

June 2021

Volume 1, Issue 5

Pandemic Diary



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Sisters of the League,

Summer is officially here!! Hope everyone enjoys the fine weather and perhaps the company of family and a few friends as restrictions slowly lift.

June has been an eventful month. The Executive proudly announces the success of our fundraiser over the Father's day weekend. We had beautiful succulent terrariums, air-plants, potted plants, kokedama and also baked goodies kindly donated by Susan Macera and Cathy Taylor. We held a Silent Auction for a beautiful Mary Dish Garden which sold for \$50!! We have pictures for you on Page 4.

On behalf of the Executive, I would like to thank all those who generously donated containers, plants, decorative items and money. A big thank you to Cathy Taylor and Mary Fuller who helped me

put together the terrariums. Thanks to Andrea, Susan, Nancy and Peggy who helped with the sale. And a big thank you to all you members and patrons without which the sale would not have been a success.

Our Council decided to gift Fr John with a one year 'adopt -a-hippopotamus at the Toronto zoo' package for his birthday. Cathy Taylor and Andrea Tjioe presented him with the certificate. Fr John has named the hippo Gertrude.

This month we have Esther featured in our Women of the Bible series. Barbara takes us down 'pandemic' memory lane and Marina De Souza has a beautiful story to share with you about the power of God's creation. Nancy has some fun Canada Day Trivia and an interesting cocktail for you to try out to celebrate the day. Karen Lawless shares her CWL journey with us in 'Reflections' and Antonetta Macera displays her beautiful embroidery.



Cathy Cerasani has something different this month—a Word Search Puzzle bound to keep you busy for awhile and Diane is back with some more vodka oops, humour.

Happy viewing!!

We will be taking a break for the Summer but the Newsletter will be back in the Fall. Do send me any articles, pics, recipes etc which we can feature. This Newsletter is all about 'US' and celebrating who we are !!

God Bless!!

Ramona

Women of the Bible featuring Esther presented by Brigitte Daniel

Esther was a strong queen who saved the entire nation of Israel.

In the time of the Exile, when the Jews were living under Persian rule, King Xerxes got upset with his queen and decided to search the land for a new queen. Esther was chosen for her beauty and grace, though Xerxes did not know she was a Jew. Esther was an orphan being raised by her cousin Mordecai, who worked for Xerxes at

the palace.

Haman, one of the king's advisors, didn't like Mordecai and decided to convince Xerxes to kill off all of the Jews in the empire. Haman convinced Xerxes that the Jews were troublemakers and needed to be killed. Mordecai asked Esther to talk the king out of it, but Esther was worried. No one, not even the queen talked to the king without being invited. Mordecai convinced her that God put her in the posi-

tion as queen for just this very reason. Esther gathered all of her courage and told the king about Haman's plot and the people were saved.

Esther showed herself to be **strong in the face of great danger**. She trusted God and followed his calling on her life. God used her to save the entire nation of Israel from being destroyed.

Armchair Travelogue with Barbara Azzopardi

How different has 2021 been for you from 2020? Last January 2020, we were able to travel for a weeks vacation and we were looking forward to taking the most awesome 30 day cruise from Lima, Peru to Buenos Aires, South America. All the excursions were pinned down and paid for. Our suitcases were packed and then we heard the news about this horrible outbreak from China that has totally changed everything.

We have struggled with so many things like not being able to see our loved ones, especially those in homes, not being able to be with a loved one in the hospital and so many people have died totally alone

(this is the worst in my opinion). We have not been able to eat out, go shopping just because, figure out how to work from home (yuck!) but now we like it. No traffic, no need to buy new clothes, no clients to see and we got way more work done. Our children had to learn how to learn from their kitchen table. They couldn't play with friends or continue in the sports, dance, music classes that they were so used to. Families have had to learn how to spend good quality time together without driving each other nuts and not just watch TV or Netflix all the time. I believe we got Netflix binging out of our systems in 2020. Not being to attend Mass wasn't too bad in the beginning since we could watch by TV but eventually this is SO BAD. Church needs to

be open no matter what since Jesus is waiting there for us. There's no sickness where Jesus is, ever, so what are we doing at home???

Lord Jesus, please let this be over soon, may we have learned something from this time of exile from the living and may we be way more attentive to our neighbour.

By the way, does anyone need a ride to their doctor or need groceries picked up for them? Call me at 416-500-0851 if you do. I want to help your day be better than yesterday.

The Power of God's Creation--- NATURE!! by Marina De Souza



Episcia Pink Brocade



St. Paulin "Kiwi Dazzle" (Standard) - CHIMERA

I was blessed to be born and bred in Entebbe, Uganda, a tropical country enriched with luxuriant growth, colourful flowers and birds. My parents encouraged us to visit the Botanical Garden in our city, on the shores of Lake Victoria, at least twice a week. These gardens, planned by the British, grew plants and trees from all over the world, each labelled with its botanical name and native land. The garden was sectioned, displaying a specimen of an equatorial forest, dense and dark, the home of Teak, Mahogany, Rubber and Cinnamon and of course, poisonous snakes!

Nearby was a cocoa plantation which smelled like hot chocolate besides which was an area of tropical and temperate, lush and juicy fruit. We then strolled along a section of brightly coloured garden shrubs such as Jasmine, Hibiscus, Gardenia, Poinsetta, Gladioli, Roses, Dahlias and creepers with showers of colourful blooms. We then entered the Nursery which specialized in Cacti, African Violets, Orchids, miniature Roses and the Passion fruit creepers displaying the crown of thorns, nails etc as in the crucifixion.

What a joyful, pleasant and educational experience! To soak in the beauty of Mother Nature at its best was so rewarding. It was also therapeutic and inspirational to witness God's creation on display.

I had a lovely, colourful garden that I treasured and loved. I grew African violets indoors as a hobby which I pursued in Canada and which I must admit, took me to successful heights.

ALWAYS SOAK IN THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION!

Canada Day Trivia with Nancy Macera

1. Which Canadian island is the largest freshwater island in the world? That's right the whole world!
2. Generally, Canadians finish a sentence with this two-letter word.
3. Canada houses the oldest golf club in North America. Which one is it?
4. This is the youngest Territory in Canada, founded in 1999.
5. Seems every country has a

- national bird. What is Canada's national bird? This may surprise you!
6. Name the only Canadian province where daylight savings time does not occur.
7. Name the world's tallest free standing structure...(well, until 2007 it was the tallest)
8. What is the Canadian Motto? (No worries, I didn't know either)
9. This board game, invented by 2 Canadians became world famous.

Name the game.

10. How many times has Canada hosted the Olympic Games?

TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1. Manitoulin Island **2.** Eh **3.** Royal Montreal Gold Club (Est. 1873) **4.** Nunavut **5.** The Gray Jay (although most think it's the Canada Goose or the Loon) **6.** Saskatchewan **7.** CN Tower **8.** A Mari Usque ad Mare (from sea to sea) **9.** Trivial Pursuit (Montreal, Dec 15, 1979 - Chris Haney & Scott Abbott) **10.** 3 times (1976 Montreal, 1988 Calgary, 2010 Vancouver)

Reflections of a CWL Sister.... Karen Lawless

I was born in Northern Ontario, educated in the French Catholic School system, studied, worked and taught at St. Michael's Hospital as an X-ray Technologist and took courses in Medical Ethics, Liturgy and Scripture Study.

In 1965 when we came to St. Patrick's Parish, I was married to Bill and a new mother. I joined the League to get to know the members of my new community and was initially involved in the St. Patrick's Credit Union, the Parent Teachers Committees at two schools, volunteered at St. Paul's School Library and with St. Edmund's Kindergarten and Grade 2 classes, also serving as leader in both Guides and Brownies and on the Mother's Guild of the Applewood Hockey Association.

A member of the CWL since the age of eighteen, I served on the executive of the St. Patrick's Parish CWL Council for ten years, after which I was **elected to the Toronto Diocesan Council**, serving in different convenerships and as **President and Historian**. Received my **Life Membership in 2003**.

In 2012, I served another term as co-president of St. Patrick's CWL with Kay Marks, a great CWL companion.

Through these years, I particularly enjoyed teaching Leadership courses across the Diocese and learning more about the ladies from all parishes. I currently serve the National Council as **Life Member Liaison for Toronto**.

Over the years I have served as a CWL representative on the Board of the Catholic Biblical Society and the Advisory Board for Share Life among others. I also received the **Patricia Beatrice Mentoring Award**. This award is so very special because it comes from my League sisters who know me best and who have walked with me on my League journey.

In my home parish of St. Patrick's, I have been a member of the Choir, the Liturgy Committee, the RCIA as sponsor, a lector and a minister of the Eucharist and currently serve as an active member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

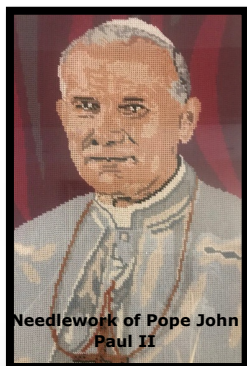
I have been happily married to Bill for the past 58 years and

have been blessed with 4 children (1 son, 3 daughters), 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren!

My League family, both parish and diocesan, has been the source of much love and happiness. They have been a major support to both myself and my family especially during times of stress (twice praying me through cancer, through a heart attack, various surgeries and helped me through the death of my Mom one Christmas Eve). They have always been and continue to be a blessing.

I cherish my League family at all levels.

Talent Showcase featuring Antonetta Macera



St. Pat's Bazaar Oct 17, 1981 – Antonetta & Stefanie Breznik featured in the Mississauga News which said "thousands are expected to attend" and it was true!

Antonetta was 10 when she started attending the convent close to home where the nuns instilled in her the love of embroidery, knitting, crocheting and needlework. It was popular then to initialize linens for your hope chest, preparing for marriage. Antonetta has many linens with names and initials that she and her mom, Nunziata embroidered. At the convent she got to spend time with her friends, enjoyed sun filled days at the beach, learned cooking skills and as she puts it, some mischief making. She also contemplated joining the convent and becoming a nun because her time there was truly inspiring. After joining the CWL in Canada, particularly at St. Patrick's, she continued those skills by becoming a member of the Knitting Club and formed lifelong friendships while doing what she enjoyed.

This and That!! Snippets & Mocktails

St Patrick's Knights of Columbus hosted a Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June. Our CWL Council was part of this collaborative effort along with the Columbian Squires. We would like to thank our devout members who joined these evenings of prayer. With Fr John's encouragement and support, this joint collaboration will continue in the form of St Patrick's On-Line

Prayer Group. Further details and dates to be announced via parish email. **Snippet by Andrea Tjoe**

Strawberry Rhubarb Lemonade Mocktail

- 1 - ¼ cups water
- 1 - ½ cups chopped rhubarb
- 1 - ½ cup chopped strawberries
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 sprig fresh mint
- ½ cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- ¾ cup sparkling water

In a saucepan, mix the first 6 ingredients and bring to a boil stirring until sugar dissolves. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 15 minutes. Allow mixture to cool, then strain it through a wire-mesh strainer set over a large pitcher. Press and extract as much liquid as possible, then discard the solids leftover. Stir in the lemon juice and sparkling water and pour into glasses over ice. Garnish as desired.





Diane's Pundemic Corner

Someone sent me
an email about
using
VODKA
for cleaning
around the house.

IT WORKED!
the more vodka i
drank, the cleaner
the house looked!!



Apache blessing:

May the sun bring you new energy by day.

May the moon softly restore you by night.

May the rain wash away worries.

May the breeze blow new strength into your
being.

May you walk gently through the world and
know its beauty all the days of your life.

Nature and the Outdoors



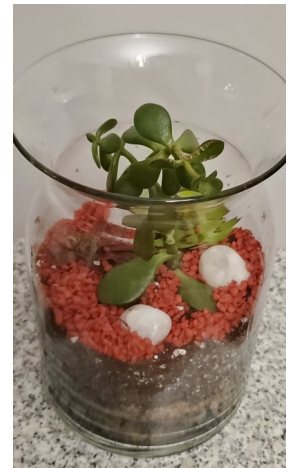
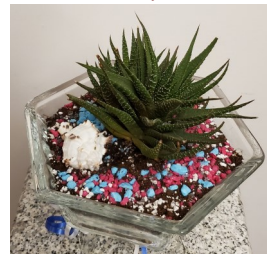
LANES
GRASS
PICNIC
FISHING
FIREWOOD
TREES
DRIVE WAY
DEER
BIRDS
RACCOON
WAGONS
LAKES
HIGHWAY
ANIMALS
TUNNEL
HUNTING
BUSHES
WATER
PARKS
CAMPING

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/316/>

Mary Dish Garden



Fundraiser items on display



Kokedamas (Japanese garden art a.k.a Poor Man's Bonsai)



Beautifully crafted succulent terrariums with Haworthia, Sempervivum and Jade plants. The terrariums have gravel, activated charcoal, sphagnum moss, special soil and came with care instructions.

