



Alere Flammam

The newsletter of the Lisgar Alumni Association
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Students Preview Documentary by Alumnus

Riveting is one word that could be used to describe a documentary about the Hungarian Revolution, co-directed by alumnus Colin Gray and his sister, Megan Raney Aarons. "Freedom's Fury" had its Canadian premiere in Lisgar's Alumni Auditorium on the morning of September 29th, before being shown to the public at the National Gallery of Canada that evening. In attendance was Cameron Hughes, whom Lisgarites of the 1980s will remember as an enthusiastic cheerleader. Cameron has gone on to have an international career in his field and he inaugurated the assembly with a warm-up à la Cameron.

The students sat rapt as they witnessed the chronicle of the short-lived revolution that was unrecorded in Hungarian history books, by edict of the Russian regime, until recently.

Colin's inspiration for the film, which was produced to mark the 50th anniversary of the revolution, comes from two sources—his involvement in water polo, which he played at Lisgar as a young man, and his friendship with Blakely Easton, another alumnus, who is of Hungarian descent. Blakely was also present for the viewing.

Following the revolution, which was quickly quashed by the Russian occupiers, the Hungarian water polo team succeeded in defeating the Russians at the Melbourne Olympics. In one memorable moment, the hero of the Hungarian team was lambasted by a Russian player and emerged from the pool with blood streaming from his face. This iconic picture is a lasting memorial to the struggle. Following the Olympics, many members of the Hungarian team sought asylum in the West and did not return to their home-

land. One of these was Ervin Zador, the hero and the victim of the assault, who now lives in central California. The film includes current interviews with members of both the Hungarian and Russian teams—the two recently had a reunion. In addition, archival material of the events of the revolution and the Melbourne Olympics, and the eventual withdrawal of the Russians from Hungary, add to the interest and authenticity of the documentary.

The students leapt to their feet to applaud the film, but a further surprise awaited as an elderly Ervin Zador was introduced to the assembly. The excitement was palpable as Mr. Zador responded to students' questions and left them with the advice: "have the courage to stand up for what you believe in." In one sitting, the students had been highly entertained, received a very interesting history lesson, wit-



Alumnus Colin Gray, co-director of the film

nessed an example of struggle and courage, and had first-hand experience of the production expertise of one of our own. Emotions ran high as students surrounded the guests at the end of the assembly to offer praise and to ask questions. Another Lisgar moment. ■

Two Old-Timers Return to Lisgar

By George Toller and Frank Lathe

Two old-timers, George (1945) and Frank (1944), return to Lisgar. Why? To live again our formative, teenage years—going down memory lane. Time has taken its toll

on us. We're stooped with age; our eyes are dimmed. Yet, as we near our old school again, we get the same sparkle of anticipation, as if returning to school in September.

"George, where did those trees come from? They were never here before. We haven't been gone that long."

"The street is blocked. They must have cut our escape to the Driveway. How can students get out of sight in the noon hour—down to the canal, the muddy pathway—to smoke, to horse around, and talk up the wild girls?"

Those were "save England" days. The graduating class marched off to war. We were primed for that early on by our physics teacher, Louis Meng. He drilled us in the hallway for his cadet corps. Noon hours he taught us how to shoot in Lisgar's cold attic.



As cadets, we trained in the old drill hall. Remember wearing those First World War uniforms—putters on our legs, Sam Browne belts? For the march past we learned "eyes right." Ralston, the army Minister of Defense, took the salute right in front of the Peace Tower.

By Grade 12 we were of enlisting age. The first day of class, Mr. Meng

had an announcement: "anyone who joins up, passes." We couldn't believe our ears. Principal Dunlop, another veteran, later backed that up. We had it made, we thought, only to find out he didn't feel students could take afternoons off at the Elgin Theatre.

On graduating, enlisted students

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Members' Forum

Hatto Fischer (1965) writes from Europe: As a student from 1960-65 it would interest me to hear what has become of fellow classmates and former teachers, e.g. Mr. Mann. Having left Ottawa, Canada in 1969 and since then living in Europe, it might be good to keep up contact as I was very fond of Lisgar. I do know that Mr. Mann has died and a former student of his, who is a preacher, gave him the final ceremony, although Mann had avoided any contact with the church. There are also other fellow students with whom I am still in contact: Paul Henry and Konrad von Finckenstein. Also I have relatives living in Ottawa and in the Gatineau in Old Chelsea. There are some personal reasons as to why I cherish Lisgar. There is something at Lisgar which has influenced me greatly in my perception of war and the difficulties to attain peace. I don't know if the shooting range on the fourth floor still exists and if it is still used as a museum or to keep the props for the yearly festival. That shooting range used for training cadets helped me understand the school's connection with the First World War. Mr. Meng, responsible for the department of

physics, told us about Vimy Ridge and how the soldiers from both sides had climbed out of the trenches to celebrate Christmas together. It meant a slight window opened in a world otherwise polarized by war. Mr. Meng was also the teacher who told us that President Kennedy had been assassinated back then in 1963. We all went home that afternoon and knew something had drastically changed. Later on, the children of my sister went to Lisgar: the Forgets.

Paula Pick (1966) writes: I was very sorry to read about the death of Mrs. Gemmill. Like Hugh Anderson, who wrote in the previous newsletter, she had a big influence on me. She made Latin exciting—Caesar's armies going back and forth across Europe with their impedimenta. I loved Latin so much that I decided to major in it at Queen's. Big mistake. One week of an old professor boring us silly with long-winded Cicero changed my mind and I transferred to another program. The lesson I learnt is that it is not so much the subject that matters but the teacher. My advice to young people is to search out the good profs. I remember Mrs. Gemmill being quite strict and intimidating. I can say the same for Mr. Wade who made chemistry come alive. I was very fortunate to have had so many outstanding teachers at Lisgar.

Michael Boehm (1994) and wife Laura Landry are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Jackson Thomas Boehm. Jackson was born June 4, 2006, in Toronto, weighing in at 7lbs 11oz. All are doing very well.

Peter Chance (1939) writes from Sidney, B.C.: I'm just off the phone having had a delightful phone call to Robert Whittle, now 98! He and I had a great chat recalling happy times at Lisgar. He now lives in Victoria B.C. I was sorry to read Huntley Keillor had died. He was a childhood friend, although younger than I, who lived

In Memoriam

BAIRD, Sarah Jill (1992). Suddenly on Tuesday November 7, 2006, at the age of 33. Very beloved daughter of Brian and Marnie. Dear sister of Anna Lisa and Julie Jane. Fondly remembered by Linda, John, Leslie, and many others. Special thanks to Dr. Dickson, Dr. Kelly, Claudette, and everyone who supported her over the years. A service in memory of Sarah was held on Tuesday, November 14 at St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church. Sarah will be fondly missed by her dogs Kailey and Indya.

BELL, Helen W. (Lloyd, 1934). Died on August 15, 2006. She lived in Nepean, Ontario.

BROWN, R.C.C. Died in 1996. He lived in St. Lambert, Quebec.

CHARLESON, Marian (Nan) Gordon. Died on June 3, 2006 at the age of 95. Nan was the daughter of Marian Masson and George Gordon Gale (deceased) and wife for 49 years of John (Jack) Cummings Charleson (deceased). She is survived by her four daughters Barbara, Susan Rivers, Marian Robinson, and Janice MacAulay. Nan was an accomplished portrait painter, a gifted needlewoman, an avid reader, and loved a good game of bridge. She contributed to her community through many volunteer activities. Nan was a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, a life member of the May Court Club of Ottawa, the Ottawa Little Theatre, and

the Royal Ottawa Golf Club, and for many years a member of the Ottawa Garden Club. Her gentle manner and grace blessed all those who knew her.

GRAY, Ruth (Cracknell, 1950). Passed away suddenly on June 8, 2005. She was married to Douglas Gray for 51 years when she died.

GUINDON, Major Margaret 'Peggy' (Brown, 1940). On Friday, May 20, 2005, at the Perley Rideau Veterans Health Centre, at the age of 84. Beloved wife of the late Herve. Dear sister of Jean Jones. Will be dearly missed by her special friend Robbie Thompson.

HARRIS, Sheila Mary (Fenn, 1973). Peacefully on September 28, 2006. Past member of IODE, Ottawa. Retired school teacher at Lisgar, beloved wife of the late Dr. Walter Harris, and loving mother of Martin, Robin, Nicola, and Sarah. She is survived by 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

MANLEY, Robert (1961). Died at age 62, in Delta B.C. on April 14, 2006. He was married for 41 years to Marilyn, whom he met at age 15, and attended Laurentian High School. He joined the RCAF and became a search and rescue pilot and then joined CPair, Canadian Airlines, and Air Canada. He retired two years ago after a wonderful career as a pilot.

MOWAT, Marjorie (Woodburn). On July 3, 2006, age 102. Beloved wife

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next door on Somerset St. to Ted Code. Peter Berry was out here a few months ago before he died. Among the new members, I was glad to see Stirling Ross' name.

Jean Jones (Brown, 1946) wrote to inform us of her sister's passing and commented: We both thought a lot of Lisgar and I still keep in touch with friends from there.

Stefan De Young (2006 Spacesim Mission Commander) writes: Next year is Spacesim's 20th Anniversary.

As such, I am planning on doing a few special things for the year. One of the projects requires Alumni participation, and that is the Spacesim Wiki, which I also manage. The Wiki was created with the Big Book of Sim (BBoS) in mind: a repository of Sim history and lore. The advantage of using the Wiki system is that it allows us to ask you, the Alumni, to contribute without requiring messy coordination jobs involving tons of e-mails and equally unpleasant mergers of documents. I would like to invite all of you to participate in the Wiki. The

address is www.wiki.spacesim.org and to edit it you'll need an account. Email me with the username you'd like, and I'll add you right away.

Terry Bruder (1979) married Laurie (Siraco) Bruder (1981) in July, 1983. She writes: We have a son, Tyler, born May 1992. Terry works for Nortel. Laurie works for QSP-Reader's Digest. We moved to Brampton, Ontario in May, 1989, where we currently reside.

Sally Thompson (MacDonald, 1954) wrote to ask for a photo of her plaque and chair in the Alumni Auditorium. She attended Lisgar from 1949-1954 and was Head Girl. She was unable to attend the Alumni appreciation event because she now lives in Parksville, B.C.

Milton Shaffer (1936) turned 90 on October 8, 2006. He and his wife, Sarah, have been married for 68 years. They have three daughters, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Wistara van Snellenberg (1997) writes: I just read the news about the passing of two of my teachers while at Lisgar, Ms. Moynihan and M. Zamor and send my condolences to their

families. Ms. Moynihan taught me Keyboarding and English—probably my strongest and weakest subjects respectively. The only school work from LCI that I have lugged around the country throughout my many moves is an essay about Macbeth that I wrote for her Grade 12 English class. As for M. Zamor, I owe him many thanks, as I currently live in a small completely French city: Victoriaville, Quebec. I would not have gotten this job here if he had not encouraged communication skills, and not only focused on the grammar. When I first moved here last year, I searched for one of the books we read in his OAC French class, and re-read it to ensure I hadn't lost too much in the 10 years since I took his class! I'm proud to say I understood every word of it, and reading it brought back many pleasant memories of my days at LCI.

Julie Hakim (1999) spent the summer in Kenya, where she completed a clinical internship. She has written a moving account of her experiences there, which is posted on the alumni website at www.lisgar.net.

Rebecca Danard (1997) writes: Good day to you, we are the Siyahambas! August 19th 2006 was a very important day for this group of

LCI alumni. For the first time since 1995 all seven Siyahambas were finally able to get together. What have we done since our Lisgar days? (From left to right) Leonie Wall (1998) is a tenured member of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, where she holds the second flute chair. Rebecca Danard (1997) is starting her doctoral degree in Clarinet Performance at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Julie-Françoise Kruidenier (1998), recently married Cedric Roddrion Tolliver and is pursuing her PhD in Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Emily Thorn (1998) just married Emanuel Corthay (hence the dress), got her Masters in Mechanical Engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, and now works as a fuel cell engineer at HTceramix in Lausanne, Switzerland. Lisa Wall (1998) works as a Software Developer at Cognos in Ottawa and recently became engaged to Charbel Choueiri. Helena Forbes (1998) is working full time as a SR&ED Research Advisor at KPMG while finishing her Masters in Engineering at Carleton. Innie Chen (1995) graduated from medical school at UBC and has moved to Edmonton with Jordan Melzer (1997) to do her residency in obstetrics and gynaecology. ■

From the Secretary

From Elizabeth Hale

The Alumni office has been quiet for the summer, as the office is not staffed regularly during this time. If you have sent in a membership renewal or memorabilia request during this time, there may be some delay but I am now back in full force!

Since the last *Alere Flammam*, we have had more than 100 newsletters returned to the office marked undeliverable. If you have moved, please remember to let us know your new address, as when items are returned to us, we are charged postage again. Following is a list of life members who have not updated their addresses and are not receiving the newsletter. Please let me know if you can help locate any.

If you are a life member, you will notice an extra page inserted into this newsletter with a new membership card. We decided it was time to create a card befitting the status of a life member. Please sign the back of your card and display it with pride. If you are not yet a life member, you can become one with a one-time payment of \$100. Thanks to those of you who joined up this year! I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season and I look forward to hearing from you in 2007. ■

MIA Life Members:

Andrew Anderson, 1992
 Andrea Balteanu, 2002
 Donald Bennett, 1957
 William Bloom, 1941
 Abraham Bookman, 1938
 Mareva Charron, 1998
 Hartman Chung, 1990
 Jocelyn Cosh, 1944
 Edmond Edwards, 1959
 Myfanwy Elliott, 1939
 Bill Gervin, 1943
 Dincan Kirk, 1942
 Andrew Kniewasser, 1944
 Christina Lascelles, 1998
 Elliott Levitan, 1944
 Joseph Leiff, 1935
 Stephen Lister, 1978
 Andrea Lobo, 1992
 Hassan Masum, 1989
 Mark Meed, 1971
 Liam Morland, 1996
 Joan Quain, 1942
 Janet Shearn, 1970
 Jane Struthers, 1937
 Joyce Taylor, 1985
 Edythe Thom
 Shirley Weeks, 1939
 Bill Wood, 1954
 Norman Zagerman, 1947



Leonie Wall (1998), Rebecca Danard (1997), Julie-Françoise Kruidenier (1998), Emily Thorn (1998), Lisa Wall (1998), and Innie Chen (1995) celebrate Emily Thorn's wedding

In Memoriam

In Memoriam (continued)

of the late William Mowat. Loving mother of Janet, Elinor, Heather, and David. Predeceased by her brothers Emerson, Harry, James, Paul, and Ralph and her sisters Jean Dean and Celia Abra.

MUNTEAN, Capt. Victor J. (1936). Passed away February 28, 2005 at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife Audrey, son Michael, and sister Dorothy. Predeceased by brothers Bill and Michael. Enrolled in the Canadian Army in 1938, he served from 1939-1945 in London, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He retired in 1966 and continued working for DND in Ottawa. He retired in 1985 as the Director of Dependents Education as operator of DND schools in Canada and Europe.

NEIL, Etta (Honourary Life Member). On August 4, 2006 at the age of 93. Loving wife of Chris Tyler. Predeceased by her first husband Wright Neil (former Principal at Lisgar) and her sister Leona (Harold Lewis). Survived by her nieces and nephews.

ROSS, Mary Beatrice Graham (staff, 1978). Peacefully on October 2, 2006 in her 88th year. She is predeceased by her first husband, Lt. Col. George Michael (Jim) Billings and second husband, Col. Richard (Dick) Ross. She is survived by her devoted children Rosemary, Jane, and Michael Billings; her step-children Ken Ross and Wendy Eves, and her sister Barbara Munro. Her brother, Dr. Eric Graham, predeceased her. Persuaded by her husband, Mary reluctantly became a high school teacher in 1961, teaching in Almonte, Germany, Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Ottawa, and lastly, Lisgar, where she taught Math.

TIMLECK, Elizabeth (Hooke, 1943). Died on June 25, 2006. She lived in Waterloo, Ontario.

WHITTLE, Robert S. (Staff 1932-1955). Passed away on October 5, 2006 at the Victoria General Hospital, in his 99th year. Predeceased by his loving wife, Marion. He will be remembered with love and pride by his children Robert and Virginia, his

grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Whit enjoyed a long, interesting, and fulfilling life. In the early 1920s his fascination with the advent of radio led to his development as one of the early radio amateurs building and testing equipment and communicating "on air" right up to the end of his life. Graduating from Queens University, B.A. (hon. English 1930), he became a secondary school teacher with the Ottawa Collegiate Institute Board and taught English, History, and Physical Education at Lisgar for twenty-four years before being named as head of the English Department at Glebe where he served for eleven years until his retirement. Throughout his life he demonstrated an interest in athletics—earning sharp shooting medals in the Welland Ontario Cadet Corps, winning a Queens "Q" in fencing, leading championship teams in gymnastics at Lisgar, and skipping lawn bowling teams at the Victoria Lawn Bowling Club in Victoria, BC. He was an avid sports fisher and in recent years enjoyed catching more bass than his son on the Ottawa River at Dunrobin. He enjoyed the English language as both a reader of history and politics and as a writer—composing only last month an article for the Queen's Alumni Magazine on "Life at Queen's in the Twenties."

WISKING, Albert (Bert), Lt. Col. (ret'd) WWII Veteran, RCASC. On Sunday March 5, 2006 at the age of 90. Beloved husband for 64 years of the late Eleanor (née Phelan), who predeceased him by just 6 days. Devoted father of Judith, John, Jane, Jim, Stephen, Susan, and Elizabeth. Proud grandfather of eleven and great-grandfather of two. Bert was born and raised in Ottawa and graduated from Lisgar. He enlisted in the army in 1939, served overseas in World War II, was a United Nations Peacekeeper in 1958, and retired in 1965. A long-time employee of the Public Service Commission of Canada, Bert was of the generation of men who believed in duty, country, and hard work. Above all, he was a loving husband and devoted family man. ■

Memories of an Era: Mrs. Etta Neil

By Rod Hagglund

The quiet passing of Etta Neil on August 4th, 2006, in her 94th year, reminds us again of the sweep of time and the incredible changes that take place over a single lifetime. When Wright Neil joined the Lisgar faculty in 1939, he and his bride Etta could not have imagined all that they would live through and how much their lives would become entwined with Lisgar Collegiate. After serving through the 1940s as an English and Guidance teacher, Wright became Vice-Principal in 1951. He then served as Principal from 1960 until his retirement in 1972, guiding the school through a turbulent period including a threatened closure in the late 1960s. The faculty in those times were more than work colleagues, forming a close-knit community, and the spouse of a senior teacher and later principal played no small role. The Neils were known as friends and mentors of younger staff, and Etta's delight in entertaining, in particular at the legendary teas over which she presided, was infectious. Etta's warm connection to the school remained even after her beloved

Wright passed away in 1985, and she helped found the Neil scholarship in his memory, returning to the school at graduations to personally present the award, even as her years advanced.

Ever active, Etta continued to split her time between the Neil cottage at Bass Lake, the family home in Ottawa, and winters in Florida. Etta remarried at the age of 83 and is survived by her second husband, Chris Tyler. They both attended the 160th reunion in 2004, where, at 91, Etta was one of the oldest attendees, participating with great happiness in the faculty reception despite the difficulties of severe arthritis.

Unlike most of my fellow Lisgar students of the "Neil era," I was fortunate to become a cottage neighbour of Wright and Etta from the early 1970s and to remain neighbours and friends with Etta (and more recently with Chris) until Etta's recent death. To find that these rather distant iconic figures of the world of education in fact were real and quite wonderful people, and to share in the intelligence, vivacity, and joie de vivre that Etta contributed to the Lisgar community in her day, was a rare privilege for which I will remain grateful. ■

Former Lisgar Ladies of Math

Two of Lisgar's former Math teachers of the 1960s and 1970s died this Fall. **Sheila Harris**, originally from England, died in Winnipeg, Manitoba while visiting her son. Sheila, wife of Dr. Walter Harris (Wally, deceased) taught at Lisgar from 1964 to 1973. A member of the IODE, Sheila was an avid bridge player, and continued to play until the time of her death on September 28. In 2003 she attended the 160th anniversary of the school with her good friend, Irene Wallace, also a former Lisgar teacher. When speaking of the fact that she played bridge regularly she stated that it helped keep her mind sharp—ever the lively mathematician. Sheila leaves four children and several grandchildren.

Mary Ross, who taught Math at

Lisgar from 1970 to 1977, was born in Kingston, and was a graduate of Queen's University—a family tradition. Mary died peacefully, surrounded by her children, at the Ottawa Hospital on October 3 after a lengthy illness. Mary became a teacher in 1961 and taught in Almonte, Germany and at Sir Wilfrid Laurier before joining the staff of Lisgar Collegiate. She married Col. Richard Ross after the death of her first husband, Lt. Col. George Michael Billings (Jim) in 1966. Predeceased by her second husband, Mary was an elegant woman who is described as "an awesome math teacher" and the "adored backbone" of her family. She is survived by her three children, two stepchildren, her sister, and several grandchildren. ■

Old-Timers (continued)

from Glebe, Ottawa Tech, Commerce, and Lisgar were marched off to Union Station in civvies; a disorganized, out-of-step bunch. Basic training would soon correct that. As they passed the War Memorial, there were the Great War's men and horses—slogging it through mud. We had higher hopes, like “going off into the wild blue yonder.” At the station, it was a send-off celebration. Billy Bishop, our World War I flying ace, cheered us on. Gracie Fields, over from besieged Britain, sang “There'll Always be an England.”

We have our own memories of classmates lost, of their wild teenage antics, of their going off to war from Lisgar, proudly enthusiastic about their new life adventure.

Do we dare intrude into Lisgar's busy, boisterous academic life? Of course we do—we're all fired up with nostalgia. We're alumni, checking to see if the old school is still up to par.

We head down those old basement stairs, taking the steps very carefully. No need to. That slippery white marble is gone. We sneak a peak into our old basement gym. There are tables on our basketball floor. Downgraded to a lunch room, but still fresh in our hearing is the hysterical cheering of our girlfriends as we tried to trounce Glebe in basketball.

Then, off to see the refurbished library with its antique tin ceiling. Margaret Whiting was there, guarding her books. She agreed to show us our old Assembly Hall. It looked too new. Those hard bare seats now padded in blue. Memories of morning assemblies flooded in. “Grey Owl” visited us, all decked out in his Indian outfit; he talked about his brothers the beavers.

Leaving by the boys' entrance, we looked up to that window. A wide blue streak no longer ran all down the wall. In our day, someone we all knew had dumped out a big bottle of blue ink (the one for filling our ink wells). The principal kept that class in at noon for a month—until someone squealed.

Editor's note: You can read the full version of this article, accompanied by photos, at www.lisgar.net. ■

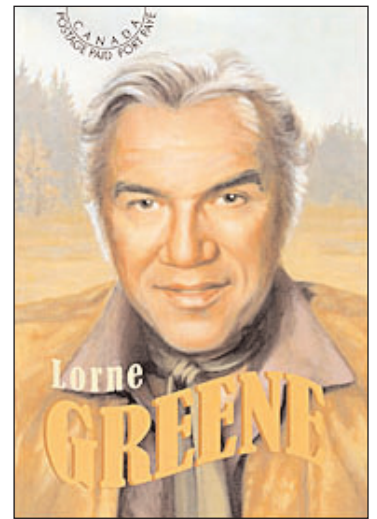
Here and There

Lisgar Chosen for Pilot Project

Lisgar is a pilot school in Canada benefiting from a programme run out of Harvard University. Bouge is a virtual organization that brings together a group of socially minded young Canadian professionals who act as volunteer mentors to students. Bouge members have graduated from institutions such as Ivey Business School, U of T, McGill, Harvard, and MIT. They advise students about university selection and professional experiences through the website at www.bouge.ca.

Lorne Greene Stamp Issued

Canada Post has honoured four Canadian actors, including Lorne Greene, with commemorative stamps. Lorne attended Lisgar in the 1930s and went on to fame as the “Voice Of Canada” on CBC radio, and then in television and the movies. Lorne was a beloved father figure to many for his television role as Ben Cartwright in the long-running western *Bonanza*. He also appeared on *Battlestar Galactica* and hosted Lorne Greene's New Wilderness. Lisgarites will remember with fondness Lorne's attendance at Lisgar's 140th Anniversary in 1984.



Notes from Down Below

From Joy Heft

The documentary about former Governor General Adrienne Clarkson was aired by CBC on the program “Life and Times” in September, and was rated by those who saw it as having been very well done. Congratulations to Peggy Shkuda, the producer, who accessed Lisgar's archives to create the film. In recognition of our archival contribution, Lisgar has recently received a complimentary DVD of the film in which the school is highlighted. Watch for repeat broadcasts.

Brothers David and John Chance were guest speakers at the

Remembrance Day ceremony held at Lisgar on November 10. Their talk was well received by the students. Following the ceremony they lunched in Principal Karen Gledhill's office, accompanied by George Toller who had also attended the ceremony as an alumni executive representative. They took time to view the archival exhibit featuring the First World War on display in the alumni showcase.

During an earlier visit to the Memorial Hall, the Chance brothers had noticed that the name of Peter Chance, a third brother, was missing from the Korean War Memorial. This error will be rectified in the near

future. The name of Eugene Weber, former Lisgar Math teacher, has been added to the Second World War Memorial plaque and we have received an additional name, that of Stuart F. D. Bruce, also to be added.

Since the last newsletter we have received copies of the requested 1955 and 1956 year books for which we are very grateful. Still required to achieve our desired two for the archives are: 1911, 1914 (spring), 1914 (fall) 1922, 1924, 1959, and 1960. Rare hand-written copies of the *Vox* have been transferred to the archives from the library, where we also keep a collection of bound yearbooks. ■



Bheeshmon Thanabalasingham, Students' Council Co-President; David Chance (1942), WWII veteran; Karen Gledhill, Principal; George Toller (1945), member of Alumni Association executive; John Chance (1942), WWII veteran; and Ben Farrow, Students' Council Co-President; Tang Tang, *Vox* Editor

Students Share Memories of Retiring Teachers

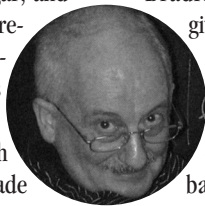
In the Spring 2006 issue of Alere Flammam, we noted that three much-loved Lisgar teachers were retiring. We asked past students to send in favourite memories of Mr. Peters, Ms. Poetschke, and Ms. Bradley (photos inset):

Paul Hanks Drielsma (1998) writes from Zurich, Switzerland: I owe a great deal to Mr. Peters, in whose class I developed a love of literature. Years ago, upon graduating from Lisgar and unsure of what to do, I told a friend that if, somehow, I could get a guarantee that I would be as good as Mr. Peters, I would become an English teacher without hesitation. Ten years later, that's still true.

As for Mrs. Poetschke, she tricked me. Here I thought she was just a cool lady who showed us episodes of "Chef" and "Jeeves & Wooster" in class and summarized her students' opprobrious antics in a single word: "outrageous." It was only years later that I realized I could no longer simply appreciate such humour for its own sake, but I had to dissect the writing using every tool Mrs. P. had taught us about craft. Effective trickery.

Kofi Campbell (1990) writes: I have a lot of fond memories of Ms. Bradley's strings class... I remember she was nice enough to let me do a private performance at the end of class to raise my grade so I wouldn't fail!

By far the two most influential teachers during my time at Lisgar were Mr. Peters and Ms. Poetschke. I'm currently an English professor, and these two teachers have a lot to do with that. Ms. Poetschke was the last English teacher I had at Lisgar, and she really encouraged my creative writing; I've even managed to publish a few poems and stories since then. Mr. Peters was the first English teacher I had at Lisgar in Grade 9, and he really inspired my love of literature with his enthusiasm and his encouragement. I just published my first book and got a great gig as a pro-



fessor at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University (Brantford Campus), and I owe a lot to both of them for helping start me down this path.

Captain Janus Ciblar (1999) writes from Kandahar, Afghanistan: My memories of Trudy [Mrs. Bradley] are...her chocolate cakes at rehearsals, barbecues in her backyard, her legendary mood swings, her calling everyone by their instrument rather than their names. Perspective is a funny thing, as I can now appreciate the vast energy, empathy, and tact it took her to teach such complex instruments as violin, viola, and cello to hormonally-charged teenagers who, sometimes, would rather they were anywhere else. Trudy is nothing if not determined, and her indefatigable perseverance and dedication allowed Lisgar to consistently boast one of the city's finest music programs by virtue of the string curriculum alone.

I will personally be ever thankful to Mrs. Bradley for championing and ram-rodding the two musicals we took on during my years at LCI, "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Once Upon a Mattress." I count my days in the pit orchestras of both productions among my fonder memories of the school, and I don't think anyone would argue that those shows would never have been possible if not for Trudy's drive and effort to make them happen.

Brie Davies (1999) writes: Mrs. Bradley directed the orchestra during my five years at Lisgar. The memory I'd like to share is of one of Mrs. Bradley's numerous attempts to give up coffee. Without coffee, 8:00 am orchestra rehearsals became an ordeal. None of the musicians could escape criticism. Even hiding in the back behind my trombone, I was still a target! Secretly all her students were praying that she'd return to her normal cheery self. At the end of that week was Lisgar's annual Music

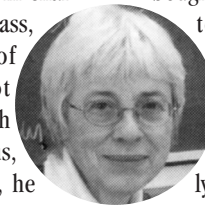
Night. The orchestra gathered on stage in our dress uniforms, instruments at the ready, desperately hoping that we would play to our conductor's high standards. Mrs. Bradley came onto the stage and stood up on her usual directing milk crate, but instead of raising her hands to begin the piece she held up a large sign. We craned our eyes to look at the message. It said "I'm sorry for the way I've treated you this week" (or words to that effect). We all let out a sigh of relief and laughed. The audience never had a clue what had happened and the concert went off without a hitch. Another time she directed the orchestra with a glow stick!



One memory of Mr. Peters is the time he brought his dog to class during the blackout in the ice storm of winter 1998. His house had lost power and so his dog attended Lisgar for a few days!

Dr. Clinton Orr writes from London, England: "You have a real talent in writing, Clint. Develop it." These guiding words from Mr. Peters (the only teacher I'd asked to sign my 1984/85 Grade 9 annus horribilis Vox Lycei yearbook) are a gleaming tile among student scrawlings that would make a graffitied bathroom wall blush.

Earlier that year he got in character for a mesmerized class, channeling us lines of Macbeth, showing not telling us the power of both prose and oratory. Sonorous, intense, piercing of stare, he whiffed us back to a master actor he'd witnessed one night. Both made their front rows shiver. Rapture.



Julie Hakim (1999) writes: Memories of Ms. Bradley: "Cello section, you sound like dying walrus! Fix that sharp!"; "I was so menopausal yesterday"; "I didn't sleep last night, or the night before..."...practicing with the string quartet and playing at gallery openings, festivals, ceremonies...trip to England...selling

Life Members

We are delighted to report that 24 alumni have become Life Members since the Spring 2006 issue of *Alere Flammam*. They are:

- Joan (Biberovich) Armstrong, 1952
- Lester S. Aronson, 1960
- Elizabeth (O'Connor) Bandeen, 1985
- Jill (Harman) Davies, 1962
- Thomas Extence, 1944
- Charles La Rochelle, 1939
- Frank Leech, 1962
- Shirley (Simmons) Leech, 1965
- Mary (Lewis) Macintyre, 1959
- Kathleen (Kapro) Magwood, 1956
- Drew McDougall, 1975
- Ann Mckellar, 2002
- Connie (Forrest) Menzies, 1948
- Peter C. Redfern, 1952
- David Reid
- Vicki (Brand) Robinson, 1962
- Colin Rose, 1963
- Madelaine Saginur, 1999
- T. Joseph Scanlon, 1951
- R.F. Jon Scoates, 1956
- Pat (Mansell) Shaver, 1951
- Miriam (Welsh) Van Husen, 1970
- Gabrielle Wilson, 2001
- Audrey (Dunne) Woodhouse, 1947

grapefruits and oranges till we couldn't any more...bringing my cello to the hospital when I was sick...after-orchestra BBQs at the Bradley residence.

Memories of Ms. Poetschke: regaling us with stories of her cats; blushing at the Harrison Ford calendar we bought her for Christmas one year; teacher supervisor for the David Duchovny Appreciation Club; I will never forget what a split infinitive is (not "to boldly go" but "to go boldly"); her list of the top works of literature that no complete soul should be without: whenever I am in a used book store and see one of the titles, I smile and buy it without hesitation.

Memories of Mr. Peters: a teacher who expected excellence and whom I wanted to impress but never did; as the voice of the three witches in Macbeth; when he brought his dog to school during the ice storm; I wish I had taken every class he offered, as he made even the Bible fascinating. ■