



# ST. ALBERT AND AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ' ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

January 15, 2024

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*Happy New Year... and Happy Winter?*

May you enjoy the fluffy white flakes (on Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup>)  
and keep safe and warm (since Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup>!)

A few words from our Presidents:

The Executive is excited to welcome you back to our first STARTA Breakfast of 2024 on Friday, January 26! We are looking forward to seeing one another again and enjoying magician, Kent Wong, as our entertainment for that morning. Thanks to Leo Bruseker for finding Kent and arranging this program. If you know a retired teacher who has not joined us, please invite them along. Remember to call Maurine Maslen (780-418-8032) by January 18 so she can give an accurate count of attendees to the Golf Course.

We are excited about the very interesting programs that have been arranged for the remainder of this year: speakers from *Change for Children* and *Braided Journeys*! Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for March because the **breakfast has moved up to March 22** as the 29<sup>th</sup> is Good Friday. An early Easter for 2024!

April 26<sup>th</sup> will be our last breakfast and our AGM. We have planned a book and puzzle sale for that morning so we can stock up on our summer reading.

There will be a new format for the WELLNESS CHALLENGE this April. ARTA is hoping to have all Branches participate in a friendly competition to see which Branch can have the most participants active for the challenge. In the past, the Calgary Branch has been a powerhouse....STARTA is out to change that this year!! Stay tuned for details on how you can participate in the fun.

Stay warm! Stay safe! See you on the 26<sup>th</sup>!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS: Breakfast Friday, Jan. 26 2024**

### **At Sturgeon Valley Country Club**

9:00 AM- 11:00AM

Doors Open at 8:30 am.

**NEW COST: MEMBERS \$26.00 or NON-MEMBERS \$30.00**

**Payment by cash or cheque at the registration desk OR**

**by e-transfer the Thursday prior to the breakfast. (see details below)**

**Please note – there will be no refunds on e-transfer payments.**

**MEMBERSHIP FEES** (including Associate members, who are not retired teachers) are now DUE - **\$10.00** per person paid by cash, cheque or by e-transfer.

**To pay for your breakfast and membership fees using an e-transfer**, be sure you have set up e-transfer process with your financial institution.

Send the e-transfer to [startacontact@gmail.com](mailto:startacontact@gmail.com)

#### **SPECIAL NOTES about e-transfers:**

- **Send payment NO LATER than Thursday Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>.**
- **All members still need to check in** at the registration tables upon arrival at the breakfast meeting.

**Whether or not you plan to attend the breakfast, please reply to your contact person by Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.**

**PROGRAM:** The Magician is booked! Kent Wong is one of the most sought after entertainers in North America. With numerous appearances on national television, he is also a two-time International Gold Medal Champion and a member of Hollywood's famous Magic Castle.

Kent has astounded audiences with his unique brand of magic and humour for over 35 years. From strolling magic to banquet shows and grand scale illusions, Kent has done it all. He is just as comfortable entertaining a small group as he is in front of 2000 people. We are very pleased and excited to have booked him and are looking forward to this experience!

### **January : Continuing to make connections in 2024!**

**January** is always a difficult time for the Food Bank, as many supplies are depleted over the Christmas season. We will be accepting **DONATIONS of Cash, Cheques or Food Items** for the **FOOD BANK** at our next breakfast meeting on January 26.

**If you would like a receipt for a money donation (cash or cheque), please include your contact information in an envelope with your donation.**

# Looking Ahead: Save these Breakfast DATES:

Friday, February 23

Friday, March 22 (NOTE: change of date)

Friday, April 26 - AGM and Last Breakfast until fall

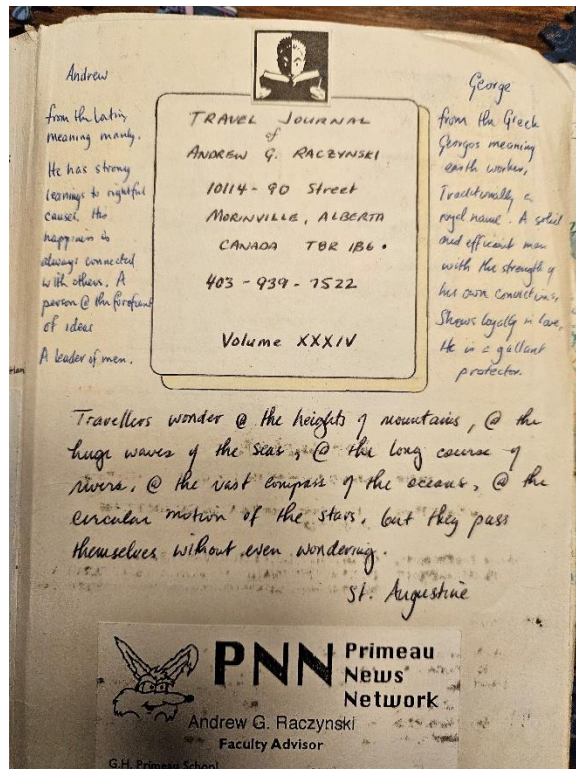
## STARTA Members Travel the World

### Travelogues – Part 1 by Andrew Raczynski

When Donna Fedoration invited me to consider writing a travelogue for the **STARTA Newsletter**, beginning in the new year, the idea immediately began to resonate within me, and I was hooked. I love traveling and everything that the notion of a journey implies, especially within the broader perspective of our personal journeys and how all of us are fellow travelers in peculiar and wonderful ways. I said, “Yes!” and that evening I began to jot down key words, phrases, and questions at the back of my personal journal that I have continued to develop. Which brings me to this introduction.

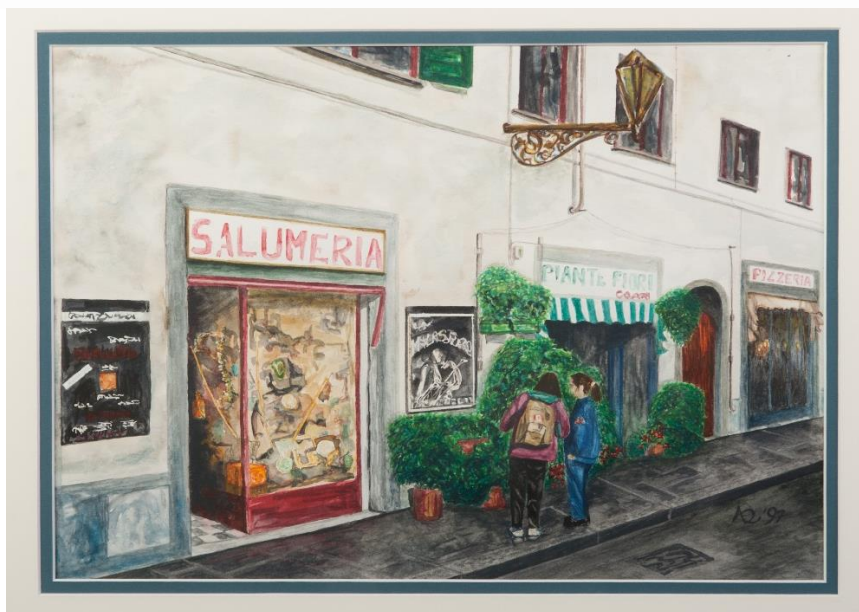
Let me begin with a definition of “travelogue” as it is presented on my Samsung 23 (<https://byjus.com>): “Illustrations that record the places and experiences of a traveler,” or more than one as it will become abundantly clear in due course as the voices of others (e.g. My better half, Carol, and our daughter, Jennifer) illustrate their unique perspectives. This is important because “*their account of travels give us an insight into the social, political and economic events [and much more besides] of that particular time.*” Fair enough, but during the process, I am sure that I shall arrive at a less formal and more engagingly personal definition.

Further to this definition, is a broad understanding of what the main contents of a travelogue are, as laid out in my trusty smart phone: “A travelogue contains vivid descriptions of the place you’re traveling in, descriptions of the subjective experiences of visiting a place (your thoughts, blunders, fears), informed commentary about a place (its history and culture), and accounts of your interactions with local people. (Oct 19, 2020).” The promise is to illustrate these aspects of our travels in spades.



To that end, I have discussed with and obtained permission from my travel partners to delve into the particulars in our respective travel journals to arrive at some semblance of the truth, unless these perspectives interfere with whatever subtle nuance(s) may require a touch of embellishment. Hah!

So, what can one expect to encounter in these travelogues? How fast one can travel on the Autostrade after discovering that the visas, as in VISA cards and Passports, have been left behind at a pensione in the centre of Rome after driving the scenic route along the Tyrrhenian Sea for four hours. Why parents should always check if the occupant in the back seat of the vehicle is still there before heading out on the highway. What the difference is between a One Star hotel in Poland or Prague and a Three Star hotel in Paris. Stay tuned .



**Two Canadian Tourists in Firenze.**

***Where in the world have you visited? Where did you go? What did you see?***

*We are continuing with the 'TRAVELLING' theme for the News Bulletin. We appreciate contributions from our membership – a lengthy commentary, or something a little shorter, maybe with a picture or two, to share with our membership colleagues. Send to [pbergmann@shaw.ca](mailto:pbergmann@shaw.ca) by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. Thank you!*

See you **Friday, January 26, 2024** at the next breakfast meeting!

***Thank you to all who have contributed to this News Bulletin!***

## Contact Information...

**IF YOU HAVE HAD ANY CHANGES to your **CONTACT INFORMATION**, please fill out and bring the attached form to the September breakfast meeting. Thank you!**



### ST. ALBERT RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP Information 2023-2024

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

NEW MEMBERSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

RETIRED TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_ ASSOCIATE MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Current ARTA MEMBER: Please circle one: YES NO

***Membership Fee for 2023-2024 is \$10 for both a member and an associate member. An associate member is anyone who has purchased a membership in STARTA, but does not receive a pension from ATRF.***

**NOTE:** Photos may be taken at STARTA events and may be published in STARTA media. If this is an issue for you, please discuss your concern with the photographer at the event.