

MEETING:
 On Zoom
 Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 7:30 p.m.
 Social Time starts at 7:00
 A meeting link will be emailed to you.

SPEAKERS:
Shannon Mitchell
 Constituency Assistant for Wayne Gates MPP,
 Public-School Board Trustee, Niagara Falls
Elisabeth Zimmermann
 Executive Director, YWCA, Niagara Region

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Editor:
 Anne Bisson



CFUWStCatharines.org

Anti-human Trafficking: What is Being Done and What Can Be Done

As the Constituency Assistant for Wayne Gates MPP, **Shannon Mitchell** will provide an update on the Government of Ontario's new Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy launched in March 2020. Ontario will invest \$307 million over the next five years on a comprehensive action plan to combat human trafficking and child sexual exploitation. The government has taken a number of steps to strengthen existing prevention efforts geared to children and youth through Ontario schools. Additionally, the province is launching a new, province-wide marketing campaign that will build increased awareness of the systemic problem. With a background in public health and degrees in political science and education, Shannon has worked internationally as an educator and a women's health advocate. Dedicated to serving her community, Shannon is also an elected Public-School Board Trustee for Niagara Falls and is proud to raise her son in the same neighbourhood she grew up in.

Elisabeth Zimmermann has worked for over twenty-five years in the non-profit human services sector, the last 15 years, as Executive Director of the YWCA Niagara Region, a non-profit organization working with homeless women and their families providing emergency shelter, transitional supported housing, ongoing support services and advocacy. Her deep understanding of the importance of addressing the issues of poverty, and the need for quality support systems to minimize the

long-term impact of systemic inequalities, has positioned the YWCA Niagara Region as a leader in addressing barriers with a women's focused lens among community and government agencies.

Elisabeth's expertise in the areas of poverty and homelessness is sought out and she is actively involved in committees throughout the Niagara Region to help raise awareness and implement change. Sharing her perspective, Elisabeth is a member of Brock University Board of Trustees; Niagara Health Board of Trustees; Housing and Homelessness Action Plan Task Force; Non-Profit Council for Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce (GNCC); and Government Advisory Council for GNCC.

A valued guest speaker, Elisabeth has worked hard to raise awareness around the issues of poverty and its impact specific to women and children. She believes in the importance of bringing to the forefront the need for action on the part of the government at all levels in addressing poverty and has been an active partner in drafting and carrying out the Region's Housing and Homelessness Plan.

Elisabeth brings passion to everything she does and as a native of the Niagara Region, she has a strong connection within the community and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all Niagara residents.



E. Zimmermann

President's Message from Gail Neff

I hope you found the links about GWI in the February Newsletter helpful in learning more about our grandmother organization. More are after this message which I hope you will access and read. I attended both the Dialogues in January and found them mostly monologues defending the National Board decision to allow clubs to decide whether to support GWI. The 35 or so PowerPoint slides mainly explained how CFUW works with only one slide about GWI. I have attached the link for the slides so you can judge for yourself.

[Slides from Dialogues Presentation](#)

Questions were to be typed into the Chat and periodically summarized with answers. Frustratingly, many were not answered. I did spend much of last weekend reading the massive number of unedited chat comments emailed to me by a friend who took screen shots. Here is one: [Sample Comment](#)

A summary of some of the questions with answers has just been sent with the February 19 Club Action Newsletter and can be found here: [Q&A Summary](#) If you are interested in having any remaining information from the dialogue sessions sent to you, please email me and I will forward anything I receive.

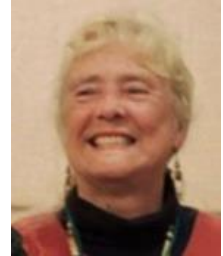
In the last 45 minutes of each session, we were invited to join breakout rooms to talk amongst ourselves, and these were the best part of the sessions. There were between 4 and 10 participants and we had too short a time to hear much of how other clubs were operating and hear reasons for their club's inclinations. In one of my breakouts, a participant asked if GWI membership was worth the money when they only support six projects. I pointed out that GWI aims to make systemic change through its advocacy. Projects help only a few people in a specific place, but GWI also has permanent members monitoring and contributing to discussions in UN meetings in all four venues of Paris, Vienna, Geneva and New York, and since it is highly respected for its advocacy for education of women and girls, it speaks with the voice of 50 plus countries, whereas CFUW speaks for only one! I am glad to support GWI's international advocacy so I can concentrate my efforts on our local and national issues.

Of course, the overriding question is what our dues will be going forward. I feel that the issue of dues is unnecessarily complicated and therefore allows for

misunderstanding and misinterpretation. It is described on several of the Dialogue slides but here is what I understand: In February 2020, our club sent \$76 of our dues per member to CFUW. This covers about \$54.50 for National and \$21.50 for GWI. The GWI portion pays for the January to December 2022 year. The rest pays for the National June 2021 to May 2022 year. The National Board claims that \$21.50 isn't enough to cover the GWI dues and that it has incurred a debt of about \$9,000 for the 2020 year! Many club members disagree with the bookkeeping and thus the ongoing arguments. The dues can only be changed at an AGM, so unless the clubs vote for a dues increase next June, we will pay the same as always.

Another complicating factor is that only CFUW National is the member of GWI, and only clubs are part of CFUW National, not us as individual members. Our dues are dependent on how many women are in each club. This is why National wants to know how many clubs want to support the work of GWI. The National Board has been negotiating with the GWI board about dues and although they have not finalized anything, there is a suggestion that a sliding scale might be used, and if our Canadian numbers are about 6,000 members, our dues will remain about the same. The greater the number of opt-in club members, the lower the dues per club member. Another suggestion is that GWI dues might need to be raised about \$5.00 starting in 2023. We should find out more at this year's National AGM in June.

I believe the reason we need to vote our preference by March 31 is that National wants to estimate how many clubs will opt in so they can estimate what our GWI dues will be in 2023 after the results of the current negotiations. Your Executive is planning to have an electronic vote after the March General Meeting but the date has not yet been set. Please keep an eye out for an invite to vote via Survey Monkey sometime between March 9 and 31. The outcome of this vote is not written in stone and can be adjusted next November. Any questions? Please email them to me.



Please see more GWI links at the top of the next page.

GWI Information:

GWI Projects: graduatewomen.org/what-we-do/
 GWI – The case for educating women: graduatewomen.org/the-cause/
 Brochures: [GWI Brochure](#); [STEM Brochure](#)
 GWI Newsletter [February 3 GWI Update](#)
 Sign up for GWI twice monthly newsletter: [GWI Newsletter Sign-Up](#)



CFUW Garden Tour

Tentative Date: June 2021

Contact Barb Legg or Mary Jane Waszynski

The Garden Tour Committee is hard at work making decisions about when and how to do this tour this year. Since we are in such unusual circumstances, it has required unusual thinking on the team’s part. Several options were outlined at the February general meeting. However, everything hinges on when we will all be vaccinated. This means a Garden Tour on June 6 is no longer possible. We changed the date to September 12, hoping that would be far enough away to be able to proceed. Based on what we are now hearing from the government, that will likely still be too soon. We could cancel altogether, but we cancelled last year, not imagining that this would still be our lives a year later. So, another idea was floated and that was to make this a

virtual, online Garden Tour. Lots of organizations are doing this and a lot of the committee were quite excited about the idea and wanted to research how it could be done. That is in the process of being accomplished now. We have consulted our Garden Tour homeowners to see if they would be willing to do this and they were agreeable. Since that is our only sure choice, our tech team will soon have it all figured out and it will certainly be a very interesting tour. We hope to go ahead with this virtual Garden Tour this June, and we will keep you up to date as we determine a new fundraising approach during these exceptional circumstances.

Donations Person needed for the Garden Tour Committee

We have two excellent people working on this portfolio but would like one or two more who have a bit of time to write letters to a few groups of businesses in the next month. Please let Barb Legg or Mary Jane Waszynski know if you have some time to help with our big fundraiser for the year.

Would you like to invite a guest to our monthly Zoom meeting?

To register your guest, send their name and email address to the Virtual Platform Committee at cfuwstcvirtualmtg@gmail.com, by **NOON**, the Monday prior to the meeting. The meeting link will be sent to them on the day of the meeting.

Do you need help connecting to the meeting?

Contact cfuwstcvirtualmtg@gmail.com for any questions about using Zoom.

Charitable Fund News

from Grace-Ann Cambray, Charitable Fund Chair

Each year the Charitable Fund gives four scholarships/bursaries/awards to Brock University students. One of these awards is the **CFUW Lily Bell Memorial Award for English**. The recipient is selected by the English Department based on the recommendation of the Chair, English Language and Literature. The award is valued at \$500.00.

This year's recipient is Abigayle Bilotta. She writes:



Having lived in Niagara my entire life, I decided on Brock not only as a result of its proximity to me but also because of its friendly and familiar atmosphere that I have grown to admire since I was young. I am currently in my second year at Brock, studying English Language and Literature. Having always loved reading and writing, my career goals consist of occupations in which I would be able to include both of those passions, such as journalism or creative writing. Loving travel, I have also considered a career in teaching English as a second language around the world.

Indigenous Women Concerns - Where is the Progress?

from Liina Veer, Advocacy Chair

In 2004, Amnesty International released a report called "Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination & Violence against Indigenous Women in Canada".

In 2015 the "Truth & Reconciliation Commission Report" was released with 94 calls to action. Few have been realized.

In June 2019, Canada's National Enquiry into Missing and

Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released its Final Report: Reclaiming Power and Place, containing 231 individual calls to action. In response to questioning about the action plan in February 2021, Marc Miller, Indigenous Services Minister, stated "I'm confident that we can get something out in relatively short order, but can't commit to a timeline".

And time goes on.

Invitation to CFUW Welland & District celebration of International Women's Day

To view the screening of *Woman*, a project giving voice to 2000 women in 50 countries.

The documentary is described as a message of love and hope.

Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7 p.m. on Zoom

Register with: Carol Harding harding.welland@gmail.com

Also worth viewing:

[We Are Coming](#)

(A 2 minute, 30 second video montage of women in power and powerful women from many countries.)

Calling all authors!

CFUW St. Catharines
100th Anniversary
Creative Writing
Contest



Creative Writing Contest

The meaning was clear.
But the night was dark and stormy.
Suddenly, a shot rang out . . .

This is your moment, Ladies.

The St Catharines CFUW 100th anniversary Creative Writing Contest beckons. Let your inventive artistic talent flow from mind to page in no more than 750 words. The only requirement is that your story must begin with **"The meaning was clear"**.

Confirm your intent to enter by March 5th to Trish Loat, Bettianne Matheson, or Caroline Nolan. Then submit one copy of your entry by April 30th. Results will be announced in October 2021.

Remember: *The signification was transpicuous!*

Graphic Design by Beverley Boudreau

Members' Corner Bookshelf –
Books We've Read and Recommend



Please email your recommendations to Martha Abra - marthaabra@gmail.com

Recommended by Brenda Dolha - *Permanent Record* by Edward Snowden

A well-written, very readable expose about who is collecting data on each of us (but mostly Americans, in this tome), permanently. PERMANENTLY! It is disturbing to think about, but there are safeguards we can take, even though we opt into such platforms as Facebook and Instagram.

Recommended by Susan Fortino and Joyce Little - *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett

A story of a broken family and the path their lives take over the course of 40 years.

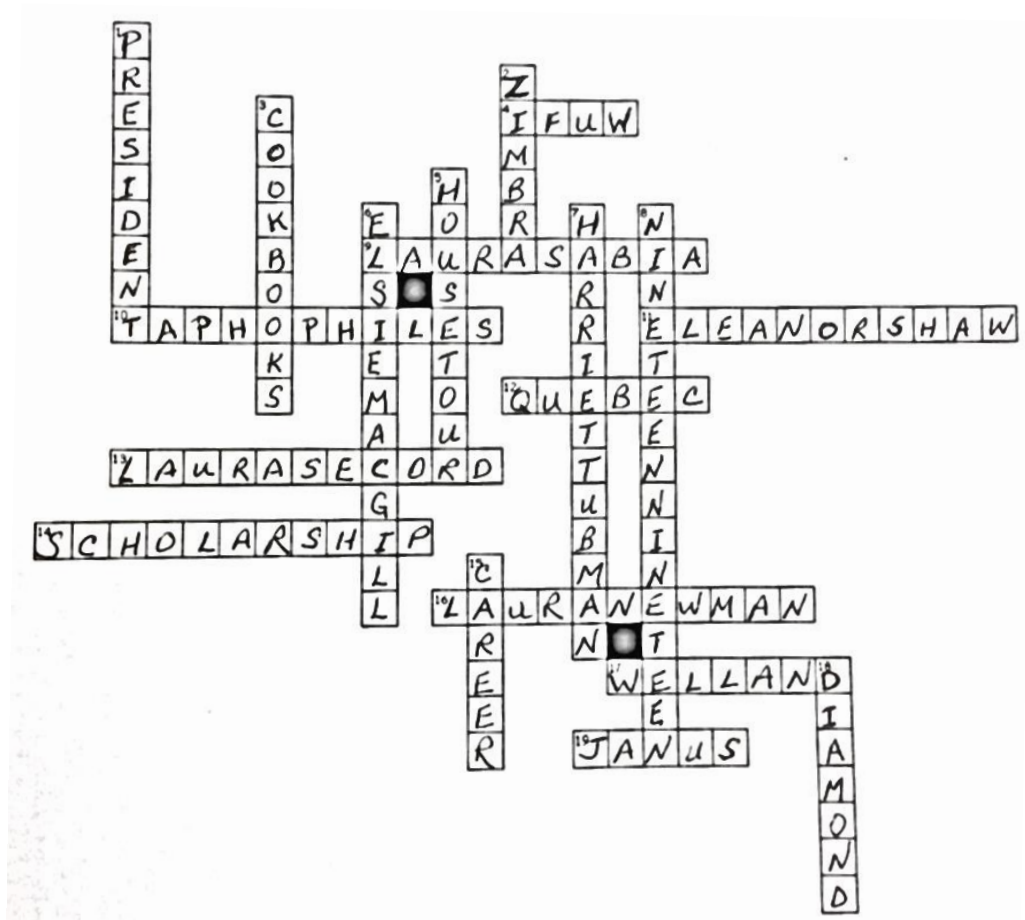
Recommended by Martha Abra - *Bravetart* by Stella Parks

A New York Times Bestseller summarized as "Iconic American Desserts" - It's a cookbook, but so much more. This has fascinating stories and photos about the origins and history of many of the treats we enjoyed as children - Snickerdoodles, Fig Newtons, Oreo Cookies, Twinkies, Cracker Jack... I am especially appreciative about the inclusion of gluten-free recipes for almost everything in the book.

History Corner

100th Anniversary Crossword Puzzle Solution

from Lynda Campbell



Across

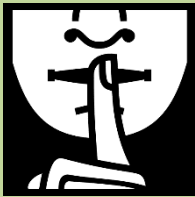
4. Previous acronym of umbrella organization of which CFUW is the largest of 58 member affiliates.
9. This University Women's Club member allegedly stated "God help us, wherever she is..."
10. A technical name for those interested in cemeteries/tombstones.
11. Local Family Studies teacher who was one of the longest standing members of UWC.
12. Not until 1940 were the women of this province granted voting rights.
13. The other Laura of Niagara fame.
14. The main focus of CFUW has always been...
16. A UWC member who once lived at Alessandros.
17. One time spa, seeking historic status – The ___ House.
19. The name of the Roman god looking forward and back

Down

1. Grace Hollett is the previous _____ of CFUW National.
2. The 100th anniversary rose.
3. A fundraiser in 1985 raised funds by the sale of gourmet...
5. CFUW St. Catharines' major fundraiser.
6. CFUW's "Queen of the Hurricanes".
7. "Macaroni Tuesday" and "Tin Can Tuesday" are part of this local elementary school's toy and food drive.
8. The year CFUW was founded.
15. In 1980, Women Today study group sponsored non-traditional ___ Day for girls.
18. 1981 was the _____ Jubilee for CFUW.

February General Meeting Video Now on CFUW Website

Members can now access the February 9 meeting video by going to our CFUW St. Catharines website. Click on Members Only, then hover over Membership Login until Recording of Monthly Meetings pops up. Click on that and enter our password.



Zoom Reminder

We love to see you at the monthly meeting but please remember to mute yourself while the speaker is talking and anytime you are not participating in a discussion.

Ontario Council News - [February Newsletter](#)

Includes:

Notice for Registration for February 27 Speakers Series on mental health

Notice for 2021 Ontario Council Virtual AGM May 14-15

Advocacy News

OC Resolution Process

and more!

Member Directory Updates

Have you moved or changed your phone number or email id?

If so, please remember to inform Anne Marie Stockwell at am@stockwell.tv so that our online directory can be kept up to date and so that we can reach you when necessary.

Interest Groups

During the pandemic, some groups have ceased to meet temporarily.

However, some groups are meeting in different formats such as through Zoom or outdoors.

Please contact your convenor to confirm the group's decision, which will be in accordance with public health measures.

Some general information can be found on our website under Events Overview or by clicking below.

[Interest Groups Information](#)