The Churchill Centre & Museum at the Cabinet War Rooms

Chartwell Bulletin

No. 23 • MARCH 2010
www.winstonchurchill.org
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Below:
The Sir Winston Churchill Society of Vancouver Island has created a Speakers Bureau, announced by this handsome poster distributed to local area high schools. The poster was created by Mayo McDonough with the assistance of committee members Mary-Jane Shaw, Margaret Pyper, Fiona Bramble, Timon Ferguson and Kieran Wilson.

The Sir Winston Churchill Society of Vancouver Island Speakers’ Bureau

Sidney Allison is a Canadian novelist and military historian, author of six books, numerous magazine articles, film scripts and book reviews. His newest book, out in 2008, is called The Bardens: The Untold Story of World War One. Sidney is a lifetime subscriber of BC, starting with boyhood memories of hearing Prime Minister Churchill’s inspiring voice on the radio during England’s darkest days of the Second World War. He has read and admired works of this extraordinary statesman and writer ever since.

Chris Gainor, a historian and writer, specializes in the history of space and aviation technology, and has worked as a history instructor at University of Victoria. His most recent book, one of four, is titled In a Distilled Day: The Rocket Pioneers. He is an ardent and indiscernible Churchill fan and has appeared locally as a Churchill “look-alike.”

Stan A. Orchard is an amphibian and reptile specialist and conservation biologist. He is currently working on research problems associated with the management and eradication of alien invasive amphibians. In his spare time he studies the origin, evolution and ecology of Sir Winston G. Churchill.

Kieran Wilson is the youngest member of the Sir Winston Churchill Society of Vancouver Island. He is currently a Grade 9 student in the Challenge Program at Esquimalt High School. Every participating in the Effective Speaking Program in the St. Francis Xavier Royal Canadian Air Cadets and has been invited to Sir Winston Churchill for many years. Kieran is an avid reader and writer and enjoys history very much.

Olive Bailey, was a young, 20-year-old Olive Cook in 1940, newly graduated from London University. Living with her widowed mother in London, when she was “called up” and sent to work in a factory producing sections of Halifax bombers. It was shortly after she started to work there that she received a summons to report to an office in Crowthorne and offered another job.

That’s how she became part of the team of code-breakers who worked in utter secrecy for the duration of the war at Bletchley Park. The word “Enigma” was never spoken until the year’s end.

Now that the period of secrecy has been lifted Olive has a wonderful collection of stories of life in England during those critical days of the WW11, and the sense and history-altering days at Bletchley Park when they cracked the German Enigma code. Olive, who has lived in Victoria with her husband Norman since the 1960’s, will be one of the “honors” of Bletchley Park to receive a new service medal from the British government later this year.

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—WSC TO HIS WIFE
CHARTWELL BULLETIN No. 1
CHARTWELL, 1 JANUARY 1935

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A dinner in aid of The Churchill Centre and The Churchill Museum at the Cabinet War Rooms, at the Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, was a stunning success. Nearly 500 people attended, including about forty members of the Churchill Centre UK and many members of the Churchill family, led by our Patron, Lady Soames. Accompanying her were Sir Winston’s granddaughter Celia Sandys, great-grandsons Randolph and Jack Churchill, great-granddaughters Jennie Repard and Marina Brounger, Lady Soames’s sons Nicholas and Jeremy Soames, and The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough. Sincere thanks are due to Laurence Geller, Churchill Centre chairman and president and CEO of Strategic Hotels Inc., owner of the hotel, for the generous dinner arrangements. The event raised over $250,000 which will be dedicated to support programmes of The Churchill Centre and Museum in 2010.

Our principal guest was the Rt Hon David Cameron MP, leader of the Conservative Party, who, after accepting honorary membership in The Churchill Centre, made a presentation to a longtime honorary member, the Lady Thatcher: The Winston Churchill Award for Statesmanship. A miniature bust of Sir Winston Churchill by the sculptor Oscar Nemon was awarded in recognition of her Churchillian leadership as Prime Minister from 1979 through 1990, spanning three successful elections.

Historian Andrew Roberts, who had the honour of sitting next to Lady Thatcher, said the former Prime Minister “was on good form and commented to me afterwards about what a fine speaker David Cameron is.”

Mr. Cameron concentrated on the period 1945-51, when Churchill was in opposition, extrapolating lessons from that time to the Tory party today. The central lesson, he said, was to “modernise while staying true to core Conservative values.” That went down very well with his large and enthusiastic audience.

Mr. Cameron also made a loudly applauded commitment. If the Conservatives should win the 2010 general election, he said, they would ensure that Sir Winston Churchill was restored to the national History curriculum for schools.

Between courses. David Cameron visited as many tables as possible, meeting and chatting with a large number of diners. Sir Max Hastings also spoke, referring to his recently published Finest Years: Churchill as Warlord 1940-45. “The Turnip,” Sir Winston’s famous gold Breguet pocket watch, and its gold chain (Finest Hour 144: 25) were exhibited for everyone to see. Laurence Geller spoke to the large audience about The Churchill Centre and its work; several new recruits to TCC-UK signed up on the spot.

The whole occasion was a grand triumph, much enjoyed by the large number present: it certainly put The Churchill Centre firmly into the minds of those who were there.
Rt Hon David Cameron MP:
The work of The Churchill Centre—academic scholarship, publishing and events like this—is vital to protecting the truth and the legacy of the life of Winston Churchill. It is a pleasure to pay tribute to Lady Thatcher in person, and a privilege to honour Winston Churchill in the presence of his family. It is hard to think of a politician, at home or abroad, living or dead, who commands as much respect.

This is a celebration of two long historical legacies: What Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher did for our country. But to me, it is also a celebration of two great political legacies: what these two leaders did for the Conservative Party; their relentless focus on doing what is right, not just popular; their candour, their courage and above all their devotion to Britain.”

Laurence S. Geller, Chairman, Churchill Centre
Your Graces, Lord Marland, Lady Thatcher, Mr. Cameron, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to The Churchill Centre Dinner and thank you to all of you who have been so generous with your time and your money. We are truly grateful and promise to use both well.

I would particularly like to thank the following people who have added so much to making this evening a success. Lord Marland, whose cajoling, inspiration and hard work has been so essential; Christian and Danielle Pol-Roger and Charles Hammer of the Pol Roger organisation for their generous support; Breguet, our main partner, for their faith and generosity; the team at our great hotel who have played their part in a true Churchillian fashion; the relentless and energetic David Boler and all who have helped, him, particularly Phil Reed, to organize this superb event; Diane Boler, whose patience with and support for David were above and beyond the call of any definition of duty; and most importantly, our honoured guests Lady Thatcher and David Cameron for being with us this evening.

Simplistically, the Churchill Centre exists to ensure the lessons from his long and productive life are never forgotten. That is why we are here tonight. In times of crisis, be it natural, economic or political, and especially today in these fraught and fragile times, how often do we hear: “If only Churchill were alive today.” A wide swath of global leaders beat a well trodden path to the amazingly preserved historic site of his finest hour, the Churchill
Museum at the Cabinet War Rooms.

Why do the world’s leaders, from Benjamin Netanyahu to Fidel Castro, study, emulate or even revere him? Is it because of his wide, irrepressible and relentless intellectual curiosity, boldness, drive and courage of conviction? Is it his ability to inspire faith when grounds for faith are scant, but their need never greater? Is it his ability to encapsulate, harness and drive the spirit of a nation and its people—to inspire them with words and deeds, not only during his life, but decade after decade later? Is it his understanding not only of mankind’s but his own strengths, frailties, faults and potential? Or is it his humanity, humour, energy, drive, ambition, wit and wisdom?

I would argue that the answer is all of the above, for that almost mystical amalgam is what surely defines great leadership. In an era of sound bite journalism, fickle public opinion, instant internet opinion and educational curricula constantly modified to suit Political Correctness, it would be all too easy to allow Churchill’s memory to become a footnote in history.

The Churchill Centre exists to ensure that this does not happen, and that future generations of freedom-loving people everywhere can understand, appreciate and learn the hard-fought and invaluable lessons of his life in the service of this nation and our world. More importantly we exist to ensure that those lessons, with all their relevance, are top of mind when our leaders face similar dangerous challenges.

We cannot and will not forget how Churchill’s hand was present in so many of the vexing issues still facing our democracies today. Not to benefit from those experiences would be foolish. Not to remember would be shameful. Our educational programs throughout the North America, the UK and Australia are targeted at all levels of society: from historians to academics, post- and undergraduates, teachers, teenagers—and crucially, those still not aware of the invaluable Churchillian lessons, who should be! That is why events such as these are so very important.

We also help, sustain and find ways to expand the Churchill Museum at the Cabinet War Rooms—for, with over 300,000 visitors annually, what better way to allow so many to get a fascinating and compelling insight into the life of Great Britain’s proudest son?

With all of the talk of governmental reform in both the United States and Great Britain, I would like to end with a Churchill quote from a speech in 1902 about what a politician fundamentally needs: “The ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month and next year—and to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn’t happen.”
Press Comment:
Amanda Platell,
Daily Mail Online

You won’t have read much about it, or seen it on the TV news, but on Tuesday night David Cameron delivered one of the finest speeches of his life. The event was a dinner given by The Churchill Centre, and Cameron was there to present Baroness Thatcher with the Winston Churchill Award for Statesmanship. Honouring the great lady, Cameron spoke eloquently, linking his own political battle with the struggles that Margaret Thatcher and Winston Churchill had faced in their own times as party leader. It showed him to have a true political vision—one that may just help us through the tough years ahead.

Yet that very day, Cameron had also made one of the worst decisions of his leadership, announcing that he was introducing all-women constituency short-lists. Back at the dawn of her own political journey, there had been no need to parachute Margaret Hilda Roberts into Parliament with a soft landing, unprepared and untested by battle, as so many woman short-listers inevitably are.

She had to fight for her right to enter Westminster. And crucial in that process had been the lengthy and arduous journey, from draughty town hall meetings, speaking to “one man and his dog,” through tiresome constituency dinners, then to the rough and tumble of fighting off other candidates, first losing Dartford in the 1951 election, and ultimately winning over the Finchley constituents she would represent for so long.

It was a bruising experience, but necessary preparation for the often brutal world of British politics. And it helped turn Thatcher into one of our greatest politicians—a woman who stood equal to any man and superior to most, not through gesture politics, but through grit, determination, hard work and iron will.

We need more women MPs, but that simply won’t happen through artificially imposed gender quotas. Perhaps the argument is best put by another woman MP who won her seat on hard graft and guts: Nadine Dorries, MP for Mid-Bedfordshire. She says her selection, from an open short-list, gave her a mandate to take on difficult issues in Parliament and to challenge men as equals. “Because I got here by exactly the same process that they did, they are no better than me and I am no lesser than they,” she says.

“Sometimes I feel sorry for the Labour women who were selected via all-women short-lists. Everyone knows who they are. No one in any party takes them seriously and many are among the worst performers in the House. They constantly suffer the humiliation of comments made to remind them that they didn’t arrive because of anything they had achieved, other than being born female.”
Winston Churchill Leadership Award to J.W. Marriott, Jr.

by Cynthia Faulkner

Over 250 Churchillians and guests from around the world gathered at the Four Seasons Hotel to honor Marriott International chairman and devoted Churchillian J.W. “Bill” Marriott, Jr. Mr. Marriott received The Winston Churchill Award For Leadership, one of our highest and most prestigious honors. The sole previous recipient was William Gates, Sr., in 2006.

One of the world’s most respected and admired business executives, Bill Marriott has a career spanning more than fifty years. A deeply committed Churchillian, he built Marriott International from a Washington-based family restaurant business founded by his father to a global lodging company with more than 3200 proprieties in sixty-seven countries and territories. Personally committed to his employees around the world, Bill visits 300 hotels a year. Equally committed to the heroic memory of Sir Winston, he maintains a first-class Churchill library and is able to discuss the great man with erudition and humor.

Prominent speakers from both political parties and the media were on hand to pay tribute to Mr. Marriott’s years of business and philanthropic leadership. The event raised over $260,000 for The Churchill Centre, which will be dedicated to its expanding array of educational programs.

Churchill Centre Chairman Laurence Geller, Loews Hotels CEO Jonathan Tisch, and former U.S. Senator Gordon Smith served as co-chairmen for the event, which featured tributes from many distinguished and close friends of Bill Marriott.

Broadcaster Chris Matthews, a Churchill Centre trustee, served as Master of Ceremonies. Former presidential candidate and Governor Mitt Romney, U.S. Senators Evan Bayh and Susan Collins, Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Judith McHale, and Senator Smith all shared personal stories of how Bill Marriott’s counsel, friendship and generosity had touched their lives. Sir Winston Churchill’s granddaughter and Churchill Center trustee Celia Sandys highlighted the similarities in character and courage Mr. Marriott shared with her grandfather. She presented him with the Award for Leadership, a bronze bust of Sir Winston Churchill.

“The rarity with which we bestow this honored award is a testament to how Mr. Marriott has dedicated his life to the principles of leadership and a free and democratic society,” said Laurence Geller on behalf of The Churchill Centre. “He has come by his high principles honestly, carrying forward and building upon progressive business philosophies first set forward by his parents. Sir Winston Churchill would readily identify with the culture Bill Marriott has helped foster within his business and across the broader community.”

Mr. Marriott attended St. Albans School in Washington, D.C., earned a B.S. degree in banking and finance from the University of Utah, and served as an officer in the United States Navy. He is an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He and his wife, the former Donna Garff, have four children, fifteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was joined by Donna and a daughter, Debbie.
J.W. Marriott, Jr.

I am truly humbled by your kind words. Thank you to my good friend Governor Romney, Senators Susan Collins and Evan Bayh and Undersecretary Judith McHale. Thank you to Laurence Geller, Jon Tisch and Senator Gordon Smith for co-chairing this dinner, and to all of you for honoring me tonight.

I’m a devoted fan of Winston Churchill. I love Churchill quotes, and I’ve read several books about him. I just finished Carlos d’Este’s book about Churchill at war. And I’ve read some of Churchill’s own books, including his 1899 classic, The River War, about the Battle of Omdurman in the Sudan. It’s a masterpiece of the English language.

Like Churchill, I love military history. It’s funny, because in many ways Churchill and I couldn’t be more different. I don’t smoke. I don’t drink. I wake up early in the morning. And I’m punctual.

To be honest, I’m not sure what Sir Winston would make of me. Speaking about another teetotaler, he once said: “He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.”

But there’s much we do have in common. His wife, Clementine, was the love of his life and trusted adviser. He called her “Kat,” and she lived through the terrifying years of World...
War II with him. I have my beloved Donna, who has lived with me through more World War II movies than she would like to remember. Donna and I loved the recent HBO special “Into the Storm,” starring the great Irish actor Brendan Gleason as Winston Churchill.

There are other similarities. Churchill was blessed with and adored his many children and grandchildren. I’m so honored that his granddaughter Celia Sandys is with us tonight. My daughter Debbie, who is here also, heads up government affairs at Marriott. I couldn’t be more proud of her.

Like Churchill, I’m proud of my Anglo-American heritage. My great grandmother, Elizabeth Stuart, was 19 years old in 1850 when she boarded a sailing ship in Liverpool and headed for America. It took several weeks to cross the Atlantic, and as she approached the Gulf of Mexico, the ship was hit by a terrible hurricane and barely made it into port. From there she boarded a paddleboat up the Mississippi River to St. Louis. Working in a store, she was badly burned when a kerosene lamp she was carrying exploded and set her dress on fire.

But three months later, still suffering from terrible burns, she walked across the plains behind a covered wagon and arrived in Utah. Having no money, she went to work cleaning and cooking for a large Mormon family. After six months she met my great grandfather, John Marriott, from Northampton, England. Their grandson, John Willard Marriott, was my father, and the founder of our company.

When I think of Elizabeth Stuart, I am reminded of Churchill’s famous words to the boys at Harrow School in 1941: “... never give in, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense.”

Churchill himself lived by those words. I admire his tenacity, his perseverance, and most important, his foresight. He saw Hitler for what he was and resolved to destroy him: “We shall fight him by land, we shall fight him by sea, we shall fight him in the air, until with God’s help, we have rid the earth of his shadow and liberated its peoples from his yoke.” In doing that, Churchill saved the western world.

No wonder he had an ego. He never traveled without a valet, and it’s been said that he never entered a kitchen in his lifetime. Not once! I’ve spent my career in kitchens. My first job with our company was working the deep fat fryer in one of our restaurants in Salt Lake City. And today I visit close to 300 hotels a year. I always walk through the kitchen to visit with our associates in the back of the house.

I think that staying close to the troops helps make a leader successful. Churchill knew that, too. In fact, one of the reasons he was able to foresee the dangers of Germany’s rearmament was because he had so many contacts in the British government. He’d constantly check in with people at every level of the organization. I try to do the same thing. It probably drives our senior executives crazy, but it’s how I know what’s going on—at least I think so.

Churchill wasn’t perfect. He was blamed for the tremendous loss of lives in the Dardanelles and Gallipoli Campaigns in World War I. He failed—at least initially—to recognize that women deserved the right to
vote. And he was resistant to political independence for India.

But Churchill always held to his principles and stood up for what he believed, even against his king, if necessary. He was always an outsider and had to fight for respect. As a schoolboy, he was small and teased for his speech impediment. But he became one of the world’s most inspiring orators, and his writing won a Nobel Prize for Literature.

Most of all, Churchill loved his country. And I love mine. I met Tony Blair recently, who remarked that Churchill was the role model for all prime ministers ever since.

Churchill’s political observations seem timeless. “The Americans will always do the right thing,” he remarked off the record, “once all other possibilities have been exhausted.” What a perfect comment about the politics of Washington today.

I believe that Winston Churchill was the greatest leader of the 20th century. To be honored in his name is the greatest honor I could imagine, and I truly thank you.
by CDR LARRY KRYSKE, USN

Longtime member Kryske uses this crossword in education teaching. We thought it was a little too easy for CB readers and toughened it up! Answers on page 18. Contact the author at larry.kryske@yorktowned.com.

ACROSS
1. WSC’s principal weapon in 1940.
8. Red uncle’s nickname.
9. Churchill opposed it in the 1930s.
14. Churchill’s second country home.
15. Sir Winston’s Order.
17. He played it into his fifties.
18. After victory, then what?
20. The worst of Churchill’s enemies.
22. He called his wife “Kat”; she called him “Pig” or ___.
23. His knowledge of the past made him a great ___.
27. As Home Secretary, Churchill obtained these for widows.
28. First among hobbies.
31. What Churchill asked of Roosevelt in order to finish the job.
32. Highest rank of a Churchill ancestor.
33. Winston’s land battleship.
35. In WW2 he was Minister of ___.
37. A friend from Araby.
38. Name for depression: “___ dog.”
41. He shared this unique American honorary title with Lafayette.
42. His greatest biographer.
43. “Nothing is more exhilarating than to be shot at without ____.”
46. In 1899 WSC escaped from the ___.
48. After VE-Day, the Conservative Party was ___ out of office.
49. She shone “like the evening star.”
51. Winston was ___ Minister twice.
53. Because of an early shoulder injury, Churchill carried a not a saber.
55. He wrote only one.
56. As First Lord, WSC converted the Navy from coal to ____.
59. Churchill said ___ was no more a nation than the Equator.

DOWN
2. He wrote them himself.
3. Fourth item after blood and the others.
4. One of Churchill’s most vital characteristics.
5. Winston was commissioned in the ___.
7. He served here for over sixty years.
10. What Churchill was “in durance vile.”
11. Alleged signal to the fleet in 1939: “Winston is ____.”
12. Word for heroes of the Battle of Britain.
13. The curtain Churchill described at Fulton.
16. WSC was blamed for this military fiasco.
17. His favorite animals.
19. He thought his parents ____ him as a child.
24. The school where he excelled.
25. Mr. Somervell taught this favorite subject.
26. “The empires of the future are the empires of the ____.”
29. Jennie’s passport.
30. Favorite neckwear.
34. John Strange Spencer Churchill.
36. A friend in the White House.
40. Winston’s darling.
41. “…the first of human qualities.”
43. Chartwell’s canine resident.
44. Overlord’s overlord.
45. What “old words” are.
46. The bombing of London.
47. 1940 was his ___ hour.
50. He won this prize for his writing.
52. Famous admonition at Harrow: “Never ___ in”
54. First military posting.
57. Churchill’s speech impediment.
58. When Winston Churchill hoped to join the invaders.
EDITORIAL

“A few curmudgeons have flamboyantly abstained from joining in this birthday greeting; but they are so few that their action merely emphasises the fact that personal respect and friendship habitually survive and transcend political conflict in the Mother of Parliaments. It is particularly appropriate that these all-party tributes on his birthday should be paid to one, the outstanding fact of whose character and career is that he has never been happier than when leading those of all parties and of no party in some great national cause. He has never ceased to combine zeal for reform with reverence for tradition.

“And as in home affairs so in world affairs he has within him the stuff of which fertile cooperation is woven. The man to whom the Old World owes so much of its survival himself belongs by blood half to the New—he is, as has been neatly said, ‘half American and all English’—and this great citizen of an island realm has always had an unusual comprehension of Continental nations. Where he has loved them, he has marched loyally with them through dark hours. Where he has fought them, his hate died with their surrender.

“Remember that a birthday which is a national and indeed an international event is in its essence a family event. For half a century of sunshine and storm he had in Lady Churchill a stimulating and sensible companion, charming the magic casements of his life. Of all the birthday presents, none can be more precious than the sum of those years of undemanding and undeviating affection.

“He has some personal dislikes—which of us has not? He is the personal dislike of some—which of us is not? But on this day sinks the fever of all the emotions save those evoked by the knowledge that our mighty compatriot in his long journey has made himself the architect of imperishable achievements and the symbol of inexpugnable courage.”

Published on Sir Winston Churchill’s 80th Birthday by The Daily Telegraph, London, Tuesday, 30 November 1954

TEACHER INSTITUTE III

The Churchill Centre will hold a three-week summer institute, “Winston Churchill and the Anglo-American Relationship,” in England during July 11th through 31st, supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. American kindergarten-through-12th grade teachers or current graduate students intending to teach in the K-12 area should consult our website: http://xrl.us/bgtute.

NEH institutes are designed for full-time teachers, including home-schooling parents. Other K-12 school personnel, such as librarians and administrators, are also eligible, but must show in their application essay why the experience will be particularly valuable to them. Substitute teachers or part-time personnel are not eligible. Applications from teachers in public, private, and religion-affiliated schools receive equal consideration.

New to this third Institute: Up to three places are available for full-time graduate students who intend to pursue careers in K-12 teaching. Teachers in the U.S. or its territories, or Americans teaching in foreign schools where at least 50% of percent of the students are Americans, are eligible. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, residents of U.S. jurisdictions, or foreign nationals who have resided in the U.S. or its territories for at least the three years immediately preceding the application deadline.

On the Thames inspecting bomb damage in London, September 1940.
LOCAL NEWS

ALASKA
ANCHORAGE, NOVEMBER 7TH— The latest Churchill Centre teacher seminar was held for fourteen elementary and high school English and Social Studies teachers, a good turnout considering we had only one school district to draw from at a time when half the teachers were suffering from the flu.

Professor James Muller led with a survey of Churchill’s life and career, followed by a discussion of eight of his essays in *Thoughts and Adventures*, which teachers had read beforehand. After that lively discussion and lunch, Professor Will Jacobs surveyed the middle period of World War II, leading up to a discussion of Churchill’s leadership. The cogent Will Jacobs was an invaluable educator on World War II.

Teachers were interested, and asked lots of questions. Many were among a group which had been part of a multi-year Clio project on American history which Professor Muller had helped organize. Love of learning is typified by Kent Isakson, who was with us at the 2008 Summer Institute in England.

Teacher evaluations were compiled for future guidance. They received copies of *Finest Hour* and and were offered free Centre membership on request.

We wish we had had the full complement of two dozen teachers, but we think the seminar was valuable and will pay dividends down the road.

We received very good value for a small investment, not exceeding $2500 for the teachers, books and lunch. The University of Alaska, Anchorage provided the venue gratis, and Judith and Jim Muller lugged the materials and organized the room. Invitations and the accompanying documents went out by email, except for the books, which were distributed by school district couriers.

CALIFORNIA

LONG BEACH, NOVEMBER 22ND— The Southern California chapter opened a 1500-word essay contest for students at Long Beach City College and Long Beach State University. The theme is Churchill’s fourth volume of WW1 memoirs, *The Aftermath*, which predicted much of the next half century.

Participants must read *The Aftermath* and discuss the validity of Churchill’s predictions. The idea is to promote study of 20th century history, which continues to effect the present. Prizes of $1000, $500 and $250 were donated by the Long Beach Rotary Club. Judges are Professors David Freeman and Leon Waszak, and this writer. — BOND NICHOLS

CHICAGO
FAIRMONT HOTEL, NOVEMBER 30TH— Churchill Friends of Greater Chicago celebrated Sir Winston’s 135th birthday with a grand bash. Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres welcomed sixty-three black tie clad members and guests. Herbed chicken with lemon risotto accompanied the spirited conversation.

Our speaker, Churchill Centre member Gail Rosseau MD (Chief of Surgery at the

Professor Will Jacobs addresses the Alaska Teacher Seminar, November.
Neurologic-Orthopedic Institute of Chicago) regaled us with her knowledge of Churchill’s health as it related to his leadership. Seven students, sponsored by members, joined us for the evening. They ranged from middle school to doctoral candidates. CC Chairman Laurence Geller arrived fresh from Paris and discussed the bright future of The Churchill Centre. Dr. Rosseau invited many of her colleagues and friends which complimented the gathering on a high level. Dr. Joe Troiani hosted a table of eleven for the event. The evening was grand by all accounts.

Chicago Friends plan to meet again in the spring, with former Congressman Tom Ewing on hand to discuss the founding of Churchill College in Pontiac, Illinois, the only college in United States named for WSC and the subject of an article in the Spring 2010 issue of Finest Hour.

—Sue & Phil Larson

FLORIDA
CAPE CORAL, FEBRUARY 26TH, 2008— A Churchill education program presented two Churchill biographies on National History Day at the Gulf Middle School. Center member and former Speaker of the New Hampshire Legislature John B. Tucker presented Churchill by Celia Sandys, and the award-winning Winston Churchill: Leading Lives by Fiona Reynoldson, to Cathy Adams, Resource Center director, and Principal William Lane before a large gathering of students, faculty and residents. Among the history day displays was material featuring Sir Winston, some provided by The Churchill Centre.

Florida: John Tucker and Cathy Adams.

CHARTWELL

MICHIGAN
OCTOBER 14TH— Author Lynne Olson addressed the Churchill Society of Michigan on her recent book, Troublesome Young Men: How a small group of rebellious Tory Members of Parliament opposed the Chamberlain government’s appeasement policies and, in Olson’s opinion, “eventually forced the prime minister’s resignation.” Her lively talk and the question and answer period brought to life some of this prewar drama. Copies of her book quickly sold out.

Olson previewed her next book, Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest Finest Hour. Those Americans were John Gilbert Winant (U. S. Ambassador following Joseph Kennedy), Edward R. Murrow (Finest Hour 144), and W. Averell Harriman. The book was released in February 2010.

Society President Dick Marsh discussed his personal collection of books and manuscripts relating to the Conservative opponents...
MICHIGAN...

to Neville Chamberlain—a subset of Dick’s extensive library on Churchill and English history. Dick was inspired to build this subset of thirty-eight items after reading Troublesome Young Men.

Bob Pettengill updated us on our school outreach program. Twenty-one letters have been sent to principals of selected area high schools, public and private, proposing that a history class period be dedicated to Churchill with content developed according to teacher specifications or available lesson plans. These include three plans developed with Hillsdale College, now available on The Churchill Centre website. More letters are to be sent in an increasing radius from our home base.

NORTH CAROLINA

CHARLOTTE, NOVEMBER 21ST— The Churchill Society of North Carolina held its Second Annual Churchill Birthday Dinner at the Charlotte Country Club. The black-tie event attracted seventy-seven Churchillians for a wonderful dinner and an ambitious program. The Society honored George M. Ivey, Jr, with its first Winston Churchill Award, a Churchill bust by Nemon, for his service to the community and his help forming the Society. Dr. Wendell Musser gave a stirring introduction to George, reflecting on the shared attributes of Ivey and Churchill.

Following dinner, Thad Adams introduced Paul Reid, who is completing the third and final volume of William Manchester’s three-volume Churchill biography, The Last Lion, explaining the process and progress of his work. A debate on certain details of Churchill’s life enlivened the audience as a result of Reid’s views of WSC’s personality.

The evening concluded with remarks by Stacy Moore, Social Studies Coordinator for Union County Public Schools and a short film about last year’s Churchill Seminar for High School Students and Teachers. This project is now a regular feature in the school year for Union County Schools and will be introduced this school year in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, the 20th largest school district in the United States.

ONTARIO

TORONTO, OCTOBER 14TH— Fifty members and guests of the Churchill Society of Canada enjoyed “An Evening With Sir Winston at the Movies” at the Albany Club. Randy Barber apologized for the absence of popcorn when introducing the narrator of the National Film Board of Canada’s production “Churchill’s Island,” which won the first Academy Award for a documentary in 1941. The film was narrated by the future star of Bonanza Lorne Greene, then a CBC announcer. Although a blatant propaganda production, it accurately illustrated the mood of the time, and was perhaps an effort to encourage the United States to enter the war.

The main feature was “Into The Storm,” the BBC/HBO film covering Churchill’s premiership from 1940 to the 1945 general election (reviewed in Finest Hour 143). This was well received, especially Brendan Gleeson’s Emmy-winning portrayal of WSC, and for Winnipeg-born Len Cariou, who played Roosevelt. Most viewers agreed that the subject should have been spread over several segments; however, it was well presented, and resulted in widespread acclaim.

Forthcoming Events at the Albany Club: March 3rd: Former ICS Canada Director Peter Allen presents a film of the April 2007 ceremony marking the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, where 150,000 British and French soldiers died trying to dislodge the Germans. A brilliantly planned and executed assault by 100,000 Canadians took the Ridge with the loss of 3600 killed and 5000 wounded.

May 10th: The 70th Anniversary of Winston Churchill becoming Prime Minister will welcome Finest Hour editor and Churchill Centre founder Richard Langworth, the recipient of our annual Merit Award. In 1965,
watching Churchill’s funeral on television, Langworth decided that he should know more about a man who obviously meant so much to so many people. This led to his 1968 founding of the Churchill Study Unit, which became the International Churchill Society in 1971 and The Churchill Centre in 1995. For his work he was made a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by the Queen in 1998.

The directors and members of ICS Canada join in expressing our deepest thanks to Jeanette Webber, our membership secretary for many years, who is stepping down. This is a very time consuming position, all done as an unpaid volunteer. Jeanette, your hard work and dedication over the years is very much appreciated.

SOUTH CAROLINA
COLUMBIA, SEPTEMBER 18TH— In ceremonies at the University of South Carolina, Dr. and Mrs. E. Conyers O’Bryan, Jr. presented their extensive collection of Churchill’s writings, books and a Churchill oil painting to the University’s Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. The O’Bryans, of Florence, S.C., donated more than eighty volumes of Churchill’s writings, among which were several first editions of his books. The oil painting was “The Garden at Wilton,” circa 1935. Expressing appreciation on behalf of The Churchill Centre were Ken Childs, president of the Bernard Baruch chapter, and Craig Horn, southeast regional chapter coordinator.

The collection is now in the Hollings Special Collections Library, offering expanded and updated study space for researchers, enhanced environmental conditions, more space for exhibits, as well as teaching, public programs and digital projects.

TEXAS
DALLAS, NOVEMBER 13TH— Sixty North Texas Emery Reves Churchillians gathered at the lovely Park City Club to hear a brilliant speech by historian Douglas Brinkley on “Churchill and the Roosevelts” (TR and FDR). Brinkley, who was accompanied by his wife Anne, confessed to nervousness because, he said, Churchillians are so knowledgeable. He did not have to worry. His new book, The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America, is doing well. Mr. Brinkley was kind enough to autograph copies for everyone who wanted one.

Brinkley noted many similar characteristics between Churchill and Theodore Roosevelt, who never had a high opinion of his British counterpart. He then focused on the FDR-WSC relationship and how it guided the Allies to the victorious conclusion of World War II.

UNITED KINGDOM
CAMBRIDGE, NOVEMBER 18TH— Letters by Margaret Thatcher and Nancy Reagan commemorating the end of the Cold War were read out for the first time this morning at the Churchill Archives Centre’s two-day conference, “The Cold War and Its Legacy.” A stellar list of panelists and speakers came from either side of the former Iron Curtain, and from India, China and Japan among others.

They included Hugh Lunnghi, interpreter for Churchill’s meetings with Stalin at Teheran, Moscow and Yalta; Grigoriy Karasin, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation; and former Senator and Secretary of the Navy John Warner, a World War II veteran.

Written especially for the conference, the Thatcher and Reagan letters both noted Ronald Reagan’s efforts to bring to an end nearly fifty years of conflict, flashpoints and nuclear standoffs. “My husband predicted that the [Berlin] wall would fall >>
and that communism would ‘end up on the ash heap of history’ and for his beliefs he was called a dreamer and an ideologue,” wrote Mrs. Reagan. “Fortunately for all of us, he had a friend in Lady Thatcher. Ronnie and Margaret were political soulmates, united in their commitment to freedom and their resolution to end communism. In the end, the values and beliefs of the United States, Great Britain and other free countries of the world won out—and communism collapsed under its own weight.”

Baroness Thatcher echoed similar sentiments: “In the years that have passed there has been a tendency to diminish the importance of the Cold War. We have since discovered the true economic, political and military fragility of the Soviet Union. But the dangers to mankind during the Cold War years were horrendous and urgent.

“It was not until Ronald Reagan entered the White House that things were about to change. Today, millions of people live freer, happier and more prosperous lives because some twenty years ago the world changed for the good.”

Also present to examine, dissect and discuss the Cold War and its impact were Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of President Eisenhower; Professor Christopher Andrew, author of Defence of the Realm, the first authorised history of MI5; and Lord Powell, former private secretary and chief foreign policy advisor to Prime Minister Thatcher.

Remarking on the human costs of the Cold War was Francis Gary Powers, Jr., whose father was the pilot of the U-2 spy aircraft famously shot down over Russia in 1960. Other speakers were Professor Alexander Likhotal (former adviser and spokesman to President Gorbachev), Bridget Kendall (BBC diplomatic correspondent and Russian expert) and Air Marshal Chris Nikols (UK Chief of Defence Intelligence).

For transcripts of letters from Nancy Reagan and Lady Thatcher, please email the editor.

VANCOUVER: DIGITAL JIHAD?

Jan 21st—Over 100 people attended an “Evening with Churchill” to hear Jonathan Manthorpe, foreign correspondent and columnist for the Vancouver Sun on “Marketing the al-Qaeda Brand: Osama bin Laden and Franchised Terrorism.” Manthorpe, a journalist for thirty years, has been based in Hong Kong; Harare, Zimbabwe; continental Europe and London. He won the Mitchener Award for Journalism and several international prizes.

Manthorpe offered an arresting theory: that the current...
guerrilla war of the digital age.” Bin Laden, he said, is little more than a figurehead, but all the information required for disenfranchised young Muslims to sign up as franchised al-Qaeda terrorists and even to plan bombing campaigns is available on the Internet. The real threat is home-grown youths inspired by bin Laden, such as the July 2005 attackers of the London subway system, or the five American Muslims from Virginia arrested in Pakistan in December as they sought terrorist training. The digital age has been embraced to serve a medieval cause. Witness for example the 2008 attacks in Bombay, India, where a terror leader in Pakistan directed the whole operation by cell phone.

WASHINGTON DC
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 6TH— In conjunction with the Cosmos Club, the Washington Society for Churchill brought sixty members of both groups together for dinner and a discussion, “If Churchill Looked at Today.” Our speaker, Stephen Hayward, Fellow in Law at the American Enterprise Institute, author of Churchill on Leadership and a recent book on Reagan, lost no time in establishing Churchill’s timeliness as a statesman and the mistake of viewing him merely as a colorful figure of the past. Hayward applied Churchill’s lessons and perceptions to two contemporary problems, the economy and the struggle with radical Islam, which WSC confronted in his long career.

Hayward contended that Churchill’s views on the nature of totalitarian government grew in the aftermath of World War I, when he acquired a fresh appreciation for markets, property rights and entrepreneurship, while pondering the defects of parliamentary government in his essays, later collected in Thoughts and Adventures.

Many current reflections on the character of terrorism, the element of Islamic fanaticism, and the clash of civilizations between the Islam and the West were anticipated in Churchill’s 1899 book, The River War, which displays the insight and clarity of thought which would distinguish him as Prime Minister four decades later. Hayward quoted key passages from Churchill’s early writings which underline the prescience of ideas and observations that remain as evergreen now as ever.

The audience offered probing and thoughtful questions, which made for a stimulating and memorable combined event—one we hope will set the pattern for many more. —JOHN H. MATHER MD

DON PIEPER
1931-2009

SHELL BEACH, CALIFORNIA— Don Pieper, prolific journalist and CC member for a decade, and beloved friend of longtime CC trustee and endowment fund director the late Charles Platt, passed away in California. The Piepers and the Platts have been friends for over fifty years. Chuck and Don met in grade school and maintained a lifelong friendship. Linda Platt met Don before she met Chuck, through her sorority sister and Don’s future wife, Jan. All unaware of the connection, both families ended up living, working and socializing as young married couples in Nebraska. As a local sports editor, Don reported on the local baseball team, including a notable home run in Chuck’s stint as catcher. Almost fifty years later, Chuck was particularly pleased to still send Don’s writing to any and all he could, especially involving University of Nebraska football games. They managed to see each other at least twice a year by having common interests, meeting at Vancouver Public Library or periodic appearances you’d know something would appear in a future column.

In place of flowers or other commemorative items, donations may be made to: Jacqualyn Palchak Cancer Fund, P.O. Box 1614, Pismo Beach, California 93448, or Hospice Partners of the Central Coast, 277 South Street, Suite R, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. —LINDA PLATT

DEREK LUKN JOHNSTON
1913-2009

VANCOUVER, DECEMBER 16TH— While we all anticipated sharing in Derek Johnston’s 100th birthday a few years down the road, he surprised us all by departing quite suddenly at the age of 96 after a full and productive life.

Educated in England, Derek served on corvettes in the Royal Navy during World War II, then resumed his career as a chartered accountant. He will be remembered by many people as a reviewer of new books regarding his hero, Sir Winston Churchill, as a member and staunch supporter of the Winston Churchill Society of British Columbia, and as a faithful member of the Round Table. Churchillians far beyond Vancouver remember Derek in resplendent uniform, serving as toastmaster at the 1986 International Churchill Conference, which hosted William Manchester in Vancouver. He also wrote about the Churchill painting of Banff in FH 59.

Above all, he will be recalled as he was often described: a true and honourable gentleman. In lieu of flowers, donations to his beloved Vancouver Public Library would be appreciated. •
Will future generations remember? Will the ideas you cherish now be sustained then? Who will guide your grandchildren, and your country? There is an answer.

Over sixty Churchill Centre Associates have committed $10,000 or more, over five years, all tax-deductible, to The Churchill Centre Endowment. Its earnings guarantee that The Churchill Centre will endure as a powerful voice, sustaining beliefs. Winston Churchill held dear. Now. And for future generations.

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