



# LarseEncore

January, 2017

The Newsletter of the Association of Retired School Employees

## BULLETIN 67

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## LUNCHEONS 2017



Lunches are generally the last Friday of the month.

**Jan 27, 2017:** Elixir 3237 Boulevard des Sources, Dollard-Des Ormeaux,

**February 24<sup>th</sup>:** at Madison's 3000 Rue Jean-Yves, Kirkland – at The Colisee

**March 31<sup>st</sup>:** at L'Académie 6321 Transcanada Hwy, Pointe-Claire

**April 28<sup>th</sup>:** TBA by email to members and by lunch callers

**May 26<sup>th</sup>:** also TBA



## BREAKFAST

**IS ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH!**

**at The Manoir which is on the corner of Hymus and Boul. St.-Jean in Pointe-Claire.**

**Feb 10<sup>th</sup>**

**April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**March 10<sup>th</sup>**

**May 12<sup>th</sup>**

**WEBSITE: [www.larse.ca](http://www.larse.ca) CANNOT BE ACCESSED THROUGH GOOGLE**

**Don't forget the 50/50 RAFFLE at lunch. Half goes to you if you win, and the second winner gives half to the charity of their choice. The third winner receives a gift certificate for the restaurant.**

## President's Address/ Message du président

Wishing you all a very healthy and happy 2017. Que 2017 soit une année de santé et bonheur.

As I undertake the position of president of L'ARSE I know that I have big shoes to fill. Jan Langelier has lead this organization over the past three years with enthusiasm, dedication, commitment and caring. Having worked by her side for the past year as vice-president, two years as secretary and one year as member-at-large, I hope that I have learned some of the ways Jan has used to solve any problems sent her way. Merci beaucoup, Jan, pour ton dévouement et toutes les heures que tu as contribuées à cette magnifique organisation. Now Jan is undertaking not only the role of past president but also is moving on to head QPARSE (Quebec Provincial Association of Retired School Educators). Jan, I am sure you are up for the challenge and will steer QPARSE with outstanding leadership. Bonne chance, chère Jan!

I must also extend our gratitude for the many years of guidance and wisdom which our Executive received from Mickey Wernecke and Daniel Abergel. Mickey attended our meetings and was always willing to share her knowledge and expertise on many areas of our organization. Daniel, tu as travaillé très fort depuis le tout début de cette organisation que tu as aidé à fonder tout en recrutant tant de personnes à prendre la relève. Ton dévouement fut fortement apprécié! Merci!

It is with excitement and some trepidation that I am undertaking the role of President of L'ARSE. I am looking forward to working with a terrific group of people serving on the executive. I would like to thank both the elected and appointed members of the Executive for volunteering to continue building this fine organization.

Je voudrais dire quelques mots concernant l'importance de nos membres! Vos idées, votre participation et vos suggestions sont tellement essentielles! Please feel free to contact me or any other member of the Executive if you have any suggestions. We are always looking for new ideas for different activities and interest groups. There are so many of you out there that would probably like to be more involved and are hesitant to take that first step. In L'ARSE we are very welcoming and friendly people. I joined when I retired in 2011. Having lost my husband that same July, I was very much at loose ends. I was encouraged to join L'ARSE and through activities such as Book Club, Canasta, Bridge, Theatre Group, breakfast at Le Manoir, monthly luncheons etc... I was able to reconnect with retired colleagues. I found friendship and a sense of belonging. Que j'étais chanceuse de m'impliquer tout de suite car cela a rendu ma transition à la retraite beaucoup plus agréable. Alors je vous encourage, si vous ne vous êtes pas encore impliqué, de le faire aussitôt que possible. Start by coming out to our monthly luncheons which are usually held the last Friday of every month.

As I wrote my message for the Newsletter I was sad that Tricia Roet would be coordinating this, her last Newsletter. I have no words to express our gratitude for the many, many years of devotion to the production of an absolutely outstanding LarsEncore. Several other organizations have used our newsletter as an example of how to produce an informative and attractive product. Tricia, you will be greatly missed. I am certain you will be back from Ottawa for some luncheons in the spring and I know that Book Club 2 is planning a road trip to Ottawa in April. Best of luck to you and Joel in Ottawa!

Enough said!!!! It has only taken me a week to write this!!!! I wanted to be certain not to forget to thank some very important people and I wanted my message to reach you, the members, to encourage you to participate, however much, in L'ARSE!

**3.**

This organization has existed for nearly 20 years! How wonderful! Let's keep it alive by getting involved. On participe!!!!Tania Kinsella President



# Bulletin Board

## QUEBEC PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL EDUCATORS

Association Provinciale du Personnel d'Enseignement Retraité du Québec

QPARSE-APPERQ.org

We invite members to consult the website of QPARSE-APPERQ to find pertinent and interesting information concerning their retirement. Membership forms are available on the website for those interested in joining the association.

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

Members are reminded that annual membership fees of \$10.00 are due on January 1st, 2017 for any members who retired in 2015 or earlier. Retirees of 2016 will begin paying annual dues on January 1st of 2018.

Payment can be made to any activity leader, executive member, by mail or at the January 27th lunch.

By mail, please send to:  
Lois Maeder-Alves  
63 Devon Road,  
Baie d'Urfée, QC, H9X 2W7

### WINNERS

**Congratulations to the winners at our October luncheon at Restaurant L'Academie . Karen Bray took home \$62.00 while Liuba Kostyk donated her winnings to West Island Multiple Sclerosis Self Help Group. Bob McIlhone won a \$60.00 gift certificate for Restaurant L'Academie. Thanks to all who participated.**

# INTEREST GROUPS

**InterestGroupsEditor: Pam Greevy** [pgreevy@hotmail.com](mailto:pgreevy@hotmail.com)



## Book Club I

The Original Book Club

The books we've chosen to review in January and February are both written by Canadians.

In Emma Donoghue's *The Wonder*, an English nurse is brought to a small Irish village to observe what appears to be a miracle-girl said to have survived without food for months. Madeleine Thien's award-winning *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* is a sweeping examination of history, art, family, and trauma filtered through the legacy of Mao's Cultural Revolution and the brutality of Tiananmen Square.

In March, we'll discuss *The Lady and the Unicorn*, by Tracey Chevalier. Inspired by history and imagination, this novel is her answer to the story behind the beautiful set of medieval tapestries which now hangs in the Cluny Museum in Paris. April's fare is *Are You Somebody?: An Accidental Memoir of a Dublin Woman*. Reaching middle age, without partner or children, this brilliant journalist, TV producer, book reviewer, teacher and writer looks back on a life lived boldly – almost to the point of self-destruction. In May, we'll finish our year with *This is the Story of a Happy Marriage*, a collection of essays by Ann Patchett (the author of *Bel Canto* and *A State of Wonder*).

Over the summer, we'll be reading whatever we choose, keeping an eye out for suggestions for next year's reading list.

Susan Somerville – [susansomerville8@sympatico.ca](mailto:susansomerville8@sympatico.ca)



## COMPUTER USERS GROUP

Our computer group is looking for a leader. If you have an interest in organizing sessions that could help fellow members learn more about their various digital devices, please contact a member of the L'ARSE Executive.



**Check out your local arena for senior's skating. Many of them have it!**

## **Book Club II**

**5.**

Jan and Bryden Murray were our hosts for the November meeting to discuss the Pulitzer Prize winning novel *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen. The political parallels throughout history and in the current world situation as well as the ethics of power and war created a thoughtful and profound discussion. Liuba Kostyk hosted our December meeting and pot luck lunch to discuss *Orphanage 41* by Victor Malarek, the story of a man searching for his roots in the Ukraine. In January we met at Evelyn Howard's for *Opening Skinner's Box: Great Psychological Experiments of the Twentieth Century*, a fascinating and compelling read especially for a group of retired educators who are still very much interested in the workings of the brain, including our own! Upcoming novels are *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* by Giller Prize winner Madeleine Thien and *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi.



These may sound like serious topics, however, members came to our December lunch as their favourite character or book and much hilarity was involved guessing the clues. Books and characters included Lisbeth Salandar, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, one of Roald Dahl's witches, Leonard Cohen, that infamous couple Lady Chatterley with the games keeper, Ice Station Zebra in complete zebra costume and Me Before You.

Also at our December meeting we bid a fond adieu to Tricia Roet who has moved to Ottawa to be near family. Tricia has been the task mistress of Book Club and we thank her sincerely. This role has been humbly taken over by Lesley Pasquin. If you are interested in joining us, contact Lesley at [lesleypasquin@gmail.com](mailto:lesleypasquin@gmail.com).

### **Message from L'ARSE website coordinator, Maria De Wolfe**

I would like to thank MaryAnn Bindner who was the previous coordinator. I am looking forward to posting your notices, pictures and other information on the L'ARSE website.

If you have notices of upcoming events that may be of interest to your fellow L'ARSE members please do not hesitate to email them to me at:

[dewolfe.maria@gmail.com](mailto:dewolfe.maria@gmail.com)



## Casual Bridge Group

Wednesday is card day for L'ARSE. Every second Wednesday afternoon at 1:30, Lorraine Pawlusiak welcomes the Casual Bridge Group to her lovely home. We play, chat and nibble for a couple of hours. We change partners every four hands and rotate in and out if we are an odd number of players.

Because we discuss bidding strategies, allow newcomers to watch and then partner them with more experienced members, the Casual Bridge Group is an excellent place to learn the game. Because it is a great group of people and a warm and friendly atmosphere, more experienced players keep coming.

We have some thirty members but usually have between eight and sixteen players on any given day. In the spirit of L'ARSE, the Bridge Group exists to present opportunity rather than create obligation. We always have fun. We welcome new participants..there is always room! If you are interested in joining us, please contact Pam Greevy at [pgreevy@hotmail.com](mailto:pgreevy@hotmail.com).

### The Vacuum

A blonde was playing Trivial Pursuit one night.

It was her turn. She rolled the dice and she landed on "Science & Nature."

Her question was, "If you are in a vacuum and someone calls your name, can you hear it?"

She thought for a time and then asked, "Is it on or off?"

6.

## Canasta



Since September 2016, the Canasta group has been meeting at my home in Ile Perrot every second Wednesday. The number of players averages 16 – 20 on any given week. The spirited interchanges between us make the experience very enjoyable and we look forward to our Canasta week.

We have started to learn a new version of Canasta known as Samba that is a little more challenging and most who have learned it, prefer it. As usual, we are always willing to teach newcomers the game so anyone wishing to try Canasta out, is very welcome. Just contact me and I will give you times and directions to my house.

Since the numbers of players has been growing, it was suggested that we seek an alternative arrangement for meeting. Tania Kinsella and I met with Michael Chechile, LBPSB Director General to see if he could help us find an unused classroom in one of our schools that we could use to hold our card games or any other meetings as well. Michael was very helpful and directed us to Horizon School (housed in the old Northview School). I met with Coleen Turner, Principal and she was also very helpful and willing to accommodate us. Unfortunately, at this time, it is not possible to have a room to ourselves in which we could keep our card tables and chairs and other equipment and the tables and chairs in the school are really not made for us adults. However, Coleen suggested that we might be able to have a room of our own in the fall of 2017 so we have decided to continue our Canasta group meeting at my place for now and to look at it again in the fall.

JanLangelier [langelier.jan@videotron.ca](mailto:langelier.jan@videotron.ca)

# TREKKER'S WORLD

7.

## TRAVEL TALK GROUP

The meeting of the Travel Talk Group took place on October 4th. It was very interesting and well attended.

We met in the upstairs of the Rotisserie Victorienne, formerly Sequoia Restaurant, which is a comfortable and pleasant venue. Several members of our group joined us for lunch.

Al Jared presented his trip to Croatia and showed us the beautiful pictures that he and his wife took . He mentioned the warm welcome and hospitality they received throughout their trip. They enjoyed visiting the various sites of Croatia, a country with a rich history and old-fashioned authenticity.

Bob Morrison presented his trip to the Amalfi coast of Italy and showed us the beautiful slides he took of Sorrento, Pompei, Capri etc. Amalfi is a region of Italy rich in Roman sites, history and beauty.

Besides sharing their travel experiences in these two delightful venues, both of our presenters gave us practical hints and advice to help us if we wanted to make travel plans to these places.

We are looking forward to our next meeting in September of 2017. More details will follow later. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Mickey Wernecke ([hbwernecke@aol.com](mailto:hbwernecke@aol.com)) or Daniel Abergel([abergeld@yahoo.com](mailto:abergeld@yahoo.com))

## Cross-Country Skiing



Welcome to a New Year and a new ski season! The snowstorms in early December were such a gift, especially after the disaster of last year. On December 20th, two of us took advantage of the good conditions and skied the Rabbit at Bois-de-Liesse. Unfortunately rain over the holidays put a bit of a 'damper' on the conditions in Montreal. I am happy to report that the recent snowfalls have greatly improved the ski conditions and a second outing is planned for January 6th at Cap-St.-Jacques.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I will email everyone a day or two in advance to advise where we will be skiing that week. For the moment, Tuesdays are out for me because that is when I ski with Rod Roy. If you have not received my emails regarding cross country skiing and would like your name added to the list, please email me at: [mabindner2@gmail.com](mailto:mabindner2@gmail.com)

Hope to see you on the trails!

Mary Anne Bindner (514) 913-8096



# GOLF REPORT

Summer 2016 provided LARSE golfers with another successful season of sport and opportunities to visit new courses and make new friends. As is our tradition we offer the chance to play courses that may be completely new to our members or that are further afield than most players would normally travel to. The weather conditions, this year, were probably the poorest since this interest group began with more rain dates and cancellations than has been usual. Weather conditions played havoc with our fall outdoor session with only two games taking place. On a brighter note, we welcomed a number of new members to our weekly ranks. And the highlight of the season was "The School's Open Open" played at Dorval GC followed by an Open House Pot Luck Meal graciously hosted by Janice Tessier Murray and LARSE's own Golden Bear- Bryden Murray. This annual celebration of Retirement Appreciation is always well attended by our golf group as well as some non-golfers, and provides a wonderful opportunity to remember our not-so-fortunate ex-colleagues who start yet another year in the classroom. As always , should any of you wish to participate in our outdoor group, please contact Bryden Murray or myself, at the following coordinates, to be added to our email contact list:

Bryden- [bryden.murray@sympatico.ca](mailto:bryden.murray@sympatico.ca)

Russ- [russk.547@gmail.com](mailto:russk.547@gmail.com)

We try to meet the needs/ skill levels of all members by scheduling specific Mondays for 9 holes only, 18 holes only, and a 9 and/or 18 hole day. Games are scheduled on Mondays except when statutory holidays fall on a Monday. We announce the courses during the week prior to the date of play and announce groupings and tee-times on the Sunday before the games.

LARSE Golf Coordinators

Bryden Murray Russ Kelly

## LARSE INDOOR GOLF

Although we find ourselves in the grip of another wondrous winter , some of our more avid members still are hitting the ball during indoor Monday sessions in Dorion at the GolfIn Dorion facility. These sessions also occur on Mondays and are organized by Mike Kirk. They generally begin at 9am and the 18 hole session lasts until 12:30. After each session a number of the group retire for a bite of lunch or a beverage. Should you be interested in trying out your skills in a simulator please contact Mike at [mcqkirk@bell.net](mailto:mcqkirk@bell.net) in order to be included on his email contact list.



The Cyclopaths have a nucleus of about 15 regulars, although more than 40 have been receiving my weekly itineraries during cycling season. Having co-ordinated the Cyclopaths cycling group since 2005, I have been dropping hints, hoping others would express an interest in taking over leadership of this group. I have been told I do a great job but I have found it to be a heavy commitment for one person from April to November, (one year we started in March ending in December). At least Tuesdays in 2016 were not as rainy as the previous year which made planning somewhat easier. It would probably be a good idea if new blood were to be injected into the group's leadership perhaps providing novel ideas and routes that the Cyclopaths could benefit from. I am the last of the original cycling group which began shortly after LARSE got started about 20 years ago and do intend to continue with the group, perhaps possibly even share in its leadership but would appreciate help. It has been difficult to get some West Island municipalities to recognize the legitimacy of the bicycle as a means of transport, just as much as automobiles. I am heartened by the realization that there are considerations being given to dovetail access routes for active transport to connect with the new West Island stations in the plans for the new light rail transport system, even to the point of considering bicycle parking. Who knows? This may also precipitate construction of the almost forgotten plans for the north-south link, the Jacques Bizard Corridor providing a much needed additional artery from Gouin to Highway 40. I understand that this mothballed project did include a bike path.

It's easy to look forward to the cycling season at this time of year and occasionally visit the LARSE website to view pictures from our previous trips and enjoy the scenery, some of which is only accessible via active transport such as a bicycle. Interested potential cyclists and /or potential leaders are invited to connect with Wayne Clifford at [wmclifford@gmail.com](mailto:wmclifford@gmail.com).

## CRAFTING CORNER

New retirees who finally have time to be creative in their hobbies are always invited to show us some of their work. We are not looking for masterpieces: any Work In Progress (WIP) or even just a plan or sketch can encourage other retirees to finally try their hand at something crafty or artistic.

For me, I am trying to use up as much of my hand-printed fabrics as possible, instead of letting them sit unseen in storage heaven. Then I can try new methods, designs and inks or dyes.

In the meantime, my modern quilt guild has finally finished my project of making an abstract modern quilt to welcome a refugee family suggested by Jan Langelier. I am shipping out the quilt this weekend to show it in Savannah, Georgia, at Quiltcon 2017. Then it will be shipped back to Montreal, ready for donation. The theme was Scale (large, medium, small) and it is a rather abstract, giant flower inspired vaguely by the work of Georgia O'Keefe. Sewing curved fabric pieces instead of straight blocks was a great challenge for all! SEE PICTURES ON OUR WEBSITE.

Michele Fitzgerald

[fitzgeraldmb@sympatico.ca](mailto:fitzgeraldmb@sympatico.ca)

**Evelyn Howard**

Three and a half years ago Evelyn Howard retired from Thorndale Elementary School where she taught the English components of a grade 6 bilingual program.

At five years old, Evelyn decided to be a teacher and remained true to that calling. Babysitting and being the “Pied Piper” of the neighbourhood were how she honed her skills. Even as a student she hated missing school and decided not to skip classes while her friends did. “I can also remember taking over for my grade 10 algebra teacher’s class because no one could understand his accent.”.

Teaching remains her career. She has been back in the classroom voluntarily for many learning situations. 2017 brings Evelyn back into the schools with a job. She has been hired by the English School Board of Montreal to teach literacy to small groups of students at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School. “The project is very exciting. Anna Sanalitro, the School Principal, has been inspired to follow Susie Pepper Rollin’s Learning in the Fast Lane to ensure that each student in her school reaches their literacy potential. My job will be to review concepts that have been taught and preview those which will be taught the next day.” This model has been used at the school since September and has shown students improving with confidence.

Evelyn is a member of the L’ARSE Book Club Number Two. She views this new project as another phase or face of retirement. She has promised to let us know more about the project at her contract’s end.

**Tricia Roet**

It has been a great pleasure to put out the Newsletter over these last 8 years. My husband and I have moved to Ottawa to be closer to family and it seems time to pass the reins over to someone else. Bill Stockwell has kindly offered to be the interim Editor but the position remains available to any interested party. I wish you all well and will likely see some of you when we run down the road to our beloved Montreal, perhaps for a luncheon.

Sincerely,  
Tricia Roet

# Joke Time

## **Dr Visit For a Colonoscopy**

I went into my proctologist's office for my first rectal exam.  
 His new blond nurse, Evelyn, took me to an examining room  
 And told me to get undressed and have a seat  
 Until the doctor could see me .  
 She said that he would only be a few minutes.

After putting on the gown that she gave me  
 I sat down  
 While waiting I observed  
 That there were three items on a stand  
 Next to the exam table: A Tube of K-Y jelly, a rubber glove, and a beer.

When the doctor finally came in I said,  
 "Look Doc, I'm a little confused  
 This is my first exam ..  
 I know what the K-Y is for  
 And I know what the glove is for,  
 But can you tell me what the BEER is for?

At that Doctor Paul became noticeably outraged and stormed over to the door  
 He flung the door open and yelled to his new nurse . . . . .  
 Darn it Meg !!!  
 I said, "a BUTT LIGHT "

Shortly after a British Airways flight had reached its cruising altitude, the captain announced,

"Ladies and Gentlemen, this is your captain. Welcome to Flight 293, non-stop from London Heathrow to New York . The weather ahead is good, so we should have an uneventful flight. So, sit back, relax, and . . . OH . . . MY GOD!"      Silence followed.....

Some moments later, the captain came back on the intercom.  
 "Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm sorry if I scared you. While I was talking to you, a flight attendant accidentally spilled coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!"

From the back of the plane, an Irish passenger yelled  
 "For the luvva Jaysus, you should see the back of mine!"

# L'ARSE MEMBERSHIP FORM

12.

## Regular Member

L'ARSE (L'Association of Retired School Employees) is open to any retiree from any educational institution and the spouse/partner of the retiree.

Name of Retiree \_\_\_\_\_ Retired from \_\_\_\_\_  
(location)

*If you wish to include your spouse/partner in your membership,  
please enter their name/e-mail address here:*

Spouse/Partner name: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Associate Member

Subject to available space, L'ARSE is also open to people who wish to participate in a L'ARSE-sponsored activity\*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a cheque for \$10 per person, payable to L'ARSE (one-year membership) to:

Lois Maeder-Alves  
63 Devon Road  
Baie D'Urfé, QC H9X 2W7

\* \* \* \* \*

The L'ArsEncore newsletter, issued 3 times a year, outlines the many and diverse activities available through our Association. It also highlights the activities of individual members. Articles highlighting members' travels, other activities or items of interest are most welcome! The newsletter will be sent electronically, unless you prefer a copy by mail.

I wish to receive my copy of L'ArsEncore via Canada Post: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Your personal contact information will be held in confidence by the Membership Chair, and shared only with L'ARSE activity leaders and executive members, as required. If you wish your contact information to be held ONLY by the Membership Chair, please check this box.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date