



Where did Summer go??

The BUGLE

KIWANIS Club of Vancouver, BC
www.kiwanisbc.com

Vol LXXVIII Issue 14 September 1, 2004

This Week's Editor: **DICK MEYER**

Upcoming Speakers

1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS
THE VANCOUVER CLUB

Sept 2: **Micheal Vonn**
BC Civil Liberties Association

Sept 16
LARRY WILDE

Mr. Wilde was named "Best Selling Humorist" by the New York Times...and is a much sought after motivational speaker.



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PLEASE NOTE:
Luncheon RSVP
required by the Tuesday previous...to Lenora. Thanks!



**HAPPY
BJRTHDAY!**

- 27 Rob Spinner 982-3638
- 28 Sean Ennis 602-8992
- *28 Win Bremer 436-4620
- 31 Reid McGruer 685-6521

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Ken Sewell 944-7144
- *10 Ralph Conlin 261-2591
- 11 Brenda Cesareo 640-4294
- 13 Sam Balden 640-4174
- 13 Jack Buckley 535-3301

*Former member

Ice-President **Reid McGruer** conducted the meeting today. Honourable Secretary **Stephen Bagnell** advised that we had no visitors and then called for Barrel news. This prompted **Ken Sewell** to recount his recent camper trip to Casper, Wyoming, to attend a Job's Daughters convention. After 5,000 kilometers travel, including visits to Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial site, the Sewells arrived home with many pleasant memories. Reid added a frustrating fish story: he and his brother went to a spot on the Fraser River where everybody, it seems, was pulling out fish and fish...big ones. After a few casts, Reid pulled in a salmon and his brother also hooked a fish...a sucker.. It was the last bite of the day for them in spite of the catches continuing all around them. Better luck next time, Reid.

RELEASE OF SOULS

This was one meeting where the admonition, "You should have been there; you missed a good talk", really held true. We heard a truly inspiring and heart-warming account of how one person's dedication and perseverance can make a big difference to many friends who are quietly grieving. This is the unfolding story of a marvelous memorial to the heroes and victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack in the United States. Its core is the brainchild and artistic expression of a self-effacing artist from Maple Ridge. The memorial is aptly named "Release of Souls".

Rob Radloff introduced **our speaker, artist Kathleen Tonnesen** who is the wife of new member Tony Tonnesen. Kathleen and Tony arrived in Canada five years ago and just received their Canadian citizenship in the past two weeks. Some months prior to 9/11, Kathleen had lost her sister and the grief which she had felt so keenly over that loss triggered a deep empathy with the families of the 9/11 victims...and a profound admiration for the incredible heroism of the firefighters, police and other emergency workers who responded without thought of personal safety.

Out of this response and its spiritual aftermath grew a consuming passion to find a way to give solace to the thousands of grieving survivors and to keep alive the memories of so many ordinary people who reacted with extraordinary bravery and dedication to their fellow man in a world gone suddenly insane. ...▲

This idea was so intrusive that Kathleen could not concentrate on her regular assignments; she ended up working for three years (to date) without compensation on the Release of Souls project.

At first, Kathleen produced two very tall paintings. Subsequently she enlisted the help of others, including designer Louis Louw, structural engineer Brian Lytton and metal fabricator Dave Rouleau to produce an 18 foot high walk-in steel frame sculpture on a pentagonal base surrounding the pictures, which are to the rear. In front of the pictures are two empty steel frames representing the spaces left by the missing Towers. Tall, jagged, leaning grids, reminiscent of the signature remains of the Towers are the most striking aspects of the sculpture. There are several stations within the sculpture for personal reflection. At the back of the sculpture the names of all the firefighters, police and emergency workers who lost their lives are engraved.

Kathleen also wrote a poem of hope in remembrance of that day. Fiona Blackburn transferred this into a song and jazz pianist Miles Davis has produced a symphony. ▶ ...Pg 3

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...cont from Page 1

These and other musicians have composed additional music for the project; a CD is available with this music with the hope it will help fund the Project. [Call 1-800-600-7127 or 604-466-9866 to purchase.] A Release of Souls Concert has evolved. The Seaforth Highlanders provided their armories and Pipe Band and the regimental band of the 15th Field Artillery added their music to the occasion.

The reaction of Americans to ROS Project is one of amazement and heartfelt thanks. The World Memorial Association is helping to arrange a 24 city, cross continent tour of the Concert ending in New York City for the 5th anniversary of the attack on the Twin Towers. However, it has fallen to Kathleen—to her surprise and expense — to continue to be deeply involved in putting on this show.

On September 3, 2004, Kathleen and several of the musicians will put on the ROS Concert in Los Angeles and again a few days later in San Diego. Thus the Project will be formally turned over to the Americans. However, Kathleen's involvement remains. These Concerts will feature Congressmen, mayors, other dignitaries and survivors as speakers; they will include honour guards and military bands, fire fighters and police. The US Navy will add the names of its members killed at the Pentagon, and American Airlines will add the names of its doomed flight crews. Other names have also been added, for example the names of Canadians who were killed on that day. (Kathleen has traveled to a number of cities and met with many survivors and participating firefighters. She has seen burly firemen crying...and dying from the effects of the foul air...who thanked her for not forgetting them like the invisible Vietnam vets. She has been thanked by the widow of a Canadian who, having tried in vain to get the Canadian government to make some kind of 9/11 memorial, said she could now feel at peace having seen his name added to the ROS Memorial.)

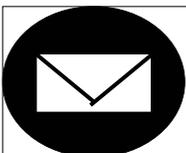
The tour across the US will allow each city to showcase itself. The Concert will provide a central theme that can stand on its own but each city can make the event their own with their own bands, speakers, personalities, and so on. The Project has shown its ability to expand its scope. In each city the sculpture will be reassembled by firefighters and/or other groups who can come away with a sense of participation. It is hoped that this diverse community of survivors and unsung heroes will be able to connect, be remembered and achieve a sense of peace that may have been missing until now.

This account has not done justice to many aspects of the Release of Souls or to Kathleen Tonnesen and the many people who have pitched in to make it possible. However, I hope it has kindled an interest in the readers to support the endeavour and follow its progress as much as Canadian news media might cover it. Readers might wish to check out the details at www.world-memorial.org/ROS/ros.html for additional info.

Sam Balden in graciously thanking our speaker pointed out that Fiona Blackburn was well known to our Kiwanis Music Festival. He clearly reflected the response of our audience in describing her presentation as impressive, moving and poignant. It was truly inspirational.

[Postscript: I did not want to end the above account on a sour note but I have to report that in answer to a question from the audience on seeking government support, Kathleen replied that the Canadian Government would not offer any assistance, nor could she even get an audience with the mayor of Vancouver. It would not be a big surprise that Americans are better acquainted with the smug ignorance and cheap shots of Carolyn Parrish than they are with Kathleen and her work. Let's hope for a change. ED]

NOTICE OF VOTE—Thurs. Sept 2/04 — Grant to SOS Village
The Youth Committee, under Chair Dr. Ian Humphreys, has recommended a grant of \$5,000 for SOS Village, Pietermartizburg, SA. Funds will be specifically designated for the Kindergarten program — which will qualify as a Young Children Priority One project. The Village itself houses from 100 to 130 children, but help extends to hundreds more through outreach programs, daycare and educational training services for the neighbouring communities — which have been devastated by the effects of HIV/Aids, poverty, and unemployment. SOS Villages International will provide \$5,000 as a matching grant for our Club's donation. Vote to be by show of hands at the luncheon. See www.sosvillages.org.za/ for more information about the Village and SOS.



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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“To avoid situations in which you might make mistakes might be the biggest mistake of all.”

—Peter McWilliams

“Mistakes are the portals of discovery.”

—James Joyce

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