

ARM 18/21

VOL 2, March 2013

The Next Two Months

Gazing at the Stars
Tuesday, March 19
McMaster Planetarium 10:30 am
Meet at Kelsey's Westdale 10:00 am
Lunch at Kelsey's to follow
875 Main Street West

AGM
Tuesday, April 16
District office 1423 Upper Ottawa
10:00 am

Members and Guests Are Invited

Editors: Ruth Giles and Chester Faulknor

The President's Report



Coming Up In March and April

Star Search

For **Tuesday, March 19**, we have organized a tour of the McMaster Planetarium for 10:30 am. We did this a couple of years ago and it was a huge hit. This will be a special presentation for our group alone. This will be a first come first served presentation. The maximum number of people we are allowed are 35 so let me know by emailing me at armchapter21@gmail.com or calling 905-648-3980. We are planning to meet at Kelsey's across from Westdale, 10:00 am and take a few car loads. This will avoid the problems of parking. The executive will pick up the cost of entrance to the planetarium. Let me know if you are driving and parking at Mac by yourself.

April 16 AGM

On Tuesday, April 16, we will hold our Annual General Meeting. At the meeting elections for our executive will be held and a report on the 2012-2013 year will be given. Although we are always looking for new people to sit on the existing executive, rest assured there will be **no arm twisting**, just a gathering designed to elect our governing body and to thank those who do serve. Your present executive is;

President: C. Faulknor; V.P: M. Kilby; Benefits Officer: J. Parekh; Secretary: K. McCulloch; Membership Secretary: B. Brown; Editor: C. Faulknor, R. Giles, Treasurer: B. Thompson, Members at Large: M. Buchanan, W. Johnston, Jan Lukas, B. A. Bushell, and M. Payne.

Also at this meeting District 21 Vice President, Anthony Marco will give us a talk/demonstration on how to use Facebook and how to protect your personal information.

Past Meetings

The Egg and I

We started off the New Year with a breakfast at the Egg and I. The get together was interesting and well attended. The big topics were Bill 115 and what are the best winter vacation spots in the US.

Lunch by the Bay

For February 19, we were to lunch down by the bay as we met at Sarcoa's for an 11:30 lunch date. Lunch with a view of the harbour should have been a good way to spend some time with good people. Unfortunately, Sarcoa's, in spite of our early booking, were unable or unwilling to serve us properly. We will avoid lunches there in the future. Some stayed to have lunch at Sarcoa's and others made their way to William's Coffee and had a wonderful lunch of soup, salad and sandwiches.

CURC News

The next HBO CURC Regional Council Meeting will take place Wednesday March 20, 10:00am, at the District 21 OSSTF office, 1423 Upper Ottawa Street, Hamilton.

Topics to be discussed include:

*Right to Work Proposals and attacks on the Rand Formula

*Pension and Retirement Security Issues

*Reports from National CURC.

*Reports from CLC/OFL/HDLC

*Guest Presenter: Sister Mary Long-President HDLC [Tentative]

*Pre-Retirement Workshops

*Good and Welfare

HBO CURC supports the Neighbour to Neighbour Food Bank. Please bring non-perishable food items or a toony to help the Neighbour to Neighbour Food Bank.

Note: Early notice of the HBO CURC Regional meeting since I will be away for several weeks. See you on March 20.

Things Never Change

I started teaching English in Sault Ste. Marie, in 1967. I had been teaching for only two months when I was called into the principal's office and given the name of a parent who was upset that I was teaching her grade 11 son [Catcher In The Rye](#). She was very upset and wanted it banned from the School altogether. I read this article the other day and I thought that the more things change the more they stay the same.

Back in 2010, a Culpeper County Public School parent wanted a version of [Anne Frank's](#) famous Holocaust diary — the one she wrote while hiding from the Nazis before dying in a concentration camp — [removed from its eighth grade curriculum](#) because of passages in the book the parent thought were sexually explicit. The book was temporarily pulled. Now we have another parent, this time in Fairfax County, who wants Toni Morrison's acclaimed novel "Beloved" removed from the curriculum. Here we go again with parents who think that their sensibilities about particular books should apply to everybody.

In the newest episode, my colleague T. Rees Shapiro explains in [this story](#) how Laura Murphy is pushing to bar "Beloved," a graphic story about slavery and survival, because she thinks the material is too graphic. Her son read it when he was a senior at Lake Braddock Secondary School in an Advanced Placement English literature class — which by design is intended to offer college-level material. Shapiro quoted the young man, Blake Murphy, who now attends the University of Florida, as saying, "It was disgusting and gross. It was hard for me to handle. I gave up on it."

So now his mother wants everybody in AP English Literature to give up on it. The good news is that the school refused, and the Fairfax superintendent, Jack Dale, refused, and the Fairfax Board of Education upheld Dale's decision. That isn't stopping Murphy from taking her case to the Virginia Board of Education. That should be interesting.

Parent involvement in education is seen as a good and positive thing, but, as this makes clear, not always. Any parent who doesn't want a child reading a specific book

can appeal to the teacher or principal to find a substitute book; I've never heard of a school insisting that a child read a book that a parent does not want that child to read.

The American Library Association maintains a list of books that are most commonly challenged in schools and libraries for reasons including sexually graphic material and portrayal of religion.

"Beloved" is 26th in the top 100 of the past decade but it didn't make the top 10 of the books most challenged in 2011, the latest year for which there is information.

Here is the 2011 list:

³⁵/₁₇ "Harry Potter," by J.K. Rowling

Reasons: anti-family, occult/Satanism, religious viewpoint, violence

³⁵/₁₇ "Of Mice and Men," by John Steinbeck

Reasons: offensive language, racism, unsuited to age group, violence

³⁵/₁₇ "The Chocolate War," by Robert Cormier

Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, violence

³⁵/₁₇ "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," by Maya Angelou

Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit

³⁵/₁₇ "Summer of My German Soldier," by Bette Greene

Reasons: offensive language, racism, sexually explicit

³⁵/₁₇ "The Catcher in the Rye," by J.D. Salinger

Reasons: offensive language, unsuited to age group

³⁵/₁₇ "Alice" (series), by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Reasons: sexually explicit, unsuited to age group

³⁵/₁₇ "Go Ask Alice," by Anonymous

Reasons: drugs, offensive language, sexually explicit

³⁵/₁₇ "Fallen Angels," by Walter Dean Myers

Reason: offensive language

³⁵/₁₇ "Blood and Chocolate," by Annette Curtis

Klaus Reason: sexually explicit, unsuited to age group

On The Lighter Side

1. I have never let my schooling interfere with my education. - Mark Twain

2. My school days were the happiest days of my life; which should give you some indication of the misery I've endured over the past twenty-five years. - Paul Merton

3. I took a test in Existentialism. I left all the answers blank and got 100. - Woody Allen

4. My school was so tough the school newspaper had an obituary section. - Norm Crosby

5. Smartness runs in my family. When I went to school I was so smart my teacher was in my class for five years.

6. I'm not going to buy my kids an encyclopaedia. Let them walk to school like I did. - Yogi Berra

7. In elementary school, in case of fire you have to line up quietly in a single file line from the smallest to the tallest. What is the logic? Do tall people burn slower? - Warren Hutcherson

8. You learn something every day if you pay attention. - Ray LeBlond - *Von Ebner-Eschenbach*

9. If there were no schools to take the children away from home part of the time, the insane asylums would be filled with mothers. - *Edgar W. Howe*

February Lunch Good People = Good Times



THINGS TO BUY, TRADE, OR SELL, etc.

Florida - Gulf Coast - Redington Shores - near Tampa and Clearwater/St Petes airports - gated community - immaculate 2 bdrm, 2 full bath condo - gulf view - heated pool - direct access to wide sandy beach - A/C - cable TV - exercise room - minimum one month rental. Initial contact - Murray Kilby
905 632 7047 murray.kilby@sympatico.ca

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