



**March 15, 2018**  
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# *News and Muse*

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## **Message from the President**



It has been a long and hard winter. Or does it only appear to be harder with each year, with advancing age? My mom turned 90 in December and she is evidence to me of how difficult winters are on the elderly. I'm not quite 90 but the cold seems to go on longer each year. So maybe I need to find out

where all you snowbirds are in Florida and come visit you next year. I say "next year" because spring is just around the corner and I've managed to get through this one!

Last year, in moving from a casual newsletter to the *ACRA News and Muse*, the most significant impetus for the Board was to provide better and regular communication to our members. In the past, we've not highlighted the charitable deeds that ACRA has undertaken, whether by donating funds to charities or members donating their time and efforts for a good cause. Often, questions arise about "where do my dues go?" ACRA is doing good in our community and it is only fair that we bring it to your attention since it is your money we're using to do so. You'll note details in this issue of the first of three donations that ACRA makes to charitable organizations each year.

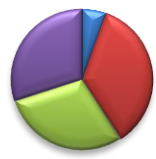
On another note, our association thrives on our social gatherings and it is always a central goal of the Board to structure activities that will permit the greatest number of members to participate. Attention is given to distance (different areas of the city), parking, accessibility/mobility, and cost. Subsidizing these

activities is a significant part of encouraging participation. Helping someone get to the venue, if we can, is another.

Member Welfare is an element that the Board has discussed at several meetings and it has now become a recurring item on our agenda. How can ACRA be of service to its members, especially in times of need? It is an area we want to develop. Presently, we reach out to members experiencing difficulties with get-well cards, sympathy cards sent to grieving families, as well as enrolling their loved one in the Jesuit Seminary Association for masses and prayers. As the Board continues to study this topic, please contact me if you have any ideas that are doable.

Finally, a picture is worth.....

## **ACRA Membership Dues**



- Member Welfare
- Daily Operations
- Donations
- Subsidized Activities

Be well,  
Maria

*In a gentle way, you can shake the world.* Mahatma Gandhi



## *St. Valentine's Day Luncheon*

On a beautiful sunny February 8<sup>th</sup>, 50 members and friends celebrated an early Valentine's at L'Academie in Ville D'Anjou. Our President, Maria Di Perna, warmly welcomed everyone and asked George Pajuk to say grace.

After the meal, draws were held for five small gifts, Valentine Chocolate Hearts, courtesy of the ACRA Board. The lucky winners were: Charlie Jeannotte, Claudia Ciampini, Pat Moffa, Roman Wodzicki, and Phil Amabili.

Amidst the chatter and laughter, it was plain to see the enjoyment and gratitude of our members and friends. These gatherings are an opportunity for us to reconnect and share.



## *Mario's Musings*

*"Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant with the weak and the wrong. Sometime in your life you will have been all of these." » Dr. Robert H. Goddard*

*"Whether sixty or sixteen, there is in every human being's heart the lure of wonder, the unfailing child-like appetite of what's next, and the joy of the game of living. In the center of your heart and my heart there is a wireless station; so long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, courage and power from men and from the infinite, so long are you young." » Samuel Ullman*

*"There is a fountain of youth: it is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age." » Sophia Loren*

### **Briefs from the Board**

- ◆ The Board held its meetings on January 11 and February 15, 2018.
- ◆ Research into the origins of ACRA's surplus, a topic that was discussed at September's AGM, was concluded. \$4000 of the surplus originated from ACPM, \$2000 from ADES, and \$1200 from ACPM's insurance.
- ◆ Membership Acknowledgement Receipts are being sent to members by the Treasurer, Tony Di Lallo, via email and regular mail for those without email.
- ◆ In wanting to provide a relevant cultural environment, McKibbin's was chosen for the St. Patrick's Day luncheon.
- ◆ The ACRA spring event has been determined – the Napoleon Exhibit at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. The date of the visit is Thursday, April 19, 2018. Information will be sent to members in early March.
- ◆ Buffet Roma has been reserved for the ACRA Annual Dinner. With rising costs, it's one of few places that offers a good amount of decent food for the price. The cost remains the same as last year, including unlimited wine. The cocktail hour has been moved 30 minutes later to 6:30-7:30 pm.
- ◆ The Soup Kitchen at St. Patrick's Basilica was chosen as the first of three charitable organizations to receive a \$1000 donation from ACRA this year. (See page 5 for further details.)
- ◆ In the past couple of years, several members have expressed interest in an organized ACRA trip. Norm Wallach, who has much experience in organizing trips for groups, was invited to speak to directors about the topic. He is researching several options for us and will report back to the Board. Stay tuned!
- ◆ A special "thank you" from Joe to all who supported his efforts in raising \$750 for St. Gabe's via Lions' Club cakes.
- ◆ Next meeting: April 5, 2018

An elderly gent was invited to his old friends' home for dinner one evening. He was impressed by the way his buddy preceded every request to his wife with endearing terms - Honey, My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, Pumpkin, etc. The couple had been married almost 70 years and, clearly, they were still very much in love. While the wife was in the kitchen, the man leaned over and said to his host, "I think it's wonderful that, after all these years, you still call your wife those loving pet names." The old man hung his head. "I have to tell you the truth," he said, "I forgot her name about 10 years ago."



Morris, an 82 year-old man went to the Doctor to get a physical. A few days later the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young lady on his arm. A couple of days after that the doctor spoke to the man and said, "You're really doing great, aren't you?" Morris replied, "Just doing what you said, Doctor: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'" The Doctor said, "I didn't say that. I said you've got a heart murmur. Be careful."



## ACRA Snowbirds



Some ACRA members are fortunate to spend some time in warm and sunny places during our long winter.

Peter and Joanne Yaworski have been enjoying golf in Myrtle Beach. Wally and Eric Martin, Mike Bambeck, and Steve Sehn have been in Florida where the golf courses are a plenty and it's sunny every day. Mario and Maria Ferri have been enjoying south Florida since mid- January. Bocce, cards, golf, the pool, the beach, and an occasional trip along the Intercoastal waterway aboard a luxurious yacht, like the rich and famous, fill their days and evenings.

Needless to say, our ACRA Snowbirds really know how to live!  
We look forward to seeing you soon!



## ACRA's Charitable Donations

In choosing a recipient for our donations, we aim to

- address the needs of our own community,
- provide the funds to an organization that has a minimal amount of overhead, and
- give to those who do not already receive hundreds of thousands of dollars – an organization to whom our \$1000 will be a great deal.

The Soup Kitchen at St. Patrick's Basilica is the first of this year's three recipients of ACRA's Special Projects Donations.

### The Soup Kitchen at St. Patrick's Basilica



- ♥ The Soup Kitchen was initiated in the early 1980s by the parish curate, Fr. Frank Pellerin.
- ♥ It operates each Friday between the hours of 10:45 AM and 12:30 PM, serving soup and sandwiches to the poor and/or homeless.
- ♥ Once a month, a hot meal, rather than the usual soup and sandwiches, is served.
- ♥ About 500 meals per month are served by the approximately 25 volunteers who are involved in this project on a random basis.
- ♥ 100% of all money donated is used in the soup kitchen and food parcels.

Brian Dowd, one of our ACRA members, is a longstanding volunteer at the Soup Kitchen. He is delighted by the generous amount of our donation and estimates that it will cover about three of the monthly hot meals.

*A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members.* Mahatma Gandhi



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

McKibbin's Pub, Thursday, March 15, 2018

St. Patrick's Day lunch in an Irish pub - what a novel idea! One person mentioned he missed the Greek souvlaki. (He was kidding!) Another person had pasta. (He really did - and for the sake of his reputation, he will remain unnamed!) The majority of the group happily enjoyed pub fare and suds.

Nicole Tabet was the lucky recipient of the bottle of Bailey's. As Waguih opened the bottle and shared it freely with everyone, we wondered if Nicole had given her consent?

The wearing of green was abundant, and the smiles were infectious. Either the feeling of spring is in the air ...or the spirits were running freely! It was a good time.



## ACRA Calendar of Events

### **Napoleon Exhibit**

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts  
Thursday, April 19, 2018, 10:40 am

### **ACRA Annual Dinner**

Buffet Roma  
Thursday, June 7, 2018, 6:30 pm

### **ACRA Golf Tournament**

Les Iles de Boucherville  
Wednesday, July 4, 2018