



# University Women's Club Toronto

envisioning, engaging, empowering



## MERCI MILLE FOIS

I'm sure everyone is well aware that we owe Susan a great debt of gratitude for her time served as our club's President since 2017. During Susan's 4 year term, our UWC membership has doubled, our activity program has grown exponentially and our new Scholarship Foundation has been successfully launched. All this was achieved, in large part, to Susan's tireless leadership. Her perseverance, determination and hard work helped build a dynamic club, one that continues to thrive despite today's social distancing restrictions.

The President's office is not a walk in the park. There have been surprises, difficulties, and unforeseen complications, but Susan has met all challenges head on. Those of us who have had the pleasure of working on the board with Susan have greatly admired her energy, enthusiasm and ability to navigate her way with poise and resolve. She is the essence of grace under pressure. We are so fortunate to have had Susan as our President.

In June, Susan's role on the board continues, as she begins her term as Past President. Thanks to Susan's generous and diligent volunteer service, the future of our club is most certainly assured.

- Jane

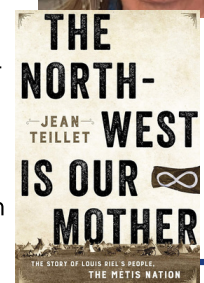
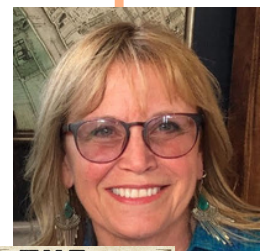
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ZOOM SPEAKER: JEAN TEILLET | MONDAY, JUNE 14 AT 4:00 PM

#### ***"The Northwest is our Mother: The Story of Louis Riel's People"***

Plan to join us on Zoom at 4:00 pm on Monday, June 14, for what promises to be a fascinating talk by Jean Teillet, one of Canada's most distinguished authorities on the Métis Nation.

The great-grandniece of Louis Riel, Professor Teillet is an Indigenous rights lawyer and negotiator, a frequent lecturer and author, and the holder of numerous awards for her outstanding contributions to Indigenous justice initiatives. Professor Teillet will share with us the compelling history of the struggle for rights and justice of the Métis Nation, drawing from her recent book, *The Northwest Is Our Mother*. Acclaimed as a "scholarly, thoroughly researched, historically accurate and completely engaging account of the Métis nation", *The Northwest Is Our Mother* is published by Harper Collins Canada. Those wishing to learn more about this part of Canada's history in preparation for Professor Teillet's talk can find the book on Amazon or through Indigo Books.



- Pam

## CLUB NEWS

# Welcome

Welcome to Linda Geddes a once and again member. Linda was a member when the club was at 162 St. George St. and we are delighted that she is joining us again.



## THANK YOU JUDITH

When I joined the University Women's Club nearly 10 years ago, I received a very gracious welcome from Judith Lewis, who was President at that time. The sincerity and warmth of that welcome made a lasting impression, one I've never forgotten.

Judith is a stalwart member of the club and a fascinating source of club history. She has always made a point of getting to know new members and does all she can to make them feel right at home. When the difficult decision was made to relocate the club from 162 St George to the Faculty Club, it fell to Judith as President, to guide the way and manage the move. This formidable task was successfully accomplished thanks largely to Judith's determination and hard work. Once settled at the Faculty Club, Judith carried on as President until 2017. Now that Judith's term as Past President is over, the board wishes to thank her sincerely for the significant contribution she has made over many, many years to the UWC

- Jane



## IN MEMORIAM

Shirley Dyck joined the University Women's Club when we were still on St. George Street. I remember her as a very elegant woman and honestly one of the sweetest people I have ever met.

Born on the prairies, Shirley moved to Ontario where she met her husband who was a doctor. They had two sons and one daughter. They lived in Saudia Arabia for a few years and then moved back to Canada. Upon her return to Canada, Shirley enrolled in Emmanuel college and was ordained as a United Church minister. She served at Glebe Road United Church. Shirley also covered the first Thursday morning book club and, I have been told, was great at it. Shirley's husband and her sons predeceased her. Sadly, Shirley passed away on May 15 while in hospital.

With Respect,  
Judith Lewis



## CLUB NEWS

### SCHOLARSHIPS

On May 26, our Scholarship Committee met to deliberate and select our scholarship recipients for 2021. As this date is so close to our newsletter deadline, I will only be able to list our decisions by name and school at this time. Stay tuned for our July/August newsletter with bios and pics.

Our committee, as always, did an outstanding job. As one of our members said - "it is a humbling and inspiring experience." We are, indeed, making a difference for many young women on the margins. The continued support of our club membership is paramount to our success. The committee members are Sharon Abel, Marianne Anderson, Lily Contento, Susan Freeman, Doris Geddes, Jane Hamer, Liz Mowat, and Penny Vincent.

#### UWC Toronto \$5000 Scholarships

- Bethelam Charles - *Central Toronto Academy*. Bethelam will also receive the \$2000 Susan Freeman Scholarship
- Ummalhair Owolewa - *Central Technical School*
- Laura-Tran Nguyen - *Parkdale CI*
- Seemal Sipra - *Bloor CI*
- Mary Cate Faulkner - *Malvern CI*
- Mouna Aden - *Harbord CI*

#### Mary Macdonald \$25,000 Scholarship

- Angelica Treleven - *York Memorial*

Respectfully submitted,  
*Chris Ward*



### UWC ANNUAL FEES

Invoices will be sent to members next month via email for their annual fee which is payable on July 1. Payments can be made by e-transfer or cheque which can be mailed to:

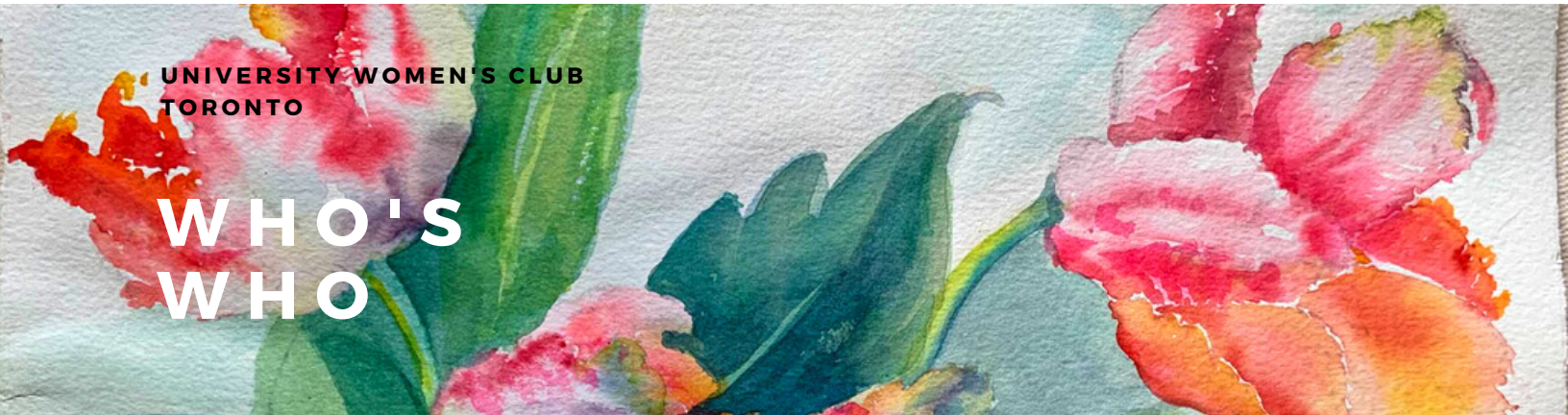
**Wendy McCallum**

**115 Lyall Avenue, Toronto,  
ON M4E 1W6.**



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

As announced at our 2021 AGM on May 31, our new board of directors assume their new roles this month. We thank the outgoing team and wish the incoming directors much success. The names of our new board and all committee members follow on the next few pages.



UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB  
TORONTO

# WHO'S WHO

## INTRODUCING OUR 2021

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Contact details for all members can be found in our online membership directory.



**WENDY  
MCCALLUM**  
President



**PAM  
HORTON**  
Director of Programs



**JANE  
HAMER**  
Vice President



**MARIANNE  
ANDERSON**  
Director of Charitable  
Giving



**ALIDA  
FINNIE**  
Secretary  
and Spotlight convenor



**CHRISTINE  
WARD**  
Director of  
Scholarships



**SUSAN  
LEROY**  
Treasurer  
and International  
Dining convenor



**CECILIA  
MENDE**  
Director of Advocacy



**JO-LYNNE  
SUTHERLAND**  
Co-Director of  
Communications



**ARLENE  
KUSHNIR**  
Director of Special  
Events  
and Women in Art  
Series



**ELLEN  
THOMPSON**  
Co-Director of  
Communications



**SUSAN  
FREEMAN**  
Past President



UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB  
TORONTO

# WHO'S WHO

## INTEREST GROUP CONVENORS

Mary Aziz: Co-chair of International Dining  
Norah Brochu: Chair of Current Event  
Marg McGiverin: Bridge  
Morning Book Club: Jean Thomson  
Evening Book Club: Judith Lewis  
Le petit cercle francais: Susan Freeman  
Mah Jong - Shelley Zucchi  
Pilates - Lucia McCurdy  
New Book Club - Susan Freeman

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Ruth Matheson, Cathy Conforzi, Susan  
Anderson, Lynne Primrose, Shelley  
Zucchi, Wendy McCallum, Jane  
Hamer, Susan Freeman

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wendy McCallum, Susan LeRoy,  
Trish Stewart, Kathy Nolan-Garner,  
Marg McGiverin, Jane Hamer,  
Susan Freeman

## ARCHIVIST

Judith Lewis

## NOMINATIONS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Rosemary Hales, Kathy Nolan-Garner,  
Vijay Agnew, Susan Freeman

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Christine Ward, Sharon Abel,  
Talisha Ramsaroop, Lily Contento,  
Elizabeth Mowat, Jane Hamer,  
Doris Geddes, Marianne Anderson,  
Penny Vincent, Susan Freeman

## ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Cecilia Mende, Mary Jane Pettingill,  
Susan LeRoy, Leslie Giroday, Terry  
Tedesco, Vijay Agnew (Housing)  
Cynthia Smith (Violence Against  
Women) Judith Lewis, Leanne  
Kloppenborg, Arlene Kushnir, Shelley  
Zucchi, Barbara Falby (Environment),  
Shajeetha Chandramanohara (Early  
Childhood) , Rebecca Hagey,  
AnnaMaria Vuksinic, Ruxandra Pop,  
Julia Arbanas, (Wendy, Jane, Susan)

## THE UWC (TORONTO) FOUNDATION

### Board of Directors

President: Marianne Anderson  
Vice-President: Talisha Ramsaroop  
Secretary: Penny Vincent  
Treasurer: Kathy Nolan-Garner  
Directors: Doris Geddes, Christine Ward,  
Susan Freeman  
Members: Susan LeRoy, Wendy McCallum,  
Jane Hamer

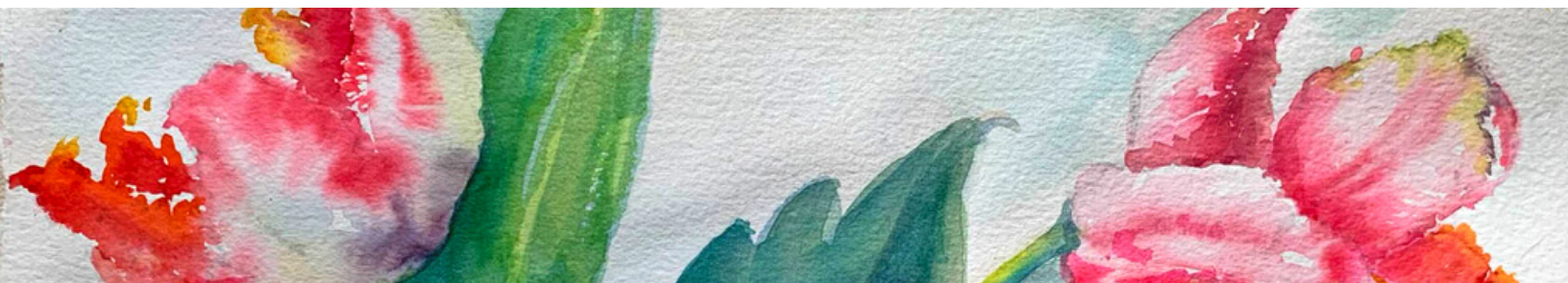
## THE UWCT SCHOLAR PROGRAM

### Background

Since 2019, the University Women's Club of Toronto (UWCT) has, through its foundation, the University Women's Club (Toronto) Foundation (UWCTF), been awarding entrance scholarships of \$4,000 each to young women chosen from central Toronto high schools. We also support three students from Iqaluit for a total of \$12,000 and have committed \$22,000 over four years to a Crown Ward from the Children's Aid Society. We are honoured to have been chosen by her family to award two Mary Macdonald Scholarships of \$25,000. Over the last 3 years we have supported a first-year student at Innis College (U of T) with a Residence Scholarship of \$9,200. The award criteria include academic achievement, leadership, extra-curricular activities and financial need.

Over time, we will have sponsored a large group of impressive young women.

The proposal is to designate these scholarship recipients as UWCT Scholars, thereby continuing an ongoing relationship with our organization and other recipients.



## UWC TORONTO ENGAGEMENT



Our club has two distinct philanthropic arms, which is sometimes confusing. The following is meant to clarify the role of each.

### 1. The UWC (Toronto) Foundation.

This is our charitable arm. It is set up to award scholarships and grants to young women who have excellent academic standing, are involved in their communities and who experience financial need. The winners of our scholarships are chosen by the scholarship committee from applications from each of the schools. These scholarships are funded by the club and the Mary Macdonald Scholarship is donated by Mary's family. We also award grants to students from Iqaluit based on the schools recommendation for a student fulfilling our criteria.

The Foundation also awards funds to the Children's Aid Foundation and Innis College. The recipients of these awards are chosen by those organizations according to our specifications.

The Foundation receives funding from the University Women's Club of Toronto from our budget from the proceeds of our investments.

The Foundation also receives donations and bequests from members and friends. Donors are given a tax receipt for their donations to the Foundation as it is a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency. The purpose of the Foundation is to award scholarships in accordance with our mission to help women on the margins through education.

### 2. Our Other Charitable Work

Other donations or fund raising is done for other charitable organizations. This is part of our engagement in the community. These gifts/ fund raising events may fall within the purview of education but not necessarily. They are always to help women on the margins.

a) When the Syrian refugee crisis occurred a few years ago, we wanted to help but realized that we could not adopt a family and so looked for another way to help. Romero House is a centre for refugees in Toronto which welcomes all refugees. You can read about them on their website and be truly impressed by their generous, kind and purposeful organization. They operate the centre, provide 24/7 counsel for the refugees and help them get status, equivalency and a home in their new country. We have had 3 big fundraisers for Romero House involving a silent auction to raise funds. If we give money directly to Romero, the club or an individual can get a tax receipt. No tax receipts are available to the purchasers of items at the silent auction because goods are received for the money. Romero House can issue a tax receipt to the donor of the item. We also do two seasonal collections of clothing and household items annually for Romero.



## UWC TORONTO ENGAGEMENT

# SISTERING

**b)** We have also given to Sistering, a homeless women's shelter, to start a sewing studio and to improve their facilities. The sewing studio was considered an educational opportunity for the women in that it would provide them with a skill and an opportunity to learn together.

We have also collected toiletries for Sistering and donated the blue velvet drapes from the Faculty Club Dining Room to the sewing studio.

**c)** We have also embarked on a relationship through our Advocacy Committee to help Humewood House through money to improve the facility. Humewood House helps young women through pregnancy and young mothers with housing and educational opportunities. The Advocacy group held a sale of poinsettias to raise this money and the board added a bit from our Discretionary Fund. We have recently put together gift bags of useful and some luxurious toiletries for Mother's Day for the girls.

**d)** We have also collected books for women's prison libraries on two occasions. The libraries are woefully understocked and are most appreciative of our book collections.

All of the above in Section 2 are outreach projects not connected with the Foundation which deals only with scholarships and grants (as per the charter from CRA). As well as fundraising from projects by the club, the Board can give financial aid to the organizations in this group of organizations and others up to \$10,000 annually. These organizations can provide the Board with a tax receipt which is essential for our own bookkeeping.

We have had our own Book Sale and our Evening with Bob Rae at Innis College. Those were fundraisers for the Foundation. At the latter a tax receipt for more than \$20 was issued on request.

You can keep up to date on this information, on the scholarships, on the projects and on the work with our other partners by checking the newsletter, in which we report all of our activities, and the website ([www.uwctoronto.ca](http://www.uwctoronto.ca)).

If you have any questions about our engagement, please ask Susan Freeman, Jane Hamer, Wendy McCallum, Christine Ward (scholarships), or Marianne Anderson, of the UWC (Toronto) Foundation. We welcome your questions and your participation in our engagement in our community.

- Susan



Humewood House  
HH  
ESTABLISHED 1912





## INTEREST GROUPS

### MORNING BOOK CLUB

**Thursday, June 3rd at 10:30 am.**

*Reader's Choice*

The Morning Book Group meets the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. In the main, books of current and popular interests are selected for discussion. Books are chosen several months in advance to enable the members to acquire them from the public library during these difficult times. The group never lacks for lively discussion.

Convenor: Jean Thomson  
416-421-2732 /  
[thomson149@yahoo.ca](mailto:thomson149@yahoo.ca)

### EVENING BOOK CLUB

The evening book group will be meeting on **Wednesday, June 23 at 5:00 pm** on Zoom. We will be discussing *The Huntress*, by Kate Quinn. New members are always welcome.

Convenor Judith Lewis  
416-653-4931 email  
[judithlynnlewis@gmail.com](mailto:judithlynnlewis@gmail.com)



### PILATES

**NEW! Weekly Pilates Classes, Tuesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 am.**

On Tuesday May 18 we held our first very successful complimentary session. Going forward we will offer the classes in groups of several classes. The first group is the 5 Tuesdays in June, from June 1 to 29, inclusive. These 5 sessions are \$50 (total for all 5 sessions), payable by e-transfer to our instructor Sally Graves, at [renewwithsally@gmail.com](mailto:renewwithsally@gmail.com). Sally will forward zoom links directly to all participants.

If you would like to join our group after the first class, just email Sally and she will help you out. You can also email Sally if you have any questions about the format or content of the classes.

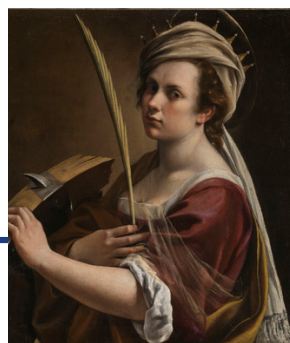
Hope to see you on the Pilates mat!

Convenor: Lucia McCurdy,  
[luciamccurdy@sympatico.ca](mailto:luciamccurdy@sympatico.ca)



### HISTORY OF ART

Arlene will be taking a break from the Art History Interest Group but will resume at some point in the future. Thank you all for your enthusiastic response to the presentations!



### CURRENT EVENTS

The group will convene on **Wednesday, June 2, 16 and 30 at 5:00 pm.**

Members seem to be interested in discussing Issues which are currently making news in our city, country and internationally. We will continue to follow the current format of identifying subjects for discussion close to the meeting date. If members have topics of personal or professional interest, please let me know.

By mid-June we will decide if a hiatus for July and August is desirable, depending on the current situation and regulations in place. Outdoor meetings might be fun!

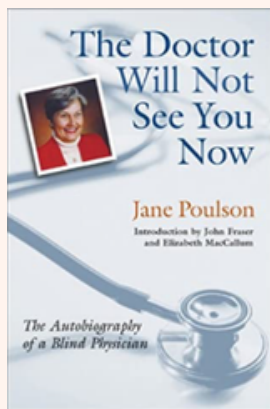
- Norah

UWC

Reads

As our social circles have closed in and at-home activities been on the rise, books have been a constant. We are using the lockdown as a chance to tackle those books on our bucket lists - the classics we never got around to reading, or the bestseller we've been meaning to dive into for months.

If you are looking for some good reads, here are two reviews from members. If you have a book you would like to recommend, please feel free to submit your review of 250 words or less to our newsletter editors - [thompsonellen@mac.com](mailto:thompsonellen@mac.com) or [jo-lynn@rogers.com](mailto:jo-lynn@rogers.com).



## THE DOCTOR WILL NOT SEE YOU NOW

*The Doctor Will Not See You Now* is the autobiography of Dr. Jane Poulson, Canada's first blind medical doctor. You may think the title refers to convenience, the fact that the doctor is busy and cannot see you now, at this time. However, because she is blind, the operative words are "will not see" not the word "now"

Jane Poulson was born in Toronto in 1952. At 13 years of age she was diagnosed with diabetes. When she was 27 and in medical school at McGill, Jane developed macular degeneration which eventually left her completely blind just three months before her final exams. Her mother read text books to her and friends assisted. She passed the exams and became a resident at Montreal General Hospital.

Jane became Canada's first practising blind physician and taught medicine at McGill. Her practice was mainly by feeling. Later she developed cancer and had heart problems.

What I took away from the book was her reaction and insight. When she told people she was blind, some felt that because she had a vision disability, they would speak more loudly. Others would say, "I know just how you feel. I have been wearing glasses since I was a pre-schooler." Others would comment, "You will probably have a better sense of hearing." There is nothing good about being disabled in any way. Jane advises the lay person, such as ourselves, to merely reply, "I am sorry to hear it."

Dr. Jane Poulson received the Order of Canada, our nation's highest award, in 1987 at 35 years of age, and then died at 49.

Jane had a strong faith in God even before she entered medical school. The birth of a baby and the wonders of nature - wind, waves, the ocean lapping against the shore, the majesty of the mountains - were marvels to her.

- *Harolyn Panetta*

## RED NOTICE

The Morning Book Club has had an active, interesting year with many books inspiring spirited discussion. Here is one recommended book: *Red Notice*, by Bill Browder.

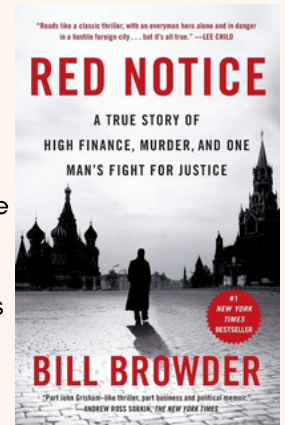
It has been said that Russian stories never have happy endings. This is a story which may have a silver lining. Browder shows us a fast paced, thriller-like true account of Russia's transformation into a market economy following the collapse of Soviet Union in 1989.

He begins by describing his rise as the first foreign hedge fund manager to accumulate large fortunes for himself and his clients. His huge success becomes a problem for Russian oligarchs who want him gone. In fighting back Browder has Russian lawyers to plead his cases. One of these is Sergei Magnitsky who was murdered in a Moscow prison. Seeking justice for his lawyer/friend shifts Browder's focus from hedge fund manager to human rights activist.

Many years of political effort result in the American passage of Magnitsky Act in 2012. This legislation to which Canada & numerous European countries are signatories allows for individuals not just nations to be sanctioned for human rights abuses. At the moment Magnitsky Act sanctions are being used by international community to aid fight to release Sergei Navalny, an imprisoned political opponent of Vladimir Putin.

This book provides the backstory of significant, political realities in present day Russia. Browder has been and continues to be on President Putin's hit list. A really good read!

- Mara Greenberg



## AND UWC Writes

### ***All the Names I Am* - Memoir by Robina Shaw**

Rather than vegging out like many of us during the pandemic, Robina Shaw took advantage of the time afforded by the lock down to write her memoir or as I think of it, a love letter to her grandchildren.

At a certain age, one starts to wonder about the people who came before you, often when it is too late, as many of the people who could enlighten you are gone. Robina has written a fascinating account of her early childhood during the Blitz in Plymouth, England. It is difficult for us to imagine spending nights in a bomb shelter while listening to the noise of bombers overhead, as a child. We, who were safely in Canada, have little idea of the privations of those war years and the years thereafter in the UK.

Not only was her childhood interesting, but in addition to being a loving mother to four children, Robina had a varied career with many changes along the way.

A number of us in the St Clair group were fortunate enough to receive copies of her book and it is available to be purchased. I have not attempted to provide an overview of her whole life story, which continues to be interesting. I think that perhaps Robina could be persuaded to present to the membership at an upcoming meeting so that everyone could enjoy the story of this fascinating woman.

- Norah Brochu

ADVOCACY



Thank you for all the wonderful gifts. It feels nice to be appreciated as a young mother.  
Naomi

Thank you to from Humewood Homes young women.  
D.R  
S.M.  
J.L  
2021



Thank you for the Mother's day gift!

Thank you from all the women at 1900 Sheppard Housing.

Thank you much appreciated from Humewood House School Program.



Thank You to the University of Women Toronto



Humewood House was founded in 1912, as a home for Toronto's most vulnerable single parents and their babies. Today Humewood envisions a community where every young parent can live free of systematic barriers in a safe and nurturing environment. Humewood House is an accredited children's mental health agency serving pregnant and parenting young women (13-24) and their children.

Humewood's mission is helping young women give birth to healthy babies and transition into motherhood. Humewood helps these women make plans for the future and offers pre- and post- natal residential services, life skills, transitional housing, childcare, a high school program and counselling. The professional staff work hard to preserve the dignity of the young parents at Humewood. In honour of Mother's Day, members of the Advocacy and Action Committee prepared gift bags for Humewood's residents.

And the clients of Humewood House responded with this lovely thank you to our club for these wonderful Mother's Day gift bags!

- Cecilia Mende

## PAST EVENTS

## SUZANNE EVANS | MAY 10

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

On May 10, we were pleased to present a Zoom talk by Dr. Suzanne Evans, an Ottawa writer and historian and the author of *"The Taste of Longing: Ethel Mulvaney and Her Starving Prisoners of War Cookbook"*. Suzanne told us the fascinating story of Ethel Mulvaney, an ordinary woman from Manitoulin Island whose life was filled with extraordinary physical, mental, and emotional challenges. Stationed with her husband in Singapore at the time of the Japanese invasion in World War II, Ethel was separated from him and imprisoned for several years in notorious Changi Prison as an internee. While there, Ethel helped to lift the spirits of other mistreated and starving women, organizing them to hold imaginary "dinners" of their favourite foods and to write down treasured recipes. Ethel's story was brought to life with Suzanne's wonderful collection of photographs, maps, videos, audio clips, music, and songs from the period. Suzanne's engaging and inspiring talk left us with a lasting impression of the resilience of the human spirit in the face of hardship and suffering.

- Pam

## SPOTLIGHT ON US: EARLA BURKE | APRIL 26



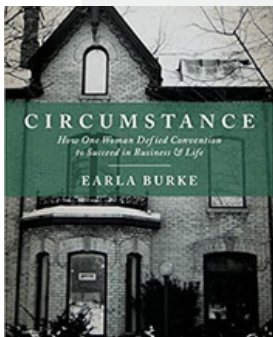
The April Spotlight on Earla Burke's memoir *Circumstance* was well attended.

The questions from the participants were answered with short stories. Question: "Is there one message you hope the reader will receive the most?" she answered: If you want to achieve anything you have to work for it. There is no magic. If you fail to succeed at school, it doesn't mean there is anything wrong with you.

When I lived at home my bed was the sofa in the living room. There was no place to do homework and my mother kept me home to look after two baby brothers. At age 14 when I arrived in Toronto after failing grade 9 three times, I lived at the YWCA on Elm Street in the basement hostel. It had 4 beds. I had to pack my suitcase every morning before I left for work so the overnight guests didn't help themselves to my things. The following year at age 15 I was married and moved in with a family of 14. I attended night school for more than 25 years and graduated from three universities.

For more information and where to buy her book, visit: [www.earlaburke.com](http://www.earlaburke.com)

- Alida



## SAVE THE DATE

**ZOOM SPEAKER: T.M. GLASS | MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021, 4:00 PM**

**"The Audible Language of Flowers"**

T.M. Glass is a digital artist based in Toronto. Inspired by 17th century European flower paintings, she creates distinctly unique photographic images of blooms and vessels from gardens around the world that are breathtaking in their beauty. Her works have been showcased in multiple solo exhibitions and held in private collections in Canada, the U.S., Britain, France and Australia. In "The Audible Language of Flowers" (the title of her most recent solo exhibition held at the Onsite Gallery in Toronto), the artist will share with us photographs of some of her works and tell us about the insights and inspirations that lead her to create her amazing images.

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



# what's on

## UWC EVENTS

Send an email to Haley at [info@uwctoronto.ca](mailto:info@uwctoronto.ca) to register

JUN  
01

and every Tuesday -  
Pilates at **9:00 am**

JUN  
02

Current Events  
at **5:00 pm**

JUN  
02

and every Wednesday  
- Le petit cercle at  
**9:30 am**

JUN  
03

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

JUN  
07

Board Meeting  
at **4:00 pm**

JUN  
14

Jean Teillet -  
Speaker at **4:00  
pm**

JUN  
16

Current Events  
group at **5:00 pm**

JUN  
23

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

JUN  
30

Current Events  
group at **5:00 pm**