

CHALK TALK

February 2015

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Message from Jane Williams, President

Dear Members,

As we look forward to a new year, I am thankful for all that we have shared over the past year. We are pleased to have our members returning and to welcome our twenty-eight new members. We have also lost several members this past year and as we gather in the spring they will be in our thoughts as well.

Our new executive is working hard to provide interesting and enjoyable meetings for you. From the attendance at these gatherings, we see that you are enjoying them. Many of you have already helped us with the attendance checks at the door and greetings as members arrive. Be prepared for a call from Julia to help out in these areas in the spring.

A heart-felt thanks to Linda Smith and Nancy Bell for their delightful stories. We always look forward to these humorous and poignant tales. They bring both a tear to the eye and a smile to the heart. Owen (my husband and unofficial RWTO photographer) took pictures at both our spring and Christmas gatherings. Owen commented that he had been to many such large group lunches over the years but could not recall an event where the folks were enjoying themselves more.

I have taught in many parts of the province and it was by good fortune that our family moved to London. I was able to return to teaching when our youngest started junior kindergarten and thoroughly enjoyed my years teaching in London.

When I retired four years ago, I was looking for an opportunity to give back to the community in a fulfilling way. RWTO is the perfect fit. Where else can you have a delicious lunch, with the most interesting women and see a table at the back overflowing with the donations from generous folks who have spent their lives giving to children? I encourage you to offer your talents to help us continue our efforts. With the Fashion Show planned for the fall 2015, there will be lots of opportunities to be part of the fun. Speaking of fun, please consider joining us in Stratford for the Provincial Convention. Having attended two conventions, I can tell you it is a fantastic experience. I look forward to serving you throughout my term and welcome your suggestions.



Luncheon Dates To Remember:

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Message from Jane Williams, President

This year, we have been asked to consider the following motion prior to our convention in June.

Be it resolved that:

Motion # AM-12: That the Board create an Ad Hoc Committee to study the implications of extending the membership to other retired women in education and to report back to the 2015 AGM.

I will be seeking your direction on this resolution at the March meeting on March 26, 2015.

Luncheons *contributed by Julia McNaughton*

All luncheons take place at Siloam United Church, 1240 Fanshawe Road East in London and begin at 12:00 o'clock noon. The cost for each luncheon is \$14.00 (fourteen dollars). Please be sure you have your money in by the due date listed below or your name will be put on a waiting list. You will be called if you are on the list. Cheques should be made payable to **RWTO London-Middlesex** c/o Julia McNaughton 14494 Ten Mile Road RR3 Ilderton ON N0M 2A0

If you have any **dietary needs**, please send them **in writing** to Julia McNaughton at the above address.

Dates to Remember:

Thursday, March 26, 2015 - \$14.00 due March 11, 2015 (no later)
- no cancellations after March 11, 2015

Please bring non-perishable items for the London Food Bank.

Thursday, April 16, 2015 - \$14.00 due April 2, 2015 (no later)

*** note change of date for this meeting***

Please bring funds for the Educational Awards.

Tuesday, May 19, 2015 - Spring Banquet - cost is \$32.00 (due May 7, 2015)

Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre
555 Windermere Road (519-679-4546)

Parking and entrance to the Asher's Dining Room can be found on the south side of the building.



Friendship Group *contributed by Deborah Kaiser*

This year in the Friendship Group, our numbers have increased and now we have 76 RWTO members that are part of this social activity based group. Our callers: the late Kaye Harries, June Levy, Sandra McKeen and Karen Tierney have done a great job phoning members without e-mail to keep them informed. Last year, we had a full agenda starting with an Oscar Award movie and luncheon in February followed by mini golf, Elmhurst luncheon, Huron Country South Pacific, a picnic in the park, Sarnia Boat cruise, luncheon at Carolina Winery, National Women's Show and a final Christmas luncheon at West Haven Golf and Country Club. Wow! What a line-up! THAT'S NOT EVEN ALL THAT WE DO! We also meet once a month for breakfast. The location of the breakfast sites moves around the city to help accommodate everyone. The best part is that you decide the activities in which you wish to participate. So far, for this year, we have planned a trip to Museum London, lunch at the Green Frog Tea Room, a picnic and a live play at Huron Country Playhouse. If you are interested in joining or wish more information about our Friendship Group, please contact Deborah Kaiser at kaiser@bell.net or call 519-659-8209.



Rear: Marian Normandeau and Nancy Bell; Front: Karen Tierney, April McCarthy-Braca and Sandra McKeen at the Christmas Luncheon at West Haven Golf and Country Club on December 4, 2014

Insurance *contributed by Helen Munce*

Please contact **Helen Munce** at **519-473-2050** if you would like any information regarding Travel, Auto, Residential Insurance and/or the Hospital and Home Care Plan. If you have any questions regarding the Hospital and Home Care Plan, please contact Manulife. The telephone number is on the back of your membership card. If you need a claim form, let Helen know. **Please let Manulife know if you have a change of address.**

Membership Fees: April 2015 - April 2016 *contributed by Mary Maxwell*

Mary Maxwell will begin depositing membership fees for 2015 - 2016 after April 1, 2015. Fees are \$43.00 (\$40.00 Provincial plus \$3.00 local) for those who retired after 1980. Retirements prior to August 31, 1980 pay \$18.00 (\$15.00 Provincial and \$3.00 local). If you wish, you may pay at meetings or send a cheque to:

Mary Maxwell 1673 Phillbrook Crescent London ON N5X 2Z4

Please make cheques payable to: **RWTO London-Middlesex Branch**

Please let Mary know if you have a change of address, telephone number and/or e-mail address so she can amend our records.

Membership Report *contributed by Karen Tierney*

The membership of RWTO London-Middlesex has continued to grow since September 2014. We have welcomed these 28 new members since the fall: Sandra Adams, Natalie Nesterenko Albani, Margaret Arthur, Clara Bacsi, Diane Brown, Fran Brown, Ruth Ann Butler, Carolyn Cauchi, Catherine Cave, Catherine Connors, Diane Estabrooks, Bernice Flett, Ruthanne Frise, Caroline Geromette, Paula Gysbers, Pat Haggith, Diane Heatherington, Charlene Kivell, Marianne LaRose, Dawn Martin, Mary L. McLean, Catherine McNeil, Paula Muga, Carmella Palcich, Henrietta Parkes, Kathryn Patton, Anita Rasmussen and Janice Thielenhaus.



Please remember to bring your book bag and used books to the March 26th meeting. This is a wonderful way to raise funds for our Branch and your support is very much appreciated.



Education Fund *contributed by Evelyn Holmes*

In the fall, our Education Fund money was equally donated to the London Pregnancy Centre and Brio, a group of volunteers who teach music to underprivileged children. These choices were made with the input of membership. Our members enthusiastically support our book sales, card sales, 50/25/25 draws and other financial events. Through your generous support to the Education Fund, we are able to assist organizations and make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you all very much!

Awards contributed by Patricia Savage

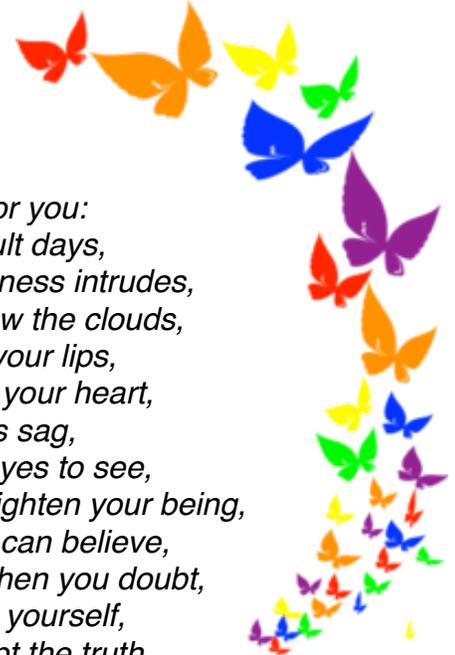
In 2013, RWTO London-Middlesex developed the Shining Star Award to recognize members for their commitment to our Branch and their emphasis on Caring and Sharing with our members and the community. In 2013, we honoured Mary Lannin-Neevel and Sharon Riley. In 2014, Marion Chamberlain and Doris Robotham received this award.



Mary Lannin-Neevel, Doris Robotham, Marion Chamberlain and Sharon Riley are our Shining Star winners.

Book Club One contributed by Patricia Savage

It is hard to believe that we have been meeting monthly for four years and enjoying our group. We continue to use the Public Library's book bags which have included numerous new titles since our startup. Some of the books we read were: *Sussex Drive*, *170 Hours*, *Impostor Bride*, *Sugar Queen*, *What Alice Forgot* as well as *Painted Girls* and *Shanghai Girls* which resulted in great discussions about poverty, exploitation of women and racism. We also did an author study of Agatha Christie. Our group is very eclectic in our tastes, which provide new opportunities to explore different stories and authors. We ended the year with a Christmas lunch at my home.



*This is my wish for you:
Comfort on difficult days,
Smiles when sadness intrudes,
Rainbows to follow the clouds,
Laughter to kiss your lips,
Sunsets to warm your heart,
Hugs when spirits sag,
Beauty for your eyes to see,
Friendships to brighten your being,
Faith so that you can believe,
Confidence for when you doubt,
Courage to know yourself,
Patience to accept the truth,
Love to complete your life.*
- courtesy of Ralph Waldo Emerson

Book Club Two contributed by Patricia Savage

The second book club continues with the tradition of intense discussions, freely expressing our opinions, eating and having subsequent conversations. We read two historical fiction books that evoked various emotions. *The Paris Wife* incited our senses with compassion toward the "wife" and irritation with the great "husband" namely Ernest Hemingway. When we read *The Post Mistress*, we realized that a few of us were attached either through our personal experiences or our parents to the intense journeys that our characters endured during the war time era. We also enjoyed discussing *Sweetness In The Belly* and *Secret Daughter*. Our group has a tradition each year where we promote and share our favourite mystery books. Just ask us which mystery to devour!

Cora Bailey Award *contributed by Patricia Savage*

The Cora Bailey Award is a Provincial award for service and leadership, with nominees often being from the Executive or Chairs of committees. Candidates are nominated by the membership in the spring according to the established criteria. In 2013, June Levy and Patricia Savage received this honour and in 2014, Kaye Harries and Cathy Harrison were recognized. I was very pleased that I had the opportunity to present Kaye with her certificate as she was so delighted that day. Unfortunately, she died unexpectedly in November. We mourn her loss. Congratulations to all the winners - a job well done!

*"Festival Fantastique
in Stratford"*



RWTO/OERO
*59th Annual Convention
June 2-4, 2015*



Cathy Harrison receives Cora Bailey Award on November 27, 2014.



Patricia Savage, Kaye Harries and Jane Williams on September 18, 2014.

Your editor's favourite joke:
My teaching career had led me to an isolated post in an area where the the winter temperatures are sub-zero. One such morning, a latecomer handed me a note from her mother that read, "Sorry Anne is late. The rooster froze up."

Hosted by Area 2

*Cambridge
Guelph-Wellington
Kitchener-Waterloo
Listowel
Palmerston
Stratford*

RWTO/OERO Online Website

You can find out about our activities and see fabulous pictures from our RWTO London-Middlesex Branch if you go to: www.rwto.org and click on Branch News, then scroll down to our Branch. Thank you to our photographers: the late Kaye Harries, Bernarda Norwood, Patricia Savage and Owen Williams.



IN MEMORIAM

GERTRUDE ANNE (NICOL) THOMPSON

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Gertrude was the daughter of Gertrude and Calvert Nicol. Gertrude died peacefully at Chateau Gardens in Parkhill with her family by her side. Gertrude taught for the TVDSB and did a teacher exchange in England. She loved to go to the theatre and travel before her retirement.

MAXINE ANNICE (SANDERSON) O'NEIL

Monday, May 12, 2014

Maxine was the beloved wife of Robert (Bob) Joseph O'Neil for fifty-six years. Formerly of London, Ilderton and London Township, Maxine was an elementary school teacher with the TVDSB for thirty-six years. She was well loved by her former students and will be remembered fondly by her precious friends.

KAYE MARIE (MARTIN) HARRIES

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

Kaye will be forever missed by her daughter, Sarah, her son-in-law Ryan Kimber, close family, neighbours, friends and the teaching and craft communities in which she was so actively involved. We will be forever grateful for the seventy-one years of learning, storytelling, theatre-going, crafting, travel and friendship that Kaye had to give to the world.

LOIS MARILYN (CLOSS) PETERS

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Lois leaves her beloved husband, Melville Peters and her daughter, Patricia (Anne Marie) of Guelph. Teacher, singer and volunteer, Lois was an active, outgoing community member who enjoyed her family, friends and her gardens. She was an educator, vocalist, member of the United Church Women, member of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire and former entertainment chair for the RWTO convention in London. She was our esteemed choir director where she combined her love of music and people.

JEAN MARSHALL

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

We are sorry there is no information available.

Keeping In Touch *contributed by Chair - Nancy Bell, First Vice President*

The Keeping In Touch Team is a caring, dynamic group of ladies who volunteer to visit our RWTO members who are in long-term care facilities, seniors' homes or unable to attend our regular meetings. We



love to learn about the interesting lives, careers, hobbies and talents and feel enriched by the hospitality and warm welcome received during our travels. Sometimes we are fortunate to find several RWTO members in the same facility and share a visit with those both active at meetings and those unable to come. Members are eager to catch up on the friends and programs within RWTO and are truly appreciative that they are remembered. A small gift and RWTO card are left to enjoy later and to inform family members that their loved ones are remembered.

Each year, we send Christmas and Valentine cards and acknowledge milestone birthdays for 90 plus years. Special anniversaries and life events of members are celebrated at our regular luncheon meetings.

We welcome your input and referrals of names whom you feel may be ready to be part of our visitation list. It often helps to break the ice when they know that a dear or close friend from RWTO has reached out to them. At the same time, we are very sensitive to privacy issues and respect the wishes of anyone who declines the offer of a visit. Many thanks to all our members of this team for your continued dedication and interest in this Outreach.