Canadian Federation of University Women – Parksville / Qualicum

Our Theme this year:

Strong Women – Difference Makers

April 2020

President: Valerie Gunn (250-468-7536)

Vice President: TBA (vacant position)

Club Address: Box 113 Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 1S7 See: Club Address: Box 113 Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 1S7 See: http://www.cfuwpq.ca

Meeting: Cancelled

Program: Cancelled

Speaker(s): Cancelled

Greeters:

What To Look For:

President’s Message
Advocacy Message
Membership
Scholarship & Bursary Trust
Nominations message
International Women’s Day message
International Women’s Day pictures
General Meeting pictures
Book Box pickup schedule
Book Club News
Quotes
President’s Message – April 2020

Welcome to the New Normal.

I am amazed how life can change so fast, which makes the adage “Never assume tomorrow will be just like today” so true. When I met with the executive March 16th, we discussed the changes necessary and within 48 hours they all came to be needed. While no one is predicting how long social distancing will continue, your P/Q club is planning to back as usual in September.

To make this happen, however, there are procedures to be followed for the good of the club. You have already been sent the proposed budget and can contact Lynn Brown, the treasurer, who will collect comments and report later. The nomination process is still on-going.

The executive recommended that the club start a pilot project following and adapting the Orillia Model for January 2021 as suggested by the nomination committee. Information on this model is in the minutes of March 9th general meeting.

One of the projects needed is the year-end reports from committee chairs and executive to be included in a separate newsletter. The deadline is April 30th.

The Program committee is working on the fall-spring schedule for 2020-2021. Ideas are still being accepted. Please email me with your suggestions.

In the meantime, I am managing with this isolation lifestyle somewhat and thinking of you all and how you are all coping. Please reach out if help is needed.

Stay well and be safe

Valerie

Advocacy

Though not meeting formally and certainly not in person, the Advocacy Committee intends to continue to exchange views during this challenging time on how we might make a contribution to our local community in the priority areas of Environment/Climate Action; Violence Against Women/indigenous Issues; Early Learning/Literacy/Poverty.

We send best wishes to all our fellow CFUWPQ members - please stay safe.

(Contributed by Debby Wetmore on behalf of the Advocacy Committee.)
Membership

Club membership now stands at 69, as one new member joined at our very successful IWD event. There have been several other inquiries following IWD and I will have get-acquainted chats by phone with anyone who is considering joining us. I will miss meeting potential new members for coffee but keeping everyone safe and healthy comes first.

![Welcome Sign](image)

To each of our new members who joined this year:

In other year’s, CFUW PQ has held a welcome event in the Spring, usually as a tea. Last year, our large influx of new 12 members were hosted at a sangria and tapas party at the Parksville Museum. That large a group along with the Executive wouldn’t have fit in my living room! Postponing your official welcome until next year is not what the Executive prefers. But this delay is essential, considering what is best for each of you and in the interest of protecting our community at large. We will look forward to an especially festive new members’ event next year!

Stay healthy, stay connected

A new weekly (or so I hope!) email communication will go out to members during the COVID-19 pandemic. It’s a simple way for us to stay in touch and to find small ways to cheer ourselves up. But it depends on you submitting short snippets, cartoons, anything lighthearted or inspirational, to me. I will simply cut and paste them. Val will distribute it to the Club’s email list, as she does with all other club-wide communications.

For some guidelines and how to, what to send along, etc. – along with a very short first effort – please refer to Val’s email sent to everyone on Monday, March 23rd.

(Contributed by Bonnie Stableford)
Scholarship & Bursary Trust

During these “interesting” and challenging times, the CFUW P/Q Scholarship & Bursary Trust will be continuing to conduct business as usual. Information for applicants of all the awards has been posted on the Club website and on Facebook confirming that we will continue to receive applications for all 2020-2021 awards. Applications will be accepted according to the schedule and instructions that are already posted on the website.

The high school applications were scheduled to be received early in April. These applications come through the schools so the procedures for this may be altered this year. Our Secondary School Liaison, Catherine Khan, will be contacting the three schools a few days after Spring Break to try to learn what the revised plans are for the schools and how that will affect the application process.

As it may be difficult to get the posters around the community as usual, please use any opportunity you have to encourage prospective applicants for postsecondary, trades and early childhood education awards to check our website and apply.

Applications for these awards come directly from the applicants to the Trust by mail by June 1st. If we are still practicing “self- isolation and distancing” Trustees will have to develop new ways to evaluate, score and agree on results in order to disburse the awards for the successful candidates.

So it is business as usual with some tweaking required for Scholarship & Bursary Trust. Trustees are committed to distributing all of the scholarships, bursaries and awards to the deserving students who will be trying to keep their education on track going forward.

Noreen A. Ballantyne
Chair.

Nominations

Jacqueline Russell and Wendy Reimer request that members contact them if interested in being part of the CFUWPQ leadership team for 2020 -2021. Traditional job descriptions are in the cfuwpq constitution which is posted online in the Members only section.

(Contributed by Jacqueline Russell)
International Women’s Day 2020

What a great celebration it was! We had over 90 guests to our event which was held at the Parksville Community Centre on March 8th, 2020 from 2 till 4pm. Thank you so much to the PCC staff who assisted us prior to the event, during the event and after the event was over. It was lovely to walk in prior to the start of the event to see the tables set up as we had requested. Our CFUWPQ committees and our Trust created informative display tables which were viewed by our guests. And good news... we gained a new member at the IWD event. A number of club Members donated baked goods. We had to bring out another table to fit all the delicious baked goods selections. It was hard to choose which one to try, but I know I did my best to enjoy a number of items. 😊

Gord Johns, Member of Parliament for Courtenay-Alberni, was regretfully unable to be present but sent a heartfelt message to all participants. Our speaker Dr. Louise Mandell, QCC, was incredible and so well received. Louise has a way of delivering information by way of weaving a story and linking concepts throughout. It was great to hear the enthusiastic standing ovation after her talk. I want to thank Louise’s Administrative Coordinator Jolene with helping us with the details of coordinating Louise’s visit.

A late minute addition to our speaker list was our own BC Council President and National VP Barbara DuMoulin who shared an informative update on the work that our over 100 CFUW clubs are doing locally and nationally and what the Graduate Women’s International (GWI) is working on Internationally. Unfortunately, the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) portion of UNCSW had been cancelled which she was booked to attend as one of 20 CFUW delegates and so Barbara was able to attend our event. We were very grateful to have Barbara, from Salt Spring Island, be able to attend with us and share with us the work that CFUW does.

Our donation jar was enthusiastically contributed to by our guests as they came in the door. We were able to almost cover costs and able to forward $100.00 for the Hesham Refugee Sponsorship Group which members voted to support at the General Meeting in February. In conclusion, it was a great afternoon full of happiness and enthusiasm. However, as we know and as our Club President Val Gunn said: In some ways we are celebrating how far we have come, but we are also well aware of how far we have to go.

Onward!

Cheers and my thanks to you all and to the IWD 2020 committee - Jacqueline Russell, Sonya Felix and Brenda Correy (publicity)

(Contributed by Jacqueline Russell)
Victoria Morris and Lynn Brown at the door; Lorna Miller with door prizes; John Smith of the Hesham Refugee Sponsorship group.

Noreen Ballantyne for Scholarship & Bursary Trust; the Advocacy group display; Bonnie Stableford for Membership.

Keyboardist Elysha Biro; Wendy Reimer for Global Outreach.
Sonya Felix and Jacqueline Russell, the organizers of the event; our speaker, Louise Mandrell; Robin Robinson, who introduced the speaker.

Nicely filled tables of appreciative listeners.
Door prize winners: Lorna Miller with Elaine Watson; guest Stephanie Peter and Elaine.

Our speaker, Louise Mandrell; Janet Farooq responds to a query from guests at the Global Outreach display.

Barbara Day Sort looking like spring; President Valerie Gunn.

(With pictures contributed by June Arnett.)
General Meeting – March 09, 2020

Serious business was conducted but there was lots of friendly chat and a laden snack table.

Sharon Sawkins (for the Present for Being Present initiative), wearing the hat from which the winning ticket is drawn, presents the prize to the lucky winner, Valerie Gunn.

Book Pickup from Donation Box at Save-on Foods

Book Box Pickup Coordinators are: Sharon Sawkins, Eileen Edwards, and Sheila Reed.

Mar 23 – Mar 29 Janet Farooq
Mar 30 – Apr 05 Lorna Miller
Apr 05 – Apr 12 Camille Lawson
Apr 13 – Apr 19 June Arnett
Apr 20 – Apr 26 Leslie Horsman
Apr 27 – May 03 Sheri Plummer
May 04 – May 10 Linda Fullalove
May 11 – May 17 Mary Ellen Campbell
May 18 – May 24 Nanci Langford
May 25 – May 31 Janet Farooq
Jun 01 – Jun 07 Geraldine Mason
Jun 08 – Jun 14 Carolyn Collier
Jun 15 – Jun 21 Nita Jack
Jun 22 – Jun 28 Claire Lightfoot
Jun 29 – Jul 05 Carol Gemgembre
Jul 06 – Jul 12 Val Gunn
Jul 13 – Jul 19 Barbara Bond
Jul 20 – Jul 26 Sharon Sawkins
Jul 27 – Aug 02 Katharina Rout
Aug 03 – Aug 09 Vivien Sears
Aug 10 – Aug 16 Delores Saultier
Aug 17 – Aug 23 Robin Robinson
Aug 24 – Aug 30 Debby Wetmore
Aug 31 – Sep 06 Elaine Watson
Sep 07 – Sep 13 Pat Wheeler

*Please note that this list is not necessarily up to date*

**Remember!** Please use empty boxes that once held wine or liquor and pack books tightly within them, ensuring that the top flaps will fold shut. Please call or email the next person on the list once your week is complete. The coordinators suggest you check the box daily, as increased advertising through social media has resulted in increased donations. Dispose of any culled books in your own garbage or take them to the transfer station. Make sure you keep the receipt if you must use the transfer station’s facilities. Call for help if you need it. The storage crew on duty for that month will help if necessary with culling, packing, carrying, and storing.

**BOOK CULLING SUGGESTIONS:**

- Discard books that have torn pages, missing covers, loose pages, smelly, stained or many pencil notes.
- Discard all finance, medical, diet, travel, computers, law that are more than **five** years old.
- All National Geographic magazines as well as other magazines. Please keep knitting, decorating (quite current) and current cookery.
- All brochures and/or free material.
- All school and/or university textbooks.
- All Encyclopedias and yearbooks.
- Do It Yourself building books older than 2008 as tools have changed greatly.
- Self help - discard anything older than 2010 unless you know it is still a credible author.
- Reference - discard all dictionaries, thesauruses, atlases, if older than 2015.
- Cookbooks - older than 2000 and all the books that came with appliances

The reason we are asking all members to cull aggressively and use their own garbage for disposal (if possible) as we now pay for the disposal of the leftover books. This also reduces the number of times the books are handled which saves a lot of work.
For April, the Wednesday night book club had planned to read *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver. The Tuesday afternoon book club had planned to read *The Hotel on Place Vendome: Life, Death and Betrayal at the Hotel Ritz in Paris* by Tilar J Mazzeo. The Thursday morning book club had planned to read *Educated* by Tara Westover.

For May, the Wednesday night book club had planned to read ‘your own choice of biography or autobiography’. The Tuesday afternoon book club had planned to read *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. The Thursday morning book club had planned to read *China Dream* by Ma Jian.

(The information was contributed by Edie Ross, Wendy Heuberger, and Bev Walls. The images are courtesy of Mulberry Bush Bookstores.)
Quotes

*Phone off now,* Noah should say. But he felt an already familiar weariness at the prospect of an argument. Looking after a child was like a bad dream about appearing in court without legal training. Added up, presumably the points at issue mattered, but taken one by one they seemed irrelevant.

From *Akin* by Emma Donoghue

“All right, churros it is.” Because Noah couldn’t handle another argument tonight. It was the repetition that appalled him; the stop-and-start, petty, Whac-A-Mole wrangling that died down and flared up over and over.

From *Akin* by Emma Donoghue

They nodded amongst themselves, making additional comments, all in the same condescending tone. It was the kind of notice one might shower on a child. But I am not a child and I knew there to be malice in their words. Behind the flattery, the edge of mockery was plain to anyone who must, as a matter of survival, learn to detect it. I could detail for you the number of times I have come across that same tone. I am aware of the subtleties and incremental degrees in a hostility – from the tight smile to the accidental shove – I have known the gamut.

From *Cereus Blooms at Night* by Shani Mootoo

“Children used to go and pelt she and pelt she mango and come back frighten-frighten but still excited that they break a window or sling-shot a bird. You know how children could be, na. It was the thing to do, and although I didn’t take part in it I didn’t question it either. Hmmm. I never question them. Somehow you don’t question things until you come face to face with the person and suddenly – suddenly you realize that behind all them stories it have a flesh-and-blood, breathing, feeling person who capable of hurting, yes!”

From *Cereus Blooms at Night* by Shani Mootoo

The day Ambrose E. Mohanty rose from his wheelchair and became a regular man was the most upsetting day of Elsie Mohanty’s life. She had not realized the peace and quiet that his month-long sleeps had afforded her. Now he was always in her midst, messing up her house, leaving his clothes for her to fold and put away. She found herself tripping over his shoes, bumping into him, having to cook three meals a day and wash three sets of dishes and pots and pans, and, most tedious of all, having to listen when he talked to her. He cluttered the space she had come to regard unconsciously as her very own.

From *Cereus Blooms at Night* by Shani Mootoo

Connell initially felt a sense of crushing inferiority to his fellow students, as if he had upgraded himself academically to an intellectual level far above his own, where he had to strain to make sense of the most basic premises. He did gradually start to wonder why all their classroom discussions were so abstract and lacking in textual detail, and eventually he realized that most people were not actually doing the reading. They were coming into college every day to have heated debates about books they had not read. He understands now that his classmates are not like him. It’s easy for them to have opinions and to express them with confidence. They don’t worry about appearing ignorant or conceited. They are not stupid people, but they are not smarter than him either.
From *Normal People* by Sally Rooney

At the funeral back in January everyone talked about what a great person Rob had been, full of life, a devoted son, and so on. But he was also a very insecure person, obsessed with popularity, and his desperation had made him cruel. Not for the first time, Marianne thinks cruelty does not only hurt the victim, but the perpetrator also, and maybe more deeply and more permanently. You learn nothing very profound about yourself simply by being bullied; but by bullying someone else you learn something you can never forget.

From *Normal People* by Sally Rooney

At times he has the sensation that he and Marianne are like figure skaters, improvising their discussions so adeptly and in such perfect synchronization that it surprises them both. She tosses herself gracefully into the air, and each time, without knowing how he’s going to do it, he catches her.

From *Normal People* by Sally Rooney

The Tuesday afternoon book club held an email conversation (which lasted several days!) instead of an in-person meeting this month and some members put forward quotes that they had found memorable. Here is a brief selection of some we noticed in particular or that supported the point we wished to make.

We continued through the dark, quiet waters of the river, feeling that we owned it, as far as the estuary. We passed industrial buildings, their lights muted, faint as stars, as if we were in a time capsule of the war years when blackouts and curfews had been in effect, when there was just warlight and only blind barges were allowed to move along this stretch of river.

From *Warlight* by Michael Ondaatje

When you attempt a memoir, I am told, you need to be in an orphan state. So what is missing in you, and the things you have grown cautious and hesitant about, will come almost casually towards you. “A memoir is the lost inheritance,” you realize, so that during this time you must learn how and where to look. In the resulting self-portrait everything will rhyme, because everything has been reflected.

From *Warlight* by Michael Ondaatje

I think it was then, after their night by the stove, that she decided to return safely to who she still was, and remain separate from him, as if suffering was always a part of desire. She couldn’t let her guard down with him. She would wait, however, a bit longer for full light, when the joyous lover he had been would once again become unknown to her, a mystery. At dawn she heard a cricket. It was September. She would remember September.

Is it [he] who chooses her, or is this something [she] always wished for? Do we eventually become what we are originally meant to be?

From *Warlight* by Michael Ondaatje, with thanks to Wendy Heuberger

You return to an earlier time armed with the present, and no matter how dark that world was, you do not leave it unlit . . . a rewitnessing.
We are foolish as teenagers. We say wrong things, do not know . . . What I am now was formed by whatever happened to me then not by what I had achieved.

From Warlight by Michael Ondaatje, with thanks to Brenda Correy

Most of the great battles are fought in the creases of topographical maps.

In 1945 our parents went away and left us in the care of two men who may have been criminals.

From Warlight by Michael Ondaatje, with thanks to Camille Lawson

[ . . .] how do we survive that forty miles of bad terrain during adolescence that we crossed without any truthful awareness of ourselves? “The self is not the principal thing,” was a half-wisdom Olive Lawrence murmured to me once.

Is this how we discover the truth, evolve? By gathering together such unconfirmed fragments? . . . I know how to fill in a story from a grain of sand or a fragment of discovered truth . . . We order our lives with barely held stories.

Wars don’t end. They never remain in the past . . . Wars are never over.

From Warlight by Michael Ondaatje, with thanks to Katharina Rout

I think there is a different authenticity to memory, and not an inferior one. Memory sorts and sifts according to the demands made on it by the rememberer. Do we have access to the algorithm of its priorities? Probably not. But I would guess that memory prioritises whatever is most useful to help keep the bearer of those memories going. So there would be a self-interest in bringing happier memories to the surface first. But again, I’m only guessing.

From The Only Story by Julian Barnes

“Sometimes you see a couple, and they seem bored witless with one another, and you can’t imagine them having anything in common, or why they’re still living together. But it’s not just habit or complacency or convention or anything like that. It’s because once, they had their love story. Everyone does. It’s the only story.”

From The Only Story by Julian Barnes

Clearly, this supposedly harmless pastime (doing crosswords) was about more than solving cryptic clues and filling in the answers. My analysis identified the following elements: 1) the desire to reduce the chaos of the universe to a small, comprehensive grid of black-and-white squares; 2) the underlying belief that everything in life could, in the end, be solved; 3) the confirmation that existence was essentially a ludic activity; and 4) the hope that this activity would keep at bay the existential pain of our brief transit from birth to death.

From The Only Story by Julian Barnes

First love fixes a life forever: this much I have discovered over the years. It may not outrank subsequent loves, but they will always be affected by its existence. It may serve as model, or as counterexample. It may overshadow subsequent loves; on the other hand, it can make them easier, better. Though, sometimes, first love cauterizes the heart and all any searcher will find thereafter is scar tissue.

From The Only Story by Julian Barnes