

**University of Toronto
University Arts Women's Club - University of Toronto Women's Association**

NEWS & EVENTS

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At the General Meeting on **February 15, 2024**, our speaker was Mark Osbalderston, a historian, scholar of architecture and author. His topic was *Unbuilt Toronto: Queen's Park and the U of T Campus*. It was fascinating to see the designs from the archives and other sources, ones that were never built, and some only partially completed as designed. Some of the original plans for King's College, as U of T was originally called, were far too large and grandiose for the original size of the student body, all male. Designs for later buildings, Trinity College for example, had smaller towers than planned, and St. Michael's College plans were altered as it was built. Some interesting history was included, as the reason for the name change of the University was mainly because the original institution was Anglican, and in 1847, it became non-sectarian. Trinity College was moved to the now Trinity Bellwoods Park as a result of this, but moved back to its location in the 1920s, on what we now call the St. George Campus. The plans for the most recent colleges, New and Innis, were also shared with us. Only New was originally planned, but as the University population grew rapidly thanks to the Baby Boomer generation, a second was added. These were mostly built as designed, but once again with changes.

Since this was a Zoom meeting, we were able to enjoy the illustrations as they filled our home screens. Mark is an engaging and informed speaker, and was asked several questions at the end. Mark was thanked by Claudia Colas our Lunch Coordinator.



Mark Osbalderston

Author, Architectural and Planning History

At our General Meeting, **March 21, 2024**, held at The Faculty Club, University of Toronto, Maureen Somerville, Programme Coordinator, introduced our speaker, Ms. Lynn Slotkin, theatre critic. She earned an Honours BA in Fine Arts from York University, specializing in Drama Studies. Her reviews and articles have been published widely, and she can be heard on CBC Radio on Saturday mornings. Lynn writes an on-line newsletter, *The Slotkin Letter*, which chronicles her theatre attendance in Toronto, elsewhere in Canada, and internationally. It is used as a resource by many who are involved in or interested in theatre. She sees about 300 plays a year!

Lynn first gave an informative and amusing account of the history of Ontario's Stratford Shakespearean Festival and Shaw Festival. The former was founded by Tom Patterson, who saw Stratford in decline and was inspired to found the festival, not without dead ends along the way. He travelled to New York, thinking he could see Laurence Olivier without previous contact. Didn't work! However, with the help of Tyrone Guthrie, an Irish-born producer, and with great determination, he got it underway in 1967, in a tent at first, and then in the theatre we attend today. Shaw was founded in Niagara on the Lake by Brian Doherty because of his love for the Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw. Both are summer attractions, although Shaw does present family shows like *A Christmas Carol* until the Christmas season. Lynn commented on the seasons each has offered and on the coming season. She also commented on the ability of both festivals to attract famous performers. They also hire and nurture Canadian talent. She answered several questions.

Maureen thanked Lynn for her interesting and entertaining presentation, and added comments on her own theatre attending experience.



Ms. Lynn Slotkin

Publisher of an on-line Newsletter *The Slotkin Letter*

At our Annual General Meeting on **April 18, 2024**, held at The Faculty Club, University of Toronto, our Programme Coordinator Maureen Somerville introduced Dr. Andrée-Ann Cyr who spoke to the members about memory. She is an Associate Professor of Psychology at York University Glendon Campus. Her research focuses on the changes in learning and memory that accompany healthy adult aging, and is passionate about translating cognitive research findings to optimize life-long learning. She earned her MA and PhD at the University of Toronto.

Andrée-Ann spoke about normal and abnormal forgetting. To forget an item on a grocery list is normal. To forget your partner's name is not normal. Our ability to remember begins to fade early in adulthood, and in some persons earlier than others. She shared some tips on how to remember: To make lists - even if you forget to bring the list with you, the act of writing reinforces memory and writing in cursive rather than keying in a list is much stronger. To keep notes on things you want to remember. To use a calendar to enter appointments and events. To use timers to remind you when it's time to do something or go somewhere. To use medication dosettes. We often walk into a room and forget why we're there, which is normal, but forgetting our address is not normal.

Maureen thanked Dr. Cyr for her engaging, informative and entertaining presentation. Many compliments were offered after her presentation.



Dr. Andrée-Ann Cyr, PhD

Optimizing Learning and Memory as We Age