



Monday, May 20th, 2024



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From the Leadership Team:

May is such an enjoyable month, full of blossoms, spring flowers and longer days. A lot of our Interest Groups are heading outdoors to take advantage of the warmer weather.

As a club, we are in our final days of 2023-24 and are preparing for the AGM and Banquet on May 22nd to kick off our 2024-25 season. I hope that you will enjoy our first AGM and Banquet to be held at the Walter Gretzky Golf and Education Centre. Please contact Bev Golden or Maria Timmons if you have not already registered to attend. The price is \$60 — a surprising \$5 less than last year in a world where costs just seem to rise. And a reminder — you must be a member in good standing (i.e., paid your 2024-25 dues) to be eligible to vote at the AGM. We promise to keep the business portion of the AGM short and sweet so that we can enjoy socializing with one another. One of the reasons why we voted on CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024 at the April General Meeting was to shorten the business portion of the AGM in response to members' feedback from last year.

April was my last month serving as President of the Month and I will be retiring from the Leadership Team at the AGM. I am pleased and proud to have served with a team of kind, compassionate, dedicated, and competent women. I hope that you have found our efforts helpful in moving the club forward after the throws of the pandemic:

1. Our new members inspired us to develop a New Members' Handbook, a manual that has received praise from Ontario Council (OC), National and clubs like ours as far away as B.C. The President of OC said that the handbook serves as a template for other clubs when developing an orientation package for their new members.
2. We have worked with National in their rebranding process and at the April General Meeting, adopted the new logo for CFUW Brantford. Our new logo is already

on our website, Facebook page, newsletter and soon to be on scholarship certificates thanks to Marsha S, Mary P, Sandra H, Maria T and Janet R.

3. A natural extension of rebranding led us to tackle the onerous job of bringing our Articles and Bylaws up to date, and we are very pleased to have passed the motion to replace our 2013 constitution with CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024 — a document that is already on our website thanks again to Marsha's quick response. As requested, we have sent our articles and bylaws to National and Ontario Council because they have asked to have them as a template to share with clubs like ours that are updating their constitutions.

4. We are finalizing our Operations Manual (replacing the long archived procedures document, ten-year-old President's Binder and pulling together a collection of documents in Dropbox) to create a handbook of procedures that will operationalize the new Articles and Bylaws. This manual will be used by the Leadership Team if it is adopted at our Executive Meeting in May, June or September, depending on when it is finalized. For those of you who like policies and procedures, you will appreciate knowing that documents and processes such as the Articles and Bylaws, monthly executive task list, job descriptions, meeting management process, and nominations process have been pulled together in one reference guide for the Leadership Team.

5. Our Scholarship Committee has also been working hard at updating the award application process and schedule. They have also updated their Constitution and will be presenting it for adoption by Special Motion at the AGM.

6. Our Nominations process has thrived under the direction of Teddy B. who stepped forward to chair Nominations for the second year in a row. It was more challenging this year to find volunteers willing to step into the role of President of the Month, but we are hopeful that the adoption of the new Articles and Bylaws will expedite our general meetings in 2024-25.

And finally, on a personal note to the membership, I would like to say that being involved in CFUW Brantford has been one of the best things about living in Brantford. I have found this group of women to be thoughtful, kind, and considerate, and consider many of you to be close friends. I have especially enjoyed the conversations and adventures that I have had with the Dining Out Group. The Book Club and Creative Cooking groups have been inspiring on many levels. I intend to stay involved with CFUW Brantford from my new home (condo) in Dundas. I will continue to chair the Dining Out Group and try not to make every outing one to explore restaurants in my new habitat!

I hope to see you on May 22nd at the Walter Gretzky Golf and Education Centre for our AGM and Banquet.

Kindest regards,
Lin Fines, President of the Month for April



NOTICE OF MOTION



The Scholarship Committee is updating the CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fund Constitution 2013. The changes are minor and do not impact “name or the purpose”, and do not impact our charitable status. The Scholarship Committee provided the membership with sixty (60) day notice of our intention to make the Special Motion at the AGM, provided explanations about the changes, and allotted 15 minutes for discussion at the April 24th General Meeting. The Committee hopes that members are equipped to make an informed vote, and invite you to talk to anyone on the committee should you have any questions. Special Motion: Given that the CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fund Constitution 2013 requires a change to both the definition of what constitutes a quorum and the academic requirements for scholarship applicants, it is moved that CFUW Brantford replace Canadian Federation of University Women Brantford Scholarship Fund Constitution 2013 with CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fund Constitution 2024.

Your Scholarship Constitution Revision Committee:
Arlene C, Karen I, Janet K, Lynda S, Maria T



CFUW Brantford Articles and Bylaws 2024

Passed by Special Motion at the April 24th General Meeting.

Thank you to all who participated in the creation of this document and to the membership for their overwhelming support for its adoption. We hope this document is robust and resilient and serves the club well over the next many years.

Linda Schuyler, Our Speaker for the September 25th General Meeting

As a young teacher in east-end Toronto, Linda Schuyler began creating short films with her classes, which led to her first very successful documentaries. This initial foray into film production brought about her founding of the popular television series, **The Kids of Degrassi Street**, and a television franchise that spanned almost forty years. The Degrassi series launched the careers of many young Canadian actors, as well as addressing difficult issues that young people faced in their lives. In her 2023 memoir, **The Mother of All Degrassi: A Memoir**, Linda relates the inside story of her development of the Degrassi series, and why it was so important to her personally, as well as professionally.

Born in London, England, Linda moved to Paris, Ontario with her parents, Jack and Joyce Bawcutt, who became leaders of the Paris community. Linda attended Paris District High School before venturing to the big city for university. Linda has always maintained ties to the local community, and said she is very happy to speak to CFUW Brantford, and meet the members of the club. Linda will bring copies of her book for those who might like to purchase it after the meeting. We are honoured and excited to have Linda Schuyler as our speaker in September. Colette W.



Amarok Update

Barb M felt that our members might like to hear about what is happening with the Amarok school that we have been donating to and so she has shared this letter of thanks from Ruma Khatun.

April 2024
Ruma Khatun
Khulna, Bangladesh

Dear members

My days are going well with some ups & downs. But I am not worried about it as I know this is our life and we have to manage our issues.

Our school is not only a place to know how to read & write. We get a lot of life lessons from our school and social work in the community. Mothers of our school realized that poverty is a big challenge in our life, some bad people take this opportunity and grab us into their traps. Poor people living in the slum have no savings or a little for a few people. So, when we fall into a problem, we go to the money lenders and they happily give us money at a high interest rate. After that, for the next few months or even years our income goes to them for paying back the loan with interest. We discussed the issue and realized the need of developing savings as little as we can. We opened piggy banks at home and group savings in school. Today I want to tell you about the results of those initiatives. It was not easy to start as we were not used to it and some of us were hesitant as they thought it would not be possible to save money with our limited income. Finally, we did and now we are getting the result of our work. Our friends Jumur, Salma, Maisha, Sume and I took the lead and succeeded. Now the women of our slum who do not study in our mother-school have joined with us, take our guidance and include them with our initiatives of savings. At the beginning we were concentrated among 25 mothers but now we are focusing on building a group initiative to invest money to use for our own purposes and such a way to increase our capital.

Now we are developing adolescent children as the child-teachers of the little children and to be future leaders of our slum. Many of them were educated in our micro-schools by my friends including me. They are now graduates but still they maintain a relationship with us and support us in our goodwill initiatives in our communities. Nowadays I am focusing on the girls as they have some health and other issues, they do not feel comfortable sharing with others. This is a common issue in our country and societies. Adolescent girls are very shy and always hide their natural issues like period, breast issues, sexual difficulties with their parents, even with their mother. I talk to the mothers of our slum and with some fathers too that they should behave friendly with their adolescent girls. They need to feel open that they share their health issues otherwise bigger health difficulties can arise in their future life. Sometimes girls are married with no idea & knowledge of birth control. As a result, they become mothers at their early age in the first year of the marriage. I discuss such issues with the adolescent girls and make them aware that they do not feel shy to go to a doctor as soon as they feel any health issue. I tell them, nothing is secret, not to feel shy and share with the elders that they can consult with a doctor.

My micro-school with 5 children is running well. I am teaching them using materials, through games & songs. They are happy and doing well in the exams. I believe that our children are our future and we have to develop them so that humanity grows in them when they grow up.

Thank you very much for your support.

Love to you,
Ruma



Ruma with a group of adolescent girls..

Interest Groups

Reminder

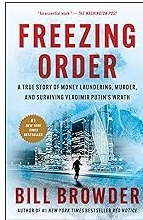
I am still waiting for **Interest Group Selection Forms** to come in. Even if you completed a listing for last year, one for this year is required. You may bring it to the banquet, mail it or send via e-mail to 12makkrom@gmail.com (hard copy preferred).

Roma M., Interest Group Coordinator

Monday Evening Book Club: *Freezing Order* by Bill Browder

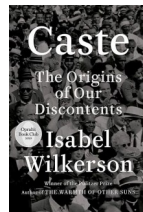
The Monday Book club enjoyed a spirited and fascinating discussion of the true story of one man's continuing crusade against Vladimir Putin's corrupt Russian regime and its far-reaching tentacles.

Bill Browder's eminently readable account of his battle for justice versus the powers of Putin's Kremlin is a gripping tale of assassinations, global legal battles, billions in stolen cash, money laundering, the corruption of power, the insidious creep of disinformation and the silencing of those who dare to oppose Putin and his views. Per Garry Kasparov: "it is a true story that serves as a road map for fighting back against crime and corruption from Putin's Russia. Browder shows that one man with courage can make a difference." A highly recommended read particularly relevant in today's world! Lynne M.



Thursday Evening Book Club: We discussed the book *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson.

It was a "heavy" read in terms of subject matter, researched detail, and shocking truths. Wilkerson compares the centuries old caste system in India and the time bound caste system the Nazis imposed on Jews in the 30's and 40's to the caste system beginning with slavery in the US before the US was a country and continuing today.



In spite of the deeply disturbing content, every member at the discussion group agreed that this is a book that needs to be read to help understand the continuing systemic caste system at play in the US today. One observation was it offered a better understanding of why there was such a backlash against Obama compared to the seemingly blind loyalty to Trump.

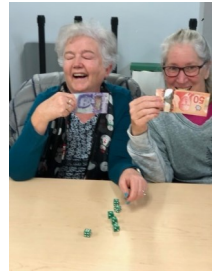
The book opened for our readers insight into this dark side of American history. Though disturbing, they were grateful to have this more fulsome understanding. Conversations included questions about our own treatment of Indigenous peoples, the internment of the Japanese, and questions of racial profiling by the police in Canada. As a final question we looked at where we – white privileged women - saw ourselves in the caste system. We all agreed we were pretty much at the top of the heap with the only ones above us being white men.

This book is not for light reading but, it is a book to help us understand, think about, and respond to current and disturbing issues around systemic racism in American society and politics and, sadly in many other societies around the world.

PS – the book has been made into a movie – ORIGIN by Ava Duverny. Hopefully it will be here soon.

Janet K and Linda T

Games Group: Our group of 14 usually has an enthusiastic 4-8 members attending on our game days. We meet twice a month at the United Way offices at 125 Morrell St. from 1:30 - 3:30 on the 2nd Thursday and 4th Monday of each month. Come and join us for some camaraderie and laughter. Despite what the picture shows, we do not play for money - just for fun! Barb S.



Dining Out: . We set up car pools, drove the back roads to Millbank, and had a thoroughly delightful time at Anna Mae's Bakery and Restaurant.



Owned and operated by a Mennonite family, the food at Anna Mae's is simple and delicious. Many of us spent time afterwards in the bakery and dry goods store, coming away with cinnamon buns, carrot cake, butter tarts, frozen casseroles and jars of jam. In

May, we will attend the AGM and Banquet. In June, we will be returning to the Good Earth Food and Winery in Beamsville and hope the weather allows us to sit on the patio under the wisteria.

Lin F.

Creative Cookery: Many thanks to our wonderful hosts, Barb M and Barb S, for our wonderful Mexican meal.

It was a wonderful evening!

Betsy C.



Walking Group:

Enjoying the spring sun.



Day Trippers:

On a guided tour of the Brant County Courthouse led by retired judge the Honourable James Kent and local historian Murray Angus. Snacks at the Brantford Club completed a memorable experience.



2023 –2024 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT IN NAME:

- Elizabeth Capitano

PAST PRESIDENT:

- Lin Fines and Janet Kempster

ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:

- Elizabeth Capitano—June, July, August, May
- Lin Fines— March and April
- Anne Martin—October
- Janet Kempster—November
- Maria Timmons—December, January
- Catherine Sawyer— September, February

SECRETARY:

Lin Fines/Penelope Jeffery

TREASURER: Maria Timmons

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- Advocacy:** Patti Kunashko
- Communications:** Sandra Hughes
- Interest Groups:** Roma Makkreel
- Membership:** Barb Scott
- Program:** Colette Wilson
- Scholarship:** Karen Innes
- Social:** Bev Golden



Many thanks to the Interest Group contacts and other club members who provide news and pictures for the newsletter. If you have updates about members concerning important family or personal events such as births, deaths, marriages, special celebrations

to share with the members, send them to Sandra H.

If you have Interest Group updates and photos please send them to Sandra for the newsletter, Marsha S. for the website and Mary P. for the Facebook page.

The due date for articles and photos for the June Newsletter is Friday June 7th.



Brantford Annual General Meeting and Banquet, May 22, 2024

Location:

Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course and Learning Centre

Ticket cost: \$60.00

Cash bar

We have a new format for our evening out in May. We will start with a welcome at 4:30 p.m., then the AGM from 5-6 p.m., and dinner from 6-7:15 p.m. After dinner we will have presentations, announcements and socializing.

We encourage all members to attend the AGM, which is scheduled for 5 - 6 pm. before the banquet. The doors to the room will be closed at 5 when the AGM starts and reopen for 6, when the banquet begins. Should the AGM end earlier, the doors will be opened then.

Submitted by Bev G.

Annual Blue Lake Picnic

Wednesday, June 26th at the home of Pat Clemons

4:00 – 6:00 Swimming & Conversation
6:00 potluck meal

Please bring:

- a Potluck dish
- plate, cup, and cutlery
- perhaps some wine (other beverages will be available)
- lawn chair
- a bathing suit and towel for a dip in the lake (for the brave ones!)**

DIRECTIONS:

- Go north on 24 toward Cambridge
- Turn left onto Blue Lake Rd.
- **Follow for 3 km until you come to an open wrought iron gate on the north side – number 501**
- Enter and follow the driveway
- **Watch for a split in the drive**



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Brantford

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