



| Contents        | Pages |
|-----------------|-------|
| Club News       | 1 - 5 |
| Resolutions     | 2     |
| Interest Groups | 4     |
| Events          | 1 - 5 |

**Leadership Team: President's Message**

*In Winter I Get Up at Night* is the title of Jane Urquhart's latest novel, a beautifully written story. However, this will not be a book review but rather some personal musings on what memories the title of this book stirred for me. Those words are the opening line of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Bed in Summer*, one of many children's poems and nursery rhymes (both said and sung) which I learned as a youngster. Many of us who were taught these verses as children no doubt memorised them, particularly the songs in my case, after hearing them so frequently. Singing was such an important part of my childhood and instilled in me a love of music. When I attended elementary school in Montreal in the 1950's, we were so fortunate to have music as part of the everyday curriculum and that meant vocal music; of course, there was always a school choir too. Musical instruments were introduced to us in grade 7, the first year of high school back in those days. Being part of a junior choir at church and attending the annual church choir competition meant so much to me. As well, I was very blessed to spend all my summers at an old family cottage on an island in the Laurentians where every night both adults and children had a singsong around the piano. I remember to this day the words of all the songs I learned from *The Fireside Book of Folk Songs*, published in 1947 and still available. We children also had great fun making up our own humorous verses to simple ditties such as *A-Hunting We Will Go*. These were simpler times with simple entertainment but I am so glad that I experienced them. When my own children were young, I used to sing them songs at bedtime so perhaps I should not have been surprised that they did the same with their children. In my son's case, the songs he sang to his children included hymns. These self-indulgent musings have made me consider the importance of music for life. Singing in itself makes us feel happy because it releases endorphins and serotonin, the "feel good chemicals", in our brains. Just listening to music is very soothing and can lift our mood, particularly in the long and dark winter days. There are many quotations about the power of music but I will pick one from the German poet, Berthold

Auerbach, which speaks to me. He wrote, "Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life". So we are fortunate to have many opportunities to attend various types of musical events in and around our own community. This month, we members of CFUW all look forward to our next in-person meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> at McCleister's. The committee who volunteered to search for a new venue for our general meetings had quite a task and were pleased to find a welcoming place. I would like to add a personal thank you to all the women who have volunteered for various duties and positions in our club. Your commitment has kept CFUW Brantford vital for the past 80 years.  
Catherine Sawyer  
President for February

**Membership for 2025-26.**

Spring is coming - as well as the time to renew your CFUW membership. This year is a return to the paper form. Our Google form last year worked really well and can provide quick and easy extractions of information. BUT, it was far more labour intensive (for me) than I was willing to commit to and there is an advantage to having a hard copy in your file. Watch for it in your email before the next general meeting. Please follow the instructions and you may return forms immediately. Things to keep in mind:  
Tax receipts are given for scholarship donations of \$20.00 minimum. Please be as generous as you are able. Our club will save on bank charges if your payments for membership and the banquet are combined into one amount. Please consider doing this and note on the e-transfer or cheque that the amount is for both membership and banquet. Barb S.

**Reminder 2025 tax receipts**

As approved by membership in November, tax receipts starting in 2025 will be issued for \$20 or more. If you want a tax receipt for the scholarship portion of your membership dues, the amount will need to be at least \$20 versus the mandatory \$15. Maria T.

## 2025 Resolutions - National and Ontario Council

Dear CFUW Brantford,

Here are this year's resolutions from CFUW National and Ontario Council. Just click on the link provided to get to each resolution. For those who would like to participate in the discussion about these resolutions please stay tuned as there will shortly be an invite to participate in same.

Betsy C

### **National: Amendments are due by April 30, 2025.**

#### **Resolution 1 – CFUW Milton & District and CFUW Perth & District**

English: Addressing Period Poverty and Menstrual Inequity in Canada

Français: Lutter contre la précarité menstruelle et les inégalités d'accès aux produits menstruels au Canada

#### **Resolution 2 – Advocacy Committee / Comité de défense des intérêts**

English: Expanding Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

Français: Accroître l'accès aux services de santé sexuelle et reproductive

#### **Resolution 3 – Advocacy Committee / Comité de défense des intérêts**

English: Safeguarding 2SLGBTQ+ Rights

Français: Protéger les droits des personnes 2ELGBTQ+

#### **Resolution 4 – CFUW Prince George**

English: The Violence Link: Advocating for Awareness and Animal Safekeeping for Individuals Fleeing Domestic Violence

Français: Le Lien de Violence : Sensibilisation et protection des animaux pour les personnes victimes de violences domestiques

#### **Resolution 5 – Advocacy Committee / Comité de défense des intérêts**

English: Equitable Phase-Out of Fossil Fuels

Français: Élimination graduelle et équitable de l'utilisation de combustibles fossiles

#### **Resolution 6 – Advocacy Committee / Comité de défense des intérêts**

English: Archiving Select CFUW Adopted Resolutions

Français: Archivage de certaines résolutions adoptées de la FCFDU

#### **Resolution 7 – Advocacy Committee / Comité de défense des intérêts**

English: Housing as a Human Right and Social Good

Français: Le logement comme un droit de la personne et un bien social

### **Ontario Council: Amendments are due April 1, 2025**

CFUW Orillia - Funding for Post-Secondary Education in Ontario

- o [PDF](#) format
- o [Word](#) document

From CFUW Owen Sound - The Establishment of a Seniors' Advocate

- o [PDF](#) format
- o [Word](#) document



# Celebrations

## Remember the Day — The 28th of May

The countdown has begun to our Annual AGM and Banquet celebrating the 80th Anniversary of our club. Members are welcome to pay for the Banquet at our first in-person meeting at McCleister's Funeral Home. The \$70.00 may be made by cash, cheque made out to CFUW BRANTFORD or E-Transfer cfuwbrantford-fin@gmail.com.

If using cheque or e-Transfer please consider using one transaction of \$191.00 to cover both membership and banquet costs to help reduce bank fees.

Membership fees are \$121.00 and the banquet cost is \$70.00.

Indicate on the E Transfer what the money is allocated for and any guests or dietary requirements.

On the cheque, please indicate what the money is for. When you hand in the cheque you will be asked about guests and dietary requirements .

Payment for guests should be included at the time of submitting your money

A table will be set up at the back of the meeting room with members ready to assist with your payment between 6:30 - 7:00 pm and after the meeting during social time.

It would be helpful if members wishing to attend the banquet but are unable to be at a general meeting in March or April to ask a friend to bring their money.

Payment for the banquet will be taken until May 7th.

Do not hesitate to contact a member of the Social Committee if there are any questions or concerns.

Social Committee Members

Marla M. Jeanne C. Lynne D.



## Trivia Night 2025

Since we have so many new members, I thought that I would give a little bit of history about Trivia Night. Way back in late 2007, Brenda Malvern, former member Diane White and I thought that we would copy the Kiwanis example and run a Trivia Night as a fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund. Briefly, it consists of 10 rounds of 10 questions each, with prizes for the top three teams. Questions such as "In what province would you find Punkydoodle's Corners"? No videos, photos or sound bites.

Our first event was held on the evening of Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at The Dunsdon Legion and a good time was had by all! I'm not exactly sure of the year, but after Diane left CFUW, Brenda and I were very fortunate to team up with Colette W. and Dian K. Four people instead of three was great! We each have our jobs to do—keeping track of team registrations, signing contracts, arranging for pizza, writing thank you notes, contacting past participants, finding volunteers, stuffing envelopes, making score sheets, designing the poster, transporting prizes and books, writing reports, emceeing, arranging for printing, keeping track of money and receipts and , of course, writing the questions. It has worked out very well.

The cost is only \$25 (\$100 per team) and for that, you get a chance to purchase great books and CDS for \$2, a chance to win a door prize, a chance to win a generous gift certificate to a local restaurant in our Heads or Tails game (we actually charge \$2 to enter), a slice of pizza donated by Dominos, a soft drink and an evening of fun and laughter!

This year it was decided that in an attempt to recruit more members, we would include a CFUW brochure in the team envelopes. Dian K., Barb S. and Colette W. decided what would be included and where it should be placed and gave the information to Janet R. who created the brochure. It was a great idea and we appreciate the work done in finding effective text and in designing. The brochure will be available for members at the March general meeting.

Trivia Night this year was a great success! Congratulations to Meghan Cameron's team, who won. Congratulations as well to Dave Haylock's team, who came in second, and Mark Francombe's team, who came in third.

As of last year, a total of \$32,182.16 was added to the Scholarship account.

This year our profit was \$3,095.

Thank you to all of our participants, donors, volunteers and committee members.

Lynn Haylock On behalf of the Trivia Night Committee



1st Place Team



2nd Place Team

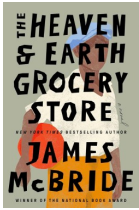


3rd Place Team



## INTERESTS

### Monday Evening Book Club: *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*



by James McBride. The novel opens in 1972 when workers in Pottstown, PA find a skeleton and a Jewish mezuzah pendant at the bottom of a well. The rest of the story is set in the 1930's in the dilapidated neighbourhood of Chicken Hill. It's the home to immigrant Jews and African Americans. Here Chona and her husband Moshe run the store, which serves the quirky residents of the Hill. When the state comes looking for a young, deaf, orphaned black boy, claiming he needs to be institutionalized, the residents of Chicken Hill, led by Chona, band together to keep the boy safe. The novel is part murder mystery, part social commentary and part discussion of race in America. It asks the question, "who gets to claim Americanness". McBride is a masterful, inventive storyteller. *Heaven & Earth* is full of rich, multi-faceted characters with complex and interesting relationships amongst them. He was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Obama for "humanizing the complexities of discussing race in America". It will soon be a Steven Spielberg movie, but read the book first! Kay R.

**Thursday Evening Book Club:** Our club read *Looking for Jane* by Canadian first time author Heather Marshall. The book is based on the real Jane Collective, an underground network of courageous individuals who provided safe abortions in the late 60's, 70's and 80's in Canada. Marshall says it is really a book about motherhood, a story that has a solid foundation in the historical facts surrounding underground abortion networks, the post war era maternity homes system and forced adoption mandate in Canada. The story is told through the eyes of three fictional women whose experiences come from 1971, 1980 and 2017. This book puts a very personal and sometimes very emotional face on the relationships between mothers and daughters, motherhood itself and the struggle for "the right to choose." It brings the advocacy of so many women in events, such as the 1970 Abortion Caravan, the clinic raids and the support for Dr. Morgentaler, to life. The book group found it well-written, informative and emotional. The discussion was thoughtful. Given the situation in the USA today it is also very topical. This book is a piece of Canadiana worth remembering. As usually happens in our group, the discussion broadened into other issues of the day! Diane M.



**Games Group:** Our games group continue to meet twice a month at the United Way offices on Morrell St. We welcome any new members that would like to join us. Barb S.



If you are interested in volunteering at the Symphony Book Sale in March and April, please contact Lynn H regarding your availability.

### Creative Cookery: Barb S.

Barb S. was a gracious hostess for our February dinner!!! The recipes she chose were perfect. We discussed how the recipes worked, the tweaks we added and our suggestions for improving them. Barb made the evening relaxing and fun and she even got me home safe and sound. Thank you, Sandra H.



**Food With Thought:** Six members attended our February dinner which included chicken with mango, saffron Iranian rice, vegetable mix, roast cauliflower, green pea salad, mandarin spinach salad and Lemon Snow. It is simply amazing that everything blended so well together as we do pot luck style. All went well until the first guest left my home, only to be greeted on the porch by an uninvited guest which prompted the rather frantic call to 'shut the door'. The guest was 4 legged, and had a white stripe down its black body.

Here is a picture of Lynne D emphatically denying that she was not the one who invited him/her to the dinner. Barb S.



### Dining Out:

The Olde School restaurant and Piano bar never disap-



points. Located on the outskirts of Brantford and converted from a school built in the 1870's, this eatery has been serving Brantford for 43 years. Our Dining Out Group likes to gather close to home in the winter months, and was happy to return for the 'old school' decor, service and food. There were 20 of us at two tables of ten, sitting where royalty gathered in 1984 — evidenced by photos of Queen Elizabeth II when she dined there during her Royal tour in 1984.

In March, our group ventured farther afield to West Plains Bistro in Burlington, a restaurant that never fails to delight the Dining out Group thanks to their great food, service and ambiance.

In April, our group will dine at Quatrefoil in Dundas — and enjoy the outstanding menu that earned them a 'nod' from Michelin. Lin F.



## 2024–2025 EXECUTIVE

### PRESIDENT IN NAME:

- Barbara Melara

### PAST PRESIDENT:

- Janet Kempster

### ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:

- Anne Martin & Teddy Buzek—June to August,
- Elizabeth Capitano— September
- Pat Clemons—October
- Cookie Hadley— November
- Maria Timmons—December, January
- Catherine Sawyer- February
- Linda Tripp—March
- Dian Kuzyk—April
- Barbara Melara—May

### SECRETARY:

Penelope Jeffery / Arlene Cass

### TREASURER: Maria Timmons

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- Communications:** Sandra Hughes
- Interest Groups:** Roma Makkreel
- Membership:** Barb Scott
- Program:** Colette Wilson
- Scholarship:** Karen Innes
- Social:** Lynne Duncombe



**General Meeting: March 26, 2025**

**Social Time Starts at 6:30 at McCleister's**

**Meeting Starts at 7:00 p.m. or Join with Zoom**

**Welcome to our Speaker: Stephanie McLarty**

- award winning young entrepreneur
  - champion of responsible, sustaining corporate practices
  - assisted Rogers in disposal of surplus equipment
  - launched REfficient, helping companies recycle
  - appointed to the International Electrotechnical Commission
- Please bring your questions about your obsolete devices. How do we erase information safely? Where do we dispose of them in an environmentally friendly way? And more?

Dian K., Program Committee

### AGM and Banquet

The countdown has begun to our Annual AGM and Banquet celebrating the 80th Anniversary of our club. Members are welcome to pay for the Banquet at our first in person meeting at McCleister's Funeral Home.

See page 3 for details.



## URGENT: New Meeting Place for General Meetings

CFUW Brantford is on the move! Due to security issues at Thorpe's Funeral Home, our General Meetings are moving to McCleister Funeral Home at 495 Park Road North. (Park Road North is the extension of West Street). The March 26 meeting will be held at McCleister's. (Hybrid meetings will continue).

Please park at the back of building, enter, and walk past the office on the left to a small hallway. Follow the hallway to the meeting room.

Meetings will start at 7:00 pm sharp, and finish by 8:55. Doors will be open at 6:30 for socializing. We are asked to bring a food item for the Food Bank to each meeting.

Many thanks to Thorpe's Funeral Home for their past support, and to McCleister Funeral Home staff who have welcomed us. Colette W. for the Search Committee

