

# RIVERSIDE

## REFLECTIONS

Newsletter of the New Westminster  
Retired Teachers  
October 2021



1914 NW Operatic Club and Symphony Orchestra

### The Executive's Comments

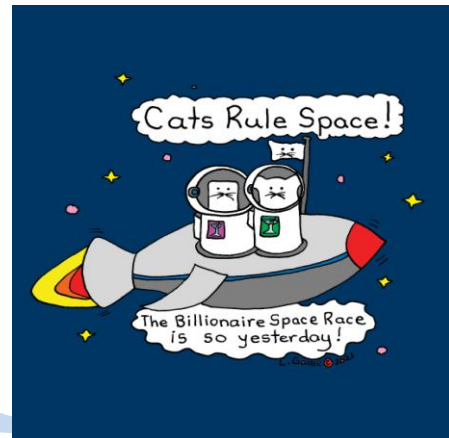
by Kerry Babiuk Communications Officer

The bad news is that Covid infections have increased in many parts of our Province and despite getting two doses of the vaccine, many of us are still struggling to return to some semblance of normality. In keeping with my discourse, in the April newsletter, I for one, plan on enjoying the "ride uphill". I don't think of myself as being courageous in this decision, but rather getting on with my life despite being somewhat trepidatious of the furtive dangers of Covid 19.

Therefore I have decided that I will go out to restaurants and the VSO. I will go to Home Depot and Costco. I will also go visit friends and family if they are safe in doing so.

In my defense, I have had both of my vaccines, I wear a mask when I encounter other people, I am constantly aware of my physical distance from others, and I listen to the advice of experts (i.e. Doctors and not Facebook). I also downloaded my BC Vaccine Card and will only visit restaurants

and venues where proof of vaccinations is mandatory. Keeping all of these things in mind, I believe that I am relatively safe. I certainly can't predict if I will encounter a person who is asymptomatic, anymore than I can predict if I will be hit by a bus, but I believe I have taken all the responsible steps to return to a normal life, which includes all the attributes of being a good human being. As Maya Angelou stated, "Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest." Therefore, I plan to get up and get out of the house and "ride the roller coaster".



by Louise Gallie NWRTA member

### NW SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

(Opening photo)

This photograph shows the interior of the New Westminster Opera House, which was located at the corner of Lorne and Victoria Streets. This would place it between the Douglas College Campus and our Provincial Court House. It shows a Westminster Operatic Club concert. In the orchestra pit are members of the New Westminster Symphony Orchestra. This was a production of the "Yeomen of the Guard or the Merryman and his Maid" billed in the programme as "Gilbert & Sullivan's Brilliant & Romantic Opera." It was performed during the first season of the Westminster Operatic Club on Thursday & Friday, April 16 & 17, 1914.

This photo is from the NWPL heritage collection - photos. This is item 1902 and can be located at:

<https://tinyurl.com/reuyjh2c>

## 2020 - 2021 NWRТА Meetings

### September, Tuesday 7th

#### **The "No Bells" Luncheon**

Cancelled due to Covid.

### October, Tuesday 26th

#### **The 'Hell' o we'en Brunch**

Where: Angelina's Dutch Corner

Brunch: 10:00 - 12:00

Focus: Get to know your fellow members. Remember to let all new retirees know that this is a "free" lunch for them.

#### **This is a RSVP event.**

Email me at [kgbabiuk@gmail.com](mailto:kgbabiuk@gmail.com) if you are planning on attending.

### November/ December

"Baskets for Bursaries" will be back. It will either be the usual silent auction or possibly a virtual auction. It will depend on members response to meeting in person and how successful the Province is in controlling the pandemic. Regardless of the venue, what should your basket be? Remember that most bidders are looking for possible gifts for family, friends, or even themselves, so be exciting, be daring, but most of all have FUN. The basket could be aimed at the oenophiles or the zythophiles in the Branch. How about something for the chocoholic? or the bibliophile? or the gourmand? You may even want to create a basket that provides a service such as: taking someone shopping, do some sewing, or offer some technical advice for a smart phone or a tablet. Whatever you choose, let your

imagination run wild and have fun creating your basket.

### January/ February

We are hoping that by this time we will be able to hold in-person meetings with guest speakers. We are hoping to acquire the oratory services of someone like: Daphne Bramham, Jerry Tiede, Sylvia Olsen, Dave Doroghy, or Roxsane Tiernan. This would be a speaker led meeting, followed by a Q & A, and then lunch.

### BCRTA Conference Sept 30 & Oct 1

Orrie Babiuk, NWRТА Secretary and Kerry Babiuk, NWRТА Communications Officer were the delegates for this conference. The thought of spending three mornings attending Zoom meetings was met with a great deal of skepticism, but the keynote speakers quickly whisked those concerns away. Their enthusiasm and knowledge made for three interesting and enjoyable days. The first speaker on Thursday was Linda Fawcus, the founder of GLUU. She talked about how we are so influenced by technology and offered useful hints about securing all our devices. It was particularly disturbing to find out how easily our computers, laptops, and phones can be compromised, even when we think we have come up with "good" passwords. Her talk can be viewed at the following youtube link at the 4 minute and 28 second mark:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUZ71N6wVY>

The second speaker on Thursday was Dr. James McCormick from UBC. He gave an excellent talk on nutrition. He discussed how some foods are rated good for you one year and then bad for you the next. The bottom line is too often the research that is done is not very accurate and it also depends on who is "interpreting" the results.

This allocution can be found at the 2 minute and 30 second mark on the link below.

On Friday the keynote speaker was Brian Minter, a master gardener. His focus was on, how much of gardening done today is about creating a greater connection to nature. He also spoke about the number of people that are growing their own food in "regular" gardens, but also in containers. Brian's dialogue can be viewed on youtube at the following link at the 1 hour, 24 minute mark:

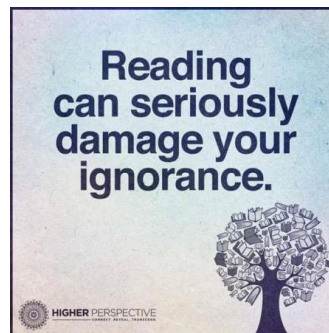
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9MI0g1AY2s>

### **THE BOOK CORNER:**

Unfortunately our book editor is still incapacitated by a serious heart condition, so you are stuck with me again. I would strongly urge any member who has a love of books to kindly submit an article to me. It could be anything from your favourite bedtime novel, when you were six, to the best Sci-Fi novel (in your opinion) that has ever been published.

In the July issue of the Riverside, I suggested that The Spy Who Came in from the Cold was the best espionage book ever written, with the hope that I would generate some emails indicating how wrong I was. Apparently, many NWRTA members are either not a fan of espionage novels or I was right. Assuming the later, I have decided to offer my "expert" opinion on another genre. This time I thought I would suggest the best fantasy novel ever written. Hence, Mistborn: The Final Empire, by Brandon Sanderson. The magic system in Mistborn is allomancy and is based on metals to give the magician special powers. All the characters in this book are surprisingly real and complex; manifesting the good and bad qualities that we all have. As in many novels, this book centers on Good vs Evil. The down trodden people are the Skaa who have been subjugated for over a thousand years by the Lord Ruler and the Nobility. The hero is a

16 year old thief, Vin, who is recruited by Kelsier, a masterful thief, into his crew of Mistings. This group of misfits then takes on the impossible task of freeing the Skaa from the Lord Ruler.



### **CENTURY HOUSE**

#### **A Musical Walk Down Memory Lane**

Back by popular demand! Join us again or for the first time for a six-week virtual singing program. The repertoire includes songs from different genres and decades, e.g., Crooners from the 50's, Beatles from the 60's; Folk Music from the 70's. No singing experience needed. To avoid Zoom time lag problems, participants' mics are turned off during the program. Between songs, the facilitator will share interesting stories about the music, composers and artists. Hope you'll join us. Singing familiar songs warms our hearts and lifts our spirits!

Program Facilitator: Karin Roberts, MAMT, MTA

Monday, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

October 18 - November 22

Register in advance:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclC--gqTlrGNf\\_BLfCm-8sYGLsmPZcbg2k](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclC--gqTlrGNf_BLfCm-8sYGLsmPZcbg2k)

### **DINING WITH PATRICIA**

by Patricia Tanaka

#### **Garden Works Cafe**

Missing the great outdoors? You can still eat in a garden even on a rainy day. Garden Works

Mandeville on Marine Way, in Burnaby, is a lovely place to spend some time. Browse in the nursery and admire all the orchids and exotics or shop for clothes and gifts. There is a vast selection of bulbs and seeds to choose from for planning your spring flowers (and future vegetable garden). Take a break in the cafe which is open for breakfast and lunch. If you go on the GW website you can find the menu which is very reasonable. Eggs, pancakes, sandwiches, soups, salads and baked treats. I was recently there for shopping and lunch. The turkey Panini is made with real roast turkey. My companion was very pleased with the eggs Benedict. The coffee is good and there is also a selection of teas. It's a pleasant place to spend a rainy day or any day. The Christmas decor is usually splendid and was being set up when we were there.

Happy wandering!



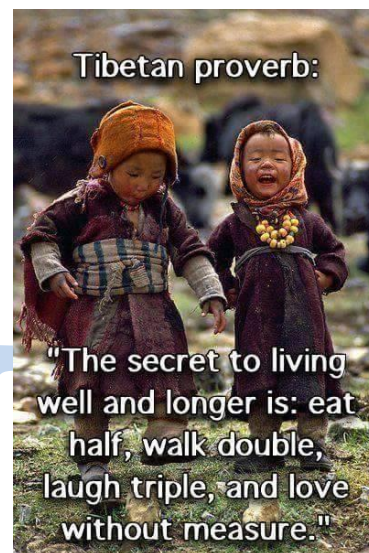
Happy eating!

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

### Gratitude

A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which read, "I am blind, please help." There were only a few coins in the hat – spare change from folks as they hurried past. A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. Then he put the sign back in the boy's hand so that everyone who walked by would see the new words. Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people

were giving money to the blind boy. That afternoon, the man who had changed the sign returned to see how things were. The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?" The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way." **I wrote, "Today is a beautiful day, but I cannot see it."**



## AND YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW MUSIC

...Edition#5

Contributed by: Seedy

A reader **alert** is in order. This column is totally concerned with Remembrance Day, as this is the last newsletter before that date. While previous columns have tried to be light and fluffy, this one is definitely more serious and sombre. You may wish to diarize this for 11 November, and listen to it then. Otherwise, you may find these tunes a bit of a downer compared to the other excellent articles from my fellow contributors.

Having said that, we offer three tunes from three countries reflecting on the reality of war. The first is from **the USA**, and probably well-known to all of you. Typical folk tune; but the simple four chord small group deliver a profound, almost eerie sound.

One of my favourites:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfZVu0aU0I>

If you thought that was depressing, hear what **Ireland** has to offer. Trust the Irish to have a real tear jerker. I first heard this on (the late) Rafe Mair's radio Remembrance Day special. Saddest song I EVER heard:

<http://www.wtv-zone.com/phyrst/audio/nfld/05/mcbride.htm>

I said sad. Am I right?

Lastly, some **Canadian** content. The subject matter is particularly poignant, in light of recent events in Afghanistan. In contrast to the two previous folk songs, this large professional band with BIG chords supporting the dainty voice has a quality all its own. Listen and be proud:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yv10PX30p-Y>

Another tear-jerker for hard-shelled but soft-centred sensitive people such as me.

This column is a bit shorter than usual (sorry Mr. Editor) but I believe these tunes get the message across without any further need of explanation by me. If you had family, friends or students who left home and never came back, I suspect you'll agree. I hope I've done them justice.

### HALLOWE'EN TRIVIA

1. What were Jack O'Lanterns carved from before pumpkins were used?
2. Which song was a 1973 hit for Bobby "Boris" Pickett and the Crypt-Kickers?
3. Hallowe'en was first celebrated by who?
4. Who wrote the novel "Frankenstein"?
5. What does the old English word "Hallow" mean?
6. Name Anne Rice's famous blond, French vampire.
7. Shakespeare's, Three Witches, from Macbeth were also known as?
8. What were the first ingredients that

Shakespeare's witches added to their bubbling cauldron?



9. If you're ever invited inside a fairy mound, what must you never do?
10. Who chased Ichabod Crane through Sleepy Hollow?
11. What is the day after Hallowe'en called?
12. What does the name Dracula mean?
13. What famous person died on October 31, 1926?

### KERRY'S TOONIES WORTH

or

### One Step Away from Relevance

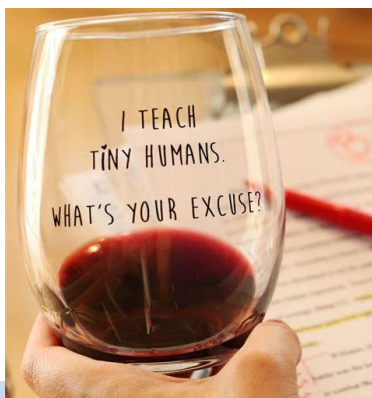
### Why Teachers Drink

Little Billy asked for help and she could see why. Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots didn't want to go on. By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost cried when the little boy said, 'Teacher, they're on the wrong feet.' She looked, and sure enough, they were. Unfortunately, it wasn't any easier pulling the boots off, than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as, together; they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the correct feet. He then announced, 'These aren't my boots.' She bit her tongue, rather than get right in his face and scream, 'Why didn't you say so?' like she wanted to. Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet. No sooner had they got the boots off when he said, 'They're my brother's boots but my Mom made me wear

'em today.' Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. But she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots BACK onto his feet again.

Helping him into his coat, she asked, 'Now, where are your mittens?' He said, 'I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots.'

She'll be eligible for parole in three years.



### **Sherlock Holmes and Star Gazing**

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip. As they lay down for the night, Holmes said: "Watson, look up into the sky and tell me what you see?" Watson said, "I see millions and millions of stars." Holmes: "And what does that tell you?" Watson, "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Theologically, it tells me that God is great and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?" Holmes: "Somebody stole our tent."



### **Riding my Harley**

While riding my Harley, I swerved to avoid hitting a deer, lost control and landed in a ditch, severely banging my head. Dazed and confused I crawled out of the ditch to the edge of the road when a shiny new convertible pulled up with a very beautiful woman who asked, "Are you okay?" As I looked up, I noticed she was wearing a low cut blouse with cleavage to die for... "I'm okay I think," I replied as I pulled myself up to the side of the car to get a closer look. She said, "Get in and I'll take you home so I can clean and bandage that nasty scrape on your head." "That's nice of you," I answered, "but I don't think my wife will like me doing that!" "Oh, come now, I'm a nurse," she insisted. "I need to see if you have any more scrapes and then treat them properly." Well, she was really pretty and very persuasive. Being sort of shaken and weak, I agreed, but repeated, "I'm sure my wife won't like this." We arrived at her place which was just few miles away and, after a couple of cold beers and the bandaging, I thanked her and said, "I feel a lot better but I know my wife is going to be really upset so I'd better go now." "Don't be silly!" she said with a smile. "Stay for a while. She won't know anything. By the way, where is she?" "Still in the ditch with the Harley, I guess."

### **Bessie**

An Irish farmer named Paddy had an accident. He and his cow were hit by a truck owned by the Eversweet Company. He sued for damages and grievous injuries. In court, the Eversweet Company's hot-shot lawyer was questioning Paddy: "Didn't you say to the police at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine?'" asked the company's lawyer.

Paddy responded: 'Well, I'll tell you what happened. I'd just loaded my fav'rit cow, Bessie, into da...'. "I didn't ask for any details", the lawyer interrupted. "Just answer the question. Did you not say, at the

scene of the accident, 'I'm fine!'" Paddy said, 'Well, I'd just got Bessie into da trailer and I was drivin' down da road.... ' The solicitor interrupted again and said, "Your Honor, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the police on the scene that he was fine. Now several weeks after the accident, he is in court suing my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question." By this time, the Judge was fairly interested in Paddy's answer and said to the lawyer, "I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favorite cow, Bessie. He may answer." Paddy thanked the Judge and proceeded. "Well as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my fav'rit cow, into da trailer and was drivin' her down da road when this huge Eversweet truck and trailer came tundering tru a stop sign and hit me trailer right in da side. It were a terrible crash!



I was trown into one ditch and Bessie was trown into da udder ditch. By Jaysus I was hurt, very bad like, and didn't want to move at all. And, I could hear poor old Bessie moanin' and groanin'. I knew she was in terrible pain just by her groans. Shortly after da accident, a policeman on a motorcycle turned up. He could hear Bessie moanin' and groanin' too, so he went over to look at her. After he looked at her, and saw her condition, he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes. Kilt her dead! Den da policeman came across da road, gun still in

hand, looked at me, and said, 'How are you feelin'?"

"Now wot da heck would you say?"

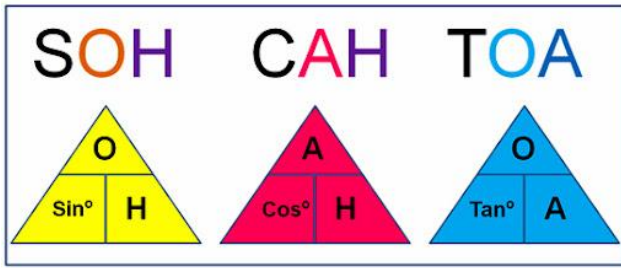
### **Fun With the English Language**

1. A raven has 17 rigid feathers called pinions, while a crow only has 16. The difference between a raven and a crow is just a matter of a pinion.
2. I told my carpenter I didn't want carpeted steps. He gave me a blank stair.
3. What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up his own incision? Suture self.
5. My friend David had his ID stolen, now he is just Dav.
6. I wanted to be a monk, but never got the chants.
7. I went to this bar called, The Fiddle, but was just a vile inn.
8. Frog Parking Only, all others will be toad.

### **Teacher Arrested**

A school teacher was arrested today at John F. Kennedy International airport as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a compass, an ancient wooden device called a "slide-rule" as well as a code device called an "abacus" that he claimed was a calculator. At a morning press conference, the Attorney General said he believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-Gebra movement. He did not identify the man, who has been charged by the FBI with carrying weapons of math instruction. "Al-Gebra is a problem for us," the Attorney General said. "Al-Gebra has terrorized many young people for years. They derive solutions by means and extremes and sometimes go off on tangents in search of absolute values". "They use secret code names like 'X' and 'Y' and refer to themselves as 'unknowns,' but we've determined that they belong to a

common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country."



As the Greek philosopher Isosceles used to say, "There are 3 sides to every triangle." When asked to comment on the arrest, President Biden said, "If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, he would have given us more fingers and toes."

### The Fight was On

My wife said to me, "I just saw myself, in the mirror naked and I looked like hell." " How about a nice complement to make me feel better?" So I said, " Your eyesight is perfect." And the fight was on.

My wife got stung by a bee, on the forehead. She's in the ER now, her face is all swollen and bruised. She almost died! Luckily I was close enough to hit the bee with my shovel. And the fight was on.



## HALLOWE'EN TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Turnips
2. Monster Mash
3. Druids
4. Mary Shelley
5. Saint
6. Lestat de Lioncourt
7. The Weird Sisters or Wayward Sisters
8. First witch - poison'd entrails  
Second witch - Fillet of a fenny snake,  
Third witch -scale of dragon, tooth of wolf
9. Eat or drink
10. The headless horseman, the ghost of a Hessian soldier from the American Revolution
11. All Souls Day
12. Son of the Devil
13. Master magician Harry Houdini



**A Reminder, Just in Case You Missed it -**

R.S.V.P. Hell o we'en

Brunch - October 26th, 2021  
Angelino's Dutch Corner  
New Westminster Quay

Just a reminder, if you are interested  
you need to email me at:

[kgbabiuk@gmail.com](mailto:kgbabiuk@gmail.com)

BCRTA