



University of Victoria

Retirees Association

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JANUARY 2025

Grey Matters!

WINTER 2025



An exuberant moment at the *Palais de Tokyo* photographed by Tom Gore

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD

Well, I have still not found that box from my move but wow what an autumn...the wind blew the leaves and needles from the trees became lodged into every crevice of our driveway and covered our cars. Once again, we were reminded of the force of Mother Nature and the tremendous amount of rain that can fall in one day!

Normally I open with an overview of recent events and a look forward. This edition however, I must begin by expressing my concern about the lack of volunteers and the impact this is having on our association. To stay relevant to its membership, the association must be able to provide and support its activities and to stimulate new initiatives and ideas. For example, presently, the UVRA board executive has two of its five positions vacant and two others, President and Past President, are being filled on an interim basis.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Page 2 of 3

A majority of the board members-at-large are long serving and succession is a serious concern. One of those valued board members, Juliana Saxton, passed away in December. As you know, our association has been unable to fill our United Way representative slot on the UVic-UVRA UW committee. After many appeals for volunteers, no one has stepped forward. I have had contact with a couple of members who have offered some direct assistance but in order to move forward with initiatives UVRA must receive more support if we intend to initiate action.

Therefore, I am reaching out to each of you to ask you to consider how you can help ensure that UVRA is strong enough to continue working on your behalf. We know that everyone has commitments, and we do not expect you to forsake your other interests...but can you provide some of your expertise and some time...so that we can build a team to be an effective voice for you both with the University and with the wider University-College retiree community. I am happy to chat with each and every one of you about UVRA and explain how it can be more effective with your help.

Let me now welcome our newest members. We encourage you to pass along information on this association to your colleagues and to participate in UVRA. Also, we encourage your contribution of ideas on how we might increase the communication with those considering retirement. We are members of CURAC, College and University Retiree Association of Canada, and can gather insights/ideas from other retiree associations across Canada. The retiree relationship with its former university/college varies across Canada and we try to encourage collaboration to ensure that all of us gain the most from this relationship.

As members of AROHE, we can gather insight from a broad range of retiree associations from across the United States as well. AROHE will be launching its second three-part "Reimagining Retirement Learning Series" online on February 25, March 11 and March 25, 2025. The previous series was excellent and I anticipate that they will be providing more information shortly. Be sure to check your event listing regularly as we will provide registration and other information as soon as it is available.

I also am pleased to advise that Jane Birkbeck has consented to return to the UVRA board as a member-at-large. Jane served previously on the board and we welcome the return of her valuable wisdom and insight.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Page 3 of 3

Our UVRA Christmas luncheon speaker, Dr Peter Keller, provided valuable insight into Academics Without Borders (AWB) by sharing his experiences working to establish a new University in Nepal. His enthusiasm for this important work, as well as the spread provided at the famed Christmas buffet at the University Club, made for a wonderful seasonal gathering for the participants.

This newsletter contains an article with an overview and key information on Academics Without Borders as the University of Victoria is a member of the AWB network. UVRA has agreed to partner with the UVic Office of Global Engagement in supporting this initiative by facilitating communication to our membership. I encourage you to read the article and send us your comments. We are considering holding a presentation on this topic so please let us know if you feel this would be helpful.

I want to express our condolences to the family and friends of Juliana Saxton who was a long serving member of the Board of Directors of UVRA. Peter Liddell, interim Past President, has included a great article highlighting Juliana in this newsletter. She was amazing...delightful, determined and at times challenging – she always had something to add, always had a question that needed asking and, in short, contributed so much more than I can put into words.

Well, I suspect you wonder if I have noticed any new books/information on retirement/retiring or the impacts of aging? Well, I am pleased you asked because yes... have you heard about “Retire and Aspire: Just Getting Started” by Scott Armstrong. Looking for a new adventure? Or there is “Of Sound Mind: How our Brain Constructs a Meaningful Sonic World” by Nina Kraus - the impact of aging on our senses can be a concern. So how does the human mind contribute to how we hear? [Note: I don't receive any prompts to mention these...I am just always looking for ideas - either reading or adding new items to my reading list. (Gosh, I have been guilty of having five books on the go all at once).]

As I began this message...I will end by reinforcing the need for you to be a part of what makes this association important – our Masterminds series is just one of its highlights and it illustrates the valuable contribution of those 55+ both to the university community and beyond. We will keep reminding both the University of Victoria and those around us of what we have done and continue to do. You and UVRA will both benefit from your involvement either on the board or as a volunteer for other activities – including those we have not even thought of yet. We look forward to chatting with you – please contact uvra@uvic.ca or uvrapres@uvic.ca with questions and comments.

All the best....Keep safe.

Margaret Klatt

January, 2025

Editor's Notes

It is with sadness that we remember the recent passing of Juliana Saxton and James Pearce, two long-time Board members. Peter Liddell shares some of his memories of them on pages 6 and 7. Also remembered is Anne McLaughlin, UVRA's first *elected* President (1994 -1996).*

Some of you may remember Betty and Gerry Emery, the friendly couple who warmly welcomed attendees at Elder Academy and UVRA events. Gerry passed on a few years ago; Betty, in December 2024. Betty, who was instrumental in conceiving and establishing of the Comox Valley Elder College, generously shared her knowledge and expertise regarding offering courses to the 55+demographic, with Elder Academy's Chair and members.

Have you ever wanted to visit Paris? Or visited this beautiful city but did not have the time to see all you wanted to see? Tom Gore, a gifted professional photographer and winner of numerous awards, is offering you, in this edition and the next, annotated photographs taken while him and his wife walked the streets of Paris. (13-23)

Many of us missed Melvin Klassen's *Bits and Bytes* column. He is back, this time informing us about Word 11, on pages 10 & 11.

Cecilia has mastered the art of packing a lot of interesting information on one page – not easy to do as many of us can attest. This time, she talks about AI – a timely and controversial topic. (12)

Stephen Brodsky shared some of his 'polished' sketches with us in the Fall edition. This time, they are sketches done 'on the run' at the 2018 World Coast Rowing Championships held in Sidney, BC. He may see them as less polished. I view them as 'sketch-shots' capturing moments in time. (24-27)

It bears repeating because **the situation is dire** —UVRA needs volunteers to be able to offer its members all that it wants to do, and to fill out its numerous job openings. So, please do consider joining us. (29)

As mentioned in the President's notes, you will find some information on Academics Without Borders on pages 8 and 9.

*See *The First Twenty Years* [of UVRA] written by Victor Neufeld, page 14. https://www.uvic.ca/retirees/assets/docs/UVRA%20History_Mar3Garamond.pdf

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

ZULETTE GORDON

From October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

BRUCE, Winnifred (Anne)

Nursing

DARCIE, Thomas

ECE

GAUTHIER, Brian

Facilities Management

KEARLEY, Patricia

University Systems

MYERS, Richard

Co-op and Career

RABILLARD, Sheila

English

RAWORTH , Rebecca

Library

REMEMBERING JULIANA SAXTON

“Dear Peter.” Was it really affection? Grudging respect? Irony? When spoken in Juliana’s crystal tones, they held all of those undertones. Whatever it was, it meant that you had crossed swords with an indomitable colleague.

Juliana Saxton, who died in her tenth decade in late December, was a passionate advocate for the University of Victoria Retirees Association for 10 years. Before that, and typical of her level of commitment to causes she upheld, Juliana had twice been a speaker in our annual Masterminds lecture series — a series she herself coordinated last year.

Twenty years ago, as she was retiring, Juliana gave a workshop on the art of the University Orator for those of us who had been nominated as orators for our respective Faculties. We were to share a position which she had held single-handedly (‘occupied’, ‘defined’, ‘made her own’ would be better descriptions) for many years. It was a daunting session. Juliana’s words and expectations of us were not minced so much as polished, precise, sharpened to a fine point, and always spiced with a dose of humour. It was almost a relief that there were no candidates for honorary degrees in the Humanities before I retired.

Intellectual life beyond retirement was an avocation for Juliana, who continued to publish and lecture into her final years. It was also a driving force behind her role on our board.

She volunteered first as Vice President (“On condition that I never become President.”), because the Societies Act required such a position.

But then Juliana took on the role that gave her sustained energy over her remaining time on the Board: gaining the recognition and cooperation of the University for its former employees, academic and otherwise. She was, to put it mildly, intensely focused on proving our collective and continuing value to the University through surveys and lobbying, whether that lobbying was with the backing of the board or not (mostly, the latter). In short, she could be both energizing and exasperating in her sheer commitment.



One thing we do agree on is that we will absolutely miss her unmissable presence. On behalf of the UVRA Board: Thank you, dear Juliana.

Peter Liddell

Credit source for Dr. Saxton’s picture:

<https://www.legacy.com/ca/obituaries/timescolonist/name/juliana-saxton-obituary?id=57103049>

REMEMBERING JAMES PEARCE



James Pearce, who died on July 11th, 2024, was a Member of the Board of UVRA for 11 years (2008 — 2019).

He was known for his calm and careful consideration of the issues at hand, and was often the first to volunteer as the welcoming ‘face’ of UVRA at our Elder Academy presentations.

A thoughtful survey of his role at Facilities Management ends with his comment about one of the favourite parts of his job:

“No one is allowed on the [University building] roofs except for the facilities management. It’s a very nice view.”

I still remember my first meeting with Jim, in 1990 or thereabouts. It was on the roof of Clearihue D Wing, as we clambered about looking for a suitable site for the satellite dish that was to bring Russian news signals into the Language Centre, at a historic time in post-Soviet history.

Yes, the view was very nice, with a very nice person to share it with.

Peter Liddell

*ACADEMICS WITHOUT BORDERS

Page 1 of 2



Academics Without Borders (AWB) is a nonprofit consortium of Canadian universities and colleges that works with universities in low and middle-income countries. Their mission is to build the capability to educate the professionals and leaders by offering opportunities to share expertise and knowledge in capacity-building projects.

Professional staff and academics voluntarily donate their time and expertise to work on projects which reflect the most pressing needs of these communities. Engaging in this work gives faculty and staff a global perspective that enriches education and research on their own campuses. The University of Victoria is a member of AWB's Network.

AWB believes that the best way to assist developing countries is to share academic expertise so they can develop their own leaders, experts and professionals. Often the quality of their educational programs and their research capacity limit the contributions they can make to their country's development.

The AWB projects begin with a project submission from a university or college in the developing world identifying what it hopes to achieve and what resources would be required. AWB then recruits volunteers and the university or college selects those candidates who are the best match for its project. The volunteer is sent to the institution with their expenses covered by AWB and the local partner institution.

AWB seeks projects with sustainable systems for lasting impact. Using the train-the-trainer model, each project builds local capacity and expertise so that the benefits of AWB's involvement are multiplied and persist long after its volunteers return home.

***ACADEMICS WITHOUT BORDERS**

Page 2 of 2

Several University of Victoria faculty and staff members have been involved as volunteers in AWB projects.

For example:

Dr. Rishi Gupta, Professor and Special Advisor to the Dean (EDI), Department of Civil Engineering, Engineering and Computer Science, and Aditi Gupta, Engineering and Science Librarian, were involved in a project at Nirma University in Ahmedabad, India. They worked with faculty members to develop curriculum for a course whose goal was to motivate undergraduate students to incorporate safety standards and ethical practice (including equity, diversity and inclusion) into their field of study, engineering.

Dr. Peter Keller, UVic Professor Emeritus and Dean of UVic's Faculty of Social Sciences from 2004- 2014. He has been volunteering with Academics Without Borders since 2019, including support with projects in Uganda, Ethiopia and Nepal. He has been helping to support establishment of a new university in Nepal.

Learn more about AWB: <https://www.awb-usf.org/>

*Edited by Margaret Klatt, President UVic Retirees Association, from an article prepared by Corrie Young, Associate Executive Director of Academics Without Borders.

BITS and BYTES

Melvin Klassen (page 1 of 2)

It's been a few years since I have written for this column. People have been asking me about the upcoming "sunset" for the Windows 10 software.

A few points:

- Microsoft has a 10-year "Product Lifecycle" for each of their products.
 - For Microsoft's Windows 10 product, the 10 years will end on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 – later this year.
 - Most computers manufactured after 2015 should be compatible with Windows 11.
 - Windows Update has probably offered the free upgrade to Windows 11 for those compatible computers.
 - There are at least two "hacks" to allow Windows 11 to be installed on some "non-compatible" computers. [Google-search for "RUFUS" or for "MoSetUp", if you are technically inclined.]
 - Recently, Microsoft has announced "ESU" -- Extended Security Updates -- for Windows 10, in two flavours, but neither is for free:
 - o Business & educational institutions may want to "row their own boat", with considerable risk, or they can choose to pay Microsoft annually, for up to 3 years. It is \$61 (US) for the first year per computer, with higher amounts for later years.
 - o An individual consumer may risk it, by continuing to use their "unsupported" copy of Windows 10, or they must pay \$30 (US) for just one additional year of the ESU service. Details on whether ESU option will be available in Canada have not yet been revealed. Indications are that details about this subscription option will be available in mid-2025.
- A little about "dates" ...
- Windows 7 reached its end of support on January 14, 2020.
- Windows 8 reached its end of support on January 10, 2023.
- Windows 10 was released on July 29, 2015.
- Windows 11 will reach its end of support on October 4, 2031.

BITS and BYTES

Melvin Klassen (page 2 of 2)

Despite all the above, it is more important to consider the "health" of the disk-drive in your current Windows 10 computer. I think that it is best to invest in a brand-new, faster, reliable, and more-capable computer, with Windows 11 pre-installed.

In the past, you may have accepted the free (at the time) upgrade of your computer from Windows 7 (or Windows 8) to Windows 10. Or, after July 2015, you may have purchased a brand-new computer with Windows 10 pre-installed. So, it is very possible that your computer's disk-drive is a "teenager" - produced at some date between January 2010 and today.

To make a comparison, how old (and maybe "balding") are your automobile's tires? One can physically inspect the remaining tread on the tires, to see if replacement is timely. While it is possible to logically inspect your disk-drive, to measure its residual "health", most computer-users never do so.

Automobile tires and disk-drives can have a sudden failure. When a tire fails, it can cost over \$1000 to take a recommendation to replace all 4 tires. When a disk-drive fails, you probably have lost all the files and pictures that you have collected over a few decades. Ouch. That type of loss can be quite emotional.

[Having a good "backup plan" is a possible topic for a future contribution.]

Finally, consider trying to repurpose your current computer, rather than taking it to a computer-store or the nearest Return-It depot (www.return-it.ca) for responsible disposal. Maybe, a listing of your computer on a site (such as www.UsedVictoria.com) will allow a young computer-hobbyist to scavenge its components.

NOTE: physically remove the disk-drive, before you dispose of it, to prevent any "data-leaks" of your personal information.

Melvin Klassen

MEMBERS' CORNER—CECILIA



AI and AU

Yes, AI is the new big thing to worry about if you have quit worrying about all the wars. I have just been reading an article about Yuval Noah Harari, the Silicon Valley Guru, and the article focuses on AI.

It seems every culture and discipline has its own vocabulary. In one Education course for grad students that I took, the only word I could understand was 'objective'. A physics grad didn't understand the education-speak either.

So now we have an AI culture that we have to live with and doesn't resemble any previously known culture.

Is this going to be another Y2K hyped situation?

Probably not.

Currently, you can submit a subject list to the Google Notebook and AI sends you back a full human-voiced lecture on the subject in **minutes**. So essentially you won't have to think any more.

The trouble is one of our power-crazed or war-mongering leaders could get control of AI, override any opposition and destroy civilization.

Venture Capital has billions staked in the development of AI and the results will go to the highest rollers probably not for the greatest good.

Programming AI to give these companies a soul may not be possible.

But maybe we can imbed a default self-destruct mode in every AI model if ever used for selfish gains (greed and power). Hire a superhero AI developer, maybe 2, to save the world. (Sounds like an A-list movie.)

However! We can still play cards, eat chocolate, and walk the dog. And that's really important.

Cecilia

MEMBERS' CORNER: FEATURE ARTICLE

Tom Gore

Page 1 of 11

Walking across Paris (Part One)

Paris is a truly great walking city because it's so varied yet compact. It's ringed by the Boulevard Périphérique and from the Western edge to the Eastern is a three hour walk and from North to South some what less. I've spent time in Paris ten times over the years - most recently a six month visit during which we lived in a wonderful Art Deco building in Montmartre where back in the day Joséphine Baker, the great jazz singer and resistance heroine, lived.

As a working photographer I find Paris one of the visually richest of cities. We explored almost ever part of its 20 arrondissements. From the wealthy streets of Auteuil to the working class 'hoods of Bellville there is a consistency because buildings are limited to seven stories. That said, street scapes vary tremendously from the almost empty streets of the wealthy West to the teeming roads of ethnic diversity in the East.

The best known symbol of Paris is the Eiffel Tower, which can be seen from so many points around the city.



It is also one of the greatest magnets for tourists, buskers and the ever present pickpockets. It's perhaps best seen from the distance and avoided up close and personal. Access to the Top by lift is €35 while eating starts at €70 for lunch or €129 for dinner!

MEMBERS' CORNER: FEATURE ARTICLE

Tom Gore

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Another great magnet for tourists is the beautiful Basilica Sacré Coeur. We lived just below it but tourist busses can't go up the narrow twisting streets of Montmartre so instead they let off their vast hoards on Boul de Rochechouart from where they stream like salmon spawning in a river. To go grocery shopping, we had to cross this river of flesh twice, which was always a bit daunting. At our crossing point there was often a man with a wee table doing the cups and balls routine. Punters were betting 50 and 100 Euros, egged on by betters who were part of the con. This made our crossing even more fraught.



Some of the most magnificent buildings in Paris are the Art Nouveau apartments by Hector Guimard, especially Castel Béranger.



Guimard also designed many Metro entrances including the one built in 1900 at Porte Dauphine.



MEMBERS' CORNER: FEATURE ARTICLE

Tom Gore

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Further to the East is one of Paris' lesser known buildings, Oscar Niemeyer's surprisingly minimalist Headquarters of the French Communist Party.



To the North La Géode, in the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie in Parc de la Villette, is another stunning modern structure.

MEMBERS' CORNER: FEATURE ARTICLE

Tom Gore

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At the heart of Paris is the Seine, crossed by 28 bridges within the city of which Pont Neuf, the New Bridge, begun in 1578, framing ever present dog walkers, is the now oldest.



The river is a great place to celebrate a wedding but it is still a busy working river with constant barges carrying cargos through the city.



The Seine is also, along with the Marne, the source of half of Paris' drinking water and because of extensive work leading up to hosting the Olympics the Seine is now considered safe for swimming.

MEMBERS' CORNER: FEATURE ARTICLE

Tom Gore

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Further out of town the Seine has more bucolic reaches, perfect for Summertime picnics. This part of the Seine was popular with *en plein air* painters a hundred and twenty years ago and perhaps the best known result is Georges Seurat's *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*.



One of the city's great walks is along the Canal Saint-Martin, and the former tow paths of the Canal Saint-Denis and Canal de l'Ourcq are also splendid.

Paris' canals were used to bringing water to Paris, but they were also a way for barges to bypass central Paris and to this day many come down the l'Ourcq, go through locks at Porte de la Villette and on down the Saint Denis Canal to enter the Seine to the West.



MEMBERS' CORNER: FEATURE ARTICLE

Tom Gore

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Many streets are filled with unexpected visual treats by a variety of artists. Originally a U.S. inner city phenomena, street art arrived in Paris in the 1980s. Much of the street art is filled with political and social commentary while other pieces continue the haunting themes of surrealism. It is especially rich in Belleville, Butte-aux-Cailles and Montmartre. Seth is the street name of Julien Malland, a painter active since the 1990's who now makes large-scale murals all over the world. The figure of the Passe-Muraille who walks through walls is derived from a character by Parisian novelist Marcel Ayme.



Meanwhile artists such as Cannibal Letters, who started working under this name in 2010, are influenced by comic art while also incorporating typography to focus his message.

Perhaps the best known artist is Miss.Tik, who recently died. Her stencilled artworks are autobiographic and usually include lines of her poetry.



MEMBERS' CORNER: FEATURE ARTICLE

Tom Gore

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A vital part of Paris' street life is its many hundreds of cafes. One of the best known, in the heart of the Left Bank, Les Deux Magots, was once the rendez-vous of the intellectual elite including de Beauvoir and Sartre, Hemingway and Joyce.



Others are less touristy and cater to weary locals whether for a full meal, *une tasse de café* or a glass of beer.



Aside from the offerings of the cafes, perfect food is always close at hand, whether a simple crêpe or an exotic treat from a *boulangerie* or a *pâtisserie* and these provided most of our impromptu picnic lunches.

MEMBERS' CORNER: FEATURE ARTICLE

Tom Gore

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And then, of course, there are the patient free-loaders looking for a handout. Be it a dog in Pantin or a black swan in Parc Montsouris, thought to be descended from ones brought from Australia to Paris by the Empress Josephine 220 years ago.

Their diet of kitchen scraps may not be absolutely the most healthy.



We also need to try to keep pigeons off a diet of baguettes!

MEMBERS' CORNER: FEATURE ARTICLE

Tom Gore

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Paris' streets are teeming with varied life ranging from that of the Marais to that of Vitry-sur-Seine.

Vitry is a community just South East of Paris proper that was very involved in the development of the French Hip Hop movement and as a result urban art has a visibly important place in the area. Many of the housing projects have large exterior murals and less formal street art is everywhere.



Many of the residents are of North African and particularly Algerian descent, a haunting reminder of the age of French colonialism and its modern impacts.

MEMBERS' CORNER: FEATURE ARTICLE

Tom Gore

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The sidewalks are filled with the fashion conscious, appearance being of course a major preoccupation of many, even more so during Paris Fashion Week.



MEMBERS' CORNER: FEATURE ARTICLE

Tom Gore

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THE PHOTOGRAPHER

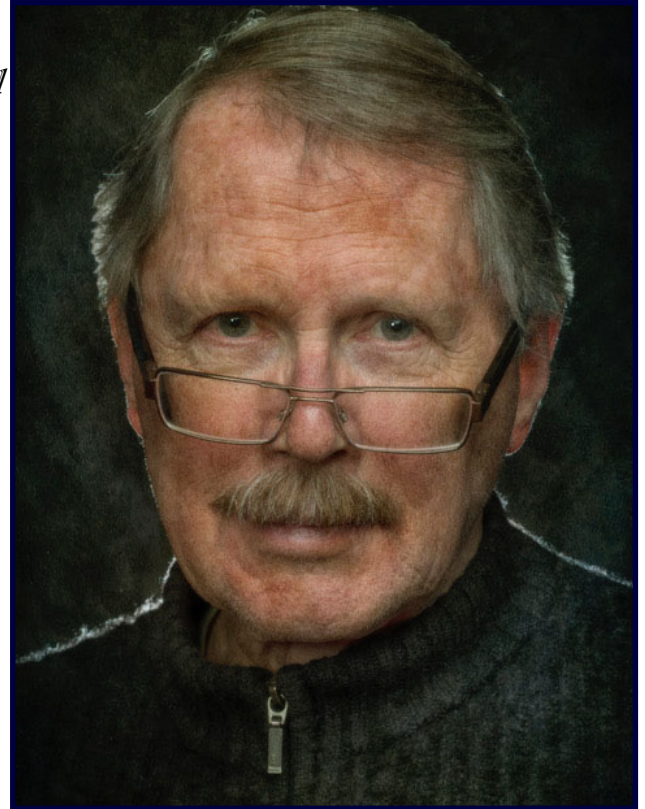
A fourth generation Victorian, Tom worked at UVic for forty years as the head of the *Advanced Imaging Laboratory* in Biology while also teaching Photojournalism in the Writing Department.

Today, while not travelling, he works out of a studio in Chinatown making photo based art work that has won many international awards.

You can see more of his work at:
<https://tomgore.lx.com/>



Tom Gore | art photography



THE PRESENTATION

Tom's eye-catching photographs, accompanied by his commentaries, permit readers to visit well-known and not so well known streets, buildings, and areas of Paris from the comfort of their homes.

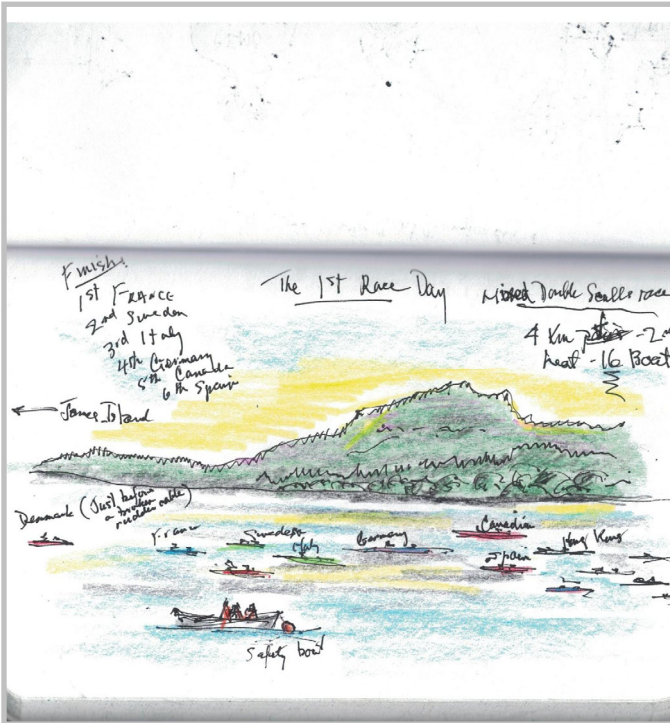
Part Two, coming in the Spring 2025 edition of *Grey Matters!*, will introduce readers to quaint shops, cemeteries, museums, and more.

MEMBERS' CORNER

G.W. STEPHEN BRODSKY

Page 1 of 4

The 2018 World Coast Rowing Championships held in Sidney, BC.



These rapid pen and watercolour rowing regatta sketches are very crude.

Completely different - impressionist style, done on the run, while things were happening.

Sketch book and tiny paint set are always with me cycling and walking.

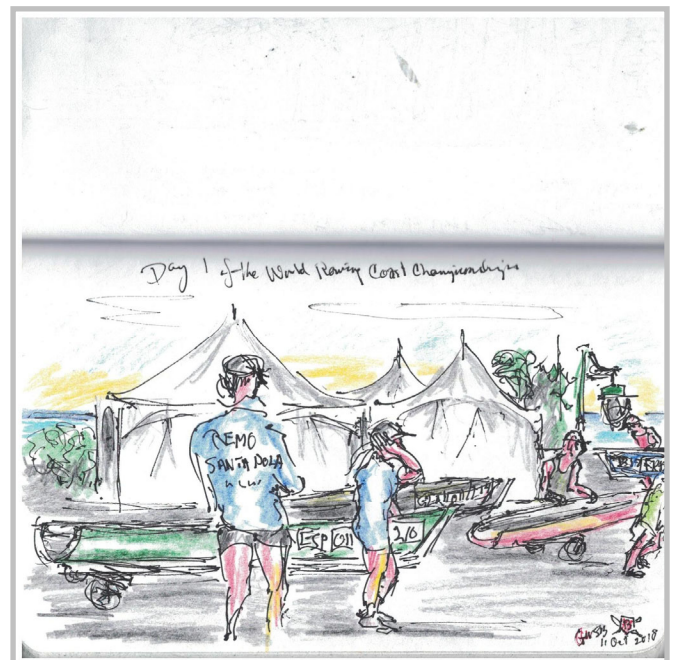
I do not own a camera.

Stephen Brodsky

The First Race Day Mixed Double Sculls Race

4 km pairs – 2nd heat – 16 boats

Day 1 of the World Coast
Rowing Championships



MEMBERS' CORNER

G.W. STEPHEN BRODSKY

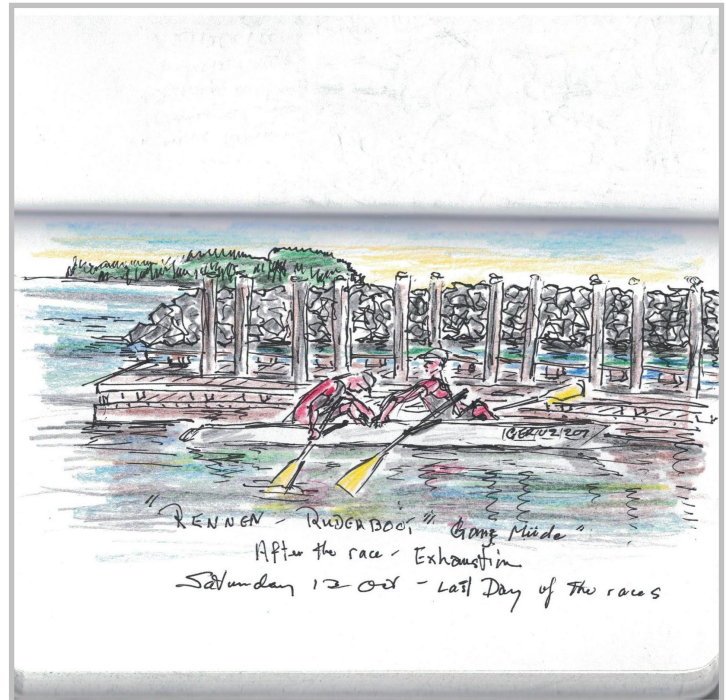
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Renner Ruderboot [Racing Rowboat]
Ganz Müde [Utterly Exhausted].

After the race - Exhaustion

Saturday 12 Oct - Last Day of the races

Author's note: These boats are actually called sea canoes. I jotted the notes in German only because this was a German pair.



Victorious Russian Women's Quad
returning on the Tulista [Park] ramp

1530 12 Oct 2018

MEMBERS' CORNER

G.W. STEPHEN BRODSKY

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Lou: When and why did you take up sketching ‘on the run’?

Steve: I’ve always sketched landscapes, glimpses of action scenes, and vignette scenes of people, ever since as long ago as my early ’teens. I have never thought about the “why” of it. As the artist advises in John Fowles’s novel *The Ebony Tower*, I “just paint” and “leave the rest to the clever folk.”

You’ve got me thinking about why I sketch, Lou. I never really thought about it before, so I’ll add this: I have revelled as much as anyone in a lusty pub night over a mug of brown ale with old compères (now only a handful left). Many folk also find pleasure in the outdoors on wheels shifting gears, on foot setting their camera shutter speeds, or afloat adjusting the tension on their fishing reels, or clicking the windage gauge on a telescopic sight.

As for me, I’ve never found recreation in mechanical things. There is nothing I still enjoy more than a *café* seat over a plain cuppa Joe alone among a throng, or away from the hurly-burly on a solitary walk along the sea, or a bicycle ride in the countryside with a flask of cold tea, my pens and watercolour box in my pack. Sometimes nothing happens.

At other times an episode in the passing human comedy, a seascape, a view over fields, a bird, an insect, captures my eye, and I pass a brief interlude lost in a sketch. The result isn’t very good technically or aesthetically by any objective standard, but I usually like it. I return home, soul restored, with a page to show my seven-plus decades’ better self Kathleen, then I close the sketch book. When every page is filled, I just add the book to a hoard of a tattered half dozen or so, to be got out occasionally to revisit some happy moment. It’s all of that – the seat, the walk, the paints, the sum of its parts – maybe a nineteenth century sort of thing, before even the Brownie box camera was a household item. I don’t know.

Why? That’s where we started. If there were a ‘why,’ it wouldn’t be worth doing.

MEMBERS' CORNER

G.W. STEPHEN BRODSKY

Page 4 of 4

Lou: What is the reason behind the design you chose to sketch to accompany your signature on your art work?



Steve: The few things I've really *tried* to sketch properly have appeared in my very first book, *Gentlemen of the Blade: A Social and Literary History of the British Army Since 1660* (Greenwood/Praeger, 1988), and in this last book, *Intimations of Joseph Conrad*. I suppose together, those books are writerly bookends explaining the logo: No story, really. I like to think of it as a symbol: a first life of over three decades as a soldier accounts for the sword; the quill symbolizes the writerly life following. Some of my books and articles have been on military subjects, ghost-writing memoirs, etc., so that both sword and quill apply. It's been a soldier-scholar double life of contradiction.

Lou: You introduced readers to your upcoming book in the Fall 2024 edition of *Grey Matters!*. Where can it be purchased?

Steve: *Intimations of Conrad: A Century of Sightings and Citings of Conrad's Presences in Print, Crafts, Media and Monuments* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024) is advertised online, and marketed by Palgrave Macmillan, Amazon, etc. at an obscene price. I don't recommend it. It's intended primarily for specialists in Conrad and related literary studies, and likely will be disappointingly tedious for the general reader. The jacket blurb gives some notion of its content. Prospective reviewers can request an electronic copy by completing the publisher's form online:

<https://www.springer.com/gp/reviewers>.



University
of Victoria

Retirees
Association

We need you!

Your retiree association would like to do so much more but we need your active participation!

Do you want to make retirement better for not only yourself but also your fellow retirees?

Do you want to participate in decisions affecting all UVRA members including being involved in strengthening the MOU between UVRA and the University of Victoria?

Yes, then contact me at uvrapres@uvic.ca

Volunteering has many benefits. It is good for your mind and body as it connects you to others in new experiences.

Margaret Klatt, President UVRA

Coming soon, a short survey seeking your input.
In the planning is a member get together.



INVITATION

2025 CHINESE NEW YEAR LUNCH AND PRESENTATION

- TIME?** Noon to 2:00pm
- SEATING?** Opens at 11:30pm
- WHERE?** **EAST GARDEN RESTAURANT, VICTORIA, BC**
- COST?** **\$35.00 all inclusive**
- SPEAKER?** **John Adams**
- PRESENTATION?** *Chinese Burial Practices & the Harling Point Cemetery*
- REGISTRATION?** Private event

HELP? Please email uvra@uvic.ca

