



SRTA

Chatter



Newsletter of the Surrey branch of the **BC Retired Teachers' Association**
2021 Spring Edition



CALL FOR
NOMINATIONS

2021 SRTA AGM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9th.

On Zoom at 10:00 a.m

Elections will be held during the AGM.

Your help is needed to run the association.

Serving on the SRTA's Board of Directors is not a huge job. There are usually 6 executive meetings per year, each lasting about 2 hours. Meetings have been held via Zoom during the pandemic. In 'normal' times, meetings are held at the STA office.

The following positions are up for election:

Executive::

- ☒ Vice President
- ☒ Workshops Co-ordinator
- ☒ Treasurer

Directors:

- ☒ COSCO BC Representative
- ☒ Heritage Chairperson
- ☒ 3 Directors-At-Large

We ask that you consider running for one of the listed positions. If you wish to nominate someone (with their permission) or put your own name forward, please contact Tom Hastie on or before May 23rd. at:

presidentsrta@gmail.com

or 604-536-1394

Board members must belong to the BCRTA and SRTA.

You **must** register ahead to attend this meeting. Register on or before Wednesday, June 2nd. by contacting Karen Bentzen at:

kbentzen@telus.net.

We Hope To See You At The Meeting!

President's Report

I hope that you are all keeping well, keeping fit, staying active and still connecting with friends and family while we are still in very difficult times. On a more positive side, given our age I think we have all received our first vaccination. However, as Dr. Henry said, we still have to follow the rules and keep wearing our masks, staying 2 metres apart and limiting our numbers to 10 in a group.

We are still trying to line up virtual workshops for the upcoming months. Since it does not look like we will be travelling out of country or even out of province this summer, we need to find things to occupy our time. Apart from gardening, gardening, gardening, can we take up a new hobby likeuhm macrame, learning French or better still Swahili.

Jambo mama, habari gani .

On a different note, I would like you to consider running for a position on our SRTA Board of Directors. We meet 6 times a year for about 1-2 hours to organize workshops, share heritage information about Surrey Schools and pass on updates from the BCRTA regarding our pensions, insurance and other senior's issues. The positions are listed here in the Chatter. The elections will

take place at our AGM which is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9th. Normally our AGM is held at our association's luncheon but given these trying times, we have cancelled luncheons until further notice.

Well to keep you amused, here are couple of ta, da ... teacher jokes.

- What kind of sandals do frogs wear? Open toad.
- Why did the banana go to see the Doctor? Coz it wasn't peeling well.
- Did you hear what the Girl mushroom said to the Boy mushroom? I 'd like to go out with you some time. You look like a fun guy.
- Why should you not throw toadstools in the garbage bin? Coz there's not muchroom inside.

Have a great summer here in beautiful British Columbia !!!

Tom Hastie

From the Minister of Seniors, Deb Schulte

Here are a few tips to help protect yourself from financial fraud:

- You may get phone calls, emails and texts on COVID-19. Be cautious when receiving them:
- remember that if you didn't initiate contact with a person or a business, you don't know who you are dealing with
- never click on links or attachments in unsolicited or suspicious emails
- never give out your personal or financial information by email or text
- note that financial institutions will never ask you to provide personal, login or account information by text or email
- when banking online, enter your financial institution's website address in your browser yourself
- beware of questionable cures for sale: if it seems too good to be true, it probably is

For more information, check out our ***Little Black Book of Scams***:

<https://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/04333.html>

And the Canadian Anti-fraud Centre: www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm

More tips on how to stay protected from Financial Fraud are available at: www.canada.ca/en/services/finance/



Compassion in the Hard Places

Finding Meaning When Life Sucks

Date: Friday, June 18, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ON ZOOM

Register with your name and email address:

srtaworkshops@shaw.ca

Sad to say (pun intended), grief isn't anyone's favourite topic. Motivational speaking is usually about inspiring people, pumping them up and helping them move (hurry) forward.

Loss slams the brakes on and insists on being acknowledged. Negative emotions don't decompose—they often move sideways in our lives and pop up uninvited at the least opportune time.

How do we make sense of loss, cope with our grief and find renewed meaning in life when all we want is to curl up and turn off the world?

How do we endure through circumstances over which we have no control (you know, little things like pandemics!) but which we desperately wish were history?

Why not spend a morning with me, pondering these weightier topics? After all, everyone hurts. And everyone craves connection. And though we all want a quick fix, we also know that none exists. Let's talk about it, shall we?

Workshop Presenter: Clair Jantzen

Clair holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Counselling and is a Registered Professional Counsellor with the Canadian Professional Counsellors Association. He has also completed advanced training and is certified as a Support Group Facilitator with the Grief Recovery Institute.

He has over 40 years experience in counselling, support group facilitating and workshop presenting. From 1998 to 2019, he was employed at Springfield Funeral Home in Kelowna as grief counsellor, celebrant and funeral director. He is now a private practice grief and loss, marriage and family therapist. In addition, he provides supervision for those seeking accreditation with the CPCA.

He is a published author of *Tears in a Bottle – Stories of Life and Loss*, Trafford 2012 and *Living with Grief: Children and Adolescents, the Value of the Funeral and Viewing*.

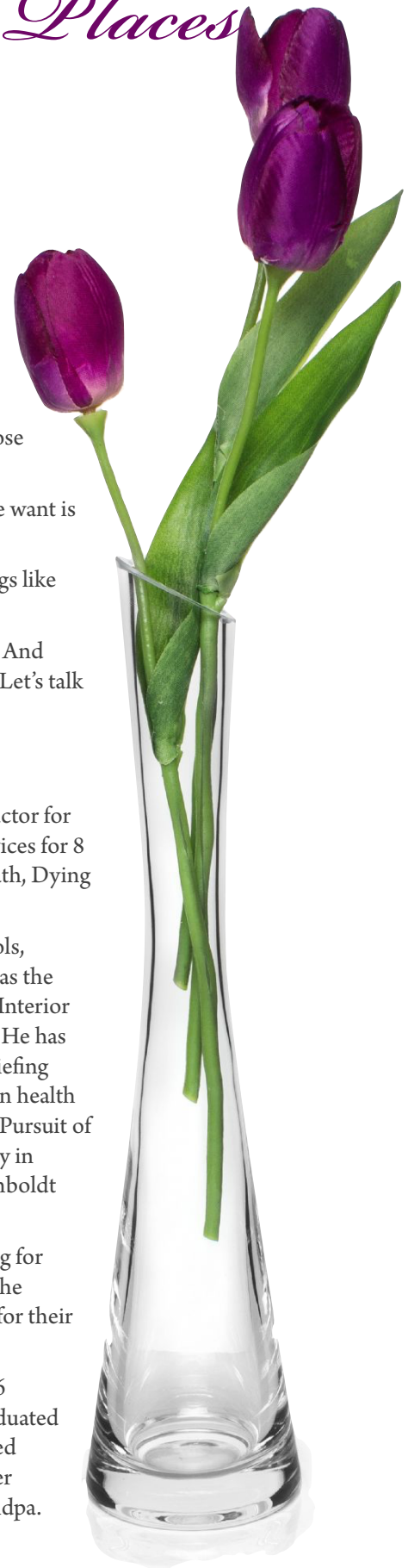
Clair has been a guest lecturer at UBC Okanagan in the gerontology, social work and nursing departments, Okanagan College and other local

private colleges. He has been an instructor for The Canadian College of Funeral Services for 8 years, teaching *The Psychology of Death, Dying and Disposition*.

He is a community instructor to schools, businesses and groups such as the Interior Alzheimer Society, Interior Health, BC Cancer Agency. He has been involved in "grief debriefing experiences" for caregivers in health care facilities, including the Pursuit of Excellence Hockey Academy in Kelowna following the Humboldt tragedy.

He is passionate about caring for people, hoping to provide them with the necessary understanding and context for their life and its challenges.

Personally, he is married to Rachel (36 years), has a married son who just graduated from UBCO Engineering and a married daughter in West Kelowna. She and her husband have made him a proud Grandpa. (He'll show you pictures!)





Update From The 'Friends Of The SRTA Charitable Fund'

Let the Donations Begin

In an effort to keep our president out of jail, we have been double checking Canada Revenue Agency guidelines for fundraising and we now have a plan for collecting donations during COVID. Through 'The Friends of the SRTA Charitable Fund', your donations will be used to help support a needy school or student in Surrey. Some examples were described in the February Chatter. Note that we have changed part of our name from 'Foundation' to 'Fund'.

How Can You Donate?

Donate Online

www.surreyschools.ca/departments/BDEV/Donations/WaystoGive/Pages/default.aspx

- You will be prompted to "Click here to donate online".
- Under "Gift Information" select a set amount to donate or type in desired amount.
- Select "Fund Destination" from the drop down menu and select "Surrey School District".
- "Tribute information": No information is required here.
- "Message to School Board": Type in "Friends of the SRTA Charitable Fund" as well as "Direct all donations to Ryan Sidhu in Business Development".
- "Tax Receipt": Fill out personal information so a tax receipt can be emailed for donations over \$25.

Donation By Cheque

- Cheques should include your name, address, and perhaps phone number. This is important if your donation is \$25 or more and you want to receive an income tax receipt.
- Make cheque payable to The Surrey School District #36.
- On the memo line of the cheque write Business Development - Friends of the SRTA Charitable Fund.

Address the envelope to:

Surrey District No 36 (Surrey)
14033 92 Avenue Surrey BC
V3V 0B7

On the envelope write:

Att. Business Development - Friends of the SRTA Charitable Fund

Questions? Contact Karen Susheski at:

susheski29@gmail.com

Change of Address or Circumstance

Email or other change of address? Here's what to do:

Click the link to the BCRTA web site and [Change Your Member Information](#)

The SRTA will be notified of the changes by the BCRTA.

Workshop Opportunities

The SRTA offers excellent workshops, but so do others. Here is an opportunity for other workshops you can participate in. This comes from Sue Heuman.

boomerang

Boomerang is an organization based in Toronto (we try not to hold that against them) that offers workshops on a variety of topics. They offer over 300 workshops from cooking to yoga to jewelry making.

I took a crocheting workshop last year and made a lovely lacy shawl that I gifted to my friend. I also took a meditation workshop and a series of relaxation workshops.

Some of the workshops charge a fee, usually between \$5-\$10 but there are a whole lot more that are free. The workshops I took were free.

Sign up is free, click the link and go in and browse through the offerings.

goboomerang.com

From Karen Kilbride: An excellent resource compiled by the education staff at the Surrey Nature Centre for Surrey teachers. It has excellent resources for all teachers and anyone else who loves getting outdoors.

<https://www.surrey.ca/parks/park-programs/resources-outdoor-learning>

Volunteer and Employment Opportunity

Application for Teacher Liaison at Learning Buddies Network

Have you recently retired from being an elementary school teacher and are feeling at loose ends? Are you missing contact with: young students; the school community; the classroom; a sense of fulfillment in your retirement?

Learning Buddies needs you!

Learning Buddies Network (LBN) is a local non-profit organization founded by a paediatrician, Dr. Alisa Lipson, in 2008 to support young students who are behind grade level in reading and math.

LBN provides free one-to-one tutoring at 8 school sites (Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby and Surrey).

Some recipients (our 'buddies') are identified by teachers as discouraged elementary students who struggle with basic reading and math skills. Other recipients are identified by parents who have responded via the LBN website.



Empowering Kids through Reading & Math.

LEARNING
Buddies
NETWORK

Our mentors are volunteer high school students and/or university students who are recruited and trained by LBN.

In response to the onset of the Covid-19, epidemic, we developed a successful on-line program delivered by Zoom sessions twice a week. Each online Pod has a volunteer student as Executive Coordinator and Program Coordinator who support 8 mentor/buddy pairs.

We are currently searching for a retired or part-time elementary teacher who would support our organization in a paid position for approximately 6 hour per week plus some variable meetings, as the School Liaison (when on site) or the Pod Liaison (while on zoom).

Duties include, being present for the duration of a twice weekly session, moving among each mentor /buddy pair to assist with teaching strategies that the mentor or buddy may be struggling with, provide help when buddy is distracted, offer positive suggestions to make the session more efficient,

model effective ways to ask comprehension questions, teach new vocabulary, or develop a phonics skill.

You will also provide positive and constructive feedback to mentors during the closing part of the session. In general, as Teacher Liaison, you provide professional support to mentors and buddies alike.

The successful candidate will report to and collaborate with the Operations Manager as well as the Head

Teacher Liaison. A full job description and remuneration details can be provided upon request.

Please respond with resume and cover letter to the following:

hiringcommittee@learningbuddiesnetwork.com

Website: www.learningbuddiesnetwork.org

Learning Buddies Network Board Member Recruitment Post

Organization Description

The Learning Buddies Network (LBN) inspires a love of learning, one child at a time. The goals of the organization are:

1. To provide free extracurricular mentoring to elementary school children who are struggling with basic academics;
2. To improve academic skills, self-esteem and attitude to learning in these children through teaching, one-on-one mentoring, and group activities;
3. To provide young adults a meaningful and rewarding volunteer experience with an opportunity to act as a role model to children and develop leadership and communication skills.

Our usual model is to provide mentoring sessions weekly in group sessions in schools. Currently with Covid, we are providing reading twice a week online,

and will soon roll out our online math program. We currently serve 150 child/mentor pairs.

About the Board: The Board is made up of volunteers who are teachers, principals, doctors, lawyers, accountants, and former volunteers and staff of LBN. As our principals' terms end this spring, we are seeking new board members.

Skills: We are looking for individuals who are current or retired educators, ideally with some experience and knowledge of elementary level reading and math curriculum. Past work with children with learning challenges, and also experience in the BC school system would be assets.

Term: Elected Directors are renewed annually although candidates are preferred who are willing to commit to a minimum 2-to-3-year term.

Time Commitment: The Board meets together every two months with committee meetings more frequently.

Please send your resume and a short cover letter to alias.lipson@learningbuddiesnetwork.com

BCRTA Member Advantage Program

Don't forget that as BCRTA members you are able to take advantage of fine offers from our Member Advantage Program. Learn all about it at the BCRTA website or click on the image links below.

www.BCRTA.ca

Do You Know Any Colleagues That Are Not Members?

Have them check out the web link above to take advantage of the complementary free membership offer.

Heritage Report

The BCRTA Is Proud To Celebrate Its 75th Anniversary!

***Happy 30Th Anniversary To
The Surrey Retired Teachers' Association!***



After the BC Teachers' Federation was formed in 1917, retired teachers began meeting in private homes in Vancouver, and they formed themselves into an association with the primary purpose of improving teachers' pensions. At about the same time a group of retired teachers in Victoria formed an association with the same goal. Eventually the two groups joined in common purpose, which led to the formation in 1945 of the BCRTA. The B.C. Retired Teachers' Association was incorporated as a Society in 1955 with its main objective "to guard the interests and to promote the welfare of its members." At that time the Association had about 1,100 members and Mr. R.R. Smith was president. Over time, branches of the the provincial body formed throughout the province.

The SRTA is also celebrating its 30th Anniversary. To mark this milestone, the Heritage Committee is working on a publication called "Snapshots" consisting of memories of the Surrey School District. SRTA members and others have contributed to it. Watch for it online in the next couple of months.

Click the link for more information about the history of your [BC Retired Teachers' Association](#)

Who Are These Mystery People?

Can you identify any of the teachers in this photo? It was taken at Semiahmoo Secondary taken in the 1950s.



Semiahmoo High School Staff

(Photo courtesy of Surrey Archives)

Thank you Lorna Kuhlmann for identifying yourself, Beckie Kozal and Sid White in our last, 'Mystery People' photo.

You are invited to share your memories.

If you can share your stories or photos, we would be happy to speak with you. Please contact a member of our committee at:

kbentzen@telus.net

Margery Allen, Karen Bentzen, Karen Susheski and Alice Tiles (Chairperson)

Teachers, Textbooks and School Bells

Sharpen your pencils and roll up your sleeves as we zip through a history of Surrey's one-room schoolhouses and recent schoolyard tales. Explore our educational landscape through vintage yearbooks, photos, and more in this talk by Surrey Archives staff.

Date: Wednesday June 16, 2021

Time: 1:00 to 2:30 PM

Presenters: Staff of the Surrey Archives

Register by emailing Alice Tiles at srtaheritage@gmail.com. Deadline for registration is Sunday June 13, 2021.

This workshop will be presented via Zoom. Registrants will be contacted prior to the session.



Sunshine Report

Cards of Condolence were sent to:

- Donalda Whaites (card to her husband, Barry, and family)
- Alison Kirkley (card to her husband, Rick Carswell)
- Patricia Baisi re: the death of her daughter, Jennifer

If
you know of any
SRTA members who
could use some sunshine
in their lives due to illness
or loss in their family,
please let our Sunshine
Chair, Ann Bayfield
know.

Please contact Ann Bayfield:
abayfield@shaw.ca