

A Successful Combination

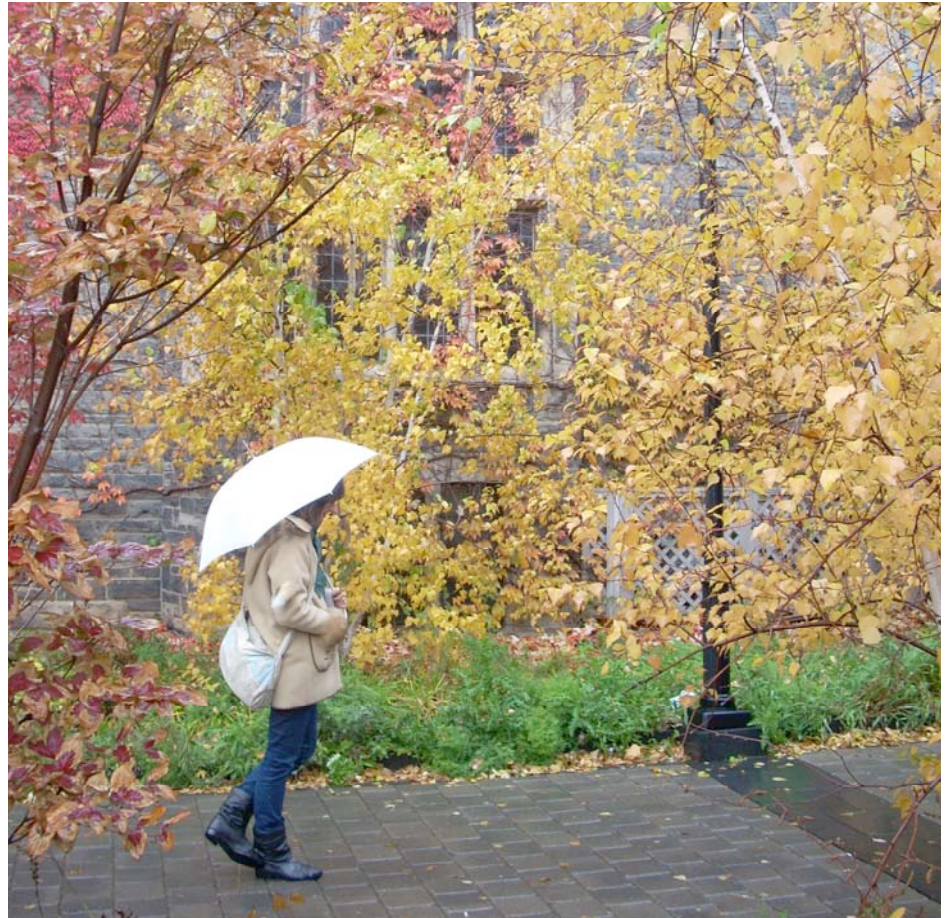
by Edith Howard

We've had Wednesday Forums and we've had receptions for new members. Combining the two, as we did on September 24th, was a successful experiment. The chapel at Knox was crowded and we estimate that at least 30 of our 60 plus new members attended (see picture, page 2). It was the first time we have used the chapel for an event of this kind and it worked very well.

We are grateful to **Arne Bowers** for his excellent presentation on the early days of the film industry and for the many hours he put into preparing for this special day. His personally designed and printed card program which accompanied the presentation was a work of art in itself and now resides in the Academy archives.

As well, thanks go to Knox College staff, **Jim Davidson** and **Daniela D'Aniello**, for all their help in making our event such a success.

Let's keep the spirit of that day alive and make a point of helping the newcomers settle into the Academy community. •



Fall Colours at Knox College
 Photo: Norah Smith

Library Privileges by Sheilagh Hickie

Since 2005, the Academy has enjoyed a special arrangement with the UofT libraries which applies especially to the use of Robarts Library. Here are the details:

Academy members can purchase a card for \$60 per year which allows them to take books out of the library and enter the closed book stacks. This is the same arrangement as offered to UofT alumni. If you don't buy a card, you can still access much of the Library at no charge: the first five floors of Robarts, including Reference Services, Government Publications, Current Periodicals and the Petro Jacyk Centre.

Material can be retrieved from the closed Robarts Library book stacks (floors 9-13)

through the Loan Services desk on the first floor. Retrieval times are at 11 am, 3 pm and 6:30 pm Monday to Friday, 11 am and 3 pm Saturday and 3 pm on Sunday. Material from the closed book stacks cannot be removed from the Library (same rules as at the Toronto Reference Library).

The Periodical Centre is particularly helpful to those researching for presentations. Check further details at <http://content.library.utoronto.ca/services/others/alumni/borrowing>.

For further information, please contact:
Karen Melville
 karen.melville@sympatico.ca. •

Events Calendar

Nov. 21	Board Meeting
Dec. 5	Workshops End
Dec. 12	Board Meeting
Dec. 12	Holiday Luncheon, Alumni Hall, Victoria University
Jan. 13	Workshops Start
Jan. 16	Board Meeting
Feb. 13	Board Meeting
Feb. 20	Mailing
Mar. 16	Spring Event, Faculty Club
Mar. 20	Board Meeting
Apr. 6	Facilitators' Forum
Jun. 10	AGM

New Members' Reception



New Members at the Wednesday Forum

This year, the Academy welcomed its new members at the first Wednesday Forum. Among those who attended were **Barbara Lareau** and **Bert Knapp**.

Barbara is registered in the workshops *The Good Life*, *Election USA*, *Jazz* and *Painters of the 20th Century* and Bert is in *China Watch* and *Opinions*.

Your Future Workshops

Passionate about a subject? Want to learn about it with others? One out of every five of our members is, or has been, a facilitator.

Why not try facilitating? We are now looking for new facilitators.

Have a great idea or theme for a workshop? We've posted copies of our *Workshop Ideas List* on the bulletin boards so let us know now what workshop subjects you'd like to see next year.

Lisa Avedon
Curriculum Committee Chair
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Members' Website Favourites

Leo Fine writes:

Baycrest, which opened its doors in 1918 as a Home for the Aged and has evolved into one of the world's premier academic health sciences centres, produces a monthly electronic health newsletter at http://www.baycrest.org/Health_Information/default.asp.

While there are many other providers of similar information on the Web, I like this one because it permits you to design your own personalized newsletter. At any time, you can add or remove a particular topic to meet your changing requirements. The information is always current. I believe the website is worth a look.... and by the way, did I mention that it's free?

Another useful website is the "Do Not Call" registry for telemarketers at www.lnnte-dncl.gc.ca/index-eng. When opened this past September the server was overwhelmed by the response. Things should be calmer now so take a look.

David Brodie writes:

A few years ago **Mark Abbott** started a workshop called *History of Ideas*. As his main reference he used a four-volume book called *The Dictionary of the History of Ideas*. The content of this book is

available at:

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/DicHist/dict.html>. I still use this site from time to time as a source of material for presentations, or just for the pleasure of learning something new.

The topics are organized in several indices, but mostly I use the Subject index, wherein the topics are listed under seven headings such as Nature, Art, History.

Each article is written by an authority in the field, and presents a thorough and scholarly overview of the topic. The length of the articles varies from a few thousand words to more than ten thousand, but "Naturalism in Art" and "Civil Disobedience" at 6,000 words are fairly typical. The articles end with an authoritative bibliography section and several references to related topics in the *Dictionary*.

Even if you are not researching for a presentation, it provides a good source of material for an interesting browse. Thanks for the lead, Mark.

Another member suggests:
If you're looking for a home page that

both amuses and challenges, there is none better than www.aldaily.com. Described as a web portal for people interested in ideas, the site collects links from a variety of cultural perspectives and political points of view.

Arranged in broadsheet format, there are three columns of links to: Articles of Note, Book Reviews and Essays/Opinions – including some opinions that may not be your own.

Each link is introduced with a brief teaser such as:

"This is the most important election in American history." Yeah, they say that for every election that comes along..."

"Except for issues of cleanliness, sex, and food, the British are just like the Yanks. Oh, yes, and then there's language..."

There is also a fourth column on the left hand side of the page with hundreds of links to magazines, newspapers and radio stations around the world, as well as columnists and weblogs.

The site is updated daily and can easily become a mind-expanding habit. •

Potluck Picnic by Pat Forrest

To go or not to go - that was the question! The remnants of Hurricane Ike were threatening Toronto and the weather forecast was full of dire warnings.

In spite of that, around 30 brave souls arrived at **Nancy O'Connor's** charming Victorian farmhouse at Cedar Hill Farm. As food tables were set up and the wine was poured, the sun came out and shone all afternoon. The food was great (I would still like the muffin recipe) and conversation flowed as people caught up with each other after the summer break. Some went on a short hike, while others went to admire the horses.

The Potluck Picnic has been held at Nancy's farm since 1992. We hope it will continue for many more years. Thanks, Nancy. •



Photo: **Audrey Swail**

From the Editor

by **Julia Matthews**

Our many new members are getting involved in committees and events, and we hope that they will also be users of our website, www.allto.ca.

Overall use is increasing steadily, with an average of 50 visits daily. Lots of images have enhanced the site and they are posted promptly after each event. You can read about the Academy's history or check past newsletters, like the ones from last year with restaurant reviews. We'd be happy to get feedback from you.

All members should note that there is a section titled *For Members* and that an ID and a password are required for part of this section.

If you are interested in obtaining the ID/password which allows access to Board Minutes, the Administrative Reference Manual, and more, please contact me at 416 929 6029 or juliamatt@gmail.com. •

Want to comment on an article or submit one of your own? Have a great picture of Academy events or workshops?

Send your suggestions/images to Julia Matthews, juliamatt@gmail.com.

Calling All Presenters!

by **Sheilagh Hickie**

Devoted readers will have noted how many times we've referred to the audio/visual equipment which the Academy has purchased for presentations. A few of you may even have benefitted from the sessions we have held to make you confident about using them.

Peter Blathwayt and others have been generous in mentoring us and writing detailed instructions. They would be pleased if we read and took heed! The main problems we are having are the following:

1. Users do not check to see that all the cords have been connected. If the cords are not connected, the laptops run on batteries which may well die in the middle of your presentation. The reason is that whoever used the computer before you has not reconnected things.
2. Sometimes the laptops and projectors are not shut down correctly. Please read the instructions if you are not sure how this should be done.

These are wonderful tools but care needs to be taken to keep them working properly.

Thanks for your help. •

Help Wanted!

The Membership Committee is looking for someone to join their group

We are looking for someone who is comfortable with their computer – not an expert by any means, but someone who would be comfortable learning about the Academy database and learning to do a little data entry as well as learning how to use the database to print labels, class lists etc. It is our goal that everyone on the committee is comfortable with this in order that the annual registration workload can be shared and run smoothly.

This individual would move into the Assistant Chair position next year and the following year move to the Committee Chair position.

If you are interested in knowing more about this, please contact **Sandra Walsh (905) 707-9151**, our Volunteer Coordinator (and also a member of the Membership Committee) or **Sandra Hoshooley (416) 690-5600** (sandrahosh@rogers.com).



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Introduce your
friends and family to
the Academy.

See our website at
www.allto.ca
for more
information on
workshops and events.

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Finally, Feet Up! Karen (bottom left) and Ken (second from the right) Snelgrove relax on their Liberty Village balcony with fellow Academy walkers. Photo: Rene Laukat

Walking Into Fall by Rene Laukat

The extension of Academy Walks into the fall, made possible by the re-scheduling of Academy Workshops leaving Mondays free, proved a huge success. On perfect Indian Summer mornings we were able to revisit summer favourites such as High Park, Toronto Islands and Glen Stewart Ravine and to introduce some fabulous new itineraries. The glorious parklands along the Highland Creek were deemed well worth the lengthy TTC journey to get there. A thought-provoking trip through some of Toronto's

cemeteries and an exploration of the Riverdale neighborhood marked the end of our 2008 walking program. The Academy Walks will resume in April 2009.

Too long a gap? The Toronto Trails Festival has weekend walks continuing to the end of October www.torontotrailsfestival.ca and Seniors Hiking Club has weekly Wednesday walks which continue right through the winter www.hikeontario.com/Toronto Walking Resources. •

...and seeing it in colour too

It was a glorious Fall day at the Kortright Centre and the colours were at their height as several groups of Academy members enjoyed a morning walking the Centre's well-groomed trails. They may occasionally have argued about which way to go but all eventually found their way back to join the other walkers for a picnic lunch.



Photos: Sheilagh Hickie