



# University Women's Club Toronto

envisioning, engaging, empowering

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ZOOM SPEAKERS KATE CHUNG AND THEA KURDI JUNE 13 AT 5:00 PM

Kate Chung is the Toronto-based Chair of the Housing Committee of the Older Women's Network and Co-Chair of Accessible Housing Network, a collaboration of non-profit Canadian organizations, advocating in support of people of all ages to live as they wish, in housing that is fully accessible. Thea Kurdi is the President of DesignABLE Environments. She is an affiliate member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and a Certified Professional in Accessible Built Environments, with over 20 years experience in barrier-free and universal design for architectural projects.

On June 13, 2022, Kate and Thea will bring together their perspectives as community activist and architectural planner in their presentation, "The Crisis in Accessible Housing - For All of Us". They will include their post-election take on the results of the June 2 Ontario election and what those results will mean for seniors and people with disabilities - in effect, all of us as we eventually experience temporary or permanent disabilities ourselves.

Meanwhile, as the June 2 Ontario election approaches, Kate and her colleagues at Accessible Housing Network would like to insure that the issue of accessible housing is front and centre. They urge us to let our MPP's know that now is the time for government to commit to accessible housing, not just affordable housing.

- Pam



Kate Chung



Thea Kurdi



### SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15 AT 5:30 PM

We invite all our members to join us on Wednesday, June 15 at 5:30 pm for our 2022 scholarship reception. We will be awarding \$55,000 to seven incredible women for their post-secondary studies.

Please join us for a reception and award ceremony to meet and celebrate the 2022 scholarship winners, and award them with their certificates and cheques. We will also be acknowledging our 2019, 2020 and 2021 scholarship winners, and inducting them into the UWC Toronto Scholar hall of fame!

**Please be sure to RSVP for this event by June 6th, as we need to know how many to expect.**



There is a flurry of activity at UWC with the club's Annual General Meeting (AGM) only days away! The meeting will be held on Monday, May 30 in-person at The Faculty Club. It is the first in-person AGM since 2019 and it will be held in The Faculty Club's spacious dining room. Members will start to arrive at 5 pm and the meeting will commence at 5:30 pm. We hope that as many members as possible will attend the AGM and stay on after the meeting for dinner and/or a drink.

As I write this article, the Scholarship Committee is very busy reviewing the applications received from 9 schools for 6 scholarships of \$5,000 each and the applications received from three other schools for 1 scholarship of \$25,000 which is paid over four years. There is a limited amount of time for committee members to review the applications and submit their choices for the students who they believe are most deserving of the scholarships based on certain criteria before the committee meets on May 26 to make the final decisions. The scholarship winners will be announced on May 26 and the next day all applicants will be notified and invitations will be sent to the successful applicants to attend the Scholarship Reception which will be held just 2 ½ weeks later, on June 15, at The Faculty Club. The scholarship winners are announced in this newsletter. Please save June 15 to attend the Scholarship Reception at The Faculty Club to meet and celebrate the 2022 scholarship winners and the scholarship winners in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Thank you to the Communications Committee for developing the new email which Haley sends out each Friday with a summary of the activities for the coming week. The email even includes Zoom links and RSVP links to make it easy to respond to activities that you will attend. What a time saver!

International Dining resumed in May and it was enjoyed by those who attended. Arlene Kushnir, our convenor, has plans for similar events throughout the year across a variety of cuisines.

The Program Committee has speakers scheduled for the balance of the year and into next year. The committee is often working months in advance of speaker dates so it has been difficult to predict whether events should be scheduled in person or on Zoom. The recent survey completed by members provided the committee with information which will help them in planning events.

The Advocacy Committee sent out a survey to ask members what they think is the most important issue facing women and girls and the committee will share the results of the survey at the AGM.

The Finance Committee played an active role in reviewing the Financial Statements and the budget that was sent out by Haley with the other information for the AGM.

The club's membership is growing and the Membership Committee plays an important role in supporting members. The club ordered pins for club members which will be received in mid-June and the Membership Committee will develop guidelines on when members should receive pins and how the pins will be delivered to members.

The Charitable Giving Committee is planning a fundraiser, a Book Sale in the fall! Please set aside books to donate to the sale.

There is a lot happening behind the scene at the UWC! Please have a look at the calendar in this newsletter which shows the activities currently being planned from June until December.

All the best

- Wendy



## CLUB NEWS

### CONDOLENCES

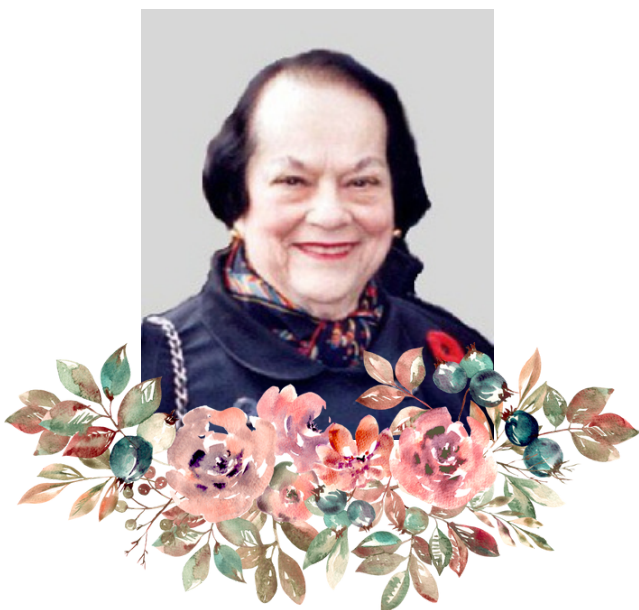
Sadly, one of our long- standing members, Barbara Goldring, passed away on May 16th. Barbara grew up in Montreal and became a Head Nurse at Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal.

Barbara is predeceased by her husband, Dr. C. Warren Goldring (2009). Warren Goldring built the successful global asset management business, AGF Management Limited. Barbara is survived by her four children and their families, including 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A monarchist, Barbara admired Queen Elizabeth II and the Royal Family. Barbara is the proud recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award in recognition of her contributions to the community.

Barbara had a true curiosity about people that fed her enthusiasm for life. She enjoyed a good conversation by telephone and in person. Barbara will be missed by all who knew her.

- Wendy



# Welcome!

### NEW MEMBERS

We are so pleased to welcome Karen Falconer, Rita Mathur, Ann Morrison, Sandra den Otter, Maryann Seefuss, Sydney Vogel, Sheila Wainwright and Linda Ward to our club. We hope to see them soon and often.

We are also hoping that as many members as possible, new, medium and old, will attend our in-person functions, groups and events.

Great friendships are forged at bridge, French, Mah Jongg and the book clubs. As we say so often, you are our best ambassadors for increasing membership in our club.

- Susan Freeman

### CONGRATUATIONS TO SUSAN FREEMAN

Susan Freeman was appointed the Regional Director of Central Ontario at CFUW Ontario Council's AGM on Saturday, May 14th.

Susan will be responsible for 13 CFUW clubs including UWC Toronto, CFUW Ajax/Pickering, CFUW Aurora/Newmarket, CFUW Barrie and District, CFUW Etobicoke, CFUW Leaside/East York, CFUW Markham/Unionville, CFUW North Toronto, CFUW Northumberland, CFUW Oshawa and District, CFUW Scarborough and UWC of North York.

We wish Susan well in her new role!


## CLUB NEWS

### UWC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our club's Annual General Meeting will be held at The Faculty Club on **Monday, May 30, 2022**. The meeting will be held in The Faculty Club's spacious dining room. Members can start to arrive at 5 pm and the meeting will commence at 5:30 pm.

We hope that members will stay on after the meeting for a drink and/or dinner. If you plan to stay for dinner, please send an email to Haley at [info@uwctoronto.ca](mailto:info@uwctoronto.ca) to let know your plans so we can update The Faculty Club.


### UWC MEMBERSHIP FEES



The UWC membership year runs from July to the following June. With July just around the corner, we will be emailing fee invoices for the upcoming year in mid-June. Fees for the upcoming year will be \$135 - despite inflation 😊. Members can pay by e-transfer or cheque, and the details on how to do this will be included in the email.

The Faculty Club also operates on a July to June membership cycle. Their annual fees have yet to be finalized and announced. We will let you know when we have these details.

### ADVOCACY REPORT - FINDING OUR ADVOCACY FOCUS



The Advocacy Committee continues to refine and refocus its vision and purpose. The latest action was asking the entire UWC membership to answer one question - In your opinion, what is the most important issue facing women and girls?

The responses to this question will help to shape the projects of the Advocacy Committee now and for the future. At our June meeting, the committee will read through everything submitted and choose causes and issues that best lend themselves to the Club's concerns, and our ability to deliver an action plan for 2022 and 2023. Our decision making will also be informed by the advocacy actions of other Ontario CFUW clubs. Are there synergies, or opportunities for collaboration?

We will share some of the initial survey responses at the UWC AGM on May 30. Most notably, two committee members have provided exceptional work on the survey. Susan Bellan has received all member email responses and organized the content into some initial categories. Pam Gough assisted Cindy in analyzing the issues and causes identified in advance of presenting all information to Committee members in June. Excellent team work, ladies!

- Cindy

## CLUB NEWS

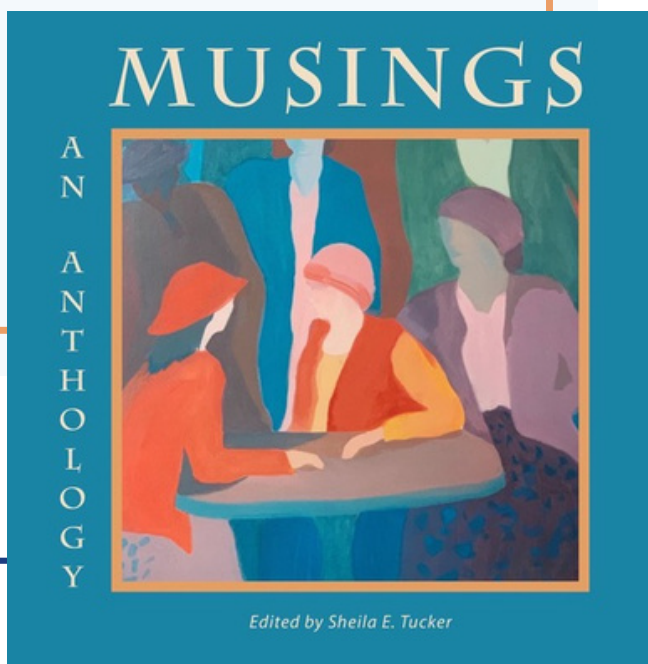
### HELICONIAN CLUB EVENTS

The Heliconian Club would like to extend an invitation to our members to come to some of their events. The Heliconian Club is the oldest women's arts club in Canada. They hold a number of events throughout the year that are open to the public, and many are free.

There are a few events remaining before the summer break. You can find them by going to [www.heliconianclub.org](http://www.heliconianclub.org) and clicking on "Events and Tickets". A couple events to note are:

- An art exhibit - THE GENIUS OF CLAIRE WILKS, which runs June 2 to June 29, 2022, and is open free to the public from 1 to 4 pm on the following days: Tuesday June 7, 21, 28; Wednesday June 29; Thursday June 16, 23; Friday June 10; Saturday June 11, 18, 25.
- Book launch of *Musings: An Anthology*, an anthology of work by Heliconian Club members. This is a public event on Sunday, June 5 from 2 to 4 pm. There will be readings, a slide show and music. The anthology is a collaboration of more than 35 contributors featuring poetry, short stories, essays, paintings, photographic art, and mixed-media. The event is free to attend but registration is required due to room capacity limits. Refreshments will be served; cash bar.
- In addition, there are a few live readings and online readings at a nominal cost

The events are held in the historic Heliconian Hall on Hazelton Avenue in the Yorkville area of Toronto. See the link above for more details.



## OPINION

### THE IMPORTANCE OF STEM

Perhaps 20 years ago, the provincial government allowed the removal of two subject areas from its list of compulsory subjects. Henceforth, grade 11 & 12 mathematics and science courses, were no longer required for graduation and entrance to university.

Removing senior level courses from the list of compulsory subjects, indicated these courses were unimportant. Unfortunately, many students arrived at university to find they could not enter STEM courses, without those credits. Many women lacked the qualifications necessary to enter “non-traditional” fields, thus perpetuating the myth that science and mathematics were fields dominated by men, who merited the higher incomes they earned on graduation.

The health of our planet then rested with climate deniers, who lacked the knowledge necessary for a deeper understanding of the mechanics and issues of climate change: vaccinations, wildfires, flooding, heat waves, pandemics.



How does one effectively study climate change without knowledge of the chemical interaction between carbon and hydrocarbon molecules, or the importance of physics for understanding thermodynamics, and melting sea ice, or the calculations in statistical gathering? In a democracy, one’s vote is supposed to represent one’s free, informed consent to government decisions on issues of the day, but can one vote intelligently, without a background in science and mathematics?

It is time to realize that involvement in the vast decision-making processes around climate change, means all students need to study these subjects, and to apply what they have learned, to the democratic process. Until there is an alternative, every Ontario school board should use WHMIS type programmes and NGOs to teach staff, administrators, and teachers about climate change, to fill knowledge gaps of the last 20 years. In a climate emergency, there’s no time to waste.

- Barbara Falby





## SCOLARSHIP REPORT

May was an exciting month for our scholarship team. Reading the extraordinary applications is a humbling and inspiring experience. It is also a very difficult task to deliberate and award only six UWC Toronto Scholarships and one Mary McDonald Scholarship.

All the young women presented to us were outstanding candidates. Their incredible stories demonstrate amazing work ethic, civic mindedness and resilience in overcoming what often appear to be insurmountable challenges.

We are happy to announce this year's scholarship recipients for the six \$5000 UWC Toronto Scholarships.

**Mona Najafi**, *Bloor Collegiate Institute*

**Hailey Rocha**, *Central Technical School*

**Sherika Black**, *Central Toronto Academy*

**Lhamo Norbu**, *Harbord Collegiate Institute*

**Christine Kwong**, *Monarch Park Collegiate Institute*

**Emma Russell-Trione**, *Rosedale Heights School of the Arts*

This year's Mary McDonald Scholarship of \$25,000 is awarded to

**Kelly Lu**, *York Memorial Collegiate Institute*

We will be providing more information about each awardee in our next newsletter but hope that you will join us on Wednesday, June 15th at the Faculty Club to meet them and previous years' recipients in person. Please contact Haley at [info@uwctoronto.ca](mailto:info@uwctoronto.ca) if you plan to attend.

Our club is a very special one. Your continued support and financial contributions through fundraising and personal donations, allow us to meet our mandate of supporting women on the margins to achieve their educational goals.

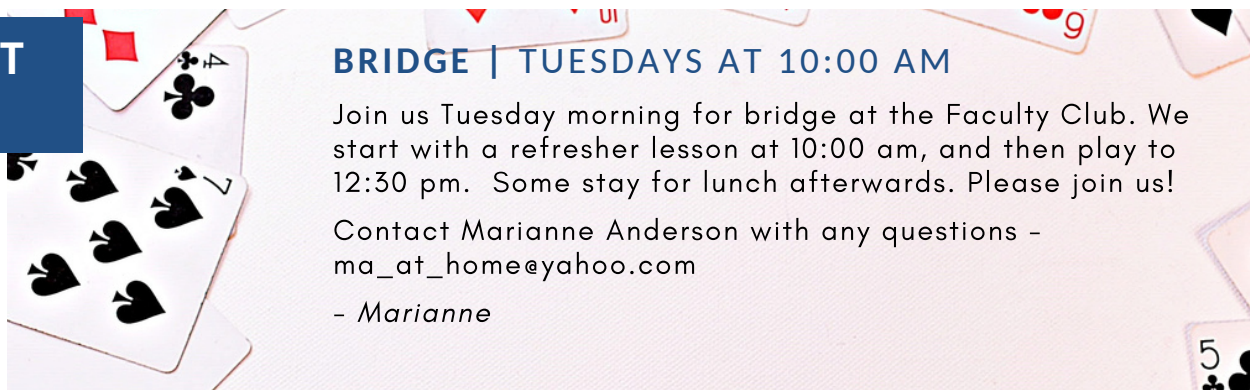
Please take a moment to thank your hard working committee members. Sharon Able, Marianne Anderson, Lily Contento, Susan Freeman, Jane Hamer, Susan Lambie, Elizabeth Mowat and Penelope Vincent.

Respectfully submitted,

- *Chris Ward*



## INTEREST GROUPS



### BRIDGE | TUESDAYS AT 10:00 AM

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

Contact Marianne Anderson with any questions - [ma\\_at\\_home@yahoo.com](mailto:ma_at_home@yahoo.com)

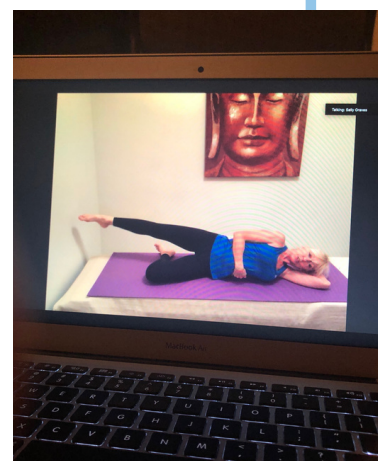
- Marianne

### PILATES | TUESDAYS AT 9:00 AM

New Members Very Welcome!

Our low impact exercise classes have been running for almost a year - every Tuesday morning, from 9:00-10:00am, over Zoom. We are now taking registrations for June (June 7 to 28, inclusive). The cost of the sessions is \$40 total for all 4 sessions, payable by e-transfer to our instructor Sally Graves, at [renewwithsally@gmail.com](mailto:renewwithsally@gmail.com). Sally will forward Zoom links every week to all participants. Please email Sally if you have any questions about the content of the classes.

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



### MAH JONGG | WEDNESDAY JUNE 13TH AT 4:30 PM

This month we will be playing on Tuesday, June 8, at 4:30 pm. As always, all are very welcome, both experienced and new players. Since we started in November, we have introduced 8 new players to this wonderful game.

If you are interested, please let Lucia McCurdy know, and she will include you in her Mah Jongg email list.

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

### INTERNATIONAL DINING

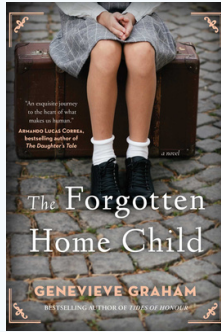
The International Dining group will be meeting every other month, to go to a different restaurant in Toronto. We are not getting together in June, but are planning a dinner in July, and will announce those details in the next newsletter.

- Arlene





## INTEREST GROUPS



### MORNING BOOK GROUP THURSDAY JUNE 2 AT 11:00 AM AT THE FACULTY CLUB

*The Forgotten Home Child* by Genevieve Graham

*The Forgotten Home Child* brings to the foreground a lost part of Canadian history – the children that were brought from British orphanages to Canada in order to have better opportunities in life. While the concept was great in theory, the reality was often gruesome for the children. This story follows 5 children from Barnardo's Homes in London who were brought to Canada in the 1930s and placed into family homes across Ontario. Decades later, 97-year-old Winny has to confront the horrors of her past when her relatives ask her about a mysterious old trunk.

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



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

The evening book group will be meeting on Wednesday, June 22 at 5:00 pm via Zoom. The topic is any book of your choice. New members are always welcome!

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



### NEW BOOK CLUB JUNE 6 AT 7:00 PM AT THE FACULTY CLUB

Tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 6 at 6:00 pm at the Faculty Club. This month we will be talking about *Her Turn* by Katherine Ashenburg.

***Her Turn* by Katherine Ashenburg:** Marriage, motherhood, divorce and then a job writing an advice column for a newspaper. Life in order. Letter to the column from the 'other woman' asking for advice!

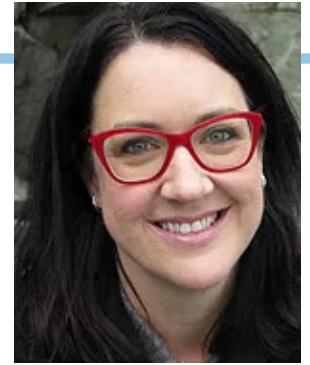
Convenor Susan Freeman, email [susgula@sympatico.ca](mailto:susgula@sympatico.ca)

# PAST EVENTS

## ZOOM SPEAKER AMANDA BITTNER | MAY 16

Our guest Zoom speaker on May 16 was Professor Amanda Bittner, a political psychologist, author and researcher who teaches at Memorial University in Newfoundland. In *"Polarization of Politics and Voters' Perceptions of Party Leaders"*, Amanda led listeners through the fascinating research that she has been conducting on how voters in Canada, the U.S., Britain, Australia and New Zealand perceive political leaders and how those leaders are evaluated by the public on the basis of character and competence.

Amanda explained that while sometimes the results of her research are unexpected, one reliable trend in recent years is clear: people who are "partisans" in support of a particular party or set of policies are becoming increasingly polarized about party leaders. A lively discussion about this trend followed Amanda's talk, with Zoom participants observing how the trend applies to recent political leaders in Canadian and the U.S.



## CABBAGETOWN TOUR MAY 13

A group of us enjoyed a wonderful tour of Cabbagetown in May, led by a guide from the ROM. Many thanks to Elizabeth Mowat and Heather Mitchell for their work.



## SAVE THE DATE

As Wendy mentions in her message on page 2, there are lots of activities being planned for the rest of the year in addition to our bridge, French and book clubs. Please see the following list of events, and jot them in your calendar!

A couple notes...

- Dates with \* are tentative
- Soulpepper play *Queen Goneril* is set 7 years before *King Lear* and is seen through the eyes of her 3 daughters.
- Soulpepper play *Bad Parent* is from the creator of *Kim's Convenience*, and is a funny story about the rite of passage into parenthood.
- Please indicate your interest by June 15 so that we know numbers and can negotiate discounts.

### JUNE

**Wed, June 8** - Mah Jongg at 4:30 pm at the FC

**Mon, Jun 13** - Speaker on Zoom, Kate Chung and Thea Kurdi

**Wed, Jun 15** - Scholarship Reception - opens at 5:30 pm and starts at 6 pm

**Thurs, June 23** - Pub Night at the Faculty Club at 5 pm

### JULY

**Wed, Jul 6** - International Dining - Location to be announced

**Thurs, Jul 14** - Patio Night at the Faculty Club at 5 pm

### AUGUST

**Thurs, Aug 11** - Patio Night at the Faculty Club at 5 pm

**Thurs, Aug 25** - Patio Night at the Faculty Club at 5 pm

### SEPTEMBER

**Thurs, Sept 8** - Patio Night at the Faculty Club at 5 pm

**Wed, Sept 14** - Speaker, Marvin Zuker

**Wed, Sept 14** - Mah Jongg at the FC

\***Fri, Sept 16** - *King Lear* at Soulpepper at 7:30 pm

**Wed Sept 21** - International Dining - Location to be announced

\***Thurs, Sept 22** - *Queen Goneril* at Soulpepper at 7:30 pm

\***Thurs, Sept 29** - *Bad Parent* at Soulpepper at 8 pm

### OCTOBER

\***Sun, Oct 2** - Emerson String Quartet, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Dvorak at Koerner Hall at 3 pm

**Wed, Oct 12** - Mah Jongg at the FC at 4:30 pm

**Mon, Oct 17** - Speaker. Rose Dyson

**Thurs, Oct 20** - Games Night & Pub Night at the Faculty Club at 5 pm

**Thurs, Oct 27** - Fundraiser - Book Sale

\***Sat, Oct 29** - Mendelssohn at Trinity St. Paul's Church at 2 pm

### NOVEMBER

**Wed, Nov. 2** - International Dining - Location to be announced

**Mon, Nov 14** - Speaker, Arlene Chan

**Wed, Nov 16** - Mah Jongg at the FC at 4:30 pm

**Mon, Nov 21** - Annual Business Meeting

**Thurs, Nov 24** - Workshop on table arrangements by Lily Contento and Pub Night

### DECEMBER

**Tues, Dec. 6** - Memorial Event for Montreal Massacre on Dec. 6, 1989

**Wed, Dec 14** - Mah Jongg at the FC at 4:30 pm

**Mon, Dec. 19** - Holiday Celebration - still to be booked

# what's on

## UWC EVENTS



Every Friday Haley will send out an email outlining events for the following week, together with RSVP and Zoom links.


# June

**JUN 01** and every Wednesday  
- Le petit cercle  
**at 10:00 am**



**JUN 02** Morning Book Club  
**at 11:00 am**

**JUN 06** New Book Club  
**at 6:00 pm**



**JUN 07** and every Tuesday -  
Pilates **at 9:00 am**

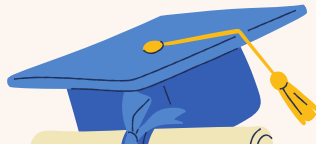
**JUN 07** and every Tuesday -  
Bridge **at 10:00 am**



**JUN 08** Mah Jongg  
**at 4:30 pm**

**JUN 13** Zoom speakers Kate  
Chung and Thea Kurdi  
**at 5:00 pm**

**JUN 15** Scholarship Reception  
**at 5:30 pm**



**JUN 22** Evening Book Club  
**at 5:00 pm**

**JUN 23** Pub Night  
**at 5:00 pm**

