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Once again, time has grown wings and flown with great speed through the year and we find ourselves already in the last month of 2022. While winter days lie ahead, I believe that many of us are still feeling the benefits of an exceptionally warm and spectacular fall. Nature smiled on us again when she gave us a particularly gentle and pretty first snowfall in mid-November.



We have been blessed these past few months to be able to meet in person at General Meetings or interest group activities and thus been able to enjoy the benefits of warm and rewarding personal interactions. Some of us have preferred a more cautious approach, attending meetings from the safety of our own home. A huge thank you goes to Anne Martin who made this possible, and never gave up on the idea of setting up hybrid meetings, in spite of the many technological challenges thrown in her path.

To date, we have enjoyed a very interesting program, due to the hard work and enterprise of the Program Committee, and we look forward to more yet to come. A shout out must also be made to the Social Committee, without whom we would not have our meeting refreshments or our end of year banquet (which will be held on May 24, 2023 at the Brantford Country Club).

Our club continues to reach out to those who need help. The Scholarship committee has selected a very deserving 2022 Award B recipient (see details later in this newsletter). Our members have generously supported Nova Vita again this year, raising \$1500 and still counting. A cheque will be presented on December 7. Soon we will be tapping into the generosity of our members once again for Trivia Night, which takes place on February 9, 2023. This Fundraiser offers an evening of great fun and fellowship as well as friendly competition, with proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund. And, of course, at the October meeting, we voted to donate that portion of our annual dues allocated for international endeavours to the four worthy organizations outlined in the last newsletter.

We are pleased to have welcomed some new members, and many thanks to Lin Fines for initiating a membership drive this fall. We

encourage members to continue to spread the word about the many benefits of joining CFUW Brantford.

Special thanks to Sandra Hughes who co-ordinates and publishes our monthly newsletter. Our gratitude is also extended to Marsha Skrypuch who has redesigned our website and keeps it up to date, and also monitors our email. Further enhancing communication is the resurrection of our notice board which will be put up at General Meetings. Members can use it to post announcements, information about community events of interest, and news items about our own members.

We add our thanks to those who lead interest groups, ad hoc committees and to members of the Executive Team. They are essential to the ongoing successful operation of our club. I must extend a huge thank you to Lin Fines for her unwavering support and advice in helping me navigate through my first experience as President of the Month. More volunteers are needed for the months ahead, and to those thinking about stepping up, be assured that you will receive all the support you need from those who are already familiar with this role.

A final shout out to Anne Martin who offered her home for our annual Christmas gathering on December 6, and also to Maria Timmons who is doing double duty as President of the month for December and January.

On behalf of the Executive Team, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and the making of special memories to treasure in years to come.

*Janet Kempster, President for November*

### Remembering the Montreal Massacre:

December 6, 2022 marked the 33rd anniversary of the École Polytechnique massacre (also known as the Montreal Massacre). Fourteen women were murdered simply because they were women. We remember the victims of the Polytechnique massacre. Their names were Geneviève Bergeron; Hélène Colgan; Nathalie Croteau; Barbara Daigneault; Anne-Marie Edward; Maud Haviernick; Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz; Maryse Laganière; Maryse Leclair; Anne-Marie Lemay; Sonia Pelletier; Michèle Richard; Annie St-Arneault ; Annie Turcotte.

## SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee recently assessed two applications for the CFUW Brantford 2022 Trust Award B (our award for mature women who are pursuing further education).

We are pleased to announce that Paramjit Kaur was the successful candidate and has been awarded \$1000.

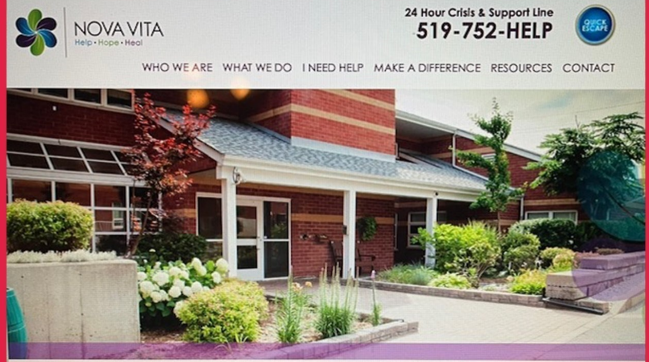
Paramjit immigrated to Canada on her own when she was nineteen for a better life, a brave move as she had no family here at all.

She attended school during the day and worked full-time at night. She has worked as a nurse for the past seven years. Her goal is to become a pediatric nurse practitioner and is currently studying at the Athabasca University (which is virtual) in the Bachelor of Nursing program.

Paramjit demonstrated a high academic achievement and an interest in helping others through her volunteer activities and has financially helped those in need.

Paramjit has drawn much inspiration from her mother who went against cultural norms in raising her daughters with a good education and a sense of ambition - something that was denied to her.

Janet K.



Thank you for participating in  
Nova Vita's  
**Hope for the Holidays** campaign

**CFUW Brantford Raised \$1,800.00**

Thank you for your generosity - always - and especially at this time of year. We will be presenting a cheque to Nova Vita on December 7th.

*Beu G., Janet K., Maria T., Len F.*

Your "Hope for the Holidays" Committee



### Reminder to send news for our Website and Facebook page.

We have an active and vital club with lots going on every month. Please send photos from your interest group activities along with a brief description to Sandra H, Mary P, and Marsha S so that

we can keep our website, newsletter and Facebook page up to date. Please send articles and photos to Sandra H. for the newsletter, Marsha S. for the website and Mary P. for our Facebook page, with a copy to our club's e-mail address: [sandra.hughes@sympatico.ca](mailto:sandra.hughes@sympatico.ca) , [mskrypuch@gmail.com](mailto:mskrypuch@gmail.com) , [marypitchford@gmail.com](mailto:marypitchford@gmail.com) and [cfuwbrantford45@gmail.com](mailto:cfuwbrantford45@gmail.com)

#### Format:

**FOR THE NEWSLETTER:** Sandra asks that you create a Word document or create a text and jpeg using Calibri 10 font and send it by e-mail as soon as the event happens or at least by the first Friday of the month for inclusion in that month's newsletter.

**FOR THE WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE:** If you think your article would be of interest to people thinking of joining our club, or the general public, all Marsha and Mary need is a brief blurb in the body of an email and a photo attached in jpg (jpeg) format. Take a look at the website and Facebook page for ideas. Let's celebrate our club's activities!

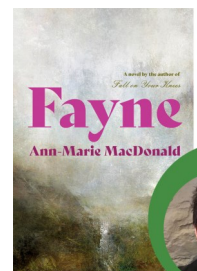
## Events

Don't miss **Ann-Marie MacDonald**, award-winning novelist, playwright, actor, and broadcast host, in conversation with Susan G. Cole on **Thursday December 8 at 7:00 p.m. EST** as part of our newest [online event series](#).

Ann-Marie MacDonald's writing for the stage includes the plays *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*, *Belle Moral: A Natural History*, and *Hamlet-911*. She is the author of the bestselling novels *Fall on Your Knees*, *The Way the Crow Flies*, and *Adult Onset*. In 2019 she was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in recognition of her contribution to the arts and her LGBTQ2S+ activism.

**Fayne**, her first novel in eight years, is "a tale of science, magyk, love and identity".

This event will be held online, and will feature closed captioning. If you are unable to attend the live event, please register and you will receive a link to watch the recording following the event.



# Keeping CFUW Brantford Viable and Vital

We hope you have created opportunities to forward the membership invitation to people and organizations that you think may benefit from membership in our Club.

Our goal is to reach a membership of 100 in 2023. Evidently 100 is an indicator that a club is sustainable over the long term.

Please share our newsletter with family and friends over the holidays, and extend invitations to come to a General Meeting as your guest.



**cfuw** THE POWER OF WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER

**Are you a Brantford woman who values education and human rights?  
Do you enjoy socializing with other women who share your interests?**

**Consider joining CFUW Brantford, welcoming women of all ages and stages, regardless of education.**

CFUW Brantford has about 80 members from a diverse range of professions and backgrounds. We welcome any woman who shares an interest in education and human rights. We provide an easy way to meet people if you are new to Brantford, newly retired or interested in feeling part of a new community.

Our General Meetings are on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month at 7 pm. They are hybrid meetings, allowing members to meet in person at Thorpe's Carriage House or by Zoom. The meetings feature a guest speaker and a quick business portion, followed by refreshments and social time.

We have a Scholarship Trust from which we allocate awards to graduating high school students as well as mature students. Our interest groups are hugely popular: Books, Bridge, Food for Thought, Golf, Creative Cooking, Dining Out, World Awareness, Film, Games, Caregiver support, and Walking.

For more information, please visit our website: [cfuwbrantford.org](http://cfuwbrantford.org) or e-mail [cfuwbrantford@gmail.com](mailto:cfuwbrantford@gmail.com)

## CFUW NATIONAL

CFUW is a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization with over 100 CFUW Clubs, located in every province across Canada. Since its founding in 1919, CFUW has been working to improve the status of women, and to promote human rights, public education, social justice, and peace.

**95+**  
Clubs Across Canada

**7,500+**  
National Members

**\$1M**  
Annual Scholarships

**100+**  
Years of Advocating for Women's Rights

## November General Meeting Spotlight

The CFUW Brantford General Meeting Program on November 23, 2022 featured Hannah Blackburn, Police Officer with Brantford Police Service, and Shelly Prendergast, a Victim Support Worker with Victim Services of Brant. Their topic was Human Trafficking, a serious and disturbing fact of life in Canada today, including Brantford and Brant County. The target is mostly girls, many of whom are very young, and women. The audience was very attentive to the PowerPoint presentation and had several questions afterwards. The dedication and commitment of the presenters to this grisly topic is to be admired as they work to gain the trust of affected persons and their families, to refer them to community agencies that can help and to educate the public.

The phone numbers to call if you have questions are listed below.



Zoom view of meeting.

## Member Spotlight

We are pleased to share some exciting news about one of our members, Marsha Skrypuch, and her in-person book launch for *Winterkill* at 6pm at the Brantford Public Library on Thursday Nov 24th. Here's the Expositor article about it:

<https://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/news/local-news/author-aims-to-build-empathy-in-young-readers>



Photo by Naomi K.

Green Heron has a good selection of my books and I'll be going in there and signing their stock. The book *Winterkill* is available via any bookstore in Canada or the US. Marsha S.

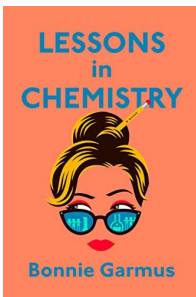


## Interest Groups

### Monday Evening Book Club: Review of November book:

On the 17th of October, we gathered at Dian K's house to discuss the novel *The Forest of Vanishing Stars* by Kristin Harmel. This novel is about an abducted child named Yona who is chosen to act as a saviour for refugees persecuted by the invading Nazi army in the Naliboki Forest, which is located in the western part of Poland. Yona is raised in the forest and learns to survive in these harsh natural conditions under the guidance of her abductor, Jerusza. It is a tale of daring, bravery and the triumph of hopeful perseverance over adversity. Woven throughout the narrative is an element of fantasy, as the main characters often act on their instincts of extra sensory perception attuned to the natural world of the forest. As a group we discussed how this novel might be further categorized as to genre. It is simply designated as historical fiction, yet could also well be seen as a factual account of the Bielski brothers, during the Second World War, who set up a camp deep in the forest to save Jewish refugees. Elements of fantasy are also in evidence throughout the narrative, with a reference to Jewish Fairy Tales being listed in the bibliography.

The group would all recommend this novel to others and very high ratings were expressed. Comments included admiration for Yona, the saviour, and the gripping details of the story. Others indicated a certain discomfort with the inhumane cruelty described, while others learned a great deal of information about surviving in the forest. Certainly, it is a tale both distressing and inspiring, that could be appreciated through a range of perspectives. Barb P.



*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus is a story following a feminist heroine through her days at Hastings Research Institute in the 50s to being an American day-time TV cooking celebrity in the early 60s.

Elizabeth Zott is a promising chemist, but in the world of men and their egos they are not ready for her. Garmus creates a ferocious and resilient character in Elizabeth. When she is fired from her chemist job for being pregnant and unwed, she builds herself a lab in the kitchen. When the job to be a cooking host comes up, she incorporates chemistry into her teaching. The novel deals with sensitive topics and the sexism Elizabeth battles. Elizabeth takes on the battle by practising pure equality. The book showcases an array of different people, their positions in society, their privileges and prejudices, but also their fight and desires. And yet there is humour and hope!

The book has a number of quotes but I will choose only two: "If a man were to spend a day being a woman in America, he wouldn't make it past noon" and "Courage is the root of change – and change is what we're chemically designed to do."

Naomi K.

**Creative Cookery:** We met on ZOOM hosted by Natalie P. The topic was sharing favorite Christmas cookie recipes. Lively discussions ensued about why these recipes were memorable. It was decided to have a "cookie exchange" at our December 14th Christmas lunch at the BGCC."

**Bridge Group:** The Bridge group met on November 7th, the first Monday of the month, again playing online. We had three tables of Bridge this time which was a very enjoyable afternoon. Although we didn't see each other we were able to play with our audio on which allowed us to have conversation as we played .

The next Bridge game will be the first Monday of the month, December 5th.

**Dining Out:** Our Dining Out Group chooses to attend the Holiday Party in December in lieu of dining in a restaurant.

**Thursday Book Club:** The Thursday Night Book Club discussed *The Narrow Door* by Joanne Harris. The author (most acclaimed for her work *Chocolat*) has written this psychological thriller as a dialogue between Roy Straightly, elderly Latin Master, and Miss Buckfast, new head mistress of the school. Through this dialogue, the author explores the idea that the past controls what we do, shapes who we are and cannot be hidden away from forever. The predominant themes of gender, memory and trauma and the clash between old and new were discussed in the context of women entering a man's professional world. "Men walk in through the main gates. Women have to improvise. All we need is a narrow door." Suzanne M.



**Games Group:** The Games group met on Monday, November 28 at the home of Barb S

### Announcements at General Meetings

Beginning in January, we will be re-introducing the announcement board at meetings.

You are welcome to bring flyers or information sheets about any events that you think would interest our members. As was our practice, we will highlight announcements at the end of the business portion of the meeting before we break for refreshments.



## 2022 –2023 EXECUTIVE

### PRESIDENT IN NAME:

- Elizabeth Capitano

### PAST PRESIDENT:

- Lin Fines

### ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:

- Elizabeth Capitano—June, July, August, February, Second 1/2 May
- Lin Fines—September
- Anne Martin—October
- Janet Kempster—November
- Maria Timmons—December, January
- Bev Golden—March
- Catherine Sawyer-April, May first 1/2

### SECRETARY:

Lin Fines/Maria Timmons

**TREASURER:** Maria Timmons

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- Advocacy:** TBD
- Communications:** Sandra Hughes
- Interest Groups:** Roma Makkreel
- Membership:** Dian Kuzyk
- Program:** Linda Tripp
- Scholarship:** Janet Kempster/Lynda Stamer
- Social:** Bev Golden



## Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 6th

Thank you for your overwhelming interest in celebrating in person this year after two years of Zoom. And a very special thanks to Anne M. who has graciously agreed to host the party in her home.

All RSVPs have been received, and participants are bringing finger foods - appetizers and desserts. BYOB

**DATE:** Tuesday, December 6th

**TIME:** 5 PM to 8:30 PM

We hope you will wear your Santa hat or ugly holiday sweater. Please car pool to save congestion on the street. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Bev G or anyone on the Social Committee.

## Thank You !

A resounding thank you to Anne M. for hosting this year's Holiday Party in her home.

More than thirty members will enjoy appetizers and desserts, holiday cheer, and much laughter at the 'ugly Christmas sweaters' or 'Santa hat' themes of the party.



**WE'RE BACK.** The Trivia Committee, with the go-ahead from our executive, is planning a

comeback of our popular quiz game evening to be held Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at our usual venue, the Dunsdon Legion on Tollgate. There will be something for everyone - cash prizes for the winners, door prizes, Heads or Tails Event, plus pizza and pop and amazing and challenging trivia questions, all for the low price of \$25 per person/\$100 per table of four. We need your enthusiasm to encourage your family and friends to be on your winning team. Entry forms will be available in January, Please help to support our Scholarship Awards and have a fun evening with friends and club members.



It is with very deep and heartfelt condolences that we share this sad news with our membership.

Rhynda and her husband Tony B. lost their 46-year-old son Robert very suddenly and unexpectedly a few days ago. He leaves his loving parents, wife Karen, and two teenage sons Ryan and Henry.

Marsha S's father, Marshall Forchuk, passed away in his 94th year at the Brantford General Hospital on November 13, 2022. Please see the link below for further information about his most interesting, successful and full life, many years of which were spent here in Brantford.  
<https://www.mcclesterfuneralhome.ca/obituaries/Marshall-Forchuk?obId=26356400#/celebrationWall>

cfuw  fcfdu



*Dynamic Women Can Make a Difference*