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Our club jumped back into full swing in January. Some interest groups are meeting in person, enjoying activities such as Creative Cooking, Dining out, Games, Walking. Some of the Bridge and Book groups are meeting on Zoom, and our January General Meeting was held on Zoom out of concern about winter weather. Members indicate that they enjoy both ways of getting together, and hope that we are able to improve the acoustics and logistics of hybrid meetings so that they have the option of attending a General Meeting in person or by Zoom.

Thanks to the hard work of the Leadership Team and the Scholarship Committee, the two major constitutions that underpin our club's operation are being tackled. CFUW National has provided good support in our undertaking. I hope that you provided feedback on the draft that was sent by email on January 21st of "CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024". The second draft will go out in late February. You will also receive a draft of the "CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fund Constitution 2024" in the next few weeks. Both documents require that our membership receive a 60-day notice of the changes and require Special Motions to be approved (Special Motions require more than 2/3 of the membership's approval versus our usual "Ordinary" motions that require 50% +1.) I hope you take the time to read these documents and provide feedback if you have recommendations.

Our 15th Trivia Night was another great success again this year. Our members and people in the community and beyond look forward to this annual fund-raiser for the Scholarship Fund. Nearly half the club is involved in the event, either participating on a Trivia Team, or doing the leg work involved. Special thanks to Lynn H, Brenda M, Colette W, and Dian K for providing leadership. We are delighted to estimate a profit of **\$2500**, this year, bringing our fund-raising total to about **\$32,000** since 2008 when Trivia Nights started.

We are about to begin our Nominations process to identify our Leadership Team for the 2024-25 year. We are very pleased that Teddy B has agreed to step in as Chair of Nominations. If you would like to participate or step forward to volunteer for a

position on the Leadership Team, please contact Teddy B or anyone on the current Executive.

Membership renewals will start in March, so if you are thinking about starting a new Interest Group, make sure you talk to Roma M so she can add it to the Interest Group portion of the Membership Form. Thanks to Barb S, who is working with CFUW National and some of the Ontario clubs to develop a Google Docs membership form that should make life easier for all of us this year.

It has been a pleasure to be President of the Month for December and January, and I would like to thank the Leadership Team for their support and for making my job an enjoyable one. Your President for February is Catherine S.

I am glad that we are in our second month of the year, and learning to write 2024.... especially on our cheques!

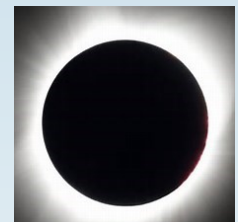
Maria T, President of the Month

Reminder:

At our January 24th General Meeting, we will give a notice of motion of a Special Motion to be made at the April General Meeting or the AGM regarding the draft of the proposed CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024.

Dates to Remember:.

2 Groundhog Day
 13 Pancake Tuesday.
 14 Valentine's Day.
 17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
 19 Family Day
 22 World Thinking Day
 23 World Understanding and Peace Day
 29 Leap Year
 April 8 Solar Eclipse (The Grand Erie District School Board has changed their PA Day from April 19 to April 8).



NOMINATIONS for our 2024-25 Executive

The Nominations Process has started. Teddy B has graciously volunteered to Chair the Nominations Committee again this year. If you have an interest in participating in this important process, please contact Teddy.

The first step was to meet with the 2023-24 Leadership Team and identify what is working and what could be streamlined. We are guided by our proposed **CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024** that identifies tasks that need to be done rather than trying to keep up with our ever-changing leadership model and outdated formal job descriptions.

Here are the decisions that the Leadership Team and Nominations Committee came to at their meeting on February 14th:

The Leadership Team for 2024-25 will be comprised of the following positions: President in name, President of the Month, Past President, Treasurer, Secretary, 6 Committee Chairs: Communications, Interest Groups, Membership, Program, Scholarship, and Social. Advocacy will be an ad hoc committee reporting to the President of the Month, and therefore not on the Leadership Team.

Status Report:

1. President in Name: AVAILABLE

Role: to be the contact person for - and the 'face' of - CFUW Brantford at National and Ontario Council, and represent CFUW Brantford at monthly or periodic Zoom meetings with National and Ontario Council (time required - 2-4 hours per month).

2. President of the Month: AVAILABLE: We Have 3 and would like 3 more members to share this position. Our club has taken a big job and shared it on a monthly basis.

Role: to act as President for one month of the year: create an agenda and run the Executive and General Meetings for one month of the year, be the point person for things arising in the club for that one month, and write a summary of the month in the newsletter. If any of these tasks are onerous, you can outsource. For example, one of our Presidents gets help writing the President's message for the newsletter, another gets help with ensuring the agenda contains the monthly tasks and any business arising from past meetings. It is easy when many hands make light work.

3. Past President: Janet K has agreed to continue in this position as it is now defined as sitting as a Trustee on the Scholarship Committee. The work of creating the AGM Booklet will be managed by a volunteer who will work with the Secretary.

4. Treasurer: Maria T has agreed to continue in her role as Treasurer. The Treasurer's job is the biggest job on the Executive, and if you would like to apprentice for that job down the road, Maria is a great source of information..

5. Secretary: AVAILABLE to job share

Penelope J has agreed to stay on IF someone will share the job with her.

This is a great job if you like summarizing decisions that are made at monthly Executive, General and Scholarship meetings. All you need is some familiarity with WORD, can take Minutes, two or three meetings per month - so about 6-8 hours per month - shared would mean every second month, or however it is worked out. There are members who would be happy to help out as you learn the ropes.

6. Committee Chairs: Note: Advocacy will be an ad hoc Committee that reports to the President of the Month, and therefore is not on the Leadership Team for 2024-25. The responsibilities will entail managing the Club's process for allocating International dues and managing the annual resolution process.

6.1. Communications: New role AVAILABLE

Sandra H and her team (Marsha S - web and email, Mary P - Facebook, Leslie L, and Gloria S - good will and outreach) will continue in their roles. The new position is Meeting Technology, helping the Club to manage hybrid General Meetings and virtual meetings for Interest Groups. It would be great if we could train a few people to help to keep the club connected virtually.

6.2. Interest Groups: Roma M will continue in this role, managing 'the heart of the club' ensuring that we are connected in small groups to enjoy common interests including Book and Bridge clubs, Walking, Dining Out, Creative Cooking, and World Awareness . . Groups, to name a few.

6.3 Membership: Barb S has agreed to stay on as Chair for another year, managing the membership renewal process, liaising with the Interest Group Chair, and welcoming new members.

6.4 Program: Colette W has agreed to stay on as Chair for another year, managing the speakers for General Meetings and the AGM.

6..5 Scholarship: Karen I has agreed to stay on as Chair, and says how grateful she is for all the support she had this year with technology and updating the school contacts and Scholarship Constitution. The hard work done this year will set up the Scholarship Committee for years to come.

6.6 Social: AVAILABLE

This role involves the set up and clean up for General Meetings, and scheduling two people to provide refreshments at the meetings.

This role also sets up a sub committee to arrange the location for the annual Banquet. The reason we enjoy the ambiance and gracious hosting at General Meetings and the AGM is because of the good work of this committee.

The outgoing Chairs will assist the incoming members and provide all the help needed to be successful in the position.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!!

The time is perfect if you are interested in participating because we have great bench strength for you to learn and enjoy the leadership process. If you would like to discuss any of these opportunities, please feel free to contact me. I really look forward to hearing from you. ph: 519-717-6675 e-mail: teddybuzek@gmail.com

Teddy B., Chair, Nominations Committee





Information about the International Charities

CFUW Brantford Supports:

GRANDMOTHERS TO GRANDMOTHERS CAMPAIGN

- Stephen Lewis Foundation

In 2006, 100 African Grandmothers were welcomed by 200 Canadians in Toronto, an event that launched the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign in Canada. At that time, the AIDS pandemic was raging in sub-Saharan Africa, a global health disaster that moved Stephen Lewis deeply. Canadian grandmothers and grand-thers across the country formed groups to raise funds in support of the African Grandmothers courageously raising their grandchildren and other children, orphaned by the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

The aim of the Foundation is: Championing health and human rights to end AIDS; the vision is “an equitable and just world where all people’s right to health is realized”. The G2G campaign is a grass roots organization that remains true to the African Grandmothers slogan of Nothing About Us Without Us, a sentiment that was reiterated at the International Grandmothers Gathering in Winnipeg last October. The theme of this gathering was Reflect, Rejuvenate, and Renew. Even after 20 years of the movement, and the loss of many groups during the COVID19 pandemic, the solidarity and continued support of the Canadian grandmothers was powerful. In 2024, Stephen Lewis wrote “The Foundation has no illusions: the pandemic is a force of mass destruction. But it’s a force that can be subdued by the strength of the human spirit. This spirit is a formidable force exemplified by the resilient African women who have now formed and become a part of community-led organizations as they work to dismantle the inequalities driving the HIV and AIDS epidemic.”

Written with assistance from statements of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.



Thank you for your excellent questions and recommendations re the first draft of CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024. Your input has helped the A&B Committee to update the 2024_12_13 draft which will be sent to you by the end of February.

Next Steps:

1. You will be invited to make your comments by March 10th.
2. Any changes to the CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024. Draft 2024_02_13 will be made and sent to the membership before the March 27th General Meeting.
3. There will be 15 minutes allotted at the March 27th General Meeting for review and discussion.
4. Any final changes will be made and the final draft sent out to the membership before the April 24th General Meeting.
5. At the April 24th General Meeting, the following Special Motion will be made:

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**.



NOTICE OF MOTION

This is a reminder that the Scholarship Committee is updating the CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fund Constitution 2013. The revised document will be issued for review within the next few days. 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, the makeup of the voting trustees and other minor changes to be consistent with the revised Articles and Bylaws of CFUW Brantford 2024, it is moved that CFUW Brantford replace **Canadian Federation of University Women Brantford Scholarship Fund Constitution 2013** with **CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fund Constitution 2024**.

Trivia Night!!!

The Dunsdon Legion was busy on the evening of Wednesday, February 7th with the sounds of 26 teams vying for the championship of our fifteenth Trivia Night. The questions were just right and those present enjoyed the challenge. At the end of 10 rounds, Team 8 was the winner and Teams 2 and 9 were tied. After a play-off round, Team 9 was victorious and took second place with Team 2 in third.

Barb Perry, and helpers, ran another amazing sale of new/very gently used books, DVDs, CD, and puzzles and took in **\$244.00!**

There were 24 Door Prizes, all donated by members and they seemed very appealing (many were also very tasty looking!). This year we decided not to run a draw prize to save time, but it also affected the profit for the event. Our usual Heads or Tails game took in **\$229.60** and Mary Guillemette went home with a \$100 gift certificate to The Keg compliments of Ted McCleister of *McCleister Funeral Homes*. We also received **\$215** in donations.

At the end of the evening, everyone was invited to enjoy a slice of pizza donated by **Dominos Pizza**. Dominos has supported us since the beginning, and we appreciate their generosity. **Please consider purchasing a pizza from them sometime in the next couple of months, to show your thanks.** As usual, the staff of the Dunsdon Legion was very friendly and accommodating!

Thank you to all who donated gifts, money, and time for our **2024 Trivia Night**.

Our profit for the event was **\$2,539.89**.

The Trivia Night Committee – Brenda, Colette, Dian and Lynn



First Place

Mark Francombe, Mary Ann MacLennan
Sue Bouwer, John Pacsutta



Second Place

Nancy Billard, Chris Smith
Richard Beales, David Judd



Third Place

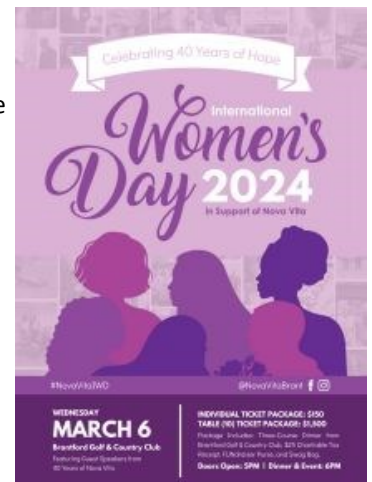
Dave Haylock, Scott Edwards
Bob Hillier, Doug Malvern

International Women's Day 2024

Our Club supported Nova Vita's International Women's Day events for many years. These events were cancelled during the Pandemic and started up again last year. Attendance is not being coordinated by CFUW this year. The Dining Out Group has purchased a table for 10.

If you would like to purchase a ticket, you may do so individually or by getting a few friends together, and then deal directly with Nova Vita.

Contact jpowless@novavita.org for more information.



FEBRUARY - BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Federal Government designated February as Black History Month in the 1970s to invite Canadians to increase their awareness of and appreciation for “the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities throughout history...” The canada.ca website details that “Black people were once enslaved”, and that it was not until 2008 that the Motion to designate February as Black History Month was finally passed in the Senate. Over forty years a long time to complete Canada’s parliamentary process.

Statements to avoid:

I don't have a racist bone in my body.
I don't care if people are white, black, purple, or blue.
I am "colour blind"—I don't even see race.

Experts assert that these statements, albeit well-intended, usually go hand-in-hand with an urgent desire to stop discussing racism, to avoid feeling shame about what some races experience.

Unfortunately, these statements also tend to cut off opportunities for dialogue, for increasing awareness and learning.

. Isn't it a bit disingenuous to say you don't see colour when you notice it in your home, your wardrobe, your food, your garden, and even how tanned your neighbour is when they return from vacation?



Books, Libraries and Reading Days:

February 14

Library Lovers Day
International Book Giving Day
Read to Your Child Day

February 20 .

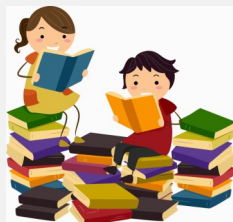
Clean out your bookcase day

April 2

International Children's Book Day

April 24 –27

Brantford Symphony Book Sale



Interest Groups – February 2024

Interest Groups are an excellent way to meet and socialize with members in smaller groups - have fun, interesting conversations and basically get to know one another. In the near future it will be time to renew memberships as well as indicate what Interest Groups you would like to join or re-join. If you are not part of a group, I encourage you to look at the listing, view further explanations of the groups on the CFUW web to see what might twig your interest.

At this time, I **invite your suggestions for a possible new Interest Group**, keeping in mind that **you must also commit** to being the contact and organizer for the group for the first while. Please send these suggestions to me a.s.a.p. as the new forms have to be finalized very soon. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the Interest Groups.

Roma M. (Interest Group co-ordinator)

Speakers for Upcoming CFUW General Meetings

The theme of the **March** meeting program is “The Refugee Experience”. Mieke Schroeder will host a panel of recent refugees from different countries, who will describe their experiences. As well, Mieke will explain the different types of newcomers to Canada such as refugees, visitors, and immigrants. Many of our members have been involved in helping newcomers to Canada, and this program will give us a fuller understanding of what people endure when leaving their homelands and settling in Canada.

In **April**, our speaker will be Joan Grundy, a local writer, who has written **A Deepening Life**, a soulful reflection on her experiences as an educator, a religious person and a gay woman. Her talk will help delve into the complications and contradictions she has faced through her life and career.

Colette W.

Dining Out Group: Juniper in Paris provided the Dining Out Group with a lovely opportunity to enjoy good food and conversation. We like to dine locally during the winter months, and Juniper is a favourite for its unique cuisine, ambiance, and charming service.
Lin F.



Creative Cooking: I was pleased to host one of our Creative Cooking Groups on Wednesday Jan. 17th with 6 of us being present at the time. Since I don't take down my Christmas decorations til the end of January, the group was exposed to full on Christmas. As we enjoyed the menu of "comfort food", we, of course, enjoyed wonderfully inspiring, informative and entertaining conversation, as well.
Gloria S.



World Awareness: We met on January 15th by Zoom. The first part of the meeting gave our group the opportunity to remember Nora Fueten and to express how much we admired her knowledge, her wisdom, her dry sense of humour and her leadership skills. Our discussions were lively and varied, eventually focusing on the war in Israel and Gaza. We were fortunate to have a drop-in visit from Pat C..s' son Rob Williams, who gave us an up-close-and-personal view of life and attitudes in Israel and the complexity of the issues at stake in the region, based on his experiences living in northern Israel. He also offered his understanding of the war in Ukraine; Rob has now returned to the Middle East and is working from Cypress. Most of us came away with the realization that it is almost impossible to comprehend what life is like in those parts of the world and a genuine appreciation for where we live in Canada. ..World Awareness meets the third Monday of each month at 9:30 at the Fire Hall on Fairview Drive, unless otherwise advised.
Carol K.



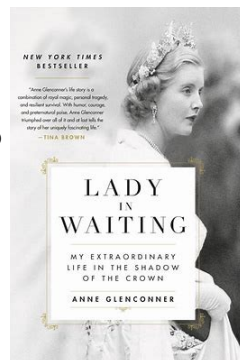
Thursday Book Club: The Thursday Night Book Club met on Zoom.

This month, we deviated from our traditional exploration of one book. Our challenge was to each choose an iconic or classic book that had remained



personally significant over the decades. We reread our chosen book over the past month, reflecting on whether the story was still memorable. We presented the books we had chosen by genres: Fantasy/Fable, Historic Fiction/Fiction, and Philosophy, sharing the impact the book had 'back then' versus 'now'. The discussion was lively as we recalled memories that the books invoked, the importance - and joy - of being read to as a child, and how we came of age by reading books that included stories about war, depression, revolution, and 'the very meaning of life'. (Two members missing from photo are Janet K. and Linda T.)
Lin F.

Monday Evening Book Club: On January 15, Norah O led the Zoom discussion of "Lady in Waiting " by Anne Glenconner, who was lady in waiting to and a good friend of Princess Margaret. It describes her early life, marriage to a bipolar husband, and tragedy with her children as well. It seems that dealing with Princess Margaret was the easy part. Throughout she was exhibiting the British stiff upper lip without complaint. A special thank you to Janet K for setting up the Zoom for us.
Norah O.



Games Group: Our group of 14 usually has an enthusiastic 4-8 members attending on our game days. We meet twice a month at the United Way offices - 125 Morrell St. from 1:30 - 3:30 - 2nd Thursday and 4th Monday of each month. Come and join us for some camaraderie and laughter. Despite what the picture shows, we do not play for money - just for fun! .
Barb S.



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

Thank you all for the beautiful flowers. They both look and smell divine.

Betsy C.



All the Best



Condolences to Colette W., whose partner, Jim Kopinak passed away on February 1st. Arrangements are entrusted to McCleister Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Brantford Food Bank or Brantford Music Club would be welcomed.



General Meeting:

February 21, 2024, 7:00 p.m. by Zoom

**Program: Lisa Clarkson – Manager Day and Stay Program
John Noble Home**

Lisa Clarkson started Health Care work in 1985 as a Health Care Aide then graduated in 1991 as a Registered Practical Nurse – combining both full time work and part time school while caring for her 9 month old son and being pregnant with her daughter. In 2003, she took the Occupational/Physiotherapy Assistant Course to add to her skill set. She joined the John Noble Home Long-Term Care in 2006 and worked as an Occupational and Physical Therapy Assistant while doing Restorative Care and Quality Improvement. In 2012 she joined the Day and Stay Program where she is now the Manager wearing many hats from Social Worker, Finance, Payroll, Staffing, Human Resources, Quality Improvement and Risk Management. She has been in this role for 12 years over which time the Program has grown.

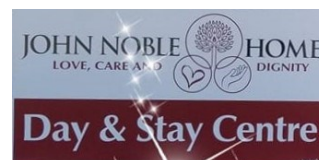
Their program includes a Day Program, Responsive Behaviours Afternoon Program, and the Overnight Program which operates 7 nights per week. The Program is specific to individuals on the dementia journey.

Lisa plans to retire in a couple of years and while she won't miss the workload, she will sincerely miss the clients and their families - hearing their laughter, their conversations, and their memories. In her presentation at the CFUW Monthly meeting on **28 February**, she will outline a "routine" day at the Day and Stay Program including introductory information about clients, the staff, the programming, and the meals the group enjoys.

Given that many of our CFUW members are at an age where dementia is a reality either with family members or close friends, Lisa will help us understand what options the Day and Stay Program offers for caregivers in terms of respite, and for those they are caring for. Lisa will also discuss how one applies and is accepted into the program.

We welcome Lisa and look forward to learning more about dementia, how it impacts the lives of families and caregivers but how a program like the Day and Stay offers much needed relief and respite.

Linda T.



Dynamic Women Can Make a Difference