

UVIC RETIREES ASSOCIATION 2020 AGM

SOCIAL EVENTS REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2019 TO MARCH 15, 2020

Thanks to some wonderful volunteers, UVRA was able to offer its membership and their guests a variety of interesting events for fall 2019 and part of winter 2020. Sadly, the April Masterminds Series and the Annual Volunteer Lunch had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

In September 2019, UVRA had a return visit to **Pedder Bay Bird Banding Station**. Michael Motek, our host, was assisted by Betty Emery. Plans were in the works for a spring visit to a banding site able to accommodate mobility impaired persons, but they were a casualty of COVID-19.

With the help of Richard Chappell, UVRA was able to secure two return visits to the **Esquimalt Navy Simulator** in September and October. As this popular tour can only accommodate 20 persons, UVRA attempts to have visits every two years to accommodate all those who want to go.

UVRA members and their guests visited **UVic's Observatory** on an October evening thanks to Colin Scarfe, the visit's organizer, and to Karun Thanjavur who graciously agreed to host a 'sold out' audience. Thoughts of a spring visit were shelved when UVic closed in March.

December heralded the return of our annual **Christmas Lunch** held at the University Club. Members and their guest partook of the Club's sumptuous buffet and were entertained afterwards by visual artist Miles Lowy who, with the help of his paintings and some slides, talked about the Irish Tree (Ogham) alphabet.

Barry Mah Ming organized the **Chinese New Year Lunch** at the Fountain Restaurant in February 2020. The guest speaker, Jiaxu Wang, discussed the art of Chinese paper cutting (called Jianzhi) and its relevance to Chinese culture, and, invited the audience to do their own cuttings under his guidance.

In February, John Anderson invited the Board and the membership to a **Retreat**, aimed at delineating UVRA's future.

Respectfully submitted by:

Louise Schmidt, **Acting** Social Coordinator