

UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB TORONTO

ENVISIONING · ENGAGING · EMPOWERING

UPCOMING EVENTS



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11
AT 5:30 PM

Dinner, Member Get-Together & Guest Speaker: Ariel Siller

UWC will kick off the fall season with a special Member's Event in the Faculty Club Main Lounge: a member get-together over glasses of Prosecco, a two-course sit-down dinner and a guest speaker, Ariel Siller, CEO of the Canadian Children's Literacy Foundation. It will be the first opportunity UWC has had since pre-Covid times to bring members together at a dinner/speaker event, and seating is limited, so reserve your space early.

Our speaker will be Ariel Siller, the Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Children's Literacy Foundation, an organization focussed on building foundational literacy skills in children at the earliest stage of brain development - from birth to age five. This is the age at which development of the brain is more rapid than at any other point in a child's life, and inadequate support for brain development in the early years is often difficult to address later. Literacy, and the exposure to language, books and reading that fosters literacy, can be the foundation that gives many children the chance to achieve their full potential in life. Ariel will explain how her organization, the Canadian Children's Literacy Foundation, works towards giving children the gift of literacy.



Plan to arrive between 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm to mingle with fellow members new and old over glasses of Prosecco and pre-dinner bites. The evening will continue with a choice of entree, dessert with tea and coffee, and announcements from members of UWC's executive. An inspiring talk by Ariel Siller will conclude the event.

The registration cost for the entire evening is \$65.00 per person, which includes HST and a service/gratuity fee. Seating is limited to the first 40 people who register, and registration will close as of noon on Wednesday, September 6.

To Register:

1. send an email to info@uwctoronto.ca, indicating whether you would like chicken, salmon or gnocchi as your entrée and, if you are a member of the Faculty Club, please give your Faculty Club number so we can keep track of guest fees payable; and
2. send the registration cost of \$65.00 per person by e-transfer to payments@uwctoronto.ca or by cheque payable to UWC Toronto and mailed c/o Pam H., #1002-1 Deer Park Crescent, Toronto, ON, M4V 3C4 (your registration will not be considered complete until your payment is received). For this event, please don't register or pay through the Faculty Club member website.

Please note that for this special event the usual Faculty Club Guest Fee of \$13.00 for non-Faculty Club members will be waived for every UWC member, whether or not she is also a Faculty Club member.

However, the Guest Fee of \$13 will apply to any non-UWC friends or family accompanying a UWC member and must be paid by e-transfer along with the registration cost.

Don't forget: seating is limited, and registration and payment must be made by noon on Wednesday, September 6.

- Pam H.

Directors' MESSAGES

I'm excited to begin my term as President of UWC Toronto, if not also a little daunted at stepping into the role. It's a big challenge, but I am wonderfully supported in it by our Past President, Wendy McCallum, our new Vice President, Marianne Anderson, and all the other members and special advisors who make up our Board of Directors.

When I joined UWCT in at the end of 2017, like many of you I was looking for an organization that would connect me to the kinds of events and activities that first attracted my attention to the Club: in my case, an outstanding speakers' series. Over the years, I have learned that UWC Toronto offers much more than that. These are the things that I have noticed about UWC Toronto that make it special and unique:

- **Amazing Longevity:** UWC Toronto began over 120 years ago and is still going strong. How's that for staying power! Its alumnae include some of the very earliest pioneers in feminism, including many "first women" in Canadian medicine, education, law, chemistry, astronomy and social activism;
- **A Robust and Growing Membership:** UWC Toronto's membership currently stands at an amazing 155. It continues to grow, with 36 new members having joined so far in 2023 - a testimony to our Club's continuing relevance in today's complicated world;
- **Strong and Practical Support for Women's Education:** since 2019, the UWC (Toronto) Foundation has awarded a whopping \$250,000 in scholarships to young women graduating from secondary school and going on to post-secondary education. Recognizing the value of continuing our relationship with our scholars, our Club is now developing a Scholars Program for them, planning networking, workshops, and mentoring opportunities;

- **Caring and Commitment:** UWC Toronto members care with a passion about the world around us. We raise money not only for our Scholarship Program, but for groups like refugee settlement organization Romero House, and the Cambodian charity Southeast Asia Support Organization. A particular badge of honour for our Club this past year is the \$800 we contributed to the building of a much-needed structure in rural Cambodia: a safe and hygienic private toilet that will serve two families;

- **An Abundance of Things to Do:** Over the past year members have laughed and shared good times over bingo, trivia games, bridge, mah jongg, pub and patio nights. We have bought and sold books at the Book Fair, heard from fascinating guest speakers, and debated current affairs - in English and often in French! We made a visit to "The Wonderful World of Fairies" at the Toronto Public Library, went to Soulepepper Theatre, discussed the latest bestsellers at the Club's three different book groups, heard a lecture from renowned author Abraham Verghese, went on a historical walk through Cabbagetown, and took painting lessons. There are so many activities, events, outings and interest groups going on that we sometimes have difficulty avoiding the inevitable scheduling conflicts. What a wonderful problem to have!

These are just some of the unique things about UWC Toronto that make me want to stay connected to this Club and contribute to its success. I know you all feel the same way. Maybe you have ideas for things to be added to our calendar of events or maybe you think there are things that we aren't doing correctly and need to improve. Please contact me with your thoughts and ideas!

In the meantime, as we look forward to the start of a new fall season I would draw your attention to some special events coming up: the Members' Get-Together, Dinner and Speaker Event on September 11, and the Fundraising Evening on behalf of Romero House on October 11. You'll find more information about these events in this newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing you around!

- Pam H.

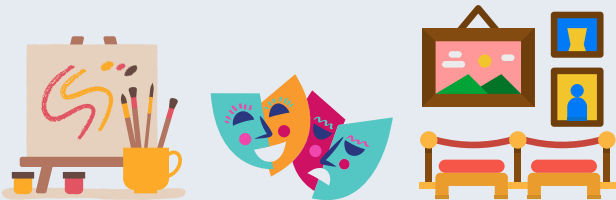
OUT AND ABOUT

Please join us! A group of enthusiastic members will be creating a program of events in the city that will be of interest to all of us. We will be seeking events at the libraries, art galleries, theatres, colleges and from our own members. Watch for announcements in the Friday bulletins and subsequent newsletters.

Last year we did this ad hoc programming with the Vermeer film at the AGO, the Victorian Fairies exhibit at the Toronto Reference Library, the Bach Walk, the Verghese talk at the Library, the illuminated manuscripts at the Fisher Library and so on. Our new adventures can be followed by coffee and/or lunch/dinner together for those who wish. Suggestions will be most welcome.

We are really excited to bring you this new program and hope that you will watch for the events and join us.

- Susan F.



WE BUILT A TOILET

In April we had the pleasure of learning from Barbara Seagram and Patti Lee about their fundraising and outreach projects in Cambodia. Since their first trip there in 2011, they have worked tirelessly to better the lives of children, primarily girls. Some of their many accomplishments include:

- building four schools, which they continue to completely finance, including all salaries, maintenance, leases and supplies
- installing 53 toilets for families
- digging nine wells at schools, building 15 hand washing stations and 15 banks of toilets
- digging wells and building water towers at eight health centres
- distributing 750 Days for Girls kits
- they have also supported small businesses, such as, a bike repair business, provided chicken farmer training, supported a weaving centre, provided sewing machine lessons, and organized a technology centre.

Our members were so touched by their presentation and accomplishments, that we decided to support their activities by running a raffle at our 120th Birthday Party in May. We raised \$450 from the raffle and contributed an additional \$350, for a total of \$800. This was the amount needed to build one toilet and its surrounding structure.

We found out in July that a toilet had been completed in Cambodia for a student (Noy Chenda), her mother, her grandmother, and her siblings. This toilet is also going to be shared by her aunt (mother's sister) and her children. Both families are thrilled. The attached photograph shows the toilet, Noy, some of her extended family, as well the Assistant Director of the Program, Phonn.

It is especially rewarding for the University Women's Club to know precisely what our donation accomplished, and how life-changing it will be for these two families.

- Lucia

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome Shengyi Dai, Julie Jo, Ellen Brikaras and Jo-Anne Pierson, who joined us during the summer. We have many fun events coming up in the fall and hope to meet you.

- Lucia



Presented by
The University Women's Club of Toronto

A fundraiser for ROMERO HOUSE



Keynote Speaker **MARIE HENEIN**

Join us for a glass of bubbles and a sweet table.
Hear Marie Henein speak about her book.
All while supporting the work of Romero House,
a community of refugee claimants in Toronto.

OCTOBER 11 AT 7:00 PM | FACULTY CLUB, 41 WILLCOCKS ST.

WHAT CAN
YOU DO?



Buy a ticket

Buy your tickets now. **\$75 each**. Payable by

- e-transfer to 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



Donate a silent auction prize

Gift certificates for concerts, theatre tickets, events, stays, restaurants or special experiences. Let us know as soon as possible what you are committing to purchase by emailing jane@janevining.net

Your purchase of a ticket and donation of a silent auction prize will truly go a long way to support Romero House and the exceptional work they do helping refugees in our city.



Tell your friends!

REACH OUT WITH ROMERO HOUSE

Our fundraiser this year is in support of Romero House. The charitable organization was originally established in 1991 by a small group of people including several refugee families. The idea was to live together in a spirit of trust, interacting as neighbours. Over the past 30 years Romero House has grown beyond what was ever imagined. Today Romero House serves refugees fleeing war or persecution. From 2021 to 2022 it provided 18 families, 35 adults and 25 children with housing, complicated legal processes, income assistance, physical and mental health care, school, ESL classes and counselling refugees on their rights. They have helped hundreds of other refugees in Toronto with finding a lawyer, assessing social assistance and finding housing—186 families plus 288 individuals. This organization survives on a shoe-string budget. Only 16% of their income comes from grants. In 2022 their income was \$807,737 but the expenses were \$813,850.

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. Details to buy a ticket are on the previous page.



PAST EVENTS

SPEAKER SERIES: PATRICIA WHEELER JULY 10

On July 10th we hosted a very successful and well attended event with Dr. Patricia Wheeler. Through the use of film clips, her presentation highlighted the vital role that music plays alongside visuals to advance or dramatize a story. Through Dr. Wheeler's talk we discovered that music in a film can have many different functions such as conveying hidden emotions or creating an atmosphere of either lightheartedness or doom. Thank you, Dr. Wheeler for helping us develop a better appreciation of how integral music is to your enjoyment of movies.



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Our scholarship recipients are all excited (and a wee bit anxious - and not just our first years! to begin classes in a few days. I am sure that we can all recall the myriad of feelings that each year of our university life brought.

This is also an exciting time for our 2019 awardees who graduated this year. Some are continuing their education through masters' programs, some completing co-op placements and some seeking employment. We wish them all continued success as this new chapter in their lives begins.

At our scholarship reception in June, Jateya Grbic, one of our graduates spoke on behalf of the scholarship recipients. Her message was an uplifting one of continuing to work hard, embrace change and take opportunities that challenge you as they promote mental and personal growth. Her keynote speech is below.

Please also find a few of the thank yous we received after our reception. It was a wonderful evening of celebration. Thank you again to our club membership for your continued support and donations to our scholarship fund. We are making a difference!

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

- *Chris W.*



Hello Chris!

I just wanted to thank you and the scholarship committee for hosting such a wonderful evening for us. I loved meeting all the girls and it was an honor to meet the club members as well. Everyone was lovely! The whole evening felt surreal and I can confidently say it was one of my favourite highlights of this year.

Excited for the future! Speak to you soon.

Thank you,

*Nadiha
Danforth Collegiate and Technical
Institute*

Hello Chris,

It was wonderful meeting you and everyone else at the reception! It was truly a night to remember. As for university I got my acceptance letter and I will be attending Ryerson university (TMU) for Graphic Communications Management in the fall! Once again, my family and I are extremely grateful for this opportunity and for all the new connections we will make! I can't wait to see you again! Have a wonderful summer.

Take care and stay safe.

*Sowarima
(Western Technical and Commercial
School)*

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

In this day of all forms of electronic communication, it is rare and all the more delightful to receive a handwritten letter. I hope you enjoy reading Kelly Hong's (Harbord C.I.) letter that she hand-delivered to me the night of our reception.

June 27, 2023

Dear University Women's Club,

I would like to thank you for selecting me as one of the recipients of the University Women's Club scholarship. This scholarship will not only support me in my post-secondary studies, but also instill a sense of direction in my life.

I put a lot of effort into contributing to my community, but I often questioned whether it was simply my own naivness that led me to believe that I was creating positive change. However, receiving this award changed how I thought about myself. Thank you for recognizing my contributions to the community and instilling a sense of confidence in me, because you allowed me to genuinely realize that my actions are capable of creating a positive impact.

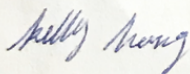
Throughout high school, I was never certain about what I wanted to be. So, I took part in a wide range of extracurriculars in hopes to discover my "one true passion." But it backfired on that note, because I ended up finding multiple things I was passionate about. Yet after months of unbearable deasiveness, here I am, having finally decided to pursue engineering at the University of Toronto. Even though engineering is heavily based on academic disciplines, I don't want to let go of my love for writing and visual arts. I hope I can find a way to incorporate these passions into my learning journey and career to make the experience all the more worthwhile.

I've heard stories about students who crammed more than one part-time job into their school schedules in order to support their university tuition. This stressed me out because I was anticipating myself to be in that exact position. However, this scholarship will cover a significant portion of my first-year tuition. I feel a major relief because I no longer have to be as heavily dependent on part-time jobs to pay for my tuition. Instead, I can spend more time being involved in both the academic and extracurricular community at my school.

Although I'm still uncertain of what career I want to pursue, I will stick to this journey for now and see where it takes me. I hope to keep in touch with you all, and I promise I will update you when I have finally decided on what I want to be!

Once again, I sincerely thank you all for everything you do to support students. You have created a huge impact on my future, and inspired me to continue to walk my path with my head held high.

Kind regards,



Kelly Hong

JATEYA GRBIC'S KEYNOTE SPEECH

Hello, for those who don't know me, my name is Jateya Grbic and I was a part of the first cohort of UWCT award recipients in 2019, and am a UWCT scholar. Being a part of the first cohort of scholars, it is my honor to be up here tonight, having just graduated from my undergraduate degree, to share my educational journey with you all.



Four years ago today, I found myself in a similar position to many of the young scholars being honored tonight. I had just completed my extremely memorable and hard-working years in high school, feeling both excited and nervous for what was to come next. At this time in life, I had a strong passion for studying the human body and biological science, in which I was to attend the Biology program at Ryerson University - now known as Toronto Metropolitan University, in the Fall of that year. For some time at that point in my life, I knew that my "end goal" would be medical school and truly believed that as soon as I entered university, although ambitious and laborious, it would be smooth sailing to my end goal.

However, I quickly learned that this idea of "smooth sailing" was far from the truth - not for the reasons of the difficulties of the intensive course load that came with my program of study, but quite simply because of the changes that occurred over these past four years.

The transition from high school to university brought a massive change - one that challenged my work habits and skills within the classroom and academic life. Further, a change that challenged me as a person and helped me to mature and grow in myself, my thoughts, and my ideas. University was a big new world, where I was taken out of my comfort zone and had the amazing opportunity to meet new types of people from diverse backgrounds. Through the experiences I've had in this transition, I was able to see new perspectives and better understand the world around me.

Change continued to show itself throughout my four years, especially with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted our education and shifted everything online for a significant portion of my undergraduate career. During this time I saw many unexpected changes from the initial plan that I had made for myself. These changes led me to reevaluate my career aspirations, realizing that my true passions lay in other fields rather than pursuing medical school - which was quite an earth-shattering realization at the moment.

While it initially felt like my life was falling apart because nothing was working out the way I had planned, I now recognize that each closed door brought me new opportunities and skills that I had never thought or knew I would have needed.

Through these unexpected changes, I became highly involved in my faculty, taking on executive roles in the PreMedical Society and Orientation Committee. I successfully completed and defended my undergraduate thesis, working in a microbiology lab at the MaRS Discovery District. I expanded my network, built my resume, and formed deep connections with amazing individuals who became my friends and biggest support as I continued through the program.

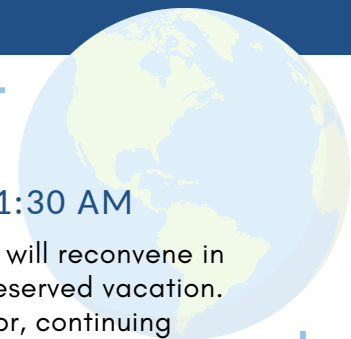
These changes showed me that the four years I had spent that were to be foundational for my adult life had not been the linear path I had expected to be, and even more so, that it is okay to depart from the linear path that I had initially set out for myself. Now, here I am today four years later having completed my undergraduate degree in Biomedical Sciences and just recently graduating with distinction from TMU with a Bachelor of Science (Honors). I am now eager to pursue a Master's degree in Speech and Language Pathology, aiming to become a registered Speech and Language pathologist while continuing my passion for biomedical research.

Scholars, you are here today because you have already demonstrated to be remarkable and ambitious young women in your communities. Remember that your post-secondary career is not solely about learning from a textbook - but also about learning from others, being challenged, and allowing yourself to grow as a person. These next four years are going to be formative as you begin your adulthood. As bright and remarkable young women stepping into your future, continue to work hard and be passionate about the goals you have set out for yourselves. These goals you are making for yourselves now are not premature or beyond your capabilities. But I encourage you to embrace change as it comes and continue to push yourselves beyond comfort and don't be afraid of accepting new and promising ideas and goals for yourself.

Bernice Johnson Reagon once said: "Life's challenges are not supposed to paralyze you, they're supposed to help you discover who you are." so let them discover who you are! Lastly, I want to thank the UWCT. The UWCT is an amazing organization that has not only supported me financially in my degree, but surrounded me with bright and accomplished women who encouraged me, advised me, and guided me throughout this journey. As a new scholar in the UWCT, know that you now have a supportive, intelligent, and insightful network of peers and mentors that will go on this journey with you.

Thank you all for listening to my story - which is far from being over. I wish our new scholars the best of luck as you enter this new chapter in life, and can't wait to hear of the amazing things your young minds will accomplish.

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 whatever the conversation goes to.

We meet at Nadège Patisserie on Bloor St. at 10:00 am. Toutes les francophones et francophiles seront les bienvenues.

- Jo-Lynne S.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 21 AT 11:30 AM

The Current Affairs Group will reconvene in September after a well-deserved vacation. With a newly elected mayor, continuing scandals concerning the green belt reported by the Provincial Auditor and the ongoing concern over the proposed changes to Ontario Place and the Science Center, there is much to discuss. As I write this Canada is experiencing the worst forest fire season in memory and the results of climate change are becoming ever more obvious. Given the pace of change, the proposed topic for discussion will be announced in a Friday email update.

The September meeting will be held in the Faculty Club Pub on Thursday, September 21st at 11:30 am. All are welcome! And those who would like can stay for lunch.

- Norah B.



MAH JONGG | WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20 AT 4:30 PM

After taking a break for the summer, Mah Jongg is returning in the fall. We play on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm in the Faculty Club Pub. Our fall dates are: Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15 and Dec 13. Many of us stay for dinner afterwards, and there is often a glass of wine involved during play, so it is a lovely social evening.

As always, we welcome all players, both with prior experience, as well as complete novices. Now that we have more players attending, we set up two or three tables, with one table of quicker players and one table with slower players, so there is no pressure to keep up. Also, if you are a complete beginner, we are happy to arrange for someone to sit down with you for a half hour before the game, and teach you some of the basics. If you would like to "study up" before the game, *A Beginner's Guide to American Mah Jongg* by Elaine Sandberg, is an excellent instruction booklet, and can be ordered on Amazon. Every Mah Jongg player should have a copy.

- Lucia M.

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, SEPTEMBER 18 AT 6:00 PM

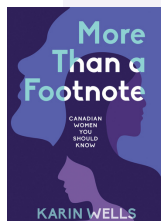
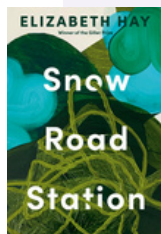
September 18: *Snow Road Station* by Elizabeth Hay

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

We have not yet chosen the books for November and December and will do so at our next meeting. Our book for January 22 is *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. Some of our selections are based on the Heliconian Literary Series.

Our group meets on Mondays at the Faculty Club, either for a drink or dinner at 6:00 pm. Please join us for a lively and far-ranging discussion of the book and all tangents suggested by the reading and the readers.

- Susan F.



MORNING BOOK GROUP THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 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.

September 6: *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano

William Waters grew up in a house silenced by tragedy, where his parents could barely bear to look at him. So when he meets the spirited and ambitious Julia Padavano in his freshman year of college, it's as if the world has lit up around him. *Hello Beautiful* is a profoundly moving portrait of what is possible when we choose to love someone not in spite of who they are, but because of it.

October 5: *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides

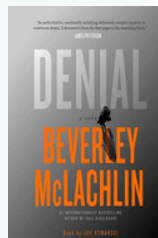
The Silent Patient is a shocking psychological thriller of a woman's act of violence against her husband, and of the therapist obsessed with uncovering her motive.

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.

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.



EVENING BOOK GROUP WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 AT 5:00 PM ON ZOOM

The evening book group will be meeting on Wednesday, September 27 at 5:00 pm on Zoom. The topic this month is mystery books. New members are always welcome!

- Judith L.

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

Contact us: info@uwctoronto.ca

Save THE Date

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



Join us on November 13 for a talk by investment manager and consultant, Michelle Head Kim. Michelle has a special interest in providing financial planning advice to women, including tips and tools that will improve and master any woman's financial health.

what's on

**UWC
EVENTS**



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

September

SEPT

05

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

SEPT

06

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

SEPT

07

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

SEPT

11

Special Members'
Event at **5:00 pm**

SEPT

18

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

SEPT

20

Mah Jongg
at **4:30 pm**

SEPT

21

Current Affairs
at **11:30 am**

SEPT

27

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

