



University Women's Club Toronto

envisioning, engaging, empowering

UPCOMING EVENTS



March 8
INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

WOMEN ON THE BALLOT

Stories of Our Trailblazers

UWC Zoom Speaker

MONDAY, MARCH 8 AT 4:00PM

BETSY MCGREGOR spent 16 years crafting public policy on science, ethics, and gender, including fellowships at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Kennedy School. She then entered politics to have a direct impact on issues at the decision table.

Betsy is the author of *Women on the Ballot: Pathways to Political Power* and will speak to us about some of the trailblazing women in her book.

Betsy's talk promises to be a dynamic and inspiring address for **International Women's Day**.

To register for Betsy McGregor's talk, go to info@uwctoronto.ca, and to find out more about her book visit <https://womenontheballot.com>.



To register for this talk, send an email to Haley at info@uwctoronto.ca.

As UWC's Zoom account can only accommodate a maximum of 100 people per Zoom meeting, be sure to register right away for this talk as it promises to be a popular one.

Admittance to the Zoom meeting will be limited to the first 100 people to register.

- Pam



President's Message

March, year 2 of the pandemic. In the vernacular: OMG

I remember having to write an article for the school yearbook about the Commencement the year before I graduated (just before the Flood). The speaker left us with the words of R. L. Sharpe which I remembered.

*Each is given a bag of tools,
A shapeless mass,
A book of rules.
Each must make
Ere life has flown
A stumbling block
Or a stepping stone.*

The words have often come back to me, as they did today when the Premier extended our stay at home orders. My tools are blunt or no longer useful. The mass looks like a round blob with funny golf tee like antennae. The rules no longer apply. Life is flying along incognito, wearing a mask. There are hundreds of stumbling blocks and the stepping stones at a safe social distance are too far apart.

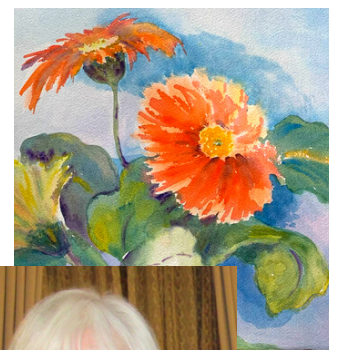
Obviously we cannot dwell on what we can't do or can't have, but it is difficult sometimes. We can rejoice in our friends and families. We are indeed fortunate to have them. We have all of the activities and speakers via Zoom. We have such wonderful events such as Later Life Learning, Hot Docs and the fabulous Heliconian Literary Series. We have been forced to stop and re-evaluate so much of what we took for granted and will perhaps value what is truly important to each of us.

Thanks to Pam and Ruxandra for our great speakers, to Arlene for introducing us to so many great women artists, to the Scholarship Committee, already busy at work, to the Advocacy Group finding its issues, to the Finance Committee counting our money, Jo-Lynne, Ellen and Haley for our great newsletters, to the board for keeping everything going, to everyone who contributes their thoughts and time to Le Petit Cercle, to BridgeBaseOnline, to the Current Events Group, to the two book groups, to the Zoom chats.

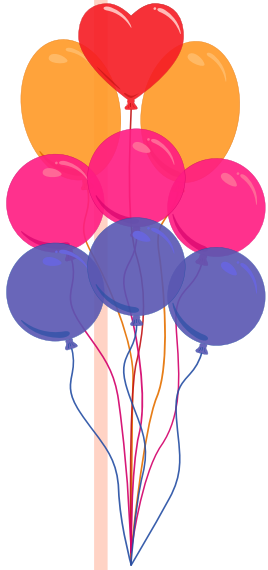
Perhaps these are what will provide us with the stepping stones to continue and to thrive.

All the best to all of you,

- Susan



CLUB NEWS



Happy
90th

Congratulations to Doris Geddes who is celebrating her 90th Birthday on March 3. We send all good wishes for all good things.

Happy Birthday to you, Doris!!!



NEW MEMBERS

We are thrilled to welcome Leslie Giroday, Lucia McCurdy and Olivia Robertson as new members. We hope to 'see' them frequently on Zoom and to meet them in person as soon as possible. Welcome/Bienvenue to UWC Toronto.

WELCOME

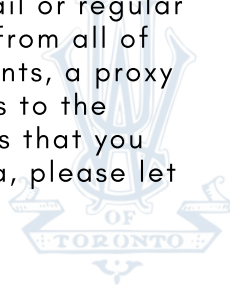
CONDOLENCES

We are deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death of Norah Brochu's husband, Marcel. Flowers were sent as a gesture of our friendship and we extend our sincere sympathy.



SAVE THE DATE

We hope to have an AGM, probably via Zoom, in May. Date pending. All members will receive a package via e-mail or regular mail which will include reports from all of the directors, financial statements, a proxy form and proposed amendments to the constitution. If you have matters that you would like to see on the agenda, please let Susan know.



WALK ABOUTS

Spring truly will come one day and we would like to begin our walks around various Toronto neighbourhoods. We visited the Necropolis, the U of T campus and the Yonge-St. Clair areas last fall. If you would like to guide us around your neighbourhood or another that interests you, please let us know. We can mask, social distance and still enjoy a morning or afternoon together.

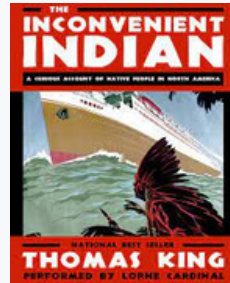


INTEREST GROUPS

MORNING BOOK CLUB MARCH 4 AT 10:30 AM

Book: *The Inconvenient Indian* by Thomas King

Rich with dark and light, pain and magic, *The Inconvenient Indian* distills the insights gleaned from Thomas King's critical and personal meditation on what it means to be "Indian" in North America, weaving the curiously circular tale of the relationship between non-Natives and Natives in the centuries since the two first encountered each other.

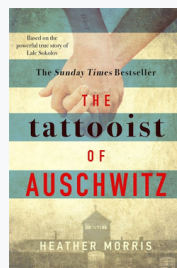


Convenor:
Jean Thomson: 416-421-2732
Email: thomson149@yahoo.com

EVENING BOOK CLUB MARCH 24TH AT 5:00 PM

Book: *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris

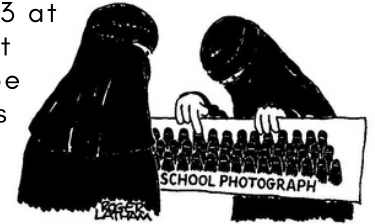
This beautiful, illuminating tale of hope and courage is based on interviews that were conducted with Holocaust survivor and tattooist Ludwig (Lale) Sokolov - an unforgettable love story in the midst of atrocity.



Convenor:
Judith Lewis 416-653-4931
Email: judithlynnlewis@gmail.com

CURRENT EVENTS MARCH 3RD AT 5:00 PM

Wednesday March 3 at 5:00pm the Current Events group will be discussing women's rights around the world, and in particular in Saudi Arabia. Jo-Lynne, who lived in Riyadh for 6 years, will present a short slideshow, then encourage discussion about the state of women's rights today. She'll be sending out articles prior to the event, so contact Haley if you'd like to receive the articles and the link. info@uwctoronto.ca Everyone is most welcome.



HISTORY OF ART

**On Tuesday March 9,
at 7:00 PM**

We will look at the art of the extraordinary Renaissance woman artist from Cremona, Italy: Sifonisba Anguissola (1532-1625) 1625)



**On Tuesday March 23,
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) and others.



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

- Arlene

MEMBER NEWS

HELLO EVERYONE

I wanted to write to say hello to our amazing members and thank you to all who are keeping us entertained during these times. I feel I have met more members over zoom the past year than I have since joining the club. I love all the events and have been participating in speakers' sessions, current events, history of art and the morning book club. I am learning so much thanks to so many wonderful volunteers.

I am very hopeful that we will come out of this situation stronger. We have accomplished so much this past year including withdrawing from CFUW, providing scholarships to bright and promising young women, raising money for the homeless and other charities, organizing a great line up of speakers and much more. We are truly a great force and I feel privileged to be a member of this club.

My poinsettia plant which I purchased from the fundraiser is still doing well. It reminds me every day that the days are getting longer, that spring is around the corner and that better days are ahead.

Keep well,

- Carmie Drumm



PAINTINGS BY VALERIE MELMAN

These paintings helped fill my days during the lockdown and gave me so much pleasure as I surrounded myself with the beautiful colours on my palette.

-Valerie Melman



CLUB NEWS

THANK YOU FROM **SISTERING**

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Sistering faced many challenges but persevered with hard work and dedication. Due to social distancing regulations, we have shifted our Drop In space to a Respite Center, temporarily housing up to 20 participants at a time, on a full-time basis. We distribute more than 150 hot takeaway meals a day and continue to provide mental health and counselling services to those in need.

Your contribution helped in purchasing cots for those folks looking for a safe haven to rest during an increasingly challenging time. It also allowed us to continue feeding families, disperse COVID-19 personal protective equipment, offer warm clothing, access medical services, and provide women and trans people with a temporary, safe, and warm place to stay.

Your contribution is truly appreciated and makes a difference in the lives of our participants. Thank you for your generosity, especially during such challenging times.

Once again, thank you for your incredible support- we truly appreciate it!

With gratitude,

Alice Awweh
Director, Fund
Development and
Communications
Sistering
Phone: 416-926-9762
ext. 233
www.sistering.org



ADVOCACY

The Early Childhood group is meeting via Zoom. We have been discussing the impacts of COVID-19 and the issues surrounding the reopening of schools and child care. The group continues to voice concerns through letters sent to our government officials and local MPPS.

Earlier in February, Chrystia Freeland announced that Canadians would be able to add their input regarding the prebudget consultations for 2021.

A link on the government of Canada website was uploaded with an option to take a questionnaire or to submit a formal form.

Thus using crowdsourcing, it included a tool to include public and individual priorities for the upcoming year - for example, the need for affordable, accessible, quality and universal child care.

-Sajeetha



ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Action and Advocacy Committee has chosen a women's shelter as the recipient agency of the \$1,600 we raised through the Poinsettia Sale. We will look into what the agency needs most and support them with products/items of their choice.

The Committee wishes everyone a happy International Women's Day: may we continue to work towards the betterment of women so that feminism, intellectual strength and financial independence be achieved worldwide. .

CLUB NEWS

UWC (TORONTO) FOUNDATION

Thank you for your generosity in 2020. Tax receipts were sent in February to all of our members who donated.

Close to \$65,000 was given to scholarships as requested by the board of the Club and included:

- scholarships for two young women from Iqaluit.
- two recipients of the Mary McDonald scholarship program,
- six winners of The Club's Secondary School scholarship program,
- year one of a four-year scholarship for a young woman under the care of Children's Aid, and
- a year of residence at Innis College to a needy student.

Costs remain low with a financial review by Norton McMullin required by CRA, and donation software required to track donations and issue tax receipts. This review is currently underway and the financial statements will be shared with members at the AGM.

Thank you again for your generosity and support.

- Kathy Nolan-Garner



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Your scholarship committee is hard at work! We met again in February and have been fine tuning and updating our application forms for the 2021-2022 scholastic year.

All of our designated schools have been contacted and are already preparing to go through their school processes in order to send us their designated candidate this May. There have been many changes to our guidance personnel contacts this year. We are busy developing new virtual relationships in this Covid world where face to face meetings are restricted.

The news of one more Mary Macdonald Scholarship this year was greeted with great enthusiasm from our three former City of York high schools. We cannot adequately express our continued deep gratitude to the family of Mary Macdonald for their ongoing support of their aunt's scholarship program through our club. This year will provide a third young woman with a life changing award of \$25,000 to make a 4 year degree possible.

Looking forward, we are developing a survey of all of our recipients from the last two years. We anticipate that this feedback will help inform our decision making about future scholarship amounts and designations.

I would once again like to thank your scholarship committee for their continued work. (Sharon Abel, Marianne Anderson, Lily Contento, Susan Freeman, Doris Geddes, Jane Hamer, Elizabeth Mowat, Penny Vincent, Talisha Ramsaroop) Each member brings a unique set of perspectives and skills to the table, which has resulted in a robust program to support the educational goals of young women on the margins.

Stay tuned for a surprise announcement in our April newsletter!

Respectfully submitted,

- Chris Ward



CLUB NEWS

GRANDMOTHER'S TO GRANDMOTHER'S

Please join us to honour the 15th Anniversary of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign and the 10th Anniversary of Grandmothers Partnering With Africa.

We have an excellent line-up of experts for five events covering a broad range of topics. Arlene Kushnir will be giving an introduction to the history of African art on May 13 at 7:30.

In her illustrated lecture, we will time travel from the mysterious Terra Cotta sculptures of 500 BC Nok, through the realistic cast bronzes of 10th and 15th C Benin, and then visit the imaginative masks and sculptures of West and Central Africa. Along the way Arlene will explain the meaning and function of these magnificent works of art. Please join us in this adventure.

To Book Tickets: [Click Here](#)
 To Make a Donation: [Click Here](#)
 Gift vouchers are also available: [Click Here](#)



Fundraising Series of Virtual Events in Support of African Grandmothers

Explore Africa

Spring 2021

- March 11, 7:30^{pm} EST - History**
The Scramble for Africa, Dr. Olivier Courteaux
- March 25, 4:45^{pm} EST - Food**
Cook Somali / Fusion cuisine, Xawaash restaurant chefs
- April 29, 2:00^{pm} EST - Book**
'Baking Cakes in Kigali', author Gaile Parkin in conversation with Ruby Newman
- May 13, 7:30^{pm} EST - Art**
Discover African Art, Arlene Kushnir
- May 27, 7:30^{pm} EST - Travel**
Safari 101, Philip Solomon

Sponsored by:
Grandmothers Partnering with Africa

The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign is an initiative of:
the Stephen Lewis FOUNDATION

Photo by: Magda Ehlers

\$25 per session
\$100 for the series
 (\$90 before March 1)
 Tickets available on Eventbrite

Donations welcome
 Receipts for \$20 or more

Details at www.grandmotherspartneringwithafrica.com



GLEN GOULD FOUNDATION

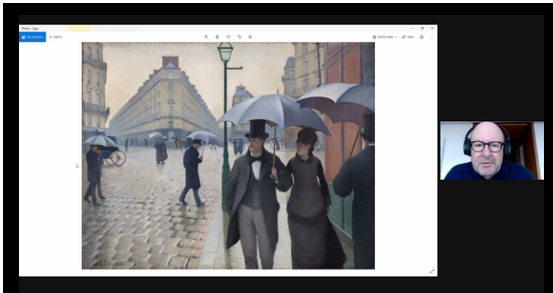
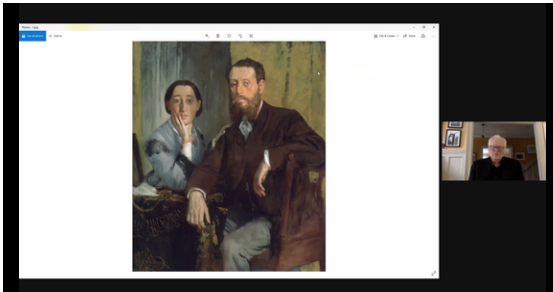
On January 18 Brian Levine gave a wonderful presentation on the Glen Gould Foundation. He's just told us about a new podcast that has been launched. For those who appreciate the incredible talent of Glen Gould go to <https://podcasts.apple.com/podcast/id1534773257?at=1000ISDb>

Listen to as much or as little of any episode as you wish, and write a review.

PAST EVENTS

JULIAN PORTER AND STEVEN GRANT | FEBRUARY 22

149 Paintings You Really Need To See In North America



On February 22, UWC Toronto hosted a very well attended and successful Zoom speaker event with Julian Porter and Stephen Grant, authors of "149 Paintings You Really Need to See in North America (So You Can Ignore the Rest)". Porter and Grant, Toronto lawyers who are also both lifelong art enthusiasts, treated Zoom participants to a fascinating online tour of classical and modern masterpieces in major North American museums and galleries. The program highlighted 20 of the many paintings included in Porter and Grant's book. Beautifully reproduced slides of each of the paintings were accompanied by commentary that was lively and entertaining, as well as thought provoking. It was a treat to visit great museums and galleries again, if only virtually; the talk inspired us all to look forward to the day we can once again visit in person.

[Click here](#) for a a copy of the list of paintings covered in the Zoom talk.

SAVE THE DATE

ZOOM SPEAKER: BRONWYN ROE | APRIL 19, 2021 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.





what's on

UWC EVENTS

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



MAR
01

Board Meeting at
4:00 pm

MAR
03

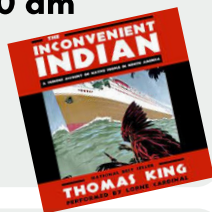
Le petit cercle,
every Wednesday
at **9:30 am**

MAR
03

Current Events
at **5:00 pm**

MAR
04

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



MAR
05

Advocacy Meeting
at **4:00 pm**

MAR
08

Zoom Speaker:
Betsy McGregor
at **4:00 pm**

*International
Women's Day!*

MAR
09

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



MAR
17

Current Events
at **5:00 pm**



MAR
23

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

MAR
24

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

MAR
31

Current Events
at **5:00 pm**

