

# UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB TORONTO

ENVISIONING · ENGAGING · EMPOWERING

## UPCOMING EVENTS



*We were welcomed wholeheartedly, accepted as we were and where we were at. We were offered a new and beautiful space, full of light and surrounded by beautiful people.*

Former resident of Romero



## A fundraiser for ROMERO HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT 7:00 PM AT THE FACULTY CLUB

### MEET MARIE HENEIN - OUR ROMERO HOUSE FUNDRAISER KEYNOTE SPEAKER.

Marie Henein is widely recognized as one of the most prominent criminal defence counsels in Canada. Her name is already familiar to many of us from news articles and media interviews, but did you know that:



- Marie was born in Cairo, Egypt and immigrated with her family to Canada when she was very small;
- Marie's family experienced the dislocation of immigration and resettlement more than once, moving from Cairo to Vancouver to Lebanon to Toronto back to Lebanon and finally returning to Toronto, where they settled in 1970;
- When she started school in Toronto, Marie spoke a mix of Palestinian and Egyptian dialects, but not a word of English;
- Marie has written movingly in her book, *Nothing But The Truth*, about the tensions felt by many immigrant families: the push towards fitting in with a new culture and the pull from the traditional culture embodied in the close immigrant family.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet and hear one of Canada's top litigators speak about the importance of the immigrant experience in her own life.

### Buy your tickets to the Romero House Fundraiser NOW.

Tickets are only **\$75 each**. Payable by

- e-transfer to [payments@uwctoronto.ca](mailto:payments@uwctoronto.ca) OR
- by cheque to University Women's Club Toronto, and mailed to Susan Freeman, 1609-77 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto M4T 1M5

# Directors' MESSAGE

How fortunate we all are to live in Canada... To live in a country that is democratic, safe and prosperous.

And how lucky we are to be members of the University Women's Club of Toronto.... To be members of a club where we can have fun playing bridge and mahjonn, and meet in the pub for a glass of wine and a laugh.... And to be able to listen to world class speakers, attend theatre and music events, go to book clubs and French groups and interesting outings all over the city. And how lucky we are to be part of a group that does such good work supporting needy and deserving young women with scholarships to carry on their studies. Yes, we can feel great about our country and our wonderful club and know we are very lucky.

There are many in this city, however, who are not so lucky. I am thinking of newcomers to Canada - especially refugees.

Where do they live? Do they have enough to eat? Do they have warm clothes? Can they speak English?

The answer is they are trying to survive. They have left countries where they were persecuted and threatened often with death to themselves and family, or they lived in a war zone or a disaster zone. For them, coming here, with nothing, is better than the life they left behind.

Luckily, there is Romero House, a tiny organization that does tremendous work with refugees. Last year they housed 184 people including 54 children in transitional and emergency housing.

In many cases staff actually live with the family to help them navigate surviving in this new strange city. On top of this, 744 families were assisted with their walk-in program providing legal aid, lawyer referral, housing help, clothing, Ontario Works, medical appointments, ESL classes, school registration, work permits, food and many other essential services. They work on a shoestring budget where all these extraordinary duties were done for a meager budget of \$852,000 in 2022. Romero House relies on the generosity of the public where 50% of their income is hoped to be donated by the community and friends. It is an uphill battle.

This is why we are holding a fundraising event to support Romero House. We hope you will join us to support our club, as we support Romero House. The event is on Wednesday, October 11 at the Faculty Club. Tickets are only \$75. By buying a ticket you are supporting an organization that does tremendous work to help refugees that come to our country with little more than hope because they cannot remain in their own country.

This Thanksgiving I ask you to think about what you have and why you feel thankful. Then think about what you can do to show your gratitude and give back.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, and I look forward to seeing you on October 11th.

*Jane V.  
Director of Fundraising, UWC*

Romero House was chosen as the recipient of our fundraising efforts for many reasons, but three of the most compelling reasons are the PEOPLE...

1. Mary Jo Leddy, OC, is the founder of Romero House where refugees fleeing violence and persecution find a kind and generous welcome. As Mary Jo says *"It is the warmth of the welcome that people remember."*
2. Francesca Allodi-Ross is the Director, and with the staff and volunteers, works to provide a safe and dignified home and community at Romero House.
3. Paola Gomes was a human rights lawyer in Colombia and fled threats of kidnapping and death. She told us that when she finally arrived at Romero House and saw her room with blue walls and a bed with a white spread, she felt that she had come home.



*This organization survives on a shoe-string budget.*



FUNDRAISING EVENT

OCTOBER 11 AT 7:00 PM AT THE FACULTY CLUB

**Hear Marie Henein speak, enjoy a glass of bubbles and a sweet table, and bid on fabulous silent auction items!**

Some of the exciting items up for auction include: a three month membership in luxurious Sweetgrass Spa; gift certificates to great restaurants like BUCA and Barista & Chef; seats at the Mirvish theatre production of your choice; tickets to the wonderful Drayton Festival Theatre; tickets to a performance by renowned baroque orchestra Tafelmusik, to the ROM, to the Gardner Museum and to the Bata Shoe Museum; and a gift certificate to local clothing boutique, Fred's Here. And there are many more!

**Buy your tickets NOW!**

- Tickets are **\$75 each**. Payable by
- e-transfer to [payments@uwctoronto.ca](mailto:payments@uwctoronto.ca) OR
  - by cheque to University Women's Club Toronto, and mailed to Susan Freeman, 1609-77 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto M4T 1M5



By buying a ticket to our Romero House Fundraiser, you will be supporting a remarkable charity which touches hundreds of disadvantaged newcomers to our city.

**Tell your friends!**



## CONDOLENCES

We extend our sincere sympathy to Pam Kilmer on the loss of her dear mother. A card has been sent on your behalf.

# Welcome

## NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our newest members who joined us in August and September: Marilyn Gilbert, Melee Hutton, Candice Ilton, Margaret King, Nicole Sekhon, Nancy Tahmo, and Kristina Tomory.

We hope to meet you soon, at one of our many upcoming events this fall.

- Lucia



CFUW  
**ONTARIO  
COUNCIL**

## CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

The CFUW Ontario Council has just announced their Speaker Series dates for 2023-2024. The first will be on October 21 at 10:00 am on Zoom. It will be a panel discussion from new immigrant women about their experiences and hardships that they face. You can register for this talk on the Ontario Council website - [www.cfuwontcouncil.org](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.org).

The second in the Speakers Series is November 25 at 10:00 am. November 25 is the first of the Sixteen Days of Action about issues concerning women. The last day of these initiatives is December 6, the day we remember the victims of the Montreal Massacre. The topic for this talk is Intimate Partner Violence.

The February session will be on Artificial Intelligence.

These talks are usually excellent, informative and thought-provoking. We encourage you to join in if you can!

- Susan F.



**Innis College**  
University of Toronto

## INNIS COLLEGE SPECIAL EVENTS

Innis College has some wonderful events throughout the year at their Town Hall at St. George and Sussex Avenues. They are well-known for their Cinema Studies and Urban Studies programs, which bring in many interesting films, speakers, etc. If you are not on the Innis College mailing list (done in 2018) and would like to receive their invitations to screenings, lectures, panel discussions, and more, please send me your name and email address. I will provide the college with your contact information. We have to have your permission to include your information.

Thanks!

- Susan F.

## OUT & ABOUT

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*

#### **Sept. 30 at 7:30 pm**

The University of Toronto Faculty of Music Symphony Orchestra in The MacMillan Theatre, 80 Queen's Park, (Museum Subway). The program includes Berlioz: Roman Carnival, Respighi: Stained Glass Windows and Dvorak: Symphony #8.

Tickets: 416-408-0208. \$30, \$20 senior. Call for your ticket and we will see you there.

### *Art*

#### **Oct. 26 at 12:15 pm**

University College Art Gallery, visit an EXHIBIT that celebrates the life and work of Alanis Obomsawin, one of the most acclaimed indigenous directors in the world. She is 91 years old, a member of Films Fatales, independent women filmmakers, with the NFB. Her work is 'The Children have to Hear Another Story'. A brilliant talent! The gallery is most easily accessible from the back entrance near Hart House.

The visit will be followed by a LUNCH for those who wish at the Gallery Grill at Hart House. Contact Marianne A. to sign up.

### *Talks*

#### **November 8 at 7:00 pm**

Part of the Yorkminster Park Speaker Series, come hear Professor Jan Grabowski speak about Holocaust Distortion as a new form of Holocaust Denial. Held at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge, north of St. Clair at Heath at 7:00 pm.

#### **November 16 at 7:00 pm**

THE WALRUS TALK on Gender Based Violence will take place at Isabel Bader Theatre (Charles St. at Victoria College, Museum Subway). Tickets are available at Eventbrite on the Walrus Talks website. Contact Susan F. We will see you there.

#### **November 20 at 12:30 pm**

Part of the COMPASSIONATE JUSTICE SERIES, Doug Saunders, international affairs correspondent for the Globe and Mail, will give a talk called Darkness on the Edge of Town. Until recently the world's social problems and inequities were most visible in the inner cities. The last few years have seen a dramatic shift with the suburbanization of poverty and immigration settlement shifting the most vulnerable communities. This is held at Eglinton St. George Church, 15 Lytton Blvd.



THE WALRUS  
TALKS

# SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Fall is in the air and first term jitters are settling down.

Your scholarship committee has begun preparations for two Scholars Programs events over this academic year.

Our first scholarship meeting was held on Monday, September 18. Our sub-committee met via Zoom and began our event planning. When we surveyed our scholars there was an overwhelming positive response to any opportunities to come together. Our Coffee, Croissants and Conversation which was a tremendous success last year, is tentatively booked for Thursday, December 28. This is a very informal meet-up where our young women get together and share successes, struggles and tips when navigating the university landscape. No prompting required!

Our second event which remains in the planning stages, will be a half day speaker/spotlight workshop to be held during the February Reading Week.

Our full committee will begin to meet in November to update our application form, review our budget and resurrect the ideas of school visits and a committee representative attending school commencements.

Your hard-working committee members are: Sharon Abel Marianne Anderson Lily Contento, Susan Freeman, Jane Hamer, Donna Holmes, Susan Lambie, Liz Mowat and Penny Vincent.

Attached are some responses we have received from our scholarship recipients since school start-up. Thank you to our members for your continued support of these incredible, talented, deserving young women.

- *Chris W.*



Hello Ms. Ward,

It is nice to hear from you and thank you for the encouragement.

I am doing very well! I spent my summer taking summer classes but I am excited to go back to school. Last year I got all A's in my classes and I am looking forward to learning more!

*Christine*

Hi Chris,

I apologize for the late response. I hope your summer was enjoyable! I absolutely enjoyed mine even though I had classes.

Life has been crazy the last few weeks with school starting and work picking up. But nonetheless trying to push through everything and making this academic year better than the last!

Can't wait to see what this year brings.

Much love,  
*Mouna*

## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS



Hi Christine,

I hope you had a wonderful summer! As I gear up for my classes tomorrow, I find myself reflecting on all the things I'm grateful for. I want to express my gratitude to you and your team for organizing the fantastic event back in June. Your event had a lasting impact on me, and as I embark on this new journey, I'm reminded of the inspiring conversations I had with all the accomplished women in the room. It's moments like those that calm my nerves and fill me with confidence. I genuinely appreciate the amazing opportunity you provided, and I'm eager to make you proud!

Sincerely,  
*Nadiha*

Hi Chris,

Thank you for checking in! I hope you had an amazing summer.

I'm looking forward to the university year ahead. Although it will be new content, I'm excited to learn more and engage in extracurricular activities this year.

I hope to keep in touch throughout the year!

Sincerely,  
*Seemal*



# 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 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.



*The Current Affairs group in September met to talk about the lack of mental resources in Toronto and the Greenbelt.*

## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 19 AT 11:30 AM

The October meeting will be Thursday, October 19 at 11:30 in the Faculty Club Pub. We will be talking about the treatment by the criminal justice system of those alleging sexual abuse. We know many people do not bring forward complaints for fear of being re-victimized during the trial process.

Those who wish to may stay for lunch. All are welcome!

- Norah



## MAH JONGG | WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18 AT 4:30 PM

Ten members joined us for Mah Jongg in September, with the group divided into a table of more experienced players and a table of complete novices. Two of our novices, Trish Stewart and Kathryn Day, achieved their very first Mah Jongg's ever! We wish them many more wins in the future games.

Our future fall games are scheduled for Wed Oct 18, Nov 15, and Dec 13, at 4:30 in the Faculty Club Pub. As always, everyone is welcome, both experienced and new players. Please contact Lucia for more information.

- Lucia M.



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

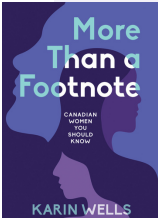
Contact us: [info@uwctoronto.ca](mailto:info@uwctoronto.ca)



# INTEREST GROUPS

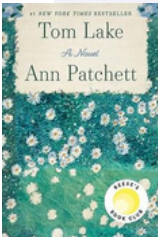


## NEW BOOK CLUB MONDAY, OCTOBER 23 AT 6:00 PM



**October 23:** *More than a Footnote* by Karin Wells

You may remember all of the pioneering women mentioned at our birthday party who accomplished such great things in all fields of endeavour, often as firsts, who were basically unknown. Our curiosity is leading us to learn what Karin Wells has discovered about brave, innovative women whose accomplishments are unheralded.



We will meet at 6:00 pm either in the Dining Room or the Pub TBD.

**November 20:** *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

On November 20 we will meet to discuss Ann Patchett's new novel *Tom Lake* which has received rave reviews.

Looking forward to our discussions and sharing of insights and opinions.

- Susan F.



## EVENING BOOK GROUP WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 AT 5:00 PM ON ZOOM

The evening book group will be meeting on Wednesday, October 25 at 5:00 pm on Zoom. The topic this month is biographies.

New members are always welcome!

- Judith L

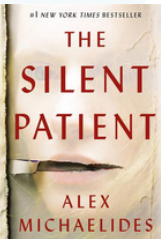
## MORNING BOOK GROUP THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT 10:30 AM ON ZOOM

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.

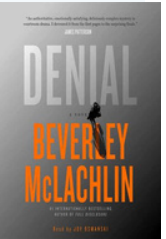
**October 5:** *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides

*The Silent Patient* is a shocking psychological thriller of a woman's act of violence against her husband, and of the therapist obsessed with uncovering her motive.



**November 2:** *Denial* by Beverley McLachlin

From the former Chief Justice of Canada and #1 best-selling author of *Full Disclosure* comes a new thriller starring tough-as-nails defense attorney Jilly Truitt in a murder case that makes her question her own truths.



**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.

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

Contact us: [info@uwctoronto.ca](mailto:info@uwctoronto.ca)

# PAST EVENTS



## SPECIAL SPEAKER AND DINNER EVENT SEPTEMBER 11

A special members' event was held on September 11, starting the UWC fall season with a splash. Members old and new got together over complementary glasses of Prosecco to catch up and share news, then sat down to a delicious dinner in the Main Lounge of the Faculty Club.

Dinner was followed by a fascinating presentation by Ariel Siller, CEO of the Canadian Children's Literacy Foundation, and Ariel's colleague, Nina Jobanputra Shukla, the Foundation's Director, Early Words. Members were interested to hear from Ariel and Nina about the current state of children's literacy in Canada. As our speakers pointed out, the years from birth to age five form the most important period for the growth and development of a child's brain. Activities that stimulate literacy in young children, such as reading with them, looking at picture books together, telling stories, singing and talking together, even just handling brightly coloured books and pages, can be fundamental in promoting brain development and laying the foundation for future success in life. It was particularly interesting to hear about the impressive programs set up by the Foundation to encourage literacy and learning among children in remote areas of Canada, and the ways in which the Foundation connects with health care providers to make books available to children and families as part of their routine health care.

A lively question and answer session followed Ariel's and Nina's presentation, with many members recounting how important books and reading have been to them and their families. The evening's combination of a members' get-together, a dinner and a fascinating guest talk was a great success, and something that we hope to repeat in the future.



## SPEAKER SERIES: MICHELLE HEAD KIM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 5:30 PM

On November 13, UWC's guest speaker will be investment manager, Michelle Head Kim, whose investment strategy was recently featured in a glowing profile in the Globe and Mail's Report on Business.

Michelle's presentation, "Mastering Your Financial Health" is specifically aimed at women looking for the knowledge and practical advice to empower them to, in Michelle's words, "easily kick financial anxiety to the curb".

Plan to join Michelle at the Faculty Club on November 13 for friendly but practical advice and tips from an expert in the field of women's financial health.





# what's on

UWC  
EVENTS



# October

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

OCT  
03

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

OCT  
04

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

OCT  
05

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

OCT  
11

Fundraiser for Romero  
House at **7:00 pm**

OCT  
18

Mahjongg  
at **4:30 pm**

OCT  
19

Current Affairs  
at **11:30 am**

OCT  
23

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

OCT  
25

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

OCT  
26

Alanis Obomsawin  
exhibit at **12:15 pm**

