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Palingenesis™

n. regeneration (lit. & fig.); revival; (from Gk)

Caring for Our Own™

PAL Canada's National Quarterly Newsletter

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 4

Winter 2013

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY 2014

PAL CANADA HAS NEW ADMINISTRATOR

The National Office has selected a new Administrator to replace the retiring *Gail Benn*. She is *Carmen Gentiana Tomsa*, a resident of Toronto. She took up her duties at the beginning of December.

Gail Benn served PAL valiantly for the past several years and is to be applauded for the manner in which she toiled for our organization, often under difficult circumstances.

Carmen comes to us highly recommended and with an impressive resumé.

We welcome her into our midst!

ADDED PAL OTTAWA SUPPORT

The shouts of joy ringing out from our nation's capital recently, reflect the good news that that city's PAL Chapter has had its request for CMHC assistance approved. The funds will help in the essential planning phase for a PAL residence.

Along with other funding, it will also provide a huge confidence boost to PAL Ottawa during what is described as "a critical time" in their development.

The Chapter is also "recruiting clients and volunteers" for their *Supporting Cast* operations.

LOUISE DONATES "LOUISE" TO PAL

The super talented musical theatre star *Louise Pitre* (Right) was joined by other talented residents of Pal Toronto's *Pal Place*, to mark her donation of her beautiful, 7ft, shiny, black grand piano to the Crest Theatre Green Room.



Thanks to Toronto Board member *Dan Lyon* and "Canada's piano man", *Robert Lowrey*, Ms. Pitre's generous donation will now benefit all the residents who use the Green Room for shows, recitals, social events and fundraisers. The piano, dubbed "Louise", stands proudly on stage ready to accompany the residents in their arts presentations.

The irascible *Kenny Wickes* was MC and, with pianist *Alan Cohen*, led the performers and the audience in a rousing sing-a-long of *I Love a Piano*.

INDUCTED INTO BC HALL OF FAME

On November 18th, PAL Vancouver residents *Judy Ginn* and *Jim Walchuk* were inducted into the *BC Entertainment Hall of Fame*.

Considered two of BC's most renowned entertainers, Judy

and Jim emerged from the 1960's nightclub

scene to host their own CBC TV show in the 70's, and toured internationally until the '90s.

The Walchuks are examples of the kind of people who make up the PAL Family; artists who have devoted their lives to building Canada's entertainment industry.



An early publicity pic



Judy & Jim at their induction ceremony

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

The moving finger writes.....

Somehow, each year around this time, people seem able to come together in a spirit of love and friendship to celebrate who they are and to express hopes for a better tomorrow for everyone. Born out of religious celebrations, this seasonal expression of fellowship now finds people of all, or no, faiths being somewhat nicer to others and shouting Best Wishes across the many divides that still might separate us.

Bernard Chadwick, an early Executive Director of Actors' Equity, enjoyed referring to this annual period as "the silly season", not at all in a derogatory manner but with a sense of bemusement that men and women appeared to lose their heads and, try as we will, little concentrated work is possible so we might just as well close shop and have a short holiday until things get back to "normal".

It's with a similar sense of awe that we observe the many works of PAL volunteers off and on throughout the year, and the dedication of some pretty outstanding people who have agreed to devote time and effort to bettering the conditions of their colleagues. These special individuals are to be found through our PAL family working tirelessly to make things better. And, they do this, not for monetary gain, but to achieve a higher goal, the satisfaction of generating happiness, security and companionship to community members they likely don't even know. This, to us, is a remarkable thing.

O, yes, there are those who get involved in PAL with a thought of serving themselves rather than their colleagues. But, if an edifice listing their names on a plaque is unlikely soon, they don't last, unaware that the better purpose of PAL is to provide assistance to others. Simple as that! And, it may mean affordable accommodation, it may mean helping someone get to a medical appointment or the grocery store, it may mean checking to confirm things are alright, it may mean simply sitting with a colleague who just wants to be with another artist for company.

Our reasons for serving go mainly unexpressed but services are so necessary and demonstrate in so simple a manner our living motto of *Caring for our Own*.

And having writ moves on.....

CORRECTION

We misspelled the name of Pal Ottawa's Vice-Chair in our Fall Issue. **Lynn McGuigan** does not spell her name with an "e", as you will have seen in other mentions where we managed to get the spelling correct. Palingenesis apologizes.

LETTERS

It's so interesting to see what's going on across the country. Keep up the good work. Although we seldom come forward with kind words, I felt it time to thank someone for doing so much for us, so thanks again.

Sheila Graham
Toronto

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Joyce Barnes, Barbara Barnes-Hopkins and Carol Manning pitched in to help trim the tree and arrange gifts around it for needy children at PAL Toronto's Trim the Tree party.

Photo: Norman Hart

THREE ADDED TO PALCAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Three of the new members of the Board who joined us during the last election are pictured here. All three come to us with much expertise and long associations with the Arts Community in Canada.



Above (L to R) are Alison Atkins, PAL Ottawa, Aggie Elliot, PAL Toronto and Sharon Bakker, out of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

ANNUAL SEASONAL EVENT FOR PAL STRATFORD

PAL Stratford held it's annual "Christmas Cheer" party for members and friends once again at the extraordinary *Hughson Hall B&B*. The hosts, *Ross Hodgson* and *Clinton Hughes* (in photo at right), go out of their way to decorate their home -- and put on a delicious spread of "nibblies and nog" -- to make the event especially festive.

"We feel blessed to have hosted the 3rd Annual PAL Stratford Christmas party," said Ross Hodgson. "It is always a pleasure to have so many honoured guests show up, and to hear their tales of days gone by." He added, "We'd like to thank everyone at PAL Stratford for their help and support and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year."

This annual event has become a tradition that Stratford members eagerly anticipate; a special event for everyone to gather, catch up with each other and to celebrate the holiday season.



The hosts Clinton and Ross

PAL PARTNER STAGING A MISFORTUNE

-Theatre 20 at 2014 Next Stage Theatre Festival

Relax, *Theatre 20* is not having any misfortune as it mounts it première of this musical based on a Chekov play. Far from it, in fact. The bright lights there -the company is filled with them- will continue their climb into the hearts of Torontonians at the January festival. Many of Theatre 20's family members are involved in the premiere of the new musical, *A MISFORTUNE*, at the *Next Stage Theatre Festival*, where it will have nine performances.

Written by Theatre 20's *Scott Christian* (with *Kevin Michael Shea* and *Wade Bogert-O'Brien*), it features Founding Artists and Artistic Board Members *Adam Brazier* and *Trish Lindström* in the five-member cast and is being produced by "*Rosie and Paige*", Theatre 20's office gurus.

Theatre 20 and PAL Canada share in the *BMO Financial Group* presentation of the annual February *Love Affair* show.

CORRECTION - CORRECTION

The photo information we received was incorrect and **Gladys Richards** was misidentified in a photo in our Fall Issue. Palingenesis apologizes.

Below is the real Gladys Richards, honoured recently on her retirement as PAL Toronto's Archivist after 25 years of service.





PAL HALIFAX

2013 has been a busy, productive year, full of new possibilities.

Our Board is finishing up a new document that will help us spread our message, our mission and our methods to our members, the public and new Board members. We are attempting to make this message fresh and relevant.

Mid-October we hosted our AGM, and our 4th *Scrabble® With the Stars* on 1st Nov. It was a tremendously successful event and a ton of fun! (See story Page 6)



Some star attendees

PAL Halifax now has irons in fires with three possible/potential PAL buildings. We continue to work on these opportunities. All good things come to those who wait!

The conversion to our new software – Sumac, is heavily underway & it's super! Do any of the rest of you use it?

Next up a period of focused board growth. Says Board Chair, Jeremy Webb, "I applaud our Board for their work and dedication. With things moving on apace and with PALifax getting steps closer to bricks, mortar and bed sheets, we have identified a need to grow our team. I'll be calling on PAL friends across the country for advice as we continue down this exciting path.

-Ann Pocket



PAL TORONTO

PAL Toronto's holiday season has sure been joyful! To begin with, there was the annual champagne-laced

brunch that the Board gives and serves to residents; then the tree-trimming party, replete with egg nog. PAL residents placed their gifts of toys around the handsome tree to be picked up by the 51 Division police for their annual Children's Toy drive, The PPRA (residents association) hosted a delightful Christmas Day dinner, donating the turkey and ham. Each attendee brought some



Kati chats with Louise (Left)

delicious veggie, salad or dessert to share, and we listened happily to Alan Cohen playing seasonal songs on our amazing new *Louise* piano while we ate.

Katie Uhlmann, host of the hit WebTV series *Katie Chats* was impressed with the show marking the donation of *Louise Pitre's* piano

Cont'd ↗

(PAL Toronto Cont'd)

to the Crest Theatre Green Room (*Story Front Page*). Special thanks to PAL residents who took the stage to entertain and all the volunteers who helped create this joyous occasion include *Robert Godin, Patty Gail & Barb Sadegur,*



'Louise' provides music for PAL Brunch diners

June Mitchell, Eileen Boyd and Bob Ashley. In the days that followed, there were joyful happenings in our Celebrity Club, and concerts in our Green Room by both super talented residents and generous friends of PAL. Only one of these had to be cancelled because of the outrageously vile weather -- but, thankfully, though thousands throughout the city lost heat and light and joy, our downtown area was spared so we could stay cosy in our lovely home. Although this writer must leave it at that to meet the Palingenesis deadline, Toronto PALs are still looking forward to the New Year's Eve party in our Celebrity Club that will top off a memorable season. Happy New Year, everyone!

-Vivienne Muhling



PAL STRATFORD

The beautiful Hughson Hall B&B where PAL Stratford's annual *Christmas Cheer* is held.



PAL OTTAWA



At a time of year when so many arts organizations are preoccupied with their own fundraising efforts, two just offered their support to PAL Ottawa. *Same Day Theatre* passed the hat during its run of Norm Foster's *Ethan*

Claymore, and the *National Arts Centre's English Theatre* had a special performance of *The Sound of Music* on January 2, with net proceeds going to PAL Ottawa, *the Actors' Fund* and the *Ottawa Food Bank*.

CHAPTER HELPFUL HINTS

-Occasional suggestions of ideas chapters might find, or have already found, useful.

Keep an archive of pictures, newspaper clippings, letters, lists of past board members and volunteers, etc., in a binder, file or scrapbook. This time capsule is not only a great resource for grants and promotional purposes, but also serves as a testament to your hard work.

BOARD MEMBER IS TOP JAZZ PIANIST

Holly Arsenault, a member of the Board of Directors of *PAL Halifax*, is an acclaimed jazz musician in constant demand throughout the Maritimes and beyond.



Her jazz piano is often heard at diverse functions in the City of Halifax, and was most recently enjoyed by the large number who took part in *PAL Halifax's 4th Scrabble® With the Stars*.



PAL Calgary
Members of this first Alberta Chapter are quiet as they continue assessing their options during their hiatus.



PAL EDMONTON (Artists Urban Village)

The times they are a' changin', quoth the Bard

Dylan. So, too, here.

A new Mayor and new members of City Council to get to know and work with. The continuing and evolving relationship with the government of this quickly growing city will keep us busy in the coming year.

We've got meetings with the architects, a schedule for up-coming information sessions for people newly interested in joining the project, and meetings to foster community among those already in for the adventure.

What a five years it's been! (cont'd) ↗

PAL Edmonton (Artists Urban Village) continued

We are thrilled to announce that our President, Shirley Serviss, has been selected as the City of Edmonton's first Writer-at-Work artist. An exciting new initiative that will see her writing focus on City employees and the work they do to deliver civic services, stories about the people who might not make the headlines. She will also provide writing workshops and one-on-one sessions for City staff.

To all of you across the country -the best for 2014.
-Robert Clinton



PAL VANCOUVER

PALS Chorus -now 40 members strong, PALS Chorus rang in

the holidays in early December with a spectacular free concert for residents, neighbours, friends, and extended family.



The chorus meets every week from September to June and plans to rock our socks again in the spring with another fabulous concert.

PAL's Rooftop Garden -2013 was an important year for PAL's rooftop garden with the founding of the Jack Thorne Legacy Fund.



So far the fund has financed much needed tree pruning, helped resolve irrigation problems, and launched a new lighting design that will enrich and stimulate the social and creative lives of residents and visitors to 581 Cardero while leaving a lasting legacy to Jack Thorne, who brought light into all our lives.

-Karen Woodman

STARS OUT AGAIN FOR SCRABBLE®

In a new venue atop Halifax's *World Trade and Convention Centre*, with the lights of the harbour and city twinkling behind a fabulous MC, *Karen Bassett*, and the amazing jazz pianist, *Holly Arsenaault*, PAL Halifax presented its 4th *Scrabble® with the Stars* evening on 1st. November. It has been pronounced "best yet!" by workers and attendees alike.

A galaxy of stars from the incredible talent pool in this little city of ours, including almost the entire cast from the hit TV show *SEED*, came and won over many hearts. PALifax is grateful that so many shared their busy schedules and that so many amazing individuals and groups contributed to and purchased items from the large silent auction.

ACTRA Day in L.A.

ACTRA is hosting a one-day conference for members living and working in Los Angeles. The "ACTRA Day in LA" conference will be held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Saturday, January 25.

The conference is free to ACTRA members but you must RSVP to attend. Following the conference a "mixer" from 5:00pm - 7:00pm will be held at the Beverly Hilton. For more information email cwebber@actra.ca.

If you are an ACTRA member currently living or auditioning in L.A. we encourage you to come to the conference and mingle/meet with other LA-based ACTRA members and industry guests.

ART UNBOUND AND FOUND

On October 19 and 20 PAL Van's visual artists hosted *Art Unbound and Found*, a mixed media art exhibition at the *PAL Studio Theatre*.

More than 300 visitors attended a festive weekend that opened with a special musical performance by *The Flying Walchuks* (*Judy, Jim* and *Marlee Walchuk*, and *Miles Black* on piano). Fully funded by *Joyce S. (Shanna) Fromson*, Art Unbound and Found was organized to support, encourage and stimulate artistic expression within the PAL community.



ASTRID SARS NEW THEATRE MGR

PAL Studio Theatre Manager *Astrid Sars* is an active Vancouver musician with experience coordinating a wide range of cultural events in the city. Born in the Netherlands to well known conductor *Wim Sars*, in 2000, she co-founded *The Ironworks*, a multi-disciplinary art space in a beautiful heritage building in *Gastown*. The *Ironworks* has been used for many music and spoken word series and by *CBC* for live recording. It is a *Vancouver International Jazz Festival* venue, and is regularly utilized by the local film industry. In the fall of 2005 she helped establish the *Railtown Cultural Enhancement Association*.



In addition, Astrid has been an artist-composer for over 25 years, performing locally, regionally, nationally and internationally with many of her compositions used in film and television, to positive reviews. She recently released another CD, *Full Life*, which is charting on college radio. In addition to performing with her ensemble *Indigo*, she has performed with other artists and ensembles, supporting their work.

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY TALKS

Last Issue we told you about the gathering of a number of PAL-interested members in Prince Edward County, Ontario. It was all instigated, planned, researched and prepared for by *Tabby Johnson*, who initially approached *Patty Gail Peaker* and PAL Toronto since she was on the Toronto board at the time.

It was suggested it be referred to PAL Canada and subsequently President Jeff Braunstein and Patty attended a most enthusiastic gathering in Picton, where Tabby now lives.

Tabby did all the leg work getting the appropriate people together and deserves acknowledgement and credit for her efforts.

WALKING TOURS IN CANADA

Unfortunately, there are few districts in Canada where walking tours are recommended. Indeed, the extremes of temperature and the scarcity of well marked footpaths offer considerable obstacles.

-from Baedeker's (Tourist guide of) Canada 1907

Given our recent weather conditions, this tip from Baedeker's Guide seems rather appropriate today -Ed.

Contributed article by Aggie Elliot

THE SUPPORTING CAST EXPERIENCE

May I share some comments with you, based on observations and suggestions over 12+ years associated with PAL Canada?

The core of any PAL Chapter should be a *Supporting Cast* (SC) outreach group. This is where the networking begins and information is gleaned to assess if a PAL residence is needed in any given community.

SC has a set of Suggested Guidelines available for all potential and new PAL Chapters. They're on the PAL Canada Website www.palcanada.org Read them. Print off a copy.

While plans are developing, I suggest Chapters consider what 'perks' they can immediately offer to members e.g., a weekly coffee/tea social, pot luck dinner parties or other celebrations -events that could affect their particular community.

Each PAL chapter is responsible for its own membership growth. When I was leading the membership committee at PAL Stratford, our monthly sponsored events served two purposes: raising awareness in the community of PAL organizations (both PAL Stratford and SC) and giving our members the opportunity to perform, to teach/mentor, or to present various social and health workshops to the general public. These events enabled us to determine who in our unique community needed some particular kind of help – a little shopping, tidy ups, drives to medical appointments or a theatre performance, help in finding a doctor or mobility aid, etc. It also helped identify who would donate support funds and/or become a PAL member.

Each PAL chapter or community has its own unique needs and needs to understand Supporting Cast is there to help in 'Caring for Our Own'; and that this help includes being sufficiently in touch with our members to know when professional community services may need to be contacted. In some cases, SC should be able to act as an Advocate for a member, if necessary and requested.

This is a brief snapshot of my experience, which I hope conveys my belief in Supporting Cast as the integral part of any PAL Chapter. I am open to discuss your needs at any time as is PAL Toronto's Patty Gail Peaker. We're listed on the Back Page.

Ed.: Aggie Elliot is on the PAL Board of Directors and also a member of our Communications Committee.

IN MEMORIAM

**Christine Duff
Sharon Dyer
Jack Merigold
August Schellenberg**

JACK MERIGOLD DIES AT 91

Part of the Stratford Festival's first stage management team and a mentor to generations of theatre hopefuls, Jack Merigold died on 11th. December at age 91 from pancreatic cancer. Jack was well loved and much admired by the Theatre community and was a staunch supporter of PAL. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Merigold worked with the Stratford Festival for 16 seasons, including tasks with its founding Artistic Director, Tyrone Guthrie, and also performed on CBC TV.

As a stage manager he travelled coast to coast with Spring Thaw and the famed Canadian Players group, later serving as the chief administrator of the Bayview Playhouse in Toronto. He was a Life Member of Canadian Actor's Equity Association and longtime member of ACTRA.

Jack lived at Pal Place until illness forced him into hospital in Toronto. He requested a move to his beloved Stratford and was there for a week before he died.

Stratford Festival is dedicating 2014's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to Jack, who played Puck at the beginning of his career.

PAL LOSES SHARON DYER

Another PAL pioneer, Sharon Dyer, much loved early resident of Pal Place has been taken from us in Toronto. Although she had been ill for some time, an illness which necessitated a move from her beloved Pal Place some months ago, Sharon's death was unexpected on 7th November, 2013. She was in her 72nd year.

She contributed greatly to creative endeavours in Canada and her rich, powerful voice was as appreciated as her warm personality. Sharon gave her talents unstintingly in support of PAL until Parkinson's disease made it no longer possible.

She is survived by her sister, Lynda, Lynda's daughters Amy and Regan, as well as several great-nephews.

-EVENTS-

Please Note

6 February – 23 March, 2014

Chicago Shakespeare Theatre Louise Pitre in Gypsy

PAL STRATFORD

The newly opened *Pal Place*, Stratford, is getting a new coat of paint -in stages, as money allows. In the photo you can still see some original green and admire the sharpness of the new blue and cream colour scheme.

Also note the newly installed signage letting all and sundry know they are approaching PAL's fourth facility of affordable accommodations for senior artists.



Stratford is hard at work raising necessary funds through their campaigns to meet the ongoing financial challenges and ensure help is there for our colleagues when needed.

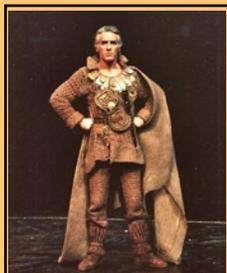
PAL ARTISTS' GREETING CARDS

The fundraising project undertaken for PAL Canada still continues. New cards are being added.

Check out the all-occasions cards at:

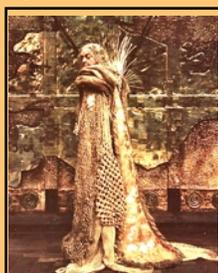
tioramarts.ca/artist-greeting-cards/

Cards depicting the amazing costume designs of Peter Blais for a still-talked-about production of King Lear at Neptune



David Renton as Kent

ALL
PROFITS
GO TO
SUPPORT
THE
WORK OF
PAL
CANADA



Eric Donkin as Lear

PAL CANADA FOUNDATION

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