

RTO/ERO

16

RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO
Les Enseignantes et Enseignants Retraites de L'Ontario

DISTRICT 16
CITY OF TORONTO

President: Bill Tajer 494-8590

Newsletter Editor: Mary Noylander 516-6844

JANUARY 1999

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

The executive extends to our members and their families best wishes for health and happiness in 1999. May this new year bring peace and harmony to our colleagues in the workplace.

At the recent senate, the provincial body affirmed as continuing priorities issues related to pensions and health-care, both important to all RTO/ERO members. Of particular importance to our District were several issues that were referred for study by the provincial executive. These included representation by population at the provincial senate and grants for newsletters on a per member basis. At present, our District has the most members, but we are not served equitably by current arrangements.

With the certainty of a provincial election soon, members are encouraged to:

- become involved in pre-campaign strategies
- prioritize issues you believe important to you
- become informed about the potential positions of local candidates, and
- gain a commitment from candidates to support issues important to RTO/ERO

If you wish to become involved in the work of our District's Political Action Committee, please contact Pat Carson at (416) 626-5995.

A good new year's resolution might be to become more connected with and involved in RTO/ERO District 16. Join us as a participant or volunteer in the many activities.

Bill Tajer, President

DATES TO REMEMBER

Executive Meetings Thursday, Jan. 14
 Thursday, Feb. 11

Mailing Thursday, Mar. 25 - 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP

There was a good response to the "missing members" addresses. Thanks to the "detectives" who called in last month. However, we are still receiving 15-20 returns of Newsletters for those who moved without informing RTO/ERO or us. **Please call RTO/ERO Membership Convenor Diane Vezeau at (416) 962-9463 and Val Fiedler at (416) 510-1861 re changes.** Also, be reminded that you should contact the **Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board at (416) 226-2700 or fax (416) 730-5349.**

CLUB SIXTEEN

All functions, except the Book Club, take place at St. Margaret's Anglican Church at the corner of Avenue Road and Burnaby Boulevard, one block north of Eglinton Avenue West.

FEBRUARY 1999

BOOK CLUB*	Feb. 1 - Monday	Co-Convenor: Joan Johnston - 691-5368
BRIDGE	Feb. 2, 16 - Tuesdays - 1:15 p.m.	Convenor: John Lane - 486-0697
CRAFTS	Feb. 23 - Tuesday - 1:30 p.m.	Convenor: Nell Godfrey - 695-3408
TRAVEL	Feb. 24 - Wednesday - 1:30 p.m.	Convenor: Val Fiedler - 510-1861

"Russian Waterways and the Baltic, St. Petersburg and Moscow"
presented by **Bonnie Eccles, Ilse Turner and Charles Galea**

MARCH 1999

BOOK CLUB**	Mar. 1 - Monday	Co-Convenor: Joan Johnston - 691-5368
BRIDGE	Mar. 2, 16, 30 - Tuesdays - 1:15 p.m.	Convenor: John Lane - 486-0697
CRAFTS	Mar. 23 - Tuesday - 1:30 p.m.	Convenor: Nell Godfrey - 695-3408
TRAVEL	Mar. 24 - Wednesday - 1:30 p.m.	Convenor: Val Fiedler - 510-1861

"On Safari - In Kenya and Tanzania - Climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro"
presented by **Wolfgang Bell and Ilse Turner**

BOOK CLUB - CHANGES

* **February** - the previously chosen book, Drum King is being replaced by **Cold Mountain** by **Charles Frazier** -- a book about the U.S. Civil War.

** **March** - the book for the March meeting will be Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood by **Rebecca Wells**.

For location of the meetings of the Book Club,
please call the Co-Convenor, Joan Johnston at 692-5368.

NEWS.....Nell Godfrey, Convenor of the Crafts group, reports she is pleased to have an increased membership of enthusiastic and interested people.

CORRECTION

On the DISTRICT 16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORY 1998-1999, outlined in the November Newsletter, please make the following changes: **Ronald Halford and Arlene Freeman are both on the Recruitment Committee.** **Bill Tajer is on the Provincial Travel Committee.**

Please note telephone changes for:

Mary Noylander - 516-6844 and George Hayes - 250-6073

DISTRICT 16 NEWSLETTER MAILING

We are compiling a new list of volunteers to help with our newsletter mailing. The mailing takes place on five Thursday mornings throughout the year, at St. Margaret's Church. We start at 9:00 a.m. and are usually finished around 11:00 a.m.

The last two mailings for this year are **Thursday, March 25th and Thursday, June 3rd**. You are not required to be at all of the mailings. A phone co-ordinator will call to inform you of the next mailing.

If you would like to place your name on the master list for future mailings or require further information, please contact **Arlene Freeman at (416) 630-3672 or Arthur Bussey at (905) 426-7722.**

Note: If you are already on the list, you need not phone.

TEOF'S LUNAR NEW YEAR'S BANQUET

The social event of the season.....celebrating the **Year of the Rabbit**.....will be held this year on **Thursday, February 18th** at the **Bright Pearl Restaurant**, 346 Spadina Avenue.

For further information contact one or all of:

Valerie Mah at 393-0670 or fax 393-0671
Mike Lennox at 621-6797
Les Birmingham at 299-6450

FRIENDS OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL MUSEUM EVENT

Musicales in the Museum

January 19, January 26 and February 2, 1999

Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Old Board Room

(1st Floor - Old Administration Building - 263 McCaul Street)

***Poise is the art of raising the eyebrow
instead of the roof.***

Dorothy Galean

CLUB SIXTEEN DAY TRIPS

The following theatre outings have been booked (at this time you may **make a booking** by telephoning **Jack DeGroot** at **(416) 691-3046** and forwarding a **deposit of \$25.00 per person** to **19 Elmview Drive, Scarborough, ON M1N 2W3**. Cheques payable to "**Club 16 RTO**") **Costs given are all-inclusive**, i.e., coach transportation, tickets, 2 meals and all gratuities. **Departures** are at **9:30 a.m.** from **Yorkdale Mall** where free parking is provided. **Friends of RTO/ERO members are very welcome.**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1. Niagara-on-the-Lake Shaw Festival	a) You Can't Take It With You	April 16*	\$80.00
	b) Foggy Day (Gershwin musical)	May 7*	\$80.00
2. Stratford Festival	a) "West Side Story"	Oct. 22	\$75.00
	b) School for Scandal	Nov. 3	\$75.00
3. Drayton Festival (St. Jacob's)	'SUDS' - a musical comedy (trip includes Farmer's Market visit)	Nov. 18	\$70.00

* **Dates subject to change**

KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL OF GREATER TORONTO

From **February 6 to 20, 1999**, over 35,000 young musicians will be competing at 21 different locations. **TREAT** yourself and a friend this year and "take in" the music of future stars. Admission to the regular competition is **FREE**. For a **program of all events** contact the **Festival office** at **(416) 487-5885**.

Special Events

Senior Trophy Finals - brings together class winners and are scheduled as follows:

1. **Strings** Fri., Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. - Royal Conservatory of Music (273 Bloor St. W.)
2. **Piano** Fri., Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. - Royal Conservatory of Music (273 Bloor St. W.)
3. **Voice** Fri., Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. - Calvin Presbyterian Church (26 Delisle Ave.)
(1 block north of St. Clair Ave., west of Yonge St.)
4. **Brass and Woodwinds**
Fri., Feb. 19 at 7:00 p.m. - Walter Hall-Faculty of Music (80 Queen's Park Cres.)
5. **President's Trophy and Competition** - winners of the above final competitions:
Sat., Feb. 20 at 1:30 p.m. - Jackman Hall - Canadian Opera Company
(227 Front St. E.)

Tickets for these very excellent final competitions are \$5.00 and may be purchased at the door.

MINDING YOUR MONEY

Death & Taxes Over 40 people requested a copy of a worksheet on Death & Taxes. That is enough people to justify my preparing such a document. I will mail a free copy of the document as soon as it is printed to those people who have sent me a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Others may receive a copy by sending me a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Segregated Funds Many financial advisors are recommending that investors switch to *segregated funds* as their GICs mature. This article is intended to explain segregated funds and provide a simplified analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of such funds. You must meet with a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) to decide if this product is for you, because each case is individual.

Segregated funds are the insurance companies equivalent of mutual funds. They have been available for decades, but are becoming popular now that GIC and T-Bill rates are so low. Like mutual funds, individual, segregated funds have specific investment objectives and focus upon specific types of securities, e.g. balanced funds, bond funds, equity growth funds, money market funds, mortgage funds. Also, like mutual funds, investment returns flow through to investors as capital gains, dividends or interest, which is taxed in the year it is earned. Segregated funds are RRSP-eligible, as well.

While in the past insurance companies did their own investing, they tend to form strategic alliances with today's popular mutual funds, (e.g. Dynamic, Templeton, Trimark) to take advantage of these funds' high-profile advertising. In addition, segregated funds have historically locked investors' money in for 10 years and guaranteed only 75% of the principal. Competition has led to five-year terms and 100% guarantees. Do your homework! There is up to 3% difference in the investment returns of various segregated funds, and that can really add up over five to ten years.

Advantages: Because segregated funds are participating in "the market", investment returns are generally better than five year GICs. In addition, 100% of your *capital* (Don't settle for less) is guaranteed upon death or the end of the contract period - though there is no guarantee of investment return as GICs do. Segregated funds are good for people who have a very low risk tolerance, and small businesses or the self-employed, because segregated funds may not be attached in the case of bankruptcy. (I will omit a discussion of probate fees here since they have been declared illegal by the court recently.)

Disadvantages: Because of the cost of the insurance coverage, segregated funds have higher management fees. This can lead to significantly reduced investment returns over five to ten years as compared to investing directly in the mutual funds that the insurance companies underwrite. A recent study reported that there have been only two, ten-year periods within the last 30 years when capital was worth less than when invested. Thus, they argue, investors are paying for unnecessary insurance, because the market over time (five years or more) always increases. said another way, you're paying a lot of money for a little risk.

Segregated fund merchants like to tell you that you may establish a systematic withdrawal plan to redeem your money as you need it. However, they don't inform you that the insurance companies *deem* these redemptions to be withdrawal of *principal* -- not growth. Accordingly, your investment returns are severely reduced when you withdraw funds. This is not so for the underlying mutual funds that the insurance companies cover.

Segregated funds are insurance products, but should not be confused with insurance policies. Upon death of the annuitant, insurance policies pass on the beneficiary *tax free*. Segregated funds (even if there is an irrevocable beneficiary) pass on to the estate, and so are taxed fully.

Segregated funds provide better returns than current GICs, but you will receive a much lower return than if you invested in the underlying mutual funds themselves. Talk to a certified financial planner, and do what's best for you. Remember the *tummy test* for investing. Your investments should allow you to sleep well at night -- not give you nightmares.

Hope this helps! Readers with individual tax problems are invited to send me questions accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. My address is C.W.N. Carr, 55 Crossbow Crescent, Toronto, ON M2J 3M3. Cheers!!!

MEDIC ALERT

What Is Medic Alert?

It is a registered charity recognized world-wide which protects its members by giving first responders and health care providers instant access to the member's medical information.

Who Needs It?

Anyone who has a medical condition that should be known in emergencies. Conditions such as: (a) food, drug, chemical and insect allergies; (b) diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, heart conditions; (c) an implant of any kind, such as a pacemaker; (d) Alzheimer's, Crohn's or Parkinson's diseases; and, (e) special medications or needs.

How Does It Work?

The member wears an oval-shaped Medic Alert bracelet or necklet which is recognized by the registered Medic Alert symbol on one side. On the other side are the member's vital medical facts, a 24 hour hot-line number and an ID number. Emergency and health care providers can use the information immediately and call the hot-line for more information. A wallet card containing the same information provides additional protection and identification. Any changes can be updated any time as well as through a yearly reminder. This is a lifetime service.

How To Join

One can only enrol in Medic Alert by sending, by mail or fax, a completed application form which is available from your physician or pharmacist, or by calling Medic Alert at 1-800-668-1507 or, in Toronto, 416-696-0267.

When you call, have the following information ready:

1. All medical information (conditions, medications, etc.)
2. Name, telephone number and addresses of your physician and people to contact in case of an emergency.
3. Actual wrist size (if ordering a bracelet)
4. Credit card number, expiration date and name of cardholder.

Wearing a Medic Alert bracelet or necklet may save your life!

IN MEMORIAM

RTO/ERO District 16 extends condolences to families, friends and colleagues of those deceased. May we, together, share in the mourning of the loss and in the celebration of service rendered.

Irene Frances Curran

Janet B. McNicol

Emmerson Freestone

Harvey Dale Perrin

Martha Elizabeth Gartley

Frances Gladys Rutledge

Reta I. Henry

Patricia Mary Smith

Michael Sydney Hope

Barbara L. Walther (nee: Burke)

Maureen Ruth (Flanagan) Watson