



University Women's Club Toronto

envisioning, engaging, empowering

UPCOMING EVENTS

ZOOM SPEAKER : BRONWYN ROE | MONDAY APRIL 19, AT 4:00 PM



"Building the Case for a Better Earth: Using the Power of the Law to Fight Climate Change"

Bronwyn Roe is a lawyer at Ecojustice, Canada's largest environmental law charity. Ecojustice goes to court and uses the full force of the law to defend nature, combat the climate emergency and fight for a healthy environment for all. Bronwyn will speak about Ecojustice's work to hold governments accountable for meaningful action on climate change through strategic litigation and law reform. Among the cases that Bronwyn will discuss is the precedent-setting *Mathur v. Ontario* case, in which Ecojustice is representing seven young climate activists who are challenging the Ontario government's inaction on climate change.

SPOTLIGHT OF US | MONDAY APRIL 26 AT 5:00 PM

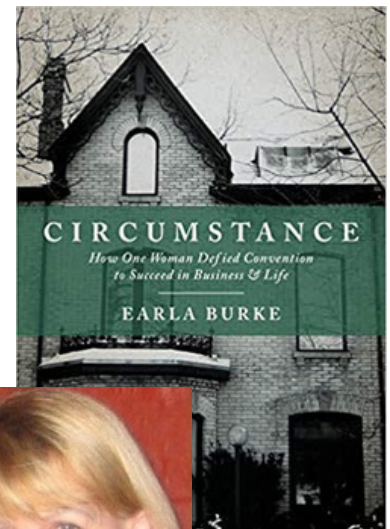
Join us at this month's Spotlight on Us with member and author Earla Burke!

Earla Burke's memoir, *Circumstance* is the journey of a girl who found the public library and the Baptist Church at the age of eight in a small town in Northern Ontario. Independent at age 14 after repeating grade 9 three times, she travelled to Toronto where she met new friends and challenges. A graduate of three universities and successful entrepreneur, she invites you to visit her website: www.earlaburke.com to learn more and welcomes questions at our next Spotlight Zoom meeting.

It will be a wonderful chance to stay connected and feel inspired!

Be sure to register now by emailing info@uwctoronto.ca Looking forward to seeing all your lovely faces on zoom!

- Alida





March was a month of raising awareness of various advocacy issues. Going back a bit, the CFUW Ontario Council Speaker Series on Feb. 27 concentrated on women's mental health during the Covid crisis. Given the at-home schooling, working from home, the loss of some jobs, the pressure on front line workers, the absence of day care. The situation for many women is grim. The speakers provided statistics, gave advice and expressed genuine concern.

We had International Women's Day and were made aware of the need to elect more women to offices, municipally, provincially and federally. Wasn't it wonderful to see that brilliant montage of the women leaders of so many countries? The statistics of COVID success are often tied to women's leadership and this success comes from a realistic view of the situation, a take charge approach and that amazing feminine talent, multi-tasking.

Angela Merkel is about to retire after 18 extremely successful years as Chancellor of Germany with so many accomplishments in the economy, in the welcoming of refugees, in the managing of COVID, the handling of the many problems of the European Union. She always did her own housework in the apartment she had always lived in and nobody dared ask her: "Who are you wearing?"

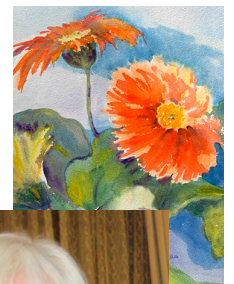
Some of us were privileged to 'attend' a virtual conference entitled Women's Leadership during COVID which was part of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. There were many women who presented short talks on issues that they had been working on. It was fantastic. Most of the women were quite young and totally committed to improving the lives of women and girls. They projected a global conscience.

A brilliant young woman from Hawaii spoke about the importance of paid maternity leave, which is not legislated in the U.S., while breastfeeding her child. A stellar example of initiative is a young woman from Iqaluit who realized that the internet services in Nunavut were spasmodic and unreliable, so she formed her own company and fixed it. Another amazing young woman at the Munk School has published a study in cooperation with the YWCA and the Institute for Gender and the Economy. A young undergrad at U of T has founded The Green Hope Foundation to provide aid to Liberia and Bangladesh. Pamela Jeffrey of The Prosperity Project is publishing a report on gender, equity and opportunity.

The message of the event was 'When women succeed, we all prosper'.

Needless to say this idea of a global awareness and a global conscience is most impressive. For those of us of 'a certain age', many changes have happened in our lifetime. We all remember that a girl could be a secretary, a nurse or a teacher. Remember, too, the Virginia Slims ad 'You've come a long way, baby.' Now it looks so very condescending. We must remember the battles of the bra burners, Gloria Steinem, Germaine Greer and Betty Friedan or even go back to the Famous Five of the Persons Case in Canada. Now, many women are in STEM programs, engineering, medicine, law: typically male domains in our youth. So many women hold important positions in all businesses and industries. Isn't it great?

All the best,
- Susan



CLUB NEWS

AGM | MAY 31 AT 5:30 PM

Please save May 31 for the AGM. It will be via Zoom and begins at 5:30. It is really important that you attend to receive the reports of the directors, to vote on amendments to the constitution, to approve the transfer of monies, to meet the new board. The constitution is available under Member Resources on the website. We will only send the changes in the AGM package. We will be sending out the reports, amendment suggestions and proxies at the beginning of May for your attention and consideration.

NEW MEMBERS

We are so pleased to welcome Susan Lambie to the club.

Welcome!

ADVOCACY

We are very pleased that Cecilia Mende will be directing the work of the Advocacy Committee and be the liaison with Humewood and Romero. Within the committee Cynthia Smith will be responsible for reporting on Women and Violence, Shajeetha C. is our representative on the Early Childhood group, Vijay Agnew will be our rep for Housing and Barbara Falby for climate issues. Judith Lewis will be secretary of the group. We thank Lily Contento for her leadership and continued participation on the committee.

- Susan

THANK YOU CARMIE

There's no doubt that without our many valued volunteers, our club would fail to thrive and grow. Carmie is one such UWC member whose hard work and enthusiasm for club activities has helped our club flourish. We are so fortunate to have had her serve as one of our board members for the last 3 years. As Secretary, Carmie has always exemplified a strong commitment and dedication to the welfare of the club. She will be stepping down from the board this month, but will continue to take a very active role in the club. Members of the board wish to thank Carmie on behalf of all our members for the significant and responsible contribution she has made as Secretary.

- Jane



INTEREST GROUPS

HISTORY OF ART



Lavinia Fontana

Tuesday April 6, at 7:00 PM

We will explore the “ Other Renaissance”, which took place in Bologna Italy in the 16th C. We will look at the art of Lavinia Fontana (1552-1614).



*Catharina van Hemessen
(1527-1580)
Self-portrait*

Tuesday April 20th at 7:00 PM

We will look at the work of two Flemish women artists - Catharina van Hemessen and Lavinia Teerlinc. Lavinia painted in the court of King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I of England.

To receive the Zoom link contact Haley at info@uwctoronto.ca
- Arlene



*Lavinia Teerlinc
(1510? -1576)
Portrait of Queen Elizabeth I*



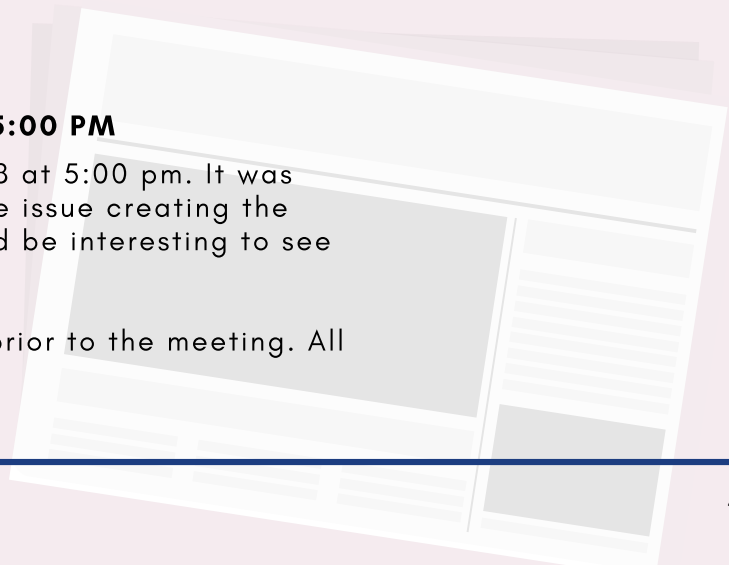
CURRENT EVENTS

Wednesday April 14th & 28th at 5:00 PM

Do join us Wednesday April 14 & 28 at 5:00 pm. It was agreed that the topic would be the issue creating the most headlines that week. It should be interesting to see what's top of mind then.

Haley will send out the Zoom link prior to the meeting. All members are most welcome.

- Norah



INTEREST GROUPS

MAHJONG GROUP



UWC Toronto is looking to set up a Mahjong group, hopefully weekly, at a venue and time that will be announced once COVID restrictions are sorted out. Those new to Mahjong are welcome to join.

The Wikipedia site for American Mahjong gives a good outline and history of the game. The instruction manual *A Beginner's Guide to American Mahjong* can be purchased through Amazon.ca. There will be adequate instruction and support available to novice players at the games. It is not that difficult to learn. You do not need to become an expert to keep up with the game. We hope to have both novice and advanced participants involved.

Mahjong is a lovely game to play. It is a means to get out and easily socialize. MJ provides fairly stress free fun/distraction, but also can be challenging, depending on the level you want to play. We are hoping refreshments (for a small fee) will be available as well as the possibility for post game lunches.

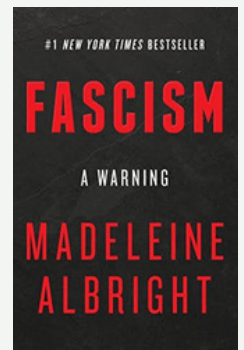
Please contact me, Shelley Zucchi at shelleyzucchi@rogers.com if you have an interest, or have any questions. If there is enough interest, we hope to be organized for when COVID restrictions let up, possibly this Fall.

- Shelly

MORNING BOOK CLUB APRIL 1ST AT 10:30 AM

Book: Fascism: A Warning by Madeline Albright

A personal and urgent examination of Fascism in the twentieth century and how its legacy shapes today's world, written by one of America's most admired public servants, the first woman to serve as U.S. Secretary of State.



Convenor:

Jean Thomson: 416-421-2732

Email: thomson149@yahoo.com

EVENING BOOK CLUB APRIL 28 AT 5:00 PM

Book: Biography of your choice

New members are always welcome.

Convenor:

Judith Lewis 416-653-4931

Email: judithlynnlewis@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Kudos to our club membership! Because of your continued support of our scholarship fundraisers and your generous donations, we have been able to expand our scholarship awards this year.

We presently provide six club scholarships, three Iqaluit awards, one Children's Aid Foundation Scholarship and an Innis Residence Scholarship. We are also able to provide one more Mary Macdonald Scholarship with great thanks to Mary's family's generous gift giving.

This year, we are very excited to announce a one-time Susan Freeman Scholarship of \$2000. Our committee, with full board support, wanted to honour the dedication, tireless work and forward thinking of Susan as our president. We thought that a scholarship in her name was a wonderful way to honour her legacy and commitment to furthering educational aspirations for young women on the margins.

We are also able to report that as of September we will be committing to a Second Children's Aid Foundation Scholarship as well as upping our six \$4000 scholarships to \$5000 each.

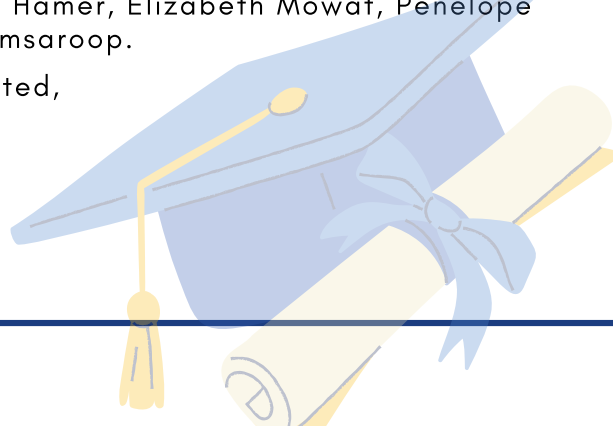
We have added a one-time Refugee Scholarship to support a woman in our refugee community to advance herself educationally.

All of our schools have been forwarded application forms that are due May 14. Your committee will meet in late May to deliberate and schools will be informed of our decisions by Friday, May 28. We look forward to reading about our applicants and hearing about their great academic successes, their leadership and school and community involvement.

It is a difficult but incredibly rewarding experience and I would like to thank the committee in advance. Sharon Abel, Marianne Anderson, Lily Contento, Susan Freeman, Doris Geddes, Jane Hamer, Elizabeth Mowat, Penelope Vincent, Talisha Ramsaroop.

Respectfully submitted,

- *Chris Ward*



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

NEWS FROM IQALUIT

I have been in touch with our young women from Iqaluit. Anna and Cassidy-Ann are presently full engaged in their second terms. Anna is beginning her third year and Cassidy-Ann is completing second year.

Here is a response from our latest scholarship recipient, Lerena May Ashevak. Lerena deferred her university attendance until September 2021. I asked about her, her family and what she has been doing this year.

- Chris Ward

Good morning Chris,

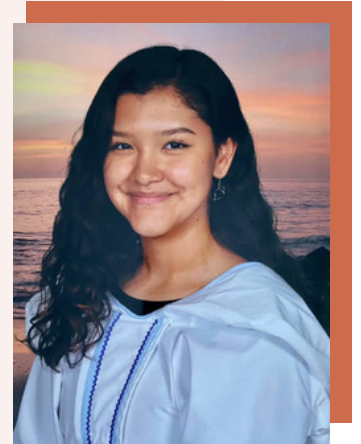
So good to hear from you! Luckily there have been no cases of Covid in my community, and my family and I are doing well!

Over the summer I started working at the Department of Economic Development and Transportation as part of the HR team. My work keeps me pretty busy so I haven't had time to work on many of my hobbies, but since our open volleyball club started running practices again I try to play a couple times a week. I also recently went back to babysitting and spend my Sunday mornings taking care of our family friends' kids.

In the fall I will be attending Acadia University taking Environmental Studies.

I hope you and your family are well.

- Lerena



ASHEVAK'S ENCHANTED OWL

I had recently taken a course about Inuit art and was particularly drawn to the incredible work of Kenojuak Ashevak. (Many years ago I was introduced to her very well-known work Enchanted Owl.) Just on the off chance that Lerena would have known and/or even be related, I posed the question. Lerena did indeed know Kenojuak. She was her great-grandmother!!

Our vast land is indeed a small world!

- Chris Ward



ADVOCACY

SUPPORTING HUMEWOOD HOUSE

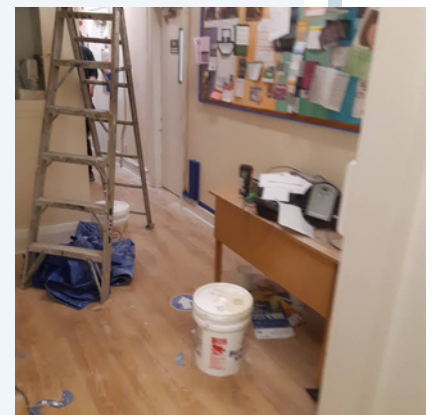
This month the Advocacy committee is focusing on a new project with Humewood House. Located near near St. Clair and Christie. Humewood house was built in the mid 1800s by the first chancellor of Ontario, William Hume Blake for his wife. After his passing, the family settled back to England thus the home was left empty.



In the year, 1912 Humewood was taken over by a group of ladies at a local Anglican Church. They used the home to house expecting unwed mothers who were both vulnerable and underprivileged. Celebrating over 100 years of giving. Humewood offers a number of services such as a high school completion program, scholarships for post-secondary education, early childhood education for children, shelter, residential housing services, food and clothing bank as well as mental and physical health services.

Thanks to the generosity at our Advocacy group, the club, as well as all our members, we were able to contribute \$2000 to help in the upkeep and refurbishment of the building, which is underway now as shown below.

- Cecilia Mende



ADVOCACY

CLIMATE CHANGE

"The climate crisis is fuelled by ongoing climate change denial and inertia....."

"Given mounting public support for mitigating the effects of climate change, education sectors in nations throughout the world will be increasingly expected to align policy to address sustainability challenges."

I lifted these quotes from SEPN's website. SEPN (Sustainability and Education Policy Network) is an international network of researchers and organizations that is based at the University of Saskatchewan and emerged in response to knowledge gaps about sustainability.

It is a remarkable initiative, and I encourage you to look at the SEPN website, <https://sepn.ca> and note its connections to UNESCO, plus universities and academic institutions around the world.

I personally am concerned that the climate change emergency does not seem to be reflected in curriculum offerings at the TDSB (Toronto District School Board) and elsewhere. If you're interested in learning more about SEPN, and would like to attend a TDSB committee meeting to discuss it on Tuesday, April 6th on ZOOM 6:30 to 8:30 pm, please contact me. Barbara Falby 416-696-5084

- Barbara

DOMESTIC ABUSE: VIOLENCE, HOMELESSNESS AND LEGAL SUPPORT

Daily, during COVID we read of increasing domestic abuse, especially in Toronto. On March 17, the *Globe and Mail* published 2020 statistics that showed increased abuse directed at women and girls.

Ontario had the highest number of all provinces. The concentration of domestic abuse is in the GTA. It knows no class, education level, race, ethnicity, or religious affiliation. The City of Toronto has partnered with community agencies in creating and operating #Here to Help.

Many free resources are available: medical, legal, shelter, housing. If you know of someone who might be in distress, please refer them to:

<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/health-programs-advice/violence-at-home>

- Cynthia Smith



MEMBER NEWS

PAINTINGS BY TERRY TEDESCO

Terry has been busy preparing four paintings to participate once again in the Don Valley Art Club's Annual Spring Award Show. This year, an ONLINE juried exhibition and sale Celebrating Creativity will be streamed April 19th to May 9th, 2021. Check out the website <https://donvalleyartclub.com/> and you'll soon see a link where you can view and purchase original fine art securely, enjoying free local delivery.

Next time you visit Sunnybrook Hospital look for four of Terry's large acrylic and mixed media paintings hanging in the corridors and for sale on this link: <https://giftshop.sunnybrook.ca/collections/fine-art-sales>



PHOTOS BY OLIVIA ROBERTSON

I have always been fascinated by our beautiful planet and the people that call it home. My education was an exploration of humanity through history and psychology, with my PhD focusing on cognition and learning. My love of photography helped me further explore the diversity of lives through a creative lens.



When my family was grown (my husband and I have 6 children and 9 grandchildren), I decided to take a break and re-evaluate my life; I packed a bag and with my camera took off to India.

Since that first trip over 10 years ago, I have travelled extensively. Especially the three years we lived in Hong Kong. The photos you see here are from China and Ethiopia.

I broke three toes just prior to my driver and guide picking me up in Beijing. As I could not cancel my trip, nor did I wish to, I taped up my foot and hoped for the best. We spent five hours walking and photographing the incredible country surrounding The Great Wall of China, in absolute awe of what humanity is capable of.

My trip to Ethiopia was organized by a fellow photographer and we spent ten days exploring the tribes that live in the Omo Valley. Every day a driver and guide would pick us up and just before we entered the National Park, we were joined by a guard with a machine gun for our protection. All the tribes had machine guns as well to protect their people and livestock. I know this sounds scary but it wasn't. The tribes were incredible and I was totally captivated by their lives. This is a photograph of the Karo Tribe at the end of our day of shooting.

- Olivia



MEMBER NEWS



Poem by Merle Amodeo from her poetry collection *Such Sweet Sorrow*

Things Could be Worse

Sure, you lost your keys last week
and Revenue Canada is auditing your return,
but there's a sparrow at your window
tweeting *Che Gelida Manina*
for your ears only.

Your arthritis is flaring
and the curve in your spine
means you waste most of your vision
on asphalt and concrete.
Glance slightly to the right
and you'll see crowds of golden daffodils
swaying in the breeze.

Insomnia night after night
leaves you grouchy and groggy all day.
Relax in the afternoon
and let Ravel's *Bolero*
The taste of a juicy mango,
or the rough touch of a kitten's tongue
comfort you.

Your forgetfulness embarrasses you
when you turn up a day late
for your friend's retirement party.
Why not meet for a quiet lunch
where the two of you can talk and laugh
the way you did when you shared an office?

You're worried about global warming
and American politics.
Banish them from your thoughts,
and I'll stay up way past midnight
and do your fretting for you.

This wasn't the life you planned.
You didn't expect to grow old and cranky.
But you have good friends, a blue sky,
and a grin that warms the universe.
Smile and join the joy around you.

- Merle Amodeo

PAST EVENTS

DR. BETSY MCGREGOR, MARCH 8

Women on the Ballot: Stories of Our Trailblazers

The theme for International Women’s Day, March 8, 2021 was "Choose to Challenge", and what better way for UWC to honour the theme and the day than by showcasing a talk by Dr. Betsy McGregor, a leader in women’s issues in Canada and the author of *Women on the Ballot: Pathways to Political Power*.

Dr. McGregor delivered a dynamic and inspiring address. After setting the stage by discussing the foundations of women’s leadership in Canada and the issues that women in particular have faced during the COVID pandemic, Dr. McGregor introduced us to some of the trailblazing women in her book who have “chosen the challenge” of running for political office in Canada.

UWC Toronto had advertised Dr. McGregor’s talk widely to other women’s groups in the Ontario Council and we were gratified to see a large and enthusiastic turnout, with representatives from at least 12 other university women’s clubs in attendance. For those wishing to read more about the women politicians, trailblazers and role models featured in Dr McGregor’s book, *Women on the Ballot: Pathways to Political Power* is available from <https://www.rubiconpublishing.com/product/wotb-preorder>. The coupon code is WOTB15 and entering this code when ordering the book will take \$5 off the purchase price.

- Pam Horton



NEWS FROM OUR PAST SPEAKER

We recently received the following message from one of our past speakers, Ian Evans, who spoke to members in November, 2020, about his exciting expedition to the South Pole and returned in January to present a special private showing of his award-winning documentary about the trek, Lunatic:

It was a pleasure to screen LUNATIC for the University Women's Club back in January. We have now secured all music licensing, and I am delighted to announce that the documentary is now available online. The film can also be accessed from the header on my website homepage. LUNATIC online: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/lunatic> Ian website: www.ianevasns.ca



SAVE THE DATE

SUZANNE EVANS | MAY 10, 2021

"The Taste of Longing: Ethel Mulvaney and Her Starving Prisoners of War Cookbook"



Dr. Suzanne Evans is an Ottawa historian and writer, whose research and writing has a strong focus on women and war. Doing some research at the Canadian War Museum a few years ago, her attention was caught by an old and odd cookbook in the museum's library and she set out to discover everything she could about the Canadian woman of extraordinary fortitude who had compiled the cookbook, Ethel Mulvaney. Suzanne's resulting book, *The Taste of Longing: Ethel Mulvaney and Her Starving Prisoners of War*, is the fascinating and compelling story of one woman's resilience and endurance in the midst of indescribable hardship and suffering. Join us on May 10, 2021 for a fascinating talk by Dr. Suzanne Evans about Ethel Mulvaney and her World War Two cookbook.



what's on

UWC EVENTS

Send an email to Haley at info@uwctoronto.ca to register

APR
01

Morning Book Group **10:30 am**

APR
03

Le petit cercle, every Wednesday at **9:30 am**



APR
05

Board Meeting at **4:00 pm**

APR
06

History of Art at **7:00 pm**



APR
08

Advocacy Group Meeting at **4:00 pm**

APR
14

Current Events at **5:00 pm**



APR
20

History of Art at **7:00 pm**

APR
26

Spotlight on Us: Earla Burke at **5:00 pm**

APR
19

Speaker Bronwyn Roe at **4:00 pm**



APR
28

Current Events at **5:00 pm**

APR
28

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

