

# SEESA Shares

*Our Mission: To empower and enhance the quality of life of people in our community as they age.*

**February, 2021**

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## The Problem Within

“A few years ago, a woodpecker began tapping on the side of our home. We thought the problem was only external. Then one day, my son and I climbed up a ladder into the attic only to have a bird fly past our startled faces. The problem was worse than we'd suspected: it was inside our house.” (*Glenn Packiam*)

While I was personally spiritually convicted by the message following this introduction, I was also reminded of a recent SEESA Zoom meeting I had attended... a meeting of folks seeking to find solutions to a desperate situation facing every SEESA member and, indeed, everyone who loves SEESA.



*Are we all dreaming of places we'd like to go?*

*COVID is keeping us home, but thanks to Fred Shreenan for expressing his dreams in watercolour.*

Much detailed information has been sent out over the past 10 or so months. Some folks have read it all, some have found it overwhelming in depth and volume, and still others have somewhat set it aside hoping for better news next week. No one likes what happened in March when we had to cancel programs and close doors. No one likes what happened in ensuing months when major changes took place and beloved staff lost jobs. No one likes the ongoing uncertainty that surrounds us. But...

There are three things you need to know:

1. SEESA is in serious danger of having to close its doors permanently - perhaps not this very

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minute - but we WILL be before the end of the year if members don't step up now.

2. SEESA desperately needs members to invest financially now.
3. SEESA's survival and recovery depends on you.

For those who don't know me, I have been working and/ or volunteering at SEESA since 1993. I love my SEESA family. I love working and volunteering here. I love this organization. I don't want us to lose SEESA, but... the risk of that is very real.

Please take a cuppa something hot, sit down, and think seriously about what SEESA means to you. Think about:

...what you'll do

...where you'll take classes

...where you'll volunteer

...where you'll go when you need a hug

if our second home closes **permanently**.

*By Sherr Wadson*

## Letters to the Editor

We had some great feedback on our first *SEESA Shares* newsletter, and happily, some sharing of items to include this month. And we already have a head start on the March issue.

NOTE we are publishing monthly - so keep your stories, photos, art, etc. coming. We're all about sharing!

This is also your opportunity to provide feedback about *SEESA Shares*. Let us know what you like and dislike. Contact Betty directly [marydean@telus.net](mailto:marydean@telus.net).

I'd love to hear from you!

Betty

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We've received a number of questions about the membership status of our Board Members - great question!

*All Board members have/are in process of renewing their membership and purchasing a gift membership. Some Board members have donated up to \$1,000 personally and some have purchased multiple gift memberships.*

*Also, the SEESA Board of Directors has agreed to embrace fundraising as a core board role and responsibility by making a regular donation to the organization that is personally significant.*

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**Due to COVID the facility is closed but all online activities continue.**

Staff are currently working from home but checking messages throughout the day.

Do leave a message and someone will call you back.

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT

Due to current social distancing protocols, the March 15th Annual General Meeting and elections are postponed until further notice.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- 664 out of 1,600 members have renewed their membership - *THANK YOU!*
- 197 gift memberships have been donated - *THANK YOU!*
- **Remaining membership shortfall - 936**
- **Remaining gift membership donation shortfall - 1,403**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- Due to current social distancing protocols, the March 15th Annual General Meeting has been postponed.
- The Board acknowledges and thanks directors Norma Marion, Dorothy Korbut and Heather Baker for their service and many contributions.
- The Board welcomes appointed directors Robert Zifkin, Heather Halpenny and Marilyn Mitchell.
- Elections will be held when it is safe to hold the AGM.
- The 2020 Annual Report, including Audited Financial Statements, will be published to the website around the end of the month.

## 2021 FINANCIAL REPORTING

- 2021 financial reports will be posted to the website quarterly, with a link to the page provided in future email messages.

## DONOR RECOGNITION

- To help ensure SEESA donors are appropriately recognized, the Board, in consultation with a number of SEESA donors, has developed a Donor Recognition Structure, see it at <http://seesa.ca/2021/02/10/seesa-donor-recognition-structure/> as well as under development policies and procedures to ensure donated funds are managed responsibly and reported in a transparent manner.

## QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS? GRIPES? KUDOS?

I would love to hear from you. Hope you can join me for coffee!

Topic: Zoom Coffee Chat with SEESA Acting President

Time: Mar 5, 2021 10:00 AM Edmonton

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81679294773?pwd=NkZHd2xkZ2Z6TThWVzRpZEtZWlpDZz09>

## Poet's Corner

### No one gives lessons in aging.

No one gives lessons in aging.  
There is no manual for retirement.  
No Youtube for growing old.  
No clear path forward.

It's like the rest of life.  
We muddle through  
Sometimes with the illusion  
That we have a plan.

Then along comes COVID  
Or arthritis  
Or a drop in the markets  
And there go the travel plans.

The up side is  
We have walked the path  
Of adversity  
And know it well.

We know how to laugh  
When fate spits in our soup.  
We know where the road is  
When the fog is thick.

We have said hello  
And goodbye  
To dreams  
And to people we love.

We know how to say hello  
To the gift of each day  
Despite uncertainty  
And the politic of the day.

It's a wisdom only years can bring.  
No need to be dismayed  
That youth must learn their own lessons  
Despite our counsel.

Being invisible  
Is not a sentence.  
It's a front row seat  
At the finish line.

**Ronna Jevne**  
[prairiewindwritingcentre.ca](http://prairiewindwritingcentre.ca)

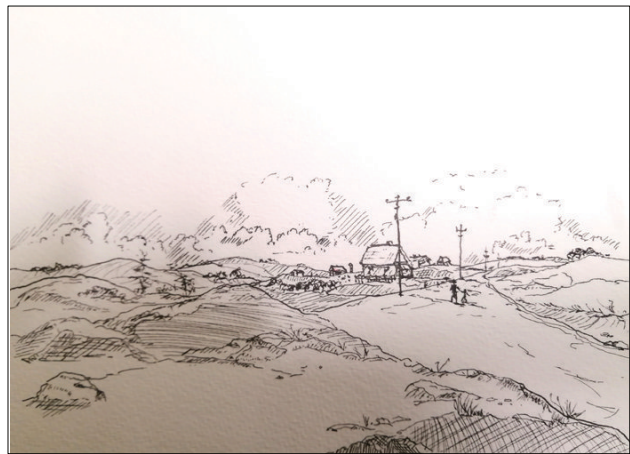
## Calling All Poets!

### Poet's Corner will be regular feature in SEESA Shares.

Please submit your poetry to Betty Dean [mary-dean@telus.net](mailto:mary-dean@telus.net). You don't have to be a professional!

Maybe there's a place for a regular poetry Zoom session until we can meet in person?

Let us know what you think!



*Drawing by Fred Shreenan , member*

## Did You Know?

The cost of keeping SEESA's facility heated, lit and insured (with **no staff** in it) is roughly **\$100,000 per year**.

*If all 1,600 members were to renew their membership and purchase one gift membership, the facility costs would be covered for one year. Without having to touch our savings.*

Currently over 900 individuals (out of 1,600 members) have **NOT** renewed their SEESA membership.

## Thinking About SEESA

SEESA offers a rare opportunity for community. Our first venture with SEESA was the monthly dances. We drove an hour each way from our country home to enjoy the dance music of our era. As guests, we were impressed with how welcomed we were. We attended a few dance classes on Monday evenings as well. Our assumption has been that when life necessitates us moving to the city, SEESA will be a source of friendships and activities.

COVID has placed serious shadows over the future of many organizations. I am hoping SEESA with the help of members will weather this unique challenge. For us, SEESA represents what people can do when planning meets passion, when strangers meets veteran members, when creativity meets practicality.

Sometimes we don't know what we have until it is lost. I am hopeful that the SEESA "village" will rally, then

flourish as a statement of the value to each and everyone of us seeing in potential to uphold and enhance our quality of life. Some of us love to dance, some to paint, some to simply network or to learn. Whatever our reason for being SEESA members, SEESA needs our help to bridge the gap between needs and resources that has been imposed on it.

*Ronna Jevne*

## Congratulations and Hip Hip Hooray!

On January 25th, SEESA's Finance Coordinator, Melanie Hansen, experienced a stroke.

She felt it coming on (she was able to recognize the symptoms because this was her second stroke) and immediately called for an ambulance. She was taken to the Grey Nuns where they quickly administered clot busting drugs.

Remarkably, Melanie was released from hospital after six days and immediately began a 6 week rehabilitation program at home. Because Melanie has been so dedicated to her rehab, her recovery has been much faster than anticipated. She is being released from the program after only three weeks. Melanie is already

back working an hour or so, a couple of days per week. She is careful not to overdue it and is not driving yet.

Melanie's tenacity and proactive attitude is remarkable. Melanie is a vital and highly respected member of the SEESA team. We are so thankful she's doing well and that we will have the joy of working with her on a daily basis again soon, once she's ready.

\* Thanks to Melanie for giving her permission for this article to be published.

*JudyLynn Archer,*

*Acting President,  
on behalf of the SEESA  
Board of Directors*

**WOW!**

**Have you seen our 2021 Program Guide?**

Check it out at <http://seesa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Session-2-FINAL-2021-02-07.pdf>

There's so much to do, even before we re-open!

**Keep up with ALL our news at**

<https://seesa.ca/>

**On Facebook at**

<https://www.facebook.com/seesaactivitycentre>

## Drive Happiness

Drive Happiness is an organization that serve many SEESA members. Drive Happiness offers door-through-door transportation for seniors in Edmonton; it is ideal for lower income seniors with mobility challenges or limited access to transportation. Contact Drive Happiness at 780-424-5438 or [info@drivehappiness.ca](mailto:info@drivehappiness.ca).

### Did You Know?

Our very own JudyLynn Archer will be invested into the *Alberta Order of Excellence* in recognition of her work with Women Building Futures (WBF).

The Order recognizes those who have made an outstanding provincial, national or international impact, and is the highest honour a citizen can receive as an official part of the Canadian Honours System.

Her philosophy?

***“If you want something, it’s up to you to make it happen.”***

**(Maybe this applies to all our members if we want SEESA to stay open!)**

## Calling All Artists!

If you like to dabble in paint, doodle sketch, sculpt - whether you call yourself an artist or not - we would love to include a photo of your work in *SEESA Shares!*

Send a photo of your work to Betty [marydean@telus.net](mailto:marydean@telus.net)

If you’re using your phone to take the picture please send it in as large an attachment as you can.



*Painting by Fred Shreenan , member*

### **Want to Contribute to SEESA Shares?**

We want *Seesa Shares* to for you and about you.

You can help by sending your photos, art, stories or poetry.

Share how you keep your creative juices flowing!

Send to Betty Dean [marydean@telus.net](mailto:marydean@telus.net)

### **MYTH**

SEESA should lobby government to stop the funding cuts.

### **FACT**

Warnings of funding cuts started four years ago. Organizations that were listening planned ahead. SEESA was not one of them. The horses are already out of the barn.

## Our members have been busy!

### Community Contributors

#### *Quilter and Crafter update*

When we found out that on-line selling was postponed, we decided to broaden our charitable work to other causes. We have contributed hats, scarves and mittens to Bissell and other shelters. Shawls, hats and scarves went to one member's church to be distributed to those in need. Baby quilts have gone to Gianna House for babies of single mothers. Larger bed quilts have gone to St. Vincent DePaul for new comers to Canada.

At the moment we are knitting adult slippers to answer a request from Ronald MacDonald House.

Our wish is to keep healthy and safe unruly we can be together again.

#### **Marjorie Mclean**

We call these sellers of handmade items **Community Contributors**. The card makers are another large piece of this group.

*Marjorie Mclean is the daughter of our founding president, Mr. John Sandercock. He and his wife Ester were instrumental in the birth of our organization. Esther ran the library for years after John died, before his first term as President was up. Marjorie is the leader of the Quilter and Crafters; they make most of the items we normally sell at SEESA. Her and her husband Russell have been members for decades.*

#### **Look at this!**

Most everything the Community Contributors do is made from donated materials. They donate handmade items to SEESA for sale and then out to other community organizations.

Catherine, in our knitting group, has made 12 pairs of slippers this past week for Ronald MacDonald house. The yarn was from the supply from Greater Edmonton Housing.

**Latest update - WOW!** We have now donated 30 pair of adult slippers to answer the Ronald MacDonald House request. I wanted to keep my group engaged while we are not able to be together. I was given 6 large garbage bags of yarn by the greater Edmonton housing group from their leftover charity stock, so kept my ladies busy knitting hats, scarves, mittens and now slippers for charity.



## ***Time to Celebrate!***

We've missed celebrating together, but I hope all those listed take time to celebrate the connections in their lives - wishing you a year of health and happiness from your SEESA friends!

<u>First name</u>	<u>Last name</u>
Myrna	Garanis
John	Martin
Claudette	Belyea
Nancy	Currie
Marleen	Youngblood
Shirley	John-Agard
Charlotte	Quelch
Doug	Soneff
Marilyn	Albert
Sue	Stuparek
Carol	Nykolyn
Frank	Sawyer
Lynn	Sawyer
Kate	Haginicoulakis
Annette	Fuchs
Evelyn	Huff
Elsie	Stannard
Maureen	Woolley
Alida	Van Braeden
Linda	Winski
Kathleen	Morrow
Kathleen	Kennedy
Paula	Gill
Eman	Oliver
Catherine	Perry
Rose	Barnes
William	Gillespie

<u>First name</u>	<u>Last name</u>
Karen	Hayny
Carolynne	Melnyk
Jean	Naciuk
Lorne	Ma
Sharon	Patriquin
Valerie	Melville
Sandra	Harrod
Joanne	Macaskill
Margaret	Lange
Dolores	Osadchy
Sharon	Shea
Marianna	Wendel
Colin	Carter
Maura	MacEoin
Darquise	Turgeon
Rainer	Rohr
Marj	Gilhespy
Peggy	Lavoie
Jean Guy	Belanger
Deanna	Scott
Barbara	Mandryk
Quinton	Fediuk
Charlie	Sams
Francis	Jo
Twyla	Gibson
Milton	Sharam
Maria	Boyko
Marcelle	Jamieson

*Birthdays Continued on Page 8*



**First name**      **Last name**

Dianne	Reddekopp
Vivian	Shelton
Roslyn	MacDonald
Gabrielle	Byrne
Paz	Adante
Wendy	Ridge
Jo	Nicholas
Muriel	Stollery
Deborah	Breadner
Rhea	Gagnon
Doris	Lynch
Rene	Mathieu
Kathleen	Pongar
Grace	Harris
Herbert	Gundermann
Ken	Miller
Elizabeth	Antoniuk
Alice	Meyer
Kathleen	Henderson
Gerard	Borle
Margaret	Hensel
Slawomir	Benluzanski
June	Ji
Patricia	Sharek
Alma	Kessel
Chery	Paran
Valerie	Heidecker
Sandra	Bell
Gordon	Block
Richard	Edgington
Audrey	Sustrik
Harold	Martin
Daisy	Edmonds

**First name**      **Last name**

Bernice	Nahayowski
Elizabeth	Singbeil
Jens	Jensen
Karen	Bolstler
Kam	Tong
Dianna	Burgess
Donna	Lindgren
Parry	Owei
Lydia	Roy
May	Dalziel
Leslie	Wellman
Andy	Rathbone
John	Elliott
Lorraine	Fiske
Gordon	Skutle
Pamela	Turner
Carolyn	McDonald
Wendy	Gilchrist
Cheryle	Kachman
Daisy	Brooks
Lori	Fitt
Freda	Clemens
Frieda	Cutting
Susan	Reid
Adam	Johnson
Elisabeth	Eichmuller
Jean	Weekes
Joyce	Simunkovic
Danielle	Paradis
Patricia	Russell
Laura	Miller
Greg	Simard

<u>First name</u>	<u>Last name</u>
Chris	Ingles
Brenda	Beekman
Donna	Harker
Jan	Colter
Beverley	Stevens
Norma	Carr
Elaine	Haine
Elizabeth	Schimpf
Alexandra	Anderson
Sharon	Steil
Esther	Arps
Caroline	Zrobek
Joanne	Tkachuk
Linda	Kowand
Roger	Cormier
Mary	Gangl
Darlene	McIntosh
Elsie	Kuyt
Dianne	Osback
Debbie	Valpy
Suhbaatar	Vandan
Margaret	Rosler

## ***MYTH***

Senior organizations are so important, government will continue giving them money.

## ***FACT***

It is forecast that up to one-third of all charities will not recover from the funding cuts and COVID closures.

## **Did You Know?**

SEESA provides a variety of resources and support services to adults aged 55+.

**Outreach Services** that are COMPASSIONATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

- Outreach Services are being provided by ***Colleen Derksen***, at Sage.
- Call ***Colleen*** at (780) 691 0561.

**Home Support Services** giving seniors referrals to screened businesses.

- Call ***Deborah Miville***
- 780.468.1985 ext. 260
- [deborah@seesa.ca](mailto:deborah@seesa.ca)

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***For help with your income tax call 211!***

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*'Kelp Bed' by Betty Dean, member*

*My painting, 'Kelp Bed', was done with watercolours using leaves from the garden pressed into the paint and then covered with pastic wrap and left to dry under weights. The shapes were enhanced once the initial piece was dry.*

*Good fun - we can try it together once we're back to painting as a group!*