

Anne-Marie Ambert honoured by CURAC

At the 2022 CURAC Virtual Assembly on May 19, Anne-Marie Ambert, editor of the YURA Newsletter, was presented with CURAC's 2022 Tribute Award. Here is an abridged version of her nomination.

Anne-Marie has been the ideal combination of member and volunteer. When the editorship of the YURA newsletter fell vacant in 2011, it was Anne-Marie who, unbidden, stepped forward to ask if she might have the opportunity to do the job. What YURA did not know was that "opportunity" in Anne-Marie's lexicon is defined by total commitment, endless energy, a way with people, humour -- and all these qualities complemented by a signature panache and style that have marked the newsletter during the ten years of her curacy. She has increased the number of issues to four per year (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer) and initiated a regular "Reminiscences" column where members write of their childhood and adolescence.



Members have contributed other features besides the reminiscence section. She is always open to these. As editor, Anne-Marie has supplied her own reminiscences, book and film reviews and notes on a variety of health and human issues. She added a humour section to the newsletter which is not only very funny, but bears Anne-Marie's love of wit, marvel at the human comedy, and, often, political point.

Another of her initiatives that appeared when she became editor was the launching of a new on-line, monthly publication, Person-to-Person or PTP. It is a members-only bulletin related to health, well-being, and specific social and medical issues related to aging. Members are invited to participate with reports, questions, and responses related to concerns and preoccupations of YURA members. During COVID, Anne-Marie has often published two issues per month because she is acutely aware of the value of communication and is convinced that such information and simply reaching-out are more acutely needed than ever in COVID times.

It is challenging to place adequate emphasis on what Anne-Marie's work means and has meant to YURA. She is motivated by a genuine empathy for others and her understanding of how keeping in touch is a lifeline to retirees, especially those isolated. During our recent membership drive, she undertook to reach by telephone 100 of our members to encourage them to renew. She did so out of sheer good will and got results. Anne-Marie HAS embraced the drudgery of learning how to set pages, make edits, and incorporate graphics and illustrations to make a publication both professional and pleasing to the eye. She has dedicated even more hours when software is updated, and she has done so in spite of her own vision challenges.

The defining quality of the YURA Newsletter and the PTP is spirit, that is, the energy and joy that emanate from their pages. We talk very easily these days of the importance of communication while often taking for granted its human dimension. Anne-Marie Ambert has never forgotten that dimension. In fact, it's her fundamental *raison-d'être*. YURA, its members, and the publications that she single-handedly oversees are all the richer for it.