

The Gallimaufry

November 2020 - A "let's stay connected" series - Vol. 8

I would just like to express
a heartfelt thank you to the staff
and the many volunteer/members
who kept Brock House Society going for us
when everything was shut down.

This was and still is a difficult time for Brock House but it is just wonderful to see it come to life again, following all the protocols to help us all stay safe in this time of COVID-19. The House looks stunning with new carpets, furniture and paint! The best part is to see BH friends actually.

A recent Thursday morning's Esther Birney Lecture was deeply moving! The chatting before and questions after the talk (on Zoom) connected the in-house participants and the Zoom participants in such a meaningful way, the barrier of the screen seemed to disappear and magic happened the way the two worlds met. Zoom has more to offer than I thought possible.

*-Glenys Acland,
On behalf of so many of us*



Thank you!

Brock House Folk Singing Group



In the summer of 2020 the Brock House Folk Singing group met successfully, at suitable distances, in the tent.

The group continues to meet during the winter via Zoom every 2nd and 4th Monday of each month between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. So the next meetings are November 9 and 23 and December 14.

Participants are welcome to attend and listen, sing and/or play an instrument. If you would like to receive notices or attend via Zoom please email John Wade (johnwade1948@gmail.com) or Graham Baldwin (grahambaldwin@me.com).

Remembrance Day Tribute

A Remembrance Day Tribute **ON ZOOM** (only) has been scheduled for
Monday, November 9, at NOON (Please note the changed time)

"*The Remembrance Day Tribute*" is sure to be very special. Under unusual circumstances we have created a moving and respectful program. Mike Smith, of the Brock House Big Band will perform the *Last Post* and *Rouse*. There will be a remembrance day video message from The Honorable Joyce Murray. "*Four Strong Winds*" our very popular saxophone quartet of *Sunset Social* fame, will entertain us with a few period tunes. Tom Henry, of the Health and Safety Committee, Megahn McCarthy, BH Social Committee member, and Carl Jonsson, BH President will share some very interesting and moving stories. Our special guest, Reverend Stuart Hallam, of St. Phillip's Anglican Church in Dunbar will speak about his experience as Chaplain with the British Marines in Kabul. The Tribute will close with Peter Phillips reading "*Flanders Fields*".

To register click [here](#) (You must be logged into your BH account to register)

The Fleet Air Arm. Flying with the Royal Navy in the '50s at the height of the Cold War

By Andy Copeland

I had grown up fascinated by flying. Growing up in England during WW2 and spent many afternoons during school holidays biking to one of the several military aerodromes within 20 miles of our wartime home in Oxfordshire to watch the fighters and bombers. I could identify by sound all the Allied aircraft and most of the German planes, too.

Having joined the Sea Cadets in my teens, the plan was for me to go to Dartmouth, the Royal Naval College, but the death of my Father when I was 14 altered our circumstances and it was decided that my future lay with my Grandfather's engineering firm. When I left Eastbourne College in 1952 I started with the firm as an engineering apprentice while I waited for my call-up for National Service, the 2 year military duty that nearly all young males were obliged to do at that time. The 'Cold War' was hotting up and Britain was re-arming following the short lull after the end of WW2.

While waiting, I managed to get through the examinations and interviews for a Naval Officer's commission, so when the call came I entered the Royal Navy as an Officer Cadet in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. I had also passed the joint RAF/RN flying aptitude tests for pilots. At the end of Officer training aboard HMS Theseus I went as a Midshipman RNVR to RAF Syerston, near Nottingham, for basic flying training in Percival Provosts. These were powerful piston-engined, twin-control, fully aerobatic aircraft.

I flew solo after 11 ½ hours and 7 months later with 125 hours logged went to RAF Valley in Anglesea for advanced flying training in Vampire T11 dual-seat and Vampire FB5 single-seat jets. 6 months later, with 225 hours logged, I received my 'Wings', was selected for fighters, and went north as a Sub-Lieutenant RNVR to the Royal Naval Air Station, Lossiemouth in Scotland for fighter training.

This was an exciting and hazardous time for flyers in the Fleet Air Arm, the aviation branch of the Royal Navy. The jet engine had only been operational for about ten years and

was then a crude version of the amazing engines one sees today. The sophisticated metal alloys needed to withstand the huge stresses and heat were in their infancy. There were no computers to help fly the aircraft or oversee the engine. Transonic and supersonic aerodynamics were in their infancy and control of these early jets was lost at high Mach numbers. There were no electronic navigation aids; one flew with a tiny chart strapped to one knee and a notepad and aviator's circular slide-rule on the other. Flying at 450 knots (about 835 k/h) or more with many course and altitude changes during a typical training sortie with cloud covering the ground, keeping an accurate knowledge of your position was critical. Flying endurance was short and most jet fighter sorties were well under 60 minutes. On the other hand, we flew a great deal and I personally averaged over 400 sorties a year, whereas today's fighter pilots are lucky to fly 100.

The face of Naval aviation was forever changed in the '50s. Our six carriers were war-time designs, launched in the late '40s and early '50's and unsuited to handle the new aircraft that were far faster and heavier than those that the ships were designed for. The Americans tried to solve this by building absolutely enormous carriers. The Brits, unable to afford new, giant seagoing runways decided to adapt their existing ships and developed the 'angled deck' that enabled a pilot who misjudged his landing to go around again for another go. They developed the steam catapult, far more powerful than the old hydraulic cats, so the heavy jets could be accelerated off the bow to flying speed. To make it easier for aircraft landing at 40 or 50 knots higher speed than earlier prop aircraft they invented the mirror landing aid that projected a light indicating to the pilot whether he was high or low on the final glide-path. In spite of their huge ships it was not long before the American Navy adopted all three of these Fleet Air Arm innovations.

The introduction of high performance jet aircraft and the re-invention of carrier operations was hastened by the very

Margaret: Memories from the Discussion Group



UBC, 2018

Margaret Libbert, who passed away in early October, was one of our most active nonagenarians. She was involved in several Society activities in the past, including the Play Reading Group, the Walking Group, and as a volunteer with the Halpern Performing Arts

of her relative Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, the world-famous German architect and last Director of the seminal Bauhaus school of modern design and architecture before its closure by the Nazis. (Later in America he was known as Mies van der Rohe, although Mies was actually his family name). Margaret was always very interested in the Villa Tugendhat in Brno, a reinforced concrete pioneering prototype of modern architecture in Europe that was designed by Mies and the interior designer Lilly Reich for Fritz Tugendhat and his wife Grete Low-Beer (one of Margaret's relatives). It is known that Margaret occasionally stayed at the Villa with her cousins.

So at the age of 25 Margaret went to San Francisco as an apprentice at a shop that specialised in modern design. On her return to Canada she contributed exhibits at a design centre and, in 1957, at the National Gallery. Her reputation had by then grown to the point where in 1955 she represented Canada at a conference on Modern Design in Sweden. The contacts she made there led to a two-year appointment as importer into the UK of what are now the familiar Swedish-design furniture and other articles.

Committee. But latterly her main contribution has been to the Discussion Group, and the present obituary has been written by her 20 or so friends in this Group. It draws heavily from a *Gallimaufry* article written by Joan Ellis in 2013 when Margaret was still physically active, and we thank Joan for her permission to reproduce parts of her article. There is also a 25 minute video of a 2018 interview that Margaret gave for the UBC Legacy Project: (<https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/ubcavfr/items/1.0368668>).

She was born Margaret Low-Beer in Brno (Brünn in German) in what was at the time Czechoslovakia, in 1928. This is an important city in the Moravia district, and among other notable events it was there that Gregor Mendel, then a monk at St. Thomas's Abbey, performed his famous 1850 experiments that first established genetics as an important science. But, like so many other Jewish families, she escaped with her brother and parents from Nazi Europe. Her father was in England on business in June 1938, and called her mother to tell her to leave immediately for London with the children (Margaret and her brother Frank). They left on the day of Margaret's 10th birthday party but they were careful to not tell anyone they were leaving. She always described herself as being very fortunate in life due to her father's prescience

The family came as refugees to Vancouver in 1940. Margaret was educated at York House School, a private day-school in Vancouver, and later at the University of British Columbia. It was at UBC that she became the first woman president of several UBC clubs and societies. As a result she met Louis St Laurent (then Prime Minister of Canada), Jawaharlal Nehru (then Prime Minister of India), and Dylan Thomas (the gifted and outspoken Welsh poet).

After a year working in Ottawa and Montreal as a liaison officer with what is now Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Margaret felt the call for something more creative inspired by the example



Margaret and her judge husband, Lawrence.

The UK connection was also very important in her personal life. In Europe she met Lawrence Libbert, a lawyer friend of her brother Frank. They were married in 1957 and lived for a year in Vancouver where Lawrence had joined the Law Faculty at UBC. They then moved to London where Lawrence established a Barrister practice and on weekends worked as a Tutor at the University of Oxford. This meant that Margaret was alone with her two children Kath and David Libbert for much of the time so she began her years of volunteer work, first in an Advice Bureau which provided the public with help regarding family, legal and tax issues. She even accompanied her clients to court. She also served for 10 years on a housing tribunal in London.

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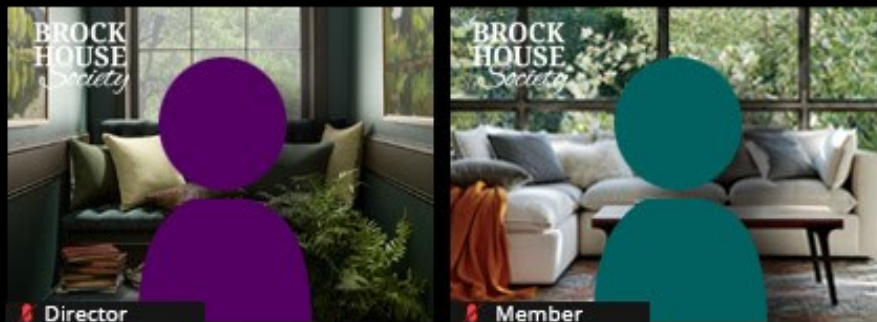
Lawrence's legal career had flourished to an extent that he was appointed as a Judge in 1985. But shortly afterwards he died at 52, and Margaret decided to move with her family to Vancouver. She had been visiting Vancouver regularly to help her brother after their mother Edith Low-Beer died. Both Edith and Frank were very early members of the Brock House Society, and when Margaret returned she immediately became a member, a very active one.

On a more personal level, she met a very nice man who was the opposite of Lawrence in that he was enthusiastic about a good social life and adventurous travel. He died unexpectedly, sitting in the seat next to her on the coach when they were on holiday together. Because they were not married she had no legal say over what happened to his body and estate.

Nonetheless, in her later life Margaret lived life to the full. She had a great love of nature, was a member of VanDusen Gardens and knew where all the perennials were and visited them often. She loved to go out and look for mushrooms (she was an expert about which ones you could and could not eat). She spent time every year at Yellow Point Lodge in Ladysmith. Every Spring she drove to somewhere North of Nanaimo to see the bluebells.

She swam in the pool in her apartment daily, and on occasion swam in English Bay – 11 times in this last year of her life. Latterly she had help at English Bay, either with a friend to help with her towel or sometimes she asked a bystander to help her get in and out of the water. She hosted a party every year for more than 20 years for friends who would come and celebrate the Polar Bear Swim on New Years Day at English Bay. She was actually an occasional participant at the Polar Bear Swim. Margaret had been skiing since she was 3 years old, and this was her favourite out-of-doors pastime in winter. She was very well known by staff and other skiers on Cypress Mountain.

Margaret was vitally interested in current affairs. At the Discussion Group her favorite day was when we did "Hot Topics", and for Margaret they needed to be very hot and very current. Her fellow members already miss her for her zest for life. Our sympathy card is our attempt to express the depth of our loss for her family. As one of our Group members commented when he heard of her passing, "Margaret's remarkable joie-de-vivre was an inspiration". We miss her already.



Meet Your Director's Event

Special Zoom Update on
Friday, Nov. 6th @ 10:00am

A "Meet Your Directors" - Special Zoom Update for 2020 is scheduled for Friday, November 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

It is only available on Zoom.

What are Brock House's current challenges? What are our future plans? Where are we at financially? When will the basement repairs be completed? Who are the new Board members? When will lunches be served again?

If these are some of the questions you'd like answered, please attend this "Meet Your Directors" Zoom session. Members are encouraged to ask questions and express their opinions.

Details of the Zoom meeting will be sent out 1-2 days before the scheduled date. If you are interested, please login and register here: [Meet Your Directors - Special Zoom Update for 2020](#)

-Sheila Resels, Director, Membership Committee

Someone recently asked me who the Esther Birney Literary Arts series is named for. Here's the answer from Writer's Circle convenor, Pat Ajello, who wrote this for the March 2012 issue of The Gallimaufry. - Ed.

Remembering Esther Birney

By Pat Ajello

It was Esther Birney who suggested the name *Gallimaufry* for the publication you are now reading. A gallimaufry is "a hash of odds and ends: a hodge-podge" according to the Shorter English Oxford Dictionary. Some members of Brock House later thought it a rather pretentious name and wanted to change it. Esther wrote an eloquent rebuttal, and the name was retained [see p. 20].

Esther Birney, of Russian/Jewish descent, was born Esther Heiger in England in 1908. In her youth she was involved in a Trotskyist group, where she met her future husband, Canadian poet Earle Birney. The couple came to Canada in 1936, married in 1940 and divorced in 1977. She died in Victoria, BC in 2006.

Esther Birney received a degree in Social Work from the University of Toronto and was involved in social work for several years. She published a collection of correspondence from friends, family, and Earle Birney, called "the fonds". Esther was a member of the Vancouver Historical Society; The Jane Austen Society, Vancouver Branch; and The Vancouver Archives. She was given a special volunteer position at the Archives, and the job of sorting and cataloguing new donated material. Esther's help was much appreciated. In 1991 she was awarded the Vancouver Historical Society Award of Merit, 'for exceptional services'. Esther was also a member of the Vancouver Guild of Fabric Arts, and sometimes exhibited exquisite embroideries in their shows.

She had a lifelong love of literature, the arts, history, and science, and, as her son Bill wrote, had an "uncompromising dedication to the community".

Esther's primary contribution to Brock House Society began in 1995 when she became the convenor of what came to be named *The Esther Birney Literature Series* in her honour. She was a charming and well-informed hostess and introduced the lecturers from The University of British Columbia with wit and warmth. She often referred to their youthfulness in comparison with her age, and sometimes to their height as compared with hers. One might be tempted to suggest that she indulged in mild flirtations with them, sometimes to the discomfort of the lecturers but to the delight of her audience.

Esther was a woman of strong opinions which she had no hesitation in expressing, of great kindness and understanding - she had a wide circle of friends - and of outstanding intellect. Her designation as 'hostess/member volunteer' of Brock House doesn't begin to describe such an outstanding human being. She was, deservedly, an Honorary Life Member of Brock House.



The Esther Birney Literary Arts Series

This series is available in-house (maximum 10) and via Zoom.

To comply with COVID procedures, in-house participants must register for each session.

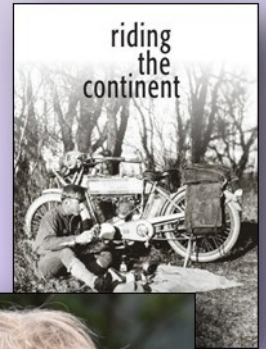
All lectures start at 10:30 a.m.

November 5 - Trevor Marc Hughes

Riding the Continent

Trevor Marc Hughes is a journalist, an author, writer, documentary filmmaker and dad to two great boys. He is the editor of *Riding the Continent* and will give an illustrated talk on British Columbia's first environmentalist, **Hamilton Mack Laing**. Laing "was an illustrious early British Columbian writer and naturalist, but few know him as how he described himself in his mid-thirties: a motorcycle-naturalist. In 1915, he made one of the first transcontinental journeys, riding across the United States from Brooklyn to Oakland. His previously unpublished manuscript of this journey, hidden away for nearly a century, is available now for the first time. *Riding the Continent* tells the story of a pioneering motorcyclist and independently thinking naturalist on a most unusual road trip. Laing's tale explores the beauty of North America's bird life, describes the sights, scenery and people he encountered, and takes us along for the ride on a 1915 Harley-Davidson he named Barking Betsy".
- TMH

Trevor will be speaking via Zoom.



November 12 - David Webb

Nationalism Through the Life and Work of Dylan Thomas

David Webb is the past president of The Dylan Thomas Circle of Vancouver. His presentation is a low-key investigation of nationalism through the work and the life of Dylan Thomas, especially in the light of the ancient Welsh language tradition of the nation organically and universally, as it were, manifesting 'A Bard'. In this case, the forces that create this artistic/cultural/mythological phenomenon seem to have played an eye-opening joke on us: They have manifested a bard that although influenced by and steeped through both osmosis and through exposure to Welsh culture, nevertheless, wrote in English.

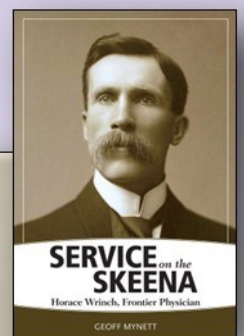


November 19 - Geoff Mynett

Service on the Skeena: Horace Wrinch, Frontier Physician

Brock House member Geoff Mynett will be talking about his biography of Dr. Horace Wrinch, who went up to Hazelton on the Skeena River in 1900 as a medical missionary. The first resident doctor in the district, Dr. Wrinch built the first hospital in the northern interior. Wrinch was a doctor and surgeon, Methodist minister, hospital builder, founder of a nursing school, farmer, magistrate, mining entrepreneur, community leader and active in the BC Hospital Association he helped found in 1918. In the 1920s, when he was the MLA for Skeena, he was a champion for public health insurance, a move that led to Canada's first public insurance legislation in 1936.

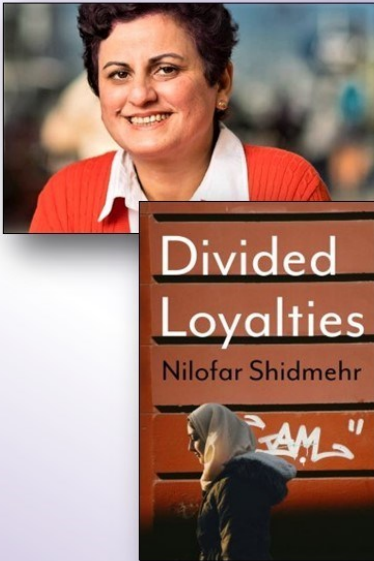
Geoff will be speaking via Zoom.



The Esther Birney Literary Arts Series

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All lectures start at 10:30 a.m.

December 3 – Dr. Nilofar Shidmehr *Divided Loyalties*



Dr. Shidmehr will read from her book *Divided Loyalties* and talk and answer questions about her journey from Iran to Canada as a bilingual writer, literary translator and educator.

She is an Iranian Canadian poet, writer and a scholar of arts-based qualitative research focused on poetic inquiry. Her first book of poetry in English *Shirin and Salt Man* was nominated for a BC Book Prize in 2009 and her first book of poetry in Farsi *Two Nilofars: Before and After Migration* has received worldwide recognition among the expatriate Iranian community.

Dr. Shidmehr is a cultural and educational activist and a part of the Iranian women's movement. She teaches in the Liberal Arts Program and Adults 55+ Programs at SFU.

Years ago my high school guidance teacher talked about functional fixedness. It was described as a tendency to think of fixed roles and the difficulty some people have to imagine alternate uses or alternate approaches to a problem. The more common way to think about it is summed up in the statement "hitting one's head against a brick wall instead seeing the path around the wall". A few weeks ago I was reminded of this problem when I was in the Brock House parking lot brushing dust off a large commissioned Salish loom. These looms consist of two upright posts approximately forty inches high supporting three horizontal rods approximately three feet long. As I was working, a younger woman walked past and asked if the loom was a quilt rack. I had never imagined them for this use but I immediately agreed when I envisaged an entirely new market for the looms as clothing racks and display frames. In a similar way we routinely get suggestions for making wooden bowls to hold balls or wool while knitting. The commercial bowls have a slot in the side to pass the strands of wool through the wall. I have been hesitant about that design because it weakens the side of the bowl but



it is hard to convince other people that the important part of the knitting bowl is a heavy base so the wool rolls around inside and unrolls instead of tipping the bowl over. The slot is irrelevant because a hole in the lid or even the normal opening at the top should work just as well as the slot in the side. The important point is that many things can take on new roles and old functions can be satisfied in new ways. With a bit of imagination everyone could dream up roles for the beautifully crafted, spring-loaded wooden tongs that I discovered a few years ago in a British antique store.

If you have a bit of experience with woodworking tools and want to take the orientation for working in the shop, please contact the Workshop

Convener at the Brock House workshop on Thursday morning or e-mail wramey@mail.ubc.ca with "Brock House Projects" in the subject line. You can also contact the convener if you have other questions about the workshop or just want to ask us about your own special project needs, repairs, woodcrafts or a general tour of the shop.

-Bill Ramey, Convenor

**Paintings are by
local artist**

Michael D. Barley,

a member of the Brock House artist's group. He has been painting for several years and prefers to paint local colour and scenery. His abstracts are usually based on the patterns found in nature such as the organic cellular structure of rock formations, tidal pools, moving water, weathered wood and stone, old buildings, as well as the distinctive imagery of our planet as seen from space. He came to Canada as a child when his family emigrated from England. He grew up on Vancouver Island then attend U.B.C. where he studied architecture. He and his wife now reside here in Vancouver, with extended family throughout the lower mainland. He exhibits locally, and works from a home based studio.



Steveston 30" x 40" acrylic on canvas



Silent Passage 36" x 48" acrylic on canvas



The Banjo 14" x 14" pen & ink
Book illustration



Fallen Birches 36" x 36" acrylic on canvas

Artist's Group greeting cards, including Silent Passage, are available through the office. -Ed.

**Brock House
Milestones**

**Our condolences to
the families and
friends of
Margaret Libbert
and
Janie Royea**



I just wanted to send in this photo of socks, caps, and slippers that my mother, Christine Albert, knitted this year from the wool remnants.

-Sigrid Albert for Christine Albert

Brock House Chess Players

Chess History: From The Romantic Era To The Digitalized Era

Until the end of the 15th century, chess changed numerous times, survived sanctions by the Christian Church as well as complete prohibitions from time to time.

Right up until the 1880's, the game developed into the shape of the modern chess game. This period is known as "the romantic era of chess".

Chess slowly gained its competitive character and concrete rules, growing in popularity among the people. Strategic planning or long study of the theory were pretty subordinate topics. In the foreground, there were issues like quick tactical motifs and the reliance on intuitive moves.

The first chess tournaments started to take place and even the first official World Championship was hosted in 1886 where Wilhelm Steinitz became the first official World Chess Champion.

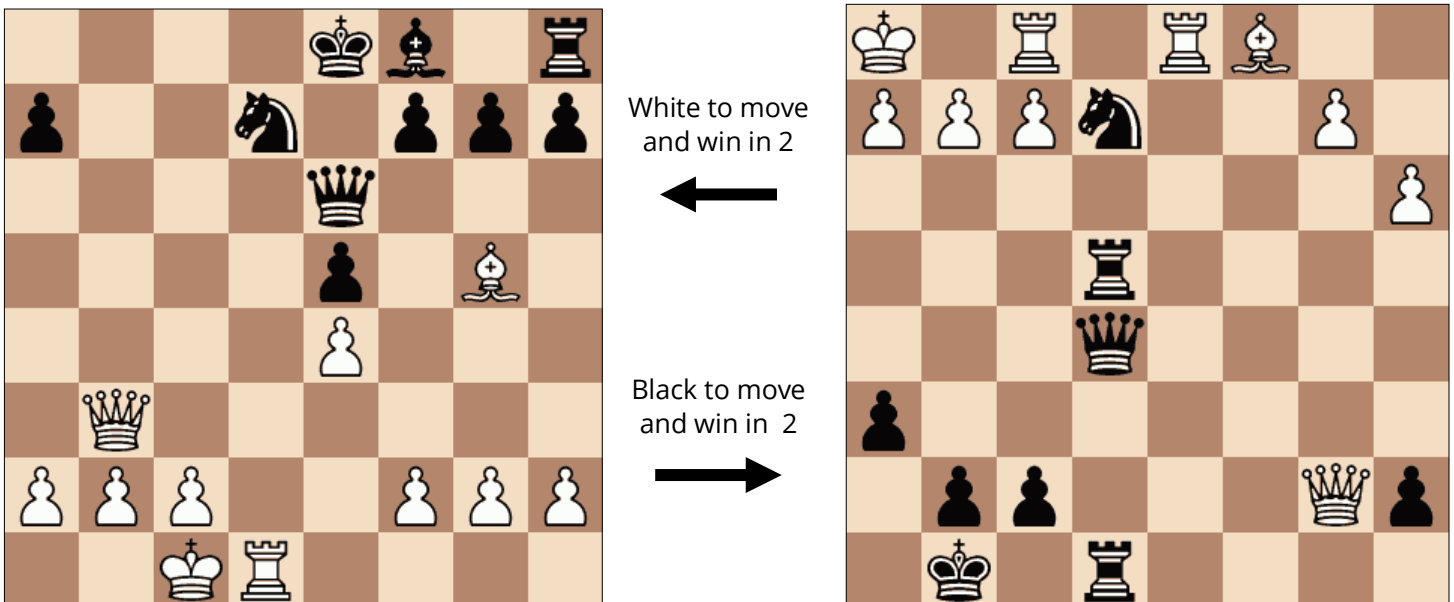
Until the middle of the 20th century, there were tendencies towards romantic chess play, when players relied on tactics and extremely dynamic play. However, the 20th century revolutionized chess with the invention of databases, chess engines and several methods for comfortable and efficient strategical preparations.

Chess websites and online games were invented so that the romantic era was finalized and a new technological, digitalized era began.

Conclusion – Chess History In A Nutshell

All in all, there are a variety of hypotheses about the history of chess and there is no specific person who invented this well-known game. It has changed throughout the centuries and will probably keep changing with the times.

Hence, we presented you with the main and most popular legends and roots of the chess game. Please comment on the article and let us know any other interesting facts or your personal remarks about the history of chess.



Note: The solutions, as per request, will be discussed during the chess sessions.

-Alejandro Ramirez and Roger Wooldridge, Convenors

It's Back to Collage

Yes, that's correct collage not college, although there was an air of collegial learning and self-discovery at the first "Returning to Collage" session on October 20.

The 6 keen participants embarked upon projects of creative self-discovery as they scrutinized old magazines in order to find images, colours or themes which would eventually come together for them as an overall statement of intent.

Some of the results at the end of the session were most enlightening as the "Collagers" arranged the various cut-outs on a standard sized sheet to make them into a visual statement.

COVID protocols were strictly enforced but social dialogue and interactions were encouraged (at an appropriate distance) and one participant stated upon leaving, "it was so nice to carry out a creative activity in a quiet, non-stressful environment"!

The "Returning to Collage Program" continues for 3 more Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



*-Peter Phillips
Past President*





Did you know you can access all Zoom programs via a home phone or a cell phone?

If you are not tech savvy (or know any Brock House members that are not), and would still like to join our ever growing online programs, you can join the meetings by a home phone or cell phone. You will not be able to see any images, videos or PowerPoint presentations, but you can listen in on any presentation and/or lectures. You also have a choice to unmute yourself if you want to join in to ask questions. Let's keep learning and stay engaged during the pandemic.

To access by phone, please sign up via the Zoom links to your favourite programs below. If you know a member who would like to attend via phone and does not have email, you can login to your account, register them and give them the Zoom meeting details. If you live in metro Vancouver, you can call **778-907-2071** during the time of your scheduled presentation and enter the unique **Meeting ID** and **Passcode** provided when you register for the programs. If you live outside of Vancouver, please view other local numbers here: <https://zoom.us/j/akjlpjny>. If you are registered, an office volunteer can also release the Meeting ID and Passcode to you over the phone during office hours which are Mondays to Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The following are programs offered via Zoom, **free** for members:

[Travel Series](#)

Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

[Tuesday Lecture Series](#)

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

[Seniors Services Series](#)

Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

[Esther Birney Series](#)

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

[Meet Your Directors - Special Zoom Update](#)

Friday, November 6, 10:00 a.m.

[Remembrance Day Tribute](#)

Monday, November 9, 11:00 a.m.

Limited programming at Brock House

All courses offered are listed on our website at www.brockhousesociety.com.

You must login first to register.

The programs are divided into 3 categories:

[Online Programs](#)
[In House Programs](#)
[On-going Groups](#)

Please read the [Policy for Attendees at the House](#) before registering for programs in house.

And for breaking info don't forget to read Yolanda's weekly email Updates. They're also available on the website.

[Weekly UPdates](#)

Thank you everyone. Your contributions to *The Gallimaufry* are delighting us all!

Let's continue to stay in touch.

Send submissions to me at

BrockHouseGallimaufry@gmail.com

**The deadline for the December issue
is November 22.**

If you know someone who'd like to receive
The Gallimaufry by email, write to:

brockhouse@telus.net

You can also view it, including back issues, on our website: brockhousesociety.com by using the "Newsletters" link on the lower right of the homepage.

-BevAnn Lister Dean, Editor

A November Birthday

By Bartholomew

Madame Curie, November 7, 1867

Warsaw was under Russian adversity,
forbidding women to attend university.
She moved to France and a citizen became,
and to Marie, she changed her name.

Manya Sklodowska was Polish-born
but she studied physics at Sorbonne.
That's where she met her husband-to-be,
a man by the name of Pierre Curie.

Pierre Curie wished his wife to be
included in the radiation discovery
and receive the honour she was due,
a Nobel Prize inclusion too.

Two Nobel prizes she was presented.
In physics, radiation she invented.
In chemistry new elements were added to
the list that we already knew.

If you bombard cells with radiation,
you can remove them from the situation.
Marie's radiation discovery
would lead to cancer patients' recovery.

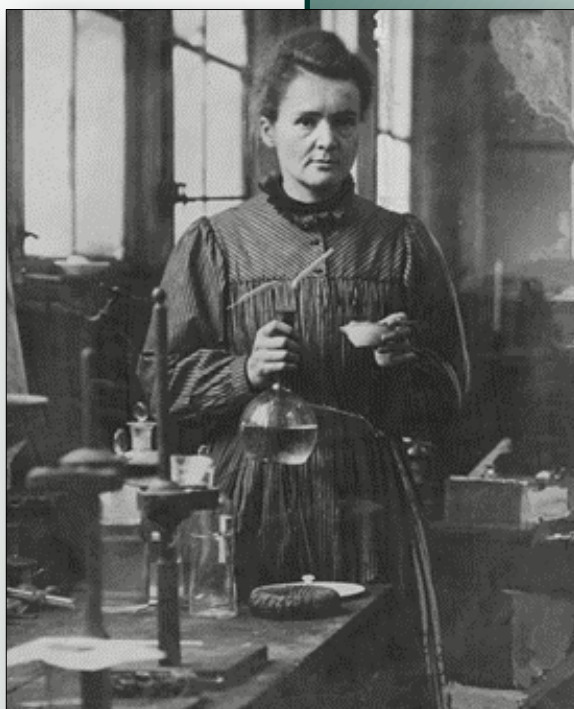
Polonium is an element.
It's named after Poland, that's evident.
Radium, Marie discovered too.
Both of these elements were quite new.

Petite Curie was the name
of the x-ray vehicle that brought her fame.
Broken bones could be healed
in the wartime battlefield.

As World War One proceeded
gold to fund the war effort was needed.
The meltdown of her medals was refused.
For war bonds, her prize money was used.

Test tubes of radium were known to reside
in the pockets of her lab coat, by her side.
Prolonged exposure to radiation
reduced her lifetime expectation.

She lies in state beneath the Panthéon dome.
That is her final resting home,
in a coffin that is lined with lead
to prevent radiation's spread.



The Primaries (part two, of two) – The Process

By Ian Carter

This is a process I used to create an Acrylic Mixed Media painting called "Landscape Primaries". Why Primaries you may ask? The houses are painted in the three primary colours, red, blue and yellow. Primary because these three colours cannot be made using other colours! The painting is totally original, and I employ the use of various colours to inform the landscape. Trees are usually shown too. I like painting trees!



I used a brayer which provided the texture I needed on the lower half of the painting. I photographed it using my iPhone and reviewed the values. This really helps with indicating emphasis, and colour relationships.



The painting is on a 20" X 16" canvas frame 1.1/2" deep, which has received two coats of gesso to prepare it to accept the acrylic paints.

I have a lot of fun painting abstract (non-representational) in acrylics and representational paintings in watercolours. During the next few months, I will share some of my watercolours and the process I use to completion. I issue a paper named Painterlogue each month. Email me if you would like a copy please.

I would love to receive comments about Landscape Primaries, please: carterian86@gmail.com

Program Jewels in the BHS Crown

By Conrad Guelke

Ever since becoming a member of the Brock House Society, I have been greatly impressed by the wide range of programs and activities offered to its membership. To me they are the jewels in a crown located in an unparalleled setting on the south shore of Vancouver's English Bay.

I have had the good fortune to participate in one of the writing programs on offer. Our leader has been Ruth Kozak and the class size is limited to twelve. (this fall, the class filled up on the day that registrations opened, so Ruth kindly agreed to lead a second class).

The sessions run for six weeks and include writing exercises during the class. However, the heavy lifting (maybe that's a misplaced metaphor for a writer's pen) is the weekly writing assignment which participants read out to the class and receive feedback. What I have found so interesting and intriguing about the exercise is that the discipline of writing has opened doors to rooms resident in my memory which I had forgotten were there.

Writing provides the opportunity to access one's "inner Shakespeare" - so to speak. The great benefit of this writing program and, I am sure, other programs and activities at Brock House, is meeting fellow members on a weekly basis and learning about their rich lives and imaginations.

One of the forms of writing we were introduced to was "small stones", a form of writing that I have not previously encountered. Below are some small stones which I polished as an assignment for the recent summer session of Ruth's class.

1. The Jogger - On my evening belaboured stroll last night, a shirtless young man jogged by. It took me back 50 years to my young adulthood when I was that young man. He barely noticed me, but I did wonder whether he saw, in this plodding elder, a vision of his beckoning future.
2. Squirrels - I am in awe of the incredible balance of squirrels as they perform their daily rituals - bounding along picket fences, climbing trees and dodging moving cars. They belong in the Cirque de Soleil - not atop a BC Hydro distribution wire. While the squirrel is also a rodent, it has somehow avoided the stigma and scorn experienced by its family cousin, the rat. Maybe, all it takes is a bushy tail?
3. The Hummingbird - If there is one bird that will stop me in my tracks it is the hummingbird. It is nature's helicopter. One moment you see it in hover mode; the next it blends almost invisibly into the bird-scape as it darts amongst its fixed-wing counterparts. Did you know that the word for hummingbird in German is Kolibri? In French it is Colibri.
4. Absolute Quiet - Have you ever been confronted by the overwhelming power of absolute silence? It can take your breath away - that is until it comes back again to break that silence.
5. Sundowner - My version of magic is to be sitting in the cockpit of a moored sailboat at sundown when the wind has totally subsided and the sun still retains enough heat to warm the soul. The sea becomes a reflecting mirror. Having a martini or gin and lime to hand merely enhances the experience.
6. Parental Memory - While watching the TV mystery series last weekend, Vera, the lead detective asked the son of a murder victim to recall a favourite moment with his departed father which he could forever cherish. It made me ponder the question. A favourite moment, not so easy; but a favourite characteristic was something else. It was his deep baritone chuckle - ha, ha, ha!

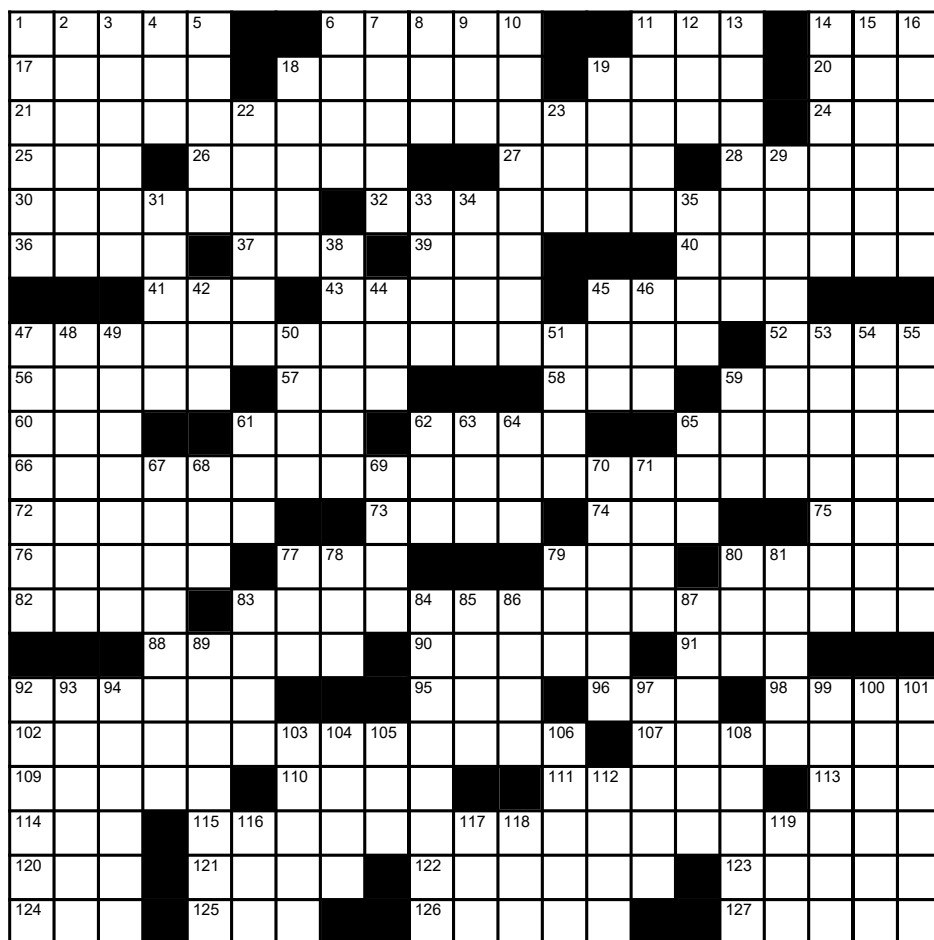
The Joys of Yiddish or "Oy Vey, Such a Meshuggenah Puzzle!" By Parker O'Brian

Across

1. Viola in Hollywood
6. Delicate
11. Groceries holder
14. Advanced biology or chemistry deg.
17. Winner of the 2020 U.S. Open
18. City on the Danube
19. Small combo
20. Skater Midori
21. A team of bungling cyclists?
24. Ariz. neighbor
25. Clay, before conversion
26. Commencement
27. Joseph had one of many colours
28. Micro follower
30. Unified whole, in Psychology
32. Low budget rehab?
36. Observer
37. American naval letters
39. Slip in a pot
40. Squares things
41. A-Z, e.g. abbr.
43. Barbershop quartet member
45. Rest room sign
47. Vaudeville act featuring aging rock band?
52. Cowboy boot attachment
56. Inheritance of the meek
57. Bard's "before"
58. Oriental or Persian, e.g.
59. Diminish
60. "I will do my best to say what it _____ want to say ..." Bill Clinton
61. Secretly include someone in an email
62. Learning method
65. She played Norma in "Sunset Boulevard"
66. Apply two coats of paint (to see who's the fairest of them all)?
72. Ancient mountain fortress of Israel
73. Rock guitarist Van Halen
74. Spoon-bending Geller
75. Half of MIV
76. Become accustomed (to)
77. Farm mother
79. Lupino of "High Sierra"
80. Stimulates
82. "Li'l Abner" cartoonist
83. One complaining about kneading dough?
88. Wall climbers
90. Caravan stops
91. _____ polloi
92. Most reserved
95. "Treasure Island" monogram
96. Toni Morrison's "_____ Baby"
98. World-conquering board game
102. Easily deceived chef?
107. Paul McCartney, John Entwistle and Bill Wyman, notably
109. Milo of "The Verdict"
110. "Good heavens!"
111. Awaken
113. Epitome of easiness
114. Letter after chi
115. Idle chit-chat just after the Big Bang?
120. "Friends" actress, familiarly
121. Mark's replacement
122. Houdini feat
123. Famous Ford flop
124. Alb. footballer, prior to 2020
125. Low grade
126. Holmes's creator
127. Has to have

Down

1. Drug amount
2. Scarlett's obsession
3. Luggage item
4. Old White House nickname
5. Pago Pago's place
6. Carpentry tool
7. Takes five
8. "Wheel of Fortune" buy
9. What a keeper may keep
10. Judge's place
11. Former Green Bay Packer quarterback Favre



12. Hurt
13. Oscar winner for best supporting actor in 1983
14. Native of ancient Crete
15. Treeless plain
16. Groups of grouse or quail
18. Sleeveless garments
19. Deck material
22. Fortunate
23. Ad _____
29. Medieval weapon
31. Blonde or brunette, e.g.
33. Sir Francis Drake's "Golden _____"
34. English privies
35. First name in fairy tales
38. Corn product
42. Univ. or Coll.
44. Toronto-to-Ottawa dir.
45. Safari sight
46. Hosp. readout
47. Type of waves
48. Rosh _____, Jewish new year
49. Takes a little off the sides, say
50. Parts of a min.
51. Lunchbox treat
53. Showoff
54. One of a Monopoly pair
55. Become aware, in London
59. Draft pick
61. Victoria's Secret purchase
62. Cincinnati ball player
63. British multivolume ref. work
64. Put to the test
65. Alphabetic trio on a telephone
67. Part of a telephone
68. Stamp suffix
69. Track event
70. One baring all
71. Script prefix
77. Cain raiser
78. "The Grand Budapest Hotel" director Anderson
79. E.U. member
80. Doctor of British sci-fi
81. They get what's coming to them
83. Toy with a tail
84. Boxed in
85. Circle overhead
86. Gas brand
87. Pummel
89. Like a peace symbol
92. Capital of Macedonia
93. Expresses displeasure
94. Start of a famous philosophical statement
97. Treat badly
99. Butt in
100. Wrested
101. Begins to propose, say
103. Like la nuit
104. Jerk who appreciates this puzzle's theme
105. U.S medical care provider
106. South African pen
108. Forensics fluid
112. Ancient Greek wine flask
116. French way
117. Brit. military award
118. Aloof
119. Dedicated lines

Puzzle answers on p.20



Curious about what you said in the Brock House survey?

On September 2, 2020 the Membership Committee received your replies to Brock House's survey. Many of you had a lot to say. There were 508 responses. A hefty 30% of Brock House Society members. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this important endeavour. Your responses will be very helpful as we plan for the coming year. You can find a full version of the survey at:

<http://www.brockhousesociety.com/docs.ashx?id=698712>

Here's part of what you had to say:

89% reported their Brock House experience as 'Good' or 'Excellent'.

61% have been members for 2 – 8 years.

85% are between 55 – 75 yrs. old.

In the past two years:

62% attended the cafeteria

51% attended the Summer Fair & other fundraising activities

43% attended Events & Socials

40% attended Intellectual Pursuits

The more than 2202 responses by 502 members indicate that many members use the House for more than one purpose.

You found our Programs:

83% - to be broad and profound enough.

48% - preferred to attend them in person

18% - preferred on-line

34% - preferred a combination of the two

Membership Fees:

12% found our membership fees to be too high

82% found fees to be about right

6% found fees to be too low

Cafeteria/Food quality:

15% - 'Excellent'

53% - 'Good'

28% - 'Neutral'

3% - 'Poor'

0% - 'Very 'Poor'

Cafeteria Experience:

15% - 'Very Enjoyable'

51% - 'Enjoyable'

30% - 'Neutral'

3% - Frustrating

0% - Very Frustrating

Transportation:

77% get to Brock House by car

17% walk

4% bike

1% use HandiDart

1% take a taxi

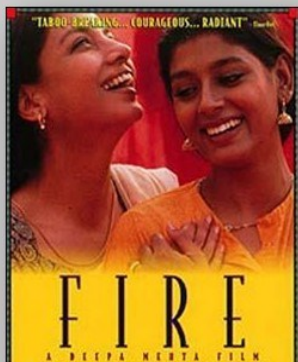
A special thank you to John Smith, Deborah Bush, Yolanda Bonkowski and Kevin Inouye who played a significant role in the execution and analysis of this survey.

Best regards,
-Sheila Resels, Director/Membership Committee, 2nd Vice-President

Friday Flicks

Start time - 1:00 p.m. \$2.00 - Exact change at the door

**Preregistration required for each film either online or by phone.
Note that masks must be worn in the House at all times.**



November 6

Fire - First in Elements Trilogy ***Can/India - 1996 - 108 minutes - some subs***

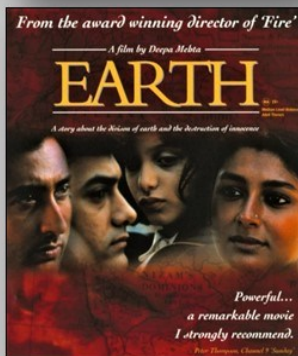
In the 1990s, in the patriarchal culture of India, two women, abandoned by their husbands, find love and solace in each other.



November 13

My Old Lady ***UK/US/Fr - 2014 - 107 minutes***

A penniless American (Kevin Kline) inherits an apartment in Paris that has an unexpected resident (Maggie Smith). An old French law prevents him from selling the suite. Humour and twists follow.



November 20

Earth - Second in Elements Trilogy ***Can/India - 1998 - 101 minutes - some subs***

Deals with the political and religious strife associated with the partition of India and formation of Pakistan in 1947.



November 27

Just Mercy ***US - 2019 - 137 minutes***

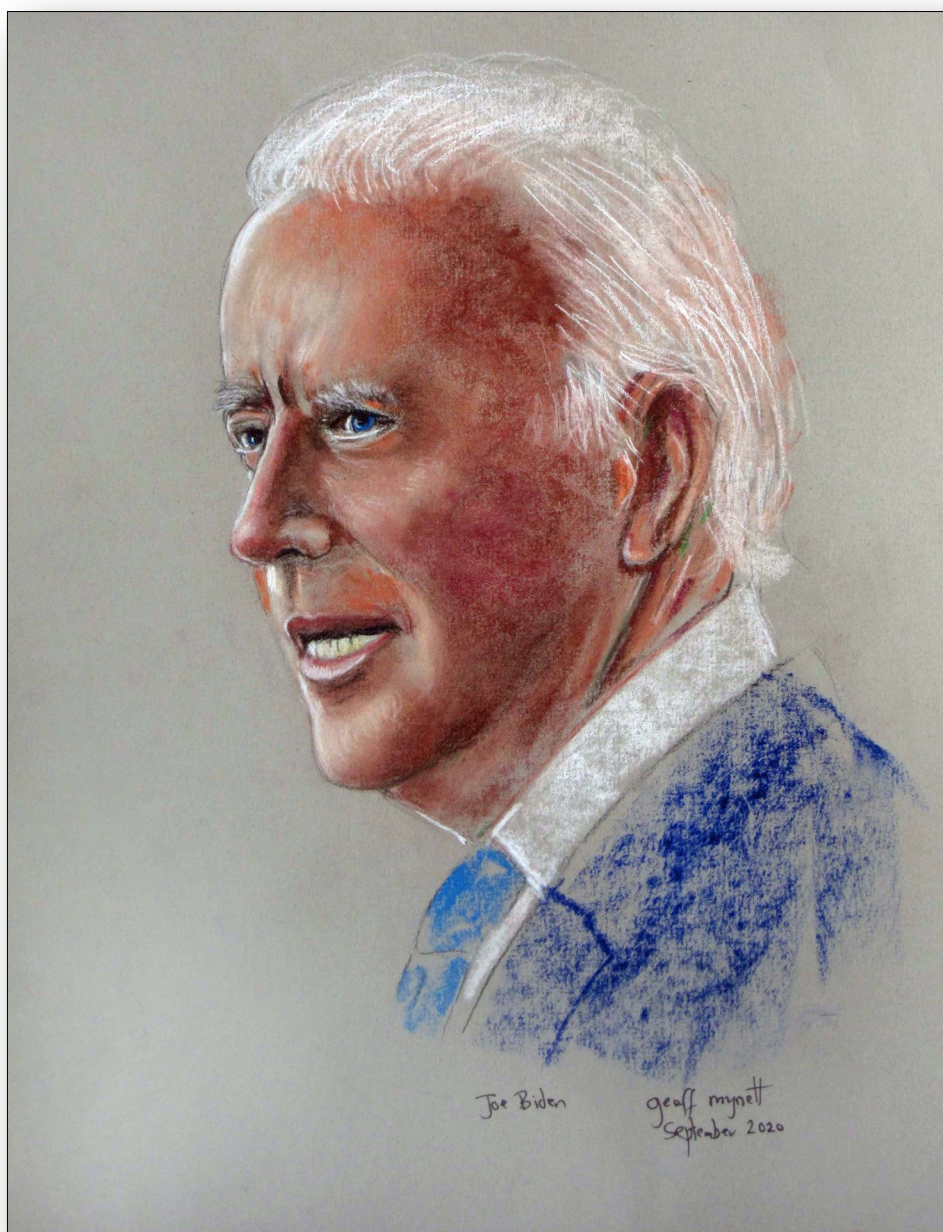
True story. In 1989 in Alabama, a rookie civil rights defence attorney (Michael B. Jordan) works to free a wrongly condemned prisoner (Jamie Foxx).

Pandemic Portraits

By Geoff Mynett

Geoff Mynett's biography of the pioneer doctor in Hazelton, in Northern British Columbia in the first thirty-six years of the last century, *Service on the Skeena: Horace Wrinch Frontier Physician*, was No.4 on the BC List of Best Sellers for the week of May 16, making ten weeks that it has been on the list. This book can be obtained online at Amazon or the Ronsdale Press webpage or at those bookstores, including Hager's in Kerrisdale, that are in some way open. www.geoffmynett.com.

As someone who is passionate about history, Geoff has been taking a close look at the individuals in the news: history in the making.



Continued from page 2

real tension between the Soviet Union and the Western Allies that formed NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This was a clash between the western capitalist societies and the eastern communist ones that lasted from 1945 until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990. It was a very real conflict, both sides with nuclear weapons. Each constantly challenged the military forces of the other, pushing, probing, spying, infiltrating. We trained hard and seriously, convinced that only by demonstrating to the Russians our strengths and abilities could we deter them from an all-out war. My time at sea was all in the North Atlantic and Arctic or in the Mediterranean; all areas of massive Russian naval activity.

Losses in the Fleet Air Arm were huge and would be completely unacceptable today. Charles Manning writes about the 1950s in his *Fly Navy: The View from the Cockpit, 1945-2000*. 'In terms of challenge and excitement, this decade was the best of all times. In terms of peacetime casualty rates, it was the worst'.

There were just over 900 fatalities in the FAA in the 55 years covered by Manning's book. 436 of these were in the 10 years of the '50s, the majority were fighter pilots and observers.

The total that lost their lives in this decade is horrifying, considering the very small numbers of flyers in the FAA at that time. There were only about 10 carrier-borne fighter squadrons in commission with up to four carriers operational, say 120 front-line fighter pilots at any one time. Also about 40 night-fighter observers, the night-fighters being 2-seaters. Ashore another 80-100 full time pilots and observers flying relatively safely as instructors or under training. There were also many more aircrew flying helicopters, anti-submarine and Airborne Early Warning radar aircraft, and desk jockeys who could get a few flying hours in, but the majority of the losses were to the front line jet-fighter aviators during carrier operations. Manning reports that losses between 1950 and 1959 were as follows:

Pilots 335

Observers 49

Aircrewmen 21

Others 31



A fair number of the accidents occurred when being boosted off the bow of the ship by the steam cats. In fair weather it was relatively straightforward provided there was no mechanical problem with the aircraft or the cat. At night and poor visibility it needed iron discipline, there being no horizon ahead on which to orient one's self. Being accelerated to 140 knots (260Km/Hr) in 2 seconds is startling enough, but when you do it in pitch dark and have to rely entirely on cockpit instruments to tell you what the plane is doing requires a great deal of training and self confidence. The Night/All Weather fighters were elite pilots.

I have written elsewhere about many of my flying adventures after I had decided to remain in the Navy on an eight-year Short service Commission, flying Seahawk fighter/ground attack aircraft, then Sea Venom all-weather/night-fighters and finishing up as an instructor in the Air Warfare school flying Hunters. I flew from several aircraft carriers – Eagle, Victorious, Albion, Centaur. I left the Navy in October 1962 with 2143 hours logged in 12 different aircraft types and with 252 deck landings.

There are two flying skills-that to me are the ultimate flying challenges and I feel lucky and proud to have done both.

The first is being part of a jet-fighter aerobatic team and I was privileged in 1956/7 to be a member of HMS Eagle's 806 squadron Ace of Diamonds team, flying Seahawks. Formatting within feet of each other, wing-tips overlapping, when flying straight and level needs a very high degree of concentration and reaction, so imagine doing public air-show displays while the leader loops, pulling up to 4 'G', rolls, does wing-overs and inverts. Tiny movements of the throttle in your left hand keep you in station fore and aft; fractional movements of the control column in your right hand – forwards and backwards to keep your level and sideways to keep your distance and all the time concentrating on the aircraft you are formatting on, aligning his wing-tip and a mark on the fuselage below the cockpit. A good pilot will literally stay within inches of the correct station. Mistakes can be fatal.

The second is aircraft carrier deck landing at night in stinking weather. Requiring a great deal of training and real flying skill, landing a fast and heavy jet aircraft on a tiny deck only 60' wide, needing to touch down within a 30' distance in order to snag one of only three wires, usually returning after a sortie with only a few minutes of fuel left.....now that is exciting. To do it confidently on a pitch-black night with a full gale, with the ship pitching and corkscrewing and a low cloud base with visibility down to a few hundred feet requires iron nerves and superb training. The need for calm and self-discipline is paramount in spite of the adrenalin rush.

Our all-weather/night-fighter squadrons flew in these conditions regularly. A deck landing must be on or within a couple of feet of the centre-line painted, or lit by lights at night on the deck. The approach speed must be spot on.....118 knots in a Sea Venom night/all weather fighter, I recall. The angle of descent must be constant and accurate. Too low or too slow and you would certainly miss the wires and possibly fly into the back of the ship. Too high or too fast and you would miss the third and last wire and have to slam open the throttle and go around again....a 'bolter', with fuel for a second attempt getting dangerously low.

The pilot when landing on a carrier was helped by two of the British inventions. The angled deck enabled planes that missed a wire to open the throttle and go around again rather than end up in a barrier raised to protect aircraft parked on the fore-deck. The mirror landing aid is a gyroscopically stabilized device mounted on the carrier's port side that projects a beam of light (the meatball) backwards along the 3 degree flight path regardless of the gyrations of the ship, with green 'horizon' lights either side. The pilot on 'finals' lines up the orange meatball with the green horizon lights; if the meatball is below the greens, he knows he is low and if above, high. In bad weather when the ship was pitching the mirror was adjusted so the glide path would be steeper to avoid flying into the stern when it was pitched high. In Eagle during exercise Strike-back in the Arctic in 1956 the stern was rising and falling 80' but flying ops continued.

Pilots practiced ashore, where dummy flight decks were painted on the runways and a mirror landing aid was in operation, but without the arresting wires. Round and round we would go, getting used to locking on to the mirror lights, adjusting finals speed to be exact and lining up accurately, one's eyes on finals flickering constantly from the airspeed instrument in the cockpit to the centre-line of the deck to the mirror lights. But no amount of practice on a still deck prepared us for the conditions we flew in during the Cold War in the '50s.

A Word About *The Gallimaufry* By Esther Birney

[See p. 5]

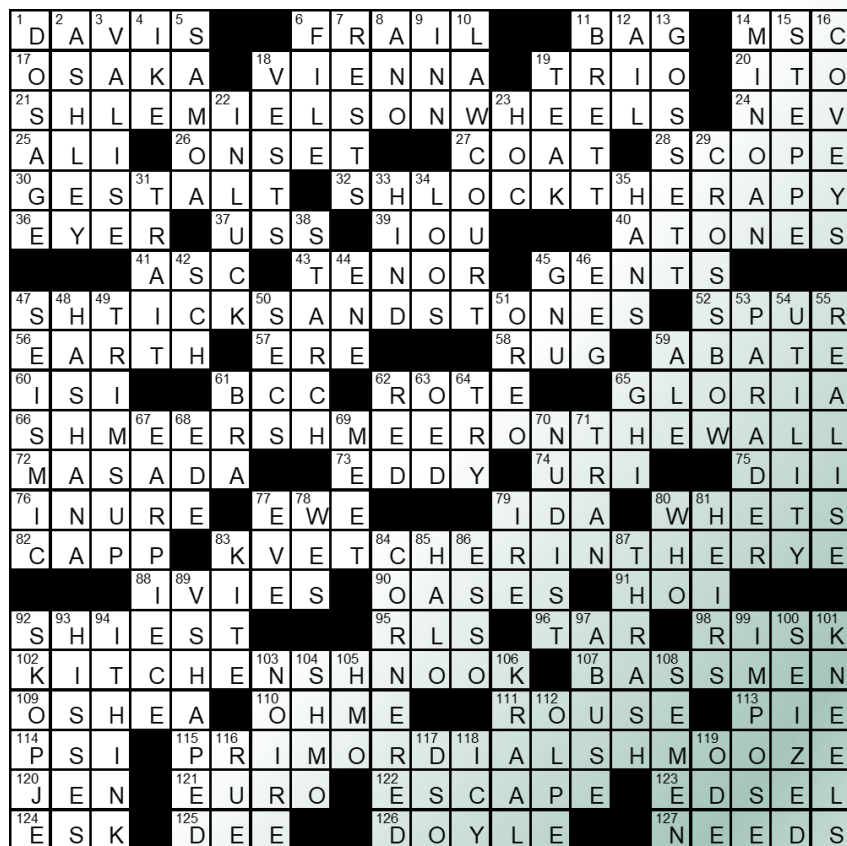
Mea Culpa! Yes, I confess I am the guilty one who, when asked by our first Executive Director, Irene Ovenden (then Irene Doheny), way back when Brock House was started in 1978, to suggest a name for the proposed House Newsletter, came up with the four-syllable word that is now the subject of contention.

Irene admonished me not to suggest some ordinary oft-heard title like the 'Grapevine' or 'House News'. No, for our splendid new senior centre, she wanted an unusual, arresting name. I promised to do my best and between my memory and my dictionary, I came up with two: Gallimaufry and Salmagundi. Each means a collection or hodge-podge, a varied mixture of food, people or things. I had seen both as the names of restaurants in San Francisco and have met it several times in class magazines like 'The New Yorker'.

Irene was happy with 'Gallimaufry', and it has been used ever since. Why people are irritated and impatient with it now is puzzling to me. Learning a new word enriches one . . . especially when one picks up a couple more on a trip through the dictionary.

As 'Gallimaufry', 'Salmagundi' or plain 'Brock House News', may our newsletter long reflect happy events, successful programs and a healthy and contented membership.

-From the July 2000 issue of The Gallimaufry



**The Joys of Yiddish or
"Oy Vey,
Such a Meshuggenah Puzzle!"**

By Parker O'Brian
Puzzle answers