and to direct them to our registration site at <http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/membership-registration.html>.

Running the SFU Retirees Association involves a lot of volunteer work. I would like to extend sincere thanks to everyone already mentioned as well as to the following Board members and advisors: Jay Burr for diligently overseeing our finances and investments; Jean Trask for expertly taking board minutes, proofreading much of our written material, and assisting with a wide variety of tasks; Maurice Gibbons for using his superb editing skills to take the newsletter from strength to strength; Thea Hinds for ably carrying out the duties of social convenor; Al Seager for stepping in to organize our social events, assisted by other board members, after Thea went on a well-deserved intensive travel break; Walter Piovesan for unfailingly looking after all things online including the website, communication, publicity, email lists, and more; Ralph Korteling for developing and maintaining our membership databases; Neil Abramson for pursuing university liaison opportunities; Percilla Groves for liaising with the University to organize SFU's pre-retirement workshops; Jim Boyd for liaising with multiple inter-university retiree bodies, doing financial and insurance research, and collating the materials for this AGM; Evelyn Palmer for tirelessly helping with so many things and taking the lead on producing the 20th anniversary booklet that is in progress; and finally to our valuable administrative assistant Annie Ye for staffing office hours, managing memberships, answering emails, greeting members at events, and undertaking many other tasks. Thank you to all who have helped in any way to ensure SFUFA continues to be a vital asset in our lives.

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hockey players could go on for a long time, and they would be names we all know.

The hockey culture has created hockey leagues in the prairies where junior teams are located in small towns with players billeted out living in homes and working sometimes to earn the small amounts of money they need to survive.

Academic scholarships are also available and parents also provide financial support. The Humboldt Broncos team that occupied the bus in which the terrible accident occurred, was one of those teams. They joined the Saskatchewan Junior

Hockey League in 1970 and have produced six NHL players since then. Members of my family living in Saskatchewan have that same deep commitment to local hockey, including two boys playing for different junior teams. One played with the Humboldt Broncos, until November of last year, from which he has lost many good hockey friends. And I am devastated to realize that I almost lost a family member, as so many in Humboldt did. Perhaps, we might take a moment or two of silence to honor the hockey players and the supporting persons who died in this tragic accident. ❖



SFURA Walking/Hiking Group: Update

The group was started by retired professors Ted Cohn, Bob Horsfall, and David Ryeburn in 2009. There were about 10 walkers when Parveen Bawa joined in the Fall of 2010. It was decided that the group should not include just SFU people, but reach out to the community as long as the walker was an adult. The numbers increased steadily until we reached the high twenties in 2014. At that time we decided to make most walks have two options, a shorter walk around 5 km to 6 km long and a longer walk which could be 10 km to 15 km long depending on the roughness of the trail. The number of walkers started to go down and has since then been steady at around 15. In addition to walks led by SFURA members, many of the more difficult and challenging walks are led by Clarence Aasen and Joe Kalmek.

During 2011- 2012, Dan MacDonald, who then managed communications for SFURA, started to take photographs of birds, landscapes, people, plants, etc. to show SFURA members what we saw during the hikes. Since then many walkers (Ann Crandall, Lilian Chun, Brenda Harrison, Doug Young, Parveen Bawa) have contributed photos to add to our pictorial history.

About the time of the change of guard below the 49th parallel, the SFURA walking and hiking group suffered a set back. The winter of 2016-2017 brought unusually large amounts of snow and worse yet, persistent ice, which stayed around on the trails for about four months. We had not cancelled a walk during any of the years before this; rain or shine, we went irrespective of the weather. But the winter of 2016-2017 the trails were slippery; one's foot did not know whether it was going to land on snow, ice, or slush. Normally, we have backup trails for our bad weather walks. But our backups, such as Burnaby Lake, Deer Lake, and Rice Lake, were worse. The trails were like unkempt skating rinks. When some snow did melt on these flat trails, it would freeze at night to form more ice. Rice Lake was completely frozen; it was good enough for skating. One positive consequence was that we discovered a couple of new routes which were clean for walks (e.g. the West Vancouver Seawall). By the time the group realized that we were going to need traction aids to go on hikes, the stores were sold out of such safety devices. Many members took to snowshoeing. Here are some memorable photographs of our 2016-2017 winter walks. *continued on page 18*

On Picking at Scabs

Marilyn Bowman

When there is some terrible event in our world, near or far, we find it natural to talk about it and to listen to public talk about it. What happens over the longer-haul is quite interesting, because our 20th C. society has become convinced by old Freudian notions that we must not repress ideas about such events. Public responses to terrible events now typically call for immediate therapeutic interventions in schools or workplaces, and these focus heavily on re-telling the stories. Popular belief is that this is necessary for healing to take place. Repression is popularly seen as a damaging response even though serious psychological research has abandoned most Freudian ideas.

When we consider psychological wounds, it seems that we have been subtly convinced by the tail-end of Freudianism to think that picking at psychic scabs will be beneficial. In fact, the best evidence is that there are huge individual differences in responding to terrible, frightening, and dangerous events. Some people are natural worriers and need help to reconsider the ideas and memories they have about the event. Others have a different response pattern that organizes the memories of the event in a way that mainly does not interfere with ongoing life and emotional condition.

Part of the damage that the old Freudian model has bequeathed to us, is the notion that hidden within our brains is a perfect memory of the event that has been repressed because of its strong emotional impact. This means that treatment should focus on bringing the memory of the event back into normal consciousness so that it and related emotions can be revisited.

Unfortunately half a century of psychological research into memory has shown that this is not how memory works. Memories are not laid down as if they were a video, with sights, sounds, and emotions all accurately stored as a cohesive unit somewhere, lurking and able to pop up and cause new problems. Research has shown that when life events occur, the memories that are generated are broken up by our brains into all kinds of separate small units, stored here and there across different brain regions. When we wish to revisit the event and bring up “the memory”, our brain has to reconstruct those bits and pieces, and does so in a somewhat unreliable way. That is, memory is a reconstructive brain operation that involves a few misses and a few additions, it is not a retrieval of a perfect personal video.

In family life we often have direct experience of the problems this can create when two members have distinctly different memories of a shared event and each is convinced of the accuracy of their own. While brain diseases can create serious problems with memory, even people with no brain disease can recall a common event very differently because of the way their brains have differently broken the event and then recreated it. So digging deep to find the old repressed memories is not a task that will necessarily lead to anything useful. To complicate things, there is much evidence that the person trying to dig is very vulnerable to suggestions by the therapist. This well-known phenomenon has led to some terrible injustices with false memories being used as evidence to imprison adults accused of sexual improprieties with children, and to deprive divorced parents of access to their children.

Memories are one kind of idea, and the ideas and beliefs we hold about terrible events will help construct our emotional condition. We need to understand that changing our ideas and beliefs helps improve miserable memories and the emotions that are constructed from them. The analogy that pops to my mind is that of picking at scabs. We all know that if we



have a wound that has created a scab, it will not heal well if we keep picking at it, and we risk opening it to infection. In general, it is not a good idea to pick at scabs. Picking at psychological scabs to keep re-opening them, risks generating new 'infections' arising from these memory errors, and risks delaying the construction of more helpful ideas, beliefs, and emotions. ❖



photo credit: Greg Ehlers

SHOULD GOVERNMENT SUPPRESS FAKE NEWS?

By Herbert Grubel

The recent surge in the use of fake news has created the demand for government regulations to suppress it, mostly in response to suggestions that it influenced the last US federal elections. The adoption of such regulations is warranted only if fake news has actually affected the election and if it can be identified and eliminated at reasonable cost.

Fake news is very likely to have had no effect on the election outcome under the reasonable assumptions that both major parties have used it to the same degree and their targeted audiences were equally likely to evaluate it properly. The amount and success of fake news originating in Russia is not known but its existence should prompt policies aimed at it alone; not all US communications should be challenged because the cost of discovering and eliminating fake news is very high.

The identification and elimination of fake news requires the use of large and costly banks of computers and sophisticated algorithms. The data in the computers conjure concerns over privacy. Importantly, the interpretation of the algorithms always is subject to the risk that the individuals doing the work will be tempted to let personal ideological and political preferences influence them.

I have had some personal experiences involving the creation of fake news that illustrate this risk. In 1975 I presented a lecture on the future of the international monetary system to the graduating class of the Diplomatic Academy of Chile in Santiago. This visit allowed me to tour the city when, to my surprise, I did not find any evidence of the public protests against the Pinochet regime that I had expected after having seen them regularly on the TV news programs of the CBC, Canada's public broadcaster.

To understand why there was this difference between the TV news coverage and reality in Santiago, I visited the office of Canada's ambassador to Chile. He welcomed me warmly and said that other Canadian visitors had brought up the same question with him.

He then told me that a few days ago his "spies" had learned that a TV crew of the CBC had landed in Santiago without following the normal protocol of informing him of their arrival. His staff found out that the next day the TV crew had a pre-arranged meeting with a group of Chileans in a poor part of the city who picked up from a garage placards critical of Pinochet. They waved these placards and chanted slogans while the CBC crew filmed them from a perspective, which made it appear that a large crowd was involved. They were then paid, stored the placards and dispersed. The next day Canadian viewers were provided with visual evidence of yet another big public demonstration in Santiago protesting

against the country's president.

In the 1980s I learned first-hand about the creation of fake news about South Africa, where I taught economics for a semester at the University of Cape Town. There I befriended a Dutch doctor and his wife who were interns at the famous Groote Schuur hospital. Their parents in the Netherlands regularly wrote to them expressing worries that they might get caught in one of the deadly riots that Dutch newspapers regularly wrote about. One of these letters included a picture published in a newspaper of a scene allegedly showing the results of such a riot. The two doctors identified the scene as one they were seeing every day: the landscaped court yard of the hospital where staff often ate their lunches and took naps lying on the grass.

These two episodes illustrate the extent to which supposedly objective media can and do produce faked news that is slanted by the political views of their managers and employees. Proposed agencies charged with the objective task of suppressing fake news will offer their employees the same opportunities to have political views slant the results of their work. For these reasons it seems better to prevent the likely small cost of fake news by relying on the common sense of the common people rather than rely on the decisions of a few employees of government agencies. ❖

Globalism and Nationalism; Democracy and Dictatorship

James Dean

[From a talk that I will give in Lublin, Poland, on June 12, 2018]

Last week on American TV we were treated to two timely performances: Emmanuel Macron's address to Congress, and James Comey's "Town Hall" Q&A session at William and Mary College, America's second oldest university, founded in 1693, almost a century before the Revolution. Macron's eloquent talk was timely because it warned of the erosion of multilateralism. Comey's earnest plea was timely because it warned of the erosion of democracy.

Post-War Multilateralism and Post-Communist Democracy

Beginning with the Bretton Woods conference of 1944, the non-Communist world, led by the US, was ushered into post-war multilateralism, with the creation of the IMF, World Bank and General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT). This was followed closely by two more multilateral institutions: the UN and NATO. Beginning in the late 1950s, Western Europe evolved what is now the EU, and in the late 80s and early 90s, Canada, the US and Mexico created NAFTA, which for a time was the world's largest free trade agreement.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall in late 1989, and the effective end of the Cold War, the number of countries that purported to be "democratic" mushroomed quickly from about 35 to about 100.

Erosion of Globalism

Outside the 1999 Seattle meetings of the WTO (GATT's successor), demonstrators put on an unruly and globally visible display of discontent with Globalism. Shortly thereafter, in 2001, a Nobel-prize-winning economist, Joseph Stiglitz, wrote *Globalization and its Discontents*, a book that coined a phrase. Although populist nationalists on both left and right had been voicing discontent with globalization for decades, Stiglitz was the first mainstream economist to do so. He has just published an updated, 2018, version, in which he observed that the discontent is now much worse than it was 17 years ago: he did not foresee that it would become so evident amongst the middle-class rich countries like the US and much of Europe.

language of the late Yale political scientist, Robert Dahl, the two necessary conditions for democracy are, first, high popular participation in government (something that communist China can claim), and second, “contestability”, embodied in competitive political parties (something that Italy can claim but China cannot).

What is clear is that most of the 20th century democracies that have collapsed over the past century have done so not as the result of violent revolutions but rather as the result of gradual, quasi-legal erosion of constitutions, and, more fundamentally, erosion of what James Comey calls “norms”. A new book by two Harvard government professors, Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die*, documents these deaths by many cuts in dozens of countries over the past century: Italy in the 20s, Germany in the 30s, Argentina until recently, Venezuela right now, and conceivably the US tomorrow. Another new book by Madeline Albright, *Fascism: A Warning*, covers the same ground but is less academic, delightfully readable, and more personal, not least because she dealt face-to-face with dozens of the last 50 years’ leaders, ranging from Venezuela’s Chavez to Russia’s Putin.

Paradoxes and Puzzles

China under President Xi Jinping espouses globalism more loudly than the US or Europe, but at the same time is becoming more authoritarian. Is it a paradox that a country that endorses (almost-) free market globalism also embraces



authoritarianism?

But discontent with

technology is not nearly as

potent a political force as is

discontent with free trade”

This is one of many paradoxes that I first tried to rationalize in my 2006 retirement Festschrift manuscript “Paradoxes of Globalization”. The Harvard political economist Dani Rodrik also took a stab at it in his 2011 book, *The Globalization Paradox*.

Rodrik proposes a thought-provoking trilemma: full-blown globalization, nationalism and democracy cannot all exist simultaneously. Hence for example China is content with globalization and nationalism, but not democracy. In the context of the 21st century, Rodrik argues that the WTO hardened the mission of its predecessor, the GATT, by moving from tariff reduction to international harmonization of safety, environmental, health and labour standards. From the

point of view of globalization’s “discontents”, this means that if they democratically vote for protectionist nationalism, they must perforce give up globalization.

End of Western Liberalism?

Perceptively, Viktor Orban, the xenophobic prime minister of Hungary, describes his political philosophy as “illiberal democracy”, suggesting that his country should cater preferentially to people with Hungarian blood-lines. Liberal democracy, by contrast, is based on equality of rights for all ethnicities; this too is part of the philosophy of the European Union that emphasizes open borders, at least within Europe. In terms of Rodrik’s trilemma, Orban’s brand of nationalism erodes both democracy and globalism.

It is important not to pronounce the end of Western, post-Enlightenment liberal values on the basis of current events. Scholars have been doing that for decades: Oswald Spengler’s post-WW1 *Decline of the West* comes to mind. But to this casual observer, retired with time to read more broadly than before, it does seem as if post-WW2 political optimism is in decline. Polls of young people asking whether they “trust” politicians and governments are much more pessimistic than they were in the 60s and 70s when we first taught at SFU. I would be very interested to hear from any of you who would like to discuss this. ❖

Vancouver Summer Doings

Tom O'Shea

Finally, the weather is improving, sounds of music drift up from the Roundhouse plaza, and I get my annual reminder about what's happening at Theatre Under the Stars. All of which sets me thinking about what a wonderful place Vancouver is for summer outdoor music and entertainment.



So, first to Theatre Under the Stars in Stanley Park. This year two musicals as usual: *42nd Street* and *Cinderella*, running alternately from July 4th to August 18th. *Cinderella* is based on the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical created for television in 1957, and *42nd Street* is the 1980 Broadway musical based on the 1933 film of the same name. Great stuff. So "come and meet those dancing feet on the avenue I'm taking you to 42nd Street."

*On Sunday, July 8th, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra will play its usual evening outdoor gig at Burnaby's Deer Lake Park. Take your folding chair, blanket, and thermos of whatever will keep you warm. And if you have grandchildren, you can take them to the Burnaby Village Museum (no charge) earlier in the afternoon for a ride on the carousel.

* If you love Latin music, the *Carnaval del Sol* runs for two days, July 7 and 8, at Concord Pacific place on the North Side of False Creek. *Carnaval del Sol* is the biggest Latin festival in the Pacific Northwest featuring live music, art, dance, sports, and poetry in celebration of Latin American Culture. This is the culminating event of the 10-day Latin American week in Vancouver.

* For those living east of Burnaby Mountain, Port Moody Summer Sundays feature live music every Sunday starting at 2 pm during July and August at Rocky Point Park. The Port Moody Ribfest, a 3-day community festival featuring live music and barbequed ribs at Rocky Point runs from July 20th to 22nd.

* At the other end of Greater Vancouver, there's the West Vancouver *Harmony Arts Festival* from August 3rd to 12th with live music, art displays, outdoor movies and other entertainment along the waterfront from Ambleside Park to John Lawson Park.

* Finally, don't forget the *Vancouver International Jazz Festival* from June 22nd to July 1st. Outdoor concerts are free and venues include the Civic Plaza in North Vancouver, David Lam Park in Yaletown, the Georgia Street and Robson Street stages in downtown Vancouver, and Granville Island.



The above is only a sample of what's out there this summer. See <https://vancouverbestplaces.com/entertainment/vancouver-shows-and-entertainment-calendar/> for a comprehensive guide. So sign off Facebook, put away your iPad, forego your afternoon nap, and let's do it.



Reviews by Sandra Djwa, David Stouck, Jerry Zaslove

Svetlana Alexievich, Second Hand Time, The Last of the Soviets/ by Jerry Zaslove

Second Hand Time by Svetlana Alexievich published in Russia in 2013 was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2015. All of her writing is about Russia's not so distant past, the unpast and working with the past. One might call it "Russia's Inner Gulag" or "Coming To Terms With The Past" (or not) through the voices of those who live "second hand time," the past in the present.

Her *Voices from Chernobyl, the Oral History of a Nuclear Disaster*, 2005, is a chilling account of the Chernobyl catastrophe. She listens-in through the voices and emotions of the bewildered and confused people who are trying to understand the aftermath of the collapse of the reactor. She speaks through their voices. Her *Zinky Boys, Soviet Voices from the Afghanistan War*, 1990, a forgotten War, refers to the zinc coffins in which the bodies of the 50,000 casualties of that futile war were transported. The Russian word for "boys" conveys youth or little, a subject of Russian literature since the 19th century. "Youth" speaks in the voices of their mothers, officers and fellow soldiers. The 2017 translation of *The Unwomanly Face of War, An Oral History of Women in World War II* is her most recent book about the "unsaid," the way testimony is written.

She is the 14th woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature along with Russian past recipients, Joseph Brodsky, Alexander Solzenitsyn, Mikhail Sholokhov, Boris Pasternak, and Ivan Bunin. Reading her works brings me back to Russian Literature, which has formed my background in literature. Her writing is part of the Russian tradition of breaking the rules of what one might expect of the novel genre. She incorporates oral and documentary traditions, memoir and the spoken word. This is a long "dialogical" tradition of writing in the Russian novel since Pushkin, Gogol, Dostoevsky, and Tolstoy. There is the shadow of the Gulags and exile. Chekhov left European Russia in 1890 to write a documentary account of the prisons on Sakhalin Island. It begins, "Why is it so cold in the Siberia of yours?" and the coach driver replies: "Cos God wanted it that way". Fate and destiny, resignation and hope, blind and informed, marks Russian novels and poetry and the voices in *Second Hand Time*. The great Russian poet, Osip Mandelstam, who died as a political prisoner in a camp near Vladivostok at Stalin's hands, described his life as "the noise of time". This is also Alexievich's inner voice.

However, there is a "double-voice" in this voice: The writer as traitor-dissenter, has always been the writer who writes from the standpoint of the voiceless: this is the Russian poetic tradition and includes Maria Tsvetaeva and Anna Akhmatova. Poets memorize works of the past and other poets. That's why her writing has been described as "polyphonic": it exists across time and other writers. Alexievich crosses borderlines of writing: it is a journalist's account, diary and memoir, novel and history. However, in the post-1989 era of Russian life and history the question of how to measure time, the past, the unpast, has become — let's also say in the light of the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution — a 20th century form of life in writing. The Soviet Century now belongs to the American Century, the German Century, and the Chinese century as we long for how to measure the epochs which define our future, if there is a future. The writing "bears witness" to present time as lost former times.

Svetlana Alexievich writes: "I ask myself what kind of book I want to write about war. I'd like to write a book about a person who doesn't shoot, who can't fire on another human being, who suffers at the very idea of war. Where is he? I haven't met him."

Her accounts are of the "Unrecounted" voices: "What happened to us when the empire collapsed? . . . Russian literature "is interesting in that it is the only literature to tell the story of an experiment carried out on a huge country." Moreover she

is often asked: "Why do you always write about tragedy?" And answers, "Because that's how we live. We live in different countries now, but "Red" people are everywhere. They come out of that same life, and have the same memories."

Second Hand Time has been said to be Thucydidean historical writing, that is, it reconstructs first hand reports that convey the inner emotions and the memories that are revealed when the speakers tell their stories: they are those who will not be counted in the final tally of victors and vanquished. She writes:

Previously, the world had been divided: there were executioners and victims—that was the GULAG brothers and sisters—that was the war; the electorate was part of technology and the contemporary world. Our world had also been divided into those who were imprisoned and those who imprisoned them; today there's a division between Slavophiles and Westernizers, "fascist-traitors" and patriots. And between those who can buy things and those who can't. The latter, I would say, was the cruelest of the ordeals to follow socialism, because not so long ago everyone had been equal. The 'Red Man' wasn't able to enter the kingdom of freedom he had dreamed of around his kitchen table. Russia was divvied up without him, and he was left with nothing. Humiliated and robbed. Aggressive and dangerous.

Reading Svetlana Alexievich brings me again to the reasons I began the study of literature, Russian literature, and all that it gives us. Simon Fraser today, as I write, has no Russian literature department. It did at one time. That is another "second-hand past". ❖



Meandering the Mediterranean

By Jim Boyd

We travelled on this trip in October 2016 with our good friends John and Mary, a couple we had travelled to South America with the year before. This 21 day trip around the Mediterranean Sea was accomplished aboard two different Royal Caribbean cruise ships with a three day visit to Rome at the outset and a two day stay in Barcelona at journey's end.



Jim & Sharon at the Rome Pantheon!

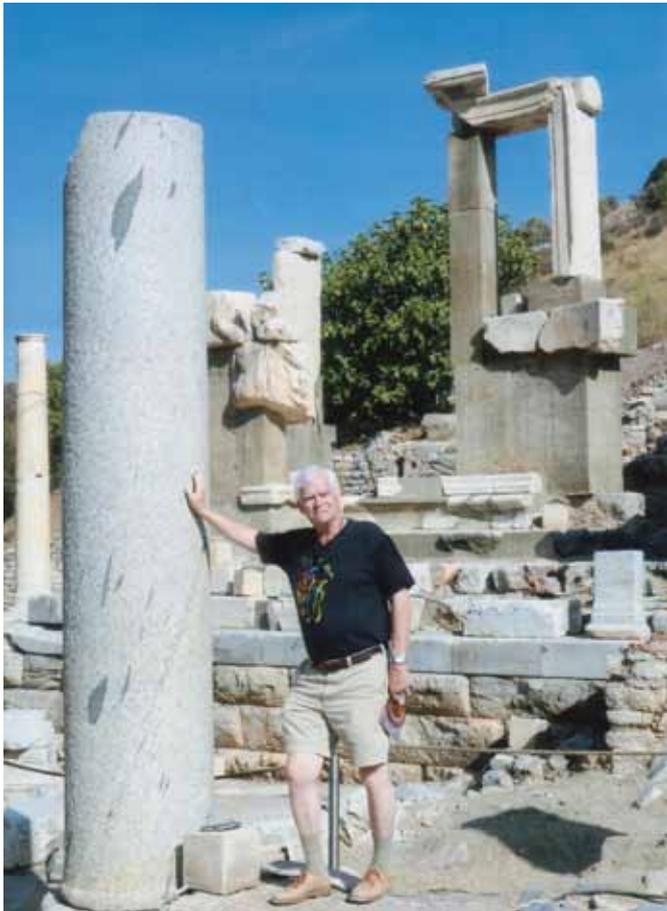
This seemed the best approach for visiting numerous countries on one trip, making it the most convenient use of our time, using a reasonable low-cost way to travel. We were also blessed with (can you believe it?) 21 straight days of sunshine while at home Vancouver had the rainiest October on record. Sometimes it pays to get away.

The trip started out with Air Transat on an overnight "red eye" flight to Rome. If you can arrange alternative flights, do so, because lack of sleep on the plane and accompanying jet lag had us waking up in our Rome hotel at 2:30 a.m. for a couple of nights. The hotel called Best Western Canada was quite wonderful, a six story boutique hotel in central Rome at €134.50/day with an authentic 1920's style open cage elevator. Apparently the owner is Canadian.

This hotel is four blocks from the main train and bus station, a half hour walk to the Roman Coliseum and the Roman Forum,

which I visited for the first time; it should not be missed. A subway and the main shopping street called Rúa Nationale, where my wife Sharon spent too much time, were just a block away. The Hotel's wonderful expansive breakfast buffet was only three Euros. We also took a local bus to the Pantheon (see picture) which was rebuilt by Hadrian and had an interesting history, and a subway to the Vatican Museum (book in advance to avoid the two block lineup). Several reasonable restaurants were nearby.

We dragged suitcases the four blocks to the train to Civitavecchia, the Port of Rome for boarding the first cruise ship, Jewel of the Seas, for a nine day journey around the Southern



Jim at Ephesus ruins!

Jewel of the Seas, for a nine day journey around the Southern Greek Islands plus one stop at Ephesus, a well-preserved Roman ruin in Turkey (see picture). Port stops also included Crete, Mykonos, Santorini, Athens and Naples.

Santorini, a beautiful city perched atop a massive ancient but partial volcano cone, we accessed by riding up a funicular lift. Crete and Mykonos can be enjoyed just by walking around near the ports, but the Acropolis in Athens, which Sharon had never seen, requires a tour bus. Naples was dirty and noisy but Pompeii, one of its suburbs did not disappoint because we had a very good tour guide, and despite the many cobblestones that can be hard on the feet.

Later in the day, after a beer and pizza at a sidewalk café, we walked for half an hour to the huge Naples Archeological Museum where all the treasures that had been removed from Pompeii were on display. We observed a fantastic collection of artifacts in amazing condition protected by and excavated from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. There was even a section of the museum dedicated to erotic art from that era. So much for modern porno!

Returning to Civitavecchia on the morning of October 27th, we parted company with John and Mary and crossed over to a different section of the port to board the Rhapsody of the Seas for our seven day cruise of the Western Mediterranean. The ports on this cruise included the Island of Corsica, Florence and Pisa in Italy, Provence and Toulon in France, Valencia in Spain, the Island of Palma de Mallorca in the Balearic Islands, and finally ending up in Barcelona.

Corsica was very enjoyable, clean and very tourist-friendly. It is a mixture of French and Italian, and it would be easy to spend an entire month there. During the Florence/Pisa stop, Sharon took a ten hour bus tour to the five villages of Cinque Terre and was blown over by its unique beauty. Meanwhile at the Provence/Toulon port, I took a bus tour to the fabulous Notre Dame de la Garde Basilica located on the top of a hill in the middle of Marseille and after climbing the 200 steps from where the bus left us, I was treated to a 360 degree view of the entire City of Marseille. The Basilica was as exquisite as any other church we had seen in Europe.

The island of Palma de Mallorca was the next port of call and we took a bus tour to an important manor house from the 1600's with a fabulous view of the ocean, and then to a unique winery high in the mountains via very winding roads. This island is the home of tennis star Rafael Nadal. Valencia, Spain, was equally interesting with a dichotomy of new

and old architecture. Right at the port were fantastic modern public buildings such as museums and art galleries built on reclaimed land. However, the centre of the city had a great public square surrounded by beautiful old buildings and churches. It was very clean and easy to get around on foot.



A view looking up the Las Ramblas pedestrian walking area

Then we arrived at Barcelona. What can I say? We spent two days at a very nice hotel on the waterfront; they gave us each a free glass of champagne upon check-in. You really need to spend about a week there! We were five minutes from Las Ramblas, the most iconic street in the city, one that made our walkabouts very wonderful. The architecture is fabulous and the city is beautifully laid out in an organized fashion due to some great city planners from the 1880's. I can't count how

many pictures I took there.

Sharon persuaded (dragged) me way across town on foot to purchase some beautiful porcelain figures by Lladra which are actually made in Valencia; we had stopped there on a Sunday and, alas, they were closed. The prices in Spain were half as much as we saw at the Vatican, so buyers beware. There is actually an Arc de Triomf just as in France. We ate at a tapas restaurant on Las Ramblas one night but splurged on our last night in the hotel dining room.

There is evidence of the architect Gaudi's designs on buildings everywhere, but of course the most significant one is the still unfinished, famous Sagrada Familia church that was a short subway ride away from our hotel. Its expected completion date is in 2026, 100 years after his death. There is absolutely nothing to compare it to so please note the pictures below. The inside is a marvel of geometric concepts used in the design of all the huge pillars that are supporting the roof. The stained glass windows are exquisite and are positioned so that they pick up the natural



Sagrada Familia from a distance

outside light at any time of the day.



The Beautiful interior

One overall final impression that I had when stopping at all the ports on this trip was that though it was supposed to be the shoulder season, there were huge crowds of tourists everywhere. Perhaps it was because the Euro Zone was so easy to travel around without any border stops. Warned about pickpockets, we observed no problems. So we headed home on our British Airways points tickets via London after a very pleasurable three week journey. ❖

Sheila Delany

Recently a retiree sent us an article about seven words that the Trump regime has banned from publications of the U.S. Center for Disease Control. Budget requests were especially targeted, lest the CDC offend grantors with words such as “vulnerable”, “entitlement”, “diversity”, “fetus”, “transgender”, “evidence-based”, and “science-based”. Scientists describe the move as Orwellian: thought-control through word-control. It means that the public will lose its means of accurately evaluating medications, tests, vaccines, supplements, etc. and that perceptions will be influenced. Thus instead of “fetus” the term “unborn person” might be used, suggesting a different approach to abortion. The phrase “climate change” has also been excised from administration discourse--wishing the thing away by effacing the word. More can be written about bureaucratic and Trumpian abuse of language, but my focus here is the theme of forbidden words.

This article appeared just when two groups I work with are hotly debating the exclusion of certain words. In neither will it actually happen, but that the debate exists tells us something. No, these words aren't the obvious candidates for removal. (Full disclosure: the n-word is the only one my parents forbade me to use, and I've minded them.)

In one organization, a venerable and internationally respected Marxist journal, argument centers on the word “Stalinism”. The discussion arose when articles on the hundredth anniversary of the Russian Revolution were critiqued as “Stalin-heavy” or outright “Stalinist”. Several colleagues vehemently claimed that the words “Stalinist” or “Stalinism” are meaningless, abusive, reductive, insulting, personalistic, so to be avoided. For others, including myself, they are meaningful and still relevant terms denoting a set of political principles: nationalism rather than international worker solidarity; collaboration with the bourgeoisie rather than political independence of the workers movement and left (e.g., leftists who flock to support Bernie); and stageism, the need for a country to create a fully developed capitalist economy before it can move to socialism. Concrete instances of these interconnected ideas are not necessarily current—e.g. China, 1927, Spain 1937—but we live with their consequences. Space limits prevent more than this telegraphic summary. (More full disclosure: I don't agree with the Stalinist principles.)

The other two contentious terms arose within a local group that addresses issues relating to the Israeli occupation of Palestine. One is “Zionism”, which some consider so multidimensional as to be virtually useless: right-wing Zionism, labor Zionism, Christian Zionism, messianic Zionism, etc. Let's just avoid the term, they conclude. For my part, I (and others) define Zionism as, simply enough, support to the idea of a Jewish state. Most who reject Zionism—as most Jews did over a century ago when the idea was launched—don't think there can be a “good” democratic Jewish state, any more than there can be a democratic Catholic, Calvinist, Hindu, Muslim or Buddhist state. The separation of church and state is essential for non- or anti-zionists (among whom I count myself). Is the concept relevant? Certainly for Israel, and certainly to the influential Zionist lobby in the US and Canada. Some analysts argue that Trump's collusion with a policy-influencing foreign power is with Israel, not Russia.

The other disputed term that some in this same group would like to efface from our vocabulary is—surprise—“Jew”! Why? Because, they claim, Nazi and other anti-semitic use of this word as an insult has



so tarnished it that it can never be used again as a simple identity marker. Circumlocutions are preferred: “person of the Jewish faith”, “child of Jewish parents”, “brought up Jewish”.

It puzzles me. Do people so despair of creating a liveable future that they want to alter history by denying the past? Is there an element of self-loathing in refusing the term “Stalinist” by those who defend Uncle Joe’s policies? Is it a deep-seated shame among Zionists who aren’t fully blind to Israeli atrocities but haven’t abandoned the illusion of the “good” Jewish state? Do some Jews fear a general social inability to resist a possible resurgence of state-sponsored anti-semitism?

C. S. Lewis, a medievalist, wrote: “Humanity does not pass through phases as a train passes through a station. Whatever we have been, in some sort we are still” (*The Allegory of Love*). Depending on your temperament, or perhaps your politics, you may find this a pessimistic view—or an optimistic one. ❖



Available at SFU
Campus Bookstore

An opera trip to Moscow

By Marilyn Bowman

I just returned from nine days in Moscow devoted to opera, ballet and concerts every night. The tour had appealed to me because of these rich musical offerings, but I did not expect to find Moscow very appealing. In my mind I had a blurry idea of grey Stalinist concrete buildings, dingy public areas and services, and people in somewhat scruffy tired clothing suffering from their dark Russian souls. What I experienced was different from this in amazingly large ways.

While Toronto was bracing for a major snowstorm as we left Canada, Moscow welcomed us with the bright sunny sky of Alberta and temperatures of 21°. Our hotel was the grand old Art Deco mound of the Metropole, right across the street from the Bolshoi theatre – a one-way street of nine lanes of crammed traffic with shiny new cars and buses. The hotel was marvelous, even including free champagne for breakfast at the massive international-style buffet. Each day we headed out at 10 AM for a 4-hour tour. These little tours included small museums dedicated to specific musicians (e.g. Chaliapin, Tchiakovsky), and a visit to the absolutely fabulous pre-20th c. art collection of the Tretyakov Gallery. It had glorious huge paintings I had never even heard of, as the culmination of a tour that started with beautifully restored Byzantine murals glowing with colour. One expedition took us out into the country to a religious complex that was the Orthodox Russian equivalent of the Vatican, where we studied the murals, mosaics and golden domes of many different churches and ate lunch in the Refectory.

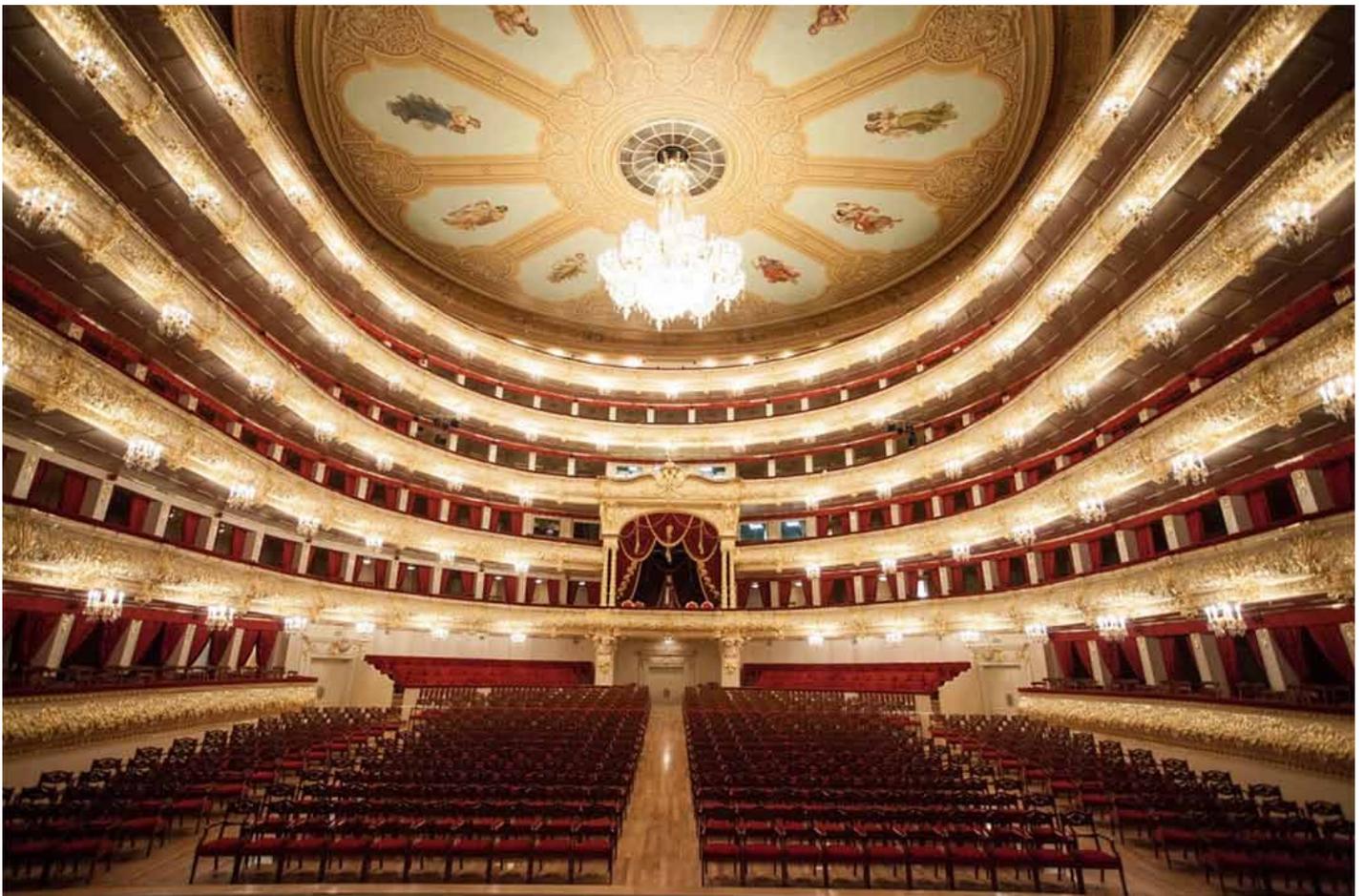
The buildings in Moscow were a revelation; vast acres of streets rather similar to Paris with 3-4-5 story buildings flush with the sidewalk but painted in lovely pastels of lime, pink, turquoise, cream, with fanciful white decorations around windows and doors, and often special decorative bits of sculpture or mosaics. These gave the streets a lovely bright look and they were mostly in very good condition.

By 2 PM we had a break for 2 hours most days, then off to a ‘late lunch’ and on to the musical event of the evening. These were mostly outstanding, and the massive glory of the Bolshoi was almost overwhelming: 7 layers of balconies with complex gilding everywhere, a massive stage that held hundreds in a ballroom scene, all showcasing the wonderful singers. On the main streets in Moscow, because spring was late in

arriving, the city had put up dozens of playful trees with bright pink plastic blossoms all over them, with little silver birdcages in them and sparkling lights to brighten twilight. As it was the tail-end of the Russian Easter, there were still all kinds of civic Easter decorations, huge colourful Easter eggs and pink trees with kids climbing all over them. The playfulness of these widespread colourful decorations surprised me in particular, arising from my pre-trip misconceptions. Once I saw the colours and the inventiveness of the different decorations I was reminded of Diaghilev's Ballet Russe, which, although it was based in Paris during the Russian Revolution, was basically a vehicle for fantastical Russian art in terms of ballet, costumes, stage decorations and all arts. That fabulous quality is still alive in Moscow.

In our scarce free time we dashed into a couple of shopping malls where we found all the international glitzy shops seen in all big cities, the same fast-food outlets, and the same glossy tall slender beautiful women with perfect faces and hair strolling in their spike shoes. We scooted through a number of the famous subway stations taking pictures of the gorgeous art and socialist realism; gigantic statues with nearby chandeliers. The city is huge and the massive Metro system delivers 9 million rides on peak days from its 214 stations. We were told the official population is 9 million people, but the unofficial is 15 million.

In every way this visit to Moscow exceeded my rather glum expectations. I have previously spent time in St. Petersburg, and have travelled across the Russian Far East and Siberia, but I had significantly misunderstood Russia until this visit to Moscow. I am glad for the world that Russians are thriving; it seems to me that their obvious prosperity and energetic activities can only be forces for good. ❖



The Bolshoi Theater



IN MEMORIAM



Two more of our members have passed away, Sylvia Bell and Penny Spagnolo.

Sylvia Bell was the head of Interlibrary Loans at the W.A.C Bennett until she became the Business Librarian. She was committed to continuing education and attended many conferences during her career. After her retirement in the mid 1990s she remained a supporter and donor to the work of the library.

Her obituary is at: <http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/retirees/memoriain/BELLSylvia.pdf>

Penny Spagnolo was an early member of SFURA and served as Secretary from 2001-2004. After leaving the Board she maintained the membership list and the email forum for another ten years. At SFU she served as the Director of the Administrative and Professional Staff Association. She was married to John Spagnolo of the History Department and on retirement they moved to West Vancouver. John died two years ago.

Her obituary is at: http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/retirees/memoriain/Penelope_Spagnolo.pdf

The In Memoriam page of our website is at: <http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/sfu-community/in-memoriain/>



IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

Evelyn Palmer



Mae Sherwood sends a big hello to all her old friends. She and Alden came to SFU in 1966. Alden was in Chemistry while Mae worked in several positions at SFU, the last many years as Secretary to the Chair of Biological Sciences. She always greeted visitors to her office with a smile and a bowl of candy.

When Mae and Alden retired in 1990 they moved to a beautiful home on Cortes Island that they designed. They welcomed many friends there. Alden passed away in December of 2014 and now Mae has sold the house and moved to Berwick Residence in Campbell River. She was able to spend last Christmas at Cortes with family members.

Mae and Alden joined the SFURA when it was formed and have remained members. For many years when the Human Resources office gave daylong workshops for potential retirees, Mae was their speaker for the "What I would do if I had it to do over again" segment.

Ida Curtis served as departmental assistant for more than a decade in SFU's Geography Department. Earlier she ran the Alumni Office and before that was the receptionist in Geography.

On her retirement in 1996, Ida took up writing, publishing a children's story in the Canadian magazine *Owl* and several short articles in the *Vancouver Sun*. A great reader of romance fiction, she decided that she could write a novel at least as good as some she was reading. At about the same time, she started taking classes in history at SFU. One of her courses was on the Carolingian period in Europe taught by **Paul Dutton**. She found one of the readings quite fascinating, a handbook written in the 9th century by the Countess Dhuoda to educate her two sons in the intricate and often treacherous ways of court life.

When the course was over, casting about for potential setting, characters, conflicts, and theme for a romance novel, Ida thought 9th-century intrigue in the court of Louis the Pious, son of the Emperor Charlemagne, a promising time and place for an historical romance, and the model provided by Dhuoda of a strong, intelligent woman in a man's world was irresistible.

Many years and many drafts later, the result, *Song of Isabel*, was published by She Writes Press on April 17, 2018. With several positive early reviews in the four-to-five-star range, the book is an exciting and pleasurable read. It can be purchased through your local bookstore or an online bookseller.

Ida has also published *My Polio Memoir* (Lulu Press, 2016), an account of her life from age eighteen when she contracted poliomyelitis. Her homepage can be found at idacurtis.org. Ida and her husband Jared are living in Mirabella, a retirement community, in Seattle but remain loyal SFURA members.

Alan Rudrum, Professor Emeritus from SFU's Department of English, is still actively writing books and scholarly papers. He has an extensive list of publications over the span of his career and another ~20 years of retirement. Alan and two colleagues, Donald Dickson and Robert Wilcher, completed *The Complete Works of Henry Vaughan*, a three volume set which is to be published by Oxford U.P. this summer. See: <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-works-of-henry-vaughan-9780198726234?cc=ca&lang=en&>. A previous book, *The Works of Thomas Vaughn*, was also published by the OUP.

Alan gave a presentation in our Seminar Series in January, 2009: "British Intelligence and the Strange Case of the Master of Balliol". Alan's website is: <http://www.sfu.ca/~rudrum/>

SFURA Vice President **Jim Boyd** has a hobby of occasionally writing Letters to the Editor of *The Globe and Mail* about topics he feels strongly about. It is his way of public protest. He has a pretty good record: of the seven he has submitted in the last five years, four have been published in *The Globe*. He attributes it to being reasonably timely with the news and subjects he discusses.

A hearty welcome to new members **Mansura Chaudhry, Anne Hungerford, Janis Rutherford, Barbara Stoppa,** and **Colin Yerbury**. We hope to see you often at SFURA events.

Surf our website. There is a treasure trove there. **Norman Swartz** was the first webmaster in 1998 and maintained it for many years, **Walter Piovesan** is the present webmaster. Go to the Calendar of Events to see archived event postings since February, 1999. [There were 17 member events in 1999 alone!]

Newsletters since 2012 are available as pdf's and soon all newsletters since 1998 will be scanned and put on the website.

The Questions and Resources section gives links to the Office of Human Resources Retirees Benefits webpages for all retiree groups, Our In Memoriam site is on the main page. The Image Gallery has photos taken at various events, and the History section is where you can find our 10th Anniversary Booklet and our Oral History DVD's, There is much more to see at: <http://www.sfu.ca/retirees.html> ❖

SFURA Members Mentoring SFUFA Faculty

By Neil Abramson, SFURA Executive University Liaison

Back in 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16 when I was president, past president, and president again of SFUFA (SFU Faculty Association), we became aware that many older members of SFUFA were considering retirement. One of the greatest concerns about retirement was that having retired, faculty members would lose their ability to contribute in meaningful ways to the success of SFU as an institution. Now SFURA and SFUFA are hoping to develop together a mentorship program as a means for retired and not-retired-yet faculty to contribute to the success of new and mid career SFU faculty. Through mentoring younger faculty, SFURA members will be able to continue contributing to the success of SFU post retirement.

In the coming months, SFURA will be surveying its retired faculty members as to the kinds of mentoring care they would be willing and able to provide for new-hire and mid career faculty at SFU. At the same time, SFUFA will survey its members to see what kinds of mentoring care more senior faculty members would be willing and able to provide for more junior faculty members. The goal is to develop a mentorship program for junior and mid career faculty at SFU through a SFURA/SFUFA collaboration. Mentoring capabilities could be related to career planning and progression, teaching effectiveness, academic writing, successful grant applications, and so on.

The purpose of this survey is to compile a catalogue of mentoring capabilities that SFURA (and SFUFA) members would feel comfortable, competent, and willing to provide to these new hire and mid career faculty target segments. The mentoring program would be administered by a SFURA committee that included a SFUFA liaison member from the SFUFA Executive. SFUFA has agreed in principle that the mentoring program would be advertised to SFUFA members, and access might also be obtained to offer mentoring services to all faculty new hires on an annual basis.

The administering committee would match mentoring requests from faculty with appropriate offers of mentoring by SFURA and senior SFUFA members. It would set up mentoring relationships, and monitor them to ensure that the

mentoring relationships were working out to the satisfaction of both mentor and mentee. If a prospective mentor offered mentoring that was relevant to more than one mentee, it might be possible upon the agreement of all parties to offer small group mentoring sessions.

This survey is primarily directed to retired faculty members of SFURA as an initial pilot project, though it is possible that a similar mentoring program will be developed in the future for APSA, PolyParty, and CUPE new hires and mid career personnel. It is also possible that SFURA members formerly from APSA or other administrative units could offer mentoring for faculty on building cooperative relationships with administrative staff that increased faculty effectiveness or their quality of work life at SFU.

The SFURA and SFUFA Executives believe that mentors could provide valuable mentoring related to improved faculty performance in a variety of areas. These might include effective teaching methods, application for grants, academic writing, handling revisions requested by journals, and the handling of service opportunities, just to name a few in very general terms. Mentors could help new faculty hires with career planning, understanding how different kinds of contributions are valued, and even how to handle contract, tenure & promotion, or promotion applications. The survey will be unstructured in the sense of asking members to volunteer what kinds of mentoring activities they believe they could usefully provide that made them more successful or improved their quality of work life at SFU.

It will also be important for prospective mentors to be clear about where (a specific Faculty or Department, or university wide) and to whom (new hire, mid career, male or female or both or LGBTQ, Aboriginal, etc.) they would be comfortable offering their help. For example, academic writing is quite different when it is based on quantitative versus qualitative data, or in the sciences versus the humanities versus the professional faculties. Some prospective mentors might prefer or be better suited to work with new hire or junior faculty, while others might prefer to work with mid career faculty. Some may see their potential offering as specific to mentees in specific faculties, whereas others might see their knowledge base as more generally relevant.

There are many potential benefits both for individual SFURA members who volunteer, as well as for SFURA as an SFU stakeholder. Individual mentors will have the satisfaction of remaining actively involved in helping to ensure the success of SFU and its young and upcoming faculty by helping to strengthen both faculty capabilities, and their understanding of how SFU functions as an institution. Mentors will have the satisfaction of helping to transfer their own organizational learning to younger faculty thereby increasing their chances of success as faculty. Mentors may develop influence in SFU departmental governance because of the strong relationships they are able to build with existing faculty.

Benefits for SFURA as an SFU stakeholder are as a result of the creation of a mentoring program that offers significant benefits that strengthen faculty capabilities, and result in more successful outcomes for university institutions both internally (ex. stronger cases for tenure, promotion, and biennial reviews) and externally (ex. stronger publications in better journals, and/or increased capability to attract research grants). Such a resource would be of value at SFU because it currently does not exist--currently any mentoring is conducted informally. If SFURA becomes perceived as a more important stakeholder contributing to the success of the institution, then perhaps a case could be made, for example, for SFURA representation on the SFU Senate, or various committees where the long experience of SFURA members would be perceived as of value.

In early 2018, SFURA members will be receiving a survey asking what kinds of mentoring help they could provide, and to whom they would feel comfortable providing it. All SFU retirees will be welcome to participate as long as they are, or have become SFURA members. At the same time, SFUFA will be sending out a similar survey. We hope the program will be operational in time to be offered to all SFU faculty new hires for 2018. ❖

Up the Nile Without a Paddle

By Maurice Gibbons

I am reporting a great personal event, a travel service that you should know about, and a scattering of epiphanies. In January my wife said, "Luxor and Karnak are at the top of your bucket list; I have just booked us on a Road Scholars' trip to Egypt in February; we're in a group, it ends with two days at Karnak-Luxor". In spite of my grim experience traveling with groups, it was a done deal, and it was exciting beyond belief.

In no time we were airborne and on our way to Cairo. On arrival we experienced our first indication of what kind



of treatment we could expect from our Road Scholar guides. We saw a young man in a suit holding up their sign. He introduced himself in perfect English and whisked us through lineups and security that would have taken us hours on our own, and led us to a waiting taxi to take us to our hotel in Giza. At the hotel we met our leader, a local Egyptologist with vast knowledge about all of the riches that we saw. It was an educational tour so over the two weeks we were there we also had four lectures from local specialists in what we were about to see.

Egypt is suffering from a lack of tourists frightened off by the unrest there, which means that there were no lineups anywhere we went and that security was a major part of our trip so those tourists that did show up felt, and were, safe. As we drove through towns we noticed that there were no lanes on the roadways so you could be driving in two lanes that suddenly became five: and there were no crosswalks so people stepped of the curb and worked their way through traffic as if crossing a crocodile-infested stream. Then we would pull over for security inspection--often three times passing through a fair-sized town. Six or seven men would surround the car, demand papers, inspect underneath for explosives, look us all over while men armed with sub-machine guns kept an eye on us and other traffic. Men with scoped long rifles watched us, and an armoured vehicle with a manned heavy machine gun stood nearby. They were not fooling around. In the desert there was always at least one security guy, with clothes lumpy where the sub-machine gun was hidden, keeping an eye on the desert for any movement and making sure we kept together.

From our hotel window we could see the massive pyramids of Giza and the next day we visited them, rode on camels, and went to the Solar Boat Museum. The solar boat, a wooden craft over 150 feet long, was found buried near the Khufu pyramid, the largest of the three in Giza. Think for a moment that it was buried in the sand about 2500 BC which means that it is over 4500 years old, but was dug up and carefully reassembled, and is on view. Sand must have amazing powers of preservation, and Lebanon cedar must be long-lasting wood. By the way, there were no nails so it is tied together with reeds. The carver in me was fascinated by this very elegantly designed ship intended either as a vessel to transport the

god Ra and the Pharaoh across the skies to the after-life, or as a funerary barge. Really: tied together with reeds?

We flew to Aswan, saw the enormous dam that controls the flooding of the lower fields surrounding the Nile. [As you journey down the Nile, you can see the green belt lining the river, but beyond that the landscape is desert dune brown] A lake has formed above the dam and as the water rose it threatened a number of historic sites, including Abu Simbel, a cult centre for worship of the god Osiris --named after the local boy who led explorers to the site. When UNESCO was alerted that the temples would soon be underwater, they named it a World Heritage Site, gathered experts, collected funds, and managed the efforts to break the huge temples into 16,000 blocks of stone that were meticulously reassembled 200' above the waters. And that is just one of the amazing temple sites that we visited.

Two Statues of Ramses II, each 60' high, stand on either side of the entrance to the temple that reaches deep into the hillside on which it was reconstructed. The walls are carved and painted with imagery of Ramases victories in battle, especially the Battle of Kadesch against the Hittites and the famous picture of him firing arrows from his chariot at his fleeing enemies, many of them being taken prisoner. The second smaller temple is dedicated to Hathor and a favoured wife, Nefertari, with large statues of both the king and queen; in this rare instance they are of equal size.

We sailed down the Nile in a passenger ship with our own stateroom and excellent meals. We could watch life pass by on the shores of the river: many old temples, many small towns, many fishermen and many farmers with donkeys pulling carts often with huge loads. Then we stopped at our last destination, "Luxor-Karnak." This is a huge complex; if I remember correctly it was over 200 acres in size. Luxor was connected to Karnak by a recently (2011) discovered and unearthed avenue 3km long lined by hundreds of stone sphinxes, some with human heads and some with rams heads. One unforgettable feature is the Hypostyle hall with 134 decorated columns 33 feet in circumference and 79 feet high arranged in 16 rows, and so huge that it was possible to find a quiet place to be completely awestruck by the rich spiritual silence of the space.

I am going on and on because I am rediscovering how amazing this trip was, how well we were looked after, and how much we learned. Even the hotels were amazing. Walking down the hall on the way to dinner in one elegant hotel I noticed a brass sign on a bar door that said, "No casual attire please." On the evaluation I was able to say, "Only appreciation for every aspect of this fascinating trip." Amun! ❖





Editorial

Maurice Gibbons, Editor

I'm trying to enroll in a study I saw advertised on the web. It requested volunteers over eighty-five for a study of "super-seniors," people who lived long, lived healthy, and were active. I assume that the investigation is to see if there are commonalities among the participants that might become guidelines for others who wish to extend their lives. That is what I'm hoping for: answers to the

85 or above and I just turned 87, so I applied. I was thinking of Dal Richards and what a lesson he was, playing his saxophone and entertaining people for 80 years. Doing something you love to do has to be part of the secret of agreeable longevity. I just made the health requirement, too. I have a pacemaker, but that did not exclude me from participation in the study. These afflictions, however, would have:

- Cardiovascular or heart disease
- MI (myocardial infarction) or heart attack
- Stroke or TIA (ischemic attack)
- Peripheral vascular disease
- Lung disease or emphysema
- Dementia
- Diabetes mellitus
- Cancer

us such as heart disease and cancer. Many super seniors have the potential for disease but avoid them. One of the goals of the study is to find out what we have that helps us to avoid serious illness and, if possible, turn that into a pill we can take that has the same effect.

If you meet the conditions, you might think of participating too. I'm interested in helping, but also to see how this study works, and to learn a lot about aging well. ❖

see: <https://bit.ly/2seUOMH>

**“
Doing something you love to do has to be part of the secret of agreeable longevity..”**

question, how do I live as long as possible in reasonably good health with a sense of well being.

I just made it. The required age is

There's another wrinkle (no pun intended) involved and that is the pursuit of a pill that will provide a check of the main killers that we carry within



(Photo Credit: Arlen Redekop)