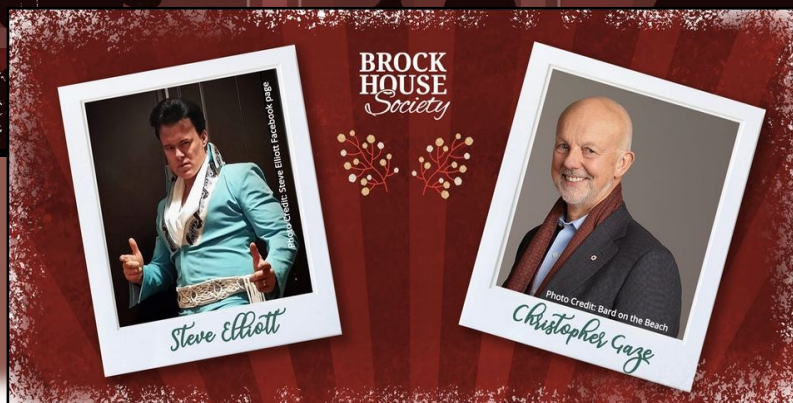


BROCK HOUSE *Society* *Christmas TeleFair*

**On Zoom, December 8th, 9th, & 10th
2:00pm to 3:00pm each day.**

Come All Ye Faithful



Our first ever Brock House Society Christmas TeleFair.

The TeleFair is open to all. We have a great lineup of entertainment, including, Christopher Gaze, Elvis (Steve Elliott), many talented Brock House musicians, story tellers, and more!

The TeleFair is replacing our annual Christmas Fair. We are counting on your donations which will go towards the operation of Brock House.

The Zoom link is valid for all three days: December 8th, 9th and 10th from 2:00pm to 3:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/95217402075?pwd=cm1NNzVwRk52NzdFd0VvK0xEWkkzZz09>

Meeting ID: 952 1740 2075

Passcode: 419502

If you don't have a computer, but still want to join, please call 778-907-2071 during the time of the TeleFair and enter the unique Meeting ID and Passcode listed above. If you live outside of Vancouver, please view other local numbers here: <https://zoom.us/u/akJlpJnoy>.

Our very own **Ann Howe** was one of 25 Vancouver Quadra volunteers who received a 2020 Hidden Hero from MP Joyce Murray.

"These are our neighbours who have stepped up, some during COVID-19, to selflessly help others in our community or elsewhere. What an inspiring and wonderful group of people", she said.

Congratulations, Ann. Well deserved!

Thanks to Margaretta Shirkoff for the heads up.



Brock House Milestones

**Our condolences to
the families and
friends of
Hans Brown
Betty Greenius
and
William Wood**

Brock House/Kerrisdale Handbell Ringers



The Brock House/Kerrisdale Handbell Ringers are carrying on as best they can during these COVID times. We have a quartet practising on Tuesdays at Kerrisdale Seniors Centre and a sextet on Wednesdays, all masked, gloved and six feet apart. Of course we will not be playing any concerts or ringouts at care homes, but we plan to participate in the Brock House Christmas TeleFair [see cover page].

*-Jean Peggie, President
Handbell Ringers*

Merry Christmas!

A little bit of history & Christmas Greetings from three Brock House members

Have you every wondered where the tradition of sending Christmas Cards originated? Well this is something we have contemplated too so we did some research.

The custom of sending Christmas cards was started in the United Kingdom in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole who was at the time working in what today is known as the Post Office, then known as the Public Record Office where he was Assistant Keeper. Sir Henry Cole helped to introduce the Penny Post and public postal service began.

Ordinary people could afford the Penny stamp to send letters and cards could be sent in an unsealed envelope for one halfpenny.

Christmas card images started as Nativity scenes but gradually robins and snow scenes became fashionable; robins because the postmen were nicknamed "Robin Postmen" because of their red uniforms.

Annie Oakley may have sent the first personalized Christmas Cards: while visiting Scotland in 1891 she sent cards to her family and friends in the USA featuring a picture of herself in a tartan (she had the cards printed for her).

In the early 1900's homemade cards became popular, often these were given by hand, and in 1915 J C Hall and his brothers created Hallmark Cards and for years most sent commercial cards.

Fast forward to the present...

Following in the footsteps of Annie Oakley and the personalized card, armed with brushes rather than six guns three gals (AKA Gillian Olson, Robin O'Brien, and Beverly Grice) from the BH Art Group would like to share Christmas Greetings with you.

Gillian Olson has been making personalized Christmas cards for 15 years. She chooses local themes then adds a whimsical flare, painting original watercolours and using photo images on cards that she self publishes. Here are a couple of her images:



Magical Season

A Blue Heron returning to its roost with a Christmas bauble.



Beverly Grice's

theme this year is snow and winters from her youth in Ontario. She paints original watercolours and uses photo prints on cards to family and friends all over the world.

Alone in the Sun

Memories of Winter



Christmas Mixer

A seasonal twist on the Granville Island Lafarge site.

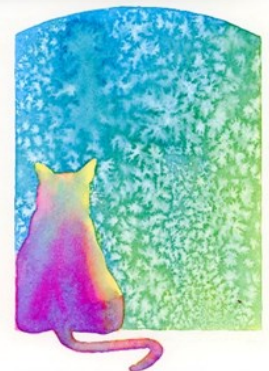


Doggy in the Window Waiting Out a Christmas Snowstorm

Robin O'Brien paints watercolour cards for her friends and family, each one an original artwork. She then creates photo cards from her favourite images to support local charities. This year's Christmas theme is pets in the window.



Kitty in the Window on a Snowy Christmas Evening





 Stan Hohnholz



A Christmas Carol for our times

By Elisabeth Caton

If we were to re-imagine Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, most of us, whatever our current life circumstances, could recall at least one, maybe several, if we're lucky dozens of happy celebrations for our Christmas Past. We could envisage family members and friends gathered around a table laden with

good food, wine flowing, sparkling lights, a crackling fire, and children happily playing with new toys, books and games. Those of you readers whose inheritance is other than a Christian one could recall other special festivals celebrated around mid-winter, or to mark the New Year, and some of us would have honoured the solstice with ceremonial fire and lanterns.

We know that our Christmas Present, in 2020, will be different from our celebrations last year and in times past. Many or most of us will mark the day very quietly, either alone or with the few people in our 'bubble', and a mood of anxiety and apprehension will permeate any efforts to be festive. We will miss being with our family members and friends, and Zoom, this year, will have to suffice.

Let us therefore imagine ourselves into Christmas Future. As far as I'm concerned, I don't need the turkey and dressing (although everyone knows how much I love it!), or the loads of other food cooked especially for the season; I don't care about the presents, the tree with its twinkling lights, the yule log; I'll happily forgo the glasses of bubbly and the toasts, the crackers with their paper crowns and silly riddles; I'll even do without the carol singing with my choir. All I want is my beloved friends and family around me, hugging, laughing, talking noisily (and moistly), freed from anxiety by a reliable vaccine.

THE JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY

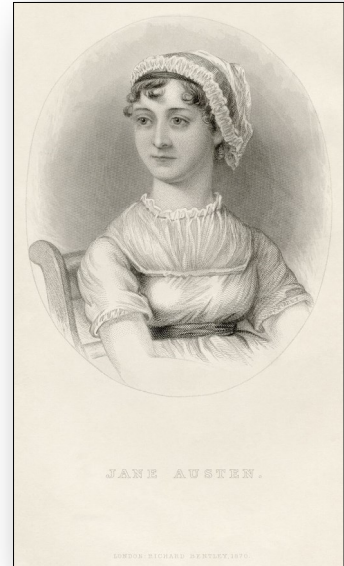
By Christine Mewis

Time was when a woman
Had no option but to conform to society's demands,
Each confined to the social status of her family.

Jane Austen illustrated this in her books
And,
Not being a conventional woman herself, hardly
Ever allowed her heroines to submit to the rules of her time.

As she developed their characters, she allowed them to rebel,
Understand the path that they wished to take.
So, discarding tradition, they claimed their independence.
Take Elizabeth Bennet for example,
Every inch a rebel in *Pride and Prejudice*.
No loveless, forced marriage for her.

Several other Austen heroines carved their own futures,
Often to the dismay of family and friends.
Caught between loyalty and their own desires, as in real life,
It took courage to defy doctrine,
Even the acceptance of being disowned.
Today, many women have choices.
Yes, we have come a long way, but . . .



From a watercolour by James Andrews of Maidenhead based on an unfinished work by Cassandra Austen.

**This piece of driftwood lives near
 Parksville, B.C., at Beach Acres Resort.**



The unusual shapes have inspired some interesting commentary. There are a couple of items which you can find hidden inside this weathered root ... the dried-out leaf is the obvious one. Not so easily discovered is a badminton bird which may only be visible with careful scrutiny and, possibly, some enlargement, if your viewing screen permits.

-Michael Barley

At the time of publication, Brock House remains CLOSED until December 7 due to the extended provincial restrictions surrounding COVID-19. All IN HOUSE programming is suspended.

**All HYBRID programs will continue to run on Zoom.
Please view available programs here:**

[Online Programs](#)

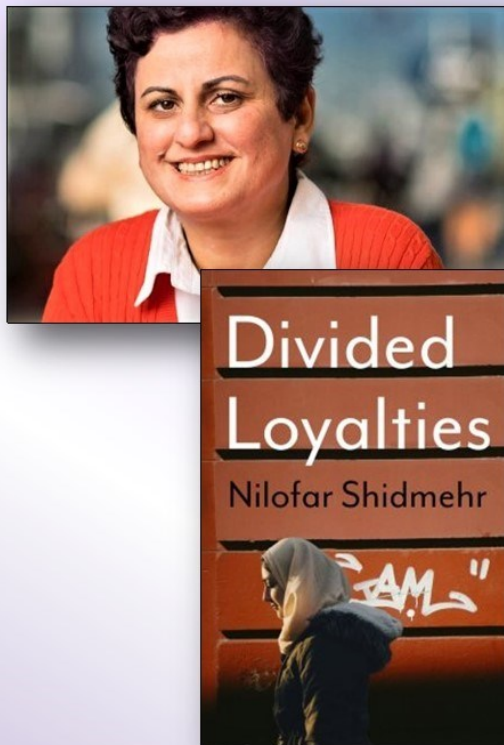
Breaking information is available on the Brock House website and in Yolanda's weekly email UPdates.

[Weekly UPdates](#)

**BROCK
HOUSE**
Society

The Esther Birney Literary Arts Series

**Only available via Zoom. Contact BevAnn: bevannld@gmail.com
The lecture starts 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.

**This is the last lecture of the fall series.
We have a wonderful winter line-up starting January 14.**

From the Workshop

It is harder to face uncertainty than adversity because it is difficult to develop plans for the future when the constraints keep shifting. COVID-19 has drawn this to our attention. It has created a lot of uncertainty because the incidents, the immunological solutions and the epidemiological solutions change as a broader understanding of this novel disease unfolds. The revised expectations and constraints for public and personal social behaviour are essential to the attempts to contain the epidemic in British Columbia. While fully supporting these public policies, they create challenges when we try to form on-going strategies for operating the workshop. Each time plans and schedules are established for completing commissions, arranging classes or for working on our own ambitious projects, the changes in the pandemic necessitate changes to the workshop access and our plans fall apart like cottonwood fluff dispersing on the wind.

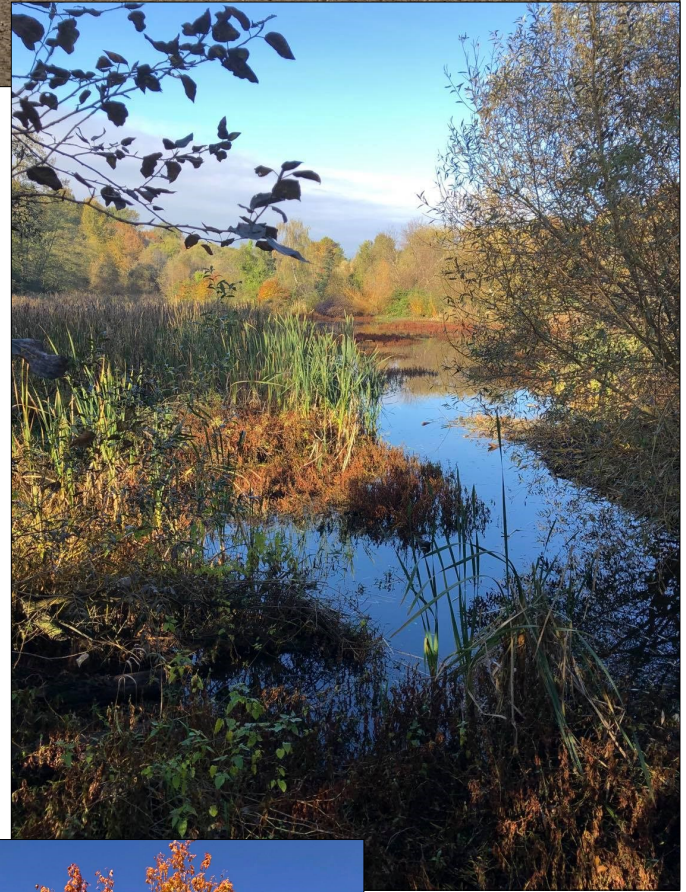
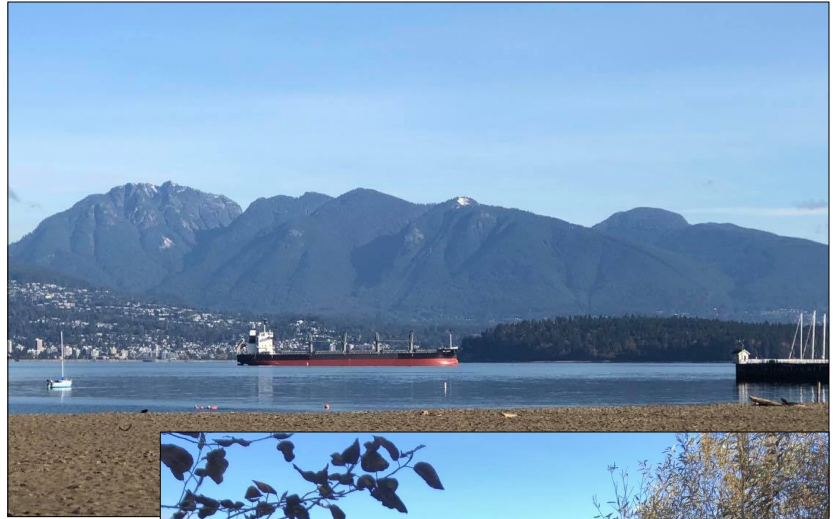
The lack of certainty brings to mind an old report from arachnologists that spiders started to make erratic, partial webs if their webs were repeatedly disrupted whenever they had been rebuilt. The researchers attributed the response to a sense of hopelessness. Even though the response was likely due to the depletion of the protein reserves that the spider needed to build a web, constant uncertainty can certainly disrupt normal patterns of behavior. When the epidemic started to ramp up again in September, the normal Christmas Fair was cancelled so we started to plan woodwork sales from the workshop. Then the workshop closed so we thought to circulate a flyer to market our crafts but with the workshop closed again, it is hard to complete projects and prepare a flyer. Watch for current info in Yolanda's weekly email Update.

If you open the woodworking section of the Brock House Society website you can see examples of the work on tables, luggage stands, shelves, boxes, cutting boards, pens and bowls that we would normally produce and offer at the fair. If you look at the items and one is still available, then we can sell it to you when the workshop opens, hopefully before Christmas.

If you have questions about the workshop e-mail [<BHWW@heavyethics.com>](mailto:BHWW@heavyethics.com) with "Brock House Projects" in the subject line or visit the workshop when the COVID-19 crisis is over and the workshop is re-opened.



-Bill Ramey, Convenor



A Walk in Jericho Park

By Judie Cummer

An Unlikely Christmas Icon?

By Randy Kondo

In the early 2000s, I lived in Japan for a few years and in my last year, I decided to spend Christmas there. I don't remember why, most probably I was just tired of dealing with crowded airports and planes and the jetlag that I was never able to avoid.

What I didn't expect to see in a country that isn't largely Christian was a level of festive decoration in stores that would put Canadian ones to shame. So elaborate in some cases, especially the department stores. On the one hand I was impressed with the artistry being displayed; on the other I was put off by the excessive commercialization.

For me as a Canadian, it was odd to go out on 25th December and to find it was a regular work day: the usual hustle bustle of people

going to work, doing their shopping, etc. (mind you, magnified when you consider the population of Japan).



However my biggest surprise was the Japanese tradition of eating Kentucky Fried Chicken at Christmas time. Yes, I saw line-ups of people waiting to get their hands on that finger lickin' food. Mind you as a child, I loved KFC chicken, although for me it was always ditching the chicken and eating only the deep fried coating. So greasy, so salty, so delicious! An unpleasant thought now as a sensible adult...

But who'd a thunk that a world away, Colonel Sanders would have found fame as a Christmas icon?

My Pandemic Playlist

By Randy Kondo

Many businesses were shuttered when the pandemic hit and one near and dear to me was movie theatres. With my weekly escape from reality put on indefinite hold, what was I to do?

I didn't want to fall down that slippery slope of a Netflix or similar subscription. So I thought, hey, this is a great opportunity to watch all those movies (on DVD) I'd been meaning to re-watch when I retired.

Because of the uneasy and unsettling situation we were plunged into, I limited myself to movies that made me ... laugh.

I hauled out all my old **Woody Allen**. I will never tire of **Annie Hall**, maybe my favourite Allen comedy. Funny, bittersweetly romantic, and at 93 minutes, perfectly suited to my attention span.

The other Allen films are well worth viewing, there's not a weak one amongst them.

And a few non-Allen titles snuck in:

What's Up Doc, a love letter to the screwball comedies of yesteryear. Made me wonder, why can't they make movies like that?

For Your Consideration, a nod to Catherine O'Hara's recent Emmy win (some swearing in this one, be warned);

When Harry Met Sally, Annie Hall "lite";

and **Theatre of Blood**, technically a horror for its graphic gore but it's also a pitch-black comedy, an acknowledgement of Diana Rigg's passing.

The past six months have not been without challenges -- but laughing, often out loud, as I did to these old movies, provided me with much-needed comfort.

The theatres have now reopened, however the pickings are slim with studios very cagey about releasing big movies with no guarantees of big audiences. So for the time being, I'll be staying at home (thank you) to get my dose of movies. Still hundreds left to go in my collection!

Brock House Chess Club

How does a pawn become a queen? This question opened the minds of some young people in Nigeria.

Since COVID-19 restrictions have limited travel and social contact, 100,000 new players have started playing chess every day.

Here's how you can join them:

The Brock house chess members are willing to help learn chess during regular sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays (hopefully soon when lockdown is over) or now by email request.

At the same time we recommend you look up the following inspirational chess movies:

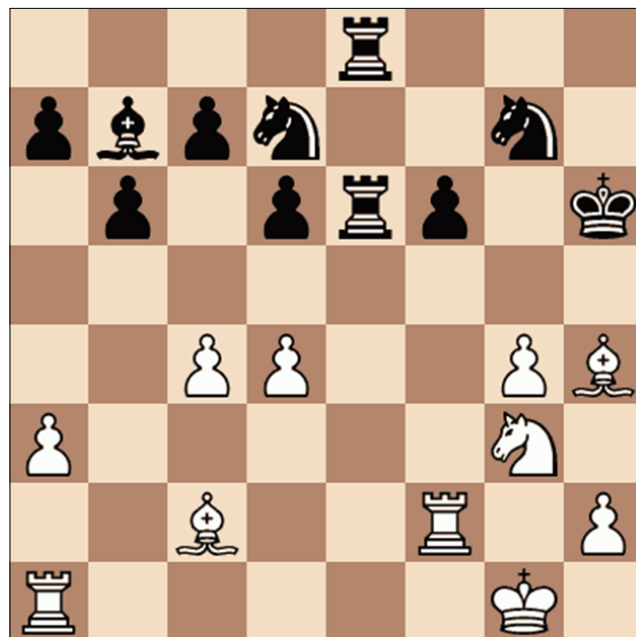
- 1.- The Queen's Gambit
- 2.- Queen of Katwe
- 3.- Magnus



Puzzles for December:



White to move and win in 2



White to move and win in 2

(Alexander Alekhine vs Fahardo, Montevideo, 1939)

Alex Ramirez, pumaramirez@gmail.com
 Roger Wooldridge, rogerwool77@gmail.com
 Convenors

Alien Invasion

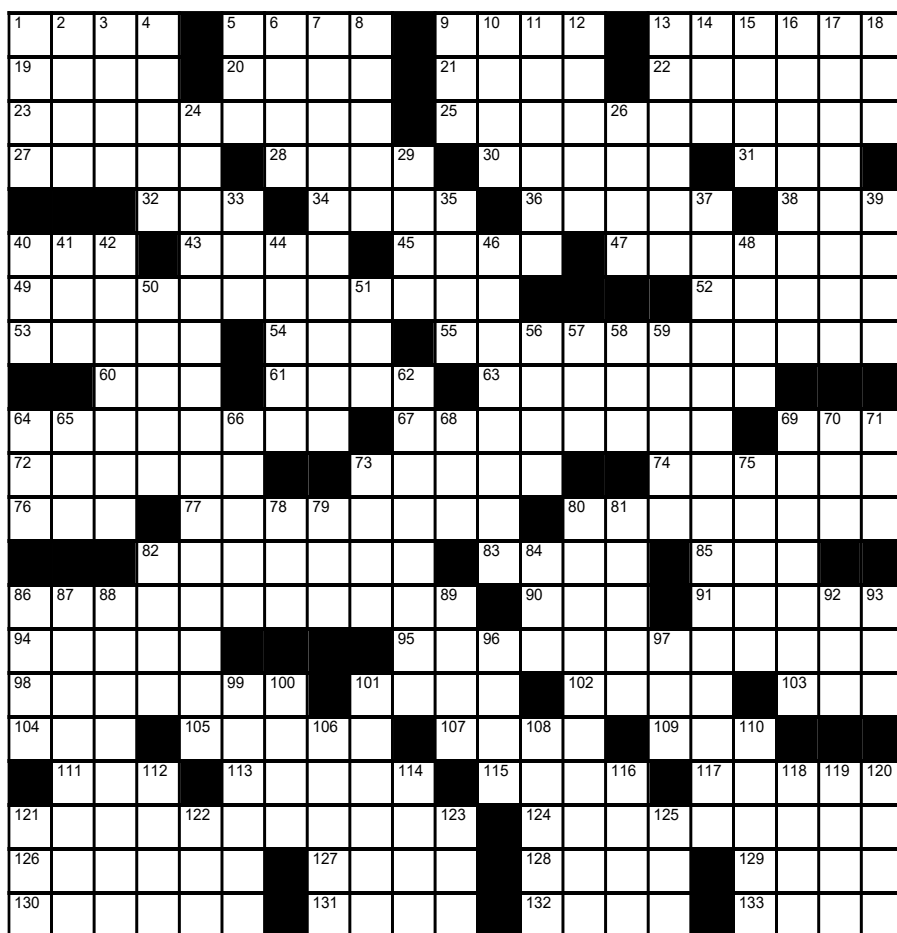
By Parker O'Brian

Across

1. Deep cut
5. ____ vu
9. Time ____, dance featured in "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"
13. Lash out at
19. Skin care brand that sounds like a cheer
20. Last month on the Jewish calendar
21. Skin care lotion additive
22. Picked up things in London
23. Branching off
25. Asterisk containers?
27. Word before pad or pool
28. Timetable, informally
30. State in northeastern India
31. Language suffix
32. Be in a cast
34. Part of Q.E.D.
36. Japanese Emperor's title
38. Stab
40. One of the Cyclades Islands
43. Highland wear
45. "____ I say, not ..."
47. Academy award winning Composer Coppola
49. Too much baa?
52. Strong winds
53. In progress
54. Pooh pal
55. On one's toes in the sand and surf?
60. Spoon-bending Geller
61. Eldest Stark son in "Game of Thrones"
63. Prop for Poseidon
64. Insane
67. Deserving
69. Driving need
72. "Don't _____ there!"
73. Mythical king of Crete
74. Close again
76. Word preceding bug or rest
77. Varnish or Viagra, e.g.
80. Ones using the Grim Reaper's tool
82. Tournament favourite
83. Manhattan neighborhood
85. Tin Man's need
86. Cinematographer having trouble capturing slime on film?
90. Triumphed
91. Stable sound
94. Nautical measures
95. Where to shop for ammo?
98. Fez features
101. Sicilian erupter
102. Miami basketball team
103. Printers' widths
104. Scandinavian country, abbr.
105. Cars from 104 Across
107. Napoleon who was the "Man from U.N.C.L.E."
109. Quirk
111. Obamacare, initially
113. Puncture
115. Put in order
117. Exudes
121. Union action against a brewery?
124. Everybody
126. Provide with a new handle
127. Spooky, var.
128. Blend
129. Toyota model
130. Pippi Longstocking creator Lindgren
131. Ceremonial fire
132. Normandy battle site
133. Amazon activity

Down

1. Mercury and Mars, e.g.
2. Landed
3. Computer command
4. African scavenger
5. Temperature meas.
6. Yale students
7. Nourishment on a business trip?
8. Alleged Soviet spy Hiss
9. Is no longer
10. Canadian prov.
11. Teasing tributes
12. Intrinsically
13. Bryn Mawr graduate
14. Dry, as wine
15. Rice wine
16. "We _____ here", 2015 horror movie
17. Prisoner of war, e.g.
18. Sgts' superiors
24. Equines in space?
26. Parc seat
29. Abstract art style
33. Small songbird
35. Mummy's home
37. Having a blast with a keyboard instrument?
39. 24 hrs. ago
40. A Gershwin
41. Buffoon
42. Searched high and low
44. "Casablanca" actor
46. Thief's allies
48. Fountain order
50. Islamic text
51. Arcing tennis shot
56. Onassis and others
57. Passport holder, abbr.
58. "Good" cholesterol, abbr.
59. Smelling of ale
62. Owe
64. 114 Down, to her friends perhaps



65. Raiser of Cain
66. Freak out
68. Canberra-to-Brisbane dir.
69. Things similar to something else
70. Where It's at
71. They invaded this puzzle in 10 places
73. Inheritors of the earth, with "the"
75. Less gregarious
78. Alphabetic trio
79. Mideast centre
80. Stinger with a thing for footwear?
81. Giuseppe _____, Prime Minister of Italy
82. Discount theatre letters in NYC
84. Pooh pal
86. NYSE and Nasdaq, e.g., abbr.
87. Without warning
88. Trigonometry function
89. Makes tracks
92. Precious stone
93. Elevs.
96. Neighbour of Vietnam
97. Yoga class need
99. Passed on the track
100. Wrapped garment
101. It can be used for a quick exit
106. Upper arm muscle
108. Is imminent
110. They may be cracked
112. Way, way off
114. Brynner's "The King and I" co-star
116. Spill the beans
118. Actor Galifianakis of "The Hangover"
119. K-12, in education
120. Unappetizing food
121. Emmy category, abbr.
122. "Enough already!" in text
123. Mooring rope
125. "Much ____ About Nothing"

Puzzles answers on p. 18

Birthdays by Bartholomew

Ludwig Beethoven, born December 17, 1770

Beethoven's birthplace was Bonn, in Germany.
His parents were also of that fraternity.
At the age of seven he played alone
with a public performance at Cologne.

Since his father's talents were limited,
Neefe became his teacher instead.
When he was not yet twelve years old,
his first composition was extolled.

At fourteen he could aid his family
because he had the means financially,
since he was the organist of the court
and from the Cologne Prince received support.

At seventeen, to Vienna he was sent
to meet Mozart, who was resident.
Eventually Vienna became the place
where he met virtuosos face-to-face.

To angry outbursts, he was incline,
a composer much ahead of his time.
He was quick to make amends
to retain his musical friends.

Ludwig's hearing began to fade
when thirty-one was his age.
Although he thought life quite unfair
he was not one to despair.

He composed much music in his prime
that has stood the test of time.
A Third Symphony honouring Bonaparte,
for which he had a change of heart.

In Vienna he would stay
as his wealthy admirers agreed to pay.
He could now compose at will
and his own ambitions fulfill.

Maltzel's metronome device
made Beethoven's music quite precise.
His acoustic cornets may perhaps
have helped the composer's hearing lapse.

As a composer he was so gifted
that through the ages his music has persisted.
He overcame adversity
to engrave his name for eternity.



Retiring the \$1 and \$2 bills marks the death of paper money

Late last week, the Bank of Canada sent out a gentle reminder: several denominations of Canadian banknotes, including the \$1 bill, will no longer be legal tender as of Jan. 1. But if you are sitting on a pile of old bills waiting out the pandemic, you don't need to panic. The Bank of Canada and all of our financial institutions will be happy to go on exchanging the bills for equal amounts of new currency.

The loss of "legal tender" status only means that counterparties can't be obliged to accept the old bills in payment of a debt anymore. It is, however, another step toward a cashless society, and if you are paranoid about that kind of thing, you do have my permission to panic. Try to do it in slow motion without hurting anybody.

The condemned banknotes include all ones and twos ever issued by the Bank of Canada (BoC) up until they stopped printing them, which happened in 1989 for the \$1 and 1996 for the \$2. Our central bank offers interesting charts of the amounts of these notes still considered to be in circulation. There are still some 150 million singles and 100 million twos that the BoC has to account for, lest somebody turn up at their headquarters with a fleet of loaded trucks shouting "Surpriiiiise!" But the bank's charts suggest that the effort to take these bills out of circulation has slowed to a crawl, and most of what's left is likely to have been misplaced or annihilated.

The bank's governing statutes had to be changed in 2018 to allow legal-tender notes to be retired. Before that reform was passed (largely as an anti-counterfeiting measure), any note ever issued by a Canadian authority as legal tender would remain so forever. In 2019, the initial list of dead bills was published. Beyond the small bills that over-40s might still know as well as their own faces, legal tender status is also being withdrawn from \$1,000 bills, which were printed until the year 2000 — right around the time the federal government and the central bank noticed, "Uh, these are used almost exclusively by drug dealers."

Also losing its power to compel acceptance is the exotic purple \$25 note, which was printed in a small run in 1935 to celebrate the silver jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary. Uniquely for Canada, it features a non-Canadian scene on the obverse — Windsor Castle. Fewer than 2,000 of these notes are thought to exist, and if you have one laying around you definitely shouldn't accept face value. (Probably your bank will give you the same advice if you turn up with one. Best not to risk it, though.) The same goes for the Canadian \$500 bill, which was only printed in 1935. It bears Sir John A. Macdonald's distinctive mug, and there are fewer than 40 left.

What this really betokens is not so much progress toward cashlessness, for humans will probably always need, or like, to have monetary tokens, but rather the end of the era of true paper money. Today's bills are plastic science-fiction objects full of holograms, strips of metal and other gnostic enigmas; as they grow increasingly complex and indestructible, they begin to share little in common with the banknotes of our youth, other than foldability. At a time when the "printing" of money is often recommended as a cure for economic ills, we are left with money that, in fact, is not so much printed as manufactured.

Paper money was regarded as inherently suspicious for most of its lifespan. Only with reluctance did humans, even the most economically aware ones, surrender the idea that precious-metal coinage was "real" money in a way that promises inscribed on paper couldn't be. Not everyone has, in fact, surrendered this idea. Yet I know there are conservative hearts out there among the National Post readership who will feel that their paper notes with a Queen's face are real money, whether legal tender or not, and that the polymer abominations of today are a sign that Satan is reclaiming his sublunary empire.

In one respect, the change to the currency law is troubling. Banknotes are documents, and all those old notes still do read on their faces, "This note is legal tender." The state has, for its own convenience, transformed this into a lie: it is breaking a promise. Harmlessly, it tells us. I couldn't prove otherwise, but it is what oath-breakers usually say.

National Post
Colby Cosh

<https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/opinion/national-perspectives/colby-cosh-retiring-the-1-and-2-bills-marks-the-death-of-paper-money-523393/>

-Thanks to Stan Hohnholz

Write from the Heart



This photo was taken in the Brock House tent on a glorious late Sept. day. Ruth Kozak is gathered with her class "Write from the Heart". The previous week, a very heavy rain, had poured down on top of the tent roof!! Hearing was very difficult that day, but, thankfully this was the only time it affected our Sept./October meetings outdoors. Remaining sessions were sunny and pleasant. although somewhat chilly!

Ruth is a published author. She has taught this Brock House course for several years. A few of us have returned to some sessions, hoping to improve our skills. There is a maximum of 12 members each session. Ruth encourages us to write family stories, memoirs, and travel adventures. She has also introduced poetry, flash fiction, writing humour and the use of dialogue.

My goal was to record some family memories for my children and grandchildren.

Having never attempted to write poetry before, I was surprised to find that I really enjoyed this, as well as my first attempts at writing "Small Stones". One of my favourite times each week involves a timed writing exercise. Prior to setting the timer for 10 minutes, Ruth gives us a "prompt". This encourages us to think quickly about the subject, before we attempt to write a short, concise piece to share with the group.

With Ruth's encouragement, we keep learning to improve our skills, and we enjoy hearing stories from the other participants.

We have each felt free to "pass" at times when we were not ready to share our writings aloud.

I recommend this class to anyone with even the faintest desire to write. If you don't know about them, you will also find out about "Small Stones"! You may surprise yourself, and, I am sure you will enjoy the experience!

-Helen Overgaard

Ian Carter is a member of the Brock House artists' group. He has been painting since he retired in 2013, and prefers to paint en plein air, usually completing a painting in his studio; trees and landscapes in watercolours and abstract mixed media paintings in acrylics. His abstracts are usually based on the patterns found in nature such as the organic cellular structure of rock formations, trees, landscapes, lake scenes, and weathered wood and stone old buildings, such as seen at Yellow Point Lodge near Nanaimo. He came to Canada in 1974 after three years in Nigeria. He grew up in the UK and attended the Glasgow School of Architecture graduating in 1968. He and his wife, Mary Ann live in Vancouver. He has exhibited in San Miguel de Allende, Toronto and locally. Ian works in his studio at home.



Three new watercolours of scenes around where I live. All 12" X 16" Arches 140 lbs.



The acrylic mixed media named Island Landscape was completed over two weeks and consists of several layers of collage, tissue paper, paint and washes.

I photographed about twelve stages for this to arrive at a solution for the depiction of a roiling sea and groundswell. The viewer's eye is drawn to the slightly off centre sea before being captured by the overhanging branches and returned to the motion of the sea.

Please email me if you have comments and/or wish to discover more about these works.

carterian86@gmail.com

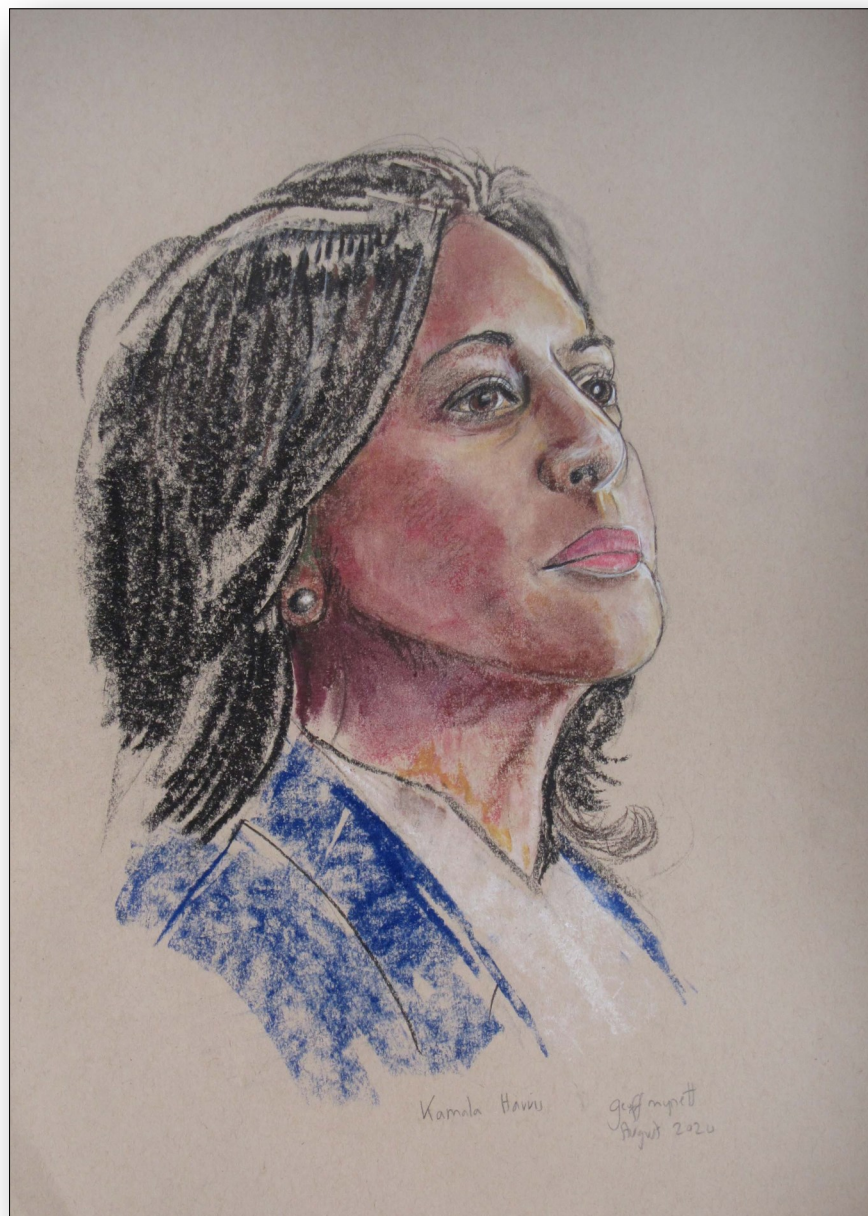
BrockHouseGallimaufry@gmail.com

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.





"Knowledge is Power" said one of our Brock House members in response to last Friday's **'Meet Your Directors'** Zoom event.

Others commented that,

"A lot of questions were answered and there was insight into the inner workings of Brock House."

"This was a perfect example of a non-profit Board (and its staff and other committee chairs) being open and inclusive with its members. I'm certain most members have little idea of how much time the society's directors devote to the society or how great the diversity of knowledge, skill and experience each brings to the table."

"I learnt quite a bit. It would be good if we could have these meetings semi-annually, Ask the Directors, and we could get updated with what goes on."

Seventy-six Brock members registered for last Friday's 'Meet Your Directors'. The questions were varied and the Board Directors' and committee chairs' responses were informative and thorough. If you were unable to attend and would like to have a more in-depth understanding of what transpired, **please login and click on the following link, an audio recording of the event is available for members:**

[Meet Your Directors - Audio Recording](#)

Some of the 'parking lot' items which the Board will follow up on include:

- Encouraging monthly donations to Brock House
- Arranging for Brock House to accept e-transfers
- Re-opening the cafeteria and keeping members posted
- Assistance with Zoom being more available to all members
- Offering diversity education
- Encouraging membership renewal for 2021
- Increasing Brock House marketing and outreach
- Dedication of the James Whittaker Conservatory
- Enhancement of communications technology in Brock House
- Contacting members without computers with instructions on how to access Zoom meetings on their phones

And finally, this comment says it all, "The Meet the Board event was excellent in every way!"

-Sheila Resels, Director, Membership Committee



The **Remembrance Day Tribute** on Zoom was very well received by over 60 Brock House members who joined the call. We had a few wrinkles in moving our presenters from in-house to our individual homes due to the new COVID restrictions. Yolanda and Kevin were amazing at stick-handling behind the scenes and we had terrific support from our members. Special thanks go to our speakers.

The Honourable Joyce Murray provided a video clip especially for Brock House. Tom Henry presented two stories that were the inspiration for our theme "Remembering the Families". Megahn McCarthy told a very moving story of her father's internment as a POW and the lessons she learned from him. The Rev. Stuart Hallam of St. Philip's Church in Dunbar, spoke movingly of his time as a chaplain with the Royal Marines in Afghanistan. His words were profoundly insightful and spoke volumes to the human spirit and healing. Carl Jonsson told of his own experience walking with his wife on the beach at Normandy a few years ago. Val Lynn presented a well-written story by Margaret Hyslop about Doris Gregory's time during WWII. It was very well done. Doris' book *How I Won the War for the Allies* is available in our library and in stores.

My big disappointment was that, due to the inaccessibility to Brock House, we could not have Mike Smith of the BH Big Band play the "Last Post" for us. Nor could Four Strong Winds perform. The fabulous saxophone quartet had practiced four songs and would have also played "O Canada" and "God Save the Queen". All going well, they will be able to join us in 2021 as will past president Peter Phillips who was to have read the traditional poem "In Flanders Fields". Conrad Guelke jumped to the rescue and, with the help of the Rev. Stuart Hallam, provided us with video clips from the Remembrance Day service at St. Philip's Church. This included a poignant recitation of the poem by Brock House member Peter Fryer.

[Remembrance Day Audio Clip](#)

-Patricia Brady, Director, Events

Alien Invasion

by
Parker O'Brian

Puzzle answers

1	G	2	A	3	S	4	H		5	D	6	E	7	J	8	A		9	W	10	A	11	R	12	P		13	A	14	S	15	S	16	A	17	I	18	L			
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130	A	S	T	R	I	D						131	P	Y	R	E									132	S	T	L	O			133	S	H	I	P					



Because of your creativity and generosity Brock House's little publication, *The Gallimaufry*, has been bursting with life and joy. And it really is all because of you, the member/contributors! As I've always said, I'm only your funnel and it's my honour. Thank you for making 2020 a little bit brighter for us all.

Thank you Yolanda for your infinite patience, sparkling grace, artistry, and ability to corral us all with your phenomenal organizational skills.

Thank you Lee and Nebojsa for keeping our House lovely and safe and for keeping us safe! Thank you for always being there to help us with humour and seemingly endless stamina. And a seasonal shout-out to Sahil ... thank you!

Thank you Kevin for joining us and leading us to the close of a difficult 2020. Well done! We can't wait to see what you have in store for us in 2021. We look forward to seeing you in a Brock House with a Conservatory full of people chatting and laughing; a Halpern Room full of keen listeners; an Art Room full of bridge players or perhaps artists (!); a Begg Room full of musicians or more bridge players; a Library full of readers; and so on.

May 2021 be all we hope it will be. We miss each other. I miss you all. Happy Holidays everyone!

The deadline for the January issue is December 28.

Send submissions to me at: BrockHouseGallimaufry@gmail.com

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