



The Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society, established 1964.

The Sir Winston Churchill Society isn't all about the things Winston Churchill did in the past (however profound they may be.) It's about his convictions, his wit, his power to inspire and how those qualities are necessary in the world today. We want to incorporate his values and spread his ways. We want to share what we have learnt and discovered from him, with you.

2019-2020 STUDENT COMPETITIONS

We did not stage debate competitions during 2018-19. Our former director of competitions, Sarah Fong, knew that our relationship with the University of Alberta Debate Society (UADS) needed to be reframed. This initiative was carried forward by Navya Baradi, as she prepared to replace Sarah as director. Our new accommodation with UADS was accomplished in time to plan for the 2019-20 tournament.

The Sir Winston Churchill Speech and Debate Tournament and Finals were held in November and December of 2019. The Sir Winston Churchill Society and UADS hosted the tournament in the Humanities Centre at the University of Alberta on Winston Churchill's birthday, November 30. Twenty-five teams comprising fifty students from nine Edmonton High Schools competed in debate; nine students from Old Scona Academic and Tempo School entered the speech tournament. Volunteers from UADS judged the debate tournament and finals, while volunteer parents and Churchill Society members judged the speech rounds.

The finalists in debate were two teams from Old Scona Academic: Alice Yang and Emily Wang, and Imaara Keshwani and Max Williams. Speech finalists were Gurgot Hothi, Nimra Hooda, and Josh Karathra, all also from Old Scona Academic.

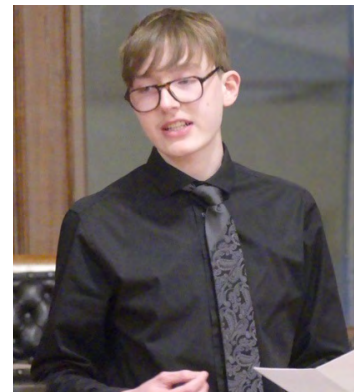
The Sir Winston Churchill Society hosted the final rounds on December 11, in historic McKay Avenue School. The finals took place in the converted gymnasium on the 3rd floor, preserved as the first chamber of the Alberta Provincial Legislature.

The topic for the debate final was: ***"This house regrets the portrayal of death in combat as an act of heroism."***

The topic for the speech final was: ***"Sir Winston Churchill***

is often considered one of the founding fathers of the European Union, for calling for a 'United States of Europe'. Yet some argue that despite Churchill wanting a united Europe, he did not envision Britain to be a member of it. Given today's political climate in Europe, explain your views of Britain's position in Europe and the greater global world."

The contestants in the tournament and finals did excellent work in researching their topics and developing their arguments. The self-confidence and composure needed to speak in public, demanded by both competitions, was also



Top left: Debater Imaara Keshwani; Top right: Debater Max Williams
Bottom: Speech finalists Gurgot Hothi, Josh Karathra and Nimra Hooda

evident and commendable.

The debate results, as judged by UADS volunteers were: first place to Imaara Keshwani and Max Williams, and second place to Alice Yang and Emily Wang. In Speech, Josh Karathra, Gurjot Hothi and Nimra Hooda finished in first, second, and third place.

Thanks and congratulations are due to Navya Baradi, our director of competitions, for her hard work and success during the past year in rebuilding and renewing our partnership with UADS and in organizing the events.

We are grateful for UADS's participation and support, including volunteer judging. Our fond thanks go to UADS President Emma Jones and VP Student Outreach Lochlann Kerr, for their warm welcome and genuine interest in these competitions. Thanks are also due to the parents and Churchill Society volunteers who served as speech judges.

The finalists will receive scholarship awards and recognition at our Student Awards Ceremony and Memorial Banquet in May.

2020 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

Our society last held an essay competition in 2013. This year, with sponsorship support from Nearctic Group, our Director of Competitions, Ms. Navya Baradi, has staged a new essay competition. The competition was open to high school students enrolled in grade 10, 11, or 12; in 780 area code Alberta (north of Red Deer). Online submissions of 500 to 1000 words were accepted; recommended essay length was 750 words.

The essay topic was: *"Justify why or why not the destruction of cultural sites should be considered a war crime."* Students were expected to use historical and contemporary examples to support their stance. Sir Winston Churchill's speeches, writing and career could be used to support their arguments, but this was not required to win. Contestants were invited to submit their essays by February 29, 2020.

Entries will be judged on:

Originality: Judges will look for creative thinking through the argumentation, evidence of research, and the development of insightful remarks about the topic.

Persuasiveness: The stance taken in the paper should be clearly understood. A coherent written argument should be made and supported with astute evidence in a persuasive essay to convince the reader of the writer's assertion.

Polish: A high standard of work is sought, with no spelling or grammatical errors. The language should be formal, but readable without difficulty. The work should be effectively presented and free of formatting errors.

The top three contestants will receive scholarship awards of \$300, \$200 and \$100, and complimentary tickets to the 56th annual Memorial Banquet and Student Awards Ceremony, to be held May 11, 2020.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all!

As I write this, international turmoil fills the news. Traditions and institutions, alliances, agreements, and treaties tremble under the weight of intransigence and 'alternative facts.' The '20s have certainly come roaring in!

Despite the instability of our changing times, the work of the Churchill Society is more relevant and important than ever. Through our sponsorship of high school debates, speech, and essay competitions; our participation in Remembrance Day and future Canadian Citizenship ceremonies; through our support of university scholarships and through our Annual Memorial Banquet, we encourage careful discernment and engagement with issues that shape our society. The writings of Sir Winston Churchill and his example of leadership provide an excellent lens through which to study current affairs and uphold our hard-won democracy.



As this new year gets under way, we are excited by the opportunity to increase student participation by re-introducing the essay competition, sponsored by the Nearctic Group. For the first time ever, by using the internet, we will be able to engage students throughout the entire northern half of the province, including rural areas. You will find more details about the competition in this publication.

We look forward to the Annual Memorial Banquet with great anticipation. Our speaker, Mr. Allen Packwood, is Director of the Churchill Archives at Churchill College, Cambridge. His topic will be "How Churchill Waged War." His visit is of special importance to our Edmonton Churchill Society because of our strong ties with Churchill College. To date, 25 University of Alberta students have been awarded the Churchill Scholarship to study at Churchill College. It will be an exciting evening. You will find additional details in this issue of the Churchillian.

To close, I would like to thank the Honourary Patrons and Membership of the Churchill Society for the vote of confidence given to our board of directors and me at our Annual General Meeting, held at the Alberta Aviation Museum in late November. We are eager to expand the influence of our society in our community. Like you, we hold as true these words of Sir Winston Churchill: "*What is the use of living, if it be not to strive for noble causes and to make this muddled world a better place for those who will live in it after we are gone?*"

With very best wishes for your good health and happiness.

Elisebeth Checkel

President, The Rt.Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society

CHURCHILL MEMORIAL BANQUET



University Club; the Winspear Room

Our 2020 Memorial Banquet will be the 56th since the first one in 1965. Lord Harding of Petherington gave the keynote address on that occasion. Since then we have hosted a succession of Churchill's contemporaries and colleagues, statesmen, and soldiers at our banquets. In more recent years, as those who knew or worked with Churchill became scarce, we have usually invited historians, historiographers and biographers, including Sir Martin Gilbert, John Keegan and Baron Black of Crossharbour.

We are pleased this year to add Mr. Allen Packwood OBE FRHistS to our list of distinguished guest speakers. He will speak to our members and guests on "Seventy-five Years from Victory: How Churchill Waged War." He will also speak about Churchill's relationship with Canada.

Mr. Packwood published "How Churchill Waged War" in 2018. A qualified archivist, he began his career at the Churchill Archives at Cambridge in 1995 and was appointed Director in 2002. Allen was co-curator of "Churchill and the Great Republic", a Library of Congress exhibition which ran from February to July 2004, and of "Churchill: The Power of Words", a display at the Morgan Library of New York from June to September 2012.

Our 56th annual Memorial Banquet will take place May 11, 2020 in the Winspear Room of



Allen Packwood

the University of Alberta University Club (formerly Faculty Club), at 11435 Saskatchewan Drive NW, Edmonton. There will be a student awards ceremony in the adjacent Papaschase Room immediately before the banquet programme, to

honour the winners of our recent high school speech, debate and essay contests.

Doors and cash bar will open at 5:30 PM. Guests will be called to their tables for dinner at 6:30. Tickets are \$150 per person, \$75 for students. Preferred dress code is black tie or mess kit, and evening dress.

Parking is available in V Lot on the east side of 116 Street close to the University Club, and the Windsor Car Park about 100m south of the University Club.

Tickets for our 56th Memorial Banquet can be purchased online through our website at <https://www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/shop> or by contacting our Executive Secretary, Robert Chaffee at the address or telephone numbers on the back page.

We hope to see you there.



The University Club

CHURCHILL MEMORIAL BANQUET

To purchase by mail, send the form below with payment to our postal address on page 8.

**Required information*

I would like to order _____ tickets @ \$150.00 each
and/or _____ tickets @ \$75.00 each (students only)
for Monday, May 11, 2020

Location: University of Alberta University Club

Name:* _____

Street: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone number: _____

Name(s) of guest(s) and email if possible:

Email:* (please print or type clearly)

If possible, I would like to be seated with:

Please indicate entree choice (see below):

Food allergies or special meal requirements for
medical or religious reasons:

Please indicate guest(s) entree choice(s) (see below):

Entree Choices, served with potato and seasonal vegetables: Prime Rib of Beef, Baked Filet of Salmon with Hollandaise sauce, or Vegetarian gluten-free Tuscan Penne.

Privacy and Consent: By including your E-mail address, you agree to receive future notifications regarding Society activities. Please note, all E-mail messages sent to the membership are sent under the use of the Blind carbon copy (Bcc) tool which means that individual recipients do not see the entire list of addressees. There is no fear of being added to additional mailing lists, etc.

OUR OBJECTIVES

To honor the life of Sir Winston Spencer Churchill by:

- Educating students on his life and achievements, and their continued relevance, by organizing debates and public speaking/essay competitions;
- Educating the public on his life, philosophy, achievements and literary heritage by organizing lectures, speeches, seminars and the publication of these lectures and speeches;
- To advance education by providing scholarships and research bursaries to Alberta students to continue their education at universities throughout the world.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP



The Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society is dedicated to helping shape the future by honouring the past. By staging debate, speech, and essay contests, we invite students to contemplate history as they prepare to lead tomorrow's world. Winston Churchill was a great leader despite, or maybe because of, his flaws and errors. His education (both formal and personal), his reading of history, and his experiences as a soldier, journalist, and politician all informed his ideology and placed him in the path of Destiny. At an age when most of us are ready to retire, he was called upon to lead his nation through total war, from the brink of defeat to a costly victory over European and Asian fascism.

In the Sir Winston Churchill Society, we believe that an understanding of the past is essential to the building of

an inhabitable future. We understand that one person can make a difference, and that even the most successful leaders get things wrong and suffer reverses. Historians and historiographers have recorded for us the mistakes of the past. It is our duty to learn from them, as well as from our own errors, and teach those lessons to following generations. They will make their own new mistakes, but we can at least help them to avoid repeating our old ones.

We welcome new members to our society. If you are a member, thank you for your support. Please share the Churchillian with family members and friends and consider inviting them to become members. If you are not a member, please consider joining. Your membership fees will support our high school competitions and scholarships. You will be invited to participate in our Annual General Meeting and may choose to attend our annual Memorial Banquet, where you will find others who cherish our democratic traditions and understand why future leaders must be educated in History.

Purchase your membership today, by visiting our website and following the instructions there:

<https://www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/shop>

or send the form below, with payment, to our Executive Secretary.

2020-21 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Salutation: _____ Name: _____
First Middle Last

Email: _____

Mobile: _____

Home Phone: _____

Address: _____

Street City Prov Postal Code

Type of Membership: ☐ Regular \$60 ☐ Student \$25

Privacy and Consent: By including your E-mail address, you agree to receive future notifications regarding Society activities. Please note, all E-mail messages sent to the membership are sent under the use of the Blind carbon copy (Bcc) tool which means that individual recipients do not see the entire list of addressees. There is no fear of being added to additional mailing lists, etc.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Sarah Fong left the board in November at the end of her term as director. Navya Baradi had been working with Sarah since winning the Arthur O Cload trophy for speech in 2017-2018. Sarah saw the opportunity to renew our relationship with University of Alberta Debate Society (UADS) and encouraged Navya to work with them in planning the 2019-2020 Churchill Debate and Speech Tournament. Navya was named Director of Competitions at our 2019 AGM. We are grateful to Sarah for her years of excellent service and for working on a smooth transition to her successor.

Current Board of Directors

Elisebeth Checkel	<i>President, Membership</i>
Jill Wright	<i>Vice President</i>
Dianne Sweet	<i>Treasurer</i>
Robert Chaffee	<i>Executive Secretary, the Churchillian, Archives</i>
Navya Baradi	<i>Competitions</i>
Gabrielle Caouette	<i>Director</i>
Will Randall II	<i>Director</i>

A NOTE TO OUR READERS

Thank you for taking the time to read about our society and its works. We enjoy producing this newsletter to keep our members and friends informed about our activities, events, and goals. We do not enjoy the cost of producing and mailing the paper copies. Eighty percent of the cost of producing our October 2019 issue was for printing and postage. We propose, for our next and subsequent issues, to send paper copies by post only to those who specifically request them. We hope that most recipients will be satisfied with digital copies (which can be printed), but we understand that some will prefer to receive the Churchillian in the mail. Please advise us, via the contact information on page 8, if you wish to continue to receive a paper copy.

Thanks very much,

Editor

HISTORICAL EVENTS

- 1899** Held prisoner since November 15, Winston successfully escapes Boer captivity December 12.
- 1901** Queen Victoria dies January 22 while Winston Churchill is in Winnipeg.
- 1916** Winston takes command of 6 Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers with the rank of Lt. Col., on January 5. The battalion holds a section of the front line in the Ypres salient, near the village of Ploegsteert ("Plug Street"), Belgium.



Churchill, wearing a French 'Adrian' helmet, with Archibald Sinclair at Armentieres in February 1916.

- 1931** While on a lecture tour in the United States, Winston is struck by a car while crossing 5th Avenue in New York City. He is hospitalized for a week with a concussion, contusions, and bruising. He soon sells his article about it for £500.
- 1943** Churchill meets with President Roosevelt January 14 at Casablanca, Morocco. They agree on a Policy of Unconditional Surrender toward Germany.

BOOK LINKS

These excellent works are available for purchase on-line from **Audreys Books**.

The Heroic Memory Vol 1 and 2

Ronald I. Cohen, editor

The first fifty years of keynote addresses to the annual Memorial Banquets of the Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society.

We are indebted to the Edmonton Society for reproducing these addresses, which should have a place in all Churchill libraries. Both books are strongly recommended.'

Terry Reardon, *Finest Hour*

Churchill: Walking with Destiny

Andrew Roberts

'By drawing on many previously untapped sources, Mr Roberts has produced a more complete picture of his subject than any previous biography.'

The Economist

How Churchill Waged War: The Most Challenging Decisions of the Second World War

Allen Packwood

"In his role at the Churchill Archives Centre, Allen has long specialized in helping others. Now in his own gripping account, he recreates the energy, drive and perspective of Churchill during some of the key moments in recent history. It makes for a compelling narrative."

Randolph Churchill

CONTACT US

If you would like to comment on anything in our newsletter, or if you have suggestions for future articles or features, we would like to hear from you!


If you are interested in serving as a Director, or working on the 56th Annual Memorial Banquet committee, please contact us!

For membership application, enclose a cheque payable to "The Sir Winston Churchill Society" and send to:

Robert Chaffee, Executive Secretary
Sir Winston Churchill Society
4712 – 55 Avenue
Beaumont, Alberta T4X 1J7

780.929.6766

info@churchillsocietyofedmonton.com

 /churchillsocietyofedmonton

Alternatively, we invite you to make your purchases on-line at
www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/shop