



HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Contents	Pages
Club News	All
Activities	3
Interest Groups	3
Events	1-4

The day this week that I sat down to start writing this article I was awed by the brilliant sun creating a sparkling diamond effect on the snow and it reminded me to always **appreciate** the ever-changing beauty of our natural environment. Despite so many disturbing events happening in our world over the past 2 years, it is **reassuring** to take **comfort** and **soothe** our souls in the **pleasurable** moments of our lives, such as I describe above. One, of many, other **enjoyable** activities in my life is my membership in CFUW for over 30 years. In the past 2 years especially, it has been an anchor for many of us with regular monthly meetings still, albeit online, remote conversations with friends, opportunities to **learn** more about each other, to touch base with those who are alone or struggling in some way and to foster a **strong, cohesive** organization in CFUW Brantford. As with the various media that gather information to summarize at the end of every year, I thought it would be helpful to **reflect**, review and provide a memory retrospective of the past year, 2021.

CFUW National and CFUW Ontario are onboard with communication efforts by providing:

- (1) frequent, informative updates through Club Action Newsletters and Ontario Council News that are usually forwarded to all members. There are some people who find these messages superfluous. My recommendation is just to make the delete button your best friend, although these missives are worth a quick scan before you delete them. You might just find a valuable tidbit of information!
- (2) educational opportunities online, such as the October 2, 2021 Speakers Series: Protect, Elect and Respect Canadian Women in Politics that included three compelling speakers including keynote speaker, Senator Marilou McPhedran, and
- (3) Ad hoc dialogue sessions with National over such issues as GWI. One session was held on January 30, 2021 with 230 attendees from across the country that led to a vote from each club whether to opt in or opt out of payments to GWI. Our

club voted to opt out.

Within our own club, some activities and Interest Groups continued, some did not and still others were intermittent, depending on the 'rules of engagement' mandated by the government(s). As well, throughout 2021 and going forward, 2 ad hoc committees of our club, Future Directions for CFUW Brantford 2020-2022 (Chair, Lin F.) and Long-Term Care (Chait, Marg E.), continued their **diligent** efforts to monitor, **participate** and report back at our regular meetings. Many more capable women work behind the scenes on our behalf, including Marsha S. who created and updates the website and who also monitors the club emails, all of the Interest Group leaders, Sandra H. who compiles the professional looking newsletter, the Executive members, the Presidents of the Months and others.

We have always looked forward every year to the annual meeting and banquet at the Brantford Golf and Country Club in May but, because of the global situation beyond our control, for the second consecutive year, it was not possible, not even in September 2021! Instead of the carefully planned gala celebration in recognition of our 75th anniversary, in November, we were treated to an excellent presentation on the history of our club by a masterful committee of "those in the know". Some day we will still have a **celebratory** cake, I promise! Will it be May 2022? Who knows? Even CFUW National is planning another virtual AGM in August 2022, although CFUW Ontario Council is, so far, hoping to hold a 'real' AGM in Kitchener in May. My guess is that plan will have to be changed too.

Another memorable occasion usually occurs in December every year, as you know. A **social** gathering is held in someone's beautifully decorated home where we can all eat, drink, **be merry, talk** and rev up for the Christmas season. Unfortunately, the evening of **fun** together was not to be... again... except on Zoom. So, on December 15th, about 36 members logged into the party. Everyone was comfortable at home with their favourite beverage, some were dressed up...

or down with an “ugly” sweater and, despite my own trepidation, off we went on a relaxing, overall well-received journey. As a reminder of what has been occurring at almost every meeting for more than a year, one more PowerPoint “Guess Who” slideshow was presented on Jocelyn L. What a fascinating life she has been having! Many of you may remember the CFUW Christmas Party many years ago held at her lovely country home, including our significant others/partners. Then, Lin F. and Anne M. led the group through a series of Christmas related questions (see below) about our experiences over the years. **Conversation** flowed easily, **laughter** spiced the evening, **good memories** were rekindled and wonderful stories told.

To end the evening a **heart-warming, inspiring** story was read. The author, Leslie Rush of El Paso, Texas starts off this way. “In our family, we have a special way of transitioning our children from receiving from Santa, to becoming a Santa, so that it is not about discovering a lie, but about coming of age and an unfolding series of good deeds that embody the Christmas spirit.”

If anyone’s interest is piqued to read more, I would be happy to forward the short story, written 10 years ago, to you. To close, nowhere have the words, Covid, pandemic, lockdown, vaccination, Omicron, etc., been used. Did you notice? As well, throughout, I have highlighted in red words that convey positive images or thoughts. Hopefully we can maintain a **positive** outlook, **nourish** our relationships and lean on each other for **support**, if necessary. CFUW Brantford is **vibrant** and **strong** and has so much to offer each of us in different ways.

Happy New Year to all and may 2022 be kinder to the world.

Anne

President of the Month, December 2021



Message from Treasurer

Tax receipts for 2021 Scholarship donations will be sent via email over the next few weeks. They will be sent from my personal email mtimmons4653@gmail.com. If you have not received your tax receipt by Feb 15, 2022, please check your spam folder and if you do not see it please contact me directly at mtimmons4653@gmail.com. If your email has changed since you completed your registration form, please contact me and I will ensure your email is updated on our membership list.

Maria T.

Ad Hoc Committee on Long Term Care Update

On December 6th the new LTC Homes Act 2021, received Royal Assent. “The Providing More Care, Protecting Seniors and Building More Beds Act, addressed both residents living in long-term care (LTC) and those in retirement homes (RH). The few changes that were made within LTC addressed:

- establishing in law the commitment to provide an average of four hours of direct care per resident per day by March 31, 2025, with increasing interim goals to increase care
- establishing new compliance and enforcement tools, including doubling the fines on the conviction of an offence
- strengthening the Residents’ Bill of Rights to align with the Ontario *Human Rights Code* and recognizing the important and ongoing role caregivers play in resident health and well-being

Within the retirement homes those changes made were about:

- providing better quality care for residents, and better protection for those in unlicensed homes
- improving protection for residents against financial abuse
- strengthening the authority of the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority (RHRA), to be a more effective regulator and administrator of the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010*.

What the Ontario government is doing is:

- investing \$4.9 billion over four years to support more than 27,000 new positions in long-term care, including personal support workers, registered nurses, and registered practical nurses.
- providing an additional \$72.3 million over three years to increase enforcement capacity including doubling the number of inspectors across the province by 2022–23.
- investing \$6.4 billion to deliver 30,000 net new long-term care beds by 2028 and about 28,000 upgraded long-term care beds across the province.

Since COVID was first detected in Ontario, **4,430 long-term care residents** have died after being infected, amounting to 44 per cent of the province’s 10,036 COVID deaths. An Independent Commission was formed in 2020 which subsequently made 85 recommendations regarding long-term care in Ontario. The new LTC Act has addressed a very small portion of those recommendations. The real meat of this new LTC Act will lie in the Regulations which will now be revised. These Regulations will be developed over the next few months and will have a public consultation process in its development phase.

CFUW Brantford Ad Hoc Committee on LTC



Our Christmas Zoom Party

The members who joined the Zoom event enjoyed a lovely social time, including a Christmas Quiz that got an animated response from the group. Questions like the following got us all talking and reminiscing:

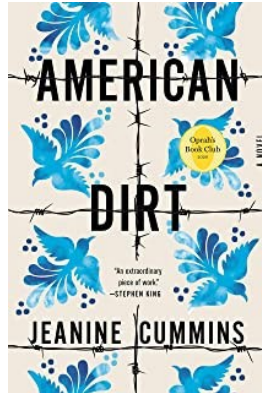
- * Show of hands if you have celebrated Christmas outside of Canada? If yes, in Europe or somewhere with palm trees?
- * Do you, or anyone in your family celebrate their birthday on Christmas Day?
- * What was the best thing that Santa brought you as a child?
- * What is your favourite dessert or sweet at this time of year?

Thank you to the program team for a special Christmas party!

INTEREST GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

Interest Groups:

Monday Night Book Club: The group zoomed to share their responses to *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. The novel hooks you from the first page, with its plunge into the experience of one middle class Mexican woman as she struggles to protect her son and survive the wrath of a Mexican cartel. The group felt that the story opened our eyes to the desperation that drives people to try to escape to 'American Dirt' in the hope of safety and a decent life.



Thursday Night Book Club: Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Dai Sijie This very short book about two teen-age boys' experience of re-education in the remote countryside of Mao's Chinese Cultural Revolution, provided a wonderful backdrop from which to think about our cultural and economic relationships with China today. Through their theft of a suitcase of French classic

literature, they sought to make their isolation more bearable and used the books to impress the daughter of the local tailor. The symbolism of the violin and the alarm clock as bourgeois luxuries illustrated that no one (the village headman, the peasants, the boys, the former opium dealers) really accepted the limitations of Mao's communism.

Our conversation touched on how the Chinese political penchant for the long view over centuries has shaped their progress towards becoming a global economic power today. In this context, we reflected on how challenging it is to find common ground between Asian and North American socio-economic cultures at a nation level, while at the same time many of us have cherished individual friendships that span diverse cultural differences.

The Bridge Group:

The first Monday of the new year saw the continuation of the online Bridge games. Participating were Rhynda B., Bev G., Dian K., Brenda M., Anne M., Marla M., Catherine S., and Barb S. Thanks to Dian K. and Anne M. for setting the table and recording the scores. See you next month on the first day of February.



World Awareness Group: On the third Monday of the month, World Awareness members have been enjoying some social exchange while giving ourselves a little mental workout as we discuss topics like food security, justice and equality issues, a guaranteed annual income, and reconciliation.

For a break from the heavier topics, the focus of the November Zoom was on "the positives" we have observed, even during the pandemic months.

In the January meeting we will be discussing Telehealth and developments in digital health practices.

The Walking Group: The walking group met on Tuesday, January 5th. A group of 10 women had a nice winter walk around Glenhyrst before deciding to suspend their group walks until further notice.

The Games Group: This group has decided to suspend their meetings until further notice.

Email: cfuwkanata.ca

