



**Thorpe Carriage House
96 West Street
Brantford, ON
Meetings on Fourth Wednesday
at 7:00 p.m.**

| Contents | Pages |
|-----------------|---------|
| Club News | All |
| CFUW/GWI News | 3 |
| Interest Groups | 4 |
| Events | 3, 4, 5 |

Message from the Leadership Team

It was wonderful to be Acting President for the month of January for our Club. I felt very rusty after being away from Executive duties for several years, but was well-supported by all of you who know how to run a meeting, and could call out when I forgot something important like calling for a vote. It goes to show that we don't need to be perfect and that there is a wonderful community of knowledgeable people to help get the job done. My 'month' commitment sped by, and I can now sit back and relax for the year, knowing that I did my part for the Club.

I am chuckling at this last statement because I ended up enjoying myself enough as part of our dynamic Executive, that I volunteered with Penelope J, to form the Nominations Committee. We were delighted to be joined by a new Member, Jennifer MCPc, who will represent the General Membership during the Nominations process. Mieke S has also agreed to participate, and - if you have an interest in joining us - you are most welcome - just contact any one of us. It is enjoyable to look at the work that needs to be done for the Club over the course of the year, and how it can be done - or how it can be parceled into a few jobs so that 'many hands make light work'.

Have you become accustomed to writing 2020 yet? I am still incredulous that it is 20 years since Y2K! Although many argue the decade technically starts in 2021, there is something even - and round - and repetitive about 'twenty-twenty' that appeals to my sense of new beginnings. Like an ideal score on an eye test, I hope the year offers us clearer vision - new insight - a fresh perspective - and a sense of direction. As the world struggles with climate crisis, mismanagement and ethical breaches in politics and big business, we stand on the threshold of a new decade, asking ourselves what history will make of us - our values and the choices we make - the priorities we set - the actions we take - the results we achieve. I will turn seventy this year, and that strikes me as ridiculous, since I am pretty sure I was thirty-five a scant few years ago.

The age seems auspicious though, and I look forward to seeing how I live into the mantle of 'elder' in my family and the larger community, and how I can invoke the wise woman archetype. Again - like being President for the month - coaching is much appreciated!

I hope you will participate in Trivia Night on Wednesday, February 12th, and support our largest fund-raiser for our Scholarship Fund. If you don't have a team, you can talk to Lynn H or Brenda M to see if there are others available. I understand there are some jobs available for those of you who don't 'Trivia' - jobs like scoring the answers, or helping the evening flow.

Our February General Meeting is on Wednesday, February 26th at Thorpe's Carriage House. The meeting starts at 7 pm. Doors open at 6:45.

The Speaker is our own Marsha Skrypuch, Author of Children's and Young Adult books. Marsha has received many honours for her books, including the Ontario Library Association Silver Birch Award, the Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award, the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People, and the SCBWI Crystal Kite Award. Marsha's topic is, 'Ask me Anything! (about being an author)'

This Newsletter article is the last duty for me as your President for January. I am pleased to pass along the President's job to Tish James who is our President for February.

We look forward to seeing you on February 26th.

Kindest regards,
Lin Fines, on behalf of the Leadership Team of CFUW Brantford
Written on January 31st, 2020

Treasurer's Report

Increase in Fees for 2020

The motion to increase our fees by \$6.00 was approved at the November Executive Meeting and notice was given to the membership at the November General meeting. As per our bylaws, it was discussed at the January General Meeting and needs to be ratified at the March General Meeting, by way of Special Motion, approval requiring a two-thirds majority of the members present. The motion to increase our fees by \$6 is based on CFUW National increasing its fees by \$6. We approved this when we sent our vote for the National AGM.

Charitable Donation Receipts

The charitable donation receipts for the scholarship portion of your fees is now available. Thanks go to Angela Huntjens for writing out the receipts. The receipt has been placed inside everyone's name tag. If you do not plan to attend a General meeting in the near future, please ask a friend to pick up your receipt.

Thanks for the extra donations

In 2019-2020 we paid fees of \$115. Of this money, \$15 was a donation to the Scholarship Fund. Based on 85 members, we should have been able to donate \$1275 (85 x \$15) to the Scholarship Fund. Thanks to the generosity of some members who include an extra donation with their fees, we were able to donate \$1917 to the Scholarship Fund from our fees. Thank You!

Mieke



Positions to be Filled



1. Membership:

When you are looking for what you can do for the Club in 2020-21, please consider the Membership Committee. The Membership Chair does the work relative to developing and maintaining the Membership records for the Club, and this takes about fifty hours a year. However, you could break the jobs down into tasks, and find Members who would be willing to do one or more of the following jobs:

If you attend General Meetings and enjoy meeting people, you could manage the name tags at meetings, greet guests and new Members, and respond to questions about membership should someone inquire. This takes about an hour a month.

If you like design, you could design the annual membership renewal package in February and distribute it to the Membership for completions. This takes about ten hours in February-March.

If you like administration or technology, you could take the information from the Membership forms, issue a membership card upon request, collect dues, and forward the pertinent information to the Interest Group Chair.

You could maintain the Membership list and distribute it quarterly to the Members if there are changes. Setting up the list takes 5-10 hours in September. Maintaining it takes a minimal amount of time per month depending on new Members.

2. Secretary:

Secretarial tasks: take minutes of Executive minutes (about 4-6 hours per month); distribute minutes to President for editing; upload minutes to on-line storage (Dropbox); Sit on the Scholarship Committee (about 12 hours per year); collect reports from the Executive, compile the Annual Report; print copies for the AGM, and upload copy to Dropbox (about 10 hours of work in April/May).

News from National & Provincial

Important dates:

- *February 1-28, 2020 – nominations for Board and Regional Directors for the biennium 2020-2022
- * February 4-29, 2020 – Nominations for Ontario Council due
- *February 15, 2020 - clubs to receive proposed draft resolutions package
- *February 16, 2020 - deadline for any club to propose a dues increase (National / GWI)
- * February 24, 2020 - 7pm at Betsy's house to discuss the resolutions.
- * March 28, 2020 – The next installment of the speakers series will be held at Yorkminster park Baptist church in Toronto. The theme is climate change - women helping to make a change. Registration closes March 20, 2020 and remember anyone interested may attend and need not be members .
- * March 8, 2020 – International Women's Day
- * April 15, 2020 – last day to nominate for the Carolyn Day Environmental Award. (Provincial)

Annual Meeting:

Save the date —The annual meeting will be held in Ottawa from June 18 to 20, 2020. The theme is "Our New Century- Our New Challenges."

As a fundraiser for the CFUW Charitable Trust, a Boutique will be set up to sell items to raise money at the annual meeting, by selling articles to delegates. Books, prints, crafts, etc. may be donated, to be sold in the boutique. The Kanata club will manage the boutique.

National issues and committee follow up:

At the January 21, 2020 National Board Meeting a motion brought forward to increase general dues \$2.00 was defeated. It appears that clubs are using governance models that often include co-presidents, and some clubs are using committees. Coming out of Visioning Sessions were the following:

a. Helping clubs with society media; b. helping clubs learn what other clubs are doing for advocacy; and c. reaching out to the north to establish more CFUW clubs.

GWl:

The GWl issue is back as CFUW tries to deal with the monies owing to GWl, for dues. The shortfall between the dues paid and the dues owing stands at \$29,000.00.

Here is where I admit to confusion --- the monies already collected for the 2020 GWl dues are being withheld pending an accounting. I am unsure if the voluntary payments will be forwarded prior to an accounting or withheld until an accounting. From my reading the voluntary payment towards the \$29, 000.00 will be forwarded but it is confusing and I am not sure if I understand this correctly.

As the motion to increase fees payable to GWl failed at the annual meeting, National is requesting members make a voluntary payment. National has advised that there are insufficient funds in reserves to pay the debt and such action would apparently weaken CFUW itself. CFUW itself is not in favour of cutting staff at the National office to use any monies saved to pay the dues.

National is acknowledging that membership in GWl is a contentious issue within CFUW. However, it is asking for a voluntary contribution. Any amounts sent to National shall be forwarded to GWl. The debt is due to be paid in full by June 30, 2020. Clubs can choose to collect the funds OR individuals can send funds directly to CFUW, 331 Cooper St., Suite 502 , Ottawa , ON with a note indicating the funds are for the GWl shortfall.

Of note, there was a recommendation from the National Finance Committee not to support a motion at the 2020 AGM to increase GWl dues, which was accepted by the Board.

Mexico and GWl USA have indicated that they would welcome Canada as a signatory to their memorandum of understanding BUT National has indicated that it is too soon to begin such discussions while still trying to sort issues out with GWl.

Provincial News:

The 2019 Ontario Council Survey re: Public Policy was held in November 2019. The following were ranked the top 5 issues: 1. Healthcare- Long term care, Public Health cuts , home care; 2. Climate change; 3. Poverty and affordable housing; 5. Education and schools- increased class size, funding , mental health support.

Provincial has put together a letter writing package that can be accessed via its website under "take action".

Betsy

Dates and Schedules

Dining Out Group: On Feb 20th we are again staying close to home, this time, going to Paris for dinner at Juniper. Inspired by French Bistros and Lyonnaise Bouchon cuisine, Juniper Dining Co. is a modern fine dining restaurant with a comfortable and casual environment, located in Paris, Ontario.

The **Second Monday Afternoon Book Group** will meet in the boardroom at the Brantford Tourism Centre, Gretzky Pkwy, on Monday, March 9th at 1:30 p.m. We have been having problems co-ordinating this year, and will try to determine if it is better to meet at another time. Bring any book you have recently been reading. New members welcome.

Contact Jean Farquharson at jeanfarky@outlook.com or Marion Weir at 519-752-2872 for more information.

Creative Cookery Group: Joan H. and Janet R. will host our next meeting on February 19.

The **Monday Night Book Club** will meet on Monday, February 17th at the home of Linda S. The book is **By Chance Alone** and the discussion leader is Norah O.

The **Thursday Evening Book Club** will meet on March 5th to discuss the book, **Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens.

Celebrate **International Women's Day** with CFUW Cambridge at their annual breakfast on Saturday March 7, 2020, at the Galt Country Club. The featured speaker will be Shirley Hilton, Superintendent at Waterloo Regional Police Services, speaking about breaking barriers and mentorship in this formerly male dominated profession. The cost is \$50, tax receipt for \$20, payable to Brenda Malvern no later than Feb. 26. Many of us have enjoyed attending this event in the past few years, carpooling once our numbers are confirmed. Please consider attending this event in support of their Scholarships. See the January Newsletter for more details.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Here is the land acknowledgement statement that our club will be using at the outset of our executive and general meetings starting in Feb 2020: "To begin, we recognize that the lands under our feet are the traditional territories of the Neutral, Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee people. These peoples are the original caretakers of these territories. We support the Truth and Reconciliation process, and hope that diverse peoples may better share the land, its wealth, and incredible resources."

Resolutions Announcement :

Anyone interested in discussing the draft resolutions is invited to my house on February 24, 2020 at 7 pm. All are welcome but please call me or email me to let me know if you are coming so I have a sense of numbers. Betsy

News & Reviews

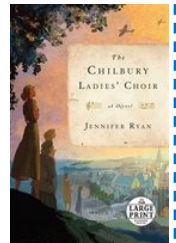
Thursday Evening Book Group:

Both groups enjoyed **Behold the Dreamers** by Imbolo Mbue and gave it a thumbs up. They found the topic of immigration timely. They explored the book's insights into the struggles of an immigrant family and their interactions with the higher 1%, their ups and downs and struggles to work, be a family and find the American dream. Hazel and Mieke



Monday Evening Book Group:

The Monday night book group discussed the delightful novel **The Chilbury Ladies' Choir** by Jennifer Ryan. When the vicar puts up a sign saying that the church choir has been discontinued due to all male voices having gone to war, the women of the village rebel. This is a novel with a delicious cast of ensemble characters set in a small village in 1940 England. It tells the stories of women finding their voices, new courage and camaraderie through the chaos of the war. The book was fun to read and we



all agreed that it had many layers to discover and ponder. Kay

Dining Out Group:

Dining Out At the Abe-Erb craft brewery in Ayr, On.



Creative Cookery Group A: The theme for January 15th



Creative Cooking hosted by Patti was **Just because it sounds delicious!** Lynn made a very decadent Butterscotch layer cake! Betsy's theme for the evening was **Meatless Dinner**. Unfortunately, as the conversation was brilliant and the food delicious, we forgot to take a photo.

Afternoon Bridge: Joan Prior has decided to resign her leadership position of our long standing **Third Wednesday** of the month. She has enjoyed her 9 plus years as convenor. No further Bridge dates have been arranged for the remaining months of this membership year, March and April. If you are interested in taking on this organization and management responsibility please contact Joan at 519 759-4511 and discuss the arrangements with her.

Film Group: A few members met for dinner on January 29th and then went to see "And the Birds Rained Down".

Advocacy Linen Drive: As you are aware, linens were collected for the Whynot Ministries last spring. The last bundle was delivered to a young couple with a newborn baby who received sheets, towels, pillows and baby blankets, as well as a bundle of travel size toiletries. The donation was much appreciated. Thanks to all who helped make this a success. Betsy

2019-2020 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT IN NAME:

- Janet Rubas

ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:

- Jane Binkley
- Elizabeth Capitano
- Lin Fines
- Lynn Haylock
- Tish James
- Carol Kent
- Brenda Malvern
- Anne Martin
- Diane Morgan

PAST PRESIDENT:

- Penelope Jeffery
- Patti Kunashko

SECRETARY: Dian Kuzyk

TREASURER: Mieke Schroeder

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- Advocacy:** Betsy Capitano
- Communications:**
- Interest Groups:** Jane Binkley
- Membership:** Bev Osborn
- Program:** Anne Martin
- Scholarship:** Naomi Kral
- Social:** Norah O'Leary

Announcements:

Trivia Night

Look forward to seeing many of you at **Trivia Night on Wednesday February 12 at 7:30** at the Dunsdon Legion. Thanks for all of your help in getting a record number of teams this year and for all of your door prizes. Remember you can bring a few used books for our sale. Hoping for good weather again.

Gypsy will be this year's Shaw Festival feature for the CFUW Charitable Trust fundraiser for our national scholarships. Event will be held on Thursday April 20 at 2 pm. Tickets cost \$70, payable by cheque, and available only until February 26 (our General Meeting). Please contact Brenda Malvern, or see the January newsletter for more information.

ATTENTION

Our biggest event of the year, the AGM and Banquet will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at the Brantford Golf & Country Club.

You are cordially invited to attend!

We will have a VERY short business meeting followed by a delicious buffet dinner and, as usual, a fascinating speaker! This year we are pleased to welcome

Barbara Hooper, Executive VP, Corporate Development & Treasury, TD Bank

We have had to raise the price by \$2/person, so that means that the tickets will be \$64. We promise you an enjoyable evening in a beautiful venue.

Tickets will be available at the February General Meeting.

Hospitality Team - February

Thank-you to: Mary Laurie Pile, Barbara Scott, Angela Huntjens and Joan Hadley and to team leader Lynn H.



General Meeting: February 26, 2020

Doors open at 6:45p.m.

Meeting Starts at 7:00 p.m.



Speaker: The Speaker is our own Marsha Skrypuch, Author of Children's and Young Adult books. Marsha has received many honours for her books, including the Ontario Library Association Silver Birch Award, the Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award, the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People, and the SCBWI Crystal Kite Award. Marsha's topic is, 'Marsha Skrypuch's path to publication: How the girl who failed grade 4 grew up to be a celebrated author'.



Dynamic Women Can Make a Difference