

CFUW GEORGETOWN

September 2020 Newsletter

Volume 12 No. 1

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OUR MISSION: Pursuit of knowledge; promotion of education; improvement of the status of women and human rights; active participation in public affairs in a spirit of cooperation and friendship.

Season Opener – Social Meet & Greet TUESDAY September 8th, 2020*

Meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
– The Invite to Come Shortly Before September 8th

Social Meet and Greet. Yes, it can be done virtually! Through the ZOOM “Chat” feature you can send messages “to Everyone” or to individuals. If you are unsure how, we will instruct that evening

Note from your Social Committee:

At least for the first few meetings, everyone will have to provide their own refreshments. Please Zoom and Drink Responsibly!

**September 8th is also UNESCO’s “International Literacy Day”.*

President's Message...

~ Diane McDermott

What I really want to do in this President's Message is whinge, kvetch even, about a term of office that includes a global pandemic necessitating "re-inventing" things, dammit. I didn't sign up for a hot war! All that on top of dealing with "the Quarantine 15." But Who Would Listen? ...Then again, who **should**?

Ladies, welcome!

Our September 8th Season Opener will of course look different. The room is ZOOM.

But it will contain **The Familiar**:

- Interest Groups will be show cased,
- Membership steps delineated,
- Programming previewed,
- Special Events updated – of course, I'm thinking of preparations for our 50th anniversary.

But also, **Something New**: A virtual Scavenger Hunt!

We may even try some "break out rooms" - randomly assigned - for a bit of chit chat.

Watch for your ZOOM invite coming to your email box shortly before the 8th. These will be going out automatically to last year's members, so please let our Membership team of Kelly and Nancy know of your contact information if you are not in that group, i.e. "new-new" or "former" so you are also issued that Zoom invite. It will be a chance to check us out.

HEARTY SHOUT OUTS

Thanks! to our Club Reporter, **Marilyn Mitton**, for agreeing again to be our eyes on CFUW beyond our own town line, covering the interesting bits of Ontario Council, National and GWI.

Thanks! to **100 Women Who Care/Halton Hills** for their spectacular donation this summer to our scholarship program. We are honored and appreciative.

Delighted! to partner with our **sister Halton Region CFUW clubs of Milton, Oakville and Burlington** to present that "Summer Special" ZOOM presentation on August 18th. Did you miss it? If you did, you lost out on insider information of the latest or soon to be released titles shared by Ian Elliot of *Different Drummer Books* in Burlington **plus** timely messages from Sandy Thomson (OC President) and Heather Lewis (National VP Ontario). We learned, among other things, that the Oct. 3rd Speakers Series will be devoted to issues around Long Term and Home Care, and being virtual will allow more of us to participate.

Delighted! to partner again with **Halton Environmental Network/HEN** (as we did in the climate-focussed All Candidates Debate last year) in promoting the Aug. 20th Lunch and Learn regarding the “GTA Hwy 413” and its impact. We have the beginnings of our own club’s study group on this issue. If you’d like to be a part of this response, please let me know.

And personally, Thanks! to the **2019-21 CFUW Executive** ALL THIS SPRING & SUMMER. I suppose they had no choice in “being available” but they didn’t have to be cheerfully responsive: They were. Thanks, team!

I’ll conclude with a *gender-adjusted* quote by 18th century Samuel (aka Dr.) Johnson:

“If a *woman* does not make new acquaintances as *she* advances through life, *she* will find *herself* alone. *One* should keep friendship in a constant repair.”

Hope to see you, friends, in September!

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*From our Club Reporter...*

*~ Marilyn Mitten*

### **The Ontario Council, National and GWI News Update**

Well, here goes another Club year, unique for sure and definitely like no other! Can it be that it was nearly three months ago at our June Zoom AGM when members were trying to hunt down hard-to-find tomato plants, the resulting crop which may have fully grown, ripened and be consumed by now!

The intent of this ‘column’ is to inform and keep us up-to-date on some of the happenings at the Regional, National and International levels of our century-old organization of Graduate women.

### **CFUW National AGM**

One could say President Diane endured a ‘feat on her seat at a meet’, having spent five plus hours at a Zoom National AGM on a recent summer Saturday on our behalf! Thanks for ably representing us and giving us a first-hand report, encapsulated in her summary:

“To highlight some key points, all the Resolutions passed and matched our Club’s view on them. The Nepean Motion (to add \$5 to CFUW National fees to go to GWI and any shortfall at National) and the Motion to move away from “Deficit Budgeting,” were both defeated. The two Emergency Motions presented (that remarkably required 4/5 vote to even consider) both passed and dealt with the urgent need to improve Long Term Care”

## **CFUW/GWI Relations**

When women work together, there can be progress! We left off in the last chapter of this story/dilemma with a National Board mandate to form a Mediation Working Group under the leadership of Rebecca Bromwich, a professional facilitator/lawyer and report back in June, 2020.

### **The Goal:**

- To make recommendations for solutions or options to resolve internal conflicts within CFUW surrounding CFUW membership in GWI, and
- To improve relations among CFUW members.

From submitted applicants interested in serving as members of this Group and a clear, balanced, selection process, representative of a cross-section of CFUW members, 12 members were chosen by Rebecca and the Board, specifically choosing three women who were interested in remaining with GWI, three who were opposed and six who were either neutral or undecided.

Six extensive meetings were held remotely between May 12 and June 9th, with a 46 page Report submitted to National Board on June 14th. (A pause here for applause that you're getting the [Executive Summary!](#))

### **The Situation:**

There was consensus among the Group that GWI management of past finances was the flashpoint for conflict. Compounding the problem was the confusion and misinformation communicated regarding GWI. It was also agreed that the past information is no longer relevant as GWI has changed and disputed events are no longer ongoing. However, it was understood that for a small number of CFUW members, unhappy with past events, their entrenched views have resulted in their difficulty to move on, which, in turn, have influenced others.

### **Outcomes:**

The Mediation Working Group unanimously agreed:

- CFUW is in need of better, constructive communication with the specific intent of healing strained relationships within CFUW regarding GWI.
- There is a great deal of value in CFUW continuing as a unified, strong, cohesive organization into the future, continuing as a single organization that works effectively with other organizations that share an international vision for education, rights and freedoms for women and girls.

### **Recommendations:**

1. CFUW Articles and Bylaws should be updated, removing references to external organizations over whom CFUW does not have complete managerial authority or governance.
2. CFUW should honor the Memorandum of Understanding with GWI.

The report is now in the hands of the National Board to follow through and take action, their first being to approve the creation of a new Communication Committee.

### **Ontario Council AGM**

Again, President Diane represented our Club at this year's Annual Meeting and reports the following:

"Some points of interest:

1. Joyce See (CFUW Oakville) is the new ON Regional South leader (the only position contested); Heather Lewis being the new VP Ontario and Sandy Thomson remaining Ontario Council President.
2. The October Speakers Series will be virtual and they are lining up a panel on Long Term and Home Care.
3. Our Club was represented in a video presentation (among many others) with that front page IFP photo for our IWD march in the mall.
4. Our members may be invited to many more virtual events because of COVID, seeing as Kathryn Wilkinson (Nat'l President) encouraged Clubs to expand their speaker offering to other clubs."

Enough news for one reading! Stay tuned!

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From Immediate Past-President ~ Darlene Hammond

As we start this new CFUW year, I want to remind members that if you know of a member who is ill or lost a loved one, please let me know so I can send a card on behalf of our club.

From Membership Convenors ...~ Kelly Friis & Nancy Artinoff

Welcome back to CFUW Georgetown for what is certain to be an interesting and very different year!

Just as the Town of Halton Hills is continuing cautiously through Phase 3 of Covid-19, your club's Membership team is adopting a careful approach to registration this year keeping in mind the health and safety of our members. Our registration process will be different from previous years.

This year there are two ways to register:

1. Online registration form [found by clicking here](#). This easy and safe method includes e-transfer email for payment;

OR

2. PDF registration form for printing [found by clicking here](#). Fill in the form and with your cheque, mail it to the post office box mentioned in the form.

For those who wish to pay by cash, please print and fill out the PDF form in the link in option No. 2 above and contact either *Kelly Friis* or *Nancy Artinoff* to make arrangements for delivering your payment.

Membership dues this year are \$120.

If you have friends or acquaintances who might enjoy our Club, please invite them to check out our website (<https://cfuw-georgetown.ca>) and under 'Membership' there is a link to our Club's online registration form. Alternatively, pass along their e-mail or phone number to either Kelly or Nancy and we can contact them.

Looking forward to seeing you on ZOOM!

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*From the Interest Group Convenor... ~ Carol Collier*

Membership in Georgetown CFUW allows you the perk of joining our varied interest groups.

We may be slowed down by this epidemic and extraordinary times but we won't be stopped. By being creative and innovative, together we can Stay Connected and practice Social Distancing. Whether it is Book Club by ZOOM, early patio dining out for Good Night Out (GNO), or BBO for online bridge games, together we can Stay Connected.

**New this year**

To sign up for interest groups, complete your Membership Application and choose your participation in each interest group. Interest Group leaders will then be in touch to advise of any activities. No paper sign-up lists as in the past.

At our September meeting, listen to our Interest Group Showcase where leaders highlight any upcoming activities and creative solutions!

Any new ideas for this coming year? Anyone interested in quilting with a special project of a COVID quilt?

Watch for more information.



*From the Special Projects Convenor... ~ Lydia Zavitz*

I hope that you all have had a safe and healthy summer! We missed holding our **Annual Used Book and Toy Sale in June, 2020**. COVID-19 has certainly altered our lives.

We are planning to hold the Annual Used Book and Toy Sale in June, 2021. There will be quite a few changes to the event if we are permitted to conduct it.

**Jane Watson** is joining our team as my co-convenor. I welcome her enthusiasm and input. The sale is a CFUW team effort and happens as a result of all members' contributions.

If anyone knows of a **storage site to store books** which are being saved for the 2021 sale, please contact me.

Looking forward to 2021!

## *From Programming - Adjusting to COVID-19*

CFUW Georgetown will be entering into a programming partnership with the Halton Hills Public Library to deliver virtual presentations and - when possible – in-person spaced offerings, all in line with our mission. This will allow our club the flexibility to respond to public safety needs compelled by the pandemic. It promises access to a greater range of speakers by sharing resources. We are looking for members to serve on an advisory committee with the Library (see below). And we can still organize our own ZOOM shows and tail-gate parties. Virtual presentations have their advantages: no parking issues, no foul weather to contend with, no threat of fashion disasters. But they are an interim measure until we can all meet safely again face to face.

### **From the staff of Halton Hills Public Library/Georgetown ...**

#### **Halton Hills Lecture Series – Advisory Group**

The Library is seeking volunteers to be part of a new Advisory Group for the Halton Hills Lecture Series. Volunteers will support the program by identifying potential guest speakers for a variety of topics and advising Library staff on current community interests. The group will meet each spring to review the reception of the previous speakers and to make recommendations for the following year. Please contact Danielle at [danielle.dawe@haltonhills.ca](mailto:danielle.dawe@haltonhills.ca) if you are interested.

#### **An Evening with Karma Brown**

On September 16 at 7:30 pm, the Library is hosting a virtual author visit with Karma Brown. Karma Brown is an award-winning journalist and the bestselling author of five novels. Her most recent novel, *Recipe for a Perfect Wife*, was selected as this year's One Book, One Halton Hills title.

The event is free and hosted on Zoom. Registration is required [through the Library's website](#).

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Message from Janet Duval & Jane Fogal (HH Climate Action)...



Shoe strikes for climate on the Global Day of Action, Friday, September 25 11 am to 1 pm. Please drop off shoes, boots, clogs, any old footwear with your name tucked inside by 11 am. Your shoes will represent you! Where? The front lawn of St. George's Anglican Church 60 Guelph Street beside the high school, or in front of Acton Arena 415 Queen Street. Collect them at 1 or we'll keep them for you. We're working out details of advance drop-off

locations. Bring along shoes to represent your whole family, your friends, your neighbours. There will be more shoe strikes in Oakville, Burlington and across the country. This Club got local climate action going. Let's keep it rolling.



~~Jane Fogal and Janet Duval

Info: haltonhillsclimateaction@gmail.com

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*Photos Submitted...*



**President Diane McDermott and CFUW Scholarship Trust Chair Geraldine Kavanagh accepting a \$5,500 Cheque from 100 Women Who Care on behalf of the CFUW Georgetown Scholarship Fund**



**The Hiking Group stops for a short break in Hungry Hollow**



*From the Editor...*

*~ Pat Evans*

Keep in mind that....

The Scholarship Trust Fund is a Charitable Organization and you can donate to the Trust Fund in honour or in memory of a loved one. The treasurer of the Trust Fund will issue a Charitable Donation Receipt. If you want to make a donation, please make your cheque out to "CFUW Georgetown Scholarship Fund" and give it to Margaret Teasdale, the Treasurer **or make a donation through Canada Helps**. We are listed as CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN - GEORGETOWN SCHOLARSHIP FUND <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/canadian-federation-of-university-women-georgetown-scholar/>