**2020 AGM:**

**Clubs & Activity Group REPORTS**

**ADVANCED FRENCH** spun off from a too large morning class in 2008, and some of us have been attending ever since. We’re a group of 15 these days who read and speak quite good French. Each meeting begins with quoi de neuf around the table, that is to say “what's new” since we last met. After our pause for coffee whoever is the leader for that day presides over a discussion on a chosen subject.

*(respectfully submitted by Barbara Loan)*

**THE GOWARD HOUSE BOOK CLUB** has twelve members and meets on the second Tuesday each month.  In 2019 the club did not meet in July and August. Attendance is good and during the year there were three new members.

The books selected cover many themes, and individually meet with the approval of those attending.  Typical themes are climate control, mysteries, family situations, relationships and Canadian history novels.  The authors are mostly literary award winners.

Recently, we have been able to obtain book club sets (10 copies) which has proved useful, when the library might have only 3 or 4 copies of individual books.  We thank the Goward House staff for allowing the club access to a small cupboard space in the reception office to accommodate the collection and return of books by members who occasionally are not able to attend a meeting.

Finally, we wish to draw attention to the passing of Marguerite Gayfer who died at the end of last year.  She attended regularly, even tho' she had to travel quite a distance by bus.  She loved mysteries/who dunnits!

*(respectfully submitted by Netta Delacretaz)*

**STUDIO OF HARMONIOUS ENDEAVOURS (Chinese Brush Painters)**, annual report, 2019

The ten current members of the Studio of Harmonious Endeavours continue to enjoy Wednesday afternoons spent painting at Goward House. Nenagh Molson, who founded the group, comes frequently to demonstrate and critique. We share her time and skill with non-members who are appreciative of this opportunity to learn. This year, during the final month of our annual show, we organized an open house which featured demonstrations by Arlene Davey and Barbara Mekelburg. When Elaine Leonard retired each member contributed a card as a farewell gift to thank her for all her help during her time at Goward House. We also hung, with Nenagh’s help, a very well received two month art show.

Some members, once again, continued the tradition of taking a table in the Goward House Craft Fair to sell cards and paintings. For the second year we provided paintings for display in the office of the Advocate for Seniors.

We also have members who take part, as individuals, in community events. Arlene and Barbara were both involved with studio tours and arts festivals. John Hart not only continued his gig as “artist in residence” at a hotel in Hawaii, but this year, as a result of this exposure, he was featured in a show at MainStay Gallery in Santa Monica where he is now one of their “Featured Artists”.

We look forward to working with Heidi and Suzanne; both were very helpful in the smooth running of this year’s art show.

*(respectfully submitted by Ann Gibbard)*

**WEDNESDAY MORNING GOWARD HOUSE ARTISTS**

Sad to say our numbers this year are down considerably. Two years ago we had 19 painters each week.

Long-time members – Peg Francis most recently, and before her the Sutherland-Browns, both Atholl and Ruth, and also Robert van den Driessche -- have all died after enjoying many years with us. Also Trish Morgan has had to move away. Another lady who could only come a bit later in the morning decided to not continue when our time was decreased to 2 ¾ hours.

We would like to see Goward House maintain a higher profile to the public, to possibly attract new people. There are a lot of art groups in Victoria. We used to be covered weekly in the GO Section of the newspaper indicating the art show for the current month. We hope that can be started again as we have no other marketing to let the public know we have art groups here.

We contribute a show for the month of May each year, so that visitors are reminded of one of the activities they can enjoy by joining us.

*(respectfully submitted by Charles Dool)*

**DROP-IN BRIDGE (FRIDAYS)**

Friendly, social Bridge is played year-round from 12:30 to 3:30 in the Sun Room.  In the past year, this activity averaged three tables per Friday.  Overflow from the Sun Room is set up in the Main Lounge.  New members always welcome.

*(respectfully submitted by Carol Bogart)*

**Goward House WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON DUPLICATE BRIDGE, 2019**   
   
We enjoyed our most successful year ever, with record attendance numbers, and the successful implementation of the use of Bridgemates and major changes to our bridge website.   
We played 50 weeks in 2019, with nearly 2800 participants. We had a record 68 players at one game, and averaged 14 tables (56 players) per week. The average table count increased by nearly one table per week after the implementation of the Bridgemates in August. After three months of trial use, the participants voted overwhelmingly to continue with the Bridgemates and the enhanced website. We were very grateful for the leadership provided by Nicole Dupuis from the Monterey Bridge Centre in helping us set up both initiatives. We also appreciated the cooperation of the Board of the ACBL Local Unit 431 in agreeing to lease Bridgemates to Goward House.

From its initiation in July to the end of December, we had over 10,000 web pages visited by over 2,000 visitors. The upgraded website now provides complete details of each hand for every table, plus hand records for each board, and other related data. We appreciated the cooperation of Peter Bruce, the Goward House webmaster, in setting the new system up as a subset of the GH website.

Bridge lessons continue to flourish at Goward House, both for beginner (taught by Debbie Wastle) and intermediate (taught by Jim Brackenbury) players. We had a record eight tables enrolled in the fall class on Defense.

The bridge players appreciate the ongoing support of the Goward House administration, staff, kitchen volunteers, front desk volunteers and Board in our endeavors. We recognize that our growth has put real strains on other activities, kitchen service, and on parking.   
   
*(Respectfully submitted, Jim Brackenbury, Coordinator of Wednesday Afternoon Duplicate Bridge, Goward House)*

The **GERMAN CONVERSATION** group meets at 9:30, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. There are six participants registered. We meet for coffee in the dining room. There is no particular agenda, just lighthearted, fun conversation. Newcomers are always welcome to join.

*(respectfully submitted by Rosita Dworschak)*

The **GOWARD HOUSE SINGERS** had a very fulfilling 2019. There were 12 practices in the Spring (Jan - Mar) followed by 12 concerts (Apr to Jun). We picked up again in September for another 8 practices and another 8 concerts. Other than the Goward Strawberry Tea and Goward Christmas Lunch, the concerts were at seniors’ residences around town. The residents are very appreciative of the choir and we have a very good time performing.

We bade farewell to Emily Green, our pianist for the last couple of years, as she moved to Vancouver. We were very sad to see her go as she was a very talented pianist and a wonderful addition to the group. However, we welcomed a new pianist in September. Joe Hatherill has a local music studio teaching various instruments and has fit right in. Phil Robbie, our new director (as of Sept 2018), continues to present us with great music and challenges us every week. Our previous director, Jim Bigsby, has returned to the choir but this time as a singer. The choir continues to welcome new singers each season. We are about 40 members and there are about thirty or so for each practice and performance. We finished the year with eight men and they make a very good men’s section. Phil was very happy.

If you (or someone you know) might be interested in joining us we have an “intake" in January and September each year. We have lots of fun, in both the practices and the concerts, and you will too.

Many thanks to Heidi (and the other staff) for their support throughout the year.

*(respectfully submitted by Phil Robbie)*

The **iPAD CLUB** met once per month, January through November, in 2019. Meetings usually had an attendance of 2 to 8 iPad users. At each meeting we asked questions, solved technical problems and exchanged iPad tips. There was often a lively discussion of the latest news and information concerning the Internet and our digital devices. Meetings were led by Leah Freedman, providing technical expertise and guidance. iPad Club would like to thank Goward House for the use of the conference room, TV set and AppleTV.

*(respectfully submitted by Leah Freedman)*

The **ITALIAN CONVERSATION** group meets weekly on Tuesday mornings.  Currently up to a dozen members participate. We take turns facilitating each week with Domenico Fratelli acting as our program facilitator with regard to an educational portion of the morning.    Our discussions in Italian are an intermediate level with some members being more advanced than others and able to help with accuracy and pronunciation. We also read from books written in the Italian language.

*(respectfully submitted by Denis Protti)*

**LINE DANCING**

We are getting 10 to 15 dancers on a regular basis and very much enjoying learning and exercising together.

It is working well to start with the first half hour for new members focussing on easy dances and the last half hour for continuing members with more advanced dances.

*(respectfully submitted by Betty Doherty)*

The ‘**INTRODUCTION TO MEDITATION’** class at Goward House was started in October 2019 and has seen steady attendance of between 6 to 8 people. All persons who initially joined the class are still coming which shows a high level of satisfaction. Between two and four people have joined the class after inception and also are regulars. Feedback from participants has been very positive.

The classes use guided meditations as the main vehicle and explore various meditation approaches. The one hour classes are held in the Sequoia Room on Mondays 3:20-4:20 pm; the Sequoia Room has shown itself very suitable for this use and participants enjoy the comfortable seats and privacy.

*(respectfully submitted by Eric Elbers)*

**SPANISH LEVEL 1**

This is a course of weekly lessons lasting approximately six months in three month blocks that begin in September and mid-February. The lessons are based on textbooks by Warren Hardy and Level 1 aims at providing a combination of “survival Spanish” and also basic conversational Spanish. The textbook is enhanced with video recordings and conversations. No previous experience is necessary though it is helpful.

        The instructors are John Tibbles and Valerie Roberts. Due to age and other considerations we will not be offering this next fall.

*(respectfully submitted by John Tibbles)*

**SPANISH LEVEL 2**

Spanish Level 2 is based on Warren Hardy’s Level 2 workbook which stresses the use of the past tense along with enhancing vocabulary and conversational skills. Some previous instruction is necessary. Video and audio aids are used and class participation is the glue that binds the course together.

As with Level 1 the course is in two three month blocs starting in September and mid-February. This allows class members to consolidate their skills by post- Christmas travelling.

The instructors this year are Valerie Roberts and John Tibbles. As with Level 1 we are unable to re- offer it this fall.

*(respectfully submitted by John Tibbles)*

The Goward House **WALKING GROUP (aka Walkie Talkies**) have had a great year.  In 2019 our Monday walks went ahead in all weather and we usually had from three to eight walkers - all women so far!   Our local walks starting at Goward House included the Queenswood area, Cadboro Bay, Haro Woods and Queen Alexandria grounds, UVic chip trail, Mystic Vale and Hollydene Park.  The last walk of the month which is always at an off-site destination included Oak Bay, Mt. Douglas Park, Swan Lake, and Rithet’s Bog.   At a group meeting in November we planned our walks for the first 6 months of 2020.   We will have one more planning meeting in April 2020 to organize the next 6 months of walks.  We also discussed our ideas for a handout with Suzanne in Admin which she has since designed and printed for us.  They are available at reception.  Thanks Suzanne.  Also, a big thanks to Mary Homer for designing an eye catching poster which can be found on the fitness bulletin board in the main stairwell.    Starting in January this year our walks now leave at 10 am, a half hour earlier, which suits us better.  The walkers enjoy each other’s company and we always welcome newcomers who want to give it a try.

*(respectfully submitted by Wendy Denyes)*