

ARFL NEWSLETTER

Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians of York University

Website: <https://yuarfl.wordpress.com>



2015 ARFL AGM & Presentation
November 6, 2015

Harry Crowe Room
Atkinson Building
Annual General Meeting
Meeting: 10:30 am to Noon
Lunch: Noon to 1 pm (catered)
Presentation: 1 pm to 3 pm



*PLEASE NOTE THE
LOCATION AND TIME OF
THIS IMPORTANT MEETING*

OUR FEATURED SPEAKER!

JAMES BEBKO, The Man



Dr. James Bebko is a Registered Psychologist with a long-standing commitment to the fields of autism spectrum disorders and developmental disabilities, as well as deafness, having worked with children, adolescents and families for more than 35 years. He is Professor and former

Agenda – 2015 AGM

- Call to Order
- Amendment/Acceptance of the Agenda
- Election of ARFL Executive
- President's Report
- Vice-President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- YURFL Trust Report
- ARFL Scholarship Report
- ARFL/YURA Report
- Other Business
- Our Featured Speaker

Director of the Clinical-Developmental Psychology Programme at the Department of Psychology, York University, Toronto, Canada. He has been a Visiting Professor at Universities in Japan, France and the United States. Dr. Bebko has published in some of the major research journals in autism spectrum disorder, child development, deafness, and language disorders, contributed chapters to several books, and has been an invited speaker at a variety of regional and international conferences. He has been a reviewer and editorial board member of several journals and a member of the Boards of several community agencies. He has been a consulting psychologist to many community agencies serving children with autism spectrum disorders, as well as providing diagnostic, assessment, and consultation services directly to families.

Besides his basic research and clinical activities, Dr. Bebko has worked together with the Counseling and Disability Services at York University to develop services for students at the university with Asperger syndrome and others on the autism spectrum. He developed the Asperger and ASD Mentorship Program (AMP) to provide support beyond the standard, academic and psychological services already in place. The students in the program continue to benefit from being coached by peers on social skills, daily organization and how to adjust to university life. Dr. Bebko and the team of AMP graduate students have produced a manual on the development and evaluation of AMP that is available at no charge to other organizations; to date over 40 universities and other groups across several countries have accessed the manual or visited for training on how to establish a similar program, making York one of the leaders in this kind of support for students.

The Talk: Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) have been increasingly visible in the media and in academic and research circles in recent years, in part because of an alarming apparent increase of the disorders in the population, and because of the intractable nature of ASD characteristics. At the same time, portrayals of ASD-like characters in a variety of popular television shows, movies and other media have served to raise awareness in the wider society. My research and clinical work in the field has spanned the eras from when ASD was thought to be more rare than some bone cancers (4 in 10,000), to current day, when it is now one of the most common of childhood disorders (with frequency estimates as high as 1 in 54 children). In that time, causation has also shifted from blaming parents for the disorder, to that view being clearly discredited while recognizing a clear genetic link for many, and recognition that ASD appears to be neurological in nature.

In this presentation I will discuss initially the very wide range of characteristics of those affected by ASD, how that very range challenges the notion of all those affected being on a single spectrum, and the controversy about the large increase in incidence of identification in recent years. Then I will present some recent research from my lab about the development of cognitive skills in children with ASD, how those skills interface with the language difficulties associated with ASD, as well as our research examining how we coordinate environmental information from our vision and hearing systems. That coordination is critical for us to make sense of the world around us, including, of course understanding language, yet there are clear challenges with that

coordination for those with ASD, which could lead to a more chaotic representation of the world. I will also describe a mentoring program I began in 2008 at York University for students with ASD who are attending but are challenged by the complex interpersonal context that is a university like York.

James Bebko



ARFL President’s Report

Bob Drummond

Negotiations for a new YUFA contract continue to proceed slowly (at time of writing) though it is always possible that they will accelerate towards a settlement in the next few weeks. Not surprisingly the Employer has not agreed to provide retirees with health and dental benefits equivalent to those of full-time employees, though I remain hopeful that some improvements in our current plan are possible. In ARFL, following our survey, we had talked about the possibility of a plan that would marry better benefits with higher premiums. Implementing such a plan could be complicated, especially if existing retirees were to be given the option of retaining their present coverage and costs. When something is complicated in labour relations, parties otherwise nearing settlement sometimes agree to postpone the matter to a post-settlement side-table, where complications can be ironed out. I have no idea if that is at all likely in this case, but we should nevertheless be prepared for the possibility. If and when further details on this item emerge, I will let you know and seek your guidance.

As you will have seen from a recent e-mail, ARFL has refurbished its website and

we have made arrangements to allow for dues payment by Pay Pal through the site. We have also changed the Association’s e-mail address (monitored by the President) to yuarfl@yorku.ca. This address is the one by which you can write the Executive. If you want to discuss ARFL business with the *whole* membership, the address for our listserv is still arf@yorku.ca. As you know, that list is moderated by the “owners” (at present they are Al Stauffer, Past President, Stan Jeffers, Treasurer, and myself as President) to ensure that messages to the membership are genuinely about ARFL or CURAC (College and University Retirees Association of Canada) business.

You will have received notice of some constitutional amendments intended to bring our governing document into line with recent practice. They will be voted on at our AGM, November 6.

Finally I should note that I have agreed to join a small CURAC working group to investigate whether CURAC can negotiate a superior benefits plan to offer its members, either to complement or substitute for the plans provided by former employers. If anything substantive comes of that work, CURAC (through ARFL and YURA) will let you know.

I look forward to then coming year, but I am eagerly seeking my replacement as President and I urgently ask your assistance in that quest.



ARFL Treasurer's Report

Stanley Jeffers

This is a summary of the current financial situation. A balance sheet and a statement of revenue and expenses as of June 31 2015, the end of our fiscal year will be posted on our website (<https://yuarfl.wordpress.com>) together with the other reports from executive committee members for discussion at the forthcoming AGM. The accounts for the financial year 2014-2015 have been examined by Mr B.Bellissimo, MBA, CPA-CGA who has issued a statement, which is included in the Treasurer's Report for the AGM, to the effect that the books are in good order.

During this financial year, the executive committee voted to transfer \$3000.00 to the ARFL Lee Lorch Memorial Award in support of aboriginal students. We currently have in our chequing account \$5718.81. Our total invested in GIC's is currently \$18,081.81. The number of paid up members as of June 30 2014 was 207. As of June 30 2015 that number was 182. However, there were around 40 members who had not paid their 2014 dues as of June 30. That number has since been reduced to around 20 as of September 13, 2015 . Furthermore, we have been able for the first time to get a list of those who have retired during the preceding year thanks to the good offices of YUFA . Some 30 colleagues retired during this period. A letter was sent to these colleagues from the President urging them to join ARFL. As of September 13 2015, some 15 have accepted the invitation. These colleagues will enjoy free membership for 2015/16. We are hopeful that we may get lists of colleagues who have retired prior to 2014 in order to extend the same invitation to them. Consequently, we hope the

membership and income will grow over the next few years. We have been able to make significant savings by not mailing out printed versions of our newsletter.

As of October 2015, it will be possible for members to pay their dues using PayPal. A PayPal link has been set up on our website (yuarfl.wordpress.com) which members are strongly encouraged to use. No PayPal account is required-you may pay at any time using your credit card. PayPal will issue a receipt. Some members may be in the habit of claiming their ARFL dues as a tax credit and may require a receipt issued by ARFL. If you require such a receipt, please e-mail the Treasurer (stanj@yorku.ca) who would be happy to provide you with an ARFL receipt.

Status of ARFL Lee Lorch Memorial Award
This award was initially endowed with \$30,000 comprising equal shares from ARFL and the Province of Ontario. Currently, the fund has \$44,715. Recent donations have come from YUFA (\$5000) and also ARFL (\$3000). If you wish to make a donation to this scholarship, you may do so by mailing a cheque (payable to "York University") to:

- Abbey Black, Division of Advancement, West Office Building, York University, 4700 Keele St, Toronto, M3J 1P3
- Or, to ARFL, c/o YUFA , 240 York Lanes, York University, 4700 Keele St, Toronto, ON, M3J 1P3



In Memoriam

The ARFL Newsletter will, from time to time, carry an *In Memoriam* section. If you know of one of our colleagues who has passed away, please let us know and of any details that you might have. Short pieces about the person are welcome also.



Editor's Note:

Readers may recall that a few months ago, we sent out a request to ARFL members to consider contributing personal stories about their research and times at York. Here are four such contributions, lightly edited if at all...enjoy,,,and please consider telling your own story in your own way and in your own words...



A Boyhood Journey: Scotland to Canada in 1853, by Charles R. Peterkin. Edited by **Mary F. Williamson**. June 2015.

How is it that I have produced a book that has called for innumerable hours of genealogical research as well as an in depth pursuit of scholarly resources? When I was the Fine Arts Bibliographer in the York libraries in the 1980s and working on my first book I couldn't have imagined that genealogy and scholarship could be mentioned in the same breath. But as time passed I found myself searching the family trees of little-known artists and architects for my own *Art and Architecture in Canada* (U of T Press, 1991). I would confidently assert to the archivists and librarians I encountered that it was not my OWN family I was interested in, assuring myself that carrying out genealogical research on non-family members for academic purposes suggests a higher calling.

It was in 1984 that I visited Aberdeen in Scotland with the idea of treading in my great-grandfather's footsteps there. With his widowed father and six siblings Charles R. Peterkin left Aberdeen at age 11 in 1853 to come to Canada, and specifically Toronto.

Back in the late 1960s I inherited the manuscript of his memoir which had been written in 1925 when he was 84. But I knew then that other projects and books would intervene before I got down to actually editing his "Recollections." In the 1980s I was more than curious about Charles' background, and at the same time I harboured a sense that districts where the Peterkin family had lived could be altered beyond recognition as time went on, and buildings that had been significant for the family might well be pulled down.

In 2013 I made a return visit to Aberdeen and found that the suburb of Woodside where Charles' father James operated a grocery and spirits store had seriously declined, in spite of the oil boom, and the Grandholm textile mill where James had once been a weaver, and then Mill Overseer, had been replaced by a housing development. Back in 1984 I had visited the museum set up by Grandholm Mills and original factory buildings that were empty but still standing. By 2013 the museum was gone and there were only token remembrances of a past enterprise. It was then that I dropped, or quickly finished off, other projects and began to focus on the memoir.

This long preamble is designed to illustrate something of what I have learned about research and publication over the past several decades which has helped in the editing of *A Boyhood Journey*. Genealogy is a legitimate part of research, and family stories, well told, can inform and illustrate other forms of historical research. Becoming a member of Ancestry and ScotlandsPeople was useful to me for establishing births, deaths and marriages, and for census records, but unlike some genealogists I am definitely not a family tree obsessive, and hiring two professional genealogists saved me a huge amount of time at relatively low cost. One of

them discovered that my great-grandfather's great-grandfather had been a distinguished minister in the Church of Scotland and author of religious treatises which I am able to consult online.

My research time was mostly devoted to finding appropriate illustrations because I still subscribe to the "thousand words" theory about pictures. My ancestor's memoir stops when he was 14 in 1855 when photography was still in its infancy, thus looking for pictures of places was my biggest challenge. Illustrated nineteenth century books and journals in several Toronto libraries yielded possibilities, but I am eternally grateful to those libraries and archives in Scotland as well as Canada that have digitized their image collections. This is a cause which I enthusiastically applaud, and for which I have made some provision in my will! Digitized newspapers too were lifesavers.

Finally I would like to make the point that if you haven't recorded some of the details of your lives, or badgered older family members for THEIR memories, do so now! My work was hugely assisted by the several pages of lively reminiscences composed by my mother who grew up in the Kensington Market area next door to her grandfather's house. In the 1960s when she was in her 60s she talked with her two remaining aunts for their input. Another benefit of her persistence was that all the individuals appearing in three pre-1900 Peterkin family photograph albums were identified, and the albums are now kept securely in the photography collections of the Art Gallery of Ontario precisely because the names of the sitters are known. For the Epilogue which takes the story from 1855 to 1932 when my great-grandfather died, along with a family photograph archive, these albums made it possible for me to round out the life of Charles R. Peterkin. In the course of putting his boyhood memories to paper

Charles curated his early life story. The great-grandfather who I never knew comes across as a real charmer, very different from the austere, but successful, Toronto businessman that my mother remembered with little fondness.

Mary F. Williamson



Memories of Frank Cosentino at York

Growing up in Hamilton, born of immigrant parents, the idea of any advanced education goals wasn't among any goals I might have had.. I think I was fortunate that I was simply content to move along in whatever direction my life was taking me. My father was a section hand labourer with CNR whose wish for all of his children, there were five of us in the family, was that we aspire to something other than manual labour. I think he was somewhat envious of conductors he saw walking the aisles of trains being paid for taking tickets from passengers.

So in a way, although I didn't know it then, York's motto of *Tentanda via* was at work for me. I seemed bright enough; I skipped grade five in elementary school and got to high school. Fortunately for me, I discovered sport especially those which could be played without having to buy any expensive equipment, where a pair of sneakers only was necessary. Running, baseball, softball, basketball and football became part of my life. In high school I was cut from the football teams the first three years I tried out. Eventually I made the junior team for one year as a tackle. But it was my strong arm which attracted the attention of the senior football coach who inquired as to

whether I would like to try out as a quarterback for the senior team.

Interestingly, I wasn't what you would call a dedicated student but I learned quickly that if I wanted to play football high school sport I had to pass into the next grade. As I played my sports, I was surprised to see that scouts and universities were interested in me. Again, that caveat appeared again. If I wanted to continue playing I had to pass into the next year. To be truthful that was my major incentive, until the love of learning kicked in. I achieved an Honours BA from Western in Business Administration and a BPE from McMaster and later when I was traded to Edmonton, I enrolled for advanced degrees at the University of Alberta.

It was in the Spring of 1968 while I was half way through my first MA year that I received a phone call from Dr. Bryce Taylor who was the Chairman and Director of Physical Education and Athletics at the newly formed York University. He inquired as to whether I would be interested in applying for the position of head football coach of York's new intercollegiate program. I thanked him but it was a premature offer, I was half way through my degree, had a thesis to write in addition to course work and still wanted to continue my playing in the CFL, then with the Edmonton Eskimos. But the thought of a university career, as unimaginable as it seemed, stayed with me and two years later I retired from the CFL and moved to the position of Head Football Coach and Assistant professor at the University of Western Ontario. I stayed there for six years, coached for five, our team winning two Vanier Cups, and spent my last year as the Chair of the Undergraduate Physical Education Program.

Re-enter the York connection. As fate would have it, Bryce Taylor was stepping down as Chair of Physical Education and

Athletics. I received a phone call from a member of the search committee. Was I interested in applying? Tentanda via kicked in. What better place to arrive at than a new university where tradition didn't hold sway over innovation? During the five years that I was Chair of the department, that motto was there on every letterhead to remind one of that path or direction. We had a very good undergraduate program, diversely talented faculty: both academically and in our practica.. Our athletic teams in Hockey, Basketball, Soccer, Gymnastics and Field Hockey were good and competitive.

The physical education subject area at the time was geared mostly to teaching. Our faculty could see that there were other areas which we could service and create more opportunities for our grads. We set the ground work for a Master's degree in coaching. We developed Certificates in Sport Administration, Athletic Therapy, Coaching, and Fitness Assessment, in our undergrad area. Facilities were added: the Track and Field complex with its Sports Injury Treatment Centre, the Tennis Centre.

Although the matter of York's football record did not come up during any of my interviews with the University administration, I was hearing grumbling from some of our faculty about the team's performance during my first two years as Chair. At the time I was Chair of the Department, attending Senate and Faculty meetings – our own, Arts and Science because our Department was under the aegis of each – and teaching a History of Sport course. Even so, I was not about to have interuniversity football dropped from our offerings. I volunteered to become the head coach for three years to see what the problems were and if I could assist in turning it around..

Brent Heath in York's Biology Department

After about 1.5 years as a PDF at the University of Georgia in Athens (where I ended up after applying to a distinguished colleague at Berkeley, who subsequently was recruited by UGa!), it was time to start looking for a permanent position. It was clear that my preference for future employment was as a faculty member at a good university where both teaching and research were encouraged and valued. Having an English background, a strong appreciation of the geography of North America, but a more limited enthusiasm for American society, my wife and I decided that Canada was the best place to target for our long-term future.

Having found a list of Canadian universities, I selected those that seemed to offer some potential, although after 45 years my memory of which I selected is a bit unclear. I sent appropriate letters and cvs to those selected, asking if they had any positions for which I might be suitable. At that time I had only 5 publications, a single invitation to present a symposium paper at an international conference, and very little TA experience, hardly stellar by modern standards. Nevertheless, I received an encouraging reply from Bob Haynes, then chair of Biology at York. Since York's address was in Downsview, which was unknown to me, I asked a visiting Canadian PDF where York was located. Her response was that she had never heard of it, and tentatively concluded that it must be somewhere in the wilds of northern Ontario, and was undoubtedly of little stature and not worth pursuing! However, as I recall, I did not receive any other encouraging responses, and so decided to follow it up! I do not recall further details of my interaction with Bob at that time, I'm not even sure that I visited or

There were certain supportive items for our interuniversity which needed a makeover. The Tait McKenzie building was built for intramural sport. The dressing rooms consisted of cubicles; coaches need to have a room where all players could be addressed, i.e. lockers around the perimeter of the room. That was done. First floor hall ways came to be adorned with outstanding York athletes of the past. The main gymnasium and the walls leading to it were painted white with red stripes, identifying and reinforcing York's colours. A clear glass case was installed at the front entrance, trophies on display for all to see. As far as football was concerned, the team responded and whereas it hadn't won a game in two years, the record at the end of the three year stint was 11 wins and 9 losses. We tried to have a different faculty advisor named for each home game we played, to introduce other faculty to what students went through as well as put a face to other programs for our student athletes. Fans started to come around more often when the team was playing at "Mile Wide Stadium" as the field behind Tait McKenzie was tagged.

This was only one memorable recollection of my first five years at York. Certainly memorable was the fact that all four of our children graduated from York, as did my wife, who graduated with our younger son. It is another of the important aspects of my life at the university, all of which demonstrably give credence to Tentanda via- the way must be tried.. And for that I am very grateful.

Frank Cosentino



gave a seminar. However, I did discover that the department had good electron microscope facilities (my primary tool at that time), good colleagues with whom I shared research interests (most notably Peter Moens) and was offered an assistant professorship with appropriate set up money, which I gladly accepted (and never regretted!) and headed for Toronto. The move itself was somewhat unconventional. After we arrived in Toronto, we almost immediately left for my inaugural international symposium presentation in England, I caught the 'flu which prevented me from returning to York in time for the start of term and thus encountered some skepticism about my reliability!

From such an unconventional start, I conclude that the idea of our destiny being predetermined has merit! I might also conclude that Bob, Peter, Mike Boyer, Jim Friesen, and possibly others consulted by Bob, had excellent judgment, foresight or divine inspiration since I found the Department and York to be an excellent location for both research and teaching! Research facilities and internal support for research were consistently strong, and the teaching "load" was always reasonable, stimulating and rewarding. Furthermore, most colleagues were good to deal with, even those not closely related to my own research. Notable for their support and collaboration in various ways over the years include co-authors Peter, Roger Lew, Daphne Goring and Laurence Packer and longtime supporters Ron Pearlman, Saber Saleuddin, Barry Loughton and Brian Coleman. It is also important to acknowledge that my experience and productivity was very significantly enhanced by good secretaries. Dorothy Gunning, Adrienne Dome and Audrey Johnson particularly come to mind. Since Dorothy was working with me during the typewriter era, her handwriting reading

and typing skills in particular were essential to publications.

Special mention should be made of Ken Davey for his support as both chairman and dean. His overall talents were always very helpful, but one particular event comes to mind while he was dean. After years of my complaining to the responsible higher administrator (whose name and position I have fortunately forgotten!) about ever later scheduling of final exams, a final exam of mine was scheduled at the same time as I had accepted an invitation to give a major symposium presentation overseas. After failing to persuade the administrator to alter the schedule, he passed the buck to my dean (Ken) to deal with the problem. Since I could not alter my presentation time and Ken was allegedly responsible for getting the exam supervision done, I simply gave him the exams and left him to get on with it. He did, and still talked to me again afterwards!

Another seemingly trivial event sticks in my mind, and is worth recalling as symptomatic of the good fortune I encountered in the department. While Jim was chair of the department, Art Forer was being considered for appointment. Art's research was closely related to my own and Jim made a point of asking me if I had any objections to Art's hiring, and would his presence impinge on my own work. I was delighted at the prospect of being able to routinely interact with Art and thus started a long and fruitful relationship.

My time in Biology was very enjoyable and productive due to both teaching and research activities. Good colleagues, both in the department and faculty, with the right views on the balance between teaching and research, was probably the biggest factor that allowed me (with the collaboration of colleagues, PDFs and PhD students) to publish 122 original research

papers and 26 invited reviews and edit or co-edit 3 books (all with an average citation rate of 35.7 per publication as of 2001, the time of my last analysis). Honours totaled 5, including FRSC and presidency of 2 international societies. However, teaching was also both productive and enjoyable. Perhaps most notable was my engagement in the Nat. Sci. programme, where having freedom to choose my favored approaches to enhance the understanding of science among arts and fine arts students was always most rewarding. Longtime contributions to the biology core programme were also very enjoyable. My more modest contributions to biology graduate courses was a reflection of my basic philosophy that graduate work should be done in the lab, not in lectures or discussion groups!

So, after all of the above enthusiasm and productivity concerning my time at York, why did I retire at the age of 58? Basically, because the research fields that I was engaged in were changing rapidly and substantially. My technical expertise was being superseded by other techniques that I did not have the enthusiasm (and perhaps ability!) to learn and I had no interest in fading into the sunset as research in my area moved in other directions. I preferred to depart fulltime activity close to the top of my research area, rather than fade into obscurity, and probably teach ancient history rather than current advances! I had hoped to engage in some part-time post retirement research activity, but in spite of modest support from York, that did not work out. In retrospect, was it the right decision? Absolutely, both from my perspective and from the departmental view. Hopefully, my replacement is doing a better job of current research productivity and teaching the evolving areas of research than I would have been able to do by now. If said replacement

is as lucky as I was, and has as encouraging environment as I enjoyed, my early retirement will have been worthwhile for all concerned. If the environment is no longer conducive to such activity, the hierarchy needs to devote serious effort to understanding and correcting the problems. The recent rapid turnover in Science deans seems to suggest that there are indeed problems.

Do I miss anything about being a full-time faculty member at York? Yes, the daily commuting in the Toronto area, but I can live without that! Otherwise, sadly, no! My time is now taken up with assorted horse-related activities (including volunteering at a therapeutic riding facility), rock hunting, gardening and generally bumbling around in heaven, aka Vancouver Island!

Brent Heath



Being and Becoming

Brayton Polka, Professor Emeritus of Humanities and Senior Scholar

A day in the life of a faculty retiree? As is my philosophical bent, I am going to reflect here, rather, on the life of a retiree, of this retiree, on what it means for us to live our life every day--in the hope that my reflections are of interest and relevance to my fellow retirees.

But first a few basic biographical details. I received my Ph.D. in History (the History of European Ideas in the Early Modern Period) in 1964 and taught fulltime for two years at City College in New York before immigrating to Canada in 1966 to take up a fulltime position as an Assistant Professor of History and Humanities at York. After serving as the first Senior Tutor of

Vanier College and as the first Director of the Graduate Program in Social and Political Thought and after initiating the College Tutorial Program, it became evident to me that my teaching and scholarly interests were in no traditional sense historical. Consequently, I transferred fulltime to Humanities. Indeed, it was York's original commitment to interdisciplinary studies and to providing a general education for students in their first two years as undergraduates that originally brought me to York. It has been in what then became the Department of Humanities that I found my scholarly calling--teaching and doing research in the interdisciplinary study of philosophy, religion, and literature. I retired in 2002 (when all York faculty were still required to retire at the end of the academic year in which they turned 65). I have continued up to the present to teach in the Graduate Programs of Social and Political Thought and of Humanities.

I have published numerous articles and books, and given many conference papers, in the European tradition of ideas from Montaigne and Shakespeare to Kierkegaard and Nietzsche; and, most recently, I have written a book on the operas of Wagner. My focus is hermeneutical, on what it means to interpret a text (whether in philosophy, religion, or the arts, including the musical arts). My book on Shakespeare, for example, is entitled *Shakespeare and Interpretation, or What You Will* (which readers may recognize as the alternative title of *Twelfth Night*, the only play to which Shakespeare gave a double title).

What do you will? What do we will, as human beings? I hold, following my hermeneutical perspective, that we readers will to read, to interpret, a text as we will a text to read, to interpret, us, its readers. It is evident, then, that the hermeneutics of

textuality is founded on the love of neighbor, on the golden rule of the Bible: the command to do unto others what you want others to do unto you. So, I find that, in thinking about my life as a retiree on this present day, I learn ever more profoundly that, as Nietzsche writes in the epigram with which he initiates his last book, *Ecce Homo--Behold the Man!*--prior to his collapse into total insanity in January of 1889, that our task in life is to become every day the person we are. The paradox here, as Nietzsche models his life on Christ (while proclaiming the death of God!), is that we cannot *be* the person we are without (constantly, in good faith) becoming that person and that we cannot (constantly) *become* the person we are without (faithfully) being (existing as) that person.

The paradox that being is becoming and that becoming is being every day of our life has wondrous biblical antecedents. Indeed, it is unthinkable to the ancient Greeks, who opposed becoming (appearance) to being (reality), that being cannot be known separate from becoming and that becoming cannot be known separate from being. In both my teaching and my scholarly writing I have emphasized the importance of grasping the full implications of the question that Tertullian, the first Latin theologian, posed c. 200 CE: What does Athens have to do with Jerusalem? It turns out that the critical distinction between Athens and Jerusalem is the difference, *not* between philosophy and religion but between, rather, the (Greek) opposition between becoming and being and the (biblical) relationship of becoming and being. What do we will? We will to become the person we are and to be the person we become.

It is little wonder, then, that, according to the narrative in Genesis, God, as he readies Adam and Eve for their expulsion

from the Garden of Eden (the paradise of nature), informs them that they are like him in knowing good and evil. To know good and evil is to take responsibility for loving your neighbor as yourself in the covenantal existence to which God condemns man and woman--that involving the three conditions of conception (of both body and mind), labor, and death. This is what Montaigne will call the *condition humaine*--the covenantal relationship to your neighbor in which you become (ever more) like God in being like God in knowing good and evil and in which you are (ever more) like God in becoming like God in knowing good and evil. *Ecce Homo!* Such is, I believe, my everyday life as a retiree, as it is the everyday life of all human beings: to will to become the person we are and to will to be the person we become.

Brayton Polka



<p>Email contacts for current ARFL Executive Board members may be found on our website at https://yuarfl.wordpress.com/contact/</p>

New ARFL Website

ARFL has a new website yuarfl.wordpress.com with a new look and lots of useful information. We hope you will visit this site regularly for updates about our activities as well as those of CURAC and YURA.

We would also like to share information you may have on health matters, finances, university and community events, book launches and the like of interest to our larger membership.

You can simply send us such information via the [contact](#) tab on our website. Do you have comments on our new website? Are there aspects that you like? What other information would you like to see there? We welcome such feedback. Just click the [contact](#) tab to let us have your opinions.

Visit us regularly to keep in touch with the activities of your former colleagues and find out what is happening at the university and beyond.

Your dues payment form can be found on the next page.

