

SLR Presenter Bios Fall 2024

Anthony (Tony) Neville

An intro to badminton drew Anthony to SLR, and then for 11 years he hosted the popular Watercolour, Pastel and Acrylic painting courses. An art student from John Abbott College, he exhibited in many Quebec venues. But starting this fall, Tony is pivoting to his first love, examining the many human attributes that underpin the current ecological, social, political, and economic crises that we are struggling with. This course will start off by focusing on CBC's *IDEAS* and other great podcasts that challenge our accepted views of the world. As an interactive course it will involve open-ended discussions, debates, and humour.

Aryln Barker

Aryln began his career in high-level fireworks in 1984 when the Sorrento fire chief asked him to get certified to handle the town fireworks. At the time, Aryln was already working for a drilling and blasting company and had the necessary qualifications. He soon started shooting large displays on the water, atop shopping malls, and from large barges in Vancouver. Aryln then joined Blue Smoke Fireworks in Calgary, Alberta, where he manufactured mortar rack systems and shot shows across western Canada. Later, ProFX needed an assistant for the opening of the rodeo and to create some stage effects. Aryln subsequently obtained his pyrotechnician certification and has been working as a high-level supervisor and pyrotechnician at the Calgary Stampede for the past 20 years.

Aryln continues to train and learn about shooting shows, always keeping up with advancements in shell design and computer firing systems.

Barb Penner

Barb is a member of the working group Next Steps on the Path of Reconciliation, that rerepresents the Honoring Indigenous Peoples circle of Kelowna Sunrise Rotary Club.

She is a settler living on the land we call Canada and, alongside her personal learning journey, is committed to supporting people interested in learning about reconciliation and decolonization.

Barry Lane

Barry Lane, born in Regina, Saskatchewan, studied history at the Royal Military College of Canada. He served as a Captain in the UN Emergency Force in Egypt. Since 1976, he has lived in Quebec City, speaking English, French, Russian, and Italian. Co-founder of Mendel Tours in 1984, he specializes in academic travel. An award-winning author, Barry lectures on historical topics and recently published "Canadian Pacific and the Golden Age of Travel."

Cara Kirkey

Cara is a director of Friends of Black Mountain (FOBM), a non-profit group of volunteers dedicated to promoting the responsible discovery, enjoyment and conservation of the Black Mountain - Sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park, owned by the people of the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) and co-managed by the RDCO and the Westbank First Nation.

Charlotte Jones

Dr. Charlotte Jones is an endocrinologist and community-based participatory researcher in the field of chronic disease prevention and management among Indigenous and older adult populations. In 2012 she joined the UBC Faculty of Medicine Southern Medical Program (SMP) in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada as an Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of Student Research. Her research has two main focuses

- reducing loneliness and social isolation and improving communication, physical functioning and overall health among older adults (Walk and Talk for your Life programs).
 - using Indigenous methodologies to co-develop Indigenous-led culturally safe diabetes and obesity telehealth programs for underserved Urban and rural Indigenous communities.
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Dan Bruce

Dan Bruce has dedicated more than 50 years to heritage work. A London University graduate in Anthropology, he trained as a curator at the British Museum, London. He has curated and consulted with museums throughout BC's interior. Dan began work with the Friends of Fintry in 2002, as the curator of the heritage buildings and has helped recreate the Manor House, now a heritage showpiece, with countless exhibits of historical significance. He also enjoys passing his knowledge along to others and has presented at SLR for several years.

Daryl Cooper

Daryl, with roots in the Peace River Country, a love of hockey and rodeo, stumbled into SFU in the sixties. Armed with Geography, Commerce and Education he wound up teaching at Kelowna Secondary School. "It was an awesome ride", he told SLR. Thirty-two years later he was not yet ready for retirement. Growing up, Daryl was fascinated with globes, maps and different cultures. This led to around-the-world travel, with a seven-year stop-over teaching in China. He lived in five different provinces, big and small cities, and rural communities. He toured much of China and got but a small taste of a vast country with a long story. Daryl left China for Öskeman, Kazakhstan, on the freezing Siberian border, for his 39th and final year of teaching. The school for 'gifted students' was a dream way to end his career. Daryl has a passion for learning and sharing and is grateful to presenters, who share their knowledge, and he appreciates the participants who come to enrich his classes. "I have met so many unique people with awesome stories," he commented.

Debbie Hubbard

Debbie moved to the Okanagan in June, 2016. Prior to that she lived most of her life on Treaty 6 territory in north central Saskatchewan and Alberta. Global travel has fueled her compassion and commitment to learn and do more to create a community and world that is more just and equitable for all.

Dee MacGibbon

Dee is a former elementary school teacher and customer service specialist. She has harbored a lifelong passion for creative expression. She strongly advocates that engaging in artistic activities fosters mental health and overall well-being. Certified as a Therapeutic Arts Practitioner by the Canadian International Institute of Art Therapy, she has integrated her expertise into her own art programs, collectively known as Insight Art. This initiative reflects her ongoing dedication to merging therapeutic practices with artistic endeavors.

Doris Karvonen

Doris was the director of her own school of dance for 16 years. She was also the choreographer and part-time teacher for the Notre Dame University theatre department for nine years. She has produced and staged two B.C. Games opening ceremony shows, taught musical theatre workshops and has directed and choreographed several musical theatre productions. Doris along with her husband Lee has also co-written, directed and choreographed two musicals for a national historical site.

Edward (Ed) Kilgour

In a previous life, Ed was a mainframe (enterprise systems) computer engineer. With that technical background he launched into adult vocational education via the U of A, and then onto advanced business studies in both Canada and the U.S. As an adjunct faculty member, Ed has taught business and related disciplines at universities in the Middle East as well as directing, consulting and coaching for private and Government organizations at home and abroad.

Upon retiring, Ed has been able to pursue his scientific passions by leading study groups in fascinating topics such as astronomy and space, scientific developments, travel, celebrity biographies, Rubik's Cube and many other topics that evoke thought and interest.

Greg Dean

Greg is a retired high school teacher. He previously taught photography at SLR. He has offered photographic workshops for a variety of organizations and co-taught entry level photography at the Centre for Arts and Technology Okanagan for three terms.

Greg's photos have been published in Sky News Magazine, BC Business Magazine, Kelowna Capital News, Kelowna Daily Courier, a Province of British Columbia Science 9 textbook and in a variety of web sites.

Gene Bodzin

Gene has spent a lifetime testing his father's contention that there is no useless knowledge. His main aim as an editor was clarity. As a teacher, researcher, and writer, he has tried to distinguish truth from ignorance, facts from opinions, and certainty from speculation. His focus at SLR is on how, why, and whether people think.

Heather Burton

Heather was born and raised in Montreal. After earning a Bachelor of Education degree from McGill University, she taught French Immersion in both Quebec and Ontario. A mid-life change of vocation led her to study at the Toronto School of Theology, where she earned a Master of Religious Education degree and a Master of Divinity degree and was ordained in 1997 into The United Church of Canada. Since taking early retirement in 2008, she has remained active in ministry and also in two of her passions – painting and the culinary arts. At SLR and in other groups, she has led courses focussed on women through history and more general social commentary, past and present.

Professor Howard Hisdal

Professor Howard Hisdal has taught history at Okanagan College since 2005. He specializes in Canadian WW II military history, but has also taught Ancient, Medieval, Canadian, American, World, and Indigenous history, as well as courses on Warfare and Terrorism, and The Rise of Modern Capitalism.

He is a Royal Military College graduate with 25 years of service in the Canadian Military, as infantry platoon commander in the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and leader of the BC Dragoons' Reserve Regiment in the Okanagan. Howard retired in 2014 with a Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) for honourable service.

Jane Metzger

Jane is a local artist and drawing instructor who obtained her undergraduate degree in visual arts from Douglas College in 1982. She specializes in portrait drawing and enjoys teaching beginners the fundamentals of drawing, painting and clay modeling.

Jeanette Bosch

Jeanette has been leading classes at SLR since 2014. She first offered the "Silk Road" inspired by the fact that she planned to go there, she decided to study and research all aspects of the Silk Road, which added so much value to the experience. Jeanette has also presented a class on the "Many Faces of Africa", this continent being one of her favorite travel destinations. In this course, she explores ten countries that she has visited. Recently, Jeanette developed a second course called "The Ancient Age and Trade Routes", which covers 3500 BCE to 500 CE. It is a study of the rise and fall of the world's ancient civilizations. Jeanette has also presented one-session classes titled "Where in the World are We" and "David Thomson".

Dr. Jeff Werner

Jeff is a professor of Anthropology at Okanagan College. He specializes in Stone Age archaeology, human evolution, and experimental archaeology. His current research focuses on southern Tanzania, where our early human ancestors lived for millions of years.

Jeff also hand carves replicas of prehistoric tools to further his investigation of Stone Age life and culture. Dr. Werner is affiliated with the Iringa Region Archaeology Project (IRAP) and the Culture Heritage in Iringa Region Project (CHIRP).

J.P Squire

J.P Squire arrived in the Okanagan Valley from flatland Chatham, Ont. in the spring of 1980. Within weeks, he was hiking local hillsides, playing recreational hockey at Memorial Arena and downhill skiing at Big White ski Resort. He purchased a hobby farm in the Glenmore Valley in 1986 and bought the first of many Tennessee Walking Horses. After meeting a constant companion, Carmen, in 1999, they began exploring B.C.'s coast and interior lakes in their touring kayaks.

J.P. has a regular Sunday column in Castanet, called *Making Tracks*. He began the winter downhill ski recreation column as *Ski Sheriff*, but soon progressed to a year-round column, as the Hiking, Biking, Kayaking and horseback riding *Sheriff*.

John Graham, PhD RSW

John Graham is Professor of Social Work at UBC Okanagan and a former Director of the School of Social Work at UBC, the University of Calgary and at Florida Atlantic University.

John has been a longstanding mentor to junior faculty and graduate students. He currently heads the Kelowna Homelessness Research Centre, a team of community-based researchers who studying homelessness reduction and working to understand and support the provision of services to – and the perspectives of – individuals who experience homelessness, or who are at risk of homelessness. The team is working to develop solutions specific to the Okanagan. John has published over 130 journal articles, 51 book chapters, and is completing his 10th book. In 2022, he was honoured as a Fellow of the prestigious American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, in recognition of the scope and impact of his scholarship in the field of social work and social welfare.

John Mullock

John Mullock was born in April, 1949 and grew up on the Canadian Forces Base Chilliwack. After graduating from Sardis Secondary School in 1967, he pursued a career as a Meteorological Technician. He trained as a Surface Weather Observer in Ottawa and as an Upper Air Technician in Scarborough. His career included assignments in Sachs Harbour, Inuvik, Fort Smith, and then to Edmonton to work in the Arctic Weather Central. John earned a BSc in Specialized Physics from the University of Alberta in 1980 and completed the Operational Meteorologist Course in 1981. He worked in various roles across Canada, ending his career as a Senior Meteorologist in Kelowna in 2004.

John Schlapbach

John is a Certified Body Code/Emotion Code Practitioner. His background also includes 30 years as a Registered Massage Therapist practitioner and over 40 years in Holistic Health in Nutrition, Herbology, Reflexology, Medical intuitive and Energy medicine specialist.

Judy Harrold

Judy has enjoyed drawing for as long as she can remember. She has taken many art classes over the years and taught art classes for 30 years as part of her elementary teaching career. Judy has been involved in SLR for the last few years and has been inspired by the amazing diversity of programs offered.

Keith Richardson

Keith is a retired educator, now a happy octogenarian, whose career saw him serve in various parts of Manitoba and BC for 20 years before heading off to Japan for 13 years where he taught and held administrative positions in Hokkaido's only International School in Sapporo. Since first seeing a Varied Thrush while camping with his then young family in 1976, he has been an active bird watcher wherever he travels. A decade after returning to Canada and developing a computer consultant business in the Lower Mainland, he retired to Kelowna in 2014, where he has dedicated his days to documenting the wildlife, particularly birds, that inform his life and community in the Central Okanagan. A self-styled 'student of Nature,' and a recent member of Kelowna's SLR, Keith is happy to share his experiences, insights, and photos with anyone who enjoys such things, especially folks increasingly fascinated with and concerned about their place in the ever-changing ecologies of Planet Earth.

Dr. Kim Christie

Dr. Christie has spearheaded the Okanagan Clinical Trials Memory Clinic in Kelowna, available free to the public at no cost. The Memory Clinic was created in 2015 to provide people who are worried about their memory with an avenue to share their concerns, as well as access comprehensive memory testing. Dr. Christie has extensive knowledge of neurological diseases, specializing in Alzheimer's disease and is at SLR to share her knowledge on understanding memory loss and changes as you age.

Kirsten Olsen

Kirsten is the founder and nutritionist behind Green Thumb Health and Nutrition. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and has received certification in Registered Holistic Nutrition, Culinary Nutrition and Functional Nutrition Coaching.

She says that by acquiring tools and understanding of food at a deeper level we can learn how to use food to build health within, allowing us to unleash new amounts of energy, clarity, and vitality to our days.

Kristine Stewart

Kristine is a certified clinical hypnotherapist and Access Bars Practitioner in Kelowna and has been offering her services since 2017. She is an active member of the *International Medical and Dental Hypnotherapy Association*, dedicated to healing: Body, Mind and Spirit. Kristine enjoys facilitating change within clients who are interested in healing aspects of their lives, processing fears and trauma, managing anxious feelings and thoughts, learning and applying positive coping mechanisms, reducing stress, managing chronic pain, promoting sleep, letting go of unwanted habits, and growing spiritually.

Kristy Dyer

Kristy holds a PhD in physics from North Carolina State University. After ten years in the field of astronomy, she transitioned to climate change, which she calls “the defining issue of our generation.” She has worked in commercial-scale solar installation, residential solar as an asset class, energy efficiency and carbon footprints. She has written columns on sustainability since 2012 and currently writes for Castanet, covering Kelowna, Vernon, Penticton and Kamloops.

Linda Austin

Linda is a retired Social Worker with more than 40 years’ experience with children and youth in government care, and with adults and children with disabilities, and their families. She is the mother of 6 grown children, 3 of whom have disabilities. She is also a grandma and great-grandma and has been married for 56 years. Linda is a passionate advocate for children and families and was instrumental in the closure of Institutions in BC. Linda has taught numerous courses and workshops on a wide variety of topics such as Social Role Valorization, Communication, Sexuality, Team Building, Story Telling, Behaviour Management, and Adoptions & Fostering. She is a dynamic and interesting speaker who is comfortable with small and large audiences. Linda embraces every opportunity to teach and learn, so SLR is a perfect fit.

Linda Keurvorst

Following a 30-year career as an educator in Canada, Linda embarked on a second career as an international educator. Her first position was in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2002. She loved the people, the country, the history, the culture, and working in an international environment. After four years, she decided to continue her travels and accepted a position in Nanjing, China. Although very different from the predictability of Denmark, China was fascinating with its chaotic, random nature, its history, its traditions, and the beauty of the land. Three years later, Linda moved once again, this time to Khartoum, Sudan. Here Linda experienced the wonders of the ancient world, travelled the Nile, explored the desert environment, and visited the many pyramids in the country. Finally in 2011, she moved to work in an international school in Beirut, Lebanon where she enjoyed the weather, the Mediterranean Sea, the Greek and Roman ruins, the changing landscapes, the friendly people and the food!

Lindsay Atkinson-Smith

Lindsay has been playing with and reading tarot cards since a 1974 trip to Europe where she met a fellow traveler with a Tarot deck. Since then, Lindsay has collected many decks and books about Tarot and pulling a tarot card has become part of her daily and yearly practice. She finds that it gives her guidance for the day and year and will give her something to think about. Lindsay began teaching a Tarot class at SLR in 2019 and since then has taught one or two courses each year. She loves teaching the class and seeing people go from knowing nothing to being able to do a reading at the end of the five weeks.

Manish Kumar

Manish is originally from Bodhgaya, India – the place of Buddha's enlightenment. He was a Buddhist Monk in Thailand prior to attending the UBC Okanagan as a Graduate student. Currently, he is also undertaking a two-year Mindfulness Meditation Teaching Certificate program.

Margo Nielsen

Margo's journey into the health and wellness field began with Reflexology in 1996 and over the years she has continued to learn many different modalities, including Reiki, Chair Massage, Indian Head Massage, Metamorphosis, The Way of the Heart and more. She feels that each modality is such a gift and has tremendous value.

Margo is a member of both the Reflexology Association of Canada and the Reflexology Association of BC and have served on the board of RABC for seven years, three as the president and four as a director. Continuing to learn, ask questions, laugh, create fun, and enjoy new experiences is what she loves.

Marina White

Having personally suffered major injuries through sports, Marina knew she wanted to help other people who had also suffered injuries – acute or chronic. As the owner of Okanagan Athletic Therapy, Marina has been helping people who want to keep active and love to be healthy so they can get the most enjoyment out of life for many years!

Mario Lanthier

Mario is the owner/operator of CropHealth Advising and Research. He is a certified arborist and has worked in the horticulture industry since 1980. Mario has received many awards including the B.C. Landscape & Nursery Education of the Year award, in 2013. He was recently a keynote speaker at the Kelowna Garden Club's 100th anniversary.

Mary Lou Johnson

Mary Lou is the founder and past president of the Canadian Holistic Nurses Assn. and has worked as a nurse psychotherapist, meditation and life skills teacher. She is a new paradigm thinker, and her life has often placed her on the leading edge of change in the world. She has been teaching at SLR for the past seven years. Her courses in Practical Mysticism, the Enneagram, the Hero's Journey, Aging, Exopolitics and the Afterlife are popular offerings.

Pam Laing

Pam has lived in the Kelowna area since 1998 and has a lifelong interest in the natural world. Wildflowers, wildlife and especially birds have always been important to her. Now birding has become a passion! In 2004 Pam began to photograph birds using a small digital camera. While birding remains her main interest, photography has enhanced Pam's enjoyment and has enriched the knowledge of what she is seeing. Sometimes a photograph shows something about a bird of which we are not aware, often a feature not visible with the naked eye, or through binoculars. Pam enjoys the challenge of bird photography and sharing her photographs through presentations to community groups. It has been said that the best way to learn is to explain it to someone else. The camera may have changed over the years, but the challenges and the rewards are ongoing.

Dr. Pam Leco

Pam is a retired oncologist/hematologist with a career dedicated to diagnosing and treating diseases of the blood, bone marrow, and immune system. Throughout her career, she consulted with patients to determine optimal treatment plans, and recommended necessary tests to diagnose conditions.

Pat Zander

Pat has been a participant in the Current Events class for 20 years, much of that time as facilitator. She joined SLR soon after retiring as a teacher. Originally from Ontario, the Central Okanagan has been home for much of her working, and all of her retired years.

Patricia Campbell

Patricia Campbell is a retired adult educator who taught in Health Programs at Okanagan College for over 35 years. For three years she was the Instructional Development Coordinator for Okanagan University College. She also developed and taught Gerontology courses for Okanagan College, Simon Fraser University and UBCO. She has participated in creative writing courses at Okanagan College and numerous writing workshops and conferences. She has been taking courses at SLR for 8 years and co-facilitating a writing course there for 3 years.

Paul Hergott, BAdmin, LLB, Lawyer

Paul developed a strong work ethic while growing up on a farm near Melville, Saskatchewan. This fueled his pursuit of a law career. He went on to obtain a business degree at the University of Regina and a law degree from the University of Victoria. Paul has practiced law in the Okanagan since 1996, opening Hergott Law in 2007, specializing in litigation. He later built an exclusive practice pursuing fair compensation for injury victims. Currently he is in the more sedate practice of wills and estates.

Paul was a founder and has been a member of the Okanagan Business Excellence community leaders' group since 1999. He enjoys hiking, biking, skiing with his wife and children in the Okanagan outdoors.

Pippa Dean-Veerman

Pippa invites kinship and reciprocity with the Earth, creating school gardens, initiating outdoor learning programs (SD23) or experiences, mending, or collaborating through art. Recognizing the collective need for climate conversations after the 2023 firestorms and evacuations, she has completed training for Climate Cafes with the Climate Psychology Alliance of North America. She and Alison welcome you to a cafe!

Reg Olson

Reg was born in Vancouver, but raised in the small community of Ahbau Creek, BC (about 30 km north of Quesnel). As a child in the 1950s, life was pretty rustic, living in a log house with an outdoor privy, no electricity and water from a hand pump in the house.

Although Reg's mother envisioned him becoming a teacher, Reg aspired to be some sort of 'scientist'. He attended UBC, where he initially pursued Physics in his second year. However, he quit at Christmas due to sub-par math skills and then completed three years of Zoology. In his third year, after a summer of mineral exploration fieldwork in the central Yukon in 1965, he decided to switch to Geology.

This career shift led to Reg earning three degrees in Geology and embarking on a 45+ year career in mineral exploration. Most of his work was in northern Canada, based out of Edmonton, with some assignments in West Australia and Argentina. Reg retired in 2012, and with the encouragement of his wife Pat, who was born and raised in Alberta, they moved to Kelowna in mid-2014. Initially hesitant about the move from Alberta, Reg now realizes Pat was right, as they both love Kelowna and have made many friends, most of whom are fellow members of SLR.

Ron Krystynak

Ron grew up on a grain-beef farm in Saskatchewan. With a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Regina he moved to Ottawa to work for the Federal Government. He earned a master's degree in economics from Carleton University and began working as an economist for Agriculture Canada in 1981. Nive years later Ron participated as part of the negotiating team for NAFTA, and the conclusion of the WTO agreement. He was posted to the Canadian Embassy in Washington DC in 2002. Ron subsequently retired and moved to Kelowna in 2009 and became a member of SLR a year later. He has a passion for gardening.

Dr. Rosalind Warner

Dr. Warner is a Political Science professor at Okanagan College. She has researched and published on topics such as ecological modernization, global environmental governance issues, and environment and trade in Canadian foreign policy. Rosalind has taught subjects ranging from International Development to Canadian government for nearly 20 years. She is a Research Fellow with the Earth System Governance Project, Board member of the BC Council for International Cooperation, Chair of the local Steering Committee of the Global Empowerment Coalition of the Central Okanagan, and Board Member of the Canadian Environmental Network.

Rosemary Botner

Rosemary is a “people-person” and has always worked with the public. It interests her to research a variety of topics and then prepare a presentation to share with others; the first was probably in 2004. She has been coming back ever since. Rosemary loves the camaraderie at SLR and always looks forward to the new line-up of courses. There is something for everyone! Her hobbies include working in her garden, reading (she is in two book clubs) and watching TV history shows, mystery, detective stories and travel.

Rosie Lawrence

Rosie worked for many years in Medical Diagnostic Imaging, using radioactive materials to assist diagnosis, as well as doing Treatment planning for Radiotherapy patients. She was initially in London, England and then in Winnipeg. After retiring and moving to Kelowna, Rosie soon discovered SLR and a Science class, which she have been attending or leading ever since.

Rosie is a keen golfer and a certified golf Rules Official, as well as a regular Mahjong player.

Sharron J. Simpson

Born and raised in Kelowna, Sharron left to attend UBC and then set off to explore the rest of world. She has lived in Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto, attended various universities and gathered a variety of degrees and has enjoyed an eclectic career as a social worker, stockbroker, politician. For several years, taught memoir writing in conjunction with the Kelowna Heritage Museum. She has authored four books about various aspects of Kelowna’s history along with innumerable articles and is the local editor for the Okanagan Historical Society Annual Report. Sharron is a passionate advocate for both writing our family stories and preserving our community heritage and is currently writing a travel memoir.

Shirley Piedt

Shirley has been a member of SLR for over 10 years and a facilitator of the Book Club for much of that time. She loves to read, but she also spent most of her life in a profession where she was privileged to hear many stories that highlighted the struggles and the strengths that are part of living. Stories help us to learn about others and to build pathways to understanding lives that are different from our own. Her farm and family roots of hospitality and looking out for one another, along with the Northern Alberta landscape are at the heart of who Shirley is.

She thanks SLR “for the chance to continue building relationships within the programs.”

Susan Thesen

Susan learned the art of origami in 1980 from one of the founding members of the Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association. She was inspired to fold miniature origami after receiving a gift of miniature cranes from a house guest from Kasugai. Since then, she has tried using origami in a number of different ways, including cards and Christmas ornaments.

Tina Siddiqui

Tina is an artist and long-serving instructor who's been teaching painting, drawing and mixed media courses in the Okanagan for nearly 20 years. Trained as a graphic artist, Tina has exhibited in group and solo shows in the United Kingdom, USA, Canada, Pakistan and Dubai since 1976. She received an award for portraiture and abstract paintings, in the 2003 Open International Portrait Competition in Toronto.

Teresa Smith

Teresa was born in England but taught in a secretarial school in Kenya where she met her husband, Tony. She studied Anthropology at the University of Western Ontario and earned a Master's Degree in Liberal Arts, which included art history, from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Teresa taught Humanities for two years before moving to Canada in 2004. She joined SLR soon after and has been a Study Group Leader/presenter for many years for art history and anthropology courses. Teresa says, "I love doing research because I am continuing to learn and meeting all the wonderful people that attend SLR."

Tun Wong

Tun is a retired CPA, CA, who loves participating and competing in sporting activities and volunteering in community functions. Participation in sports has eased down a great deal of the racial discrimination problems that he and his family faced growing up. In 1960, Tun was awarded the Augie Ciancone Memorial Award for the Most Outstanding Junior Athlete in Kelowna & District. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Kelowna Museum and Kelowna Chinese Cultural Association. He also co-chaired the committee that refurbished the Asian section of the Kelowna Cemetery that received the City of Kelowna's 2002 Heritage Project of the Year Award.

Vera Ito

Vera has been a member of SLR since the early years of OILR (Okanagan Institute for Learning in Retirement), our original organization, which was established in 1995. She sat on the OILR board and eventually became president of SLR, a position she held for about twelve years. During her tenure Vera has offered numerous courses, many on health-related subjects. As a retired medical laboratory technologist, she has always been interested in health and enjoys reading and learning about this topic. She also enjoys sharing her interest with our members, in an effort to help them to maintain and improve their own health by natural methods.

Vince Edward

As a young man Vince was legally required to join the British military which enabled him to travel extensively over many years. He had the good fortune to be trained and nurtured as a pilot. Vince and his young family thrived as immigrants in Canada. Many years in North America mining exploration led to exciting adventures including times where he was held up at gunpoint and even hijacked. The final third of Vince's working life was spent as a civil aviation inspector where he continued to fly and polish his public speaking in promoting safety in aviation. In retirement Vince has appreciated the friendship, stimulation and support of SLR in Kelowna.

Wayne Wilson

Wayne holds a BA and an MA Historical Geography from the University of British Columbia. He also taught for ten years in the Geography Faculty at Okanagan University College. However he spent most of his career in the museum field and is currently doing museum/consulting work with a new role as Executive Director of the Central Okanagan Land Trust. While Wayne has been sketching and painting since high school, it wasn't until he took that first paddle trip in 2011 that he started keeping what you would call a 'Travel Journal'. Since that six-week paddle trip down the Columbia River system, Wayne has filled many journals recounting the places, people and events that made those journeys so compelling. His passion now is to get YOU creating your travel journal.