

Third Age Learning Burlington

Annual Report

September 13, 2018

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Burlington Art Centre

1333 Lakeshore Rd.

Burlington, ON

Fiscal Year - May 1, 2017 – April 30, 2018

Address: PO Box 91551 3023 New St. Burlington, ON L7R 4L6

Website: www.3alb.org

Non- Profit Number: 1857724 Ontario

The following report reflects the activities of the fiscal year 2017 – 2018. Two series were presented during the course of the year– “The Mysterious Brain” (Fall 2017) and “Food, Glorious Food” (Winter 2018). These mark the twelfth and thirteenth series offerings that began with the first series in January 2012. The planning for the organization began in March 2011, making this the seventh year of operations. Each series has been well received and fully subscribed and 3ALB is grateful for the support of the members.

Planning for the 2018 – 2019 series is well underway with the Fall 2018 program, “Climate Change, Catastrophe and the Tides of History”, confirmed and work continues on the Winter 2019 program.

The following reports will provide a short summary of the activities during the past year and the financial status of the organization.

Program Committee:

Judith Johnson, Chair, Program Committee

As noted above, two programs were presented during the course of the year– “The Mysterious Brain” (Fall 2017) and “Food, Glorious Food” (Winter 2018). Each program series was sold out within a very short period of time and we had the largest ever single ticket ‘walk-in’ purchase for each lecture in “The Mysterious Brain” series.

The program committee continues to work at how to provide options for more people to participate, including varied formats for series presentations that offer a possibility of hosting more than one series at a time. The Fall 2018 program, “Climate Change, Catastrophe and the Tides of History”, for example, is being presented by one speaker for all 8 sessions. We also continue to explore the possibilities for recording sessions and making them available after the lecture itself.

The program committee has themes for the next 3 series thanks to your responses to our surveys for your preferred topics.

This year, we said “good-bye” to a founding member of the program committee, Mairi Fulcher, and to Angela Papworth, who has been part of the program committee almost since the beginning. They provided both the creativity and the foundation on which we continue to build.

Thank you to the members listed below, who share in the excitement and hard work of bringing series to you twice a year.

Program Committee Members:

Shobha Ahuja	Doug Fraser	Sharon Gibbons	Gretchen Harris
Coco Johnson	Lois McNally	Mike McNally	Bernice Pedreschi (secretary)
Les Robb	Marg Tracz	Judith Johnson (Chair)	

Membership Committee:

As of July 1, 2018, Third Age Learning Burlington has a membership of 319. Membership numbers have not changed significantly from year to year.

Membership is included with the registration fee for a session and continues for a period of one year from the date that the registration fee is received.

12 Individuals have attended all 13 of the series that have been presented.

Facilities Committee:

Bernice Pedreschi, Chair, Facilities Committee

The Art Gallery of Burlington remained the venue for the presentations and will continue as the site for the foreseeable future. This year, a new projector to enhance speakers' presentation materials was purchased. The larger, overhead screen and the new projector should improve the overall quality of the programs.

A special "Thank You" to the following volunteers who welcome our members and distribute the information sheets at each session:

Facilities Committee Members:

Valerie Barnes Heather Boyd Diane Edelsward Bernice Pedreschi Pat Taylor

Website:

George MacRae, Website Chair

Our website provides information to the general public including:

- details of all previous series and presentations
- links to information related to presentations and other sites
- information about the organization
- registration for each session allowing both registration and payment to be made online – 3ALB no longer accepts payment by cheque
- mailing list
- contact information

Individuals interested in receiving information on upcoming series are encouraged to provide their contact information using the 3ALB.org website and becoming part of the mailing list.

The ability to pay online using a credit card or a PayPal account is handled through a link to the PayPal website. The PayPal interface has been a little confusing for some despite the tutorial that we have provided on our website. We have investigated using other credit card processing services but have found the price prohibitive so far.

Treasurers Report:

Barbara Pickworth, Treasurer

Series 12 and 13 were fully subscribed generating slightly higher revenues than originally budgeted. Walk in proceeds have once again surpassed the target, tripling the projected numbers and subsequent revenues for the fiscal year.

The exchange of the 3ALB portable screen for three rental sessions at the Art Gallery was negotiated and seen to be mutually beneficial.

Cortech Computer Services continued to provide AV services for both the Fall and Winter series. The benefits of the service were considered substantial by the Board, the Program Committee and the speakers and are anticipated to continue for the 2018 – 2019 series.

Travel costs for speakers were slightly less than projected but this is a difficult cost to project as finalization of speakers occurs after the budget is established.

Overall revenues were in line with projections with online payments continuing to increase and account for 87% of total payments. Walk-in numbers continued to surpass budgeted projections, adding to revenues. Expenses were in line with budgeted numbers and when accounting for the rental savings due to the exchange, resulted in a year end surplus of \$2,200.

Summary:

The Board wishes to thank all the members for their support and participation in Third Age Learning Burlington. Subscriptions continue to support the programs developed by the Program Committee and the response to the individual speakers has been quite positive.

Greater volunteer participation of members in the organization and delivery of the programs remains a challenge and needs to be addressed in the coming months if 3ALB is to remain a viable concern. The mandate to provide stimulating, informative and affordable programs for the 55+ community remains the focus of the organization.

Board Membership for 2017 – 2018

Penny Hersh

Judith Johnson (Associate Member)

George MacRae

Bernice Pedreschi (Associate Member)

Barbara Pickworth

Susan Savage