

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018 – 10:00 am-12:30 pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Century House Association was called to order at 10:00 am
Present at the meeting were 8 Executive, 5 Staff, 40 (just a guess) members.

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting have been posted on the bulletin board for all to read and will stand approved as posted and will be filed

Elizabeth Philip - Welcome Everyone

Thank you for taking the time to attend the Century House Association 2018 - Annual General Meeting.

My name is Elizabeth Philip and I am the President of the Century House Association. I would like to start off by wishing everyone a Happy New Year 2018. It's a New Year, a fresh start and infinite possibilities. This is a special year for Century House.

So let's BLING in the New Year. Let's try and keep that New Year's SPARKLE for the whole year. When you SPARKLE you INSPIRE everyone around you. I'm really getting into this Diamond Sparkle thing as you may have noticed.

We have a special guest with us this morning: **Steve Kellock, Senior Manager of Recreation Services and Facilities**

We also acknowledge that we are on the traditional unceded territories of the Coast Salish People.

The AGM is an important part of every organization. The purpose of the AGM is to review the minutes from the last AGM, approve the Financial Statements, receive Committee Reports and elect and meet your new Executive. It's also an opportunity for the Association and Century House to share news and their successes from the past year.

In Memoriam: Marg McKee our Past President read the "In Memoriam" in recognition of members who passed away in 2017.

Year End Financial Report: Patricia McDonald, Treasurer. The Executive has reviewed and accepted the Treasurers unaudited draft report and it will be filed as read.

YEAR END ACTIVITY REPORTS:

BADMINTON – Martha Shiu / Executive Liaison – Carole Wylie

- Met **103** times in **2017**; Total Attendance – **1,304**
- In 2017, the membership attendance increased by 350 visits compared to the previous year.
- Last year, we took part in intergenerational games with the young badminton players from NWSS. Although some were apprehensive to do this, we found it to be fun and educational for everyone.
- Our group was also glad to provide the opportunity for 2 of our members to spend time on the court with their family. Their adult grandchildren, many visiting from out of town, wanted to join their grandparents in one of their activities and badminton was a common interest. The social and physical benefits of having a place like Century House to share your interests and activities with family is an important aspect of healthy senior living.

BID EUCHRE – Lois Heslip / Executive Liaison – Marjorie Staal

- Met **51** times in **2017**; Total Attendance – **515**
- We will be starting our 3rd year in March 2018, with 18 members.
- We put on a demonstration down at the River Market in August. Jan Arbor wanted to introduce young adults to some card games. Nine attended and 4 of us volunteered to teach. Jan donated \$50.00 to Century House and we donated \$100.00.
- We have a group of Bid Euchre players and friends from other groups who meet and have lunch every Tuesday before cards. This is very welcoming, with the sharing of stories and lots of laughter, along with a good meal. This, in turn, gives seniors a regular opportunity to come out to have a good time with others. (PS and we have lots of fun and laughter as we play cards. Yesss!!)

BIRTHDAY CONVENERS – Frances Blake / Executive Liaison – Betty Young

- Met **12** times in **2017**; Total Attendance – **Unknown**
- Every month is a new adventure. There are always same night ticket sales and fruit bowl requests. The best large party seating arrangement was the U-share. It's wonderful to see who the oldest person is. It gives you inspiration.
- We recruited 4 new conveners in the Fall of 2017, with a total of 10 CH volunteers. Kevin also provides student volunteers, including a dishwasher.
- Attendance numbers have been decreasing, with an average attendance of 65-70 persons. We enjoy each other's company.

BOOK CLUB – Marion Orser & Betty Gray / Executive Liaison – Maria Kollar

- Met **12** times in **2017**; Total Attendance – **Unknown**
- After several, very enjoyable, years of belonging to a book club in a small town in Alberta where I came from, I was delighted to discover that Century House had a Book Club I could join. I signed up as soon as possible, but was told I'd have to go on a waiting list, as the membership was already full. I was willing to wait.
- There are alternative book clubs such as the ones at the New Westminster Public Library (which is about the same distance from my house), but they are held in the evening, so it was important for me to get into the CH Book Club because they meet during the day.

- Not being a member of a book club did not prevent me from reading and I took full advantage of the many titles available at the Public Library and in the conveniently located library corner at CH.
- But you know how it is when you read a really good book and you're dying to share the experience with someone. Well, when you don't belong to a book club, often there is no one to share it with, and that's what I was missing for more than two years. Then, just when I least expected it, someone phoned me from Century House Book Club and asked me if I was interested in joining. I said yes, without hesitation, and I haven't regretted it. The other ladies in the club were very welcoming. I enjoy the many perspectives and life experiences shared between our members at each meeting.
- It's a different book every month, always with something thought provoking and interesting to discuss.
- If you are currently on a waiting list for some activity at Century House, don't be discouraged. My advice is to just find something else to amuse yourself while you're waiting and, before you know it, someday, someone will call you and you'll be in.

BURSARY COMMITTEE – Wenke Hogg / Executive Liaison – Betty Young

- Met **7** times in **2017**; Total Attendance – **Unknown**
- We are a committee of 10. Last year was the 19th anniversary of the formation of this group, whose purpose is to award bursaries to graduating student of NWSS.
- This year will be our 20th anniversary (the 60th for Century House) and we will award an extra bursary of \$750, in addition to 4 at \$650 each. In 2017, we gave out 4 bursaries at \$650.
- We raise funds for these awards with a series of fundraisers, including our main event, "Music of the Night". Others are Casion Royale, a Talent Show, a Pancake Breakfast and sports pools. Please look for details of these event in the Clarion.
- Thank you for your continuing support.

CARPET BOWLING – Jeannine Hyndman / Executive Liaison – Maria Kollar

- I would like to mention we had 2 really great years, thanks to the CH staff and CHA Executive. We managed to get a carpet roller, as well as yellow balls, which made bowling more fun. And we received a free carpet.
- We donate to CH 1/3 of our participant fees, by the way, and there are more men than women. We are open to new members.
- It's been a great year, with lots of fun and laughter.

CENTURY HOUSE ARTISTS – Susan Tamkin / Executive Liaison – Audrey Soroka

- Met **52** times in 2017; Total Attendance – **668**
- "Learning Opportunities"
 - Artist Jack Prasad gave a painting demo in April
 - Stephen O'Shea, Executive Director, New Westminster Arts Council gave an overview of the art show application process
- "Art Shows"
 - 10x10 Acrylic Art for Sale - November CH Craft Fair
 - Painting on Parade – December 3 CH Art Show
 - New West Library Art Show & Sale – December 3, 2017–January 21, 2018
- Artists get the opportunity to share their art and techniques with other artists. Friendships have formed and the noise level in the art room is a good demonstration of the communication that is happening. This has led to luncheons outside of Century House.

CENTURY HOUSE SINGERS – Shirley Bakker / Executive Liaison – Marjorie Staal

- Our highlight for the year was obtaining a piano player when our previous one retired. We are working with her and it has been a bit of a challenge for both her and the singers, but things will improve.
- We had 3 new people attend our first practice of the new year.
- We are a fairly large group who enjoy the program and like getting together for the camaraderie. There is a lot of chatting during our short break and we have a director who can manage the situation when we have to get back to practice.

CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH – Peter Vranjkovic / Executive Liaison – Frances Blake

- 2017 was a good year for senior citizens who wanted to learn Spanish and for those who love to travel to Spanish speaking countries. A couple of our members were able to spend considerable time in South America last winter.
- Century House provides our group with a laptop computer and an overhead projector to facilitate the learning of Spanish. We offer two classes per week: a beginners class at 9.00 am on Fridays and an advanced class at 10.00 am.
- Class size varies each week and we have roughly 20 different members who attended 1 or more of the “Avanzados” classes. The beginner class saw 12 different people at various times. In addition to the classes at Century House, our active group has also been working with the Spanish language program at Douglas College, watched Spanish language films and gone for lunch together at a local Mexican restaurant.
- We collected roughly \$30.00 per month for the purchase of the third section of the Spanish course and a portion of the receipts will be given to Century House for their ongoing support of this activity group. The second level of the Spanish course, “Bola De Nieve” was also paid for.
- Learning another language benefits seniors. There are links between learning new tasks such as language, which benefits the brain, and the prevention of Alzheimers.
- It is with regret that Franci Louann, the creator of the Spanish Avanzados, has resigned to dedicate her time to the arts. Peter Vranjakovic has volunteered to take over the co-chair (liaison) position to ensure the continuance of the Spanish activity at Century House.
- In closing, we want to thank the staff at Century House for helping with computer challenges several in 2017.

CRIBBAGE – Lorrie Quick / Executive Liaison – Elizabeth Philip

- Met 90+ times in **2017**; Total Attendance – **Unknown**
- We had a good year and have had some new players who have had interesting lives. We have a lot of fun and a lot of laughs. We also had a great Christmas party.
- We have a lot of seniors who live alone so getting out and playing cribbage helps them to meet other people.

DARTS – Eileen Pick / Executive Liaison – Marjorie Staal

- We had one person join us this year who was a very welcome addition and a former returned.
- Our group of 6 welcomes anyone wishing to try it out. It is a good activity for seniors, as no strenuous physical exertion is required.

DIY French – Pauline Joyce / Executive Liaison – Maria Kollar

- We shared stories, read poems, sang songs and learned about the Francophone culture and literature. We started to read 'Le Petit Prince' and sang songs by Edith Piaf, but it was the drinking song, 'Chevaliers de la Table Ronde (Knights of the Round Table)' that had us banging the table and stomping our feet.
- There is documented proof that learning a new language helps the memory. Getting together provides opportunity to socialize, make new friends and learn about the culture of Quebec and France. Joie-de-vivre'.

DRAGON BOAT - Mariette Leppert / Executive Liaison – Elizabeth Philip

- Met 90+ times in **2017**; Total Attendance – **Unknown**
- When we started, the goal was to have fun, exercise and build a social network. So far this has happened, with 2 regattas at Harrison Hot Springs and Steveston. Although we did not win a medal, we had our best times at both regattas.
- We had a fundraiser at Jack's pub that exceeded our expectations.
- We had great times that we hope to continue in 2018.
- The Dragons consist of CH seniors, with the age range of mid-50s to mid-80s. The group has only been active for 2 years, but already you can see great progress in our paddlers – stamina, camaraderie, enthusiasm, and we have made new friends.
- We not only paddle on the water at False Creed on Mondays and Wednesdays, but we continue throughout the year with dry land training.
- We had 17 new paddlers join last year and have a strong number returning this year, for a team of 24 paddlers.

DRAMA GROUP – Claudette Campbell / Executive Liaison – Audrey Soroka

- We had a busy year with a show in November called 'Aged to Perfection' about two seniors attempting online dating for the first time. In the Spring, we did a show called 'The Park Bench', which featured stories about visitors to the bench over the years.
- We now have a new sound system, thanks to Shelly and Parks & Recreation

FITNESS & FUN – Barbara Merrett / Executive Liaison – Frances Blake

- Comprised of Yoga, Fitness Exercise Room & Fitness Fellers
- Fitness group numbers continued to grow in 2017. The Fitness Fellers program for men proved to be very successful, with the guys offering to help out with Fitness & Fun social events.
- The role of Chairperson passed from Joyce Jackson to Barb Merrett. Thank you Joyce for all your help.
- We had a small reception for instructor Ed Wong's retirement, a Strawberry Tea in June, followed by a successful Bake Sale in the Fall. All-in-all, a good year.

Over the year, we have a few stories of loss and ill health that perhaps were made just a little less lonely and maybe more bearable by the camaraderie and support that has built up and continues within the fitness community at Century House. We would all like to thank everyone at the front office for their generosity and amazing help.

KEEP IN TOUCH COMMITTEE – Annette Oakes / Executive Liaison – Marjorie Staal

- People to smile in old photographs because they have nothing to smile about. When Liz took several pictures for Keep In Touch, we smiled a lot. We enjoyed our volunteer work so much (including the photo shoot), it showed.
- We try to bring smiles to our Century House members who are not feeling OK with personalized handwritten Get Well Soon cards that we mail out. We truly sympathize with others who have just lost a loved one by send them a condolence card in a timely manner. We take the time to let our CH members and their loved one know we care by thinking them one card at a time.

LEARNING GARDEN – Shirley Model / Executive Liaison – Audrey Soroka

- In spite of the fact that we had a large number of vegetables stolen at one point in the season, we had a good year, thanks in part to a long and hot summer. We are delighted to report that we made enough money to be able to raise several of the boxes, therefore easing our backs, and to fill these boxes with good organic soil.
- Century House members and staff all seemed to enjoy our products and we have been told recently that they are looking forward to our producing vegetables again for them to purchase. This year, in an effort to do our part in saving the environment, people will have to bring their own containers for the purchased produce or to pay 5 cents for each plastic bag.
- We feel our activit provides our participants with exercise, fresh air, wonderful friendship and a sense of cooperation. The result of our hard work gives members health, organix, pesticide free and delicious young vegetables at a very reasonable price. Our salad greens are so fresh and keep well for at least a week in the refrigerator. Our seniors here can afford to eat healthy with our produce.
- We have not ke a record of the number of times and hours we have put into the garden. Many a time, people have come on their own to do little jobs which required attention. Many hours were spent gardening, preparing the beds for seeding and re-seeding, once the crops are harvested. Each month has always been a guess and no records have been kept.

LOW VISION – Barb Gordon / Executive Liaison – Frances Blake

- Met 10 times in 2017; Total Attendance – 91
- The highlight for Low Vision members is being able to meet with others who totally understand what they are going through. They have been losing, for the most part, a significant amount their vision over many years. Unless they have a white cane, a walker with a special sign on it, or a wheelchair, they appear normal, as many are at different levels of vision loss, therefore they gain much information and support from others in this group. Just knowing, as one of our long time members said, that they are not alone is very reassuring.
- Our speakers spark a log of interest. They get the members involved and bring out smiles and laughter. We had many great speakers and presenters I will list them, as it would take too long to describe what they all meant to the group. They are Rita Solken, Shirley Model, Deanne Rapacioli, Shirley Miller and, from CHUM radio, Louise Johnson and her guide dog, Kiara, as well as our own member, Helen Hughan.
- One of our members was finding it difficult to go out for a walk alone. They were encouraged by the group to be seen by CNIB for an assessment. Often people wait longer than they need to for this service. As a result, they got a white cane and were also able to get a volunteer to go out walking with them on a weekly basis.

MAHJONG – Luna Acedillo / Executive Liaison – Marjorie Staal

- Met 90+ times in 2017; Total Attendance – Unknown
- As usual, we celebrated birthdays and holidays. There were special draws at each event, as well as goodies. Century House kitchen has the best pies ever.
- Comments from members confirmed that we had a wonderful year. Every member is supportive and caring of each other, getting together for lunch after games and making sure that everyone is having a pleasant time. We are respectful towards others, especially enjoying the social aspect of the game. The atmosphere is inclusive of the members with different challenges in a very accepting environment. Everyone is nice.

MEMORY CORNER – Bev Martin / Executive Liaison – Betty Young

- Met 10 times in 2017; Total Attendance – Unknown
- Memory Corner was started in 1999 and we have had many themes over the years. Our best display this year was one showing evening bags, with a great response from CH members. We also have an ongoing project of going through all photographs that have been taken at Century House and sorting them into events that have occurred. There are many that we can't identify, so we thought we would put those photos out in a box for CH members to go through and if they recognize a picture, they are able to take them.
- I have been involved with Memory Corner for 14 years and have noticed over those years that there has been less and less participation of CH members. I'm not sure why, but if anyone has suggestions on how we can improve this, please come and talk to us. We have 5 committee members: Patricia Smith, Annette Oakes, Sherrill Donald, Laura Simpson and me. Our success really depends on members lending us their items.
- Many thanks to those who have supported us over the years.

PEER COUNSELLING – Clare Anderson / Executive Liaison – Frances Blake

- 2017 was an eventful year for Peer Counselling for seniors. We had a training class for new counselors who joined the established ranks in April, bringing our complement to 15 counsellors. We met 33 times for our ongoing education class and had over 1,264 hours. Our professional supervisor, Robin Macdonald, announced her retirement after 10 years in her role. Senior Peer Counselling is very grateful to Robin for her dedicated long-time support of this program.
- Robin, along with Clare Anderson, SPC Chair, and Robyn McGuinness, Manager of Century House, recruited for and interviewed applicants for her replacement. The successful candidate was Dr. Glynis Marks, who joined Peer Counselling in December 2017. We look forward to Dr. Marks leading our group and introducing her own ideas and experience to bring new depths to the program.
- Our valuable services are communicated in many ways. For example, through word of mouth, referrals from health practitioners, The Clarion, and other local news stories. Lois Brassart, past Chair, has been the author of our semi-annual newsletter and brings her own unique style and warmth to these letters. Our experienced counselors also meet one or more clients over and above our Wednesday class. Robin Macdonald, our paid supervisor during the year, guided the established group, as well as completing the training of 8 new counselors.
- We were fortunate to receive again in 2017, \$10,000 from Thornebridge Gardens. We are dependent upon donations to keep our group a viable service in the community. We raised more than \$5,000 from private donations, as well as \$280 from the silent auction in December of 3 antique quilts. These quilts were donated by a former peer counselor, Beryl Petty, and refurbished by Rita Solkin, Chair of the CH Quilting Activity Group. We are grateful to everyone who supports the important free service we provide for seniors who are in emotional need in our community.

- Our Tinnitus Support Group, created and run by Gerry Blackwell, give support to those afflicted with tinnitus and other hearing disorders. An average of 12 people attend monthly. Along with fellowship, we offer support by sharing coping skills and bringing in experts on assorted topics. As tinnitus is not itself a disease but a symptom of some other disorder, we look at many aspects of health, including diet, stress, medications and coping tools. Many of our members have been coming for several years and are doing well and continue to give support to new members. Our meeting is a drop-in and welcomes anyone interested in learning about tinnitus.
- One of our regular counselors assists monthly with the Over Nineties activity group. This group was started by a former peer counselor, Barb Webster (who is still the lead) and remains an excellent group gathering at Century House for people of this advanced age.
- Lois Brassart is the lead for the Java Music Club program at Thornebridge Gardens. The group reminisces through song and welcomes new residents to join them to meet and greet.
- We continue to receive feedback from our clients who say that without support they have received from our dedicated counselors, they would face a bleak existence and future indeed.
- Thanks to everyone at the Century House Association Executive for all their support throughout the year.

PICKLEBALL – Debbie Grayson / Executive Liaison – Maria Kollar

- The highlights of the year include watching the improvement made by the new players and the skills shown by the more seasoned players, as well as enjoying the humorous antics on the court and having interesting conversations on the sidelines while waiting to play.
- We provide the opportunity for fun-filled exercise in a supportive social setting. Pickleball helps with hand-eye coordination, strengthening of arms and legs, as well as improving cardio. It also requires the learning of a new scoring system along with new strategies of play. While waiting to play, there is time to visit and socialize.

QUILTING – Rita Solkin / Executive Liaison – Marjorie Staal

- We attracted 4 new members and were able to make many quilts and quilted items. Quilting makes us happy and that happiness translates into creativity galore.
- We're happy that our hobby contributes to the Century House coffers. We helped Peer Counselling by repairing 3 donated quilts for auction.
- We gave a presentation about heritage quilts to the Low Vision group.

TUESDAY CRAFTS – Dianne Clarke / Executive Liaison – Frances Blake

- We had a busy year. As well as our knitting, crocheting, needlework, and cross stitching, we have been involved in a couple of projects.
- **Sock Monkeys**: In March, a group of us participated in a UBC research project and learned to make sock monkeys. We were joined by several of the members from Wednesday Crafts. This project was to create a safe space and facilitate dialogue by using a creative endeavour. Operation Sock Monkey is a volunteer-run initiative in support of humanitarian organizations that provide laughter, hope and healing to communities around the world affected by disease, disaster and socio-political turmoil. It also has been used to help youth who have been affected by violence and/or trauma. Our group was observed and filmed to show how working on a common project did help conversation and the exchange of life stories and how this is certainly valuable to groups of seniors. Some of us kept the Monkeys we had made and others put them in the Century House display window for sale.

- **Twiddlemuffs**: Our next project was to make Twiddlemuff, which are knitted muffs with items attached so that a patient with dementia can play with something soft and fun. People with dementia often have restless hands and like to have something to keep their hands occupied. These provide a wonderful source of visual, tactile and sensory stimulation and keep their hands snug and warm. I have delivered a few to Queens Park Care Centre and hear from Revi, the Recreation Therapist, they were a hit. We continue to make more and will continue to provide Queens Park with these items.
- **Seniors Festival**: This year, Tuesday Crafts had a table at the Trinket Market that was part of Century House participation in the celebration of the National Seniors Day Festival.
- **Annual Craft Sale**: We took part in the annual craft sale and continue to display items for sale in the Display Cabinet. 100% of all sales go back to Century House to support their programs and activities.
- **Walk and Be Seen**: We have participated in this project which is based on a proposal which was written by the Vancouver Walk and Be Seen campaign by the Westside Seniors Hub based in Vancouver. They successfully got funding through a New Horizons for Seniors Program grant. The purpose of this project is to focus on improving senior pedestrian visibility, especially during winter's low-light conditions and inclement weather. Tuesday Crafts requested and received a bunch of reflective yarn and we knitted and crocheted scarves and hats which were worn by those who made them or donated to senior friends and family members. As one of the wearers of a scarf and hat, I have to say that when I'm wearing them, I really do feel safer and know that I'm a lot more visible to drivers. I am in process of buying more of the reflective yarn using money from our petty cash which we get from in-house sales. In-house sales are when members of our group buy each other's items or when we are asked to make something on commission. This money is put into our petty cash and any fund over \$100 is given to the Treasurer of the Century House Association Executive Committee
- In closing, I would like to thank the very generous community of New West for all the donations of material we have over the year. And a grateful thank you to the staff of Century House for all their help.

UKULELE THURSDAYS – Shirley Miller / Executive Liaison – Carole Wylie

- Our highlights are the fun we have entertaining at Century House (Low Vision, Health Drop-in, Parkinsons). We also enjoyed participating in the Talent Show at CH and hope to continue to participate in 2018, especially with the 60th Diamond anniversary at Century Housej.
- Our summer highlight was 'Summer Sizzle' at the Queensborough Community Centre. Another highlight was getting our group pictures taken for the 2018 calendar.
- There is always laughter filling the room, along with all the singing. When we are entertaining we see smiles, we hear laughter and we see swaying to the music.
- We really want to thank the Century House Association and staff for accommodating our many requests (armless chairs, extra practices, Wednesday unplug, Sunday performance group).

WALKING CLUB – Ann MacInnes / Executive Liaison – Maria Kollar

- Met 51 times on Fridays / 2 times on Tuesdays in 2017; Total Attendance – 997
- **Examples of trips**: In January we went around Burnaby Lake in deep snow / Used the Evergreen Line to Lafarge Lake / Free admission to Cannery at Steveston, with a guided tour / Free admission to Fort Langley on a day trip in September / A day trip in June to Sechelt/Roberts Creek
- **New walks**: Arbutus Corridor / UBC Gardens / Rice Lake in Lynn Canyon Park.
- A special showing of pictures that were taken on our walks was made by Karen and Evelyn, and a DVD was made by Karen Jacobs.

- Sometimes walking is the first activity tried by a new member and is often the first time using public transit. To get around the Lower Mainland, there is lots of time to chat and many friendships have developed which when extended to doing other activities and attending social events at Century House.
 - Walking is a fun way to stay fit and to meet new people.
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Elizabeth Philip: The heart of our Association is the Activity Groups. On behalf of the Association Executive, I want to thank all the Activity Chairpersons and their Committees for taking on the responsibility of your groups. Without you, the Association would not work. We acknowledge and appreciate your dedication and leadership. **This is what makes the Century House Association so GREAT!**

15 minute BREAK for everyone time to socialize and enjoy the beverages, cookies and fruit

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Elizabeth Philip

On behalf of the Executive, I would like to thank YOU, the members, for the opportunity of working with you, talking with you about your ideas, your concerns and most of all listening to your stories.

Most important is the friendship, fun and experiences that we share while working and playing together. Century House offers our members such a welcoming, diverse and inclusive facility within the New West community.

Century House is constantly evolving and choosing to promote an “Active Aging” lifestyle, challenging those attitudes about “retirement” and “getting older”. 2017 was more about hitting “Refresh”. Changing how we do things, changing our look and bringing some new faces to our Executive.

Hitting “Refresh” means a whole new look for our Lounge area. A Horizons Grant has allowed us to replace our aging, well-worn furniture. Our new look will be happening in about 6 weeks, just in time for our 60th Anniversary Celebration.

2018 marks the 60th Anniversary of the opening of Century House - A Diamond Celebration. The centre was opened in 1958 with a ribbon cutting ceremony by Princess Margaret.

A Diamond Celebration Committee was formed last year to start planning events for 2018. We have kicked off our celebration with a 2018 60th Anniversary Calendar. We tried to include a photo of every Activity Group at the centre. Every group was given the opportunity to plan their picture. Calendars are still on sale now for \$6 at the Front Desk. Please pick up your copy if you haven’t already.

Other events planned for 2018 are:

- A Fashion/Variety Show in May, put on by our Drama Group
- An Anniversary BBQ Event in July.

- We will be adding an extra Bursary for this year. The Bursary goes to a Grade 12 student going on to post-secondary education.
- The Memory Corner group will be putting some displays together from the City Archives.
- A Diamond Dinner Dance Event in the Fall.

In order to put on these events we need **YOUR** support. If you are interested in helping out with any of these events, please let the front desk know or let me know. I will be talking about this at the next Chairperson's meeting.

I also want to give a shout out to:

- The Memory Corner for their interesting displays.
- The Craft Groups for keeping our Display Cabinets filled with their items.
- The Greeters at the front door who open the door when they see me coming in with my arms full.
- I would like to thank Gerry and the front desk volunteers for maintaining our Century House Association Website.
- I want to thank all those involved in putting our Clarion together every month.

I would now like to acknowledge our current dedicated and hardworking Executive Team. We are so very fortunate to have these leaders who bring such diverse skills and experiences to our Executive.

1. **Pat McDonald – Outgoing Treasurer**

- Pat has been on the executive since 2013. She has completed her 5-year term as Treasurer and will be leaving the Executive.
- Pat tells us “where the money is”. Or “where it isn't”.
- As Treasurer, she records and posts monies from the Activity Groups, the Craft Sale and the Thrift Sale.
- She analyzes the data, prepares budgets, and coordinates the floats for the Craft and Thrift Sales.
- Pat ensures that Century House Association remains in good standing and maintains our Tax Receipt Status as a non-profit, by completing the mandatory Government forms on an annual basis.
- Pat's volunteer work in the Community includes;
 - President of the Aware Society which is located in New Westminster and provides employment services to community members
 - Board member of a committee representing assisted living facilities in the Downtown Eastside.
 - Facilitates Self-Management Programs for the University of Victoria, Centre on Aging.
 - One day a week, Pat works as an Energy Therapist at Palliative Support Centre for caregivers and widows/widowers

AND when she has some time, she enjoys the Walking Group and Stretch classes.

Thank you for all your work and dedication over the past 5 years on the Executive and the Association.

2. Betty Young – Incoming Treasurer

- Betty has been our Treasurer in Training for the past 2 months working with Pat McDonald.
- She has been a resident of Burnaby for 44 years and recently moved to New Westminster, where Century House caught her attention.
- Betty still works full-time at BC Hydro in the Corporate Finance Department and has been there for 37 years.
- Betty enjoys working with seniors and giving back to the Community. Other volunteer work includes:
 - Queens Park Care Centre
 - Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation
 - St Michaels Care Centre
 - She is also Treasurer on her Strata Council

Thank-you for joining the Executive Team.

3. Audrey Soroka – our Secretary

- Audrey joined the Executive in February of 2017.
- Audrey and her husband retired to New West in 2015 from Toronto. Interestingly, Audrey's mother was a member of Century House in the 1990's.
- Audrey manages all the correspondence and captures the minutes at the Chairperson's Meeting.
- Audrey enjoys the Watercolour and Acrylic Art Classes offered here at Century House.

Thank-you for your work on the Executive and the Association.

4. Carol Wylie – First Vice President

- Carol has been on the Executive since 2016.
- Carol comes to us with Board Committee experience. She keeps us in line and following protocol.
- Carol enjoys attending the many social events that Century House has to offer.
- She is a member of the Glamour Ramas which raises funds for the African Grandmothers Campaign which is of part of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.
- Carol also volunteers at the Media Gallery at the Anvil Centre.

Thank you for your work on the Executive and the Association.

5. Maria Kollar – Second Vice President

- Maria joined the Executive in November of 2017 and has been a member of Century House since 2015.
- Maria relocated to New Westminister 5 years ago from Toronto, to be closer to family.
- She currently enjoys many activities at Century House: The Golden Age Theatre Group, Bid Euchre, Pickleball and Strum Fun. She has also been involved with the Dragon Boat team.

- Some interesting facts about Maria;
 - She was born in Budapest Hungary and immigrated to Canada as a child.
 - She received the Governor General's Award in 1994 along with the Commemorative Medal for the 125 Anniversary of Canadian Confederation for her contributions to Canada.
 - Maria is a lifelong athlete who once was a competitive gymnast and trained for the Olympics. She currently keeps in shape by chasing her 2 young grandsons.

Thank-you for joining the Executive Team.

6. Marjorie Staal – Third Vice President

- Marjorie joined the Executive in November of 2017 and became a member 6 months prior to that.
- Marjorie retired from New Westminster Family Place as Executive Director. New Westminster Family Place is a resource program for parents with children from newborn to age 5.
- Marjorie mentioned that it took her months to adjust to retirement as Executive Director, where people would ask for her opinion to now being asked “what’s for dinner”, not by her hubby but by the dog.
- Marjorie is looking forward to the Acrylic Painting Class which she has just joined.
- Marjorie’s volunteer work in the Community includes;
 - She is the founding member of both the New Westminster Multiculture Society and the New Westminster Farmers Market.
 - Volunteers at the Rent Bank run by the Purpose Society.
 - Volunteers at the BC Association of Family Resource Programs; Fraserside Community Services and Kinsight (formerly Simon Fraser Society.)

Thank-you for joining the Executive Team.

7. Marg McKee – is our Past Past President

- Marg was part of the Executive Team from 2009 to 2014. She agreed to come back for one year to help out in the Past President role once again. Hence the Past Past President title.
- She has been my go-to person for so many questions. It is the Past Presidents role that provides the knowledge from previous years. It’s important to have that go-to person.
- She has amazing energy and enthusiasm. She has both lead and participated in many groups and initiatives during her time on the Executive.
- Marg’s current interest is “Learning to Strum on the Ukulele” here at Century House. We wish her all the best with her new adventure into the music world.
- She especially enjoys the Cheese Scones, Cinnamon Buns and Soups at the Connections Café
- Marg also volunteers in the Community. She is the Past President on the Board for Seniors Services Society; promoting housing for everyone with the supports that seniors need to live with dignity and respect.

Thank you for your work over the past year on the Executive and the Association.

8. Elizabeth Philip – President

- As for myself, I've been on the Executive since 2014. As President for the past two years 2016 & 2017. This is my last year serving as President. I now move into the Past President role.
- I completed the LEADS program in 2013 and took on the Health Drop-In Facilitator role, which I have continued with up until this year.
- I am also a board member of Seniors Services Society and a member of the Fundraising and Policy and Procedures Committees.

In addition, each Executive member attends the monthly Executive and Chairpersons Meetings. They are also busy with their Executive duties;

- as Liaisons to their respective Activity groups,
- participate in committee meetings for other projects at Century House
- Assist Kevin and Liz with New Members Tours
- Attend special Century House events and dinners
- Volunteer outside of Century House within the Community

So you can see that the Executive is a very busy group. I want to give a big **THANK-YOU** to the Executive Team for your energy and continued support throughout the year.

All our achievements for the past year and the planning for this special celebration year ahead, would only be possible with the continued support of our Manager, Robyn McGuinness along with her capable and dedicated TEAM. As we plan ahead for our 60th Year Anniversary, it's all things diamonds and sparkles. I would like to call on Robyn McGuinness to say a few words.

Robyn McGuinness – Manager, Century House Seniors & Youth Services

It's my privilege to be working with you at Century House. I Know I'm speaking to believers when I say that Century House is a special place, largely due to a unique partnership between the City of New Westminster Parks and Recreation Department and the Century House Association. Today we've heard about the wonderful contributions you make as activity committee leaders and as an Executive. Together we improve the quality of life and enjoyment for seniors in our community. I'd to mention a few highlights for this year.

1. Facility

Capital Projects

- Planning for the replacement of Lounge furniture
- Food Services equipment replacement
- Replacement of the Youth Centre flooring
- Upgrades to the Senior Peer Counselling Office

2. Staffing

- This year Steve Kellock joined the Department as the Senior Manager of Recreation Services. Steve has extensive experience in Recreation especially Aquatics and we are fortunate to have Steve here to assist with the elections today.
- Mike Smith retired in January and we have been fortunate to retain Mike to support Century House on an auxiliary basis. Mandeep Cheema replaced Mike as the full time Building Service Worker and we are pleased to have Mandeep in this role.
- I would like to thank all of our staff for their excellent customer service, program planning and coordination and members' support. Thanks to Shelly Schnee, Liz Twaites, Kevin McKay, Erika Nikula, Ruby Grewel, Mandeep Cheema, Albert Manuzon, Mike Smith and our latest recruit Simon Burford as our weekend BSW.

Program & Service Highlights:

3. Food Services

- Thank you also to Karima Manji our Food Services Coordinator and Diane McQuade Food Services Assistant for another successful year. In addition to the lunch & coffee service, they cater many special event dinners throughout the year, ending with our busy December celebrations including the traditional Christmas dinners.
- Thank you to the hardworking kitchen volunteers whose support includes food prep, serving, cashiering, dishwashing and many other tasks. We could not offer this service without you!

4. Volunteers

We are so grateful for the supportive team of volunteers that rise to every challenge and not only enhance our programs and activities, but contribute to significant outcomes that make Century House a leading edge Seniors Centre.

Active Volunteers	Century House Members	417
	Non-members (Adult & Youth)	1,037
Student Volunteers from New West Secondary who assist with the set up and clean up at monthly dinners, major special events and fundraising events		248
		Total 1,702

CENTURY HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS - 2017

January	Festival of Volunteers	4
February	Family Day – Anvil Centre	20
March	Income Tax Clinic	8 serving over 70 Century House Members
April	Volunteer Appreciation Event	220 in attendance with Jen Arbo as the guest speaker
	Spring Thrift Sale	Over 1081 in attendance and over 150 volunteers contributing over 30 hours in a week towards the success of that event!
May	150 th Tulip Planting event	8 volunteers assisted the 20 Kindergarten students from Lord Kelvin School to create blooms for the garden
October	Seniors Festival	Over 16 CH members and 14 Youth volunteers,

		supported the 1100 attendees at this event.
November	Craft Sale & Tea	653 attendees and 137 volunteers

CENTURY HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS – 2017 (cont'd.)		
Deck the Halls	10 Century House Members and 12 Youth volunteers	
New Member Ambassador Program		
These Ambassadors are volunteers who support the engagement of new members to Century House. Volunteers follow up after the new members tour to ensure new members have the information and support they need to actively participate in programs and services. In 2017 our ambassadors connected with 76 new CH Members.		

5. Programs

Our instructional classes and workshops continue to grow and thrive. We provide high quality programs and instructors to meet your program needs and enhance your experience at Century House.

Highlights in 2017 include:

- The Learning Garden continues to grow with the support of over 40 volunteers.
- Fitness classes expanded to include community outreach classes in partnership with the Seniors Services Society and the United Way.
- Healthy Eating classes were offered in partnership with the Family Services Society.
- The Century House Seniors Gay Straight Alliance hosted the annual Senior Pride Hoedown in August.
- Hosting and supporting the 2017 Seniors Festival, with guest speaker Red Robinson and Colin Milner.

6. Special Events, Trips

Kevin continues to bring interesting and fun trips, special events and dinners to our members. Some highlights were the Rock n Roll dinners and dancing.

7. Youth Centre/ Intergenerational Programs

- Looking ahead...Seniors and Youth Services will be working together in 2018 on a mentorship “Pay it Forward” Community Action Initiative, with the support of a New Horizons Grant.

8. Emotional Health Programs

- Through our partnership with Family Services, we are fortunate to offer Vital Connections, a professional counselling program at Century House. Vital Connections works closely with our Senior Peer Counselling program. Peer counselling provides emotional support to seniors in the community. Our thanks to Thornebridge Seniors Residence for their generous financial support and to Clare Anderson and all the Peer Counsellors for their ongoing commitment to this important service.

9. Membership Statistics

- In 2017 we had 2241 members
- Our oldest member is 107 years and our youngest member is 50, a span of 57 years!

10. Thank-you to the Executive

I would like to recognize our 2017 Executive for their dedication, energy and commitment to Century House members.

President	Elizabeth Philip
1st VP	Carole Wylie
2nd VP	Marina Kollar
3rd VP	Marjorie Staal
Secretary-	Audrey Soroko
Treasurer	Pat McDonald
Past President	Marg McKee

Barb McAloney (past Secretary) and Josie Muise (past 1st VP)

- The Executive works on your behalf with a spirit of collaboration, always looking into the best interests of the membership.
- On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Dept. and the Century House staff It is a pleasure to work with all of you.

I look forward to 2018 and good work we will continue to do together.

Election of 2018 Executive Officers – Steve Kellock, Senior Manager, Recreation Services & Facilities

President	Carole Wylie
1 st VP	Maria Kollar
2 nd VP	Marjorie Staal
3 rd VP	Frances Blake
Secretary	Audrey Soroka
Treasurer	Betty Young
Past President	Elizabeth Philip

Door Prizes were made with Adjournment @ 12.05 pm

Just remember - **Leave a little SPARKLE wherever you go.** Wishing everyone a GREAT 2018. Thank you for attending. See you next year! This Meeting is now adjourned