



## Central Okanagan Retire Teachers' Association

General Meeting/Luncheon

7 October, 2019

Capri Hotel, Kelowna, B.C.

**Members Present:** 24

President Cathie Mutter welcomed attendees and special guests to this luncheon.

**Words of greeting** were received, with thanks, from special guests: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO; Susan Bauhardt, COTA President; Scott Sieben, COPVPA President.

Their remarks were made following the meal. One other special guest was acknowledged for her attendance - Mary Hope, COTA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President.

CORTA successfully applied for two grants from the BCRTA to partially cover costs associated with the election forums that we hosted in September.

Luncheon organizers were thanked for their assistance in making the meal arrangements. The meeting was adjourned with a wish for a Happy Thanksgiving and a reminder to those in attendance that they exercise their right to vote in the October 21, 2019 Federal Election.

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**50/50 Draw:** Lucky winner - Brenda Gilbert

**Guest Speaker:** Fern G.Z. Carr was introduced by Brian Street

Fern, who taught in SD#23 for 14 years before her retirement, is a contemporary Canadian poet with an international reputation. She composes and translates poetry in six different languages – including Mandarin and has work published in 34 countries.

Fern illustrated her philosophy – and literary skill – by referring to poems from her published book 'Shards of Crystal' which she explained is a metamorphosis from darkness to light. It initially deals with dark subjects such as: suicide, dementia, cruelty to animals and gradually changes course to move to the beauty of life with poems of spiritual liberation and the philosophy of existence. From the pain of 'Shards' the poems slowly transform to the beauty and enlightenment of 'Crystal'. The book culminates with Fern's poem 'I Am' which examines man's place in the universe.

Fern was thanked for her informative, emotional and thought-provoking presentation. Attendees were able to purchase 'Shards of Crystal' and were given the opportunity to ask questions and react to Fern's poems at greater depth following her presentation.

For your calendar: Please mark – **Monday, 2 December, 2019** at 12 noon General Meeting when the annual Christmas luncheon will be served at the Coast Capri Hotel. Coffee will be ready at 11:30 am and the meal will be followed by a live auction in support of COBSS (Central Okanagan Bursary & Scholarship Society). A representative will be in attendance to accept donations. Further details will be emailed to you before the event. Letters were distributed to members and executive committee in attendance to assist them in procuring items for the live auction. These items can be brought to the auctioneer, Rolli Cacchioni, on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.