

Among Friends

FALL Newsletter 2010

Dr Bill Writes:

Burt Lancaster, the famous movie star of an earlier generation, is reported to have said:

“I judge a restaurant by its bread and by its coffee.”

Strange criteria! Or is it? When you go out to dinner, you expect the entrees, starters and desserts will be good. But before you start, bread is usually placed on the table, free of charge. At the end of the dinner, most people enjoy a coffee and while there is usually a cost, it is almost like an “added extra” to the meal. So why would Mr. Lancaster form his entire evaluation of the restaurant on those two benchmarks.

Bread and coffee are what create the first and the last impression. They are not the most important things in the meal. They are almost accessories, added extras which complement what is supposed to be the main menu. Burt’s point surely was that if a restaurant gets these things right, the more important things will fall into place. Think about it. How many times have you eaten out, and while the meal itself was good, the bread was stale, or the buns as hard as hockey pucks and the liquid in your cup was as thick as old motor oil. Isn’t it nice when you eat somewhere and the bread is warm, the buns are soft and fresh, and the coffee doesn’t taste like it was brewed last week.

Burt Lancaster had it right! It’s the little things that are important because it is in these minute details that the quality of service is most often established.

What are the first and ongoing impressions we leave with people in our lives? What are the criteria by which people judge Among Friends? My guess would be that it might not be in the obvious things by which we are often assessed. Maybe it would be in the little words and attitudes we impart, often without thinking. Let’s always be on guard to make sure that we get THOSE things right, and the rest, as they say, will fall into place.

The committee has asked me to comment on a couple of policies we have to adopt. I judge a committee by its commitment and enthusiasm, and, in that, the Among Friends Committee gets full marks from me, and I hope deserved accolades from everyone.

REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS:

As you know, Among Friends is “non profit”, and we have maintained that criteria quite well through the last year!! Even with full capacity in our bus trips and theatre outings, our profit on events is rarely more than \$100 and at times we have run events at a deficit. This is how we want it, to give everyone full value for their money. When a situation arises where someone is sick or unable to go to an event, we have tried wherever possible to refund the monies, and glad to do so if we can. If however tickets have been purchased, it is difficult for us to simply “swallow” the expense. Lately some people have not paid in advance, and we have purchased tickets for events at their request, but at the last minute the person has cancelled or not shown up, and then refused to take responsibility for the expense. We have to announce, sadly, that we cannot continue to do this. If tickets are not paid in advance, or an arrangement made, we cannot obtain extra last minute tickets and be left “on the hook” for the cost. We will do everything we can to refund money where we can find substitutes to take tickets that have been purchased. I am sure everyone will understand the necessity of establishing such a policy, and we will continue to be sensitive in situations where cancellations are beyond someone’s control.

EVENTS:

In this newsletter, you will find a list of events for the next few months, and we encourage you to sign up **QUICKLY** for these. I think the **CHRISTMAS BUS TRIP** in particular will be a real winner and a sure sell out.

ANNUAL BANQUET: OCTOBER 24th 2010.

In response to suggestions from last year, this Banquet will be somewhat “lower key.” It will be held at the Capitol Banquet Hall again, on the 24th of October, which would have normally been a “Muddy Duck” evening. A programme of entertainment featuring “YOURSELVES” will be organized (Yes, that means some letting down their “karaoke hair.”) Also the **AUCTION** to raise funds for the Don Jacobs Memorial Benevolent Fund will be more of a “LIVE” event. If anyone has suitable donations for the DJMF, you should contact Dr Bill or a member of the DJMF committee.

BENEVOLENT FUND

As many of you know, we have a Benevolent Fund to help those we know who may be in need after a bereavement. I have long been concerned that Among Friends not just be for those who can **AFFORD** to come to dinner, or go on our outings. If you know someone who is unable to attend our functions because of lack of funds, or who indeed need help with groceries or things for the kids, **PLEASE** do let us know ... contact Dr Bill or any of the Don Jacobs Memorial Fund trustees. We want to reach out and help.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES “AMONG FRIENDS”:

TWO exciting events are planned for 2011.

1. **In January-February 2011**, Ken and Lorna Mitchell will be leading a trip to **ARUBA** to stay at a luxurious hotel for a one or two week stay (your choice.) This will be a little different than previous years and is organized in response to a number of requests. There is information in this newsletter for this wonderful opportunity to holiday Among Friends.
2. **In July 2011**, Dr Bill and Johanna will be leading a 15 day London and Baltic Adventure to London, Germany, St Petersburg, Helsinki, Stockholm and Copenhagen. Extended travel is possible. We are sailing with Holland America on their new ship, the Eurodam. Compare prices elsewhere for a **VERY** pleasant surprise!! Brochures are on the web site (www.griefjourney.com under Among Friends) or can be obtained from Dr Bill or by calling Bob’s Cruises at 905 338 2077, or 1 800 361 6688. This will be an “Among Friends only” cruise, and is not open to the general public although our members are welcome to invite their own family or friends.

Hope to welcome you soon Among Friends.

Dr Bill

AMONG FRIENDS COMMITTEE 2010



Executive

Bill Webster	905-624-8080	Pat Carson	416-259-4802
Lorna Mitchell	905-878-8842	Dale Hester	905-826-2888
Frances Clay	905-624-6317	Donna Fradenburgh	416-592-7775 or 416-259-5789
Sally Jordan	416-207-0177	Sharon Coke	905-635-4967
Cecilia Podger	905-551-0684		

Don Jacob Memorial Fund Trustee's

Arnie Gallant	905-568-1105	Don Lambie	416-231-0624
Shirley McKee	416-231-7169	Ken Mitchell	905-878-8842

Local Contact People

Brampton:	Ian Williams	905-457-9945 or Cindy Stehr	416-902-3111
Waterdown:	Denise Baynton	905-689-7326	
Kitchener:	Dean Brock	519-744-2102	
GTA	John Coke	905-635-4967	

Member Support

Dale Hester	905-826-2888	Karen Baptista	416-322-9449
Ernie Worden	905-230-8353	Karen Lambie	416-231-0624

If you know of any of our members who are ill, please give, one of the committee member a call so we can keep in touch with these members and continue to offer support and best wishes.

Monthly Dinner Meetings - 4th Sunday of the Month

We continue to have **TWO** locations, and are pursuing opportunities in other communities as our groups grow.

Toronto and Peel Region:

The Muddy Duck, Dundas St. Mississauga, just west of Hwy.427. (905-275-9430)

Dinner, the **FOURTH** Sunday of every month, at 3:30 pm – PLEASE NOTE the restaurant will not have our reservation available until 3:30 p.m. so please arrange to arrive between **3:15 and 3:30 p.m.** if possible. The cost of the dinner will remain at \$30 per person, and **TWO NAMES WILL BE DRAWN EACH MONTH** and these people will get their dinner **FREE**. It is not necessary to call anyone on the committee for reservations, just show up, we would just love to see you.

NOTE: There will **BE NO** dinner at the Muddy Duck **on Sun. October 24, 2010**, instead we will host our **Annual Banquet**.

Waterdown - Dinner – The **SECOND** Sunday of each month at Marciano's, located at 5 Mill St South, at 3:35 pm. The cost is \$25/person. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to Denise Baynton at 905-689-7326 or email at dbaynton@skylinc.net.

EVENT INFORMATION

Note: The HST has impacted us all, and we wanted to inform you that this has been included in the price of events.

‘ACTING OUT’ MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE - Saturday, September 11, 2010

Location: The Atrium Restaurant, 5420 North Service Road, Burlington, ON. Arrive at **6:00 p.m.** Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dress: smart casual. **Cost: \$65.00**

Program: “Til Death Do Us Part” (The Soprano’s final chapter) “Hilarious, a great murder mystery”

Starters: *Bruschetta and Caesar Salad.*

Main: *Chicken Parmesan with Roasted Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable.*

Dessert: *Tiramisu, Coffee and Tea*

NOTE: We can arrange for a vegetarian main course. If you require this we must know in advance so please indicate on your registration form. **Cash bar only**

We require your registration form no later than **August 20th** if you wish to attend this event.

Please indicate on your return form whether you need a ride from St. James Church, or arrange your own ride and meet us at the Theatre.

9th ANNUAL BANQUET - Sunday, October 24, 2010 - 3:00 pm

Location: Capitol Banquet Hall, 6435 Dixie Rd. Mississauga, ON, 905-670-0635

Cost: \$59.00

Program: 3:00 pm Annual General Meeting of ‘Among Friends’
3:30 pm Social Time
4:30 pm Dinner & Live auction for the Don Jacobs Memorial Fund
6:30 pm Entertainment ‘Karaoke’ & other surprise activities!!!

Directions: From Hwy. 401, exit at Dixie Road North and the hall is just north of Courtneypark Dr. on the east side.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BUS TRIP to SIMCOE - Saturday, December 4, 2010

Theatre Aquarius: A Christmas Carol - 1:00 p.m.

Dinner: Cove Room (turkey dinner) 4:30 p.m.

Followed by: A tour of the Christmas Lights in Simcoe

Cost: \$110 (to keep the cost down, we would ask you to pack a light lunch for yourself to eat on the bus)

Please indicate your pick up location on the registration form.

Pick Up Location and Times:

Concordia Club in Kitchener 10:30 a.m.

Milton, Kelseys at Highway 25 & 401 11:00 a.m.

St. James United Church, Etobicoke 11:30 a.m.

