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I am not unhappy to say goodbye to the long and irascible month of March that has teased us with warm sunny days and taunted us on others with cold, wind and snow.

March is named after the Roman God of War, and that seems appropriate as this March has been a bad month for peace, hope, and stability in the World. It has seen the continuation of the invasion in Ukraine, ongoing fighting in Ethiopia, continued ethnic violence in South Sudan, the deaths of predominantly women and children in the conflict in Yemen, and the horrid and abusive treatment of women and girls in Afghanistan including the closing of girls' secondary schools shortly after their reopening.

March saw the passing of our CFUW friend and longtime member Melodie Daboll. It is wonderful that our club has the amazing profile of her that was put together by the program committee.

March also saw International Women's' Day events, the first day of Spring and, lower Covid rates and hospitalizations. We can only hope that the lessening of the Covid restrictions is the beginning of the end of this pandemic.

As we head into April, we can look forward to our first in person general meeting since the onset of the pandemic. Further, April is full of National Days that may put a smile on your face and they include: April 1 - April Fool's Day; April 5 – Dandelion Day; April 7 --- Beer Day; April 10– Golfers Day; April 12-- Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day; April 15 --- Laundry Day (I for one am NOT celebrating that day); April 19 --- Wear Your Pajamas to Work Day (Although this could be every day for those of us working from home during COVID); April 25 – Zucchini Bread Day; and finally April 30 --- Mahjong Day.

Happy April all



Respectfully submitted, Betsy C.

Educational Opportunities and upcoming events :

1. Tackling the Environmental Crisis :

Canada and the world are facing devastating environmental problems that make us feel overwhelmed and unsure about what to do and where to start. To learn what we might do and encourage others to do, join Kanata , Nepean and Ottawa clubs to hear practical advice from three inspiring speakers who will focus on how individuals can take action. Please register to join us for a series of free webinars on **Wednesday evenings 7 p.m. (ET) on April 6th, 13th, and 20th, 2022.**

Click this link to register for each webinar: <https://cfuwkanata.ca/Tackling-the-Environmental-Crisis>

Click here to view the event flyer with webinar descriptions!

2. LEADERS' DEBATE April 12, 2022 @ 7pm-9pm

On Equal Pay Day, April 12, 2022, Ontario Equal Pay Coalition will be hosting a debate with three of the leaders, Andrea Horwath (NDP & Official Opposition), Steven Del Duca (Liberal) and Mike Schreiner (Green Party). Premier Doug Ford has another event.

This event will be live streamed over multiple video-streaming services. [Equal Pay Coalition ask that you register](#). Just click . The event will also be found on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/EqualPay>

3. May 13 and 14, 2022, Ontario Council in-person conference hosted by CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo. Full registration \$150. Friday only registration \$40. Saturday only registration \$110. Accommodation information is available at the Registration website.

The Agenda for Friday May 13 is as follows : 4 to 8 p.m. Registration; 6:30 to 8 p.m. Workshop **Leadership Succession - Recruitment & Development**; and 8 to 11 p.m. Evening social - entertainment by **Silvia Dee & the Boyfriends**

Agenda for Saturday May 14 is as follows: 7 to 8:15 a.m. Breakfast Speaker - Heather Keller, PhD *So Now What? How do I eat to optimize my health and quality of life as I age?*; 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Annual General Business Meeting; 10:45 to 12 noon Keynote Speaker - Mrs. Sharon Johnston, PhD *The Exceptional Strength of the Protagonist Woman*; 12 to 12:45 p.m. Lunch; 1 to 3:15 p.m. Speakers Series; 3:30 to 4 p.m. Wrap Up. All are welcome and to register click the link here REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Your Action is Needed !!!!

Ontario All-Party Leaders' Debate on Women's Economic

Justice: Closing the gender pay gap is the government's responsibility. That's why the ON Equal Pay Coalition is asking Ontario's party leaders how they plan to show up for women this election. Help put the pressure on them to attend the Equal Pay Day Leaders' Debate by emailing your MPP. [Click here to send a letter to your MPP!](#)

National Long-Term Care Services Standard Public Review

Questionnaire: Health Standards Organization (HSO) is seeking input on the draft National Long-Term Care Services standard ahead of March 27. [Click here to read the draft standards and complete the review questionnaire!](#)

Betsy C.

Melodie Daboll

DABOLL - Melodie (nee Joelson)

Passed away peacefully after a brief illness at Hamilton General Hospital on Friday, March 25, 2022, in her 83rd year. Melodie is predeceased by Marvin (2018), her husband of 56 years. She is survived by her children Julian (Lara), Mark, and Hilary (Craig Johnson), Cathy Pujol (Yanick Plamondon), and Anita Menon. Loving and proud grandmother to Spenser, Mel, Léa, Kristopher, and Sera. Melodie loved travel, and she and Marvin enjoyed many adventures together. As a coordinator for a student exchange program, she placed and hosted exchange students from different countries, many of whom became lifelong friends. She loved reading, and that love inspired her to become an English teacher, and later to open the Brantford Bookworm. She was a devoted member of University Women's Club and the BCI Alumni Association. Melodie adored music and played piano beautifully; she was accompanist for the BCI Glee Club during her high school years. She took enormous joy and pride in her children and grandchildren's musical accomplishments and was a familiar face at the Kiwanis Music Festival. After Marvin's diagnosis with Parkinson's Disease in 1996, Melodie slowed some of her other activities to devote more time to caring for him. Although mobility became an issue after Marvin's death in 2018, Melodie kept busy with bridge, reading, University Women's Club, her family, and her church.



Melodie was a firm believer in service to community through her work as a school board trustee, Trillium Board member, the Brantford Library Board, the Brantford Symphony Orchestra, Animal Aid, as well as her dedication to the work of St. Andrew's United Church. Her lifelong volunteerism remains a legacy and inspiration.

A memorial service was held at St. Andrew's United Church. For those unable to attend, the Memorial Service will be on Facebook Live on the St. Andrew's Facebook page.

The CFUW Brantford Scholarship Committee has decided to present the Award A Scholarship in Melodie's name this year, to honour her memory.

GWIFUNDS

The executive requests written submissions from individuals who would like to identify international grassroots organizations that they are affiliated with to be the recipients of the dues that previously were provided to GWI. These organizations should support the rights, freedoms, and education of women and girls internationally and, in particular, third world countries. These submissions should be emailed to Cfuwbrantford45@gmail.com by September 15th to be reviewed at our September general meeting.

Maria T., Treasurer

Membership Renewal 2022 -2023

Thank you so much, members, for staying with our organization through another Covid-19 year. With the help of technology, we were able to enjoy virtual Executive, General Meeting and most Interest Groups. I must confess, I rather liked staying cozy at home with a cup of tea or wine on a cold winter night while participating in my CFUW activity.

Our Club extended companionship and intellectual stimulation to our members which served to ease our isolation during the health crisis. I hope the health situation will improve in 2022-2023. Also, we were able to continue our Scholarship awards to promising young girls through your support.

I will be sending out the membership forms soon. The fee remains the same for 2022-2023. Please remember to complete the Interest Group section. Thank you to the leaders of the Interest Groups who have offered to volunteer their time. There have been some changes to the groups, so please make note of them as you complete the form.

I hope to see many of you at our Annual General Meeting and Banquet, in "Person" at the Brantford Golf and Country Club on Wednesday, May 25th. Please mail or take \$60.00 to Bev G. at 15 Jubilee Ave. Brantford N3T 4Z4, phone 519.753.2364 for your ticket.

I will be presenting the certificates for our long standing members so please come and celebrate with them!

Respectfully, Dian K.

Hats Off to Volunteering

On behalf of the membership, a Nominations Committee is formed every year to perform an important task — to identify who is willing to sit on the Executive for the coming year. We were delighted to learn that the President in Name, the Presidents for the Month, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and the Chairs of Communications, Membership and Social all volunteered to stay on for another term.

Pretty soon two people agreed to work together to be the Co-Chairs, one pair to head up Program and the other pair to chair Scholarship. In addition, a member volunteered to Chair the Interest Groups.

In our conversations with people, we were heartened to learn that the people who chair the individual interest groups have either volunteered to continue for next year or have found replacements. We also heard from quite a few people that they were prepared to work on committees or projects such as the All-Candidates Meeting should we decide to organize an evening for the upcoming election.

The Nominations Committee has two more positions to fill, Past President and Chair of Advocacy. Ideally, the Past President knows about Roberts Rules of Order, the meeting management process that CFUWs use across Canada, and sits on the Scholarship Committee.

The Chair of Advocacy needs to strike a committee each Spring to review the resolutions sent to us from National on behalf of clubs across Canada. Ideally, the Advocacy Chair would form a committee that would also review local, provincial (Ontario Council) and National issues and suggest action to the membership. The Nominations Committee is asking if you would volunteer for either of these positions or think about sharing the job for example, would an interest group take on Advocacy as an extension of their group?

The reality is that many of the members we have spoken with are dealing with health issues, providing care to a family member, or feel that a leadership role is too daunting now. However, most said that they were happy to be worker bees. Perhaps it would be less daunting if the Advocacy Chair were considered a coordination role - simply scheduling a meeting every few months or corresponding by e-mail. Just as Zoom has transformed our meeting process, perhaps it is time to think differently about Advocacy.

The Nominations Committee would like to thank all the members who had conversations with us regarding the roles for 2022-23, for those who agreed to chair, and for those who said they would be happy to provide helping hands. We have six weeks to think creatively about how to fill the Past President and Chair of Advocacy positions. Please contact one of us if you have recommendations.

Kindest regards,

Your Nominations Committee:

Norah O., General Membership,

Maria T. and Lin F., Executive Committee



HELP



A Plea for Help!

Dear members of CFUW Brantford ,

We are again in a situation where we do not have enough volunteers for the monthly president position. We are short 5 volunteers . We on the executive know how much this club means to all of you. However, to keep the club as a viable entity we need more volunteers, pure and simple.

Do not be afraid or shy, we on the executive help each other, and will provide assistance to the president of the month. We need volunteers.

If you want to know more about the president of the month please reach out to Betsy Capitano, Lin Fines or anyone who has been president of the month this past year.

Respectfully , the Executive of CFUW Brantford



Events

Tackling the Environmental Crisis Together We Can

Please join us for a series of free webinars
April 6th, 13th, and 20th at 7 p.m. (ET)

Canada and the world are facing devastating environmental problems that make us feel overwhelmed and unsure about what to do and where to start.

To learn what we might do, and what we might encourage others to do, please join us to hear practical advice from three inspiring speakers who will focus on how individuals can take action.

April 6th: REBECCA PRINCE-RUIZ Co-author of *Plastic Free*. Founder of the global *Plastic Free July* challenge that in 2021 helped an estimated 140 million participants in 190 countries (900,000 in Canada) reduce single-use plastic and learn how to be part of the solution to plastic pollution.

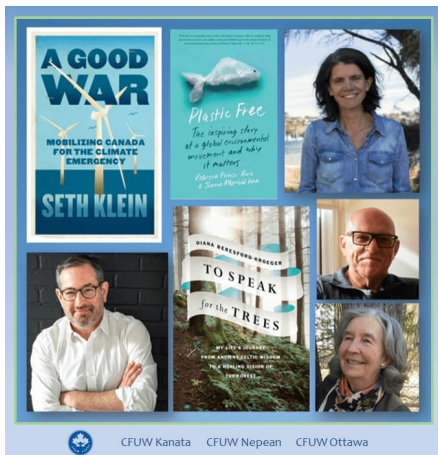
April 13th: DIANA BERESFORD-KROEGER *To Speak for the Trees*, in conversation with Bill Steer from [Canadian Ecology Centre](#). Trees are essential elements of our environment that enable and sustain life on our planet. Respect and nurture of our forests is critical to ensure our own survival.

April 20th: SETH KLEIN *A Good War - Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency*: Change that creates jobs and reduces inequality while tackling climate obligations. Seth shows us a bold, practical policy plan for a zero-carbon Canada.

Webinars are free and open to the public - Registration is required

Further details and to register: <https://cfuwkanata.ca/>

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) of Nepean, Kanata, Ottawa



The **Grand River Grannies** are finally selling Tea and Treat boxes for Mother's Day. Pre-paid orders only - cash, cheque or credit. One box for \$25 or two for \$45 - limited number available - order yours soon! Check the website: grandrivergrannies.com for details, email Jen: dealwis31@gmail.com, or call Susan: 519-750-4250 for more information. Jen D.

Spring Concerts:

Fire & Water

Tuesday, May 10,
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm,
\$40



The Brantford Symphony Orchestra is planning a spring concert on May 10 at the Sanderson Centre to end their 2021-22 season. For more information, please check their website at:

www.brantfordsymphony.ca or contact Aida Steenkist at: administrator@brantfordsymphony.ca.



The Brantford Symphony Orchestra's Book Fair Committee

announces with regret that their annual in-person sale, scheduled for April this year will not take place due to ongoing concerns with the effects of the pandemic.

The Book Fair typically raises between \$45,000 to \$60,000 in support of the Brantford Symphony Orchestra's concerts and for their school and long-term care programs. Because an in-person sale could not take place due to the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, two on-line auctions were held in 2021. These raised a total of approximately \$10,000. Another on-line auction will take place April 22 through April 30. The auction will offer books and music items which will be available to view on-line starting April 9. The BSO appreciates the support it receives from the community.

Lynn H.

Interest Groups

Monday Afternoon Book Group: Our book club never gets around to sending in a report, so here's one for next month's newsletter to make up for our slackness.

The Monday afternoon book club is a small but mighty group that meets via Zoom on the second Monday of the month at 1:30pm. We don't preselect books but instead, we each talk about the books we've recently read and enjoyed. Here's a partial list of books that were discussed during the last couple of meetings. And special bonus: most are available at the library and many in audio. Authors with + after their name indicates multiple book faves by same author:

The First Kennedys, Neal Thompson

Belleweather, Susanna Kearsley+

My Darling Husband, Kimberly Bell+

The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel by Kati Marton

The Maid, Nita Prose

Dining Out Group: The Mush Hole

On March 30th, nineteen of us - the Dining Out Group and friends - attended a performance of **The Mush Hole** at the Sanderson Centre. Our group had not met for two years and decided to start up again with a theatre performance.

Based on the traumatic testimonials of two generations of Survivors, Santee Smith, Founding and Managing Artistic Director created this profoundly moving interpretive dance. that was performed by the Kaha:wi Dancers. The all-Indigenous cast, along with the cinematic imagery and musical score, catapult audiences into the residential experience.

Most of us were familiar with the Mohawk Institute - the residential school that sits beside current-day Woodland Cultural Centre. We knew that it is the oldest operating school, running from 1828 to 1970. We knew that it was mandated by the Government and operated by churches for the purpose of assimilating children from Six Nations and surrounding Nations into Euro-Christian society and sever the child from Native Culture, Family, and Language. Many of us had attended lectures and read books and knew that some of the children had been subjected to abuse. We even knew that the children called the Mohawk Institute "The Mush Hole" because they were fed oatmeal that was laden with maggots. But this performance - like all fine art - was a visceral experience, and it had a profound impact on us, and has fundamentally deepened our understanding of the impact that the residential school had on the children and their families.

The consensus was that this very heavy experience was profound and impactful; and we highly encourage everyone who has not yet seen it, to attend The Mush Hole when they have the opportunity in the future. Joan H.



Bridge Group: Monday Afternoon Bridge: On Monday April 4, 8 members played Bridge in person – after 2 years!! We enjoyed the company and the spacious surroundings in the Social

Room at Brierwood Apartments. Thanks to Jane B. For hosting us. We are hoping to continue to play at this location in May and June. 4 other members continued playing online Bridge. Brenda M.

Thursday Evening Book Group: We met via Zoom on April 7, to discuss the book **"The Paris Library"** by Janet Skeslien Charles.

Based on the true WWII story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris, France from a unique perspective. An unforgettable story of romance, friendship, family and the power of literature to bring us together. This historical fiction novel is a **dual timeline story.**



1939 Young and ambitious **Odile Souchet** secures a position at the American Library in Paris just as the war breaks out. When the Nazis march into Paris she stands to lose everything she holds dear. Together with her fellow librarians, Odile joins the Resistance with the best weapons she has – books. But when the war finally ends, instead of freedom, Odile tastes the bitter sting of unspeakable betrayal.

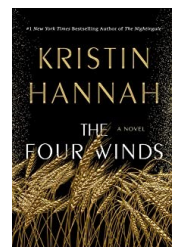
1983 **Lily**, a young girl in gossipy small-town in Montana, the neighbor of Odile Souchet. Her interest is piqued by her solitary, elderly neighbour. As Lily uncovers more about Odile's mysterious past, she finds they share a love of language, the same longings and the same intense jealousy. As Odile and Lily become friends, we learn more about Odile's regrets from wartime, being careful to guide Lily away from the same mistakes that have haunted her since the war. Roma M.

Walking Group: April 12's weather was lovely so members of the walking group took advantage and later enjoyed coffee at the Windmill. Norah O.



Monday Evening Book Group:

Next Monday, April 18, we will Zoom to discuss **The Four Winds** by Kristin Hannah. Linda T. will be the discussion leader. Kay R.



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

April 27th General Meeting

Location: Zoom

Time: April 27th, 7:00 p.m.

Program:

The speaker for the April 27th General Meeting will be **Lesley Smith**, the Horticulture Technician for the City of Brantford. She will focus on 2022 being the **Year of The Garden** and will discuss general gardening, incorporating native plants, drought tolerant planting and ways that the average homeowner can participate in this yearlong event. She will also bring some cuttings and will do a cutting demonstration. Don't miss it! At the executive meeting there was discussion about the meeting scheduled for April 27, 2022. Unfortunately, given the rise in COVID numbers a decision has been made to hold the April 27, 2022 general meeting by Zoom. It is better to be safe than sorry! So, we will see you all in May :)



Our condolences to Barb M. on the passing of her husband Emidio on March 21st, at home with family and friends.

All the best to Jen D. and Joan H. who are both moving house this month. We wish Jen the best in Guelph and Joan the best at Charlotte Villa. We are delighted that both ladies will continue as active members of CFUW Brantford.



Brantford Annual General Meeting and Banquet 2022

Location: Brantford Golf and Country Club

Date: May 25, 2022, from 4-8 p.m.

Ticket cost: \$60

Cash bar

Musical Entertainment : Vern Payne with his group Pleasant Ridge
Buffet meal: The chef will address food allergies such as gluten and have vegetarian options. Let the social committee know so we can alert the BGCC kitchen. (Every allergy may be beyond their scope)
Parking: The golf cart will be available again this year to circulate through the parking lots for easier transport to the clubhouse.

Your cheque or cash should be mailed or delivered to Bev G. or Lynn H. It needs to be received by May 7th so the Social Committee can firm up arrangements.

Many thanks to the Interest Group contacts and other club members who provide news and pictures for the newsletter. If you have updates about members concerning important family or personal events like births, deaths, marriages, special celebrations to share with the members, send them to Sandra H. or Betty Anne W. for May.



The due date for articles and photos for the May Newsletter is Friday May 6th.



Dynamic Women Can Make a Difference