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**Kappans couple Zenobia Omarali and Nabil Velos were successful bidders on lunch with Kappan Chris Spence, Director of TDSB**



**In his Director's role, Chris visited Henry Kelsey School and Kappan Merilyn Fox's classroom. At TEOF, they chatted about her students and programme.**



**Kappans Care**

The U of T Chapter of PDK had a very visible presence at the Toronto Educational Opportunity Fund's (TEOF) 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction at the CNE on Nov. 20/09. Not only was there a table of Kappans but one of them was the winning bidder for lunch with Kappan Chris Spence, the new Director of Education of the TDSB.

The group of Kappans participated fully and enthusiastically in the event which raised over \$25,000 to help fund TEOF's nutritious snack program for over 3200 children in inner city kindergartens, as well as supporting the nutrition part of the Parenting Program in twenty schools across the city. TEOF President Ned McKeown was most appreciative of the ongoing support and contributions of his fellow Kappans.

**By Ned McKeown**



**Kappans Ned McKeown and Susan Seidman admiring one of the many stained glass contributions by Kappan Jim Youngson.**



**Kappan Kari Peters (who will present session 3 on April 7<sup>th</sup>) and her husband Nick Boldt in the hot and heavy bidding.**

**The Influence of Kappans**

**Kappan John Myers** has been very prominent in various media lately. Not only has he been quoted in the Globe and Mail, but catch him on TVO's Your Voice podcast on "Grading Your Kids' Report Card." The url is [http://www.tvo.org/podcasts/tvoparents/audio/YV\\_NoOp\\_20091122\\_238259\\_ReportCards\\_0x0\\_40k.mp3](http://www.tvo.org/podcasts/tvoparents/audio/YV_NoOp_20091122_238259_ReportCards_0x0_40k.mp3)

**Kappan Anne Kerr** was mentioned in the Toronto Star on Jan 2/10 in the article about school superintendents. Anne is supporting podcast technology in her schools to get boys to write non-fiction radio plays.

**Kappan Ruth Childs** has an interesting article you can access. [http://www.umanitoba.ca/publications/cjeap/pdf\\_files/childs-fung.pdf](http://www.umanitoba.ca/publications/cjeap/pdf_files/childs-fung.pdf)

**Kappan Nancy Nightingale**, former principal AY Jackson SS, is an Appreciative Inquiry (AI) presenter. She recently presented at a global conference in Nepal that focused on AI to bring about peace, stability and democracy. Prior to this, she presented at the Copenhagen AI Conference.

**Kappan Jonathan Shoss, Central Coordinating Principal**, was mentioned in the Toronto Star on Jan 9/10 in the article about aiding Roma students. Jonathan, the TDSB's point person for Roma issues, says that the complex needs require a multi-layered approach for the students to succeed.

**Directory** –A chapter directory has been completed and is included with members' newsletter.

**New Membership Initiative**

**For the first time, PDK is having a free, 3-month trial membership giving full access to all of PDK's professional resources. As a welcome, and to connect newer and long-standing members, U of T Chapter is holding a series of cottage-type discussions, at Kappan's homes. The first is an exploration of Kappan resources supporting our year-long theme of social-emotional aspects of learning. For details see the Programme Chart on p. 4 and in the insert.**



**Bev's Findinas**

### Creating Meaningful Learning Organizations

Everyone is talking about Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) but what are they and how can they be most effective? What is the experience in your school or district? Are you involved as a team player or leader or both?

Professional Learning Communities are composed of people brought together over time to focus on specific goals using a collaborative approach. They are a form of co-learning.

They occur in all sectors, just not education. For educators, they are not new but they are increasingly focussed on a prime objective – increasing student achievement. In Ontario, as we refine our practices, we are moving from congenial learning communities where everyone gets along but no enduring changes occur to individual or collective practice to collaborative networks. Collaborative learning networks in Ontario are:

- Committed to common goals/vision
- Represent a collective effort to improve student achievement for all
- Build trusting relationships
- Develop knowledge through problem-based inquiry and create questions about who is succeeding, who is not and why?
- Utilize (gather and analyze) student data and other relevant data sets to fully understand the problem
- Focussed on research. They give results- based strategies and look to the literature for direction
- Use the results of the individual and common learning to influence practice
- Monitor and review results and engage in courageous conversations with one another as committed, dedicated peers and partners in education

Unfortunately, most schools simply aren't there.

We know what effective PLCs should look like but unfortunately most schools are not there and we experience the knowing-doing gap (Pfeiffer & Sutton, 2000). We know doing is a lot harder. In his book *The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of the Learning Organization*, Peter Senge describes a learning organization as a place "where people continually expand their capacity to create the results they truly desire, where new and expansive patterns of thinking are nurtured, where collective aspiration is set free, and where people are continually learning how to learn together."

Effective learning communities, where learning is the work focus on learning and operate differently. Teachers become co-learners in the learning process and traditional classrooms shift to become communities of practice. There are enablers and challenges to achieving effective communities of practice. Micro-politics is a reality in any environment and sometimes relationships are not positive. Barth pointed to culture, competition and isolation as barriers to supportive collaboration. Hargreaves and Shirley added presentism – where we focus on the current and immediate and not the big picture.

Accessing and being involved in learning networks is making a difference. These communities are building connections and knowledge-sharing. Some are face-to-face in school groups, hubs or external using virtual networks. All are building community and promoting reflective learning in different ways. Professional development providers in a school or district (or teachers themselves) should consider using the Web's networking tools such as PDK Connect as a way to promote the creation of any-time, any-place professional learning organizations. Teams of teachers within a school could collaborate and learn together with other diverse thinking educators from around the world.

The Ministry has resources to support learning communities from The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat and the Leadership Strategy.

Check out their resources at [www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca) and [www.curriculum.org](http://www.curriculum.org) including:

- Professional Learning Communities: A model for Ontario schools – a monograph
- Networked Learning Communities –DVD
- Leadership for Ontario Schools -DVD

Hord & Sommers, in their 2008, *Leading Professional Communities*

advocate for teacher inquiry as a way to involve teachers in problem based exploration using data. They discuss ways to move teams from congeniality to collegiality.

PLCs are featured in *Realization*, the 2009 release from Sharrat and Fullan.

- Moderated marking learning communities are one way to use the data to drive practice.
- Members of the community focus on marker students or marker cohorts of students who are under-performing and use directed strategies to improve the students' learning.

**Dr. Beverley Freedman**

### Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Phi Delta Kappa International, University of Toronto Chapter, will be held on **Thursday, April 22, 2010 at the Faculty Club, University of Toronto**, for the following purposes:

- To receive the report of the Treasurer.
- To receive the report of the Nominating Committee.
- To elect officers and members of the Governing Council for the coming year.
- To transact such other business as may properly be brought forth before the meeting.

Dated: January 1, 2010  
Moveta Nanton, President.



**John Longfield  
with his Reavis tributes  
from PDK International**

**Reavis Honouree**

At the PDK International Summit, U of T Chapter member John Longfield was honoured for his sustained contributions to PDK Foundation, which supports our Chapter's Awards programme.

Over a delightful luncheon, Mary El Milosh, Carolyn Moras, and Susan Seidman, presented the handsome medal and attractive certificate to John.

John joins Peter Ross as a U of T Chapter Reavis honouree.

To donate to the foundation, call 1-800-766-1156



**Lynn Lewis, PDK International  
Director of Development  
and Susan Seidman,  
our chapter's Foundation Rep.**

**Heritage of a Kappan**

One of five plaques unveiled this fall by honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, was that of honourable Sir George William Ross, the fifth premier of Ontario and an educator who began his teaching career in 1857. Among the speakers were Lincoln Alexander, Chairman on the Ontario Heritage Trust, and Kathleen Wynne Minister of Education.



**Kappan Valerie-Dawn  
Ruddell Girhiny,  
Sir Ross's gt. gt.  
Granddaughter,  
assisted Lieutenant  
Governor David Onley with  
the unveiling.**

**CHALKWALK**

The planning for ChalkWalk 2010 has already begun, with an expanded committee, more leadership positions, and a student produced video in the works.

If you **are interested in joining this vibrant committee**, please contact Co-Chairs Kristin Hopper [k\\_s\\_hopper123@hotmail.com](mailto:k_s_hopper123@hotmail.com) and [Angela\\_McDowell@edu.yorku.ca](mailto:Angela_McDowell@edu.yorku.ca).

**The next committee meeting is Sat., Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00.**



**Azis Omar,  
Secondary School  
Liaison, and  
Samantha Beekhan  
showing a rough cut  
of their video.  
Members Susan  
Seidman & Multi  
Media Chair Sandra  
Poczobut, are also  
in the photo.**

**The Interview Spa** By Sandra Poczobut

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> an "Interview and Resume Coaching Seminar" was hosted by Carolyn Moras and Susan Seidman for newly graduated Kappans. Kappans Sandra Poczobut, Jennifer Orticello, Angela McDowell, Reneta Racheva and Kristin Hopper, were grilled as mock interviews were set up to help new Kappans enter the job market. The afternoon ended with a bang as newly obtained OCT membership was celebrated with champagne and a warm wax treatment, care of the spectacular hosts. If only all interviews were this fabulous!



**L to R: Carolyn Moras, Susan Seidman, Reneta Racheva, Jennifer Orticello, Sandra Poczobut, and Angela McDowell.**

**Good Reads** by Susan Seidman

Looking for some good reading? Here are two books with educational themes that are great reads, with profound resonance for educators:

- The Whistling Season by Ivan Doig, which is set in 1909 in a homesteading community where, in a one-room schoolhouse, many lessons of community and the power of education are gained.
- Mister Pip, by Lloyd Jones, speaks to the power of story in inspiring and educating many cultures.

**Reminder: Our Chapter PDK book club is Sat., May 1, 2010. The book is Social Intelligence by Daniel Goleman. It complements our research series on the importance of the social emotional domain on learning. (See page 4)**

**Our Chapter's Executive Team**  
**Get a full listing and connect via our website [www.pdk-ut.ca](http://www.pdk-ut.ca)**

**President's Message**



**CHAPTER PRESIDENT**  
 Moveta Nanton

There is an important distinction between invention – the creation of an idea for a new product, and innovation – the attempt to put that product or idea into practice. Phi Delta Kappa, University of Toronto chapter executive members are innovators. They are constantly researching and evaluating the needs of the membership, finding new ideas and better solutions to provide educational leadership. This is a crucial role that an organization of the calibre of PDK has in today's environment.

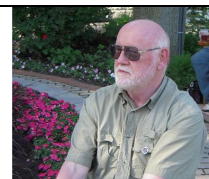
I am proud to be a part of this chapter's executive that, each year, showcases the resources and leadership we have right here in the greater Toronto region.

A prime example is our current Research series "**Promoting Academic Achievement through Personal and Social Responsibility**" focusing on the social and emotional learning needs of students. The first two sessions were well attended with Mary Gordon, Founder and President of Roots of Empathy and the second with Elizabeth Sinclair-Artwell, a former principal of Toronto District School Board, currently Superintendent of Education with Peel District School Board. Videos of these two sessions will be posted on our website.

The final session, of this series is on **April 7, 2010**. It is called "**ICare**", a program at Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute where you will see examples of student academic achievements through personal and social responsibility. I hope that you will mark this date in your calendar and that I will see many of you on the evening of April 7, 2010. Additionally, our Annual General Meeting is on April 22, 2010. Come and welcome our many new initiates.

We are continuing to seek innovative programs to bring to you and will be hosting a series of "cottage discussion meetings" in support of PDK's new membership recruitment initiative. Please see the insert flyer "New Membership and Programme Information".

As we begin the year 2010 and a new decade, may I take this opportunity to wish all a safe and happy New Year!



**Programme Co-Chairs**  
 John Myers and Susanna Tang



**Newsletter Editor**  
 Shak Ahad



**Membership Chair**  
 Lis Horley-McLeod

**PROGRAMME FOR WINTER/SPRING 2010 (FOR FULL LISTING OF 2009-10 PROGRAMME /AWARD DATES, VISIT [WWW.PDK-UT.CA](http://WWW.PDK-UT.CA))** NOTE: OUR RESEARCH SERIES THIS YEAR WILL FOCUS ON SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL ASPECTS OF LEARNING IN SCHOOLS. EACH CAN STAND ALONE; ATTENDEES OF ALL THREE RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE. QUESTIONS: Susanna Tang, [pdk.register@gmail.com](mailto:pdk.register@gmail.com) 416-219-2883 OR JOHN MYERS [jmyers@oise.utoronto.ca](mailto:jmyers@oise.utoronto.ca) 416-978-0197

"Cottage" Discussion on Social/Emotional Learning focusing on a list of Kappan Articles (see flyer)	Mon. January 18 7:00 Discussion	At Kappan Irene Manahan's home. Facilitated by Nancy Nightingale. Directions to be sent to those who register. Contact Susan Seidman (416-656-6929; <a href="mailto:sseidman@sympatico.ca">sseidman@sympatico.ca</a> )
"Cottage" Discussion - Ministry Musings presented by Heidi Kazmin, Coordinator Special Education Support Services, Peel DSB, to give an overview of the Ministry Document "Learning K-12".	February - TBA	TBA
Promoting Academic Achievement through Personal and Social Responsibility: Session #3, Speakers: Kari Peters /Don Burns	Wed., April 7	Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute, 200 Poplar Road. Toronto ON M1E 1Z7.
Niagara Falls Get Together	Sat., April 10	Niagara Falls - Contact Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, <a href="mailto:SIDECAR09@aol.com">SIDECAR09@aol.com</a> Concert: Contabile, The London Quartet
Annual General Meeting, Outstanding Educator Presentation and Initiation Dinner	Thurs. April 22	Faculty Club, University of Toronto 41 Willcocks Street (east of Spadina, north of College, south of Bloor).
PDK Book Club <u>Social Intelligence</u> by Daniel Goleman	Sat., May 1 5:00 Dinner 7:00 Discussion	Contact: Mary El Milosh 416-229-0496 <a href="mailto:maryelmilosh@hotmail.com">maryelmilosh@hotmail.com</a>

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