



University Women's Club Toronto

envisioning, engaging, empowering

UPCOMING EVENTS

ZOOM SPEAKER: AMANDA BITTNER MONDAY, MAY 16 AT 4:00 PM

Professor Amanda Bittner, whose focus of research is on elections, voting and public opinion is a political psychologist at Memorial University of Newfoundland. The Royal Society of Canada, which recently made Amanda a member, describes her as Canada's leading expert on how voters perceive and evaluate party leaders and the impact those opinions have on elections. In her talk, Amanda will explore the dynamics of voters' perceptions of political party leaders - both in the US, where voters get to mark their ballots for their preferred presidential candidate, and in parliamentary democracies like Canada, where voters do not have a direct vote for Prime Minister.



AGM 2022

UWC TORONTO'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY, MAY 30TH AT 5:00 PM AT THE FACULTY CLUB

Finally, for the first time since 2019 we'll be holding our AGM in person. We'll be in the beautiful Wedgewood Dining Room and would love to see a huge turnout.

It's a perfect opportunity to learn more about our Club - our finances, programs, scholarships, advocacy, membership, communications - and have a voice in our future plans. Equally important, it's a chance to meet our newest members - 28 have joined since our last AGM - and reconnect with members we haven't seen in ages.

Alex Maggiacomo, Executive Director of the Faculty Club, will be there to update us on their future plans and answer questions we may have.

The agenda and all the documents will be sent out in advance of the meeting, together with a proxy for those unable to attend. There will not be a Zoom link.

We're hoping many of our members will stay on for dinner afterwards, so the conversations can continue. Haley will send out an email closer to the date requesting RSVPs for the AGM and dinner afterwards.

- Jo-Lynne

President's Message

On the occasion of National Volunteer Week (April 17th-23rd) I was reminded of a remarkable sculpture created by artist Marlene Hilton Moore which was unveiled on the Halifax waterfront in November 2017. This bronze sculpture features three life-sized figures representing three generations of women.

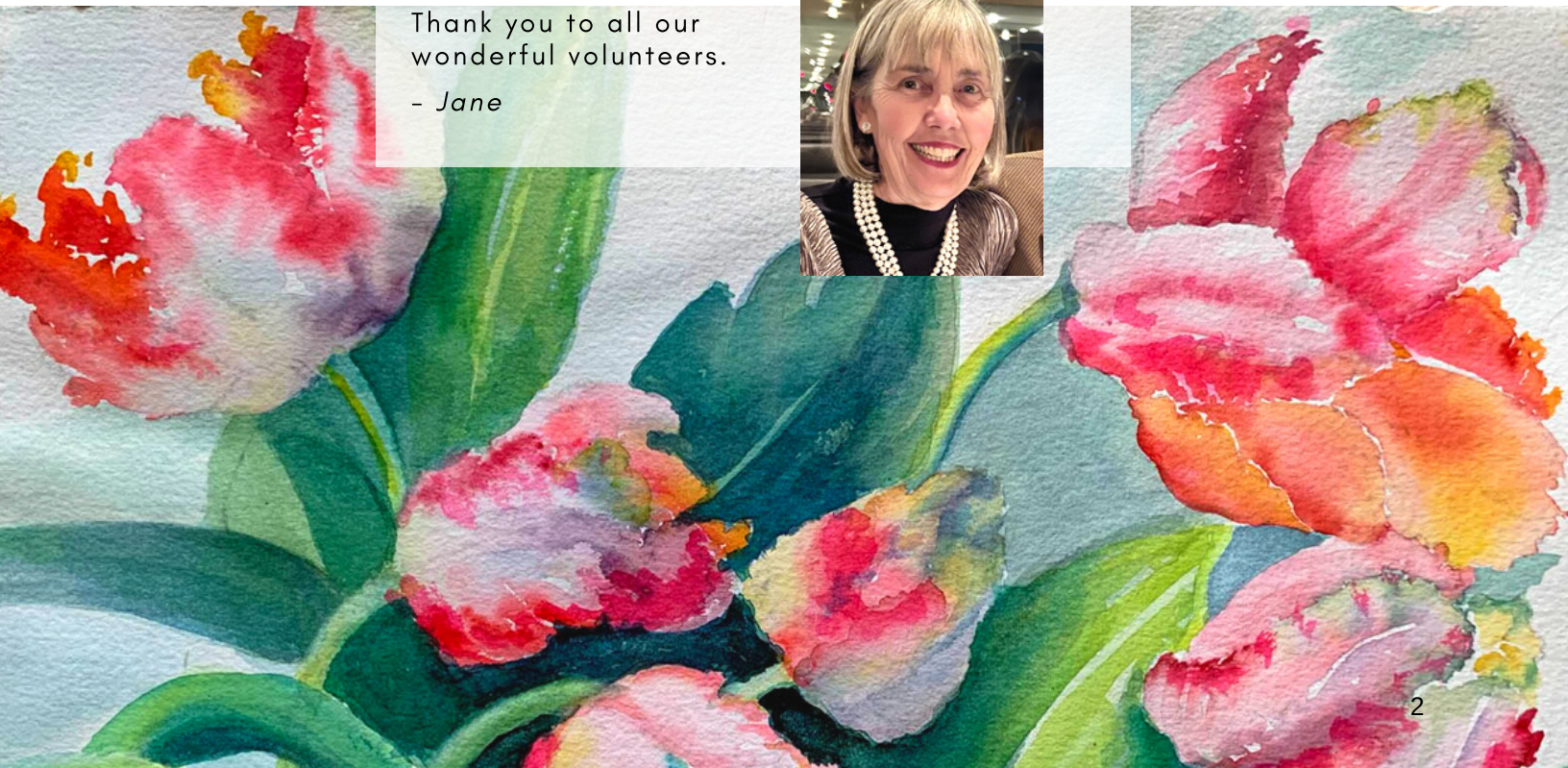
The name of this monument is "The Volunteers"/"Les Bénévoles". It pays tribute to the thousands of women volunteers who aided the war effort during the Second World War. Women collected scrap metal, sold war bonds, knit clothing and cooked meals for the servicemen who were stationed in Halifax. This masterpiece draws our attention to the service that women provided in small ways, often invisible, but vitally important. Moore has acknowledged that her sculpture is a salute to all women whose volunteer labour, in their daily lives and behind the scenes, is worthy of our recognition and appreciation.

Volunteers are critical to the social fabric of our lives. We are so fortunate to belong to a women's club with many hard working volunteers who are dedicated to organizing and supporting our activities, our advocacy projects and our scholarship programs. As the Halifax sculpture so poignantly reminds us, even seemingly small or insignificant volunteer contributions can make a positive and substantial difference in the lives of others.



Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers.

- Jane



CLUB NEWS

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET TOGETHER

We have many in person activities going on. It's a great opportunity to see old friends and to meet our many new members who have joined us during the COVID period. Check the newsletter for our regular activities like bridge, French, book clubs and Mah Jongg. Pub Nights are a great time to say hello and will soon become Patio Evenings.

We hope to have great participation at our AGM on May 30. Come for the important discussion of club affairs and for the social time before and after the meeting. It will be a wonderful opportunity to participate in the club and to enjoy our fellow members. A lovely mixing of business and pleasure.

Another very special event which we hope you will attend is the reception for our scholarship winners on June 15. It is a joyous time to meet the winners, their families, their teachers and each other. Hope to see you there.

A request: If you know of a member who is ill or could use some cheering up, please let any Board member know and we will phone, write a note, deliver a flower or visit when possible.

- Susan

Welcome!

MORE NEW MEMBERS

We are so pleased to welcome Pamela Gough, Anne Powell and Mary Priscilla Stevens as new members of UWC Toronto. We hope to see them soon and often at our activities.

Watch your inbox!

WEEKLY EMAILS EVERY FRIDAY

Hope you've all been receiving our Friday newsletters. If not, please contact Haley at info@uwctoronto.ca. With so much going on, rather than inundate you with emails, we've decided to send one succinct newsletter every Friday outlining the events for the upcoming week.

As you'll have noted, with a simple click you can RSVP to in-person events, plus will have the link for Zoom events.

We won't be sending out reminders prior to the events, so please save the Friday newsletters - flag them or print them for easy access.

- The Communications Team
Jo-Lynne, Ellen & Haley



CLUB NEWS

THANK YOU RUTH

Many thanks to Ruth Matheson who stepped in at short notice four months ago to be our very diligent Board Secretary. Despite the challenges of working on Zoom, Ruth's minutes were done to



perfection. The Board is extremely grateful for Ruth's meticulous work as Secretary.

Thank you Ruth!

- Jane

THANK YOU CECILIA

The Board would like to thank Cecilia Mende for all her ground breaking work on the Advocacy Committee. Cecilia is stepping down from her position on the Board as Co-Advocacy Chair, to pursue full time studies at university.



Cecilia worked hard with the Advocacy Committee to forge a strong relationship with Humewood House and the Massey Centre. Both organizations offer residential and parenting support for young mothers and their babies. The Board, on behalf of all UWC members, is extremely grateful for Cecilia's unwavering commitment and heartfelt dedication to advocacy issues. Cecilia, we wish you great success in the days ahead with your academic studies!

- Jane

IN MEMORY OF SHEILA WALSH



Sheila graduated in 1952 from the School of Nursing at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto where she worked in the Maternity (Obstetrics) Unit for her entire career. She was also a long standing and loyal member of the University Women's Club. She was an active member of the Tuesday morning bridge group at the Faculty Club, and she played regularly with friends at her home at 21 Dale. Sheila was always very welcoming to new members and shared her bridge knowledge generously with beginners.

I, Susan, would say that Sheila was one of our best players. When I first joined, we used to rotate and mix after every three hands. I used to pray that I would end up with Sheila. Despite her age, she was as sharp as a tack and a wily, skilled player who took a chance when necessary and bided her time otherwise.

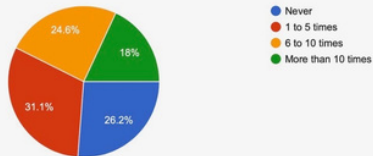
Sheila will be fondly remembered by all of us who knew her well. Interment of ashes will take place at Mount Hope Cemetery, Toronto at a later date. If desired, donations may be made to the Toronto Grace Hospital.

- Jane Hamer & Susan Le Roy

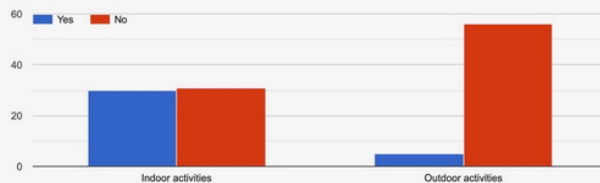
CLUB NEWS

APRIL 2022 UWC SURVEY RESULTS

How often have you attended in-person events at the Faculty Club since it re-opened in the fall?
61 responses



Does concern about COVID restrict your participation in attending our activities - indoor and outdoor?



SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you all for your responses to our survey regarding UWC programs. Over 50% of members filled out the survey, providing us with some helpful direction as we plan our programs going forward. Some key learnings are:

- COVID continues to concern about half of our members as it relates to participating in indoor activities.
- Members are keen to get involved in new activities - with many new activities suggested.
- Almost half of our members who do not currently play bridge are interested in learning.
- The most preferred Out & About excursion would be during a weekday, with about one hour of walking and time to socialize with other members.
- Roughly three quarters of our members like the idea of having some speakers in-person and some via Zoom. Winter weather and COVID were two common reasons given in favour of Zoom.
- 90% of our members like the idea of having food served during a speaker presentation, with more preferring a sit-down dinner to a reception with appetizers.

The Board is always open to hearing your ideas. If you missed filling out the survey don't hesitate to contact a Board member to share your thoughts at any time.

- Ellen

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE INVITES NEW MEMBERS

Are you interested in participating in projects and initiatives that improve the lives of women and girls in our community and beyond? The UWC Advocacy Committee is currently refreshing our focus, and building our committee membership. We are looking for new members to share their skills and ideas.

If you think that this committee could be a good fit for you, send Chair Cindy Bromley an email (cintorb@gmail.com) for an introduction to our purpose and next meeting details. More information is also available on the password-protected Member Resource page of UWC's website.

- Cindy



SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Final reminders have been sent to the schools and we anticipate receiving all submissions by May 13, 2022. Your Scholarship Committee of Sharon Abel, Marianne Anderson, Lily Contento, Susan Freeman, Jane Hamer, Susan Lambie, Liz Mowat and Penny Vincent will be deliberating and meeting on May 26 to determine our 2022 recipients. Their names and schools will be in our June newsletter and you will have the opportunity to meet them in person at our June 15 reception.

- Chris Ward

MAY EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL DINING AT THAI BASIL WEDNESDAY, MAY 4TH AT 6:00 PM

We are excited to announce that our monthly International Dining group has resumed. The first dining experience will be Wednesday, May 4 at 6:00 pm at Thai Basil at 467 Bloor St. West (south side).

As travel is a bit curtailed these days, this is a wonderful way to sample cuisines from around the world, in the company of good friends.

It's easy to get there - just 2 blocks west of the Bloor / Spadina subway station.

Please RSVP Haley if you'd like to join us. info@uwctoronto.ca

- Arlene



OUT AND ABOUT VISITS CABBAGETOWN MAY 13, 2022 AT 11:00 AM

Mobster Al Capone lived in Cabbagetown. So did ballerina Karin Kain and magician Doug Henning. An elephant and a hippo too. Cabbagetown has plenty of look-at-me architectural styles: Arts and Crafts, Romanesque, High Gothic, Bay and Gable, Queen Anne.

Let's visit Cabbagetown on a private walking tour, led by Royal Ontario Museum volunteers.

Friday, May 13, 2022 at 11 am Rain or shine

Tour cost \$10 per person, e-transfer to Elizabeth Mowat, emowat7@gmail.com. Refunds if the tour is cancelled.

Our guide is ROMWalk leader Virginia Van Vliet. We'll meet her at the corner of Parliament and Winchester at 11 am on May 13. An hour or so later we'll say goodbye at the corner of Parliament and Wellesley.

Lunch: We'll lunch at Red Cranberries, 601 Parliament Street. Lunch is not included in the tour price.

Questions? Ask Elizabeth Mowat, emowat7@gmail.com or Heather Mitchell, hhmitchell@hotmail.com



MAY EVENTS

HOW TO EASILY CREATE A MEDITATION SPACE IN YOUR HOME THURSDAY MAY 26 AT 1:00 PM AT THE FACULTY CLUB

If meditation is part of your daily routine (or you'd like it to be) then allocating a space for it is your next step. Creating a designated space at home that is calm and free from distractions is easy and can really help the mind stay focused. This workshop suggests simple ways to turn a forgotten corner into a welcoming space where you can connect with yourself.

At each workshop attendees will be invited to enter a draw for a \$100 gift certificate, redeemable for a flower arrangement or a houseplant (delivery anywhere in the GTA). The prize is transferable.

Please let Haley know if you'll be coming info@uwctoronto.ca

- Lily Contento



PUB NIGHT THURSDAY MAY 26 AT 5:00 PM

Mark your calendars ladies - the last Thursday of each month from 5:00pm onwards is Pub Night. Up until now, we've been in the Pub and have had some fabulous turn outs. As soon as it warms up, we'll be heading to the patio. Come rain or shine we'll be there. There's no agenda, just a chance to meet and chat, and get to know each other better. Hope to see many of you there.

- Jo-Lynne



MEMBERS CORNER

TORONTO POTTERS' ONLINE SALE FEATURING ARLENE KUSHNIR

Arlene is showcasing her exquisite pottery at Toronto Potters 2nd Annual Online Sale. Artists and Art-lovers alike, get ready to click your mouse and add to your cart! Toronto Potters has launched its 2nd annual Spring Online Sale! Browse and buy functional and sculptural work by our ceramicists from across the GTA. The sale continues May 1 to May 29th at our [online pottery shop](#).

Arlene Kushnir



Bowl with painted matte exterior

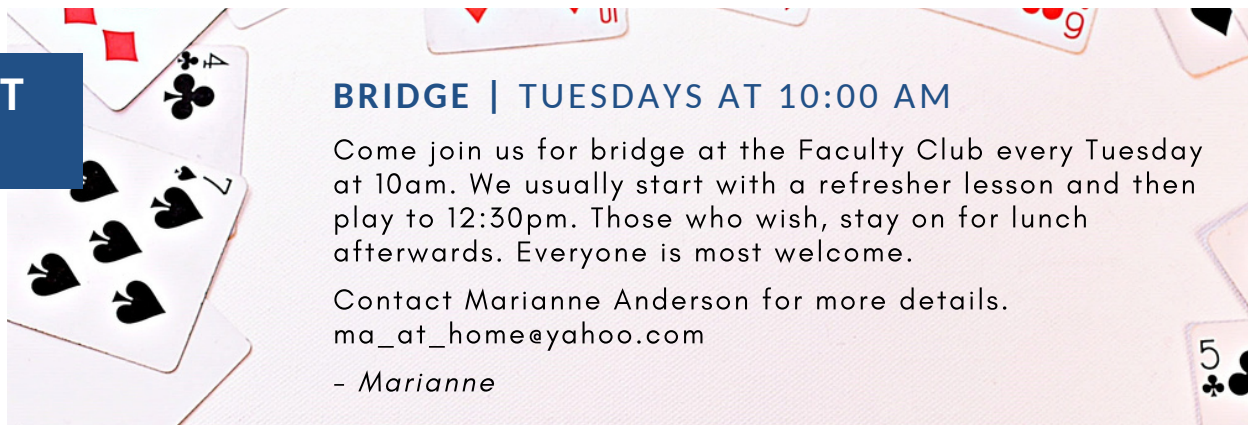


Celadon Green Carved Teapot



Fog Coloured Carved Teapot

INTEREST GROUPS



BRIDGE | TUESDAYS AT 10:00 AM

Come join us for bridge at the Faculty Club every Tuesday at 10am. We usually start with a refresher lesson and then play to 12:30pm. Those who wish, stay on for lunch afterwards. Everyone is most welcome.

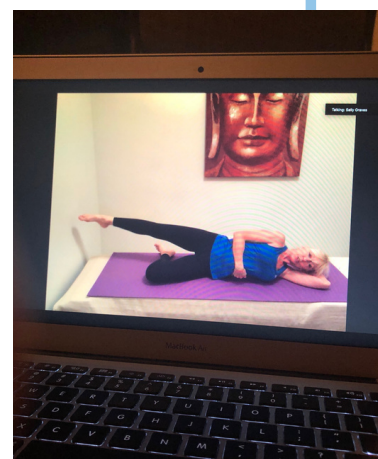
Contact Marianne Anderson for more details.
ma_at_home@yahoo.com

- Marianne

PILATES | TUESDAYS AT 9:00 AM

Every Tuesday from 9:00am to 10:00am, we are running Pilates classes over Zoom. The cost is \$10 per session, so \$50 for the 5 sessions in May (Tuesday May 3 - 31). We are always very happy to have new participants. We turn off our audio and video and workout in private. If you are interested, please contact Sally Graves, our instructor, at renewwithsally@gmail.com.

- Lucia McCurdy



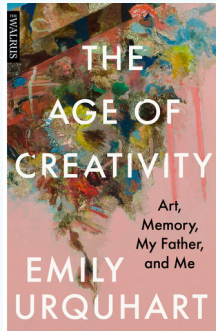
MAH JONGG | TUESDAY MAY 11TH AT 4:30 PM

We are playing Mah Jongg once a month in the Faculty Club Pub. Everyone is welcome, both new and experienced players. Mah Jongg is a very social game, often there is more chatting than playing, and a lovely way to get to know other UWC members. Our dates until summer are Wednesday May 11 and Wednesday June 8, both at 4:30pm. Often we stay on for dinner. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Lucia McCurdy at luciamccurdy@sympatico.ca.

- Lucia McCurdy



INTEREST GROUPS



MORNING BOOK GROUP
THURSDAY MAY 5 AT 10:30 AM ON ZOOM

The Age of Creativity: Art, Memory, My Father, and Me by Emily Urquhart

A moving portrait of a father and daughter relationship and a case for late-stage creativity. Emily Urquhart overturns long-held biases about aging, reveals how creative work, both amateur and professional, sustains people in the third act of their lives, and tells a new story about the possibilities of elder-hood.

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



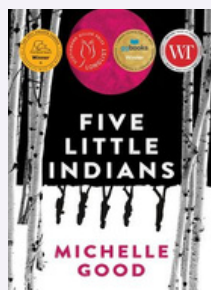
EVENING BOOK GROUP
WEDNESDAY MAY 25 AT 5:00 PM ON ZOOM

Topic: Fiction

In March, on the topic of good and bad men, the evening book group discussed the following books:

- *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama
- *The Last Spike* by Pierre Berton
- *Lester B Pearson* by Robert Bothwell
- *The Forgotten Child* by Genevieve Graham
- *Talking to Canadians* by Rick Mercer
- *Pandemic Spotlight* by Ian Hanomansing
- *A Matter of Equally* by Donald Oliver

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



NEW BOOK CLUB
MAY 9 AT 7:00 PM AT THE FACULTY CLUB

May 9 *Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good
 With compassion and insight, *Five Little Indians* chronicles the desperate quest of 5 residential school survivors to come to terms with their past and, ultimately, find a way forward.



June 6 *Her Turn* by Katherine Ashenburg
 Katherine Ashenburg's witty, contemporary new novel *Her Turn* is about a forty-something newspaper columnist navigating her bold next chapter, set in Washington against the 2015 US presidential primary.

PAST EVENTS

SPEAKER GENEVIEVE GRAHAM

APRIL 19

On Tuesday, April 19, 2022, our Zoom speaker was Genevieve Graham, well known Canadian novelist and best-selling author of over a dozen books filled with Canadian history, romance and adventure. Already a great favourite of our UWC book club members, Genevieve was glad to answer questions about her inspirations and writing processes. It was fascinating to hear how an established author such as Genevieve puts together original ideas, historical research and vivid imagination to create the magic of a best-seller.

Genevieve introduced us to her most recently published novel, *Bluebird*. Moving from World War I in Europe, to postwar Prohibition and the Roaring Twenties, to current day Windsor, Ontario, it tells the story of a young nurse, a soldier and an intriguing family secret that resonates throughout many generations. Armed with extra inside information from Genevieve, our Thursday Morning Book club is looking forward to discussing another of her novels at its June meeting. Genevieve's *The Forgotten Home Child* tells the moving true story of the thousands of destitute British Home Children who were shipped to Canada before World War II as a source of labour for Canadian farms and households. Check the "What's On" pages of our next newsletter for further details about the Thursday Morning Book Club's June meeting.

- Pam

BRITISH HOME CHILDREN (1869-1948)



OUT AND ABOUT AT THE GARDINER MUSEUM

The entry to the exhibition by Shary Boyle was an unexpected blue velvet curtain that led us into the theatre of her mind. Outside the Palace of Me was an interesting look at the forces that create our inner and outer selves. Masks, ceramic sculptures, and a coin-operated dancer were just a part of this exhibition. A monumental figure called Whiteness that shook her head from time to time couldn't be missed. The whole presentation was intriguing and thought-provoking as a variety of themes were explored. A good time was had by all, and lunch at lovely and bright Clay Restaurant was delicious!

- Elizabeth Mowat

SAVE THE DATE



SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION JUNE 15TH 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Details have all been sorted, and our Scholarship Reception is shaping up to be a very exciting event. Circle the date on your calendars - Wednesday, June 15 from 5:30-7:00 in the Wedgwood Dining Room at the Faculty Club.

We will celebrate our scholarship recipients for the 2022-23 school year as well as recognizing our past award winners whom we could not honour during our COVID shut-downs.

At this time, we will also be launching our official UWCT Scholars program. We will hear success stories from some of our young women and how our scholarships have made a difference.

Please join us at 5:30 for appetizers and a cash bar while we mingle with our recipients, their families and school staff before formal presentations begin at 6:00.

It is imperative that we know numbers at least a week in advance. Please confirm your attendance to Haley info@uwctoronto.ca no later than June 6, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
- Chris

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



Thea Kurdi



Kate Chung

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.

May

MAY
02 Board meeting
at **5:00 pm**

MAY
03 and every Tuesday
Pilates at **9:00 am**
on Zoom

MAY
03 and every Tuesday
Bridge at **10:00 am**

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

MAY
04 International Dining
at Thai Basil
at **6:00 pm**

MAY
05 Morning Book Club
at **10:30 am** on Zoom

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

MAY
11 Mah Jongg
at **4:30 pm**

MAY
13 Out & About Visits
Cabbagetown
at **11:00 am**

MAY
16 Speaker Amanda
Bittner on Zoom
at **4:00 pm**

MAY
25 Evening Book Club
at **5:00 pm** on Zoom

MAY
26 Meditation in Your
Home at **1:00 pm**

MAY
26 Pub Night
at **5:00 pm**

MAY
30 AGM at **5:00 pm**

