

# SLR

**SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020**

**Courses cancelled re. Covid19. Other content only**

**Curiosity never retires!**



**Society for Learning in Retirement**

**Est. 1995 as OILR 1434 Graham Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 3A8  
250-448-1203—[registrar@slrkelowna.ca](mailto:registrar@slrkelowna.ca) - [www.slrkelowna.ca](http://www.slrkelowna.ca)**

**SLR's Spring Term has been  
CANCELLED due to COVID-19.**

We currently hope to resume operations with the fall term, but any decision must await the resolution of the current situation. Updates will follow. Stay safe and healthy at home.

**Check out the articles of interest  
contained herein**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

The deadline for submitting courses  
for the **Fall** Term is  
**June 15th 2020**

Space is allocated on a 'first come first serve' basis. In support  
of program production, it is necessary to defer late  
submissions to the next term. Thank you.

If you wish to offer a new course, let Roz know at  
[Rozydh@hotmail.com](mailto:Rozydh@hotmail.com)

You will be notified when a decision has been made  
about your proposal.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

VOICEMAIL: 250-448-1203

EMAIL: [registrar@slrkelowna.ca](mailto:registrar@slrkelowna.ca)

WEB: <http://www.slrkelowna.ca>

MAIL: 1434 Graham Street,  
Kelowna V1Y 3A8

## SLR OFFICE

Annette Mattiasch

Office Manager

For office hours please check the  
message on office voicemail

### Incoming Board

#### Positions to be announced

|                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| President : Linda Jarrett          | 250-869-1854 |
| Donn Watt                          | 250-878-0305 |
| Treasurer: Wayne Bridges           | 250-861-5600 |
| Secretary: Merv Scott              | 250-762-9303 |
| OC Representative: Phil Ashman     | 250-762-5445 |
| UBCO Rep: Mary Ann Murphy          | 250-870-2632 |
| Program Director: Roz Shephard     | 780-710-3818 |
| Registrar: Judy Long               | 250-808-3043 |
| Social Director: Caroline McDonald | 778-480-2002 |
| Volunteer Coordinator: Elo Fox     | 250-764-9622 |
| Webmaster: Crystal Wariach         | 250-826-4151 |
| Don Grant                          | 250-862-7358 |

Board meetings 2nd Friday of each month except July

#### OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Program Committee: Roz Shephard     | 780-710-3818 |
| Social Committee: Caroline McDonald | 778-480-2002 |
| Librarian : Joey Thompson           | 250-575-0307 |
| Photographer : Glenda Palmer        | 250-801-8657 |
| Technical Assistant: Marv Mills     | 250-801-2484 |
| Technical Assistant: Paul Shearing  | 250-717-7420 |

Thank you in advance to all our dedicated

### *Study Group Leaders*

for their participation this term. Special thanks  
to new leaders this session. We thank you all  
for your time and effort and for believing  
in our society for lifelong learning.

Suggestions always welcomed!

Volunteer to give a lecture, course , workshop!

Contact the Program committee  
email Roz at

[Rozydh@hotmail.com](mailto:Rozydh@hotmail.com)

with your ideas.

*Front Cover: Photo: scanned from OILR album #1*

*Curiosity never retires. In 1997/8 a group of  
Okanagan Institute for Learning in Retirement  
(OILR) students concentrate on their study group  
leader's presentation*



## Just some points to ponder and remember

**\*This is a nut and perfume free zone.\***

Mark your calendars with your classes as you may not always get a reminder.  
Please do not block the halls before your class but congregate in the lounge.  
Please allow the previous class to vacate before going in to your classroom.



Photo: Glenda Palmer

# My Write Mind...

As I write this, it is barely February, the AGM is still in the future and I'm really Vice President. When you read this, however, the March 7 AGM will be history, the new Board will be in place for 2020 and I will be in the Chair vacated by our wonderful retiring President, Vera Ito.

So my first order of business is to thank her most sincerely for her dedication to SLR and her leadership of it. She, along with the 2019 Board, has ensured the organization's continuing evolution while maintaining its purpose and culture. No mean feat and one that deserves great gratitude and respect. I hope I can do even half the job she has. Thank you, Vera – and I'm very glad you're not going too far away!

I also want to thank everyone who has taken time over the last few months to offer me their encouragement and support as I venture forward to new responsibilities at SLR. Members of the Board and members at large have all given me their best wishes and offers of help and co-operation, all very much appreciated. I am, after all, still a novice in the organization, having been a member only since 2016. I promise to do my very best to help ensure a successful year.

My thanks also go out to all our volunteers without whom there would be no SLR at all. You, the members, are the glue and the structure that ensure SLR continues to be a wonderful place to be curious in our senior years.

Thank you all and may 2020, our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, be our best year yet.

*Linda Jarrett*

## Happy 25th Anniversary

Unless otherwise stated, all photos are courtesy of

**GLENDAL PALMER Thank you Glenda!**



## NATURE'S FARE NEWS AND CREATIONS

Congratulations once again for the collection made in the Fall. In January we received a cheque for \$597.54. For the Winter term, from January to the end of April, I can submit receipts dated from **September 2019** to the present. Please hand in those 2019 papers **NOW!**

In the Spring term we will only be able to use those receipts dated **2020**. I continue to check out the store for those new products. Whenever I have a 15% coupon, I like to try something different – this last time I bought the multi-coloured frozen cauliflower! If you have tried my plum muffins, they have a haskap berry in the middle. Yes, this is where I buy the berries too.

CREATIONS: Thanks to Fern Carr, Sally Bonshor, Janice Sich and Jill Starky for our colourful displays. At this time there are still a few hooks left vacant. If you have a few moments, look in our Writing binder in the Lounge for the article Jeanette Dunagan contributed – well worth reading. Jeanette wrote honestly about the older years' trials and tribulations. We know we are lucky to be able to experience them but they can be difficult too.

**Jill Starky, January 30, 2020**

Hello members, please greet Kelowna's celebrated centenarian, Mary Cole-Minett, eldest and only surviving member of eight brothers and sisters. Ms. Cole-Minett celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday recently and was kind enough to offer up her recipe for a long and happy life: "Drink lots of tea and read lots of books. Reading is a great thing and it helps to keep your mind alive," Cole-Minett told Capital News recently. "It's one of the best things you can do...." I won't argue with that....so there you have it, SLR fans, advice from one who knows how to enjoy life. The library is for your enjoyment. Please browse, borrow and bring back!



**Joey Thompson, Librarian**



### OKANAGAN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS 6th Annual Pink Shirt Day Breakfast

As part of the fundraiser there was a raffle with about 40 bottles of pink wine as the prize.... And our **ELO FOX** was a winner!

**Way to go, Elo!! Cheers!**

## MEMBER BIOGRAPHY

### TOSHI SAKAMOTO

#### Life Member



I was born in Abbotsford, BC, where my parents had a 65-acre farm. I remember rows and rows of yellow daffodils, colourful tulips in spring and a field of strawberries in summer. I was the youngest of five siblings. We were poor but self-sustaining in many ways. We had a garden of vegetables, grape vines, apple and peach trees, chickens, pigs and a horse. We lived in a two-story farmhouse with a separate Japanese-style bathhouse built by my father. I was a happy child living on a farm, but all that changed when the Second World War started.

In summer of 1942, we were ordered to leave our farm by the Canadian government. I remember my two older brothers, 16 and 18 years old, getting on a government vehicle with one suitcase each. Nobody knew where they were going. Shortly after my brothers left, we were taken to Hastings Park in Vancouver. We were put into animal stalls and lived there for one month.

We were taken to Slocan, BC, where my family lived in a tent for two weeks until we were transferred into one of the thousands of roughly built tar paper houses in Lemon Creek. We lived in Lemon Creek Internment Camp for four years, during which time we learned that my brothers were sent to work on a farm in the prairies. When the war was over in 1945, we could not return home. The government had sold our farm. My mother decided to leave Canada and go back to Japan. I lived in Japan for eight years and returned to Canada on my own when I was 17.

I married in 1956 and worked at various employments while raising three children. While working as a receptionist at a real estate office, I attended UBC to get a real estate license. After upgrading my education, I worked for the BC government as a social/financial worker until my retirement. In March 1997 I took an early retirement and moved to Kelowna.

I first learned of SLR, known then as OILR, from my sister-in-law, Daisy Sameshima, who was volunteering there. The number she gave me led to Peter Cook, one of the founding members, whose office at the time was his home and he filed member information in shoe boxes. OILR's classes were held in a church on Highway 97, where I took my first class – Ancient Civilizations with Edie Lavroff. After SLR moved to its current location, Edie, the Program Chair, asked me for administrative help. Our office was a little cubby-hole next to the washroom. We did everything from answering phones, providing program information and paperwork. I didn't have a title but I was doing the work of a volunteer coordinator, office worker and social chair and attended program committee meetings at Edie's apartment. I remember how we enjoyed each other's company while we discussed getting a successful program going. I didn't mind volunteering in all areas because I wanted SLR to continue in its success. Yes, I'm passionate about SLR!

Today, I enjoy studying art history and anthropology. Looking back, when I moved here from Vancouver in 1997, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do in my retirement. I found my perfect niche – how lucky I am to have found this organization and continue learning in my retirement!



# 25 YEARS YOUNG!

The **Society for Learning in Retirement (SLR)** has grown six-fold since its early inception of 100 members, now offering peer-led courses to about 600 individuals a year.

In 1995, with the cooperation of Okanagan University College, the organization known as the **Okanagan Institute for Learning in Retirement (OILR)** was formed. Mr. Fred Miles, a founder of the McGill Institute of Retirement based on the Harvard model, decided to use his experience to form a similar organization in Kelowna. On May 24, 1995, with the assistance of Gary Dickinson, then Dean of Continuing Education at OUC, more than 200 people attended the inaugural public meeting. In the fall of 1995, the organization offered its first courses - 10 volunteer peer-led study groups- with an enrolment of about 100 participants. The classes were held in a portable classroom at what is now Okanagan College (OC), provided by the College with whom they had signed an affiliation agreement.

In 1996 **OILR** formalized its bylaws, applied for and received Society status under the British Columbia Society Act. A branch campus was established in Penticton, which later ceased to exist. With time and attendant growth, one classroom was insufficient for its needs and the group rented classrooms in church facilities and vacated the portable building. By January 2003 membership had grown to 382.

In 2003 **OILR** re-wrote its Constitution and Bylaws. They re-organized as the **Society for Learning in Retirement (SLR)**. The new organization then applied for and received the Certificate of Incorporation registering **SLR** under the Society Act (1996). Canada Customs and Revenue Agency granted **SLR** charitable status in 2003, which allowed **SLR** to accept tax-deductible donations and create a building fund. A fundraising policy was drafted in February 2003.

**SLR** moved to its present location, the Martin Avenue Community Centre on October 1, 2003 and shares the space with the Boys and Girls Club, although the two organizations are in no way affiliated. **SLR** has a sub-lease with the Boys and Girls Club, the official leaseholder of the Martin Avenue Community Centre, a building purchased by the City of Kelowna from School District #23. The city had put out a public Request for Proposals to offer the building for lease.

At the expense of **SLR**, extensive renovations were done to ready the office space and classrooms for adult learners. Toward the end of 2009 the office was updated with new furniture and a new computer. Three laptops were purchased for classroom use. The organization is staffed by a paid office manager but is otherwise led exclusively by dedicated volunteers, including an elected Board of Directors. The University of British Columbia Okanagan (est. 2005) and Okanagan College are each represented on the board. Social events such as the traditional Fall luncheon and special events are organized and implemented entirely by volunteers. (The above was edited from **SLR** Website)

*Since then, major renovations created a lounge for members. Purchases of modern audiovisual equipment and new computers have been made. An audible loop was installed for the hearing impaired.*

*Ten courses were offered in Fall 1995; recent statistics reveal that in Fall 2019 there were 59 Fall courses. In 1995 there were 100 members; now membership hovers around 600. 1200 programs are printed each term and mailed to active members, with others distributed throughout the community.*

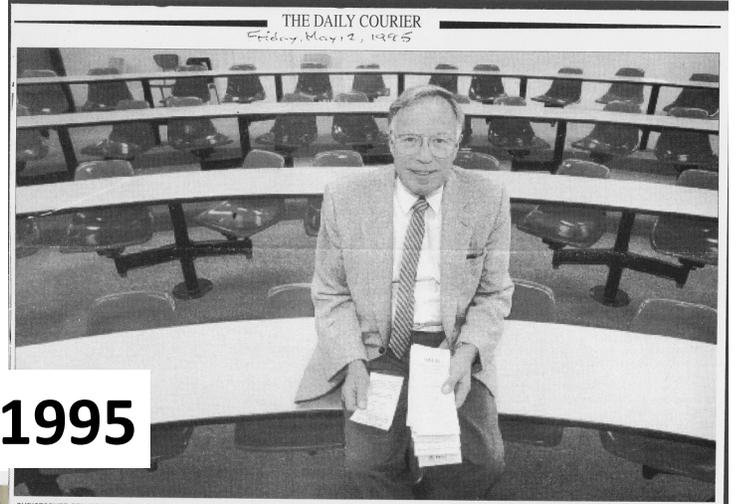
*See how we have grown! **SLR is living proof that Curiosity Never Dies.** Happy 25th anniversary!*

Submitted by R. Botner

# Those were the days, my friend...



**OILR 1995**



CHRISTOPHER STANFORD/The Daily Courier  
 Fred Miles is heading back to the classroom, along with other Okanagan seniors. But the classroom they're returning to is slightly different than the ones they left in their youth. Basically, they get to study what they want with others who share their interests. And there's no teachers and no exams. The program being organized is called the Okanagan Institute for Learning in Retirement. To learn more, attend an information session May 24.



**Luncheon 1997**



**Recruiting in the Mall 1998**



**Registration 1996**





Some things  
haven't changed...  
endless meetings,  
eatings and  
fun-filled learning.



may they never end.



# SLR OFFERS YOU...

Lectures, presentations, courses

from two hours to ten weeks on many topics including:

**Art History, Language, Politics, Health, Science, Philosophy,  
History, Current Events, Gardening, Technology  
Finance, Travel, Geography, Astronomy, Art, Crafts,  
Geology, Writing, as well as more esoteric subjects like  
chakras, mindfulness, dream yoga.**

**Also UBCO Series and Okanagan College Series.**

Looking for something else?

What type of courses would you like to see included in the program?

Suggest study group leaders and guest speakers to present.

Share your experiences and knowledge,  
become a study group leader.

Help with social events.

Join us!

For information on how you can share

**Contact: Roz at : 780-710-3818**

[Rozzydh@hotmail.com](mailto:Rozzydh@hotmail.com)

**what can you offer?**