

The Official Newsletter
of the
Occasional Teachers'
Bargaining, Unit OSSTF,
District 12

The Call Out



Volume 15, Issue 1

September 2016

Introducing Your OTBU Executive Team for 2016 - 2018



From Left to right: Michael Fraschetti Exec Office,; Lillian Speedie-Court, Secretary; Paul Bocking,, 2nd Vice President; Linda Bartram, President; Vincent Zambrano,, 1st Vice President; Ann Burke, Exec Officer; Shakeel Ahad, Treasurer;

The photo above was taken at the 2016-2017 planning session held September 8th and 9th at the Toronto Island. The sessions were intended as a team-building exercise to help meld the elected executive into a more efficient and collaborative team, to review past practices, both internally and in dealings with the TDSB, and explore wider use of communications technology with a view to better serving the members of the OTBU bargaining unit.

Reminder: Members are reminded, as per the Central Memorandum of Settlement, that there will be, as of September 1, 2016 an increase on their 2015-2016 salary of one per cent applied to salary for the year beginning September 2016. There will be a further increase of 0.5 per cent applied as of the 98th teaching day of the 2016-2017 academic year (Feb. 8th). Salary grids for TTBU (contract teachers) which will outline wages payable to members in Long Term Occasional (LTOs) placements are pending awaiting printing/publication by the TDSB.

Semester One 2016-2017 Pay Dates

Occasional Teachers' first pay day will be September 22, 2016 covering the period from August 28th to September 10th. Pay days after September 22nd will be every two weeks and always two weeks in arrears.

2016 - 2017 Occasional Teacher Pay Dates			
Pay Date	Period	Covering From:	To
September 22, 2016	19	August 28, 2016	September 10, 2016
October 6, 2016	20	September 11, 2016	September 24, 2016
October 20, 2016	21	September 25, 2016	October 8, 2016
November 3, 2016	22	October 9, 2016	October 22, 2016
November 17, 2016	23	October 23, 2016	November 5, 2016
December 1, 2016	24	November 6, 2016	November 19, 2016
December 15, 2016	25	November 20, 2016	December 3, 2016
December 29, 2016	26	December 4, 2016	December 17, 2016
January 12, 2017	01	December 17, 2016	December 31, 2016
January 26, 2017	02	January 1, 2017	January 14, 2017
February 9, 2017	03	January 15, 2017	January 28, 2017
February 23, 2017	04	January 29, 2017	February 11, 2017

How to Stay on Top of My Days

It is up to you, individually, to track either your employment days or re-employment days. If you are a retired member you must inform the Pension Board if you exceed your limit (50 days). One thing that might make this tracking process easier is an APP called "Worklog". This App will even remind members as they get close to the 50-day limit. This helpful App may be downloaded from either the App Store or from Google Play.

From the Desk of President Linda Bartram...



WELCOME TO THE START OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

I was happy to see a number of Occasional Teachers at the Labour Day Parade. This was the largest parade in years with many bands (I counted 10), pipers and for OSSTF members who marched, a tasty lunch and drinks at the Gladstone Hotel, plus free admission to the last day at the Ex. The parade is the harbinger of the start of school. We start off the year under our new Collective Agreement which you ratified just before Christmas of last year. We still do not have a print copy and have pressed the Board to have it done soon. Our brothers and sisters in the Toronto Teachers Bargaining Unit (TTBU) have now ratified their new local Collective Agreement by 91%. This is very good news for them, but also for us. We can expect retroactive pay increases for those who had LTO positions last year, but this could take a couple of months. There will be further updates on the website and via email to members (if we have your personal email address) as information becomes available.

LTO HIRING AS USUAL AT THE TDSB

As usual, the TDSB continues to ignore Regulation 274 in posting all LTO positions, interviewing and hiring based on seniority. As we have said before, this is the subject of several grievances filed by the OTBU and is now in the proceeding to a formal grievance/arbitration..

DRIVE YOUR CHEVY TO THE LEVY HOLIDAY

At the OTBU Annual General Meeting last May, a motion was passed to give Toronto OTs a local levy holiday to, in some measure, offset the Provincial special levy of 0.3% which is meant to top up the provincial member protection account (strike fund). The local OTBU levy will be set at \$0.01 (one cent) per pay and this will continue for the next two school years. While it will impact the bargaining unit's finances, the OTBU Executive believes it the right thing to do for the members. We hope you enjoy your (levy) holiday.

YOUR UNION IS HERE TO HELP

You have a newly elected OTBU Executive who are all committed to serving the membership. Please contact us with your questions and concerns and feedback. Also, send us your personal email address if you haven't already so we can contact you readily. We will be beginning the negotiations process all over again soon, as our Collective Agreement ends August 31, 2017.

The OTBU has planned many events for the upcoming year: General Meetings, new and innovative PD offerings and social events. These events are for you and we'd love to see you at any or all of them. Check the Call Out and the website for details.

Have a great school year.



OTBU PD OCTOBER 7TH

ART AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

PD at the AGO

Toronto of the 60s, 70s and 80s was a city growing into its international status. Along with the boom, the social and political upheavals of expressway protests, bathhouse raids, fights over pay equity, multiculturalism and social housing dominated the headlines. In the midst of all this, a new generation of Toronto artists emerged pushing the boundaries and exploring new ways of making art related to the turbulent climate of the times.

**TORONTO, TRIBUTES + TRIBUTARIES
1971-1989**

DISCUSSION AND GUIDED GALLERY TOUR

**All participants will
receive a teaching
package**

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**MEET IN THE AGO
FOYER @ 12:45**

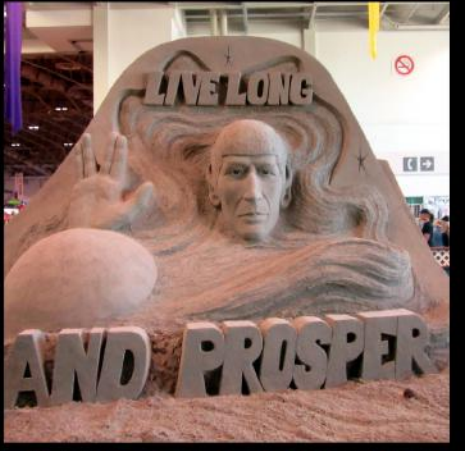
**TOUR FOLLOWED BY
AFTERNOON TEA IN
THE ART GALLERY
CAFÉ**

RSVP TO OTBU

otbu.office@d12.osstf.ca
416-423-3600

SPACE FOR THIS
EVENT IS LIMITED





Village of Secrets: Defying the Nazis in Vichy France,

By Caroline Moorehead: (Random House 2014)

Book Review by Larry King

After the collapse of the French armies in 1940 and the German takeover of France, the most glaring collaborator was the puppet regime in the south of France called Vichy. However, one of the acts of true resistance emerged from the small village of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon where a network was established to rescue refugees, especially Jewish children. Le Chambon is only one of two European villages recognized by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Centre for extraordinary work in saving Jews from the murderous Nazi regime.

Jewish refugee families soon learned that the Auvergne region, where Le Chambon-sur-Lignon is located, was one of the safest refuges in France against the Holocaust roundups of Jewish families in France.

The Auvergne was remote from Paris, rural, wooded, non-industrialized and therefore relatively unimportant to the Nazis. Food production was quite localized and did not provide abundant surpluses that could be carried off to other parts of France or Europe which also helped the region avoid Nazi attention. On the Vivarais-Lignon Plateau portion of the Auvergne, Protestants outnumbered their Catholic neighbours. The

Protestant community, led particularly by the charismatic pastor André Trocmé, had long memories of religious repression and persecution which made them empathetic to the plight of France's Jewish refugees,

Further help with refugees came from neutral countries such as Switzerland, Sweden and up to 1941 the United States. International organizations such as Lutheran churches the YMCA and the Red Cross helped with supplies, communications and exit visas.

The Vichy administration also contributed unwittingly to the Plateau's sanctuary. Vichy was allowed to administer its own territory and many local officials were not willing to carry out the directives from Nazi-controlled Paris with the same zeal of the German S.S. Thus many Jewish and other international refugees were aided in slipping across the border into neutral Switzerland.

While author Moorehead blends many factors into her narrative, she focuses on the conspirators who smuggled refugees to the Plateau and the local people who sheltered and protected them, without a single betrayal. The refugee families also contributed in their own way to life in the

region using their skills as doctors, chemists, mathematicians (excellent coders) and as assorted artisans.

Once war was declared on the United States and the Allies successfully invaded Sicily, the S.S. began more direct intervention in the Auvergne region especially in their efforts to round up Jews. Life on the Plateau became more perilous, often at times resembling a plot from, a John LeCarré espionage novel.

As the war in southern France reached its dénouement, violence between the French resistance and the S.S. became more serious. Captured rescuers were summarily executed, even if only suspected. Yet the resolve of the Plateau held firm. An estimated 5,000 refugees passed through it eventually gaining sanctuary in Switzerland, Spain and overseas. About 800 were harboured in and around Le Chambon throughout the war, an infinitely small number compared to the six million camp deaths, but impressive given the imposing odds.

This narrative is as engrossing as it is uplifting. The story of an astonishing achievement in a very dark age. Indeed a compelling and inspiring read.

OTBU

**Welcome to the New School Year Meeting
on the flight deck of the**

Pilot Tavern
22 Cumberland Street



Thursday, September 29th
5:00 to 7:00 pm

Agenda

- Appetizers & Beverages
- Reconnect with Colleagues
- Business Arising

Hosted by the PD-Social Committee

Your Certification is Important to you

For all members interested in applying for and teaching in an LTO position the TDSB pays you according to your placement on the contract teacher pay grid after 10 days on the job. Your placement on this grid is dependent on the rating statement you may have received from the Certification Department of OSSTF.

It is, therefore, important that all members have a rating statement in order to be paid appropriately. Make sure you have one and if you do not phone the Provincial Office of OSSTF at 416-751-8300 and ask for the Certification Department to find out what you need to do to apply for your rating statement.

Should you begin an LTO assignment without a rating statement or with one that is pending, you must submit a LETTER of INTENT FORM to the Secondary Education Office of the TDSB stating that you are in the process of getting a rating statement and informing them that when you have received it you will forward it on to the Board. If you do this then you will be placed at the appropriate step on the salary grid and be eligible to receive proper compensation retroactive to the first day of your LTO.



Labour Day Parade

Toronto's 144th Labour Day Parade commenced promptly at 9:30 a.m. heading down University Avenue, turning west on Queen until it reached Dufferin Street where it turned south and then entered the CNE under the arch of the Dufferin Gate.

The Toronto Labour Day Parade is the largest of its kind in North America. This year 25,000 marched, walked and danced to the many sounds of steel pan drums, jazz bands, D.J.s and, of course, the skirl of bagpipes, under a bright sun, to celebrate the work of unions in improving the lot of working Canadians.

A small group representing the Chinese Workers' Network was at the head of the parade with the Red Army of UNIFOR bringing up the rear. Imagine the UNIFOR contingent passing under the arch three hours after the workers at the head. Yes, it's a very, very long parade.

Before continuing on to the CNE, OSSTF marchers were fortified with a light lunch, hosted by TTBU District 12, no doubt in a celebratory mood after winding up their contract negotiations with the TDSB.

Onward to the Exhibition (Let's Go to the EX') to sample, a myriad of cultures represented at the World Market, the wildly popular Dog Show, the midway, the thundering jets of the Air Show, sand sculptures, farm animals, prize-winning fruit, flower, and, of course the food, - everything from tiny sugary donuts to something new this year - bug cuisine!

Gorgeous weather, clear blue skies, what a day for a Parade. Do try and unite with us under the OTBU banner next year,. It's a great way to spend the last day before schools starts.



Teachers Face Rising Authoritarianism in Turkey

By: Paul Bocking, OTBU Vice President

On the night of July 15th, my partner and I were in downtown Istanbul when the news reported that soldiers were blocking the bridges over the Bosphorus that connect Europe and Asia, and tanks were patrolling highways. We soon learned that a coup had been declared. Before midnight we received a text message, signed by Turkish president Erdogan, urging people to take to the streets in opposition. Our windows rattled from the boom of low-flying fighter jets. I went outside, crowds waving Turkish flags were marching down the main street toward Taksim Square to confront the military. Others clustered on the sidewalks staring at their cell phones trying to make sense of what was happening.

By the early hours, it was clear that the coup attempt by a handful of military units had failed. Erdogan and his supporters moved immediately to consolidate the power of his government. However, in the name of fighting the Gulen religious society whose leader they claim was behind the coup, the government's actions have extended to the criminalization of dissent to the ruling party. The repression has been particularly heavy in the nation's education system.

Erdogan has amassed considerable power and popular support as a polarizing figure. He appeals strongly to Turkish nationalism against movements of the Kurdish minority for self identity and degrees of sovereignty. In the context of the civil war with the separatist Kurds, he is a "strong man", promising decisive leadership amid political uncertainty and danger. For social conservatives, he propagates an increasing role for religion in everyday life. Erdogan also channels frustration with rising inequality, emphasizing his working-class roots while decrying the "arrogance" of secular elites against the pious. His government has also significantly improved access to universal health care and transit facilities. Many parallels exist with conservative, authoritarian populists elsewhere who mix attention to the welfare of some groups of the poor and working class, with a trampling of civil liberties and viciousness toward racially, ethnically or religiously identified minorities.



Formerly an ally of the government, the Gulen movement benefited from Erdogan's neoliberal education policy by using public subsidies to establish over a thousand K-12 schools.

Within days of the coup attempt, virtually all Gulen schools were shut down by the government in Turkey, and the teaching licenses of their 20,000 teachers were revoked. However, the crackdown extended much further in education to many with no connection to Gulen. On September 1st, 2,346 academics and some 20,000 more teachers were fired by legislative decree, accused of having "membership of, coherence or communication with terrorist organizations." There was no presentation of evidence or right of appeal. Many were signatories to a letter by 'Academics for Peace' opposing the killing of Kurdish civilians during military operations against the PKK, and calling for negotiations with the guerrillas. Some are activists with the Egitim Sen, the teachers' union that is currently one of the few organized voices critical of the government. Mesut Firat, the union's general secretary said in an interview with *globalvoices.org* "It appears that the expulsions have been conducted based on political profiling rather than concrete evidence." Those fired have been banned from working in any school or public institution.

Many other areas from journalism to the judiciary have been affected by the increasing authoritarianism of the Turkish (Erdogan) government. Nevertheless, the prominence of efforts to control educational institutions is a reminder of the importance of teachers in any system for reinforcing or challenging the status quo.

CALL FOR MEMBER PARTICIPATION

At the OTBU Annual General Meeting in May 2016 the motions listed below were passed by the members as action motions.

1. Be It Resolved That(BIRT) the AGM request the Executive to establish a work group to investigate the feasibility, logistics and costs of instituting electronic voting for all OTBU Executive elections. The Work Group would make a report (with recommendations) on the possibility of using on-line voting to the Fall General Meeting (2016) of the Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit.

If you are interested in joining this committee, please email OTBU Executive Officer Jamie Whitaker at jamie.whitaker@d12osstf.ca by **September 30th, 2016**. Please include important contact information such as a personal email and a phone number where you might be contacted.

2. BIRT the OTBU Executive establish a work group to conduct a study of the District 12 structure with a report, on time and in writing, to the 2016 General Meeting. This study will include, but not be limited to, the potential for amalgamation of permanent and associated occasional bargaining units, and the amalgamation of one or more units who have the same employer. This study will review advantages, disadvantages and incentives of amalgamation with the intent to provide the best representation and service to our members.

If you are interested in joining this committee, please email OTBU 2nd Vice President Paul Bocking at paul.bocking@d12osstf.ca by **September 30th, 2016**. Please include important contact information such as a personal email and a phone number where you might be contacted.



**MARK
THIS
DATE**

OTBU Professional Development Days and Activities

October 6, 2016 - Pregnancy, Parental & Adoption Leave

District 12 Office - Bathurst Street & St Clair
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

RSVP To: Marlene Parkhouse or Marion Reid
(parkhousereid@osstfd12.com)

OTBU PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

November 18, 2016
Steelworkers' Hall
25 Cecil Street, Toronto *

District 12 General Meeting

October 20, 2016
District 12 Office - Bathurst Street & St Clair*

OTBU GENERAL MEETING & AMPA DELEGATE ELECTION*

November 23, 2016
Steelworkers' Hall
25 Cecil Street, Toronto
4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

***Members are advised to check the OTBU web site for more specific information on the above events and activities**



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