



Contents	Pages
Club News	All
Interest Groups	3, 4
Locked Down Fun	4
Events	2, 3, 5

Message from the Leadership Team

As I write this today, it is Groundhog Day!! What a silly, frivolous concept but maybe in mid-winter in northern climes we need some lighthearted whimsy!! And who is to say what is more accurate - the weather report or the groundhog? Anyway, the groundhog has good news - only 6 more weeks of winter. Now if only someone could just predict an accurate early end to Covid.

On Saturday January 30 I attended the excellent CFUW Zoom Dialogue regarding participation in GWI going forward. There were 230 attendees from all parts of Canada, with varying degrees of understanding of the issues, as evidenced by the questions. I think that the members of CFUW Brantford are some of the best informed, thanks to our Ad Hoc Committee and a long-standing interest of some members in our National and international involvements.

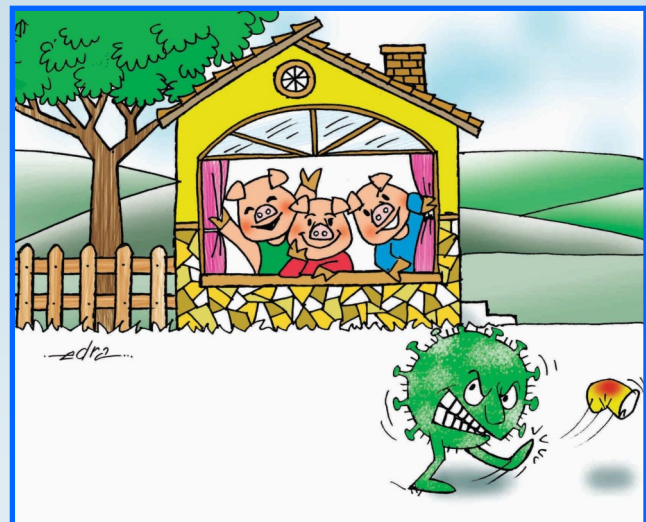
This opportunity for individuals to vote for their club to “stay in” or “opt out” of GWI payments/involvement seems like another great Canadian compromise. Many countries simply left GWI totally, partly because of the same financial concerns that we have, but the Canadian solution allows CFUW National to remain a member of GWI, albeit with fewer supporting members. Furthermore, individual CFUW members who wish to continue to support GWI can do so by joining cfuwcanadagwi.org, a virtual club, or by connecting with a sister club that is staying in. You might want to check this out online before we vote. While many CFUW clubs and members still embrace the goals of GWI in participating in International Development directed towards improving the education of girls and women in developing countries, the financial cost to CFUW is bringing our national organization close to bankruptcy. It is interesting to note that CFUW National is also a member of IAW (International Alliance of Women) as another vehicle for participation in international ventures to improve the lives of girls and women.

Our Ad Hoc Committee on CFUW- GWI Relations has provided

lengthy reports outlining the background and other details for your consideration. Any member of the Committee would also be willing to discuss or clarify these with you, so do not hesitate to ask. GWI information, including goals and projects in developing countries, can be found on their website. The CFUW Brantford Zoom Dialogue to answer your questions or clarify your concerns is planned for the week of Feb. 15. I urge you to find out as much as possible before voting in late February. I think that we all want to put this idea in the rear-view mirror ASAP.

On another note, thanks to so many of you for volunteering to participate in some way in the running of our club next year. Much appreciated response to our call for helpers. Thanks, also, to all of you for your support and patience during my tenure as president in January.

Respectfully, Brenda M.



OPT-IN/OPT-OUT to Pay GWI Dues in 2022



You are invited to attend a Zoom meeting on February 17th, at 3 pm. Zoom coordinates will be sent to CFUW Brantford members by e-mail on Feb. 16th. The vote is to take place by Survey Monkey after the February 24th General Meeting. The objective of the meeting is to share and process information that will help us to make an informed vote. Lin F.



Treasure Hunting Update

The committee is working away at identifying and collecting CFUW Brantford records for our 75th Anniversary. A committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 12th. Lin F.

POWER SHIFT: An Evening with Sally Armstrong

On **February 16th**, join activist **Sally Armstrong** as she discusses themes in her book *Power Shift: The Longest Revolution*. This human rights activist, journalist and award-winning author has covered stories about women and girls in zones of conflict all over the world. From Bosnia and Somalia to the Middle East, Rwanda, Congo, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Iraq, her eyewitness reports have earned her awards including the Gold Award from the National Magazine Awards Foundation and the Author's Award from the Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Letters. She received the Amnesty International Canada Media Award in 2000, 2002, 2011 and again in 2017. She was named the Massey Lecturer for 2019. The lectures and book are titled *Power Shift: The Longest Revolution*. She is the recipient of ten honorary doctorate degrees and is an Officer of the Order of Canada. According to Armstrong, it has never been a better time to be a woman: a fundamental shift has been occurring. Yet from Toronto to Timbuktu, the promise of equality still eludes half the world's population. **Tickets:** \$25 for a single ticket or subscribe to the Speaker Series for just \$40. <https://www.projectembo.org/what-we-do/power-and-potential-women-at-the-forefront/Bottom of Form>

LUNAFEST - A virtual Film Festival

Aurora Newmarket CFUW Club's Charitable Trust is partnering with Soroptimist International Newmarket to put on this fabulous Lunafest Virtual Film Festival in honour of International Women's Day.

The films include profiles of:

- An international women's Arctic ski tea
- A professional women's softball player
- A mixed-media artist
- A 12-year-old separated from her mother at the US border
- A young neuroscientist and her colleagues
- A lifelong angler
- A 93-year-old visual storyteller and accomplished printmaker

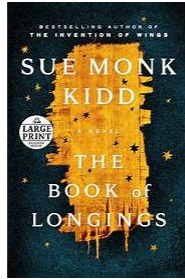
Starting **March 12th, at 7:00 PM**, LUNAFEST films can be streamed any time during a 48-hour viewing window. Proceeds from this event will support the 2021 Charitable Trust educational awards and the Soroptimists' projects to improve the lives of women and girls in York Region. This year marks the 20th anniversary of LUNAFEST. For more info about the history of this event, check out [this video](#).

These seven short films feature strong women, powerful images, and diverse perspectives. Their stories are told by talented women directors from all over the world. [Click here](#) to watch the 2021 LUNAFEST films trailer and [click here](#) for a list of films. What a way to celebrate International Women's Day. Tickets are \$20 and are available now.

[Click here](#) to buy your tickets! Or you can access the site on our [website](#) and click on the button "CLICK HERE TO BUY TICKETS FOR LUNAFEST".

INTEREST GROUPS

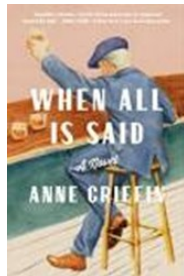
Monday Night Book Club: The group met by ZOOM to discuss Sue Monk Kidd's latest book – **The Book of Longings**. It is beautifully written about Ana, a young teen raised in wealth and privilege who is indulged by her father in her desire to learn to read and write at a time when women were marginalised and invisible. Ana has deep longings in her heart to have a voice and her feisty aunt Yaltha is a strong support and advocate for Ana. The story has a strange twist in that Ana meets and marries Jesus 10 years before he begins His ministry. For some in the group this offered interesting 'what ifs', for others this was very uncomfortable and detracted from the story. However, Ana prevails through many hardships. She finds her voice and leaves a powerful legacy of written stories and insights of many women in Scripture and in her life. Overall, the group gave the book a thumbs up, feeling inspired by the strength and power of a woman who lived a life so full, in spite of culture, condemnation, and limitations.



The group will discuss **The Other Einstein** by Marie Benedict on Monday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m., by Zoom.

Thursday Evening Book Club: The Thursday Night Book Club read and discussed **When All Is Said** by Anne Griffin in February.

In her review of the book, Theresa Smith writes: "At the bar of a grand hotel in a small Irish town sits 84-year-old Maurice Hannigan. Over the course of an evening, he will raise five toasts to the five people who have meant the most to him. Through these stories of joy and regret, tragedy and love, the life of one man is powerfully and poignantly laid bare. Heart-breaking and heart-warming all at once, the voice of Maurice Hannigan will stay with you long after all is said." It is a wonderful novel, filled with Irish humour and punctuated with breathtakingly poignant moments. It is also a study of grief and loneliness and regret. It received a definite "thumbs up" from the Thursday Book Club participants.



Grammy Award Nomination

Our congratulations go out to Trevor Guy, son of Georgia G., for his 2021 Grammy Nomination for **1999: The Deluxe Edition**. The nomination is in the category of Best Historical Album. We wish you luck on March 21, 2021 when the Grammys are presented.

Creative Cookery Group: In January, the Creative Cookery Group met virtually to learn something new and to connect. We watched a video from Cuisinart Canada on cooking techniques and learned about knife skills, stocks, sauces, and soups. It was the first in a six-part series that can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZlgseX7Xo&list=PLYl2s74yMyyclgHYYk9Vp3K8U0D3Tv4pr&index=1>



We then had time to discuss what we learned and to socialize. It was lovely seeing each other again. We plan to do have a similar session in February.



Bridge Group: The first day of February was also the day of our regular Monday evening Bridge playing. Participating were the usual suspects; Rhynda B., Bev. G., Dian K., Brenda M., Anne M., Marla M., Catherine S., and Barb S. Because of an initial technical difficulty, the participation of a volunteer, C.M., was appreciated for the first round. See you next month on the first day of March.

Games Group: The group is hoping to restart virtual games this month. TBA.

TV Program Reviews: What are you watching?



Well, I am watching **Schitt's Creek**, for the third time! I cannot think of a more laugh-out-loud, funny, tender, and understanding series than this one. It is a Canadian favourite and now loved around the world.

If you have not seen **The Trial of the Chicago 7**, it is a must watch movie. It is the story of 7 people on trial stemming from various charges surrounding the uprising at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois. Having lived in Chicago at the time this was going on, it was even more stirring. It is a historical retelling with implications for the present day. Powerful. Janet R.

If you have watched and enjoyed a TV program or series on regular TV or Netflix or YouTube and would like to review it for next month's newsletter, please send your review to Sandra H. by the first Friday of March.

Mental Age Assessment

This test was developed as a mental age assessment by the School of Psychiatry at Harvard University.

Take your time and see if you can read each line aloud without making a mistake. The average person over 50 years of age cannot do it.

1. This is this cat.
2. This is is cat.
3. This is how cat.
4. This is to cat.
5. This is keep cat.
6. This is an cat.
7. This is old cat.
8. This is person cat.
9. This is busy cat.
10. This is for cat.
11. This is forty cat.
12. This is seconds cat.

No go back and read the third word in each line from the top down. Brenda M.

A little challenge...

Beginning with the word **STARTLING** remove one letter at a time, so that you form a new word with each deletion. The letters are not rearranged. Lynn H.

STARTLING

I Am Thankful For:

- (1) being in quarantine because we are safe.
- (2) when the dog wants to walk (again) because I have some company, and getting exercise.
- (3) when my partner complains about always doing dishes because it means she is at home with me
- (4) the taxes I pay because it means I have income.
- (5) ordering food online again because it means we have a reliable supply chain.
- (6) the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat.
- (7) my shadow that watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine
- (8) the snow that needs shoveling, the house that needs cleaning, and the door that needs fixing because it means I have a home.
- (9) all the complaining I hear about the government because it means we have freedom of speech.
- (10) the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking and I have been blessed with transportation.
- (11) my huge heating bill because it means I am warm.
- (12) the cousin who sings off key on our zoom call because it means I can hear.
- (13) the pile of laundry and ironing because it means I have clothes to wear.
- (14) the weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been capable of working hard and exercising.
- (15) the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours because it means I am alive.
- (16) for too much e-mail because it means we have great friends who are thinking of us

Rhynda B.

My favorite 2020 purchase has to be my social distancing service animal



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2020 –2021 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT IN NAME:

•Janet Rubas

PAST PRESIDENT:

•Brenda Malvern

ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:

•Elizabeth Capitano

•Lin Fines

•Lynn Haylock

•Brenda Malvern

•Anne Martin

•Diane Morgan

•Dian Kuzyk

SECRETARY: Gay Henley

TREASURER: Mieke Schroeder

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

•**Advocacy:** Betsy Capitano

•**Communications:** Sandra Hughes

•**Interest Groups:** Jane Binkley

•**Membership:** Dian Kuzyk

•**Program:** Anne Martin

•**Scholarship:** Naomi Kral

•**Social:** Lynn Haylock

♥♥♥
FEBRUARY
♥♥♥

**General Meeting: February 24, 2021, 7:00 p.m.,
by Zoom.**

Program: In lieu of our Trivia Night there will be a Trivia quiz, as well as the “getting to know interesting things about each other” quizzes and an in-depth bio of one of our long-term members.

Our Best Wishes for Recovery!

Patti K. injured her knee at the end of January, but she is on the mend now.



Marsha S's father had a bad fall. He is recuperating in hospital.

Marg S. has also had a fall and is hoping to get better soon.

Thank You ♥

What a blessing it is to have had CFUW friends, including the Creative Cookery Group, help me these last several weeks. I could never have recovered at home from my fall if it had not been for you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart... and the whole of my spine!
Lin F.



Jane B. is moving house next week, after nearly 40 years in the same house. Whew! In spite of a sore back from all the lifting and lugging, she is looking forward to her new apartment at Unit 102, Briarwood Gardens, Brantford. Her email and phone number will remain the same. Jane has already been invited to dinner by Melodie D. All the best as you settle in to your new home!!!

Whew! What a Weekend:

Feb. 12, Chinese New Year; Feb. 14, Valentines Day;
Feb. 15, Family Day; Feb. 16, Pancake Tuesday.

Changes:

Rhynda B. has a new email address: 2aerlb@bell.net
Welcome to our new member, Marjorie S.



It is with sadness that I report the passing of a former member, Betty Inns, on Jan. 25, in Regina, where she had lived for many years after leaving Brantford. I always remember her warm and gracious welcome to me at the general meetings and at the Bridge table. Details can be found in the Brantford Expositor. Brenda M.



Dynamic Women Can Make a Difference