



UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB TORONTO

ENVISIONING · ENGAGING · EMPOWERING



UPCOMING EVENTS

Festive DINNER

Tuesday, December 12 at 5:30 pm
In the Upper Dining Room at the Faculty Club

There are still a few spots available!

If you would like to attend, please send an email to info@uwctoronto.ca.

To reserve your spot, your payment of \$85 per person, can be made by:

1. e-transfer to payments@uwctoronto.ca or
2. by cheque payable to UWC Toronto and mailed to Wendy McCallum, 204-1941 Queen St E., Toronto, ON, M4L 1H7.

Please include your choice for the main course: Roast Turkey, Braised Short Ribs, Maple Glazed Salmon or Moroccan Stew (Vegetarian).

SPEAKER: LAURYN OATES
JANUARY 15 AT 5:30 PM
VIA ZOOM



Be sure to join us on Zoom at 5:30 pm on Monday, January 15, 2024, for what promises to be a fascinating and inspiring talk by Lauryn Oates, Executive Director of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan. With the help of this amazing Canadian organization, Afghan girls who have been banned from going to secondary school by the Taliban can find a way to continue their education online. The importance of learning and education resonates strongly with us at UWC Toronto and is the basis on which we have built our outstanding Scholarship Program for Canadian women.

We can truly relate to the mission statement on the website for Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan: "We stand for the right to learn for everyone. Because human rights are universal." Make a date to join Lauryn Oates on Zoom on January 15 to hear about how Canada is helping the girls and women of Afghanistan to access their fundamental right to education. Register to attend this talk at info@uwctoronto.ca. The link to the Zoom meeting will be available in the coming weeks.

Directors' MESSAGE

Marianne A., Vice President of Charitable Activities

The end of 2023 is upon us. It is always a time to reflect on the year. I hope members were able to enjoy events coordinated by the UWCT and had the opportunity to meet some like-minded women.

Personally, I enjoy so many of our club's activities - bridge, French conversation, book club, speakers and various cultural outings. (My mother used to call me "Judy Joiner"). But I feel most rewarded by my involvement in the Scholarship Committee and our Foundation. It makes me so proud that our club can make such a big impact.

Our Foundation awarded scholarships of \$6,000 each to nine incredible women headed off to university from the 17 Toronto high schools we work with. We also provide scholarships to women at Inukshuk H.S. in Iqaluit, two candidates at the Children's Aid Foundation and a residence scholarship at Innis College.

The Foundation is generously supported by our Club (through the income on our investments), but we also need the support of our individual members. Last year, we set an aggressive goal to raise \$20,000 (in part because of a very generous early donation by Mary Aziz) and in 2022, we ended up raising \$25,202!

So, this year, we are setting our fundraising goal at \$25,000, but hope to do even better. Please consider giving. As well as a monetary goal, we really want ALL of our members to feel involved.

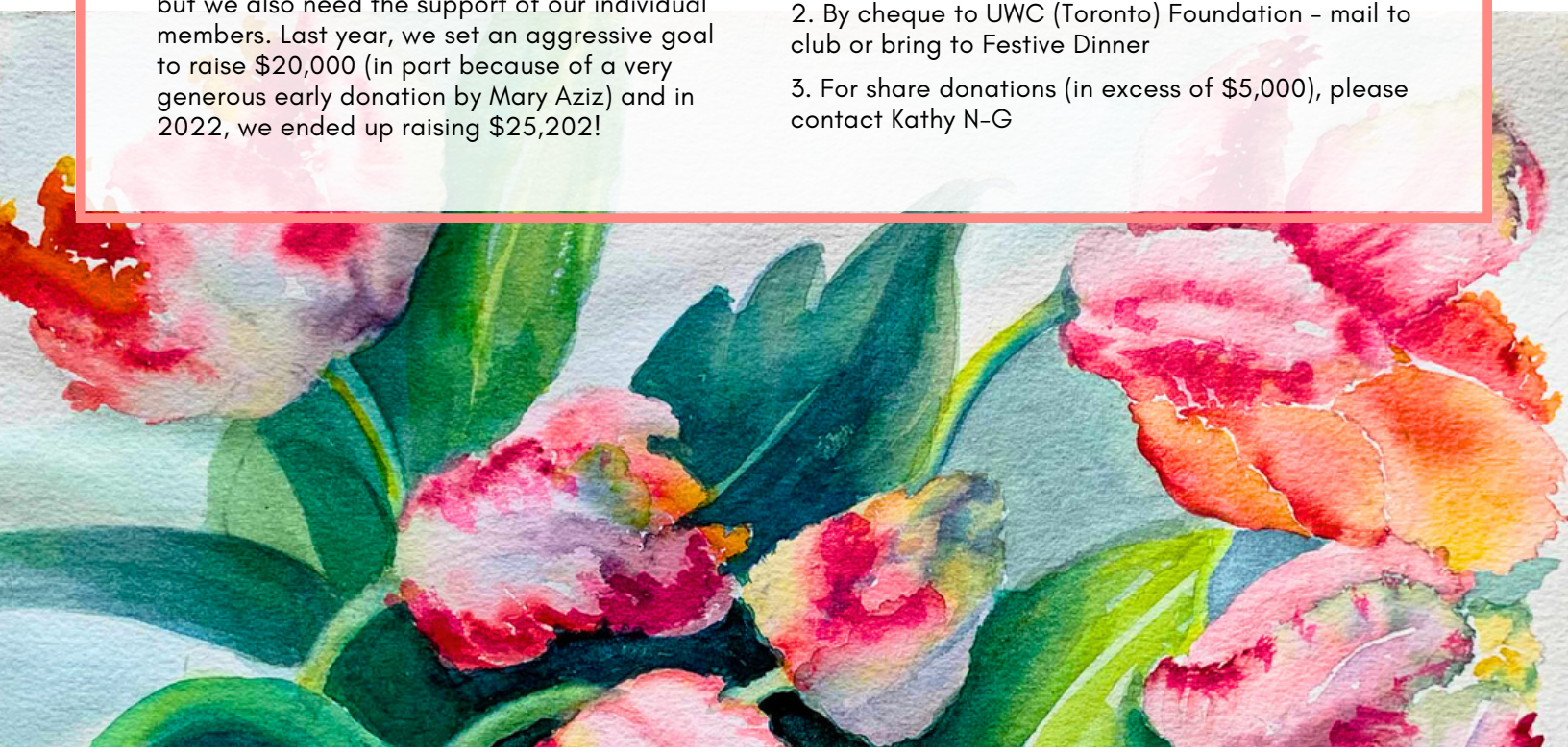
As part of estate planning or end of year tax planning, some people may want to consider a share donation. We would be happy to give you more information on how to do this. For others, it may be as simple as a quick e-transfer - any amount is most appreciated and tax receipts will be issued.

Together, we can make a huge impact in the lives of these scholarship recipients. These young women are so deserving and destined for great things. We can help give them the higher education they need to guide their future paths in these uncertain times.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our Festive Dinner on December 12th and wishing everyone a happy holiday season with friends/family/pets and a special hope for peace in 2024.

Donating to our Foundation is EASY!

1. By e-transfer to foundation@uwctoronto.ca
2. By cheque to UWC (Toronto) Foundation - mail to club or bring to Festive Dinner
3. For share donations (in excess of \$5,000), please contact Kathy N-G



ROMERO HOUSE FUNDRAISER

The Numbers Are In!

Again, a very big Thank You to all those who contributed to the Romero House Fundraiser in October. We now know all that hard work was well worth it. The final number of funds raised for Romero House: **\$11,458.84**

There is now more good news. The Board has approved this donation being topped up to : **\$15,000**

I know this will be most gratefully received by Francesca, the Executive Director of Romero House. We also wish them all a very Happy Holiday season.

- Jane V.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend the very warmest welcome to our newest members who joined us in the past month: Laura Cauchi, Serena Chan, Louise Gooding, Simrit Khabra, and Sonia Sabir. We look forward to meeting you at some of our activities.

- Lucia M.

On Wednesday, December 6, 2023, from 12:30-2:20 PM, the University of Toronto will join communities across Canada for the National Day of Remembrance and Action for Violence Against Women (NDRAVAW) to honour the lives of the 14 women killed in a devastating act of misogyny at Montreal's École Polytechnique in 1989. We'll hear from both the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering on the legacy of December 6, 1989, and from our keynote speaker on the rise in transmisogyny and violence against queer and trans women globally. In addition, there will be a musical tribute, poetry, and an awards ceremony recognizing individuals who've shown a commitment to ending gender-based violence.

The event is being hosted at Hart House in the Great Hall (7 Hart House Cir, Toronto, ON M5S 3H3), and lunch will be provided. We're asking guests to arrive between 11:30 am and 12 pm to sign-in.

If you are interested in attending in-person, please contact kate.hawkins@utoronto.ca.

Those who can't attend in person can listen to the event live at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCoJO-dwAiQ>

IF YOU CAN HELP DO ANY OF THESE THINGS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW! AND I'LL THROW IN A FREE LESSON ON USING CANVA, IF YOU'D LIKE!

ABOUT US

The UWC Communications team oversees all internal and external communications, from the club website and newsletter, to promotional flyers, social media posts, event programs and more.

Our best kept secret is Haley, who does a lot of this for us, but we still need some extras hands. **Members with time and a little talent! And only an hour or two a week.** (Oh yes, and our other secret is our design program Canva, which makes it all look so good!)

HOW TO HELP

- 1 **Newsletter**
Manage gathering and compiling all the material for the monthly newsletter.
- 2 **Promotions**
Design promotional material such as flyers and brochures.
- 3 **Social media**
Work on building our social media presence.
- 4 **Members page editor**
Interview and write about our amazing members.

UWC COMMUNICATIONS TEAM CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



GET IN TOUCH Ellen T., Director of Communications

Below are some interesting events happening in our city over the next couple of months. Join us as we attend these events together with other members. Outings may be followed by coffee, lunch or dinner together for those who wish.

Music

December 3 at 3:00 pm

Our TSO Subscribers please note that there is a Chamber Music Concert at Roy Thomson Hall at 1:45 p.m. featuring soloists and guest artists, prior to the concert on December 3 at 3:00. Your ticket to the TSO concert will admit you to the concert at 1:45. You should arrive for the chamber music concert before 1:30. The program is curated by Jonathan Crow, concert master.

December 5 at 7:30 pm

Christmas Carols: December 5, 7:30 p.m. A Festival of Carols with the Mendelssohn Choir at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St., a beloved annual celebration. "The dazzling performance is bound to fill your heart and make your spirits soar as you sing along..." Tickets range from \$25.00 to \$90.00

December 8th at 1:00 pm

Innis College Refugee Student Fund Benefit Concert, featuring dance and musical performances by students, staff, and alumni of Innis College. Cost: Free. Location: Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave (Room IN112). Register on the Innis College Website.

December 9 at 7:30 pm

The University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra, at the Macmillan Theatre at the Faculty of Music, 80 Queen's Park, (Museum Subway) Tickets \$30 or \$20 on line or at the Telus Royal Conservatory Box Office 416-408-0208, or at the door. Weber: Oberon Overture Mahler: Ruckert Lieder Brahms: Symphony#1

Talks

January 24 at 7:00 pm

Yorkminster Park Speaker Series: Jon Allen: Israel-Palestine: The Two State Solution is not Dead.

Our members are amazing. Get to know them here.

Every month we will feature different members on this page. If you have an achievement you would like to share, a volunteer gig you do, or a business you run, we want to hear about it!

Here's one of our best kept secrets!

Who knew?



Doris
Geddes



Doris Geddes has been a member of the UWC Toronto since 1989, and through the years has been active on the board, the finance committee, evening book group, bridge, the UWC Foundation, scholarship committee, and attended many dinners and speakers. She also was president of the committee responsible for 162 St. George St. - the building and contents - and was involved with its sale.

Doris was the first and only female lecturer in the math department, when the University of Toronto Mississauga (formerly Erindale College) opened its doors in 1967. In the beginning, Doris had a little office under the stairs, due to a shortage of space.

Her first year calculus class started with 50 students and ended with 700! It's no wonder she won the faculty teaching award, the first ever given to a member of the math department!

Service to others has also been important to Doris. She was married to a United Church Minister for 22 years, serving in Manitoba, Alberta and Ontario; was church treasurer; was on the founding board of the Neighbourhood Centre; and has been president of Zonta of Toronto. Doris has travelled widely - 55 countries on 5 continents - and enjoys photography, reading and classical music.



Support Local

Small business owners among our membership.



Lily Contento

*If you're familiar with the Toronto real estate market, chances are you've heard Lily Contento's name a time or two. Her career has been a long one, and she has been recognized as a **leading realtor** at Royal LePage Terrequity, earning excellence awards for her dedicated work. Lily takes great pride in the fact that her success stems largely from referrals.*

Lily earned her masters degree in English at U of T, and continues to enjoy languages, reading, writing and studying works by the great masters of literature. Her work has appeared in Blood & Aphorisms, Effe, and the Hart House Quarterly Review; has published poetry (The Aroma of Holy Work and Garden Variety), and had a short story Hail Mary adapted into a movie.

Lily has been a member of UWC Toronto since 2019, and has chaired the Advocacy committee and run a fundraising poinsettia sale for the club in 2020. She also gives back to her community by supporting Oakwood Collegiate Institute with the *Lily Contento Properties 500 Bright Future Scholarship*, as an active member of the Toronto Botanical Garden Milne House and the Northcliffe Residents' Association.

lilycontento@royallepage.ca
647-261-9482



Helping hand



Rima Akl

A member making a difference in our community.

Rima just joined the UWC last year, and has jumped right in by helping on the Fundraising Committee, in addition to playing bridge and participating in the French conversation group.

Rima also jumped right in to an interesting volunteer gig! It's called *The Stop Community*, and is dedicated to increasing access to healthy food in Toronto.

Rima's journey with *The Stop Community* started by responding to a poster on St. Clair W. asking for gardening volunteers. She was quickly welcomed into a wonderful, giving, and diverse community. During the summer she helped plant and harvest vegetables in a plot at EarlsCourt Park. The volunteers were from all walks of life, helping each other while learning new skills from the amazing *Stop* gardeners. In the winter she's been working in a *Stop* kitchen, filling in as needed preparing meals for as many as 120 people!

Rima has found this work at *Stop* to be very rewarding and fulfilling.

Helen MacMurphy 1862 - 1953



Trailblazer

One of the many women who came before us.

Helen graduated in 1901 from U of T. She was the first woman to intern at Toronto General Hospital, and to take postgraduate work at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

In 1934, Helen received the Commander of the British Empire, and in 1949 was named one of the ten leading women physicians in the western world.

INTEREST GROUPS

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.



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.

The Bridge group will be having their festive lunch on Tuesday, Dec, 5, after playing.

- Marianne A.



MAH JONGG | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 AT 4:30 PM

Our next Mah Jongg get together, and the last one for this year is on Wednesday, December 13, at 4:30pm, in the Faculty Club Pub. We usually play for about an hour and a half, order dinner (and wine), and finish a little after 7:00 pm.

The exciting news for next year is that we will be increasing our Mah Jongg game to twice per month. We are enjoying it so much, that we would like to play more frequently.

The dates for the first half of 2024 will be as follows: Jan 10, 24, Feb 7, 21, Mar 6, 27, Apr 10, 24, May 8, 22, and June 5, 19. These are all Wednesdays and one to two weeks apart.

We welcome all players, both complete novices and experienced players. We are very happy to provide an overview of the game to beginners. If you are new to the game, please consider picking up a copy of the wonderful instruction booklet, *A Beginner's Guide to American Mah Jongg*, by Elaine Sandberg. It is available from Amazon and will give you a bit of head start with the game.

- Lucia M.

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

Contact us: info@uwctoronto.ca



learn bridge IN A DAY

THURSDAY FEB. 1, 2024 | 10:00AM-3:30PM

We are very excited to be offering a “Learn Bridge in a Day” course on Thursday, Feb 1, 2023, at the U. of T. Faculty Club. We have had many inquiries about offering bridge lessons, and think this is the perfect way for new players to “test the waters”.

The game of bridge has taken the world by storm. Everyone seems to be wanting to learn this wonderful game that is an aid to maintaining brain health and delaying the onset of dementia. It is a very social game that you can play anywhere in the world. Once you’ve learned to play bridge, you will never be bored again, and will always have something to do.

We are very lucky to have the award-winning teacher, Josée Hamill, teaching this class. She will teach you the basics of bridge, in this interactive class that has both instruction and coached play.

The class will be approximately 5 hours long, including a break for lunch. The cost is \$60, which includes a copy of Barbara Seagram’s Bridge Basics book. If you are not a member of the Faculty Club, the cost will be \$73. Lunch will be available for purchase in the Faculty Club Dining Room.

This course is ideal for anyone who would like to learn bridge but isn’t sure where to start. It is also perfect for anyone who would prefer to not make a large commitment of time. Once you complete this course, you will have an understanding of bridge bidding, scoring and the mechanics of play.

Registration will be limited for this very special one-time course. If you are interested, please email Lucia McCurdy at luciamccurdy@sympatico.ca.

INTEREST GROUPS



NEW BOOK CLUB | MONDAY, JANUARY 22 AT 6:00 PM



January 22: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

The New Evening Book Club will discuss *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver on January 22 at 6:00. It's a long book so get started. If you have a chance to read *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens, more power to you.

- Susan F.



EVENING BOOK GROUP | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24 AT 5:00 PM ON ZOOM

The topic this month is A Book Turned into a movie or TV show.

New members are always welcome!

- Judith L

MORNING BOOK GROUP | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 11:30 AM ON ZOOM

The morning book club meets on the first Thursday of every month. We will be meeting on Zoom.

Below are our book selections for the next three months:

December 7: *The Mystery of Mrs. Christie* by Marie Benedict

In December 1926, Agatha Christie goes missing. Investigators find her empty car on the edge of a deep pond. Her husband and daughter have no knowledge of her whereabouts. Eleven days later she reappears claiming amnesia and providing no explanation for her time away. A master storyteller whose clever mind may never be matched, Agatha Christie's untold story offers perhaps her greatest mystery of all.

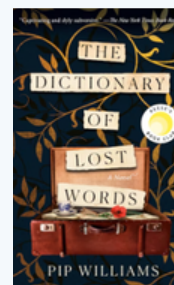


New members are welcome. If you don't have time to read the book before our next meeting, please feel free to join in our conversations.

- Carmie D.

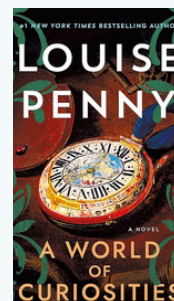
January 4: *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams

Esme's mother died giving her birth, so she is brought up by her father. She spends her childhood under the table in the Scriptorium, where James Murray and his team of lexicographers, including her father, are compiling the Oxford English Dictionary. Over time she discovers that words in common use, particularly those used by and about women, are not included. Williams writes that her novel began as two simple questions. Do words mean different things to men and women? And if they do, is it possible that we have lost something in the process of defining them?



February 1: *A World of Curiosities* by Louise Penny

The 2022 crime mystery book follows the investigation into a series of murders in Quebec, and briefly references the real life 1989 École Polytechnique massacre.



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

Contact us: info@uwctoronto.ca

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

As 2023 draws to a close, we can celebrate the 52 young women who have been supported with our scholarships since the inception of our foundation in December 2018.

Our Scholars Program continues to grow. The feedback from a survey sent to our recipients indicated their desire for more networking opportunities. In the past year we have set up an exclusive Facebook page, had a coffee morning, a scholars' reception and are planning a half day conference in February 2024.

Thanks to your generous donations last holiday season, we were able to continue to support two young women aging out of care from the CAS, a residence scholarship to Innis College, another student from Iqaluit, as well as adding three more UWC scholarships to our original six, totaling nine of \$6,000 each.

Your committee works diligently throughout the year on your behalf. Our deliberation process is difficult, as all of our applicants are worthy. However, it is also a most rewarding experience. Your committee members are Sharon A., Mary A., Lily C., Susan F., Jane H., Donna H., Susan L., Liz M. and Penny V. When you meet any of these women throughout the year, please thank them.

I also want to take this time to thank our membership for your continued support of our program in helping us attain our mission of supporting young women, on the margins, to pursue higher education.

There will be fundraising opportunities throughout the year in order to augment our scholarship funds and support our Scholars Program. Please consider our foundation in your gift-giving. We change lives with your contributions.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris W.



PAST EVENTS

OUT AND ABOUT OCTOBER 26

On Oct 26, we visited the Art Gallery at University College to see an amazing exhibit dedicated to the work of Alanis Obomsawin, an indigenous activist and documentary maker who at 91 is still making films. (You can see some of her moving documentaries on the National Film Board website.) The group then enjoyed lunch at Hart House.



SPEAKER: MICHELLE HEAD KIM NOVEMBER 13

“Mastering Your Financial Health” was the theme of an extremely interesting talk given to UWC on November 13 by guest speaker, Michelle Head Kim, Vice-President and Portfolio Manager at Lorne Steinberg Wealth Management Inc. Michelle, whose investment strategy was recently featured in a glowing profile in the Globe and Mail’s Report on Business, tailored her talk to directly address women and their financial concerns. Michelle’s presentation drew on her experience in the investment banking world as well as in starting and running her own financial consulting practice. The large audience of women in attendance was impressed by Michelle’s practical advice to women at all stages of their financial and investment journey and were entertained as well by Michelle’s engaging personal anecdotes. Michelle covered topics such as, “Where are we now and where are we going in 2023”, the “Spending/Saving Paradigm”, and “What is the ideal asset mix?” and answered many thoughtful questions from the audience.

For those with any follow-up questions or concerns about financial planning or investment, Michelle has extended the invitation to reach out to her directly at: Michelle Head Kim, Lorne Steinberg Wealth Management, michelle.headkim@steinbergwealth.com; 416-700-5331. She has noted that she would be happy to send a copy of her Newsletter to anyone seeking up to date commentary on the banking and investment world.



what's on

UWC
EVENTS



Our weekly Friday email outlines events for the following week, together with RSVP and Zoom links.

December

DEC

05

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

DEC

06

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

DEC

07

UWC Morning Book
Club at **11:30 am**

DEC

12

Festive Dinner
at **5:30 pm**

DEC

13

Mah Jongg
at **4:30 pm**





what's on **UWC EVENTS**



January

Our weekly Friday email outlines events for the following week, together with RSVP and Zoom links.

JAN

03

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

JAN

04

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

JAN

09

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

JAN

10

Mah Jongg
at **4:30 pm**

JAN

15

Speaker: Lauryn
Oates at **5:30 pm**

JAN

22

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

JAN

24

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

JAN

24

Mah Jongg
at **4:30 pm**

