



**University
of Victoria**

**Welcome to New
Members**

**Dr. Douglas
Porteous**, Geography.

Dr. Yeun Fong Woon,
Pacific & Asian Studies



GREY MATTERS

University of Victoria Retirees' Association

Volume 01/09

UVRA Newsletter January 2009

For this edition of Grey Matters, our wise Editor Helen Kempster is taking a well deserved (and well planned) break enjoying the desert air and sunshine in Arizona, but she is thinking of us. Retirement does have its benefits.

Upcoming Events:

FEBRUARY 6 (Friday), 11:30 a.m. Chinese New Year Luncheon and Presentation. Golden City Restaurant (721 Fisgard Street). Barry Till (Asian Curator, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria). Chinese Funerary Beliefs, with Emphasis on the Tomb of Emperor Qin Shihuang. Registration by: February 2. Charge: \$23/person. Our 11th annual Chinese New Year luncheon. The talk will discuss the Chinese beliefs in the afterlife from earliest times to the present, with emphasis given to the elaborate mausoleum of the First Emperor of China (died 210 BC). The illustrations will show the artifacts which have been excavated from the tomb and their purpose. The **terra cotta army** provides incredible material for the study of ancient armour, weapons, ancient hair styles, chariot

harnessing, entertainment for the dead, technology of the time, etc.

MARCH 24 (Tuesday), 10:30 a.m. Victoria Hospice and VIHA Presentation. UVic Commons Block (Campus View Room). Registration by: March 17. Charge: \$14/person. Parking: Lot 5 (off Sinclair Road): Permit, Dispenser, Meter. We seem to live in a death-denying society, but death is even more certain than taxes. This presentation will show us how Victoria Hospice, along with VIHA Community Care, provide care, services, and programmes for the dying and those who love them.

APRIL 29 (Wednesday), 10:00 a.m. Guided Tour. New Buildings on UVic Campus. Registration by: April 22. Charge: \$5/person. Parking: Lot 5 (off Sinclair Road): Permit, Dispenser, Meter. Meet at the fountain in front of the McPherson Library. A tour of four new energy-efficient buildings, all located within the Ring Road in the south-eastern academic quadrant: the Mearns Centre/McPherson Library; the Medical Sciences Building; the Engineering/

UVRA Executive Board 2008-09

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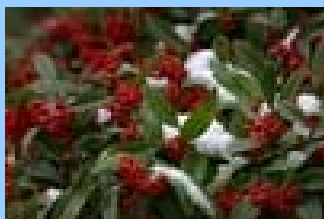
Benefits, Fred Fischer

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Special Events: John Fitch



In Memoriam

Sonia Birch-Jones, 1921 - November 27, 2008. Sonia was born in Wales, served with the British Government during WWII, and emigrated to Canada in 1952. A talented writer and "community activist," she was the recipient of the Victoria Community Leader of the Year Award. During her time at UVic, Sonia worked in Alumni Affairs and served six years on the Board of Governors. Sonia is survived by her husband Peter and large extended family.

Murray Dallas Edwards, 1924 - December 14, 2008. Murray received his early education at the University of Saskatchewan and his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1962. Murray lived a full and varied life as actor, manager, director, producer, writer, broadcaster, historian and academic. He worked extensively for the CBC interspersed with time teaching at various universities. Murray came to UVic in 1976 and taught in the Department of Theatre until retirement. After retirement he continued contributing to the university as Adjunct Professor and with the Department of Continuing Education. Murray is survived by his wife Katherine and extended family.

Geoffrey Noel O'Grady, January 01, 1928 - December 28, 2008. Geoff was born in Australia where he received his early education at the University of Sydney and his PhD from Indiana University. He came to UVic in 1965, joining the Department of Linguists. He had a fascination with languages, developing the seminal study of the origins and relationships of the Australian Aboriginal languages and is regarded as one of the leading scholars in Australian linguistics. He recorded northern Canadian First Nations languages and studied the various indigenous languages on Vancouver Island. He received invitations for advice from First Nations communities in northern BC and the Yukon. Geoff is survived by his wife, Alix, two daughters and three grandchildren.

Computer Science Building; and the Ocean, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences Building. Each building will have an on-site tour guide who will explain the purpose of the building and its special features. Estimated duration of tour: up to 3 hours. Afterwards, have a bite to eat at the new Biblio Café.

MAY 20 (Wednesday), 11:00 a.m. Guided Tour. Government House Gardens. Registration by: May 10. Charge: \$7/person. Parking: Directly in front of House (porte-cochere entrance). Meet at the porte-cochere. The Gardens should be at their best in late spring, with tulips still in flower, rhododendrons at their peak, and perhaps some early roses. We shall visit several areas of the gardens, including the newly-renovated terraces at the back of the House. It may also be possible to tour the public rooms of Government House at 10:00 a.m., depending on the Lieutenant-Governor's schedule. Members who sign up for the garden tour by May 10 will be informed at that time if the house tour is available.

MAY or JUNE. Overnight Trip. Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre. Details of the trip to Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre have not yet been finalized. As explained earlier, those members who expressed their interest in the trip in September and October 2008 will be given priority in registration. Once the arrangements are complete, probably in the Spring, those members will be informed and offered a chance to register. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis.

The Events Committee thanks all the Members who suggested the above events.

UVRA Events Committee: Trudy Byers, Jim Currie, John Fitch (Chair), Trevor Matthews.

Feedback / Suggestions: UVRA Office (250-472-4749, uvra@uvic.ca) or Committee member.

Masterminds: The 2009 Lecture Series by UVic Retirees

It's not a quiz show, but a chance for you to learn from a lifetime of research, creativity, and involvement by active University of Victoria retirees. The UVic Retirees Association and the Centre on Aging—with support from the university—are presenting four lectures in April and May, 2009. Each lecture will take place at 7 p.m. in the Hickman Building, room 105. Please register by calling 250-721-6369 and plan to arrive early because seating will be limited. There is a \$2 charge for parking in all campus parking lots during evenings and on Saturdays.

April 15, Dr. Edward Ishiguro— What Everyone Should Know About Listeria, Salmonella and Other Food-Borne Infectious Pathogens

Dr. Ishiguro, Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, is a prolific writer whose internationally known research has been continuously funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada for over 30 years. His areas of scholarly interest include molecular microbiology, antibiotic action, and stress responses. Dr. Ishiguro has earned the Faculty of Science Teaching Excellence Award (2005) and the UVic Alumni Association Harry Hickman Award for Teaching Excellence (2006). He continues to teach full-time and is a member of UVic's Speakers' Bureau.

April 22, Dr. Michael Hadley— Crime and Punishment Revisited: Exploring Restorative Justice

Dr. Hadley, Professor Emeritus in Germanic Studies and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, is internationally known for his work in two diverse areas: history of submarine

warfare, and religion and justice. Currently, he is an Associate Fellow at UVic's Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, having shifted his focus from 'government sponsored violence' to 'government prohibited violence.' His work as director of an interdisciplinary and multifaith team project resulted in the publication of *The Spiritual Roots of Restorative Justice* (2001), and his rethinking of these issues in the anthology *Handbook of Restorative Justice in Global Perspective* (2006). Since 2001, Dr. Hadley has spent three terms in Uganda, teaching ethical decision-making to health care administrators.

April 29, Dr. Erica Dodd—The Image of the Word: Understanding Islamic Art

Dr. Erica Dodd, Adjunct Associate in History in Art and Emeritus Fellow at the Centre for Studies of Religion and Society, is a scholar of Islamic art and architecture. Prior to coming to UVic, she taught for 20 years at the University of Beirut. Dr. Dodd has held research Fellowships at Dombarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies, Harvard University; Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford; American Research Center, Cairo; and Middle East Center, Harvard University. Her research and writing have focused on Byzantine church silver, medieval frescoes in Syria and Lebanon, and Islamic inscriptions. She is the author of *Byzantine Silver Stamps* and *The Image of the Word*.

May 6, Dr. Ralph Huenemann—China's Role in the Global Economy

Dr. Huenemann, Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Business, has been a consultant economist on many development projects in China and elsewhere in Asia for the World Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency, the International Development Research Centre, and other agencies. He was Founding Director of the UVic Centre

for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, Director of International Programs, and Associate Dean of Business. He is a well-known teacher, speaker, and writer. Among his awards and honours are the Award of Excellence for Outstanding Teaching in the Faculty of Business (2004) and Canadian Faculty Advisor of the Year, Golden Key International Honour Society (2005).

2008 Campus United Way Campaign: Final Report

When the UVic Campaign Committee set a goal of \$265,000.00 (\$15,000 higher than last year), we wondered what effect the deteriorating economic situation might have on the campaign. We need not have worried. The response of the UVic community has been magnificent. The campaign has raised \$297,000.00 and UVic was declared the winner of the United Way Post-Secondary Challenge at the United Way Spirit of Enterprise Awards. We placed third overall in the city, behind the DND and VIHA.

A heartfelt thank you to all who have contributed. Because of your generosity the United Way will be better able to assist the growing numbers of those in need in the coming year.

Victor Neufeldt
UVRA Representative, UVic United Way Campaign Committee

Lake Cowichan – a Love Story, submitted by Helen Kempster

What is the connection between a lakefront property at Lake Cowichan, the University Finnerty Gardens, and Dracula? At first glance not too much but read on and let's see how they link up.

This is really the story of two women named Susan: one was Susan Stoker and the other Jeanne Suzanne Simpson, known to friends and family as



If you have items of interest to our members for inclusion in the newsletter send them along to Helen Kempster at 592-4748 or drop them off at the office.



“Susie”. They came from diverse backgrounds and met at what was then a remote part of Vancouver Island early in the twentieth century. So who were these women?

Susan Stoker was English, an amateur botanist and watercolorist, who met and married the physician Richard Stoker in the 1880s. Dr. Stoker served as a Lieutenant-Colonel in the India Army and while there Susan was able to indulge her love and study of flowers and plants, in particular the native rhododendrons of Nepal and northern India. On one of their journeys back on leave to Britain the Stokers stopped off on Vancouver Island and were overwhelmed by the beauty, peace and tranquility they found. They fell in love with the area and eventually bought 25 acres on Marble Bay on Lake Cowichan across from Honeymoon Bay, and upon retirement built their home and their garden. The garden was a masterpiece combining fruits, vegetables, trees and shrubs from near and far with the focus being the unique rhodo collection brought from India by the Stokers.

Jeanne Suzeanne Simpson was born in France, met and married Scotsman George Simpson, and arrived in Lake Cowichan in 1912. Unlike the Stokers they were not well off. They camped or lived in houseboats on the lake, and did what they could to earn some money. At one point George Simpson worked as a warden. When they met, the Stokers and Simpsons formed a strong friendship based on common values and concern for the environment and love of nature. The chemistry between the two women was instantaneous. In time the fortunes of the Simpsons improved and they were able to purchase an acre of the Stoker property. There is debate whether the land was actually a gift from the Stokers but in any case the two friends were able to live in close proximity to each other. The two Susans shared their love of nature in caring, cultivating and propagating both the native species and

the more exotic plants from Nepal and India. It is not too farfetched to state that the propagation of most of the species rhododendrons in the Pacific Northwest started first with Susan Stoker and later continued through combined efforts with her friend Jeanne Simpson.

Even in the 1930s, forest practices were raising concerns and when her husband died in 1931 Susan Stoker returned to England saddened by what she perceived as the degradation of the area; she died a few years later. The Simpsons also left the area and returned to France but later, thanks to an inheritance, were able to purchase the original 25 acre Stoker property and return to Lake Cowichan. During the next twenty years the garden was reclaimed and returned to its former glory. For Susie Simpson it was an act of love for her friend Susan Stoker.

So what does this have to do with UVic? The Simpsons had no children so Mrs. Simpson offered the estate to the university upon her death to be used as an area for scientific observation and study. Jeanne Simpson died in 1973 at the age of 87. The Jeanne S. Simpson Field Studies Resource Centre was formally opened in 1976 at Lake Cowichan and later a wharf was added. Interestingly the forest industry – so often perceived in a poor light by both Mrs. Simpson and Mrs. Stoker – showed a different side. The Centre building was a generous gift of Crown Zellerbach Canada Limited and Western Forest Industries donated the wharf. Before she died Mrs. Simpson also arranged for many of the rhododendrons to be moved to the university grounds. Those plants form the centerpiece of the present Finnerty Gardens. I am sure the two Susans would approve of the Gardens today.

Oh yes – Dracula? Almost forgot. Well Richard Stoker had a writer brother whose name was Bram and it is documented that he did visit Lake Cowichan!!

* The above article owes a great deal to Trevor Matthews, Roger Wiles and the Kaatza

People in the News:

Dr. Joseph F. Kess, Emeritus Chair in Japan and Asia-Pacific Relations and Professor Emeritus, Linguistics, University of Victoria, has been awarded one of Japan's most prestigious honours, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon. This award was bestowed on the recipient in recognition of his service and dedication to facilitate better understanding between Japan and Canada. Mr. Seiichi Otsuka, the Consul General of Japan in Vancouver, hosted an award ceremony for Dr. Kess at the Consul General's official residence on Wednesday, December 10th.