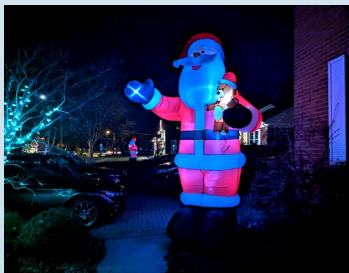




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Happy 2024 🎈

As we reflect on the past year and all the strife in the world around us we need to remember the good things around us. We are learning how to live with COVID and, while a number of our members were impacted by this nasty virus over the holidays, hopefully everyone had some joyous times with family and friends. We had a great crowd at the Holiday Potluck which was graciously hosted by Leslie L. Leslie's home was a beautiful venue. Those in attendance got to see all the inflatable Santas on Dufferin Avenue.



We have welcomed many new members over the last year which is great news for our club. We are currently gearing up for our Trivia Night fundraiser and hopefully we will have 30 teams like we did last year. My registration is in so please sign up your team if you haven't already done so.

We have had some great speakers this year at our General Meetings thanks to the hard work of the Program Committee and I am sure the speakers for the upcoming months will be excellent also.

Looking forward to working with you all in 2024.

President for December and January
Maria Timmons

THANK YOU, CFUW BRANTFORD!

Thanks to the generosity of our members, on December 6th, CFUW Brantford presented Nova Vita with a donation of **\$3,000.00** for their **2023 Hope for the Holidays campaign**. Serving Brantford and the County of Brant for over 40 years, Nova Vita provides trauma-informed emergency shelter, outreach support, and counselling services to individuals and families experiencing abuse, as well as counselling for individuals who have caused harm in their relationships. Throughout these four decades, CFUW Brantford has supported Nova Vita with sponsorships, volunteering, and initiatives such as Basketeers, International Women's Day events, and annual events.

Hope for the Holidays was introduced in December 2020 in response to the Pandemic and the alarming escalation of domestic violence. To date, over the four **Hope for the Holiday** campaigns from 2020 to date, we have raised **\$9,235.00** to help Nova Vita make a difference for women and families who are in Nova Vita's care during the Holiday season.

Here are a couple of comments from the women who were in the shelter last year after receiving our donation:

"Wow, the holiday gifts and gift cards are incredibly helpful at such a stressful time of year. Thank you....we are moved by your kindness. I don't know how to express it well enough."

"The love care and support we received ...was over the moon. I can't wait to see what the future has in store for us because of every one we have met here. Thank you!"

"My Kids thought they were at a "kid's hotel" where they played and learned with new "teachers."

"...I felt safe and valued. Food was fantastic too."





We were a lively group, enjoying delectable finger foods on December 13th. We had more than 19 appetizers and 13 desserts. Some people identified what kind of appetizer or dessert they were bringing but most were a mystery and who doesn't love a mystery at a potluck?

A big thank you to Leslie L. for hosting the party in her home! It was a pleasure to chat with members and enjoy their tasty creations!!



**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS**
and Happy New Year!



Your Feedback is Requested re: CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024

We have been unsuccessful (for several years!) in finding volunteers to work on revising CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2013. For the purpose of brevity, we will use A&B as a short form of Articles and Bylaws.

CFUW National realizes that expecting clubs to follow their development of their 2013 National A&B was 'overkill' for small clubs - like ours - that are not incorporated. It has been cumbersome for small clubs to keep their A&B current because of changing times, and largely because of the content from other organizations that was imbedded into National's 2013 document.

CFUW National sent us a 4-page format for A&B that was developed by their newest club.

The Executive has spent a few weeks comparing the modern A&B sent by CFUW National with our club's 2013 A&B. We have developed a draft entitled, '**CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024**'. The objective is to develop a document that is descriptive versus prescriptive, that reflects how we have evolved as a club over the past decade, and is robust enough that it will stay current and relevant over time.

Our existing A&B 2013 has a section entitled Amendments that outlines the steps to take to make changes.

We propose to make a Special Motion to approve the '**CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2014**' at the April General Meeting or the May AGM (to be determined).

A Special Motion requires approval by two-thirds of the membership at the April Meeting, hence explaining the significant amount of information-sharing/processing that supports our members in making an informed vote.

The Leadership Team will take the following steps:

1. Provide a draft of the proposed **CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024** to the membership by email in January 2024, explaining the proposed changes and the reasoning behind the changes. Members will be asked to review the draft A&B 2024 and submit their recommendations, questions or concerns to the President of the month or email cfuwbrantford45@gmail.com with the subject "Feedback re CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024". Please watch for the email this month entitled, "Draft CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024". Members will be asked to provide their input by February 10th, 2024.
2. We will continue to refine the document based on your feedback received by the 10th of February and March and send the updated draft before the General Meeting of the respective month.
3. At the March General Meeting, we will allocate fifteen minutes to discuss the final draft of the A&B 2024.
4. The proposed **CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024** will be sent by email to the membership on April 15th, 2024 advising that this is the document that will be the subject of the Special Motion, with information regarding whether the Special Motion will be made at the April General Meeting or AGM.

Special Motion: Given that CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2013 is over a decade old and that recommended updates span at least eight (8) years, it is moved that the aforementioned document be replaced with CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024.

We hope this is a good start for addressing the decade-long challenge to create and maintain a robust constitution for our club that withstands the test of time.

(continued on page 4).

Articles and Bylaws 2024 (continued)

Here is some information that you may want to consider:

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, CFUW National conducted a comprehensive update of their Articles and Bylaws, and invited clubs to use their national document as a prototype to update their constitutions. CFUW Brantford formed an ad hoc committee commissioned to develop 'CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2013' to be approved at our 2013 AGM.

In the past decade, we (CFUW National and individual clubs) have learned a few things:

1. CFUW National realizes that their National 2013 document was 'overkill' for small clubs that - like Brantford - are not incorporated and not subject to the level of scrutiny and rigor that CFUW National is, as a federally incorporated, registered not-for-profit organization.
2. CFUW National's Articles and Bylaws are updated annually at the AGM. For small clubs like Brantford, updating the constitution is a daunting undertaking. As a result, our existing document is badly out of date. We have a file of recommendations for updates from our previous Executive and individual members that date back 8 years!
3. CFUW National's Articles and Bylaws outlines specific jobs and functions that are required at the national level, and not necessarily reflective of how smaller clubs are structured. In 2013, we followed CFUW National's lead and adopted these jobs with specific job descriptions and duties. BUT these jobs are not how our club operates. For example, we no longer have a Vice President, some of our club's duties are shared, some of the functions are performed by different Executive. Smaller clubs have come to realize that a robust constitution outlines basic duties that have to be fulfilled, and leaves it up to the incumbent Leadership Team and the annual Nominations process to identify how best to organize to meet the ongoing duties and emerging needs of the club.
4. CFUW National incorporated Robert's Rules into their processes as their chosen meeting management protocol. The problem is that Robert's Rules is an external and separate organization. Every time Robert's Rules updates their processes, CFUW's Articles and Bylaws become out-of-date, and are updated annually at the National AGM - a daunting task. CFUW clubs are not required to follow Robert's Rules. CFUW clubs adopt a meeting management process that works for them, with decisions/motions recorded in meeting minutes, and kept in a central location for reference.



NOMINATIONS FOR OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR 2024-25

Don't be shy! You can make a contribution to our club by volunteering for next year's leadership team. Minimal time and experience required.

BUT FIRST - we need a Nominations Committee to develop a roster of candidates. Please contact cfuw-brantford45@gmail if you are able to dedicate a few hours of your time to the Nominations process in the next two months.

The Reverend Nora Elizabeth Fueten (nee Clemons)



We are saddened to hear of the passing of one of the longtime members of Brantford CFUW --Nora Fueten, sister-in-law of CFUW member Pat Clemons. Nora had been leading the World Awareness group, and she was much admired for her thoughtful and wise comments, her pleasant smile, and her leadership. Many did not know of her illness. Her obituary in the January 13th Brantford Expositor outlines her life story. [Nora Fueten | Obituary | Brantford Expositor \(remembering.ca\)](#) Nora's early and later life at Blue Lake inspired her love of nature and the environment. Many of us were unaware of her long, successful music career in piano, organ, and as a choir leader, her work in opera, but were aware of her later calling to the United Church of Canada. She was ordained in 1988 and served until 2023 in several local churches. Nora's interest in politics led to her running as a Federal Candidate for the Green Party in 2008 and 2011. Norah actively worked to make this world a better place and will be sorely missed.

Jean F.

Family and friends will be received at the McCleister Funeral Home, 495 Park Road North, Brantford on Friday, January 19, 2024 from 2:00 - 4:00 and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. A memorial service will be held at First United Church, 16 William Street West, Waterloo, ON on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Cremation has taken place. A private graveside service will take place at St. George Cemetery, St. George, ON at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the United Church of Canada Foundation or to a charity of your choice. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.mccleisterfuneralhome.ca McCleister (519) 758-1553



Tax Receipts

Tax receipts have been issued for 2023. They were distributed in person at the November General Meeting and at various events through November and December. For those not in attendance at any of these events they were emailed in January from mtimmons4653@gmail.com. If you have not received your tax receipt please contact me at that email address.

Maria T.

Information about the International Charities CFUW Brantford Supports: CUSO

Last year more than 1.9 million people around the world benefited from CUSO International projects and of those people, 66% were women and girls.

In Peru, a local organization Hatun Willaqkukuna, an ally of CUSO International partner Manuela Ramos Movement, is working to improve women's rights as well as sexual and reproductive health. Fostering entrepreneurial and empowered single-parent heads of households who live free of gender-based violence is one of their many initiatives. By raising hydroponic crops, women can achieve greater economic autonomy and secure a better quality of life for themselves and their families. A space in their own home is sufficient to grow produce that is fit for consumption. Dina is one of 20 women taking part in this hydroponic training. She sells her produce at the market and earns her own income. She also gets to connect and socialize with other women in the community.



Women in Peru are working hard to be heard, to be seen and to influence decisions that affect their rights, their families and their futures said Elena Soriano, program manager with CUSO International in Peru.

Since the program, CUSO International's Women's Voice and Leadership in Peru, started in 2020, 1,154 women have successfully completed training schools; 520 women's and girl's rights defenders completed psychosocial and self-awareness programs; 29,445,800 people have heard of the program.

The CUSO focus areas are:

- strengthen gender equality and social inclusion
- improve economic resilience through sustainable solutions
- advance climate action

Thank you again for donating to this organization which has a very special place in my heart.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev G.

??? 2024 TRIVIA NIGHT ???

What is the longest river in the world? Who played Deputy Sheriff Barney Fife? It's that time of year again... Time for **Trivia Night!!** We know that you've spent the last year studying and are ready to demonstrate your prowess...or maybe you're just ready for an evening of fun! Last year's event was a great success and we hope that this year will be the same.

Remember that this is the major fundraiser for our Scholarships so we hope that you will all get involved - preferably on a team!! If you can't be on a team, you are still invited to make a donation!!

Date/Time - Wednesday, Feb. 7th beginning at 7:30 p.m. (arrive earlier) at the Dunsdon Legion. Please bring cash for the bar, books, etc.

Prizes - Because members have been so generous in the past, we are once again asking you to check your cupboards to see if you have any suitable prizes. We are asking for new, unused, unopened items. There is no need to purchase anything.

Book Sale - We did very well with the Book Sale last year so hope to be able to do the same at our upcoming event. We would like books and DVDs in very good to excellent condition.

Where? - Deliver prizes, books and DVDs to **17 Chestnut Ave.** They can be left on the front porch near the wall.

We hope to see you at Trivia Night!



NOTICE OF MOTION

The Scholarship Committee is updating the CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fund Constitution 2013. The changes are minor and do not impact "name or the purpose", and do not impact our charitable status. However, it is required that we provide the membership with the required sixty (60) day notice of our intention to make the following Special Motion at the AGM:

Given that the CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fund Constitution 2013 requires a change to both the definition of what constitutes a quorum and the academic requirements for scholarship applicants, it is moved that CFUW Brantford replace **Canadian Federation of University Women Brantford Scholarship Fund Constitution 2013** with **CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fund Constitution 2024**.

We will repeat this Notice of Motion at the January General Meeting by Zoom.

In February, we will email our draft scholarship constitution 2024 to the membership, and explain the changes we recommend. We will invite your feedback by March 10th, update our draft constitution as appropriate, send the second draft by email to our membership prior to the March General Meeting. We will allot fifteen (15) minutes for discussion on the Agenda of the March or April General Meeting (to be determined). A Special Motion requires approval of two thirds of the members voting at the AGM. Your Scholarship Constitution Revision Committee,
Arlene Cass, Karen Innes, Janet Kempster, Lynda Stamer, Maria Timmons



CFUW Brantford - your input matters

Just a friendly reminder to contact the President of the Month by the second Monday of the month with any suggestions, motions, questions, or concerns that you would like raised at the Executive Meeting, including topics you would like addressed at the General Meeting. You can do this by phoning or emailing the president of the month or by sending an email to cfuwbrantford45@gmail.com

Interest Groups

Thursday Book Group:

The Thursday night reading group read *The Maid* by Nita Prose, a Canadian mystery writer in Toronto.

"I am your maid. I am the one who cleans your hotel room, who enters like a phantom when you are out gallivanting for the day, no care at all for what you left behind the mess or what I might see when you are gone." Molly maid, Regency Grand Hotel.

What if what's left behind is a dead body? What follows are the twists and turns of a murder mystery. Within the group of possibilities are an unhappy family and the staff of the Regency, not the least of whom is Molly herself who discovers the dead body. This delightful mystery is full of interesting characters, relationships of staff and guests in a big hotel and enough twists

and turns to keep you guessing right to the end. Both Thursday night groups enjoyed the book which led to a lively discussion.

Diane M.



Our Christmas Celebration:



Dining Out:



The Golden Teapot at Glenhyrst, provided an amazing high tea for our large group. Excellent service and food contributed to our Christmas socializing and fun.

Monday Evening Book Club: The Monday Evening book group read and discussed *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel, her fourth historical fiction book set during World War 2. In this book she introduces us to the world of forgery introducing us to Eva Traube who as a young Jewish woman had fled Paris with her mother just before their inevitable capture. Enroute to safety in Switzerland they found what was to be temporary refuge in a small mountain town in the Free Zone. However here Eva began working for the Resistance as a forger in order to provide documents for the many Jewish children who were then taken to Switzerland for safety. Eva used a code that was placed in an ancient book that would record the birth names of these children and thus their true identity.

After the war Eva, married and moved to the US and lived a satisfying life but never told her son or husband about her previous life.

Decades later, as a semi retired 83 year old librarian Eva sees a newspaper article about this book, now in Berlin, that had been stolen along with thousands of books and other property by the Nazis and the true owner was being sought so it could be returned. The article said that it contained a code they couldn't understand. As a result Eva relived those days and her story and reclaimed the book, telling its story.

The book is about resilience and, also running through it, the value of books in opening up the world inside a person, in providing safety and escape and magic, thus enabling children who learn to love reading become better people.

We felt that the book was well written, told important stories and led to a good discussion. We recommend this book.

Creative Cookery:

The group had a delightful lunch with the Brantford Golf and Country Club doing the cooking this time.



2023 –2024 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT IN NAME:

- Elizabeth Capitano

PAST PRESIDENT:

- Lin Fines and Janet Kempster

ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:

- Elizabeth Capitano—June, July, August, May
- Lin Fines— March and April
- Anne Martin—October
- Janet Kempster—November
- Maria Timmons—December, January
- Catherine Sawyer— September, February

SECRETARY:

Lin Fines/Penelope Jeffery

TREASURER: Maria Timmons

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- Advocacy:** Patti Kunashko
- Communications:** Sandra Hughes
- Interest Groups:** Roma Makkreel
- Membership:** Barb Scott
- Program:** Colette Wilson
- Scholarship:** Karen Innes
- Social:** Bev Golden

Our thoughts are with Lynne D. as she gets her knee surgery and Mieke S. as she gets her cataract surgery.

All the best to Betsy C. as she recovers from her heart surgery. She says that that there are no Michelin stars for the food at the hospital, so it sounds like her sense of humour is also doing well.

We wish Norah O., Jean L. and Lee Ann C. all the best in their health journeys.



AGM & Banquet

Plans for the AGM at the Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course are well under way, with a program focused on getting together and celebrating our year of accomplishments, learning and having fun.

January 24th General Meeting

7:00 p.m., Zoom

Susan Gamble, Our January Speaker

Susan Gamble's long career in journalism began in 1979 at the Brant News. She went on to become one of the first female television news photographers, working with her husband at CKCO-TV in Kitchener, travelling around Ontario capturing events on her wind-up Bell and Howell camera at first, and later on video, for the evening news. In 1980, Susan began writing for the Brantford Expositor, first in the real estate section, and later with a light-hearted column called Word Has It. Susan covered scams, local interest stories, and events featuring Brantford people from many walks of life. Her columns were heart-warming, informative and often amusing, and had a loyal readership. Eventually, Susan took on the role of investigative reporter, winning several Ontario Newspaper Awards, and a nomination for a Canadian Newspaper Association Award. Susan will talk to us about her career in journalism, her Expositor column, as well as her work as a court reporter. Susan will also inform us how to be more discerning consumers of news in the age of disinformation. Susan will join us on Zoom on January 24, 2024.

A poster for Trivia Night at the Dundas Legion. The word "TRIVIA" is in large, colorful letters, with "Night" in a script font below it. The event is on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 7:30 pm. The location is the Dundas Legion at 9 Toll Gate Road, Brantford. The cost is \$100/team of four, with a \$15 charitable receipt per person. There are 30 teams maximum, so registration is early. No walk-ins. Invite friends, relatives, and co-workers. The event features food, prizes, and fun. Proceeds go to the CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fund. A registration form can be found at cfuwbrantford.org.

TRIVIA Night
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
7:30 pm
DUNDAS LEGION
9 Toll Gate Road, Brantford
\$100/team of four - \$15 charitable receipt per person
30 teams maximum so register EARLY!! No Walk-ins!
Invite friends, relatives, co-workers!!
FOOD!! PRIZES!! FUN!!
Proceeds to CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fund
A registration form can be found at cfuwbrantford.org

cfuw  fcfdu



Dynamic Women Can Make a Difference