



ST. ALBERT AND AREA RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

December 28, 2018

January 4, 2019 Breakfast

Location: Sturgeon Valley Golf and
Country Club

8:30 am: Doors Open

9:00 am: Breakfast

Cost: \$22 for STARTA members
\$27 for non-members

Please bring correct change if
possible.

*If you don't receive an email or phone call
inviting you to breakfast by Dec. 29, and you
wish to be included, phone Wendy at 780
460 1260 no later than Dec. 30 evening.*

9:50: The Face of Education campaign;
Ellen Snaith, President of ATA Local 73
will suggest ways to promote this.

10:00 am: Program: Tim Kubasek

Tim has been a stand-up comedian for 18 years and has performed across Canada at The Comedy Factory, Yuk Yuk's, The Comic Strip and The Laugh Shop. He has also performed with the legendary Mike MacDonald at the Centennial Theatre in Brandon, Manitoba. Tim also performed at the River Cree Casino as the opening act for Farmer's Daughter. His quirky, intelligent and insightful comedy style that appeals to audiences of all ages. Tim's other pursuits include acting, improv and is a daytime I.T. Professional. He is an active member of the Sheeptown players drama society and

a recent addition to The St Albert Dinner Theatre's productions of "A Little Piece of Heaven " and "The Regifiers".

Operation Friendship Seniors Society

This agency offers services in the inner city to improve the quality of life for seniors (over 55) who live in reduced circumstances.

Recently a call went out from ARTA to members to donate books to OFSS. The donations rolled in to a total of over 3900. ARTA also made a donation towards kitchen equipment to be used in the preparation of meals at the McCauley Senior's Drop-In Centre. To read more about their programs, go to www.ofss.org

News and Views

ARTA members who do not want a paper copy of this magazine can go to arta.net and request to receive their copy online.

If you have email, and are an ARTA member, you will have received a recent edition of ARTAfacts. If you are not an ARTA member yet, you can check out these excellent publications at www.arta.net See David Flower's quote below for an excerpt from news&views.

Food Bank Donation

Donations to the Food Bank received at the December breakfast amounted to \$500. Along with the budgeted Christmas STARTA contribution of \$200, the amount delivered to St. Albert Food Bank and Community Village Executive Director Suzan Krecsy was \$700. Susan mentioned that this amount is equivalent to milk for 300 families.

Good job STARTA!

Watch for News

Your Executive have been considering several activities for STARTA members.

- St. Albert Dinner Theatre excursion
- Body Composition Clinic
- Political Action: We need someone from STARTA to spearhead this.
- Visit to the Alberta Museum or other venue.

Feedback would be appreciated.

Notes from David Flower

David Flower has forwarded these items for January STARTA newsletter.

The editor of ARTA's *news&views*, Robin Carson has a very good "in My Opinion" in the winter 2018 issue of the magazine that I believe everyone should read. "Paradigm Shift" is reprinted here in case you missed it.

"This column used to be called "In My Opinion" but in the last while, it has had the more general title "From the Editor" and has dealt more with changes to news&views than with opinion. However, this time, I have an opinion for you, and I think it is an important one.

Editorializing news is no longer frowned upon, apparently, Once, reporters used to work very hard to report fact and keep opinion out of what they wrote. Opinion was confined to the editorial page of newspapers or to what columnists wrote. Now, opinion has spread into the news too. Particularly in stories that relate to politics or pipelines, curriculum or climate change, the opinion of the writer—or of that writer's medium—is pervasive. While the media have always tried to influence their readers as well as inform them, never has the bias of the writer mixing fact with opinion been as blatant as it is today.

President Trump in the US has made the term 'fake news' popular. It is not a new idea that news can be false: manufactured 'news' is the meat and potatoes of every department of propaganda. By telling partial truths or by mixing fact with a clever blend of fiction, most people can be made to believe almost anything. Logic gets a holiday.

There is also an increasing tendency to equate belief with fact. A hundred scientists can warn about global warning, but all a single politician has to say is, "Yes, but I don't believe it," and that is enough to forestall any action that might alleviate the problem. We have moved into an age in which the rights of the individual trump (sorry!) the rights of the collective, and I suspect that we will suffer deeply because of that shift.

If you don't know what 'solipsism' means, it really would be worth your while to look it up and familiarize yourself with the term because we have definitely entered an era of solipsistic thought. Lie to protect yourself. Operate on your own beliefs, and logic and science be damned! Let the generations to follow worry about themselves! It has become, "Me first! And let the women and children find their own lifeboats!" Am I that bitter? You bet I am! And that, folks, is 'My Opinion.'

Give more; ask less. That is what I believe."

Two items from the news.

"Trivial"

High school students in New Zealand who didn't know what the word "trivial" meant in an examination question have demanded not to be marked down as a result. The year 13 students were asked to write an essay based on the Julius Caesar quote "In war, events of importance are the result of trivial causes." The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) said candidates will be given credit for the strength of their argument and analysis and will not be penalized for misinterpreting the word "trivial". *BBC News 30 January 2018*

"Capital letters"

In the United Kingdom, Leeds Trinity school staff was sent a memo saying that the use of capital letters could scare the students into failure. Subsequently there was a ban on the use of capital letters when assigning work to students out of fear it might upset them. Critics have slammed the idea because it suggests that the "snowflake" generation are being overindulged throughout their education.

(The "snowflake" generation characterizes the young adults of the 2010s as being more prone to taking offense and less resilient than previous generations, or as being too emotionally vulnerable to cope with views that challenge their own)
Daily Mail U.K. 18 November 20