

## BURA Executive

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Phone Ambassador: Marilyn Ferracuti

## Upcoming Events

**September 25, 2024**

**Where have all the protest songs gone?**

with *Nick Baxter-Moore*

at the *Holiday Inn*

Arrive: 11:30am for lunch at noon

**October 8, 2024**

**The Fate of Amelia Earhart: No Longer a Mystery**

with *Ian MacKay*

at the *Holiday Inn*

Arrive: 11:30am for lunch at noon

**November 21, 2024**

**Hope for the best, Plan for the rest**

with *Dr. Sammy Winemaker*

at the *Holiday Inn*,

Arrive: 11:30am for lunch at noon

**December 9, 2024**

**BURA Holiday Celebration**

with *Caitlin Miller*

at *Club Roma*,

Arrive: 11:30am for lunch at noon

**BURA Coffee Club**

at *Ostin's Restaurant*,

Arrive: 9:30am

**September 12, 2024**

**October 23, 2024**

**November 5, 2024**

**December 2, 2024**

# Member News



## In Memoriam



In sorrow, and with respect, BURA observes the passing of the following members:

Bob Davis, March 30, 2024

Jeanette Ramsay, June 15, 2024

Bob Rossini, July 6, 2024

Alan Earp, July 7, 2024

Bob Koehn, July 11, 2024

**Know of any major events in the lives of our BURA colleagues and friends?**

PLEASE let our membership facilitator know of any major life changes you wish to share. Contact: Pat Cane [BURAMembership@outlook.com](mailto:BURAMembership@outlook.com)

## New BURA Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Richard Cheel, *Earth Sciences*

Catherine Foreman, *Library*

Mandy Deans Kassies, *Library*

Karen McAllister-Kenny, *Recreation*

Lynn Thompson Dovi, *Registrar's Office*

### Robert R. Taylor has published a new book

ROBERT R. Taylor, retired professor of history, has just had published in Victoria, BC, this book: "*Between Heaven and Balmoral. A History of Cary Castle. British Columbia's First Government House, 1860-1899*".

## BURA President's Message

Welcome to another year of the Brock University Retirees Association! I'm honoured to take over the presidential reins from Dave Siegel and I'm looking forward to an action-packed year. As you know 2024 is Brock's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and BURA has been active in a working group that is leading the charge for the celebration. Please review the information for the kick-off event **Brock's Skyline Celebration** event, scheduled for Saturday, September 21 later in this newsletter. Other events will be announced over the course of the year.

In addition to our newsletter and slate of monthly events and coffee clubs, your BURA executive is working on new initiatives for the upcoming year. Stay tuned for our BURA Member News feature that will help you keep up to date on your fellow Brock colleagues.

Please stay in touch! I do hope to see you at an in-person event this year (BURA can provide transportation if it is needed) but, if not, please feel free to send me a note to let me know what BURA can do for you.

Cheers

Rico Natale, BURA President  
[BURAPresident@gmail.com](mailto:BURAPresident@gmail.com)

### Volunteers Needed

**T**HIS is an interesting and rewarding activity where small groups work together to organize events and complete other BURA activities. The Executive can always use new volunteers, whose talents and ideas are needed. Contact Rico Natale or any current member of the Executive for more information.

Please let us know by e-mail to:

Rico Natale [BURAPresident@gmail.com](mailto:BURAPresident@gmail.com)

### Why retirees should be the CEO of their own health care

**R**EMEMBER that you have the right to ask questions and can disagree with a diagnosis. Retirees, and anyone else caring for themselves or others, unfortunately have to work with an increasingly complex and dysfunctional health care system. To learn more, check out this recent article in <https://universityaffairs.ca/career-advice/academic-for-life/>

# Past Events

## Brock University Update with *President Lesley Rigg*

**D**R. Rigg mentioned the BFit (Brock Functional Inclusive Training Centre) program at Brock. On their webpage, “Bfit pursues innovative, multi-disciplinary research and provides supervised community exercise programs to improve health and quality of life in older adults, cardiac patients, and individuals with spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s, and amputees”.

This September, the first cohort of the new Integrated Engineering program will begin their studies. The program combines elements from three distinct engineering disciplines: mechanical, electrical and software engineering.

She was asked about the effect the government limit on new international students was having at Brock. The number of students was declining before the limit was imposed, but Brock does not rely heavily on international enrollment.



Lesley Rigg

## Changing Face of Agri-business in Niagara with *Charles Conteh*

**C**HARLES Conteh gave us an historical overview of the agrifood sector in the Niagara Region from land grants given to Empire Loyalist to smallholdings then back to large consolidated industrial farms.

The region innovated with the times. Food production was profitable as Niagara was in an ideal location close to major markets on both sides of the border. The production changed with the introduction of vinifera grapes for wine. Recently, cannabis has become legal in Canada. Greenhouses in the region are switching to growing it.

The presentation concluded with some reflections on the institutions and policies that support the sector such as the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, Brock’s Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute, and Niagara College’s School of Wine, Beer and Spirits.



Charles Conteh

# BURA Annual General Meeting

## with the *BURA Executive*

### Changes to the executive:

President – Rico Natale  
Past President – David Siegel  
Vice President – Hilary Findlay  
Secretary (interim) – Nick Baxter-Moore  
New Councillors – Alan Castle, Patricia McDonnell

### From the Treasurer's report:

"We began the year with \$4655.75 in the bank. We ended the financial year with a balance of \$6538.28, a difference of \$1882.53."

### From the President's report:

"I want to pay special tribute to the one member of the Executive who is stepping down from her role this year. Joan McCurdy-Myers has served on the Executive as Secretary for six years. This is one of the most important and time-consuming roles on the Executive. We have been fortunate to have these responsibilities resting in such highly-competent hands. She has been an excellent guide to me in my role as President. We will miss her presence on the Executive, but we look forward to welcoming her as an attendee at our monthly events. On behalf of all members of BURA, I would like to offer my deep gratitude to Joan. "

## End of Year Social

### with *Caitlyn Miller*

**W**E wrapped up the Brock University Retirees Association year with a barbeque and live music performed by Caitlyn Miller, a local guitarist and singer. Her styles range from 60s era tunes, to contemporary music and originals.

Fortunately, the hamburgers and sausages were served indoors because there was a major thunderstorm with very heavy rain. The water actually leaked in through the closed glass doors.



Caitlyn Miller

# Upcoming Events

**September 25, 2024**

## Where have all the protest songs gone?

with *Nick Baxter-Moore*

at the *Holiday Inn*

ACCORDING to Joan Baez, who might be expected to know about such things, “The hardest song to write is a protest song.” Nonetheless, many of her contemporaries from the 1960s on – singers, songwriters, and singer/songwriters – contributed to the genre. To support her thesis, some of their songs have stood the test of time while others are long forgotten. Many protest messages have been misunderstood and others satirized and subverted. This “illustrated” talk surveys the history of the protest song from the 1930s to the present day, exploring how protest songs work and how their form has changed over time.

### Event Details:

Time : 11:30am for lunch at noon

Venue: *Holiday Inn*, 327 Ontario St, St. Catharines

**October 8, 2024**

## The Fate of Amelia Earhart: No Longer a Mystery

with *Ian MacKay*

at the *Holiday Inn*

MANY of us know of Amelia Earhart only as a flyer who disappeared sometime in the first half of the 20th century, and that her fate is a great, enduring mystery. There are also a sizable number of conspiracy theories explaining that mystery, ranging from a popular one based on the plot of 1943 movie starring Rosalind Russell and Fred MacMurray to the usual suspects: aliens and foreigners.

The truth is more straightforward. Today, there is an enormous weight of individual but interlocking pieces of evidence that precisely outline her fate. Join us for a story full of twists and turns and many surprises, to say nothing of the irony.

### Event Details:

Time : 11:30am for lunch at noon

Venue: *Holiday Inn*, 327 Ontario St, St. Catharines

**November 21, 2024**

## **Hope for the best, Plan for the rest**

7 Keys for Navigating a Life-Changing Diagnosis

with *Dr. Sammy Winemaker*

at the *Holiday Inn*

**C**O-AUTHOR, Dr. Sammy Winemaker discusses 7 keys to facing a life-changing illness. It's about how to live well, be fully informed, and be activated. How to feel more like a person, not a patient. But most of all, how to be hopeful and prepared at every step along the way.

### **Event Details:**

Time : 11:30am for lunch at noon

Venue: *Holiday Inn*, 327 Ontario St, St. Catharines

**December 9, 2024**

## **BURA Holiday Celebration**

with *Caitlin Miller*

at *Club Roma*

**J**OIN your BURA friends and colleagues for some holiday cheer and live entertainment provided by Caitlin Miller.

### **Event Details:**

Time : 11:30am for lunch at noon

Venue: *Club Roma*, 125 Vansickle Road, St. Catharines, ON

## **BURA Coffee Club**

following dates at the *Ostin's Restaurant*

**September 12, 2024**

**October 23, 2024**

**November 5, 2024**

**December 2, 2024**

**G**OOD news! The monthly coffee club will continue to be in-person gatherings this fall at *Ostin's Restaurant*, 327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines, starting at 9:30am. Please save the above dates. We hope to see you there!

# Other Events

**September 21, 2024**

## Brock University 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

**Join your BURA colleagues at these Brock University 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events**

Registration for [Brock's Skyline Celebration](#) event, scheduled for Saturday, September 21 from 6:00 to 11:00 pm is now live. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

This unique event marks the official launch of Brock University's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Guests will have the opportunity to enjoy a memorable evening on the Brock Podium, the outdoor rooftop space surrounding the iconic Arthur Schmon Tower. The celebration will feature local food and wine, live entertainment, and a chance to revisit Brock's history at the Pop-Up Archives.

Additionally, homecoming celebrations will begin on Friday, September 20, and continue through Sunday, September 22. For a full schedule of events, please visit: [Homecoming Events Schedule](#).

**October 2, 2024**

## Brock University Rankin Cancer Run 2024

**BURA** is teaming up with Brock University to organize a university-wide event to support the *Rankin Cancer Run*.

All participants can register and fundraise on-line at [www.rankincancerrun.com](http://www.rankincancerrun.com) for the Brock University team. Registration is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. All participants who register by a specified date would receive a Rankin Run t-shirt designed by local students.

Brock president, Dr. Lesley Rigg will provide opening remarks.

Please mark your calendars for this important event. Further details will be sent via email, closer to the event date. Please consider participating.

### Contribute to the BURA Newsletter!

**T**HE BURA Newsletter continues to publish three times a year — the first week of September, December and April. Your contributions may include reports, notices of events, travelogues and photos, humour, poetry, and other information of interest to members. Send your submissions to: [Ronald Ogawa \[rbgabadh@gmail.com\]\(mailto:rbgabadh@gmail.com\)](mailto:Ronald.Ogawa@rbgabadh@gmail.com)





## LLN – Fall Lecture Series 2024

Tuesdays, 10 am to noon.  
Registration opens August 13  
at <https://lniagara.ca>  
Online registration only

3 In-person and 3 Zoom Lectures  
In-person at Ruby Carroll Hall,  
Trillium United Church,  
415 Linwell Rd., St. Catharines

### September 24<sup>th</sup> – Canada’s North and Its Politics (*In-person*)

*Graham White, PhD, Retired Professor of Political Science, University of Toronto,*

Learn about the influence of Indigenous peoples – First Nations, Métis, and Inuit – in the politics of Canada’s northern territories.

### October 1<sup>st</sup> – Gospel Music: A Canadian Perspective (*In-person*)

*Karen Burke, Associate Professor, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design, York University; Artistic Director and Co-founder of Toronto Mass Choir; Co-owner of Burke Music Inc., a Gospel music production and publishing company,*

Discover the roots of Gospel music and the many ways in which it is connected to Canadian history, including in the Niagara region.

### October 8<sup>th</sup> – Are we (?not?) living in the Anthropocene? (*In-person*)

*Francine McCarthy, PhD, Professor, Earth Sciences, Brock University,*

What is the Anthropocene? And how does Crawford Lake near Milton fit in? Join us in hearing if scientific research at Crawford Lake can help define this new epoch – the Anthropocene.

### October 15<sup>th</sup> – Mobility and Culinary Change (*Zoom*)

*Donna Gabaccia, PhD, Professor Emerita, University of Toronto,*

Culinary change has occurred over the years: first, when humans populated the earth, then during the 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries with increased mobility and trading, and more recently with mass migration and global trading.

### October 23<sup>th</sup> – AI Ethics PROBES (*Zoom*) **This lecture is on Wednesday.**

*Gus Skorburg, PhD, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Academic Co-Director of the Centre for Advancing Responsible and Ethical Artificial Intelligence (CARE-AI), and Faculty Affiliate at the One Health Institute at the University of Guelph,*

Gain an understanding of the most important ethical considerations relating to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning: Privacy, Responsibility, Opacity, Bias, Equity, and Sustainability.

### October 29<sup>st</sup> – Pioneering Microbiome Research and Advocacy with the Yanomami People (*Zoom*)

*David Good, PhD Candidate, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of Guelph; Explorer’s Club 50 Awardee 2023; and Founder of the Yanomami Foundation*

Do you know that your microbiome can impact your health? The Yanomami of the Amazon rainforest possess unique and highly diverse microbiomes. Learn about research among the Yanomami to investigate gut- derived bacterial strains and their potential impact on Western gut microbiota.