



# THE PANDEMIC DIARY

ST. PATRICK'S CWL, MISSISSAUGA



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus!*

Neal A. Maxwell

Sisters of the League,

We are in the last week of Advent, preparing the way for Jesus! Let our hearts truly be like that of the kind innkeeper who made room for Mary and Joseph in his stable.

December has been busy for our Council. We organized our **Christmas Bazaar** which had Bake & Food tables, Craft & Crocheted/Knitted items, Gift baskets and a CHALICE table. We also had a Parish Table (items donated by CWL and other Parish organizations, proceeds going to our Church). A heartfelt "Thank You" to all who donated so generously and the elves who worked tirelessly to make this event a success. We pulled off a great Bazaar ladies!!! Our **Christmas Sharing** meeting was wonderful too with a beautiful Candle lighting ceremony, Susan's classic Christmas Punch & Dip and of course lots of carols with Theresa on the keyboard and a special Christmas Tree! Check out pics on Pg 4.



This month we have a unique poem presented by Brigitte (to be read carefully, following instructions) and another written by Emma Dzis, our youngest member and related to someone we all know! Welcome aboard Emma! Barbara takes us on an adventure to some interesting places with ancient history. Do check out the additional pictures she has kindly shared with us on the link provided. And do try making Maria's sumptuous Portuguese Doughnuts. I couldn't resist making a batch before this Newsletter got out and... they are already over!!

Merry Christmas everyone!!

*Ramona*

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Brigitte Daniel presents

## "The Lost Generation" by Jonathan Reed.

I am part of a lost generation.

And I refuse to believe that

I can change the world.

I realize this may be a shock, but  
"Happiness comes from within"

Is a lie, and

"Money will make me happy"

So in thirty years, I will tell my children

They are not the most important thing in my life.

My employer will know that

I have my priorities straight because

Work

Is more important than

Family

I tell you this:

Once upon a time

Families stayed together

But this will not be true in my era.

This is a quick fix society

Experts tell me

30 years from now, I will celebrate my 10th divorce anniversary.

I do not concede that

I will live in a country of my own making.

In the future,

Environmental destruction will be the norm.

No longer can it be said that

My peers and I care about this Earth.

It will be evident that

My generation is apathetic and lethargic.

It is foolish to presume that

There is hope.

**Now read the poem again, in reverse (bottom line to top line)**

**All of this will come true unless we choose to reverse it!!!**

Johnathan Reed has craftily found a way to make us feel inspired to create the future for ourselves. To fashion it into something we can live with and to protect it from what it might become.

Two exceptionally polar worlds have been presented in this poem. I ask you, to which generation do you belong?



## Armchair Travelogue with Barbara Azzopardi

When we get a chance to go on a long awaited vacation, where do we want to go? Somewhere familiar, somewhere new? Maybe both?

Last month in November, my husband and I finally got to go on our make-up cruise that was cancelled when Covid reared its ugly head (and its entire ugly body) that made us hide and isolate ourselves like never before. We finally left Toronto for our 20 day cruise from **Barcelona to Abu Dhabi!** What fun but where is Abu Dhabi and do we really want to go there? It sounds so foreign and is it safe? Aren't the people strange, very different from us? What do we do, what do we see? So many questions but luckily we have access to answers. You see, we have wonderful YouTube and we can find very interesting videos about everything. To fully condense 3-4 months of bingeing YouTube videos, my husband asked me 'why are we going now? Haven't you seen everything and learned all there is to know about...

Let's see .... **Mt. Etna in Messina** (near Sicily) - is it safe? Doesn't it always erupt? Yes it is the most active volcano apparently in the world beside Mauna Kea in Hawaii. Mt Etna was fascinating and even though it is continuously spewing steam and erupting, we got really close after taking a 2 hour bus ride from the cruise port, a cable car ride followed by a 4x4 vehicle ride on almost cold lava (actually it erupted 11 times in 2021 over a 3 week period and the last big eruption that covers houses and streets in black dust still today was in May 2022!!!) Then what do we see in **Egypt?** Too much to see but we spent 2 days visiting **Luxor and Karnak**, 2 cities that have the largest remaining temples and columns that would take many weeks to really explore right on the Nile River. After an almost 4 hour bus ride from Safaga on

the Red Sea driving through rocky hilly desert conditions with not a green thing or animal in sight we finally drove through small villages with men and boys riding donkeys and only using hand tools to farm in relatively small fields growing just enough to feed their families and neighbours. Of course, we saw women all wearing burkas and face coverings everywhere - all in black! The temperatures were comfortable since November sees an average temperature of 29C while it gets to over 40C in the summer months! We were wearing light pants and shirts. After 5 sea days travelling through the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden near Yemen, we finally docked in Salalah, Oman. We also saw Muscat, Oman and we thought 'what are we going to discover here? We hadn't ever heard of Oman. What wonders to behold? **Salalah and Muscat** are on the southern and eastern coast of the Middle East and while we have all heard of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, who has heard of these places? Well, what beautiful countryside and such warm and welcoming people. Salalah gets a lot of rain in the summer and is very green and many wonderful fruits and vegetables grow here. We stopped at a roadside market and were treated to young bananas, coconut and papayas. There was also a strip of shops that advertised butchering rabbits, chickens, roosters and goats (there were lots of cages holding the birds but thank God we didn't see anything being butchered!) We are so sanitized from how we get our meat but that's ok with me. We also stopped at a grand mosque and since it was Friday, we could not go inside but it was pretty impressive. There is a beautiful beach which we were told no woman would dare to swim in since they can't be seen without their heavy coverings. What an absolute shame! The men mostly wear long caftans (long dress-like looking coverings) but some also wear pants and shirts. The people we met were all very polite, well mannered and a lot spoke English. In Muscat, we chose to go

look for dolphins and we saw a lot! We motored out about 5-6 kms from shore until we encountered many dolphins cutting through the warm (about 25°C) waters. Most we noticed were moms with their young babies. There were also some that swam right next to our boat which was so exciting. Next we were taken to a beautiful cove for snorkelling in about 10 ft of wonderfully warm and clear water. We saw so many beautiful fish, 2 turtles and sea cucumbers and colourful coral. There were also other boats with locals on them but we did not see any of them go swimming. Again, what a loss for them, especially the women. We did learn that Oman is quite good to its citizens with perks such as free education and health care. Home ownership is almost unheard of since their real estate is just as expensive as ours. We learned much more about this part of the world that I do not have room here to explore but please know that it is always good to experience people and places that we initially feel we are shy to explore but in the end, we are all people and part of the entire human family. So don't be afraid to say hi to someone you don't know or who looks different from you. They most likely feel the same about us!

**Copy & Paste this link** in your browser to see more pics of Barbara's adventure (you must have a gmail account to log in)

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/zGysxKigAvfjn5kV9>





## Portuguese Malaçadas by Maria Correia

### Ingredients

- 12 eggs
- 5 lbs (2.3 kg) All Purpose Flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1litre milk
- Peel of 2 lemons
- 3 packets Active Dry Yeast
- 1lb butter (454 grams)

### Method

Warm milk in a saucepan ( do not bring to a boil), drop in butter and

let melt. Set aside. Beat eggs well with sugar. Dissolve yeast in 1/4 cup warm water with 1 tsp sugar added and let rise for about 20 minutes. Take a large container, put in flour and lemon zest, make a well in the centre and pour in wet ingredients ie milk-butter mixture, beaten eggs with sugar and risen yeast. Mix well with a wooden spoon ( will be sticky). Start kneading, adding a little flour onto your hands as you knead. Once done, let dough rise for 3 to 4 hours or until 3 times bigger. Make small balls of dough ( should get about 80) and set aside to rise again for an hour.



Dough is to be deep fried. Warm oil to about 400 deg F on the stovetop, stretch each ball by hand to form a pancake ( drape over back of your hand to help shape). Drop into the hot oil and fry until golden brown. Cool and then sprinkle with sugar.

Enjoy these sumptuous Malaçadas!!

*This recipe can be halved if you wish to make to make a smaller quantity.*



## More than Seasonal Symbols by Emma Dzis

Look at all the Christmas symbols,  
They are everywhere,  
Little bits of God's insight,  
He wanted to share.

I'm not talking about the gifts,  
I'm talking about God's present,  
The world needed a Saviour,  
And Jesus was sent.

I'm not talking about the star on the tree,  
But the star of Bethlehem,  
Were stars not already referenced in Genesis,  
When God made a promise to Abraham?

I'm not talking about the grinch,  
Although King Herod was one for sure,  
He feared Jesus as the true King,  
Representing the human desire for power.

I'm not talking about the gingerbread house,  
A manger was the site of Jesus's birth,  
Somewhere unfit for the Son of God,  
Like how he was too good to be on this Earth.

I'm not talking about the decorations,  
Jesus was decorated with gifts from the three magi,  
We too should decorate him with our praise,  
We must dignify.

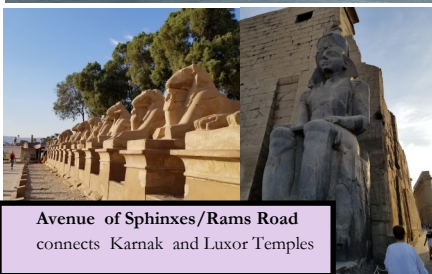
I'm not talking about reindeer,  
I'm talking about Mary on a donkey,  
A reminder that God creates great disciples,  
Out of the ordinary.

I'm not talking about hustle and bustle,  
Mary's journey to Bethlehem was a simple one,  
Showing that modesty and immaterialism,  
Will have a fulfilling outcome.

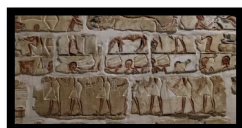
Christmas is not about what we receive,  
Or about what we give,  
It's about what was already given,  
And its effects on how we live.



Sign at entrance to Suez Canal



Avenue of Sphinxes/Rams Road connects Karnak and Luxor Temples



Heiroglyphs (sacred pictorial writing)



Bedouin Village Girl



Dedication to Armani Perfume (Muscat)





Wishing all our CWL Sisters and their families a  
"Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year 2023!!"

Happy Birthday to  
all our sisters born  
in December!!

## News in Pictures

CWL Christmas Bazaar



Parish Table



Reindeer Cupcakes-by Lucy



CHALICE Table



Christmas Sharing with Candle  
Lighting, Carols and a special  
Christmas Tree!!

