

UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB TORONTO

ENVISIONING · ENGAGING · EMPOWERING

UPCOMING EVENTS



SPEAKER:
**BARBARA SEAGRAM
& PATTI LEES**
MONDAY, APRIL 17
AT 5:30 PM

Barbara Seagram's name is well-known to bridge players in Canada and around the globe. But this world-renowned bridge teacher and prolific author of bridge books has another passion in her life: bringing awareness to health care needs in Cambodia, and raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for lifesaving projects such as clean water filters and new schools.

Barbara's friend and fundraising partner, Patti Lee, an expert bridge teacher, bridge cruise ship director and tour guide in her own right, will join Barbara to tell us how the game of bridge has enabled Barbara and Patti to raise funds for vital outreach programs in Cambodia.

Join us in the Faculty Club at 5:30 pm on Monday, April 17 to hear Barbara's and Patti's fascinating stories.

The talk will be free to members of the Faculty Club; non-Faculty Club members are asked to pay an event fee of \$13.00 (which includes HST and the Faculty Club's service charge) by credit card at the door.

To register for this event:

- Faculty Club members: please register on the Faculty Club website at facultyclub.utoronto.ca
- Non Faculty Club Members (including UWC members who are not Faculty Club members): please register by email to info@uwctoronto.ca

No food will be served at this event, but drinks will be available through the Faculty Club's cash bar. Attendees who wish to stay for dinner after the talk should indicate so when they register.

- Pam H.

Barbara and Patti will bring a selection of beautiful hand-made 24" x 68" scarves from the weaving centre they support in Cambodia. These cotton scarves sell for just \$15 each or two for \$25, with all proceeds going to the weaving centre. They will be available at the event on a cash-only basis, so if you are interested in supporting the Cambodian weaving centre by purchasing a unique and lovely scarf or two, be sure to bring some cash with you to the event!



UWC 120TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY!

When women come together, magic happens!
Please join us **May 1** to celebrate our club's 120th anniversary.

See page 9 in this newsletter for all the details.

President's MESSAGE



A member recently asked "What are the top concerns of UWC's Board of Directors"? It seemed like a question that other members may have.

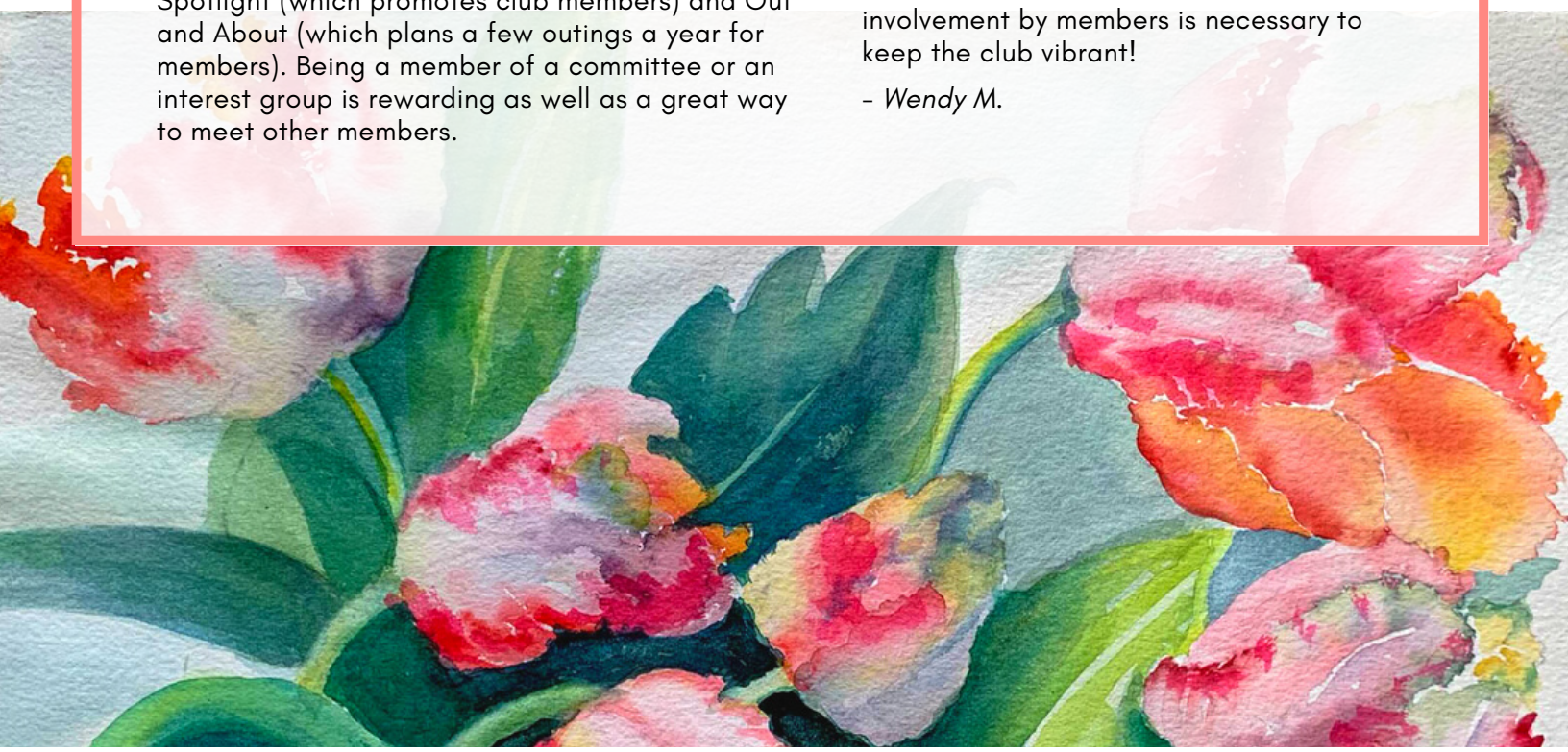
Unlike a number of other CFUW clubs, our membership is growing. We now have about 160 members, one-third of whom have joined since January 2022. One of the board's concerns is that members participate in the activities and the operation of club as much as possible so we try to offer a variety of activities to encourage members to come out to events particularly new members. We hope that if members are involved in the club, they will join committees and interest groups.

The club has a number of different committees and interest groups. Some committees like Scholarship and Membership are currently full but others like Advocacy, Fundraising and Special Events are looking for additional members. Although activities are now held mostly as in-person events, the committees still meet virtually most of the time. Interest groups include Bridge, Le petit cercle, Mah Jongg, International Dining and three book clubs. Members are needed to lead programs such as Spotlight (which promotes club members) and Out and About (which plans a few outings a year for members). Being a member of a committee or an interest group is rewarding as well as a great way to meet other members.

Over the next few years, several board members will be retiring as they finish their term. The board is concerned that other members step up to fill the positions vacated by retiring members to ensure the ongoing operation of the club. Being on a member of a committee or the board, provides good insight into the operation of the club and members can play a valuable role while on the committee or the board.

Now that the restrictions of COVID have eased, we are all busy doing things that we were unable or were difficult to do previously. The board hopes that members participate and enjoy the club as much as their schedules permit by attending activities, being a member of committees and/or interest groups and/or by joining the board of directors. Interest and involvement by members is necessary to keep the club vibrant!

- Wendy M.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

During March we had three new members join the University Women's Club. They are Laragh Halldorson, Kimberley Heppler and Claudine Corbett Lourenco. We would like to extend the very warmest welcome to them and hope to meet them soon, at some of our upcoming events.

- Lucia M.

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere sympathy goes to Jane Hamer and family on the death of her dear mother, Elizabeth Macrae. Flowers have been sent on your behalf.

We are deeply saddened to learn of the death of Melanie Duras. An expression of sympathy has been sent to her family on your behalf.

ROMERO HOUSE ASSISTANCE

Thanks to all of you who volunteered to spend time with the Romero House people. Please get your police check underway.

We will be doing a spring/summer houseware and clothing collection drive in May. Please start setting aside items you can contribute. As always, their needs are for seasonal clothing and footwear, all sizes and ages, but especially for children and infants. And basic household items including sheets and towels, china, kitchen utensils, pots and pans. If you would like to donate NEW items, there is a need for underwear, socks, and diapers. Details about collecting the items will go out in the May newsletter.

- Susan F.

UWC ADVOCACY



Introducing the Working Women Community Centre

The UWC Advocacy Committee would like to introduce you to a community organization that works towards supporting working women in the Toronto community. In the coming months, we are expanding our advocacy work by including the Working Women Community Centre to our portfolio. We think the WWCC pairs nicely with our support for Romero House, as they both work to support and educate newcomer women.

WWCC Profile & a Volunteer Opportunity

Working Women Community Centre was established as a grassroots organization in 1974 and was one of the first organizations focused on assisting women in Toronto. We incorporated as a charity in 1976 and are now the largest settlement organization in Ontario specializing in services for immigrant and refugee women, serving more than 10,000 people each year. 80% of our clients are women and 1/3 are refugees. Starting life in a new country is challenging. Our services help families quickly build their new life in Canada by filling essential needs like finding suitable housing or employment. We know that families that become established quickly are more prosperous and resilient, and strengthen our city by contributing to the community and economy.

Helping women assists the whole family. We offer specialized programs for women including support groups, violence prevention services, art groups, and women's leadership development. Many of the women we serve are mothers, and so we also run 3 education programs to help foster early skill development in young children, tutoring support, and anti-racism training.

Current Volunteer Opportunities

- We are currently seeking 3 women to join our board of directors as Members at Large. The nominating committee is particularly interested in candidates with knowledge of and experience in: financial management and risk management; issues impacting the settlement community; inclusion and diversity; governance and strategic planning.
- Virtual volunteer tutors for On Your Mark Tutoring. The program runs from October to May. Volunteer tutors work with one or two students for the school year, supporting the individual learning needs of students in grades 1 to 12.
- New employment program: we are launching a new employment program for women in May and will be looking to connect with volunteers as the program develops. For example, leading virtual or in-person workshops, HR experience, sector-specific workshops.

If you would like to volunteer in any of these areas, please email admin@workingwomencc.org. This email goes to their administration desk, and they will direct it to the right person.

- Cindy B.



I thought I would bring you a personal update on our new scholarship schools visits. These were our first face-to-face encounters at schools since our Covid challenges.

Susan Freeman and myself had an opportunity to visit our four newly acquired schools of Danforth Collegiate and Technical institute, Ursula Franklin Academy, HumberSide Collegiate Institute and Western Technical and Commercial School.

We were warmly welcomed at each of our schools. I think what I find the most exciting about these face-to-face visits with the school's guidance counsellor is how they receive us and the news of the scholarships that we are providing.

It is incredibly exciting to start to describe our application criteria and very rare that we do not see the counsellor's eyes light up. We know immediately that they have a young woman student or students that would be a perfect fit for our criteria.

This usually begins a recounting of the successes of these young women students. They are all so deserving and from families in dire financial need. We hear about the struggles they have overcome in order to obtain academic excellence and demonstrate community and school leadership, often with extensive home commitments.

So many deserving young women in our city! That is why our application deliberation is filled with excitement and anxiety at the same time—we cannot support them all. But, we will be helping nine young women from our 17 Toronto schools begin their university careers with a hand-up not a handout. Your committee is invested in this difficult but rewarding task.

Please join us on June 27 in the Main Dining Room at the Faculty Club as we celebrate our scholarship recipients. Reserve the date and come in person to meet our incredible, deserving, young women.

- Chris W.



SUMMER READING SOCIAL & BOOKSALE



Heliconian Club, 35 Hazelton Ave. | Thurs, June 1, 5-7 pm

Please join us for an evening of socialising, book talk and stocking up on summer reads.

The Heliconian Club and the UWCT are jointly hosting a booksale.

- Entry will be \$25 which includes a book token.
- Cash bar and light snacks provided.

We will be selling recent novels and non-fiction in great condition for \$5 or less.

We are asking people to donate books in advance - recent novels/bestsellers in very good condition, especially paperbacks. Non-fiction, including cookbooks, also of interest. So please start to put these books for donation aside - we will coordinate getting them in late May.

Guests are most welcome. Please ask your bookclub to attend and/or donate some books. This event was a great success in 2019 and we look forward to another fun night in 2023.



INTEREST GROUPS

MAH JONGG APRIL 12 AT 4:30 PM

Please join us for Mah Jongg on April 12th, at 4:30 pm, in the Faculty Club Pub. We will play for one and a half hours, and then enjoy dinner together.

As always, everyone is welcome, both new and experienced players. New players are very welcome to observe in the beginning, or jump right in. Please RSVP to the Friday email.

- Lucia M.



CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Current Affaires interest group will not be meeting in April. Stay tuned for our May meeting date.

- Norah B.



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 with any questions.

- Marianne A.

LE PETIT CERCLE WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00 AM

Le petit cercle is our French conversation group that meets every Wednesday to discuss world events, or wherever the conversation goes. We meet at Nadège Patisserie on Bloor St. at 10:00 am. Toutes les francophones et francophiles seront les bienvenues.

Please contact Jo-Lynne S. for more details.

- Jo-Lynne S.



Contact Haley for any questions about our interest groups or if you'd like to join in!

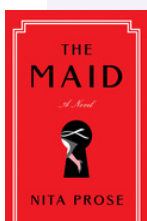
Contact us: info@uwctoronto.ca

INTEREST GROUPS



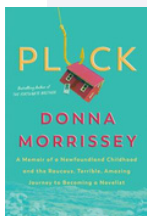
NEW BOOK CLUB MONDAY, APRIL 24 AT 6:00 PM

We will be meeting this month on Monday, April 24 at 6:00 pm at The Faculty Club. New members are always welcome!



April 24: *The Maid* by Nita Prose

A clue-like, locked-room mystery and a heartwarming journey of the spirit that explores what it means to be the same as everyone else and yet entirely different.



May 23: *Pluck* by Donna Morrissey

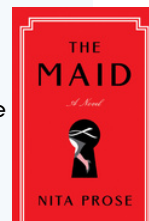
A memoir of a Newfoundland childhood and the raucous, terrible, amazing journey to becoming a novelist.

- Susan F

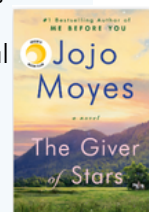
MORNING BOOK GROUP THURSDAY, APRIL 6 AT 10:30 AM | ON ZOOM

Book: *The Maid* by Nita Prose

Molly's orderly life is upended the day she enters the suite of the infamous and wealthy Charles Black, only to find it in a state of disarray and Mr. Black himself dead in his bed. Before she knows what's happening, Molly's unusual demeanor has the police targeting her as their lead suspect - will they be able to find the real killer before it's too late?



May 4: *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes
Location TBD



June 1: *Spare* by Prince Harry
Location TBD



New members are welcome as well as those from other book clubs. If you don't have time to read the book before our next meeting, please feel free to join in our thought-provoking discussions.

- Carmie D



EVENING BOOK GROUP WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26 AT 5:00 PM ON ZOOM

The evening book group will be meeting on Wednesday, April 26 at 5:00 pm on Zoom. The topic this month is poetry.

New members are always welcome! Kindly contact Judith L. to get the Zoom link.

- Judith L.

Contact Haley for any questions about our interest groups or if you'd like to join in!

Contact us: info@uwctoronto.ca

PAST EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PRESENTATION BY DIANNE SAXE MARCH 8

We must individually and collectively take action now to preserve a liveable planet for future generations. This was the essence of Dr. Dianne Saxe's message in her keynote speech at the IWD Luncheon event sponsored by four Toronto CFUW Clubs.

On March 8th, members and friends of six Toronto and area CFUW Clubs celebrated International Women's Day together. This was the first in-person event in three years, and 78 women met in the Great Hall at St. Paul's Bloor Street Church to hear Dr. Saxe speak about Women and their role in the Climate.

Dr. Saxe is a respected environmental lawyer, whose career has focused on energy and environmental issues at the provincial, corporate and national levels. She is currently a Toronto City Councillor.

The overarching theme of her presentation was her concern about the impact of climate change on her children and grandchildren. She provided facts to highlight the irreversible deterioration that has occurred, outlined basic steps that must be taken immediately to curtail the instability in weather patterns and the environment, and challenged the attendees to take a leadership role in educating women and girls, to increase political involvement and to collaborate with others to institute change.

Her evidence that Canada ranks as the worst polluter among major nations was sobering. Nonetheless, she offered a blueprint on what we as women can do to influence the environmental erosion.

Dr. Saxe emphasized that the involvement and importance of women's voices in addressing the issues are significant. She offered a strong rallying cry to us all to personally initiate and collectively advocate for climate control measures and to spread knowledge and take action to ensure change happens.

- *Moira H.*



PAST EVENTS

WINE AND PAINTING CLASS | MARCH 3

On Friday March 3rd UWC's very own Group of Seven met at Maria V.'s Art Workshop studio for an afternoon of wine and painting. Canvas, paint and the all-important apron were provided along with a fortifying glass of wine. Maria guided us through basic painting techniques and the rest was up to us. It was a fun opportunity to explore our creative sides and to further our understanding of the art we view.

- Susan A.



SPEAKER JACQUELINE GIBBONS | MARCH 13

"Women, Wings and Wizardry" was the theme of the fascinating presentation made on March 13 by UWC guest speaker and fellow member, Jacqueline A. Gibbons. Jacqueline, an ethnographer, cultural sociologist and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Sociology at York University, is the author of *Spread Your Wings: Icarus to 1912*, a richly illustrated study of humankind's age old compulsion to conquer gravity and leave the confines of earth.

Jacqueline's talk focused in particular on women's contributions to the history of flight, from their earliest appearances in mythic, folk and religious contexts, to their achievements as pioneering balloonists, aeronauts and aviatrices in the years before World War I. Jacqueline's presentation, accompanied by images drawn from her book, was an intriguing glimpse into the complex urge of humans everywhere in every era to "spread their wings" and take flight.

- Pam H.

SAVE THE DATE



SPEAKER: DR. NAJMA AHMED | MAY 8 5:30 PM AT THE FACULTY CLUB

Dr. Najma Ahmed is Interim Surgeon-in-Chief at St. Michael's Hospital, where she has worked since 2001. She is a co-founder and a member of the Executive Team of Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns, a grassroots organization concerned about the increasing public health impact of firearms. As a spokesperson for this organization, Dr. Ahmed is committed to educating the public about the need to reduce or eliminate access to handgun and assault weapons.

- Pam



COME CELEBRATE WITH US

THE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB OF
TORONTO



120th Anniversary *tea party*

MONDAY, MAY 1 | 5:30 PM | THE FACULTY CLUB

Enjoy high tea with birthday cake, bubbly and a special gift.

Listen to
the shared memories
the curated anecdotes
the great achievements
the pioneering members

See the historic photos.
Experience the truth of
Donna Ashmorth's poem,
*When women come
together, magic happens.*



RSVP to info@uwctoronto.ca by April 26



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.

April

APR 03 UWC Board Meeting

APR 04 and every Tuesday - Bridge at **10:00 am**

APR 05 and every Wednesday - Le petit cercle at **10:00 am**

APR 06 Morning Book Club at **10:30 am**

APR 12 Mah Jongg at **4:30 pm**

APR 17 Speaker Barbara Seagram at **5:30 pm**

APR 24 New Book Club at **6:00 pm**

APR 26 Evening Book Club at **5:00 pm**

HELLO SPRING

