



President's Column



Our hopes for Spring have been overtaken by the troubling news that has led to the closure of our Club. The Club is a safe haven, and it seems strange in these uncertain times not to be able to take refuge here. Our beloved building will stay closed until such time as we can meet again to enjoy the arts and each other's company.

But if you can't come to the Club, the Club will come to you, and you will continue to hear from us regularly. In the meantime, stay in touch with each other, join the members-only Facebook page and keep the discussions going. We welcome suggestions about how to keep the Club in our hearts and minds during this unusual time.

February was a busy month for me, because I took on the job of directing *The Merry Widow* for Opera York. I was joined in this adventure by Club members, **Wilson West**, who played the speaking role, Njegus, and **Betty Trott** who delighted our chorus and soloists with her choreography. Past member **Anna Dowbiggin** assisted the Stage Manager. How wonderful it is when friendships gained at the Club lead to intersections in the various artistic worlds that we inhabit.

One of those – almost a world unto itself – is the *Spring Revue*. I have fond memories of skits I took part in over the years, especially the songs and words penned by **Warren Clements**, entitled *Shakespeare in Six Minutes*. Our clever pianist **Ruth Morawetz** would take Warren's lyrics and melodies and turn them into finished songs. Eventually we had enough of these Clements/Shakespeare pieces to do a whole evening of them! I also recall a lengthy piece of **Terry Wardrop's**, using music from *HMS Pinafore*, with **John Rammell** as Lucien Bouchard singing "I am the Québec King." I played the fictional daughter of Premier Mike Harris who is in love with Louis, a Québécois security guard who works for the Québec National Assembly. Assumed to be a separatist, Louis, played by **Rob Prince**, brought the house down when he confessed to being a Federalist and we sang the closing number, "For He Is Canadian," to the arrival of Mounties on horseback with Canadian flags.

We shall miss this year's *Spring Revue*, but we will all be back before we know it to continue the fun. Keep healthy and keep smiling.

Penelope Cookson, President

How are You Doing? (or, How I Learned to Like Facebook)



I was never a fan of Facebook. Yes, I did sign up a number of years ago and gave up after being bombarded with posts from young nephews about things I didn't want to know and that they probably shouldn't be telling me. I stayed on Facebook, but never revealed anything about myself, not even what High School I attended. Every now and then I would get a picture of someone's new pup along with many "likes" – well, who wouldn't like a new pup, or a photo of someone's lunch. Very occasionally and unexpectedly, though, there would be something really interesting and thoughtful posted by somebody like **Alan King**.

But here we are, hunkered down in our homes. Lots of reading, the odd bit of interesting TV, movies, of course, some projects that we've been putting off – but cut off from all the things we enjoy at the Club and the people we look forward to seeing regularly.

So I was more than intrigued when its mastermind, **Michelle Hogan-Walker**, introduced me to the Club's new members-only Facebook group. It has all of the advantages of Facebook, but you only see postings by Club members. We all know how entertaining that will be! Over the past day, I've chuckled at the responses to a posting telling us that Shakespeare used his time quarantined against the plague to write *King Lear*, read a long thoughtful article from **Sky Goodden** and *Momus* magazine about the conundrum of living as an artist in a space for artists in LA, and was wowed by some dynamite work by artists our members admire.

But beyond that, lots of cheerful kibbitzing back and forth by members. It struck me that, during this strange time, this is a very good way to share and stay connected with Club friends and to keep the conversations going.

Two days ago, if you had asked me about Facebook, I would have made a face. Today, as I check out the latest at [facebook.com/groups/ArtsandLettersMembers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ArtsandLettersMembers), that same face is grinning.

Hope to see you on Facebook!

Carol Anderson

P.S. For those who would like to join, but aren't sure how, Michelle has put a cheat sheet with easy-to-follow visuals on the Club website. Or contact Michelle (michelle.belle@sympatico.ca) who will be happy to help you.



- Open to all Canadian visual artists.
- Artists are invited to submit paintings, drawings, prints, video, and sculpture on the theme of Canadian Unity.
- Entry Deadline: July 24, 2020
- Gala exhibition and awards presentation: October 22, 2020
- For more information: www.n3xt.ca

N3XT

It is with great Joy and Pleasure that the N3XT Executive & Steering Committee announces our submission process is up and running. We encourage all our Amazing Arts & Letters Club of Toronto members to submit and join in the opportunities to participate. **Irene Katzela, Edd Baptista, Mark Huebner, Christopher Shaw**, and Alex Bulzan have gone to intrepid efforts to give us an amazing platform with our N3XT website: N3XT.ca Please visit and discover our submissions page and view all the options and criteria. We are thrilled at the wonderful and warm reception N3XT is getting within the Club and around the nation as a whole.

Club Vice-President **Michelle Hogan-Walker** is spearheading an exciting awareness & fundraising event: The Surrealist Costume Gala: Gala Dali's Gala! on Friday June 19, which promises to be a wonderful evening. Much planning and inspiration has gone into this event, with **Cecily Bradshaw** and **Karra Greenwood** sharing their expertise in all things elegant and FUN. In anticipation of the Gala, surrealist and dada art historian Elizabeth Legge will be speaking at the Club Thursday May 14.

There will be much more news regarding N3XT over the coming months. We are actively seeking Club members to volunteer to help make the N3XT Exhibition easy for the Club and Public to view, so if you feel like getting involved we will have a page on the website to sign up, and we have a designated email address volunteer@n3xt.ca where you can send your information and availability.

N3XT social media platforms can be linked in through the n3xt.ca website. From Twitter to TikTok, we are getting N3XT awareness through our Ambassadors from Sea to Sea.

Andy Ross

New Members

Jon Dellandrea currently serves on the executive of the Sunnybrook Foundation. He is a Senior Fellow of Massey College at U of T, having held faculty appointments at U of T Scarborough in Management and Economics and with the Rotman School of Management. He also was Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Development and External Affairs) at the University of Oxford, overseeing the largest campaign to date in Europe. Prior to his time at Oxford, Jon was the Vice-President/Chief Advancement Officer at the University of Toronto and President of the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation. Dr. Dellandrea was appointed to the Order of Canada for his services to higher education (CM, 2006). He is sponsored by **Scott James** and **Victor Russell**, who have been assisting Jon with research for a book in progress, on the history of art forgery.

Aileen Burford Mason is returning to active Club membership after two years away, spent focussing on her successful career as an author and lecturer. Aileen is an immunologist and cell biologist with a background in mainstream medical research, writing and lecturing about a non-drug approach to preventing and treating disease using vitamins and other substances natural to the body. Sponsoring her return are **Bill Buchanan** and **Zora Buchanan**.

Psychotherapist **Sergiy Svitashv**'s main area of interest is the study of philosophy and he has written extensively on the subject. Sergiy's sponsors for membership are **Elaine Stirling** and **Carol Vine**.

Maryna Svitashva, a psychotherapist by day, has studied voice for 14 years (soprano) and has sung with the Oakham House Choir (Ryerson) since 2009, and is an occasional soloist for them. Her sponsors are **Elaine Stirling** and **Carol Vine**.

We are happy to welcome back **Jill Taylor**, who co-founded the architecture firm Taylor Hazell, specializing in the heritage conservation field. Her academic background is in English literature and art and architectural history, and she is also an avid amateur musician. Her return to active membership is sponsored by **Richard Moorhouse**.

Alan Torok has been a concert soloist, chamber musician, recitalist, theatrical musician, composer, guitarist and teacher. From 1986-1999 he was Professor of Guitar at the University of Western Ontario. Earlier in his life he earned a BFA in painting and printmaking. Alan's application for membership is sponsored by **David Jaeger** and **Denis Kulesha**.

Members' News

Judy Raymer Ivkoff is showing work in the exhibition *Earth Works*, April 4 to May 1 at the Canadian Sculpture Centre, The Distillery District, 19 Mill Street, Toronto.

Visual Art News

The **Gerry Sevier** Retrospective exhibition, Public Opening and Club Night sadly had to be cancelled, but it will be rescheduled for 2021.

The status of the Poetry and Art exhibition scheduled to open on April 18 is unclear at this moment. It will depend on the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. We have had a very good response from Club artists to the twelve selected poems, so please keep working on your submissions. We will let you know what is happening, and in the event of cancellation we will reschedule the exhibition.

Jack Gilbert is scheduled to give an illustrated talk on his photographic career to the Club Night, on April 27. We will also keep you up to date on this event.

The coming weeks will provide us with a hiatus from our usual busy lives, and an opportunity to let the creative juices flow. Many galleries are providing access to their collections via the internet, so there is also an opportunity to feed your artistic appetite from your own home. Happy viewing, and happy creating!

Felicity Somerset

Upcoming Exhibition

April 18–May 15: Art and Poetry Exhibition

The poems for the collaborative Art and Poetry Exhibition have been selected. A package with the selected poems has been sent out to artists, and we hope that you respond as enthusiastically as the poets have done.

- Intake: Friday, April 17, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 18, 9:00–10:15
- Public Opening: Sunday, May 3, 1:00–4:00 p.m. Join us for an exciting afternoon performance to celebrate the poets and artists of the Club.
- Jurors: **Mark Huebner** and **Laurie De Camillis**; the outside juror is Pat Dumas-Hudecki. Pat's award-winning realistic paintings have been exhibited internationally. She serves on the executive council of the Ontario Society of Artists.

We wish to thank **Nancy De Boni** for making herself available at the last moment to jury the February Members' Winter Exhibition.

Reminder: Solo Show Applications

April 1 is the deadline for applications for solo exhibitions in 2021. Please see Club website for details. We are looking forward to seeing some interesting submissions. This is a wonderful opportunity to present your best work in a cohesive collection. If you have any questions, please contact felicity.somerset@rogers.com



Important: Submissions and Preparing Work for Hanging

All works must have D-rings. Works under 36 inches on the longest side must have wires. Wires are optional for works 36 inches or larger on the longest side. Artists may submit up to three works. Please bring a copy of your bio with your work. It would be appreciated if you could drop off your work in person, or, if this is not possible, find a buddy to do that for you. It makes the task of the intake team so much easier. If you have any enquiries about the intake process, please contact **Camilla Gryski**: email only, cgryski@gmail.com

Upcoming Exhibitions in 2020

May 16–June 12: *Photography Exhibition*

May 23–24: Doors Open Toronto

June 13–September 11: *Members' Summer Exhibition*

The A&L Challenge

The challenge was to take any familiar non-English phrase or expression, alter it, and define the result. I debated whether to give the original phrase in some cases, but decided not to ruin the fun of guessing. (Ask your friends if you're in doubt, or ask me if your friends give you a blank stare.) A few of the ones I didn't use, I just didn't get. My fault, I'm sure. The winner, our first two-time victor, is Bill Aide:

Ich bin ein Byliner: I'm a German journalist. (**Bill Aide**)

C'est si bony: Today's special: unfileted sturgeon. (**Bill Aide**)

Mice en bouteilles au chateau: pairs well with cheese. (**Ernie Kerr**)

Tête à manger: a cannibal's delight. (**David Stones**)

Carpet diem: Today we vacuum. (**Mary Glendinning**)

Follies de grande ire: a company of outraged dancers. (**John Rammell**)

Auntie belt em: belligerent relative. (**Bernard Trotter**)

Gesund height: Altitude makes me sneeze. (**George Hume**)

La vie en rosé: life through a pink wine glass. (**Mary Glendinning**)

Le choeur a ses raisins que le raison ne connaît point: The choirmaster could not understand why his singers spat out grape seeds at intervals. (**Bill Aide**)

Come see, come saw: Been there, done that. (**Brad Crawford**)

Nouveau skriche: preferred by snobbish Newfoundlanders. (**David Stones**)

Fins dans un circle: too many goldfish in a small bowl. (**Anna Leggatt**)

Coo de grass: pot-smoking dove. (**David Stones**)

Ancient regime: a very old but effective diet and exercise program. (**Carol Anderson**)

Vivre le Québec livre: Who knew he was also a bibliophile? (**Ernie Kerr**)

Persimmon non grater: one tough persimmon. (**David Stones**)

Antler ego: horn pride. (**Bernard Trotter**)

Aimez-vous Brahmin's?: Prefer Hindu upper-class music? (**Bill Aide**)

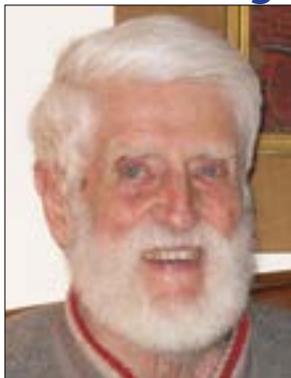
Ad noseam: to be tired of olfactory-product advertising. (**David Stones**)

The next challenge (13): Getting young readers to grasp the plays of Shakespeare might be easier if the titles were changed to something more child-friendly. Suggest examples. E.g. Green Eggs and Hamlet. The Spot That Would Not Disappear. The prize is a choice between *The Full Mountie* and *Gulliver's Day Trip*, compilations of entries to the *Globe and Mail's* erstwhile Challenge column.

Send your entries to wsclements@gmail.com (please note the two c's in the name), and make sure to include the word "Challenge" in the subject line. The deadline is Sunday, April 12, at 8 p.m.

Warren Clements

James George (1918 – 2020)



JIM GEORGE, a third generation member of the Club has died at the age of 101. Following a distinguished diplomatic career, in which he served as Canada's Deputy Representative at the United Nations and at NATO, and as High Commissioner/ Ambassador to nine countries, Jim enjoyed an active

international "retirement" as an environmentalist and author. A Rhodes Scholar from Trinity College, U of T, Jim was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the college in 2007. He spoke twice at the Club: first in 1942, about his ship being torpedoed in the Atlantic while returning from England; and again, in 2011, at the Literary Table about his life experiences and his most recent book.

His wife, Barbara, is a member of the Music Committee. Jim and Barbara enjoyed many Club events together, especially the Club's New Year's Eve events, where they danced together as recently as three years ago in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

A memorial will be held at Trinity College Chapel, the date to be announced.

ARTWORK CREDITS

- Page 1: *LAMPSletter* masthead, **Ray Cattell**
Penelope Cookson, photo **Gord Fulton**
- Page 2: N3XT logo, **Edd Baptista**
- Page 3: Members' Winter Exhibition poster, **Edd Baptista**
- Page 4: Jim George, courtesy Barbara Wright George

LAMPSletter editor: Sally Holton
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who prepare the *LAMPSletter* for mailing.

May Issue Deadline:

- for Members' News: Wednesday, April 15
- for all other items: Sunday, April 12

As there is a high demand for space, items will be accepted in order of receipt as long as space is available. If you wish to include a notice or feature, please contact the editor with as much advance notice as possible, so that space can be reserved, and plan to submit it absolutely no later than Sunday, March 8, or by arrangement with the editor.

Email submissions to lampsletter@artsandlettersclub.ca. If you cannot email, contact Naomi Hunter well in advance of your deadline. Late submissions cannot be accepted.

The *LAMPSletter* will be mailed out on April 24. It is also available each month on our website, www.artsandlettersclub.ca