



University Women's Club Toronto

envisioning, engaging, empowering



UPCOMING EVENTS

ZOOM SPEAKER: ROSEMARY SADLIER MONDAY, JANUARY 31 AT 5:30 PM

Connecting the Dots



February is Black History Month! Learn how this important commemoration came into being and why you need to part of it by joining us on January 31 for a Zoom presentation by author, educator, consultant and social justice advocate, Rosemary Sadlier. The former President of the Ontario Black History Society for 22 years, Rosemary played a central role in establishing Black History Month in Canada.

In her talk, "Connecting the Dots", Rosemary will provide some of the background to Black History Month, visit some highlights of Black Canadian history, and tell us about her lifelong commitment towards social justice.

Be sure to join us on Zoom at 5:30 pm on January 31, for "Connecting the Dots" with Rosemary Sadlier.

Haley will send the Zoom link to members prior to the event.



President's Message

UWC (Toronto) Foundation

I would like to thank members for their generous contributions to our fundraising for the foundation, UWC (Toronto) Foundation, which provides scholarships to young women for post-secondary education. Don't miss the article in this newsletter by Marianne Anderson, our Director of CG, reporting the total amount collected.

UWC Board

We have had some changes on our Board. Alida Finnie has resigned as a Board member but she will continue as a member of the club. Alida was the Secretary and many of you may remember her as the Facilitator for Spotlight, an activity held 3-4 times a year featuring members of the club. We would like to thank Alida for her contributions to the club.

We would like to welcome our new Board Members, Lucia McCurdy and Ruth Matheson. You may recognize their names as both members have been active in the club, Lucia as the convenor for Pilates and Mah Jongg and Ruth as the former Director of the Speaker Program. Lucia will initially be a Director without Portfolio and Ruth will assume the position of Secretary.

Subsequent to these changes, there are 13 members on the Board who are Jane Hamer, Vice President, Susan Le Roy, Treasurer, Ruth Matheson, Secretary, Susan Freeman, Past President, Jo-Lynne Sutherland and Ellen Thompson, Co-Directors of Communication, Marianne Anderson, Director of Charitable Giving, Christine Ward, Director of Scholarships, Pamela Horton, Director of the Speaker Program, Cecilia Mende, Director of Advocacy, Arlene Kushnir, Director of Special Events, Lucia McCurdy, Director without Portfolio and Wendy McCallum, President.

Events

With the recent announcement that COVID-19 restrictions will start to be eased on January 31, I am glad January is coming to a close so our lives can start to get back to normal although the month did have some great moments like the record snowfall and Leslie Beck's presentation on January 10 which provided many ideas on how to live a healthy lifestyle. I wasn't aware of all the books Leslie has written. I was so inspired at the end of her presentation I ordered one of her cookbooks from the library which I picked up this week and I plan to try as many recipes as possible.

Thank you to Ellen Thompson and Leslie White for the Photo Organizing Workshops they held in January which were a big hit! For those of you who may have missed or would like to review the information, Haley sent out an email after each session with the information covered. Bridge, the French Club and the New Evening Book Club had started to have their regular meetings at The Faculty Club. It's marvellous how members of the various groups were able to pivot back to virtual meetings without missing a meeting after The Faculty Club announced the extended closing after the holidays.

I am excited about the number and variety of activities planned for the next few months including an outdoor walk at the end of January, speakers and a session to better safeguard us for when we travel. The newsletter is a little like a treasure hunt as it includes the details about all these events and more! We have had some invitations from other CFUW clubs to join them in the events they have planned for their clubs. If there is insufficient time to announce events in the newsletter, Haley sends out an email to let members know about the event. Otherwise, the event is announced in the newsletter such as the Fundraising Breakfast on February 9 being held by CFUW Etobicoke. This makes for very careful reading of the newsletter.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and participate in as many activities as possible. If you have ideas for activities or would like to lead activities, please contact me or another Board member to share your ideas.

Stay warm
- Wendy

CLUB NEWS

MEMBERSHIP

In this time of uncertainty we are so lucky to have our UWC friends and a wonderful program of speakers and events, even on Zoom. If you have a friend or two who might enjoy our speakers or an activity, please invite them to join us and forward the Zoom link to them.

We hope to have in-person events to which you can invite friends very soon: speakers, the book sale, spotlights, fundraisers. Let's hope!

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome Celia Cuthbertson to the club. We hope to see her soon and often at our activities but for the moment, we will have to welcome her on Zoom.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Dawn Whitmore on the death of her beloved husband, Gordon. We will miss seeing Gordon at our Festive Dinners.



STOP THE VIOLENCE BREAKFAST | WED. FEBRUARY 9 AT 9:00 AM



CFUW Etobicoke will be holding their 8th annual Stop the Violence Breakfast on Wednesday, February 9, at 9 am via Zoom, and invite us all to join them.

This year they are having a conversation with award-winning author Donna Morrissey. Donna writes stories from her Newfoundland culture, like *Kit's Law* and *Sylvanus Now*, bringing the east coast of Canada alive for us. Donna's latest book is called *Pluck* and is autobiographical. In her conversation with us Donna will be sharing intimate details not included in the publication, and will leave you inspired by the power of female friendship and courage.

Please see

<http://www.cfuwetobicoke.ca/stop-the-violence-breakfast/> for more details.

Tickets are \$30.00 and all proceeds go to support Women's Habitat Shelter for women and children in Etobicoke. All are welcome and feel free to bring along friends. Payment is online by Paypal or credit card. Please note the credit card option is available only when registering via computer (vs. mobile phone). Note that Donna's story may include descriptions of violence. Please practice self-care.

This invitation was sent to us by Gail Rutherford (416 239 6664) on behalf of CFUW Etobicoke, Breakfast Committee.

Register here:

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

CLUB NEWS

THANK YOU

The board would like to express their sincere thanks to Alida Finnie who resigned in December after serving as Board Secretary and as Spotlight Convenor. Alida has made a substantial contribution to the board and she will be missed. As a valued board member, Alida was recognized for her measured opinions, her positive outlook and her strong commitment to the work of the University Women's Club.



Thank you Alida!

- Jane



ROMERO HOUSE

Thanks to all of our members who donated clothing and household items to our December collection. A special thanks to the intrepid drivers: Mary Jane Pettingill and Nora Allingham for their splendid service.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising Update - We did it!

A big thank you to all our members for responding to our donation challenge in December. We surpassed our goal of \$10,000. In fact, together we raised \$11,055 which will more than provide for two new scholarships to incredible young women pursuing their post-secondary education.

On behalf of the UWC (Toronto) Foundation, a big thank you to everyone for making this happen. It is wonderful to know that our club has such generous members and a reminder of what incredible things we can achieve together for a worthy goal.

- Marianne



INTEREST GROUPS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

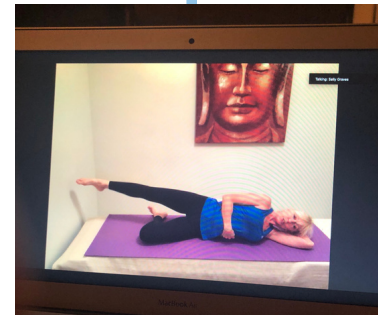
Norah will lead the Current Affairs group on **Thursday February 17th at 5:30 at the Faculty Club.**

Those interested in attending should contact Norah Brochu at brochunorah@gmail.com

PILATES | LOW IMPACT FLOOR EXERCISES

Our exercise classes are continuing every Tuesday morning at 9:00 am over Zoom. The cost for February is \$40 (\$10 per class), for the 4 Tuesdays, Feb 1-22, inclusive. New participants are always welcome. If you would like to join us, please contact our trainer, Sally, at renewwithsally@gmail.com.

Payment should be made by e-transfer to the same email.
- *Lucia McCurdy*
luciamccurdy@sympatico.ca



MAH JONGG

In-person Mah Jongg has been suspended for February. We will return as soon as the Faculty Club re-opens and we feel safe. In the meantime, for anyone who would like to continue to play and improve their skills, the online Mah Jongg program at myjongg.net is terrific and free. You can play with friends, with robots or be adventuresome and join a table of people you don't know.

- *Lucia McCurdy*
luciamccurdy@sympatico.ca



INTEREST GROUPS

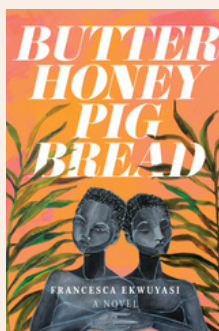


MORNING BOOK GROUP ON ZOOM THURS. FEBRUARY 3 AT 10:30 AM

Team of Five: The Presidents Club in the Age of Trump by Kate Andersen Brower

After serving the highest office of American government, five men—Jimmy Carter, the late George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama—became members of the world's most exclusive fraternity. In *Team of Five*, Kate Andersen Brower goes beyond the White House to uncover what, exactly, comes after the presidency, offering a glimpse into the complex relationships of these five former presidents, and how each of these men views his place in a nation that has been upended by the Oval Office's previous, norm-breaking occupant, President Donald Trump.

Convenor Jean Thomson 416-421-2732 / thomson149@yahoo.ca



THE NEW BOOK CLUB MON. FEBRUARY 21 AT 7:00 PM

Butter Honey Pig Bread by Francesca Ekwuyasi

Called 'incandescent' and 'evocative', this debut novel was long listed for the Giller Prize and a 2021 selection for Canada Reads.

A Nigerian mother who believes herself to be a spirit refuses to die in childhood and suffers the consequences of her decision. One of her twin daughters experiences a devastating childhood trauma which fractures the family. One daughter moves to Montreal and the other to the UK. After more than a decade apart they return to Lagos to address the wounds of the past.

Convenor Susan Freeman, email susgula@sympatico.ca



EVENING BOOK GROUP WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 23

The evening book group will be meeting on Wednesday, February 23 at 5:00 pm via Zoom. The topic is women who have made a difference, whether good or bad. New members are always welcome.

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

INTEREST GROUPS

OUT AND ABOUT: GRANGE PARK | SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 AT 11 AM

Tired of being indoors? How about braving the winter and touring Grange Park, located just south of the Art Gallery of Ontario and west of the Ontario School of Art and Design (OCAD). It is an urban oasis of outstanding architecture, historical buildings and a celebration of community living. We will meet on the south-west corner of Dundas Street West and McCaul Street at 11am on Sunday, January 30th. All you need are good walking shoes, warm clothing and your curiosity! Maybe a coffee after, if regulations permit.

Please RSVP to Marianne Anderson - ma_at_home@yahoo.com



SELF-DEFENCE FOR WOMEN

Monday February 7, on Zoom, 6:30 pm to 9 pm

- situational awareness
- 4 keys to personal safety
- managing adrenaline
- strikes and break-holds

More: www.safe4life.ca

Cost \$21.00

E-transfer \$21 to Heather Mitchell
hhmsafe4life@gmail.com

by Feb 2, 2022.

Refunds if the class is cancelled.



SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

2022 continues to bring us more Covid challenges and weather warnings but your scholarship committee is eager to start the new year with our first meeting on February 8. We will update our application to reflect our 2022-23 timelines and consider if school visits will be on our calendar this year with COVID protocols still in place.

We will continue to support our two Children's Aid Foundation students, our three students from Iqaluit, our three Mary McDonald recipients, our final year for an Innis Residence and identify six new UWC Toronto scholarship winners and a fourth Mary McDonald Scholarship recipient.

Over the holiday time I reached out to our scholarship recipients and have heard from a number of our young women. Please see a few of the responses below.

Your hard-working committee members are: Sharon Abel, Marianne Anderson, Lily Contento, Susan Freeman, Jane Hamer, Susan Lambie, Elizabeth Mowat, Penelope Vincent

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Ward

UPDATE FROM RECIPIENTS

From Mary Cate Faulkner. She was a Malvern student and a 2021 UWC Toronto Scholarship recipient. She and her twin brother are both doing Business Studies at Ryerson.

Hi Christine,

I hope you've enjoyed your Holiday break as well! I have been doing well in my university experience at Ryerson so far!

Although it's online and I haven't been able to make any new friends, I have been working hard at my studies and trying to adjust to the new pace of university. Of course it's been challenging at times, but I enjoy my program of Business Management and it just motivates me to keep trying my best.

In a couple of months I have a deadline to pick what I would like to major in. At the moment I'm still deciding between a few options but I'm leaning towards Global Management, Marketing, or Real Estate!

Talk to you soon,
Mary Cate Faulkner



UPDATE FROM RECIPIENTS

From Sameen Ali, our second Mary Macdonald Scholarship recipient. She is in second year and besides soaring academically in the sciences, she has made time to “pay it forward”!

Hello Chris,

I hope you are doing well. Thank you for reaching out and keeping up with me, I really appreciate it and love sharing my journey.

I cannot believe second semester of my second year has already begun. Soon, I will be about to start my third year. Isn't it crazy how fast time is flying? Was it not just yesterday that I was in grade 12?

First semester I finally learned how to master my work-life schedule. I managed to do all the extra curriculars I wanted to do while also maintaining a 90+ in all my courses. As this next semester begins with a change of courses, I hope to be able to maintain this balance.

I was able to start a non-profit called Women's Education Matters (WEM) - an organization aimed to promote women's education worldwide while also trying to provide resources. For our first project, my team and I were able to make packages that will be given to women who have newly arrived in Canada as immigrants or refugees. Our aim for the next project is to take it abroad and help women in countries where women's education isn't the norm. In addition, I was also able to get involved in research. Getting experience in a lab in the midst of a pandemic is something I am immensely grateful for. My experience with research has spiked my curiosity in other fields, I hope to pursue it through the summer and this semester.

My goals for this upcoming semester (aside from doing well in my courses of course) is to get involved in clinical research, be able to execute projects that are abroad for WEM and continue working at Toronto Rehabilitation - a job that has been truly life changing in every aspect. I hope to also explore my passion for writing as well.

This semester I am taking a course called photography, one of my only non-science courses. I am excited for this course as it explores interests out of my comfort zone. I cannot wait to learn new techniques and see what this field of study has to offer!

I am also taking Organic Chemistry 2, Cell biology, Plants, and Techniques of persuasion - another non science course that has to do with writing. Excited to see what the future has to offer.

Take care,
Sameen Ali



UPDATE FROM RECIPIENTS

From Jateya Grbic one our original six UWC Toronto Scholarship recipients. Her subject specialization is particularly timely!

Hello Christine,

It is so nice to hear from you! I hope you are doing well and have also enjoyed the holiday season.

I am now in my third year of studies at Ryerson in the Biomedical Science program, which I have switched into from Biology since I last saw you. I am enjoying my program very much, as we are more focused on the science taking place within the human body, rather than biology as a whole. Within my second and third year of studies thus far, I have been able to dive into the topics of cell biology, genetics, organic chemistry, biochemistry, molecular biology, and microbiology. One course that I took this past semester was Medical Microbiology, this had to be one of my favorite courses I studied in my undergrad thus far. In this course we discussed the interactions between pathogens and host, and further discussed bacterial and viral diseases through case studies, while learning the cause, symptomatology, and treatment behind each disease.

Unfortunately, for the past three semesters I have been studying online due to the virus, so I have been missing the opportunity to be in the lab and get important hands-on experience with various lab equipment and methods. I am looking forward to the day we can get back in the lab, and have the ability to practice and apply the knowledge we've been gaining over the past couple of semesters.

Outside of my core classes I have been able to take classes in sociology, professional communication, economics, and in this upcoming semester, psychology. These have all been interesting areas of study, I particularly enjoyed sociology and would like to continue studying it further.

Outside of my classes I have been able to get involved with Ryerson's Cooperative Studies Program, which has caused me to put more focus on developing an industry career focused resume and building a network. Throughout the past year and a bit, I have been working hard to apply for jobs within the industry and had several interviews with Sick Kids Hospital, University Health Network, and Sanofi Pasteur. Due to competition and the limitations the pandemic brought, I have not been able to find a position, however I am not giving up and will continue to apply for industry level jobs.

On a better note, I have applied to Holland Bloorview Children's Rehabilitation Hospital for a volunteer position, and with my background in children's work and hospital experience, they have gladly taken me in to join their volunteer team. I am supposed to start this position later this month. I am very excited for what this opportunity will bring and what I may be able to learn from it. I will be starting the Winter Semester later on this week, and hope to excel, learn, and grow in the subjects I am studying.

This has been a little bit more than a small update, but I wanted to fill you in on what has been happening since we last spoke. I am so very happy you have reached out and appreciate you and all the amazing ladies at the University Women's Club! I look forward to the day we can all meet again in person.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,
Jateya Grbic



PAST EVENTS

ZOOM SPEAKER: LESLIE BECK JAN. 10

On January 10, UWC had the pleasure of hearing a Zoom presentation by Leslie Beck, nutritionist, author and Globe and Mail food columnist, on the topic "Making Sense of Nutrition Advice: What To Eat For Your Best Health".

Leslie's talk was packed with information and practical advice, supported by well-researched facts and statistics. As one of Canada's most widely known and well-respected nutrition advisors, Leslie attracted a large attendance for her talk and fielded a number of thoughtful comments and questions from members following her presentation. Many members found Leslie's clear and common sense advice on diet and nutrition a great way to boost New Year's resolutions to live healthy in 2022, and certainly her talk provided the perfect start to our 2022 Speaker's Series.

- Pam



SAVE THE DATE

ZOOM SPEAKER: DOROTHY MAZEAU MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 4:00 PM

Mark your calendars for February 22 at 4:00 pm for what promises to be a very interesting Zoom talk by community advocate, former architect and practising realtor, Dorothy Mazeau. Dorothy, the founder of Golden Home-Sharing Connections and an enthusiastic proponent of living in shared homes, will provide us with "An Introduction to Home-Sharing". Join us on February 22 to learn what home-sharing is all about and to discover the great benefits of engaging in this lifestyle.

Former Justice in the Ontario Court of Justice, Marvin Zuker, previously booked for a presentation on February 22, will be joining us later in the year for his talk on issues facing women and children in Ontario's legal and education systems. Stay tuned for more details about his upcoming talk.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
MARCH 8, 2022

SAVE
THE
DATE



We are delighted that **KATHERINE GOVIER** has accepted our invitation to speak at our

**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY**
Zoom event

**TUESDAY
MARCH 8
1:00 PM**

Katherine is a novelist who has lately discovered herself to be an activist. She has published 10 novels and three collections of short stories as well as two collections of travel writing. Over her 40 year writing career, she has occasionally taught at colleges and universities, and has spoken internationally in the United Kingdom, Japan, India and the United States.

Katherine has received The Marian Engel Award for a writer in mid-career (now known as the Engel-Findlay award), the City of Toronto Book Award, and has been shortlisted for other major awards. She has served on the boards of the Toronto Arts Council and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, and has chaired the Writers' Trust of Canada. She has also served as President of PEN Canada.

In her writings Katherine explores three central concerns: character, place and history. She says that her interest is in character and how the character is created. She challenges her readers to think beyond the borders of their own historical and geographical experiences, to consider the ways in which time and space create and shape identity. She has always created strong female characters and has sought to make women's voices heard.

She was made a member of the Order of Canada in 2019 for 'contributing to Canada's literary scene as an acclaimed author and for supporting refugee and immigrant women.'

'In supporting refugee and immigrant women,' Katherine founded The Shoe Project. It reveals how footwear can make or break a journey, shape the present and open the door to a new future. Every new Canadian has a shoe tale to tell. The mission of the project is to provide programs, courses, workshops and seminars to immigrant women and refugees to develop their writing and speaking skills in English. The Shoe Project encourages the women to tell their stories and hopes to educate the public not only on the problems faced by immigrant and refugee women in Canada but on the gifts of determination, talent and culture they to our country.

We look forward to hearing Katherine speak about her writing and her very important work with The Shoe Project. She promises to bring one of the participants of The Shoe Project with her to her talk.



This very special presentation to mark International Women's Day will begin at 1:00 p.m. on March 8. Please register with Haley - info@uwctoronto.ca.

what's on

UWC EVENTS



Haley will send out zoom links and reminders prior to the events.

February

FEB 01

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

FEB 02

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

FEB 03

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

FEB 07

Board Meeting **at 4:00 pm**



FEB 09

Stop the Violence Breakfast **at 9:00 am**

FEB 17

Current Affairs **at 5:30 pm**

FEB 22

Zoom Speaker: Dorothy Mazeau **at 4:00 pm**



FEB 23

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



FEB 21

New Book Club **at 7:00 pm**

