

UVic Retirees Association

Events Committee Report for 2012 -2013

From birds of prey to tea at Government House, the events program was enriched by the stories behind our destinations and gatherings. Our visit to the Pacific Northwest Raptor Center on a beautiful September day left us in awe of the birds of prey and the commitment of the family who operates this rehabilitation and education centre. A tour of West Saanich revealed the artistry of Nathan Scott at South Island Bronze Works, the excellent gin produced at Victoria Spirits Distillery, and the local history of Tia's Heritage Café. The romance of flight continued as we learned about man's early efforts at flying at the British Columbia Aviation Museum. Only through the passion and vision of the museum volunteers has this part of provincial history been preserved. Our traditional Christmas Luncheon featured retired faculty member and renowned trombonist Ian McDougall. All proceeds from the sales of his CD were donated to the Fine Arts Students fund. After an elegant buffet lunch, many members left with a bonus gift from the variety of draw prizes collected by Kathy Harris.

Modern flight launched the Spring program with a tremendous response to the tour of Viking Air. Their success extends far beyond production lines to a story of ethical choices, customer service, and belief in the de Havilland design. We were able to arrange for two additional tours. A donation to their charity was made in appreciation of their willingness to accommodate the 60 participants. Chinese New Year's celebrations were again held at the Crystal Jade restaurant. Author, human-rights advocate, and UVic alumnus May Wong was our guest speaker. She shared the story of her family's arrival during the time of Canada's head-tax on Chinese immigrants. John Fitch stepped in at the last minute, and did a wonderful job of hosting the lunch. The opportunity to view two of Victoria's earliest buildings was made possible through UVic alumnus Doug Franklin. Although hidden behind modern facades, the Oddfellows Hall and the Masonic Hall are amazing examples of the ceremonial architecture and art of the early 1900's. Lunch at Willies Bakery concluded the revealing tour. The tour of Government House, complete with tea served in the library, was a fitting conclusion to the year's events.

The revenue from the registration for events was \$6116, with expenses and refunds totaling \$4960, leaving a profit of \$1156.

Thank you to the committee members Bob Allen, Jim Currie, and Shirley Carter for their ideas and leadership. The response to the program this year was exceptional. Without the work of Kathy Harris, Sharon Crumly, and the office volunteers, we could not have completed the registration and participant lists fairly or completely. Organizing the programs for the participants has been a very rewarding experience. I have been very proud to be the liaison between our members and our host organizations.

Submitted by Winona Pugh