

RIVERSIDE

REFLECTIONS

Newsletter of the New Westminster
Retired Teachers
July 2020



Interurban on Columbia Street

The Executive's Comments

The saga of Covid 19 marches on. The biggest thing is the uncertainty. Do we wear a mask? When? Where? Which stores are the safest to go to? How big do I make my bubble? How fast do I expand my bubble? All of these issues are becoming the new normal. Even our concept of travel is affected. Do you want to be on a crowded plane? For how long? Where can you go? Many places DON'T want visitors. So what's left? Staycations - that opportunity to explore your own province. But what about the rooms? Are they disinfected? Bottom line, how paranoid does one get? Stay home, stay safe, and make your own fun.

The executive met two times via Zoom, one to confirm the cancellation of our walk and year end party. The second time to tentatively plan next year's events. Given our age and the fact that many of us have serious underlying health conditions, what we do is highly dependent on the pandemic fallout.

Being somewhat optimistic we are still considering the possibility of holding a "No Bells Lunch" in September and the "Baskets for Bursaries" in late November or early December. We also considered having a local author address a meeting in late October. These events all looked feasible, until we contemplated what is happening in Texas, Florida, Arizona, etc.. We will wait and see, and then proceed with caution and safety.

In closing, just a reminder that hope is a powerful thing. It inspires us to do the impossible and helps us carry on during difficult times. And hope can come in many different shapes and forms. It may be through our favorite music, or a good book, or even our favourite movie. As Franklin D. Roosevelt stated, "We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon."

Interurban (Opening photo)

The Westminster and Vancouver Tramway Company launched the New Westminster streetcar system on October 8, 1891 as well as a Vancouver - New Westminster interurban line that passed through Central Park in Burnaby. The station for this system was located at 774 Columbia Street. As a historical building it has been restored and presently houses the New Westminster Salvation Army Thrift Store. There are several interesting YouTube videos of trams coming and going from this station. If you go to the YouTube site and enter **New Westminster Interurban Station** you will find the videos there.

2020 - 2021 NWRTA meetings

September 8, (provisional)

Taverna Greka

Cancelled at the time of printing. The Executive is now looking at an alternate

plan, possibly a picnic at Lower Hume Park.
More information to follow.

October (availability of author)

Show Me the Honey by Dave Doroghy

Where: Zoom meeting

Focus: A chance to meet, listen and question a local author.

Lunch: Whatever you have in the fridge

Late November/ Early December

Baskets for Bursaries

Where: New Westminster Public Library - Auditorium

Lunch: 12:00pm Potluck

Focus: Comaraderie and bidding on the Baskets for Bursaries. (Silent Auction Throughout)

Entertainment: T.B.A.

TRAVELLING

In the last issue of the Riverside, we were fortunate enough to have David Scott share his travelling experience in Portugal. I would like to have a regular travelogue in the Riverside. Some of you may have travelled to an exotic place like: Antarctica, Petra, The Great Blue Hole, Forest of Knives, etc. and would like to share that experience with our readers. Please email me your story, adventure, or disaster and try to limit the size to about 300 - 400 words.



DINING WITH PATRICIA

by Patricia Tanaka

Wild Thyme Restaurant

Craving something different than your own cooking? If you are not ready for on-site dining there are still many local restaurants offering takeout or delivery meals. We have ordered takeout meals several times from the Wild Thyme Lebanese Restaurant. Located at 705 12th Street the food is very flavourful and very fresh. Garlic is used in many of the dishes. Our favourite is the half order of the rice bowl which includes flatbread and 4 dips as well as a green salad with a unique pomegranate molasses dressing. The half order (\$30) was ample for the two of us. There is a choice of rice bowls: chicken breast, beef (ground beef patty), vegetarian. We have also ordered the Man'oushe (tomato and Lebanese sausage) which is similar to a large pizza but more expensive (\$24 for one man'oushe). There are several different toppings. There are a couple of desserts and beverages which we have not yet tried. Call ahead from 4:30 PM to order by phone: 778-917-9894.

*The takeout menu is not the same as the website menu for price (much higher) or offerings. If you look at the menu on the website ask the price when you call.



Lemon Custard Sponge Cake Recipe

This recipe is very old. My mom used to make it for a special dessert and it always seemed like magic. The batter separates into a sponge cake with a lovely lemon custard on the bottom. It does take time to

make and bake so allow a couple of hours to prepare. It is best eaten warm but is also delicious when it is cold.

Ingredients

2 tbsp. softened butter
3/4 - 1 cup sugar (my preference is for less sugar makes it more lemony)
4 tbsp. all-purpose flour
5 tbsp. lemon juice * to maximize juice, microwave lemon(s), if the lemons have been refrigerated, on high for 20 - 30 seconds before squeezing
Grate rind of one lemon
3 eggs separated
1 1/2 cups milk
1/4 tsp. salt.

Grease/butter a medium sized casserole dish

Method

Cream butter; stir in sugar, salt, lemon juice and rind. Beat yolks well, mix with milk. Blend in flour. Beat egg whites until stiff. Fold into batter. Pour into the greased casserole dish. Place in a pan of hot water to bake.
Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes.
Makes 6 servings

They're after your money again!

From DRTA Truant newsletter

This time their hook is COVID-19 related. Any time that they can attract you with promises that you could help others, receive money from some government agency, or offer personal COVID-19 testing services, beware. Buyer beware has never been truer than now. Activate those "Spidey Senses". Be critical, verify, double-check with family and friends before agreeing to do something that could have you give up your most treasured possession – your identity. The rise of scams that play on fears related to COVID-19, include, but are not limited to:

- Using seemingly legitimate COVID-19 related websites or links to introduce malware to your device
- Recommending you download COVID-19 related apps or software through a website or email
- Recommending medical advice and offering fake products claiming to treat and prevent COVID-19

Criminals may also take advantage of the current situation to use old scam tactics, including:

- Telephoning you and claiming to be from:
 - a. Your financial institution requesting your banking information
 - b. A health or government agency, like Health Canada, World Health Organization or a local hospital, requesting your personal information (unless you've been tested)
- Impersonating essential services such as:
 - a. A utility company (e.g. Fortis or BC Hydro) or service provider (e.g. Telus or Rogers) to ask for funds due to a late or unaccepted charges
 - b. The CRA or RCMP demanding immediate payment through cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, getting gift cards, or sending money through a wire transfer
- Taking advantage of the present situation by impersonating:
 - a. Small business suppliers requesting a payment, or providing updated payment instructions
 - b. A charity or organization asking for a donation.



The communication can be through phone call, text or email. Make sure you understand the nature of the communication before responding and providing any personal or banking information. If you're not sure, research the company, the phone number and the person or organization contacting you. Ask for delays for processing and/or a number to call them back giving you time for verification. Make sure they are legit. Be skeptical. Use your intuition. Always remember, your financial institution will have your personal information on file and won't ask you to share such information. Never share your personal information, including your Social Insurance Number (SIN) or banking information, like your PINs or passwords with anyone.

To find out more information on protecting your personal security, research at

<https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm>

TRIVIA - Con Artist Movies

1. This 1960 movie stars Burt Lancaster who travels across Kansas with revival evangelist Sister Sharon Falconer.
2. This 1962 movie stars Robert Preston as a con man and Shirley Jones as a piano teacher in River City, Iowa.
3. This 1967 movie stars George C. Scott as a con man who defrauds people in the southern United States.
4. This 1973 movie starred Robert Redford and Paul Newman.
5. This 1983 movie starring Eddie Murphy and Dan Aykroyd is a modern take on Mark Twain's "The Prince and the Pauper".
6. This 1988 movie starred Michael Caine and Steve Martin as two con men on the Riviera.
7. This 1995 movie places Kevin Spacey being interrogated in a police station after a heist gone wrong.
8. This 2002 movie is based on the true story of Frank Abagnale, Jr..

9. This 2008 movie is about six MIT students who take Vegas casinos for millions.

10. This 2012 movie stars Colin Firth as a art curator who tries to sell his boss a fake Monet.

SUMMER 2020 BOOK LIST

by Linda King

"That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet." Jhumpa Lahiri

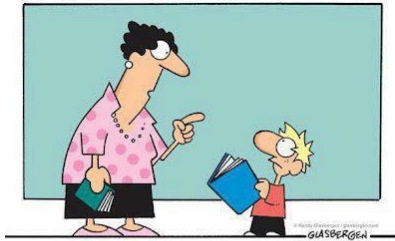
"The Book of Longings" by Sue Kidd Monk

The Book of Longings is the story of a young woman named Ana. Raised in a wealthy family with ties to the ruler of Galilee, she is rebellious and ambitious, with a brilliant mind and a daring spirit. She engages in furtive scholarly pursuits and writes narratives about neglected and silenced women. Ana is expected to marry an older widower, a prospect that horrifies her. An encounter with eighteen-year-old Jesus changes everything. Their marriage evolves with love and conflict, humor, and pathos in Nazareth, where Ana makes a home with Jesus, his brothers, and their mother, Mary. Ana's pent-up longings intensify amid the turbulent resistance to Rome's occupation of Israel, partially led by her brother, Judas. She is sustained by her fearless aunt Yaltha, who harbors a compelling secret. When Ana commits a brazen act that puts her in peril, she flees to Alexandria, where startling revelations and greater dangers unfold, and she finds refuge in unexpected surroundings. Ana determines her fate during a stunning convergence of events considered among the most impactful in human history.

"Head Over Heels" by Hannah Orenstein

Avery Abrams is a former gymnast whose career and chances of a gold medal were cut short seven years prior due to an injury. After a tough breakup with her boyfriend, Avery returns to her childhood home to recalibrate her life. She begins to help train

Hallie, a passionate and talented gymnast who's ready for her shot. But when a scandal rocks the gymnastics world, it forces Avery to confront her past experiences with the sport and protect Hallie and other young gymnasts from suffering the same fate.



It's called **reading**.
It's how people install new software into their brains.

"The Girl from Widow Hills" by Megan Miranda

Arden Maynor, a.k.a. Olivia Meyer, wakes up standing over a dead body but has no recollection of how she got there? She has not had a sleepwalking episode in two decades, but as a young girl she was swept into a body of underground pipes while sleepwalking during a storm and went missing for three days. Her story made national headlines and cast the harsh glow of the spotlight on her little town. She changed her name and moved across state lines to leave her past behind. But it will not let her out of its grip that easy...the mysterious corpse lying at her feet outside is a man she knows from her previous life. Was she responsible for his death?

"Providence" by Max Berry

The video changed everything. Before that, we could believe that we were safe. Special. Chosen. We thought the universe was a twinkling ocean of opportunity, waiting to be explored. Afterward, we knew better. Seven years after first contact, Providence Five launches. It is an enormous and deadly warship, built to protect humanity from its greatest ever threat. On board is a crew of just four--tasked with monitoring the ship and reporting the war's progress to a mesmerized global audience by way of

social media. But while pursuing the enemy across space, Gilly, Talia, Anders, and Jackson confront the unthinkable: their communications are cut, their ship decreasingly trustworthy and effective. To survive, they must win a fight that is suddenly and terrifyingly real.

"Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup" by John Carreyrou

In 2014, Theranos founder and CEO Elizabeth Holmes was widely seen as the female Steve Jobs: a brilliant Stanford dropout whose start-up "unicorn" promised to revolutionize the medical industry with a machine that would make blood testing significantly faster and easier. Backed by investors such as Larry Ellison and Tim Draper, Theranos sold shares in a fundraising round that valued the company at more than \$9 billion, putting Holmes's worth at an estimated \$4.7 billion. There was just one problem: The technology didn't work. A riveting story of the biggest corporate fraud since Enron, a tale of ambition and hubris set amid the bold promises of Silicon Valley.

THINGS TO DO IN NEW WESTMINSTER

Still Not much - we are supposed to be responsible - watch our physical distancing, wear our masks whenever distancing is difficult, and being careful when expanding our bubble.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A Special Teacher

Years ago a John Hopkin's professor gave a group of graduate students this assignment: Go to the slums. Take 200 boys, between the ages of 12 and 16, and investigate their background and environment. Then predict their chances for the future.

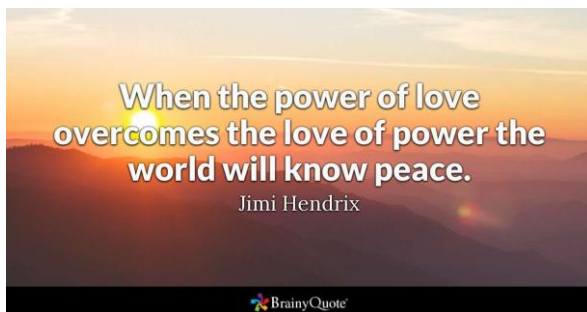
The students, after consulting social statistics, talking to the boys, and compiling much data, concluded that 90 percent of the boys would spend some time in jail.

Twenty-five years later another group of graduate students was given the job of testing the prediction. They went back to the same area. Some of the boys - by then men - were still there, a few had died, some had moved away, but they got in touch with 180 of the original 200. They found that only four of the group had ever been sent to jail.

Why was it that these men, who had lived in a breeding place of crime, had such a surprisingly good record? The researchers were continually told: "Well, there was a teacher."

They pressed further, and found that in 75 percent of the cases it was the same woman. The researchers went to this teacher, now living in a home for retired teachers. How had she exerted this remarkable influence over that group of children? Could she give them any reason why these boys should have remembered her?

"No," she said, "no, I really couldn't." And then, thinking back over the years, she said musingly, more to herself than to her questioners: "I loved those boys"



KERRY'S TOONIES WORTH

or

One Step Away from Relevance

Apparently the banality of jokes and stories have not offended anyone, so I've continued on with more pithy narratives on religion, money, politics, sex, or age depending where my foibles take me.

There is no senior discount for reading this!!!

Lying around, pondering the problems of the world, I realized that, at my age, I don't really give a rat's butt anymore. If walking is good for your health, the mailman would be immortal. A whale swims all day, only eats fish, and drinks water, but is still fat. A rabbit runs, and hops, and only lives 15 years, while a tortoise doesn't run, and does mostly nothing, yet it lives for 150 years. And they tell us to exercise? I don't think so. Now that I'm older, here's what I've discovered:

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. If all is not lost, then where the heck is it?
3. It was a whole lot easier to get older, than it was to get wiser.
4. Some days, you're the top dog, some days you're the hydrant.
5. I wish the buck really did stop here; I sure could use a few of them.
6. The world only beats a path to your door when you're in the bathroom.
7. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.
8. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
9. It is a lot better to be seen than viewed.



10. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter . . . I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm "here after."

Exercise/Good Health



"I do The Beatles Workout. I'm so tired because I carry that weight down the long and winding road 8 days a week!"

Phyllis Diller

- Whatever you may look like, marry a man your own age. As your beauty fades, so will his eyesight.
- Housework can't kill you, but why take a chance?
- Best way to get rid of kitchen odors: Eat out.
- We spend the first twelve months of our children's lives teaching them to walk and talk and the next twelve telling them to sit down and shut up.
- Burt Reynolds once asked me out. I was in his room.
- You know you're old if your walker has an airbag.
- The only time I ever enjoyed ironing was the day I accidentally got gin in the steam iron.
- There's so little money in my bank account, my scenic checks show a ghetto.
- My cooking is so bad my kids thought Thanksgiving was to commemorate Pearl Harbour .

- I asked the waiter, "Is this milk fresh?" He said, "Lady, three hours ago it was grass."
- The reason the pro tells you to keep your head down is so you can't see him laughing.
- You know you're old if they have discontinued your blood type.

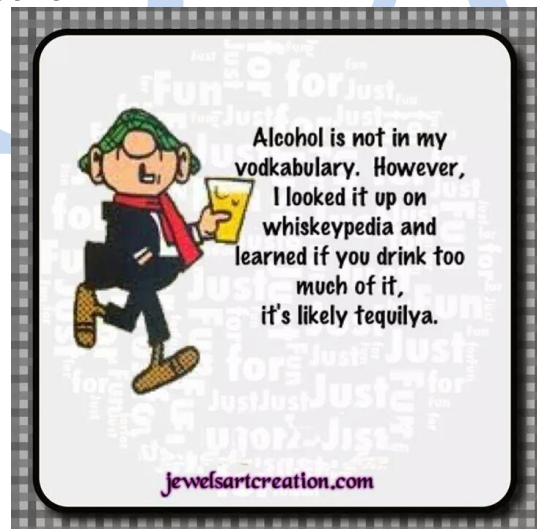
English is a difficult language

It can be understood though, through tough thorough thought.

Descartes

A horse walks into a bar and orders a pint. The barkeep says, "you're here pretty often. Do you think you might be an alcoholic?" The horse replies, "I don't think I am," and vanishes from existence. See the joke is about Descartes' famous philosophy of "I think; therefore, I am", but to explain that part before the rest of the joke would be putting Descartes before the horse.

Alcohol



Murphy's Law

"Have you heard of Murphy's Law?" "No, what is it?" "If something can go wrong, it will go wrong." "Right. Have you heard of Cole's Law?" "No, what is that?" "Thinly sliced cabbage."

The following cartoon is an original from Louise Gallie an NWRTA member and one of our Executives.



Famous Insults

These insults are from an era before the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words. Insults then, had some class!

1. "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; Bring a friend, if you have one." George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill.
"Cannot possibly attend first night, I will attend the second...If there is one." - Winston Churchill, in response.
2. "I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain
3. "He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.." - Oscar Wilde
4. "I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." - Irvin S. Cobb
5. "Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" - Mark Twain
6. "His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." - Mae West
7. "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." - Oscar Wilde
8. "He has Van Gogh's ear for music." - Billy Wilder
9. "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." - Groucho Marx.
10. "He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill

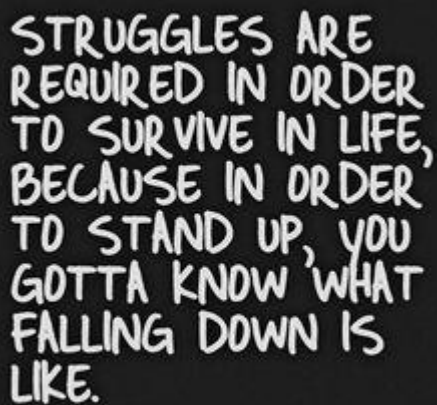
From the Golden Years Trivia Answers

1. Elmer Gantry
2. The Music Man
3. The Flim Flam Man
4. The Sting
5. Trading Places
6. Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
7. The Usual Suspects
8. Catch Me If You Can
9. 21
10. Gambit

Just to put Covid in its place . . .

It's a mess out there now. It's hard to discern between what's a real threat and what is not. There is panic and hysteria. To add a small amount of perspective at this moment, imagine you were born in 1900. On your 14th birthday, World War I starts, and ends on your 18th birthday. 22 million people perish in that war. Later in the year, the Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until your 20th birthday. 50 million people die from it in those two years. On your 29th birthday, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, the World GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts and Canada joins the fight. You aren't even over the hill yet. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in this war. Smallpox was epidemic until you were in your 40's, and it killed 300 million people during your lifetime. At 50, the Korean War starts. 'Only' 5 million perish in this war. From your birth, until you are 55 you dealt with the fear of Polio epidemics each summer. You experience friends and family contracting polio and being paralyzed and/or die. At 55 the Vietnam War begins and doesn't end for 20 years. 4 million people perish in that conflict. During the Cold War, you lived each day with the fear of nuclear annihilation. On your 62nd birthday you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we

know it, almost ended. When you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends. Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How did they endure all of that? if you were a kid in 1985 you may have thought your 85-year-old grandparent didn't understand how hard school was and how mean that kid in your class was. Yet they survived everything listed above. Perspective is an amazing and valuable gift. Refined and enlightening as time goes on. Let's try to keep things in perspective. Your parents and/or grandparents were called upon to endure all of the above, and today we are being called upon to stay home and sit on the couch.



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the-teenager-quotes.tumblr.com

IRTA