

NOVEMBER



Contents	Pages
Club and Member News	1 - 6
CFUW News	2 - 4
Interest Groups	5
Events	1 - 6

As I review the notes that I wrote for last November's newsletter, the first paragraph ends with this phrase "to almost forget about Covid-19". Really? What was I thinking? Another whole year has passed and some things in our lives have improved somewhat but Covid-19 is still with us and probably always will be, like the annual flu. The biggest positive change is that last year at this time none of us were vaccinated and now most of the general population is double, even triple vaccinated. Controversy still swirls around us about many aspects of the pandemic but, here in Brantford, we are coping quite well overall, thankfully.

The scariest news for 2 families in CFUW was hearing that our children and grandchildren had contracted Covid, mine included, even though the adults had all been double vaccinated. The children, too young to be vaccinated, had been exposed at school and brought it home to the family. The children had very mild reactions or were asymptomatic, but the adults had mild to moderate illness, not requiring medical attention, fortunately. All adults affected lost their sense of taste and smell, for one thing. The lesson here is that, even though vaccinated, one can still contract the disease and become ill. Following health guidelines assiduously is still VERY important to prevent community spread with its accompanying angst.

A year later, CFUW Brantford is still primarily conducting meetings, interest groups or just friendly chat sessions online with Zoom, a very useful tool to keep us connected and something with which we are all very familiar now. Learning how to navigate and participate in Zoom has negated the adage (from 1636!) that "you can't teach an old dog new tricks". Technology continues to occupy our minds and time. Although it is anticipated that we may be able to resume in-person meetings soon, there is still some ongoing, justifiable hesitancy. Therefore, the practicality of combining real and virtual meetings is a goal. If it were to happen, more flexibility would be available to everyone. For example, if bad weather or illness kept someone confined at home, just clicking a simple link would bring her in touch with her friends and the proceedings. Also, speakers can be brought in remotely, if necessary, as was demonstrated at the October meeting when Meghan Cameron provided an excellent presentation on 3

illustrious local women of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Annie Hartley, Charlotte Livingston, and Helen Kinnear. The whole process is being investigated. As well, the project to make available all the member profiles that were done over the past year has not been forgotten. Stay tuned.

I think that we all deserve a pat on the back for keeping the club vital over the past year. For example, it is worthy to note that our membership has remained unchanged at 81 members, despite 2 members who moved away this summer. The club welcomed 2 new members recently and there are 3 more that may be interested in joining the club. What a happy thought!

Regular communications from CFUW National and Ontario Council are received and distributed to the membership. It is reassuring to know that our organization is active and engaged in many worthwhile endeavours and that Canada is the largest affiliate of Graduate Women International (GWI), formerly the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), something that newer members might not know. Stand tall, Canada! We are strong and free.

So much is happening in our own club too. All our regular committees from Advocacy to Scholarship are diligently at work. Many Interest Groups are operating; some still cannot. Three ad hoc committees are working behind the scenes on our behalf: CFUW-GWI, Long Term Care and 75th Anniversary. The Committee planning the gala 75th event that was supposed to happen last May had to change focus and will, instead, be the illuminating and exciting program for November's meeting. Please plan to attend online (again!) to learn about our own history, to reminisce, to rejoice in our accomplishments and to enjoy the 4 long-serving members who will present, along with some PowerPoint slides. We do like pictures, don't we?

A look forward still holds some uncertainty, but we will continue to meet challenges as they arise. It is so very important to stay in touch with one another for mutual support. That sentence holds

special meaning for me as my husband and I took a calculated risk to go to Arizona for only 4 full days to connect with our son and family whom we had not seen face-to-face (except on Face Time!) for 2 ½ years. In December, we are spending a week in BC to celebrate the 90th birthday of a friend. He and his wife drove in the summer from Ontario to live there on the Island. We will also meet our first great niece, born in September and will spend time with friends, including Karen and Bruce Williamson, who moved there 5 years ago. Karen was the person who brought me into CFUW 30+ years ago. Family and friends are paramount. I hope that each of you can experience good times in your lives as well.

I wonder what next November will be like. In the meantime, I wish each of you good health, joy and friendship. Remember, stay positive.....and stay negative!

Anne M.,

President of the month for October

News from CFUW National and Provincial

Advocacy:

Childcare: Ontario Council is asking that we all give the current Ontario Government a push and requests that we all click the link provided to sign the petition Found on the Ontario Council for Better Child Care website.

“TELL FORD AND LECCE TO SIGN THE CHILD CARE AGREEMENT”

https://www.childcareontario.org/sign_the_child_care_agreement

Status of Women: The sixty-sixth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) will take place from 14 to 25 March 2022. This year's priority theme is: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies, and programs. CFUW submitted a Written Statement to the Commission addressing the priority theme. [Click here to read the statement.](#)

Sandra Shaw, Chair of the OC Status of Women & Human Rights Standing Committee, is proposing an **Ontario Council virtual club** whose purpose aligns with CFUW and CFUW Ontario Council to improve the status of women and to promote human rights, public education, social justice and peace. The eClub would meet monthly or bi-monthly via ZOOM to support and develop advocacy initiatives for equal rights for women and girls in Ontario, Canada and globally, including and especially the right to education at all levels for women and girls. To learn more, read the [eClub communication from Sandra.](#)

Up-Coming Events:

November is **Woman Abuse Prevention Month** and the 25th of November is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women across the world. Wear a purple scarf on that day as such is the symbol of the courage it takes a woman to leave her abuser. This event kicks off the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence which run from **25 November - 10 December 2021.**

On Saturday November 27th from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Ontario Council is hosting its second speakers series session. The topic is **The Opioid Crisis**, and the free event will take place virtually. The speakers are Amber Fritz, who is with the Réseau ACCESS Network, and Shawn McLaren who is with St. John Ambulance. Please click [here](#) to register.

Educational Opportunities:

Although Women's History Month was October, Ontario Council has provided some resources researched by the Ottawa club that individual members can peruse at their leisure:

[Towards Equality for Women: A Chronology of Change and Achievement, from the 1870s to 2010.](#)

From *Canadian Living* in 2017, [These 16 Canadian Women are our Heroes.](#) Like the other lists, many are from Ontario.

Canada's [Great Women](#) and [36 More Great Women](#) Toronto Public Library. [23 "Firsts" for Women Working in Ontario](#)

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) National Day of Remembrance was October 4, 2021, but learning about this issue is not just for one day a year and below are resources for self-learning.

[Reclaiming Power and Place: Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls \(2019\)](#)

[Support for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendations including the 94 Calls to Action Five ways Canadians can be an ally to Indigenous communities right now.](#) An interview with the Executive Director of the National Association of Friendship Centres.

Readings on the benefits of **quality day care** are set out below:

Craig Alexander, [Let's get investment in early learning and childcare right](#)

Gordon Cleveland, [FAQ: What's wrong with for-profit child care June 21, 2021](#)

Laurence Martin, Louis Blouin, ['It's not enough': Money at the heart of child-care disagreement between Ontario and Ottawa, sources say](#) October 12, 2021

CFUW is offering a series of **free pay equity** virtual workshops targeted at students and college/university personnel. The series, *"Raising Awareness and Empowering Women through Pay Equity"* will run from October 2021 to March 2022 and seeks to provide diverse women with the tools to advocate for pay equity and engage in salary negotiation to address the gender wage gap. The three-series workshops include:

Pay Equity 'hands-on' Salary Negotiation 'Train the Trainers'

Pay Equity Advocacy Campaign

Each workshop is approximately 3 hours in length and will be conducted over Zoom. There is no cost to participate in the workshops. **To register, participants are invited to [click here.](#)**



CFUW Brantford Draft Policy For In-Person Meetings 2021

Our CFUW Brantford draft policy for in-person meetings will continue to evolve as the province, country, and CFUW National respond to information about Covid, vaccinations, variants, and hospitalizations. Our priority is to keep our members healthy and safe, and to take precautions that minimize risk of contacting Covid, especially with respect to our aging population. You will see that there are some additions from our October newsletter.

Currently, the highlights of our policy AT THIS TIME are:
ATTENDANCE IS RESTRICTED TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN
DOUBLE VACCINATED.

1. Be prepared to show proof of double vaccination at all CFUW Brantford in-person events
2. All members must wear a mask at all times at CFUW in-person meetings, practice social distancing, use hand sanitizer, and ensure that your priority is to minimize the risk of Covid transmission to your colleagues.
3. If you are not fully vaccinated, you may not attend in-person events.
4. If you have a medical exemption from vaccinations, you may attend in-person events, if you wear a mask at all times and stay six feet physically distanced.
5. If you are feeling ill or have been in contact with someone who is ill, do not attend in-person meetings until you have tested negative for Covid.
6. If you have been in contact with someone who has Covid, do not attend in-person meetings until you have isolated for fourteen days and tested negative for Covid.



CFUW Brantford, Executive Team

HELEN HOWELL AND THE MAPLE ARBOR FOUNDATION

Helen Homes Howell (1915 – 1982) was a long-time active member of the University Women’s Club of Brantford, as it was then called.



Helen lived her life at Maple Arbor, her family’s 200-acre farm in Onondaga Township, where an early interest in history and archeology was nurtured as she and her family regularly discovered arrowheads and other indigenous arti-

facts in the fields. She was an accomplished student who majored in classical Greek and Latin on a scholarship at McMaster University. In the years following her graduation, she taught students in Caledonia and Burford and at Pauline Johnson Collegiate in Brantford.

Displaying a scholar’s interest and enthusiasm, she continued throughout her life to audit courses at McMaster and to travel extensively to ancient sites, especially with the Virgilian Society, led by Dr. Alexander (Sandy) McKay of McMaster University. She also found time to attend several triennial conferences of the International Federation of University Women. One of those same conferences – held in Karlsruhe, Germany -- was attended by Janet Kempster’s mother as the National President of the South Africa Federation of University Women. Years later, when Janet’s mother was visiting in Canada, Helen of course invited the two women for a visit at Maple Arbor.

When Helen was still in her early teaching years, her parents died within five months of each other. With her usual determination, Helen decided to combine two careers and to continue to operate the farm with the help of a farm manager. The farming responsibilities lasted the rest of her life, as did her pleasure in entertaining friends and former students in her home there.

Beyond her commitment to the CFUW club, she took an active role in the Canadian Club of Brantford and the Canadian Federation of Women’s Institutes. She was an avid reader and loved to attend concerts and plays.

When Helen began to establish the Maple Arbor Foundation in her last years, her dream was to have it support a lecture series; “conversations” was the term she preferred. These informal occasions were to present speakers with ties to Brant County who had achieved prominence in their field; she wanted the audience to be primarily young people who might be encouraged in this way to pursue their own dreams. The name “Maple Arbor” was to be in memory of her ancestors who had established the homestead in the 1830s. The Foundation was to be administered by the Brantford branch of CFUW. Before Helen’s plans could be completed, she became very ill. There had been some discussion of the establishment of scholarships if her original plan could not be fulfilled. Helen would be very happy with the fact that, since her death in 1982 until today, the Maple Arbor scholarships have represented her desire to support and encourage young students.

After her death, CFUW-Brantford honoured her memory by inviting her friend, Dr. Sandy McKay, the highly respected Classics professor, to speak at a General Meeting on a topic that would represent Helen’s interests. This former Princeton professor may be the most distinguished scholar to address our Club. Helen would be pleased.



Carol K.



How Will You Make a Difference This Holiday Season?

Sponsor a Family

Determine your budget or team capacity: family size varies so sponsors can request maximum persons in family or number of families to be sponsored.

This personalized option will provide you with a list of items to help make your sponsor family's holiday season a little more merry and bright.

Donate Gift Cards

Requested Values: \$10, \$25 & \$50

Suggested Stores: Giant Tiger, Walmart, Grocery Stores, Best Buy, Canadian Tire, Sport Chek, Indigo, Toys R Us, Visa or MC, Local Eateries, and Businesses.

Make a Financial Donation

Donations can be made online at canadahelps.org or by contacting a member of our Community Development Team. You can request how you would like us to direct the funding.

For Everyone's Safety

- Due to COVID-19, we cannot accept physical donations without an appointment. Last date to donate is December 23..
- Donations are placed in quarantine for a minimum of 2 days before they can be forwarded on to recipients.
- We can only accept items that are new, in original packaging, safe (check expiry dates), and unwrapped.



Hope for the Holidays

Thank you to all those who have contributed thus far to our project to provide Christmas funds to women and children who are living in Nova Vita.

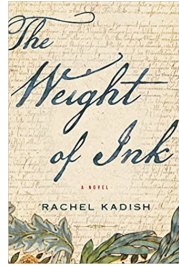
Because of Covid, they are once again asking for cash or gift cards as donations. If you prefer an E-transfer, please send it to Lin F. Cash, gift cards and cheques made out to Nova Vita can be mailed or handed to Lin F., Janet K., Maria T or Bev G. Charitable receipts will be provided. Please contact any of us for assistance.

As the plan is to present our club donation to Nova Vita in early December, we have set a deadline of November 30th for your donations.

On behalf of the committee, Bev G.

Interest Groups, Scholarship and Survey Results

Monday Evening Book Group: If you like historical fiction then this is the book for you. The plot oscillates between the choices and sacrifices of a brilliant woman in the 17th Century and an academic in the early 21st Century who discovers her work. The characters are richly drawn and the story of the two women is full of suspense and surprises. The author's prose and extensive research is remarkable. Our group highly recommends this book, which is available at the library. Linda S.



Thursday Evening Book Group: Artificial intelligence is no longer the stuff of science fiction. It is evident in and permeating every aspect of our society today from AI assistants or "chatbots" like Alexa and Siri and Google maps in your car that redirect you around traffic jams, to fully functional industrial model robots that operate our machinery. In Ishiguro's book, the narrator is an AI "friend". Klara is a life-like android who has been designed to be a companion and friend for an ailing child. Klara is an intelligent and emotive robot and through her eyes, she looks for patterns of human behaviour to explain her different perceptions of the world around her. We learn her interpretation of human actions and interactions as the author examines the question "what makes a person a human"? Is it something within the person or is it something inside those who chose to love that person? Ishiguro thinks that people are not aware enough of the impact and implications of AI and that people must start to engage in discussions at a moral level, such as...at what point should there be discussions about the human rights of AI entities? This is a book in which the author examines human nature through the eyes of a robot, Klara, who has been programmed to be "human" by a human.



Rhynda B.

Monday Evening Bridge Group: The group played online Bridge on Nov.1, using the BBO site, with 4 additional players, so that we had 3 tables. Thanks to Dian K., Anne M., and Catherine S., for setting up the tables and helping all of the players to be able to log on successfully. We are expecting to use a different online site called "Trickster Cards" for playing in December so that we can have a better experience by having real time conversation using the audio feature. We are still hoping to play in person in the New Year, following Covid guidelines and precautions.

Brenda M.

Games Group: A small group meeting was held November 11th at Patti K's. The next meeting will be tentatively next Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Marsha S.

Scholarship Report for November 2021



The winners of the **CFUW Award A Scholarship** for Secondary School Students were:

Kiana Lowes – Pauline Johnson Collegiate

Erika Fasan - St. John's College

Jaimie Salih – North Park Collegiate

Cindy Ly – North Park Collegiate.

Each student graduating from Grade Twelve received \$1,000 to support their university education.

CFUW Award B Trust

The winner of the Award B for mature students was Alicia Moffat. Alicia is returning to university to finish her Honours year at Brock University. She has been an active volunteer in the community. It was important to her to finish her degree.



Maple Arbor Award

This award is given to the top two academic students graduating from Grade Twelve. This year's recipients are Eddie Olender from Brantford Collegiate Institute and Veronica Larrazabal Zea from St. John's College.

Special thank you to all the CFUW members who donated so generously to the Scholarship Fund when they paid their membership fees. It is very much appreciated. Naomi K.

Survey Results re: Allocating Funds for International Initiatives

Thank you for your participation in the Survey Monkey respecting the allocating of funds for international Initiatives. There were two separate questions to be answered. Forty-three members responded.

The first question asked if the member was in favour of distributing the funds equally as between the five international organizations profiled at our September General Meeting. Thirty-five voted in favour of distributing the funds to be returned by CFUW National in January 2022. Of the other eight votes, five voted against, and three skipped the answer.

The second question asked members if they were in favour of keeping the funds in the CFUW Brantford Budget until recommendations are received from CFUW National. Ten members voted for keeping the funds in the budget, 27 members voted against keeping the funds in the budget, and 6 members skipped the question. Therefore, the motion to distribute the funds passed and the motion to keep the funds in the budget was not passed.

Outcome: The Executive will direct the Treasurer of CFUW Brantford to pay to the five organizations that support the rights, freedoms, and education of women and girls in third world countries, equal shares of the \$1,714.30 once received from CFUW National. Betsy C.

2021 –2022 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT IN NAME:

- Elizabeth Capitano

PAST PRESIDENT:

- Brenda Malvern

ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:

- Elizabeth Capitano
- Lin Fines
- Maria Timmons
- Adrienne Roberts
- Anne Martin
- Catherine Sawyer
- Bev Golden
- Jenny DeAlwis

SECRETARY: Gay Henley

TREASURER: Maria Timmons

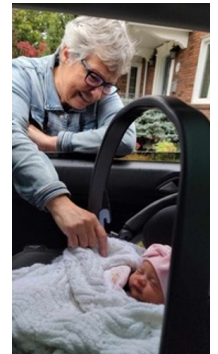
STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- Advocacy:** Elizabeth Capitano
- Communications:** Sandra Hughes
- Interest Groups:** Jane Binkley
- Membership:** Dian Kuzyk
- Program:** Anne Martin
- Scholarship:** Naomi Kral
- Social:** Rotating



Update

Congratulations to Lin F. on the birth of Ellie, her first granddaughter, born October 29th to Ryan and Cristine, a baby sister for 3 year old Asher and cousin to 3 year old Colton. "I met her in my driveway because visitors were not allowed at BGH.... quite a contrast to our experience three years ago when we could hang out in the Maternity Ward."



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Now for the program planned for the General Meeting on November 24, 2021 at 7 pm on Zoom.

"Reflections on 75 Years", a series of 5 short vignettes by 4 CFUW members on the origin of the club and its first meeting in 1945; the 50th anniversary project, "Significant Lives, Profiles of Brant County Women"; the operation of campaign schools to encourage women to seek political office; and scholarship, a cornerstone of our existence.

Come and reminisce, be enlightened and enjoy our history, complete with pictures.



Congratulations to Dr. Leslie L. on her retirement.



Our condolences to Joan P. on the passing of her brother and to Ellie G. on the passing of her sister-in-law.



The committee is exploring options and will report on their plans in the New Year.



Dynamic Women Can Make a Difference