



# UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB TORONTO

ENVISIONING · ENGAGING · EMPOWERING

## UPCOMING EVENTS

All members are encouraged to attend! This is your opportunity to learn more about how our Club functions, our by-laws, Directors, finances, scholarships, activities, charitable events and membership.

Also, back by popular demand! - more of the beautiful scarves hand-woven in Cambodia and introduced to us last year by UWC's good friend and globe-trotting bridge teacher, Patti Lee. Patti has started a charity in Cambodia to provide safe and hygienic toilet facilities to needy families there and proceeds from the sale of scarves will go to the toilet project. The sale is cash only please, so come to the AGM with some extra cash on hand to buy a scarf or two.

The AGM agenda and all information will be sent out in advance of the meeting. We are hoping many members stay for dinner afterwards. Haley will send out an email closer to the date requesting an RSVP for the AGM and for dinner afterwards.


### 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 27  
5:00 PM

UPPER DINING HALL   
THE FACULTY CLUB

## Meditation Morning

THURSDAY, MAY 16  
10:30 AM

 FRIEND'S HOUSE,  
60 LOWTHER  
AVENUE

All members are invited to participate in an introduction to meditation morning and potluck lunch.

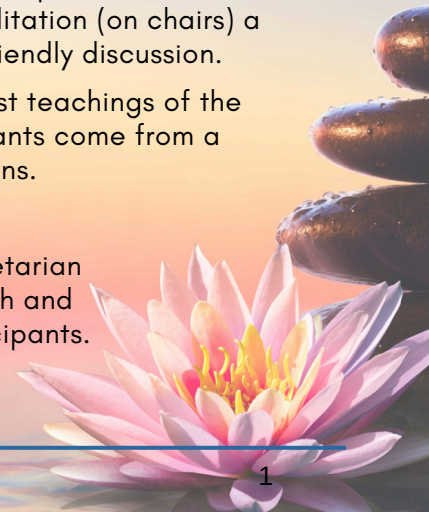
Steeped in the serenity of the heritage Friend's House, this guided session with Dharma Teacher Tuyen Nguyen will introduce you to the concept of meditation, and clear misconceptions about its difficulty. The session will offer a sitting meditation (on chairs) a delicious, vegetarian pot luck lunch and a friendly discussion.

Tuyen's practice is based on the Zen Buddhist teachings of the Vietnamese monk Thich Nhat Hanh. Participants come from a variety of backgrounds and religious traditions.

**Cost: Minimum \$10 donation**

Participants are encouraged to bring a vegetarian dish to be shared during the meditative lunch and a light blanket or shawl. Limited to 25 participants.

RSVP to [info@uwctoronto.ca](mailto:info@uwctoronto.ca)



# Directors' MESSAGE

As Membership Chair, my position involves increasing our membership, as well as engaging and retaining all members in our club. Attracting new members has not been a problem over the past few years. In the past 12 months, we have gained 54 new members, bringing our total membership to 181. I give credit for this incredible success and growth to our outstanding web-site, but also to you, our members, who are clearly spreading the word about our fabulous club.

However, this wealth of riches is not without its challenges. Prior to Covid, when we had only a few new members every few months, it was easy to welcome and get to know these members, introduce them to other members, and gently help them engage in our club activities. But now when we range between 3 and 9 new members each month, it is not easy getting to know all of them. This is our greatest challenge and what we spend time talking about at Board meetings.

Our larger events, like our 120th Birthday Party, the Fall Fundraiser, and even our Bingo events, had a very strong turn-out of members, but it is very difficult to get to know someone and have a meaningful conversation at a big event. A much better way to develop relationships is at smaller 8-12 person activity, that recurs on a regular basis, such as our weekly Bridge and French groups, our bi-weekly Current Affairs and Mah Jongg groups, or our monthly Book Clubs and International Dining.

The big parties are fun, and of course you should participate whenever possible, but as a new member, it is probably easier to integrate through a smaller group, of like-minded people, that gets together regularly. Ideally, we would very much wish for you to do both.

If you have any ideas for activities that we are not offering, please chat with any Board Member. In particular, if you have suggestions for helping new members, we are all ears. We are very open to new ideas, and in the past year or so, have offered such varied new activities as a Painting Class, Learn Bridge in a Day, a Trivia Night, Bingo, plus assorted outings to art, music and theatre events in Toronto. But we can always use new ideas, as well as members willing to help with their organization.

**June 1st is our new annual renewal date, a one month shift from the prior July 1st, date.**

This change has been made to accommodate members who depart for the summer and may lose track of the renewal. As the date is one month earlier, we have adjusted the annual fee to \$125, for this year only (in future years we will return to the \$135 annual fee). We would very much appreciate members paying their \$125 renewal fee as close to this date as possible. As you know, our club is run by volunteers and it is quite a task each year to collect and follow-up on these payments. Your thoughtfulness in making prompt payment would be very much appreciated.

Please e-transfer your \$125 annual fee payment to [payments@uwctoronto.ca](mailto:payments@uwctoronto.ca). If you are planning to attend our Annual General Meeting on Monday, May 27th, we will happily accept your payment by cheque, at that time.

- Lucia M.

*It's time to pay your  
annual fee...*

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWAL DATE**

**June 1, 2024**

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**ANNUAL FEE**

**\$125**

*(reduced from the normal \$135 for the 2024-25 year only)*

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**PAYMENT**

**etransfer**

[payments@uwctoronto.ca](mailto:payments@uwctoronto.ca)

**Cheque**

payable to University Women's Club Toronto,  
in person or mailed to: Trish Stewart,  
#3711-21 Widmer St., Toronto, M5V-0B8

*We appreciate your prompt attention  
and thoughtfulness!*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our newest members who joined us in the last month: Cadence B., Xia L., Avesta N. and Jennifer W. We look forward to meeting you and getting to know you.

## Sending best wishes to...



To Mary A. who broke her right arm: Hope that all is healing well and you will soon be back at bridge.



To Sylvia F. who has not been well and is in Amica Retirement Community, Steeles Ave. W.: Hope that she will be feeling better soon.



To Jane H. who has had ankle surgery. Hope that she will be mobile again soon and back at UWC events.



To Chris W. who has had eye surgery: Hope the world soon comes into view at 20/20.

- Susan F.



## SPRING & SUMMER CLOTHING "DRIVE FOR ROMERO HOUSE"

Spring is sprung and it is time to collect spring and summer clothes for Romero House. Clean clothes and shoes for men, women and children are needed. Please let me know if you have clothing items you wish to donate. I will see that your kind donations get to Romero House. You can bring them to the Faculty Club, drop them off at my home or let me know if you would like them picked up.

Please contact Jane V.

## HELP RAISE MONEY FOR ROMERO HOUSE

Ladies, can you help with getting sponsorships for the Romero House Fundraising evening in October?

Do you have businesses or companies that you are connected with who you could approach for a sponsorship?

Sponsorships start at \$250 with signage and acknowledgement in our publications. I have a sponsorship ask letter, list of companies and a sponsorship level chart. We have PR material from last year's very successful fundraiser. If we all approached just one company, I am sure this could be a great success.

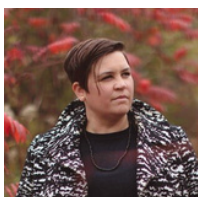
Please contact Jane V.

## Welcome to MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Where each month we introduce you to a few current members & one of the Club's founding Trailblazers. If you have an achievement you would like to share, a volunteer gig you do, or a business you run, we want to hear about it!



→  
Hannah  
B.L.



### Accomplished Musician

Hannah (Métis Nation Ontario) is an artist and interdisciplinary scholar from Orillia, Ontario. She has previously worked as a Lecturer at the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University and as a Professor of Music at both Humber and Centennial College. Hannah has been a guest speaker at Queen's University, the University of Guelph, York University, and Florida International University at the Cuban Research Center.

Hannah's research explores themes of migration, identity, and gender equity in musical communities. She is an accomplished musician, having toured cities across North America; her recording Green River Sessions received widespread acclaim. Hannah recently started a new role as the Research Coordinator for Shkaabe Makwa at CAMH, "the first hospital-based Centre in Canada designed to drive culturally-responsive systems initiatives to achieve health justice and wellness for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities through the advancement of research, workforce development and innovative healing models that harmonize traditional knowledge and medical expertise."

Penny V.



### A Passion for Teaching

Penny counts herself among the lucky ones born in Toronto- a wonderful multicultural city! She graduated from UofT with her B.A. and M.A. in French and English, then her B.Ed. Early-on, she set her sights on teaching when her sister taught her the ABCs. Monarch Park was her first teaching role, then Gladstone Senior Public, followed by Harbord Collegiate and finally Malvern Collegiate. When she retired the first time in 2006, she continued supply teaching until COVID arrived.

When the first Vietnamese Boat People arrived in the '70s, she taught at Harbord and was invited to be the Vietnamese Club's Staff Advisor, by a student, who is now a Buddhist monk. She worked with these marvelous students for 25 years. They gifted her with a meaningful name Cô Xuân Mai meaning Miss Springtime-Forever-Young.

Her parents took the family on many road trips. Then in 1967, she was hired and flew for three summers as extra staff with Air Canada because she spoke French.

Now, she enjoys joining friends for lunch, concerts, lectures and volunteering with the retired teachers' Club 48 and Rendezvous Club, and with the UWC Toronto's scholarship committee. Penny finds it so rewarding to give a boost to female highschool graduates making their way to university.



Reader,  
Traveller,  
Gardener

→ Susan B.

Originally from Winnipeg, Susan's lived in Toronto since 1979. She was an international economic consultant. She used to have a store on Front Street and then Yonge St called Frida and then Timbuktu, selling hand craft natural fiber furnishings, furniture and clothing from India, Africa and Latin America.

For the past five years, Susan has been working for the Canadian Armed Forces in dispute resolution. She and her husband have 6 kids and 8 grandkids. She loves reading, walking, traveling, and gardening. She also enjoys interesting discussions, loves world music, small ethnic restaurants and is always looking for kindred spirits.

### Trailblazer

→ Dr. Marion Hilliard

Dr. Hilliard's career goal was to work in obstetrics. While studying she played intercollegiate ice hockey and was later inducted into UofT's Sports' Hall of Fame. She graduated in medicine in 1927 and went to England for a post graduate course in obstetrics. She undertook research on septic abortions and sterility and obtained a certificate in midwifery. In 1928 she entered the UK Royal College of Surgeons and worked in London and Dublin completing her post-grad studies before her 26th birthday.

Later she was on staff at Women's College Hospital and the first doctor assigned to the Children's Aid Society. She was also the medical examiner at the YWCA. In 1947 she collaborated with Dr. W.L. Robinson. They developed a simplified pap test. She also wrote regularly in *Chatelaine* and the articles were later published as 'A Woman Doctor Looks at Life and Love.'

# INTEREST GROUPS

## MAH JONGG | WED., MAY 8 AT 4:30 PM

Our upcoming Mah Jongg dates are the following Wednesdays: May 8 and 22, and June 5 and 19. We play in the downstairs Pub of the U of T Faculty Club. Mark your calendars.

As always, we welcome both new and experienced players.

On all Mah Jongg days, there will be a game starting at 4:30. However, if you are brand new to Mah Jongg, and have never played before, we will be offering lessons once a month, on May 22 and June 19, starting at 3:30.

New players are also very welcome to come to our other regular 4:30 game every month, but there will not be any instruction. At our regular games, you will have the choice to play on your own, if you feel up to it, or shadow one of the more experienced players.

So we now offer 3 options:

- 1) regular independent game play, twice a month,
- 2) shadowing an experienced player,
- 3) lesson once a month.

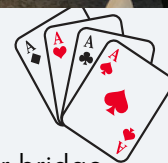
It is your choice which you prefer.

We also strongly encourage new players to purchase the book *A Beginner's Guide to American Mah Jongg*, by Elaine Sandberg, easily available on Amazon for \$20. It is a wonderful summary of the game and will help you catch on much quicker.

For more information, please contact Lucia M.



## BRIDGE | TUESDAYS AT 10:00 AM



Join us Tuesday morning for bridge at the Faculty Club. We start with a refresher lesson at 10:00 am, and then play to 12:30 pm. Some stay for lunch afterwards. Please join us!

Contact Marianne A. with any questions.

## LE PETIT CERCLE WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00 AM



Le petit cercle is our French conversation group that meets every Wednesday to discuss world events, or wherever the conversation takes us. We meet at Nadege Patisseries on Bloor St. at 10:00 am. Toutes les francophones et francophiles seront les bienvenues.

Please contact Jo-Lynne S. for more details.

## INTERNATIONAL DINING WED., MAY 15 AT 6:00 PM

The International Dining group is taking a culinary journey to Vietnam this month! Please join us as we check out Nang Saigon - a new upscale Vietnamese restaurant right in the heart of the Annex. They have a great menu and lots of good reviews - [nangsaigon.ca](https://nangsaigon.ca)

Please join us Wednesday, May 15 at 6:00 pm. The address is 450 Bloor St. W., close to the Bathurst subway. RSVP on the Friday email.

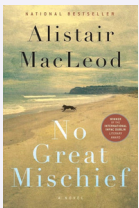


# INTEREST GROUPS

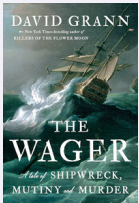


## NEW BOOK CLUB | THURSDAY, MAY 23 AT 6:00 PM

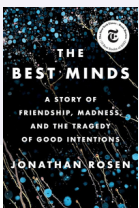
The New Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, May 23 at 6:00 pm on the Faculty Club patio.



**May 23:** *No Great Mischief* by Alistair MacLeod



**June 24:** *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* by David Grann



**July 22:** *The Best Minds: The Story of Friendship, Madness and the Tragedy of Good Intentions* by Jonathan Rosen

## EVENING BOOK GROUP WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 AT 5:00 PM ON ZOOM

The topic this month is "Notable or not so notable women".

New members are always welcome!

- Judith L.



## MORNING BOOK GROUP | THURSDAY, MAY 2 AT 10:30 AM ON ZOOM

We meet on the first Thursday of every month. This month's meeting will be on Thursday May 2nd at 10:30 am on Zoom. We will be discussing *Maybe you should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb.

- Carmie D

**May 2:** *Maybe you Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb

From a New York Times best-selling author, psychotherapist and national advice columnist, a hilarious, thought-provoking and surprising new book that takes us behind the scenes of a therapist's world where her patients are looking for answers (and so is she).

**June 6:** *The Mystery Guest* by Nita Prose

Molly Gray is not like everybody else. With her flair for cleaning and proper etiquette, she has risen through the rants of the glorious five-star Regency Grand Hotel to become the esteemed Head Maid. But just as her life reaches a pinnacle state of perfection, her world is turned upside down when J.D. Grimthorpe, the world renowned mystery author, drops dead on the hotel's tea room floor. Suspects abound and is Molly really as innocent as she seems?

**July 4:** *The Mitford Affair* by Marie Benedict

The book explores the political climate in the lead up to World War II and the ways that seemingly sensible people can be sucked into radical action. *The Mitford Affair* follows Nancy's valiant efforts to stop the Nazis from taking over Great Britain, and the complicated choices she must make between the personal and the political.



# OUT & ABOUT

## Activities Around the City!

Below are some interesting events happening in our city over the next couple of months. Join us as we attend these events together with other members. Outings may be followed by coffee, lunch or dinner together for those who wish.

**May 10 at 7:00 pm**

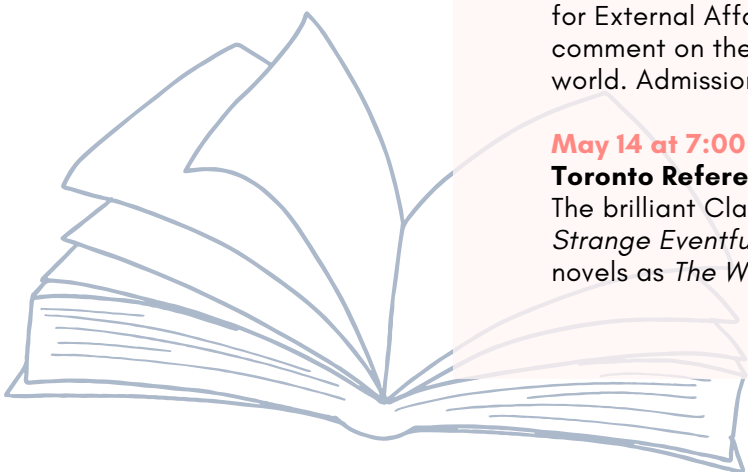
### **The Honorable Joe Clark in Conversation with former Ambassador Chris Alexander**

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Cameron Hall, 1585 Yonge St. Mr. Clark will share recollections and insights from 25 years in the House of Commons including as Prime Minister, Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Leader of the Opposition. He will comment on the current political situation in Canada and around the world. Admission by donation. Also available as a live webcast.

**May 14 at 7:00 pm**

### **Toronto Reference Library**

The brilliant Claire Messud will speak about her new novel *This Strange Eventful History*. Ms. Messud is the author of such wonderful novels as *The Woman Upstairs* and *The Emperor's Children*.



## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Spring is in the air and that means our application process for our UWC Scholarship Program is now underway. Our 17 schools have all been contacted and are preparing submissions for our May 10th application date.

This year we will be providing nine UWCT scholarships to our local schools, two for students from Iqaluit, awards to two young women who have aged out of care from the Children's Aid Society as well as supporting our Innis Residence Scholarship.

Our continued generosity from our membership enables us to offer \$90,000 worth of scholarships this year, bringing the total in our six-year foundation history to \$500,000.

Over 60 recipients have benefitted from our Scholarship Program. We are definitely making a difference in the lives of the young women that we touch with our support.

Your committee members are excited to begin the process this year and look forward to receiving and deliberating on our schools' submissions.

The scholarship recipients will be introduced to you in our June and July newsletters. You will have the opportunity to meet them in person at our Scholarship Reception at the Faculty Club on June 17th. Please save the date. We hope to see you there to celebrate these young women, their families and school staff.

Your committee members are: Sharon A., Marianne A., Lily C., Susan F., Jane H., Donna H., Susan L., Liz M. and Penny V.

- Chris W.





# PAST EVENTS

## SPEAKER: SHARON VATTAY APRIL 15

On April 15, 2024, our speaker for the evening, Sharon Vattay, was welcomed by a large and enthusiastic audience of UWC members who were eager to hear Sharon's presentation on "Toronto's Massey Music Hall: Conservation in Practice". Sharon, an expert in architectural history and historic preservation with the firm GBCA Architects, played a key role in the recent multi-million-dollar rehabilitation of Toronto's world-renowned Massey Music Hall. Sharon accompanied her talk with slides showing amazingly detailed surveys, blueprints and photographs of Massey Hall before and after its stunning transformation. It was fascinating to see what the lobby looked like when it was built in staid Victorian times, then updated to 1930's glamour, and finally rehabilitated to a new design that honours and preserves the lobby's previous elements while incorporating up to date materials and safety guidelines. Sharon's talk also took us inside the concert hall, to show us how the restoration of the hall's "Moorish" plaster ceiling was accomplished.



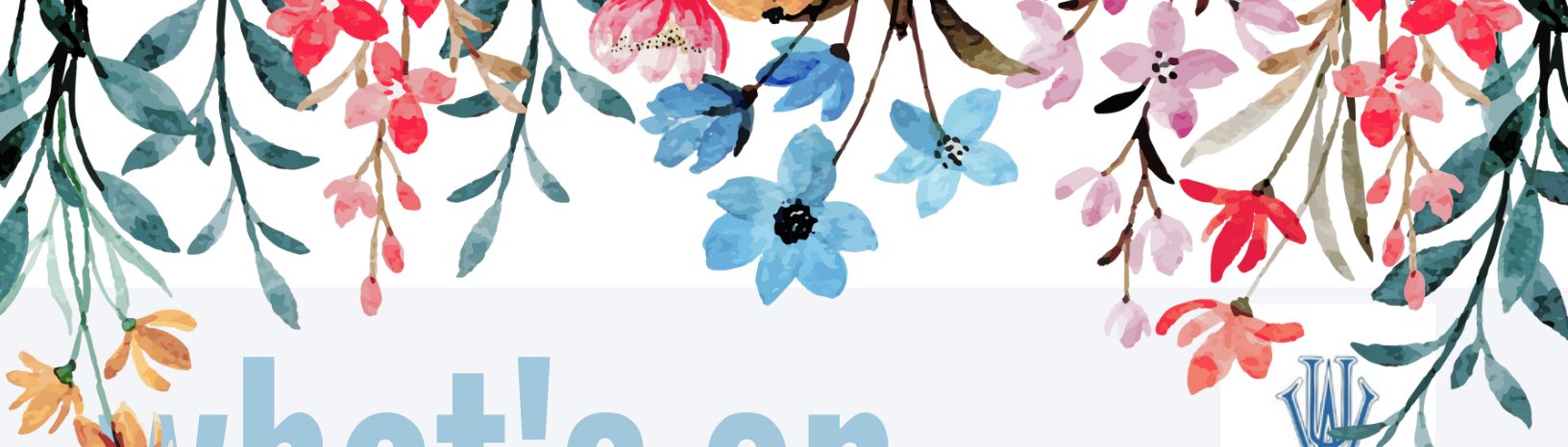
Photographs of the beautiful stained-glass windows that have now been cleaned, repaired and restored to their former glory elicited appreciative gasps from the audience. We also learned about the construction and function of the unique passerelles that now flank the original building, giving it the circulation space it previously lacked and linking it to a new seven storey tower that provides modern audience amenities, performer spaces and administrative offices.

Sharon's talk was fascinating and informative, leaving everyone with a longing to visit Toronto's iconic Massey Hall to see its amazing revitalization for themselves.



## KENSINGTON MARKET WALK | APRIL 19

On April 19, an intrepid group of over 18 women braved the rain to tour Kensington market. We learned about the fascinating history evolving from Bellevue house which was built in 1815 and surrounded by parkland. From the 1850s, this land was subdivided into smaller housing lots for the growing immigrant population in Toronto. By the 1930s, 80% of Toronto's Jewish population lived in Kensington and it had over 40 synagogues. Two exist today - the Kiever on Bellevue Square and the Minsk on St Andrew. Today Kensington is bustling with shops and restaurants with influences from around the world. The group enjoyed a lovely lunch after of Vietnamese food and interesting conversation.



# what's on **UWC EVENTS**



Our weekly Friday email outlines events for the following week, together with RSVP and Zoom links.

# May

**MAY**  
**01**

and every Wednesday  
- Le petit cercle  
at **10:00 am**

**MAY**  
**02**

Morning Book Club  
at **10:30 am**

**MAY**  
**07**

and every Tuesday -  
Bridge at **10:00 am**

**MAY**  
**08**

Mah Jongg Game  
at **4:30 pm**

**MAY**  
**15**

International Dining  
at **6:00 pm**

**MAY**  
**16**

Meditation Morning  
at **10:30 am**

**MAY**  
**22**

Mah Jongg Lesson  
at **3:30 pm**

**MAY**  
**22**

Mah Jongg Game  
at **4:30 pm**

**MAY**  
**22**

Evening Book Club  
at **5:00 pm**

**MAY**  
**23**

New Book Club  
at **6:00 pm**

**MAY**  
**27**

AGM  
at **5:00 pm**

