



# Alere Flammam

The newsletter of the Lisgar Alumni Association  
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## Mary Tsai Recognized for Community Service

When Mary Tsai (1986) received the letter last July advising that she was to receive the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal, she says: "At first I thought this must be a mistake. What did I do to deserve this?" Anyone who knows her would say: "More than enough." Announced by the Governor General in 2011, the medal was to be awarded to 60,000 Canadians "for their contributions to Canada or to a particular province, territory, or community, or for their outstanding achievement abroad that has brought great credit to our country." In Mary's case, community service is both a career and a personal commitment.



DIAMOND JUBILEE: Mary Tsai with her medal.

Even before she graduated from Lisgar, Mary had gained community experience as a part-time recreation worker for the City of Ottawa. While studying Visual Arts at Western, she continued her involvement, helping set up a March Break camp for children. It was a natural step from there to part-time and then full-time work with the City of Ottawa. After several years as a Program Director with the McNabb Community Centre, she was reassigned to the Glebe Community Centre. She rapidly became a vital part of the community's life—to such an extent that, when a reorganization threatened to shift her elsewhere, the

Glebe Neighbourhood Activities Group (GNAG), an independent organization for community recreational programming, created the position of Executive Director to keep her. She took the bait and left the City's employ, and has been in the role for the past 16 years.

A proud mother of two sons,

Jordan and Cameron, Mary freely admits that the Glebe community is a second family to her. She positively glows as she talks of the programs she has developed, nurtured, and fought for, and the ways they enhance the lives of individuals of all ages and foster a spirit of community. She also talks of the opportunities to share resources and experience with other communities, helping to make Ottawa a better city. The work inevitably involves desk and meeting time, but she manages to remain directly involved as well, whether it is running fitness classes, choreographing dance numbers, or volunteering in fund-raisers, all with seemingly boundless enthusiasm and energy.

Lisgar connections are something Mary doesn't have to go far to maintain. One of GNAG's recent theatre productions included grads spanning six decades in the cast and crew. And in a

lovely turnabout, Trudy Bradley (teacher 1982-2006), one of Mary's favourites, became one of her regular fitness class students, along with Alumni Association archivist Joy Heft (teacher 1970-74, 1990-2002).

The ceremony held to formally present Mary with her medal was a well-attended and emotional event. With Ottawa mayor Jim Watson looking on, Ontario MPP Yasir Naqvi presented the medal and explained why Mary's dedicated long-term community service had led him to nominate her for the award. As friends, colleagues, and neighbours past and present gave their accolades, Mary says it was overwhelming and humbling. "It's not about me. It's about them."

*[Editor's note: The Diamond Jubilee medal was presented to Canadians in many walks of life. We would love to hear of other Lisgar alumni who received the award.]* ■

## Honorary Lisgar Diploma for 80th Birthday

A heart-warming story came to light this spring involving elements of both valour and self-sacrifice on the part of two siblings, Alex and Thelma Gray, who attended Lisgar in the 1940s and 1950s. Thelma left school after grade 10 to care for her parents (one had polio and the other Parkinson's disease) and younger siblings when Alex, the elder, left for the Korean War. Thelma had often indicated her regret at not having completed high school, so it was with this in mind that her daughter, Kim Grier, approached the current principal to inquire whether he could grant Thelma an honorary diploma on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

In researching Thelma's time at Lisgar, we dug up an article in the

1953-54 *Vox Lycei* dedicated to Alex after his untimely death in the War. He attended Kemptville Agriculture School after leaving Lisgar, and gave up his peaceful life to serve his country. Described as being an unselfish per-



BIRTHDAY GIFT: Thelma Gray proudly shows off a newly awarded honorary diploma from Lisgar.

son, he was hailed for devotion to duty and unflinching loyalty. Thelma demonstrated those same qualities in her own way. In a poem accompanying the article, written by Thelma herself on the occasion of her brother's death, she states "We are very proud of our wonderful brother, of the parents who raised him, my father and mother." Her children might well say of her "We are very proud of our wonderful mother, her devotion to family surpassed by no other."

Thelma reported being surprised and overwhelmed on being granted her honorary diploma, and will be invited to attend the 2013 convocation sixty-odd years after she might have otherwise done. Congratulations, Thelma! ■

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## Members' Forum

*Jean Hage e-mailed in response to our request for information about missing Life Members:* You'll be pleased to know that Inez Sunderland (Smith, 1938) celebrated her 95th birthday in January. After many years of living, working, and volunteering in the Manor Park community, she now lives at St. Patrick's Home. Her mind and wit are as sharp as ever and she thrives on news of family and friends. I know she would be delighted to see friends she knew from her days at Lisgar as well as during her career as a teacher and professor.

*Cynthia Hall wrote to tell us of the passing of her mother, Erla (Holmes, 1940):* Mom was very proud of her school. About nine months before she passed away, I read her a newsletter that talked about a rifle range at the school. Her eyes lit up—she clearly remembered it as if it was yesterday.

*Nicole Sabet (2001) e-mailed from Thailand:* It was with great interest that I caught up with the past four issues of *Alere Flammam*. I am now living and working in Bangkok and so receive the newsletters once a year when my parents are visiting. I am now a teacher myself at an international school and so quite enjoy read-

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ing about the developments taking place at Lisgar—many of them quite similar.

*Fred Heeney (1957) e-mailed:* My brother-in-law, David Horton (1965), came to visit us and brought with him the most recent issue, wherein it shows you are trying to locate me. My fault for not keeping you up to date. In 2003, I completed 27 years of living in Asia (Indonesia, Japan, and Hong Kong). I retired and now live in Arizona with my wife of 52 years, Barbara (Horton, 1957).

*Robert Boole (1959) writes:* I visit Ottawa frequently and pass by Old Lisgar. In those days we had "Rules."

*Mike Bryan (1964) e-mailed:* What a delight it is to receive the Lisgar Alumni news and eagerly scan same for news of my former classmates and teachers of 40+ years ago. In fact, I take great delight in reconnecting by e-mail, phone, and/or in person with folks I haven't seen in lo those many years. Because we all shared the very precious experience of being Lisgarites at a special time in our lives, I want to hear what people have been up to and how their lives have panned out. So many names I can recall who I have had no contact with whatsoever since the Lisgar days... I would love to hear out of the blue from anyone who started Lisgar as I did in 1959, and graduated in 1963 or 1964. My e-mail is mbryan@magma.ca, and I am living in semi-retirement in Stittsville, where my teacher wife Margaret and I have two grown sons and two wonderful grandchildren!

*Caitlin Fisher (1985) wrote to inform us of the passing of her grandmother Peggy De Jourdan (Brunel, 1934):* She attended the 160th and appears in some of your photos from the event. I notice that longtime Lisgar friends Inez Sunderland (1938) and Kay McColgan (1936) are mentioned in her obituary. *Caitlin also updated us on her uncle*

## In Memoriam

**ABBOTT**, Dr. Frank (1947) passed away on February 25, 2010.

**BAKER**, Shirley (Graham, 1938) passed away in 2004.

**CAMPSALL**, Eileen (1932) passed away on January 21, 2012.

**CLARKE**, Joyce (White, 1954) passed away on March 14, 2013.

**COUGHLIN**, Martha (Dent, 1933) passed away on May 2, 2008.

**DELAUTE**, Judy (1955) passed away on February 10, 2013. She is remembered by her sisters, Liz Simms (Delaute, 1959) and Valerie Leasing (Delaute, 1953).

**DE JOURDAN**, Peggy (Bunel, 1934) passed away in 2007.

**GRUNDER**, Linda (Marshall, 1959) passed away on April 16, 2012. After attending Lisgar and Nepean, Linda graduated from Acadia. She worked in Agriculture Canada's Food Advisory Services until 1974.

**HALL**, Erla (Holmes, 1940) passed away on May 16, 2012, in Lancaster, New York. She was a track star while at Lisgar.

**HAMBLY**, May (Lathe, 1928) passed away on April 26, 2008. She spent most of her career at Lawrence Park Collegiate, in Toronto, and finally at the Faculty of Education at Queen's University. She co-authored *Latin for Canadian Schools*, which was used widely throughout the province in the 60s and 70s, and probably at Lisgar.

**HAMILTON**, Nicholas (1994) passed away on May 9, 2007.

**HARVOR**, Richard (1982) passed away on January 6, 2013.

**HAYWARD**, Margery (1958), former Head Girl, passed away on

February 3, 2011.

**HOPPER**, E. Peter (1947) passed away on October 31, 2010, in Florida.

**KIRK**, Joan (Duncan, 1942) passed away on November 6, 2005.

**LETT**, Sherryl (Penny) (Carpenter, 1964) passed away on March 4, 2013. Mother of Julia Lett-Harrison (1990).

**LIEFF**, Joseph (1934). In 1936, he started to work at the Post Office, and moved to several positions within the federal government until he enlisted in the Canadian Navy in 1944. After his discharge, he enrolled in law in Toronto, and was called to the Bar in 1949 and named Queen's Counsel (Q.C.) in 1971. He was president of the Jewish Community Council executive and Agudath Israel Congregation. After retirement in the fall of 2002, he volunteered with the Ottawa Jewish Archives.

**MACLEAN**, Ruth (Woodruff, 1942) passed away on September 16, 2012.

**MADNI**, Syed Hassan (1963) passed away on January 1, 2013. He often told stories of his time at Lisgar, the kind of classmates he had, the efforts of his teachers, learning to ice skate, and finding a love of hockey. Despite moving to Washington, D.C., after graduation, he had a fondness for the Ottawa Senators. He had attempted to visit Lisgar several times in recent years, but was unable to due to poor health.

**MAUDSLEY**, Dr. Robert (1956), former Head Boy, passed away on October 25, 2012. He received his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3...

*Wallace Edwards (1975) who has just published his sixth picture book for children, Uncle Wally's Old Brown Shoe. Three of his earlier books were nominated for the prestigious Governor General's award in children's book illustration. He won the award in 2002 for Alphabeasts. Caitlin updated us on her own news as well: I was recently awarded a Fulbright Visiting Research Chair to engage in research in the areas of aug-*

mented reality storytelling and visualization at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

*Evelyn MacKenzie (Sibbitt, 1962) and Ann McJanet (Hill, 1955) wrote to us with some address updates for lost alumni. Thanks Evelyn and Ann! Anne also writes: Please keep up the good work of keeping the alumni informed. The newsletter is always a good read, and I usually find many*



names of teachers and students that are part of my memories.

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*The children of Rifat Qadri (teacher 1962-90) wrote:* Just a note to thank you for remembering our dad in your newsletter! He loved his profession and students and was thrilled to be a part of Lisgar. We were thrilled at reading the comments on Facebook, which we learned about from your article. We are so glad that he made a difference in the lives of his students.

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 Ida Schjelderup (Hundevad, 1946) wrote: As a Lisgar alumna living in Sussex, England, I so look forward to the newsletter although I am sad to see the names of so many of my classmates in the In Memoriam column. I would like to confirm that in the rifle range picture in your Spring 2012 issue the girl second from the left is June Baird—a dear friend at the time who now lives in Vancouver. I was on the same rifle team. Happy days and greetings to all who remember me.

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*In our last edition, we featured two current teachers who are Lisgar grads, and included a partial list of others. Thank you to Jim Beall (1963, teacher 1968-77) and Hugh Reid (1967, teacher 1973-82), who responded to the request to help complete it. Hugh wrote from Ashton, Ontario:* I graduated from Lisgar in 1967 (the last year of the provincial examinations!). Wright Neal always encouraged Lisgar grads to come back to teach and I did so, joining the English department in 1973 (and taught at Lisgar with the exception of one year until 1982). I was not

the only Lisgar grad in the department. I joined Bill Fraser (1961, teacher 1965-99), Harry Monsour (1963, teacher 1972-84), Bob Murphy (1966, teacher 1970-76), Jim Beall (1963, teacher 1968-77), and Larry Priebe (1964, teacher 1967-77). Quite a lot of grads for one department and a testimony to Wright Neal's recruiting!

*Jim provided a number of the same names but added Doug Argue (1927, teacher 1957-71), Eric Manning (1959, teacher 1964-70), Beverley Lowe (1961, teacher 1968-70), Bob Green (1960, teacher 1963-68 and 70-71, vice-principal 1975-80), Bill Hamilton (1962, teacher 1967-68), Barry Laughton (1961, teacher 1968-2000), Bill McCarthy (1944, vice-principal 1967-70), and Bill Roberts (1959, teacher 1964-69). Keep the names coming!*

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*Kerry Riley (1969) e-mailed to ask if there was going to be a 170th anniversary reunion this year. The simple answer is no. While it is indeed almost exactly 170 years since Thomas Wardrope journeyed up the Rideau Canal system from Kingston to Bytown to open a grammar school for the newly formed district of Dalhousie, we have had it in mind almost since the 160th that our 175th anniversary would be the right time for a major reunion—and that sort of leaves 170 out. It's simply not in us to stage two reunions only five years apart. We have set our sights firmly on 2018, and hope those who rallied to host the last two reunions will be joined by a new generation of volunteers as we begin the process again. ■*

**He hates jazz, elevators, and sleeveless sweaters; doesn't take me for granted (!) nor eat with his mouth open. He's brainy, has a nice smile, and gets decent hair cuts. He likes poetry, grapefruit, Strauss, tennis; can waltz and tango; has a sense of humour and an imagination. And anything in long pants won't do — I'm fussy !**

WISHFUL THINKING: Ida Schjelderup (Hundevad, 1946) was quoted on a page in the 1946 *Vox Lycei* entitled "My Ideal Boy: Will I ever find the man in my mind?" The more things change...

## Lisgar 175th Interview Project

Your Alumni Association has begun an exciting new project to help celebrate the 175th anniversary of the school, in 2018. A team of volunteers will be conducting interviews with other alumni who may wish to contribute something of their life experiences for the record. These interviews will be published in *Alere Flamman*, on the Alumni Association website, and ultimately, we hope, in a book to be available in time for the reunion. The first interview, with Canadian diplomat Richard Kohler, appeared in the last issue of *Alere Flamman*. The second, with Lisgar Principal Jack Shapiro, appears in the current issue.

We need your help on two fronts. First, a team is being formed to conduct the interviews. Would you like to meet alumni who have had stimulating careers or served in wartime, former head boys and girls, former athletes, and other interesting men and women who went over the wall at the old Bastille on the Driveway? Get in touch.

Second, perhaps you would allow someone to interview you? Whether you were a law partner or a legal secretary, a doctor or a nurse, a politician or a ventriloquist, an architect or a builder, a university professor or a teacher, a chef in a five-star restaurant or a home economist, an orchestra conductor or a mezzo-soprano, a photographer or an artist, a chief executive officer or an entrepreneur, a diplomat or an entertainer, a ballet dancer or a pole dancer, a general or a bush pilot, a demolitions expert or a rear gunner in a septic tank, a manager or a clerk, a fashion designer or a computer expert, a funeral director or an auctioneer, a prime minister or a climatologist (you get the idea!), your life experience has been unique and we want to meet you and include you in this project. Please get in touch if you or someone you know would like to be included in our weaving of the fabric of the many lives that passed through Lisgar. ■

## In Memoriam (continued)

M.D. from Queen's, where he returned as Vice-Dean of Medicine in 1988. He received the Royal College of Physicians Duncan Graham Award in 2000 in recognition for his outstanding contribution to medical education.

**MCDOWALL**, William (1938) passed away on November 13, 2011.

**NICKSON**, May (Shaw, 1937) passed away on June 5, 2010.

**OZARKO**, Christine (Cardinal, 1958) passed away in 2010.

**PERRIN**, Douglas (1950).

**RICHARDSON**, Margaret (Murray, 1951) passed away on November 8, 2012. She graduated from the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal with her R.N. and then moved to Vancouver.

**RONEY**, Ruth (Gardner, 1945) passed away on March 6, 2013.

**STEPHENS**, Nigel (1944) passed away on October 20, 2012. He was a national figure skating champion who got his start at the Minto Skating Club during the 1930s. His career spanned five decades. He won the Canadian

Junior title in 1943 and the Men's Senior championship in 1945. He then turned to judging and continued to work for the Canadian Figure Skating Association for many years, serving as President from 1961 to 1963. He was inducted into the Canadian Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 1993 and is also honoured on the Lisgar Athletic Wall of Fame.

**SULLIVAN**, Edward (teacher 1975-1982) passed away on June 12, 2012. He taught music at Lisgar.

**WHITTLE**, Brian (1944) passed away on December 7, 2010. After graduation he joined the Army and was involved with infantry training during the latter part of WWII. He then attended the University of Toronto and became a reporter for the Ottawa Journal. He retired from the federal government in 1981 as Secretary for the National Energy Board.

**WILMORE**, Barbara (1931) passed away on December 27, 2009. While attending Lisgar, she twice won the Ottawa and District Girls Tennis Championship. ■

## From Java Prison Camp to the Halls of Lisgar

Boudewijn van Oort

My five Lisgar years (1952-1957) form an immensely memorable phase of my life. One thing that stands out from those years are my first lasting friendships. I still have contact with many of those Lisgar pals and I cherish these links. We attended each other's weddings, shared camping trips, and maintain to this day regular contact.

The Lisgar years were remarkable and stand in sharp contrast to my earlier years. This speaks volumes about my past. It's as though for the first fourteen years of my life I lived in a social vacuum. That most certainly was not the case, and to explain this feature of my childhood is not easy. It reflects a childhood disrupted by war, followed by a difficult postwar adjustment phase that ultimately took decades.

In September 1952 I enrolled in Lisgar as a Grade 9 student. Ten years earlier, when I should have commenced preschool, I was entering a women and children's prison camp in Bandung, Java, upon orders of the Japanese Imperial army of occupation. By this time the memory of my father had faded, because I last saw him in July of 1942. I entered the prison camp with a speech defect—a stutter, noted by older neighbouring boys, prisoners like me.

In retrospect it is striking that I lived for three and a half years in a women's and children's prison camp surrounded by thousands of children of whom not a single name or face remains in my memory. My father, to me an utter stranger, turned up a few months later, whisked us out of the Tjideng hellhole we had called our "home," and such playmates as I had befriended dropped from my memory like a bad dream. When you become accustomed to people suddenly disappearing, close attachments become pointless and only result in grief. The only person who mattered to me was my mother. The only men I knew were the Japanese soldiers who guarded our

camp and frequently beat some of the women. There were no older boys.

Boys older than ten had all been sent away, a terrifying destiny that had lain in wait for me during my internment. Under Japanese military regulations ten-year-old boys were adults—old enough to look after themselves. I had no idea what such a future entailed. Every six months or so the older boys had been loaded on a truck and had disappeared to the outside world, as far as we were concerned to oblivion, and I was terrified of the prospect. Years later I met boys who had survived that ordeal and in retrospect I can thank my lucky stars that I was not one of them.

The war had only lasted three and a half years for us but I, and many like me, emerged from our prison camp knowing no other life than camp life and entered a strange world where we felt out of place. The phenomenon of "camp children" was new, and I am not aware of any adults who could even begin to comprehend the difficulties we faced. Boys, in particular, suffered from this problem. Young boys, like myself, had grown up in an almost exclusively female environment where the only male figures were brutal camp guards.

The return after the camp ordeal to "normal life" was hardly a smooth trajectory. In the years leading up to the day I confronted kindly Mr. Strachan in his office overlooking Lisgar street, I had attended no less than six different schools on three different continents within a six-year time span. For me schooling did not start until after we arrived as penniless refugees in South Africa in 1946. While my parents were preoccupied with picking up the broken strands of normal life I was faced with a different challenge: adapting to what for me was a strange new experience—fitting in with children in whose eyes I was an imbecile who could not do any of the things they took for granted, like throwing or catching a ball. For me the transition from war time to peace time entailed

replacing one source of fear by another source of fear: my future with my parents was now secure but ridicule stalked me on the school playground. No adult could comprehend my discomfort. The only non-classroom school activity that I enjoyed there was gardening. During recess I hid with a book under my desk in the classroom.

During the five years I attended primary school in South Africa between May 1947 and June 1951, I made just two friends, one of whom tragically died of leukemia, leaving me with one friend to say goodbye to when we left that country. I never gave the parting from my school friend a second thought. That attitude was a lingering legacy of the war.

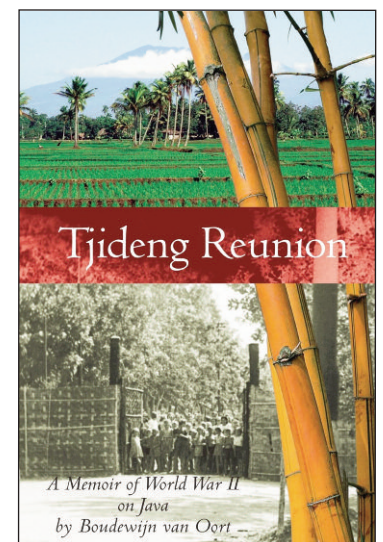
When I arrived at Lisgar I was still a loner and felt like an outcast, but Lisgar gave me my first scholastic home: not merely a place of learning but also, for the first time in my life, of friendships. Lisgar was in a peculiar way suited to my vaguely felt, poorly understood needs. In South Africa sports was an overwhelmingly important part of school life, but that was an activity I shunned with all my might. I could neither throw, hit, nor catch a ball, because in prison camps where I had spent my formative childhood years, there were no such items. I shudder at the fate that lay in wait for me had I attended high school in Bloemfontein at Grey's College, a boarding school with its strong sporting tradition. I would have been the laughing stock, an object of ridicule. I was not blind to this threat.

The situation at old-fashioned Lisgar, with its relatively limited sporting facilities, was from this perspective relaxed, while the wide range of academic pursuits suited me because in these bookish activities I felt matched with my classmates. Although mathematics came easy to me I enjoyed the wide range of languages offered. If Greek had still been taught by Miss Brown in 1952 I would have jumped at the opportunity, but Latin also was fun and the awkward business of team

sports I could leave aside. I needed time to deal with the adjustment from a prison camp environment to what in Canada is considered a normal teenage life.

When I entered Grade 12 I felt compelled to choose a scientific academic path but I regretted hugely having to abandon Latin. Geology at Carleton, after Grade 13, was interesting but something was still missing from my life. Four years later, on my way to Oxford, I made a conscious effort to confront the demons of the past and participate in a team sport. I also vowed to take a second undergraduate degree instead of pursuing postgraduate (scientific) work that would have confined me to a laboratory. I wanted to become a wholehearted member of the student body. A three-year "Modern Greats" course (or PPE—Politics, Philosophy and Economics) fitted the bill admirably. For three years I rowed in the College First Eight, a luxury made possible by "reading" an undergraduate degree on a Rhodes Scholarship. Our team had outstanding success.

Lisgar provided me an essential first bridge between a disturbed past and a happy future. I still can not catch a ball, but that no longer matters. ■



LARGER STORY: Boudewijn van Oort's *Tjideng Reunion: A Memoir of World War II on Java* follows two Dutch families caught up in the war, and eventually reunifying in South Africa.



## An Interview with Retired Lisgar Principal Jack Shapiro

### Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Lowertown. My father was a furrier on Rideau Street, and we lived above the shop. I attended York Street Public School, and after regular school I attended Talmud Torah School. My mother sent me to buy bread at the original Kardish brothers' bakery in the Byward Market. I swam at the Champagne Baths, read at the Public Library, went to the Nelson and Rideau Theatres, sold Rough Riders' programs at Lansdowne Park, and played hockey at Anglesea Square, baseball at Strathcona Park, and softball at York Street School. I biked with Dave Slipacoff, and sold fruit at Shulman's with Steve Shulman and Al Solman.

### York Street was a tough area. How did you survive?

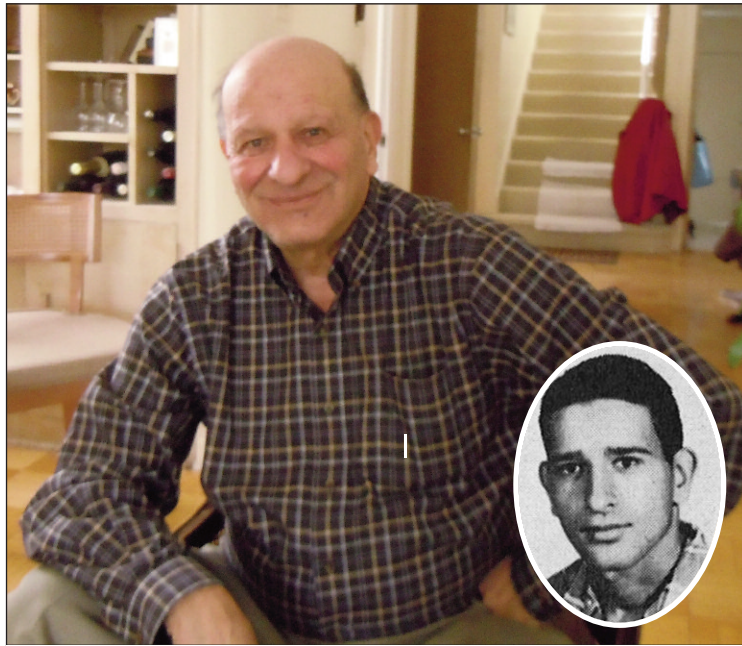
We finished school at 3:30 and did not have to be at Torah School until 4:15, so we ran to the top of a hill which was located between the school and the synagogue on Rideau Street, and hid behind the bushes. When the French kids got out of school, they came by and tried to get us off the hill. It was a kids' game, no real animosity. It could get tense at times, but all-in-all it was a laissez-faire co-existence.

### What do you remember from your time as a student at Lisgar?

I remember Mr. Rentner, Mr. Carruthers, Mr. and Mrs. Mann—all great teachers. I played basketball, football, and track. I played double bass in the Orchestra, became President of the Orchestra, and sat on Students' Council. I was "cross-trained" at Lisgar.

### What made you decide to become a teacher?

I always wanted to be a teacher. I wanted to do a better job. When I went to Lisgar, Shakespeare was taught purely as literature, without any context. When I taught Shakespeare, I taught the economic, social, and historical context of the era, so the students would better understand the play. Helping students to develop and appreciate learning is a motivating and



LIFELONG EDUCATOR: Jack Shapiro served as Principal of the Ottawa Torah Institute after retiring.

rewarding factor for all teachers, and particularly so for me.

### What made you then decide to become a principal?

I became a principal so I could implement some of the educational ideas I had studied and developed. I envisioned Lisgar as a Centre of Excellence, and brought five important elements together, and amplified them. First was to increase the capacity of the Gifted Program. I increased it from 23% to 48% of the 1,200 enrolled students, in order to have a critical mass of students who were academically strong and high achievers, and who would motivate and challenge each other. Second were sports teams at all levels, both intramural and interscholastic. I continued to emphasize sports teams for physical exercise, team building, competitiveness, strategy, sportsmanship, and mutual interdependence. Third were arts and culture, and student activities. I continued to encourage participation in the orchestra, school plays, school concert, *Vox Lycei*, students' council, etc. Fourth were competitive academic teams. One Lisgar team entered a North American science competition, against 57,000 other teams, and fin-

ished in 4th place. What an achievement and inspiration to other students! Fifth was the co-op program. I continued and amplified the existing program for students to work in local businesses to gain experience and earn credits. One brilliant student worked at a high technology enterprise in Kanata, and was helping to develop U.S. military software.

### Did you learn any valuable lessons along the way?

I was excited every day I went to school to teach. I learned more each day than the students I taught. I learned to have a vision, to follow through to create it in reality, and to implement it to success. The investment in the education of the youth of today as leaders of tomorrow is the

greatest possible investment that can be made. This is, purely and simply, nation building. Every major city in Canada should have a top Collegiate Institute, linked within a national network. I tried to do this and contacted University of Toronto Schools, and Upper Canada College. More work needs to be done to create this network.

### What advice would you offer to those wishing to become teachers or principals?

Enjoy your education, respect all those you come in contact with, and work hard. Above all, future teachers should know that they have something substantive to give. It is noteworthy that many Lisgar graduates have returned to Lisgar to teach there, highly motivated to contribute. Have a vision of something better and greater that you can do in education, and go out and do it. Be a nation builder. All teachers can be nation builders, beginning one brick at a time. And what a magnificent edifice they can build together—a magnificent Canada.

### What other activities did you engage in as an adult in Ottawa?

I have served as President of Beth Shalom synagogue. I also played in the Jewish Men's Softball League as a pitcher, and coached. I became an umpire at age 35. I read. My wife and I have two children, and two grandchildren. We like to travel.

*[Editor's note: Jack Shapiro graduated from Lisgar in 1962. He was Vice-Principal at the school in 1987, and Principal from 1994 until his retirement in 1998.]* ■



BATTER UP: Jack Shapiro stands on the pitcher's mound, with York Street Public School behind.

## Trudy Bradley Honoured

One of Lisgar's own was honoured at a reception at Western University (formerly the University of Western Ontario) in October 2012, when Trudy Bradley (teacher 1982-2006) was inducted to the Music Wall of Fame at her alma mater. Chosen by a committee of alumni and professors emeriti, inductees are cited for their contribution to music in a variety of disciplines—in this case to music education. The reception, including dinner with students providing musical interludes, was attended by faculty, professors emeriti, family, and friends.

One might say this was a true “coming home” for Mrs. Bradley, who grew up in the area and whose own father, Bert Verweel, taught school music in Ingersoll, Ontario, and was involved in a variety of other musical endeavours. She studied piano with him until, at the age of thirteen, she became a student of Howard Munn at Western, where she eventually completed a degree in Music Education. She later also earned a master's degree from Western.

As they say, “the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.” Mrs. Bradley went on to teach vocal and instrumental music in southwestern Ontario, in London, England, and finally in Ottawa, where she spent most of her career as the Head of the Music Department at Lisgar. Interestingly, while teaching in Woodstock, Ontario, she had participated in a music exchange with Robert Hursti (teacher 1966-92), then Head of Music at Lisgar.

During Mrs. Bradley's tenure at Lisgar, the strings program enjoyed exceptional expansion and Lisgar became the first public secondary school in Ontario to offer the Advanced Placement music course, enabling students to acquire a univer-



CONTRIBUTION TO MUSIC EDUCATION: Mrs. Bradley was honoured by Western University.

sity music credit. Both orchestra and string ensembles won top awards at Kiwanis provincial competitions and performed internationally in many countries during biannual music tours. In Ottawa, ensembles performed at Rideau Hall, both houses of Parliament, foreign embassies, the National Gallery of Canada, and other national museums. Mrs. Bradley believed in rewarding her students for their dedication and so they were often treated to cake adorned with Smarties following performances.

In addition to her teaching, Mrs. Bradley has been a presenter for the Ontario Music Educators Association and has served as an adjudicator. In recognition of her mentorship to music teachers and her enthusiastic encouragement of her students, she received the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in 1999. The award was used to commission a work for string ensemble. Regarding Western's recent acknowledgment of her contribution to teaching excellence her brother exclaimed “Wouldn't Dad be proud?!” We say “Indeed!” Congratulations, Mrs. Bradley. ■

## 2012 Donors

Charles Akben-Marchand (2003)  
 Joanne Anas  
 Douglas Arrand (1961, teacher 1967-2000)  
 Mary Bailey (Moxley, 1943)  
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 Arthur Bray (1943)  
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 William Broughton (1953)  
 Patricia Brownlee (Hess, 1954)  
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 Beatrice Campbell (1942)  
 Peter Chance (1939)  
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 Bruce Coughtrey (1988)  
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 Mary Rose Gagne (Robert, 1955)  
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 James Graham (1935)  
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 Martin Kusy (1961)  
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 Barrie Laughton (1961, teacher 1968-2000)  
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 Maison Decision House  
 Robert McMichael (1976)  
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 John Milliken (1950)  
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 Ken Pallett (1941)  
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 William Read (1958)  
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 Ben Shapiro (1941)  
 Diana Smith  
 Erik Spicer (1944)  
 Sally Thompson (MacDonald, 1954)  
 George Toller (1945)  
 Barrie & Liz Wanzel (1962)  
 Donald Whittemore (1945)  
 Charlotte Witty (1945)  
 Barbara Zuchowicz

## Doors Open at Lisgar

Thanks to the support of the Lisgar School Council, Lisgar is taking part again this year in Doors Open Ottawa, an annual event which enables the public to visit important buildings that are not otherwise open to visitors.

Doors Open provides an excellent opportunity for Lisgar Alumni to visit the school. Tours are provided by current students, and a former teacher or two is often on hand as well. Last year, David Lamperd (teacher 1970-99) spent some of the day sharing reminiscences with former students, many of whom hadn't been back to visit since graduation.

Accompanying small groups around the school provides student guides with a good opportunity to

demonstrate their school spirit, learn more about the history of the school, and practice their public speaking. It also allows the students to complete 7 of the 40 hours of community involvement which now comprise part of the Ontario secondary school diploma requirements.

Among alumni who visited the school in 2012 were Pittsburgh-based engineer Paul Hanks Drielsma (1998), Gloria and Roger Wright (1954), Robert Harrold (1968), and Stephanie Wilson (1985). Some commented that the school looked much the same, while others noted it seemed smaller than they had remembered.

This year, alumni and friends are invited to stop by on June 1. ■

## Life Members

We are delighted to report that nine alumni have become Life Members since the last issue of *Alere Flamman*:  
 Joan Barnes (Windle, 1960)  
 Susan Brocklebank (1998)

Matthew Curtis (1999)  
 Lydia Glover (Biberovich, 1957)  
 Evelyn MacKenzie (Sibbitt, 1962)  
 Hugh Reid (1967)  
 Jack Shapiro (1962)  
 Boudewyn Van Oort (1957)  
 Phyllis Rackow (Fried, 1945)