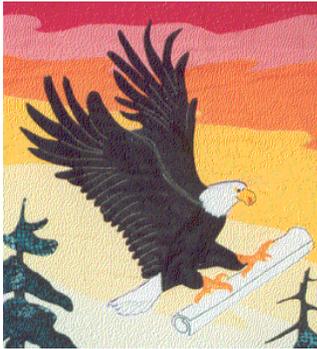


Canadian Federation of University Women – Parksville / Qualicum



Our Theme this year:

Celebrate Challenges: Facing Forward, Looking Back

March 2021

President: Valerie Gunn (250-468-7536)

Leadership Circle: Sheila Reed (250-954-2226)

Communications: Victoria Morris @ technology@cfuwpq.ca.

Club Address: Box 113 Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 1S7 See: <https://cfuwpq.ca>

Meeting: Monday March 8, 7-9 PM, by Zoom

Program: Female Trouble: Movies and #Me Too

Speaker: IWD / Dorothy Woodend

What To Look For:

President's Message and Calendar
Program Information
Resolutions to be considered
Global Outreach Message
Talking Circle Report
Note of Appreciation
Books of Interest
Book Bin Pickup Schedule
Quotes

President's Message March 2021



Heather bushes are flowering in my garden, meaning spring is almost sprung, despite the difficult weather lately. We have power and internet so life can forge on ahead. The life of our club is continuing also. March is a busy month for those involved behind the scenes.

To begin, International Women's Day March 8 event is planned Monday evening with a webinar open to all who wish to watch. The poster was sent last week. Please tell your friends and network. Our speaker is Dorothy Woodend, the culture editor at The Tyee newsletter, a BC magazine concentrated on BC issues and events. Dorothy has a background in film and will speak to us about the "Me too Movement". You can read her opinion piece on film festivals in the current issue. Hers is a different take from passive voice journalism.

The budget committee has been meeting a working on a future picture for the club. Stay tuned.

Our policies are formed from the resolutions presented every February. This year there are four resolutions, see below, for links to the full text of the resolutions. There is a discussion meeting time planned in March before we vote on the wording at our April meeting.

By the end of March clubs are required to inform CFUW national office as to how they wish to be counted re the GWI per capita fee question. Look for background information in your email box next week. I will be calling for a vote via Survey Monkey the week of 15th March, so it will be easy to tabulate the result.

I wish you all a happy budding spring, looking forward to warmer days to able to get out in the garden, with sun on your face.

Valerie

February – March CFUW Calendar

Feb 22, 7.00 pm Nanaimo Club Meeting, Brianna Bishop Sustainable Business Development Coordinator: Vancouver Economic Development.
Contact cfuwnanaimo@gmail.com for a zoom invitation

March 8, 7.00pm IWD Event by Zoom for CFUW members

March 15, 10.00am PQ Exec Meeting, Zoom Budget discussion.

March 18, 1.00pm Talking Circle contact Robin Robinson

March 23, 10.00am Resolutions discussion meeting, contact Sheila Reed.

(Contributed by Valerie Gunn.)

Program March 8 - by Zoom 7-9

This year's IWD will be different than usual as the pandemic rages on. But luckily we have the technology (thanks Victoria!) to host the event virtually.

Our speaker this year is Dorothy Woodend, the culture editor at The Tyee. Dorothy, who holds degrees in English and Film Animation, has worked in a range of cultural disciplines and became The Tyee's film critic in 2004. (See <https://thetyee.ca> to read this online newspaper, which focusses on BC.)



These days she continues to write about film and other cultural trends, offering personal insights on everything from modern parenting and online art, to the recent Capitol Insurrection.

Dorothy settled on "Female Trouble: Movies and #Me Too" and more generally, she will discuss the evolution of women's roles in films and the film industry. (Contributed by Sonya Felix.)

RESOLUTIONS

The full text of the resolutions for this year has arrived.

Link to club action newsletter

<https://mailchi.mp/rogers/club-action-newsletter-february-26-963700?e=6861a52175>

Here is a short explanation of resolutions, care of Sheila Boutcher of our sister Nanaimo club.

CFUW, and its member clubs, cannot take a public position, and/or advocate for a specific cause, unless the subject under discussion is part of an approved CFUW policy. This is where resolutions come in. If all clubs approve of a proposed resolution, it is voted on at the following AGM and then becomes part of CFUW policy. Members can access all current CFUW policies through the CFUW national website. The Policy Book can be found under Member Tools and Resources, and then Advocacy and Resolutions.

CFUW makes representations to many national bodies, based on its approved policies, and is well known and respected by many of them. Our voice is heard and can make a difference.

Sheila Reed and Catherine Khan are going to have a session on the resolutions by Zoom March 23rd at 10.00 am which will then be presented to the members at the general meeting April 12.

If you wish to be part of these please contact Sheila and Catherine so we can send you an invitation. Valerie Gunn

Click the links below to access the 2021 Proposed Resolutions package:

[PDF file](#)

[Word Document](#)

Deadline for receipt of amendments is April 15.

Resolution 1. Single use Plastics and Plastic Packaging

Resolution 2. "Right to Repair" for Large Household Appliances

Resolution 3. Canada's Opioid Crisis

Resolution 4. Post-Pandemic Recovery for Women in Canada

The resolutions are current, interesting and very well presented. Please join Val (zoom lady), Catherine K, Bonnie and myself on March 23 to review and discuss. Thanks, Sheila Reed

Global Outreach

Update on how COVID is affecting CHES girls' education in Katesh, TZ. "Our student, Maria Ng'obeshta, came back to school in Form 2. "

Article reprinted with permission, from the [CHES Winter 2021 Newsletter](#). Our thanks to Chris Harker, CHES board, author.

Why did we lose girls during the COVID year of 2020 in Tanzania?

Sadly, about 9% (26) of the Tanzanian girls in Forms I to IV who were sent home to sit out Covid-19 failed to return when their schools reopened in July. Happily, all our Form V and VI girls who were sent home returned to classes in June, suggesting that the more education a girl receives, the more able she is to take charge of her own life.

There were a number of reasons for the 26 no-shows including "we have no idea." Several of them, still in their mid-teens, got married. This might sound unsettling in the Canadian context but to some Tanzanians, it has a certain logic.

CHES draws from the Hanang District of Tanzania, populated largely by Iraqi (farming) and Barabaig (migratory herding) families. It is a subsistence existence for the vast majority. Times are changing rapidly, and cellphone communication, public motorized transport and intertribal marriages are now common. However, some traditions linger.

Tanzania has no old-age security and unless one has worked for the government, the concept of a pension is unknown. As few people in Hanang have paying jobs, couples realize they have to plan for their senior years when they will no longer be able to toil in the fields and harvest an annual crop.

The answer for eons has been to have many children (6-10 is common) and hope that most are girls. Once these girls reach puberty, they can command "bride price." Depending on the status of the family, the beauty of the girl and the temper of the times, this means that the family of the young man is expected to provide a dowry in cows (or cash equivalent) for the daughter. If a middle-aged couple receives 12 to 20 cows for their daughter, it can add appreciably to their breeding stock. Marrying off five daughters can provide one with a substantial herd that breed and grow over time. In a society where wealth is judged by the size of your herd rather than the suburb of your house, or the model of your car, security is thereby assured.

Nowadays such traditions are impractical as the population density is considerable higher, the maize and bean farms are fenced, and the dry climate simply cannot produce the pasturage needed to sustain larger and larger herds. But as we all know, sometimes traditions take time to dissipate.

Our CHES girls are helping to alter such thinking. Many graduates have acquired jobs and husbands. Their families are smaller, with two or three children as the norm. And significant portions of their salaries are devoted to improving and supporting their parents and siblings. One grad I know well made sure she educated her brothers and sisters and built a new home for her parents before she got around to building her own house. Her home has several extra rooms she can rent out, thus ensuring her own security in the future.

In the meantime, consider the reaction some parents had when their daughters were sent home in March. "COVID" was an ominous word about which little was known in the developed world and far less in rural Tanzania. In the minds of some families, there may have been little likelihood of their bright daughter ever returning to school. "If Magretha is not going to get a job and help us in the future, we better revert to Plan B and get some cows in the corral" might have been the thinking. Unfortunate but not illogical. Unhappily, now that cows have changed hands, a changing of minds is not an option.

(Contributed by Wendy Reimer, Co-Chair, Global Outreach Committee.)

Talking Circle News.

“Discussing Indigenous Issues”

Last month I mentioned “In Plain Sight,” the report by Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond which reported on Indigenous-specific systemic racism in BC healthcare.

The purpose of the report is summed up by Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President, Union of BC Indian Chief:

“Racism against Indigenous peoples is a malignant disease that has been in the health care system in British Columbia since inception. Every person who works in the health care system, in fact every British Columbian, must acknowledge this reality and work together to ensure health care for Indigenous people is equitable and culturally safe and focuses on the needs of the individual, not the attitudes of the system.”

The report is a beautiful document in itself with art throughout.



The works presented throughout this report are focused on drawing from traditional Coast Salish art to express themes and concepts through an Indigenous lens. Throughout Coast Salish stories and art, Snuw'uyulh (teachings) can be found regarding profound philosophical statements upon the nature of being and morality.

There are 24 recommendations in the report. These include recommendations: to establish an Office of Indigenous Health Representative & Advocate, to call for mandatory education of BC health professionals around cultural safety, to create a culture in BC health of a 'speak up for disclosure of racism', to ask that all BC health professionals have education in cultural awareness and trauma informed practices.

Members of the talking circle are discussing, inviting speakers to inform us further on the issues.

The full report can be seen at:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/613/2020/11/In-Plain-Sight-Full-Report.pdf>

Or a summary report

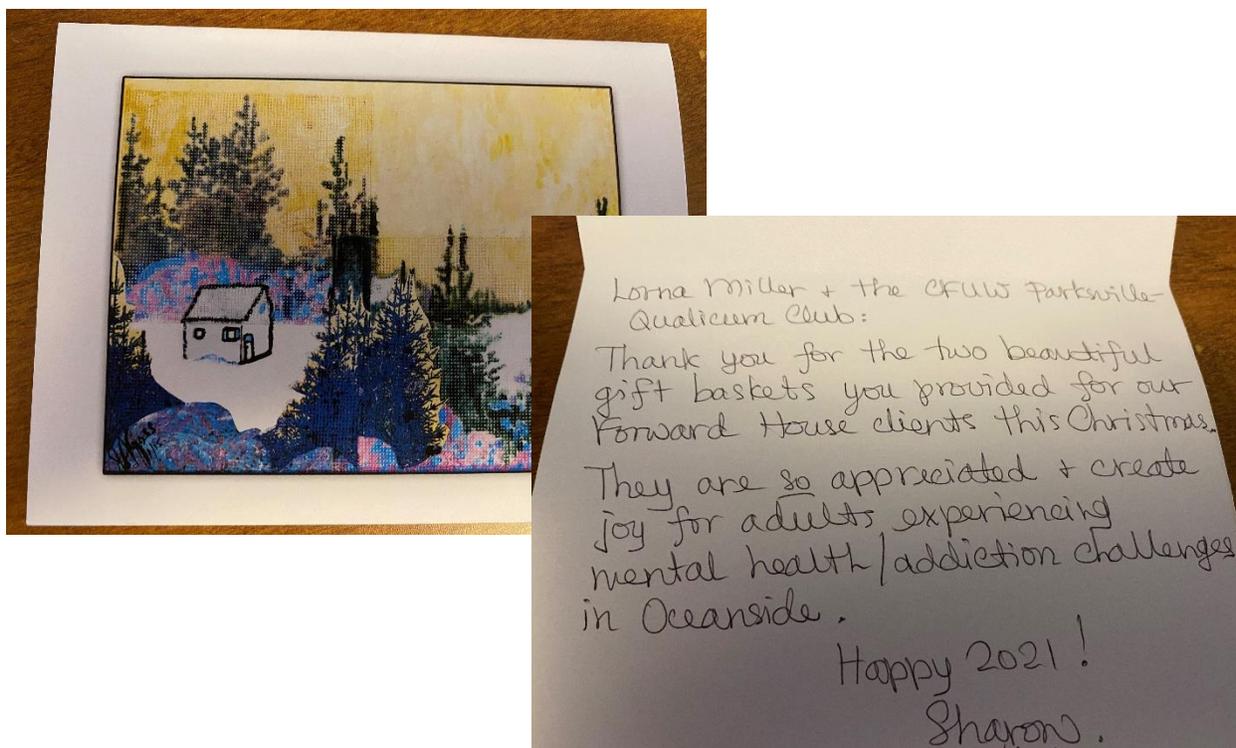
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/613/2020/11/In-Plain-Sight-Summary-Report.pdf>

The next Talking Circle meeting is March 18 1.00pm

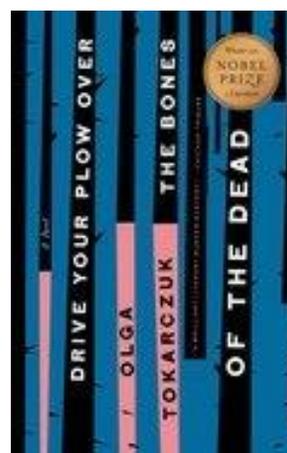
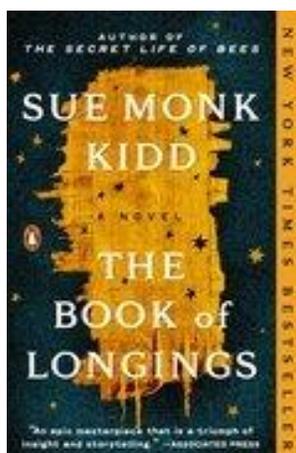
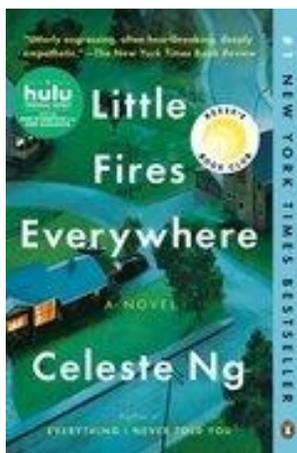
Submitted by V Gunn

Note of Appreciation

A note of appreciation was received from Forward House, Parksville. Lorna Miller had composed and presented two gift baskets at Christmastime and they were warmly received. Thank you to Bonnie Stableford, who passed this along so everyone can see it.



Books of Interest



Books being read by some of our members are: *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng, *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd, and *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk. Almost all readers appreciate knowing what someone else is reading, so we welcome other suggestions from members. Remain anonymous if you wish! Please email the editor, Barbara Bond. Thank you!

(The suggestions above were contributed by Edie Ross, Vicky Burton, and Barbara Bond. The images are courtesy of Mulberry Bush Bookstores.)

Book Bin Pickup Schedule (Revised 19 Oct. 2020)

The book bin beside the Save-on-Food store continues to receive books. The coordinators (Sheila Reed and Sharon Sawkins) have taken the membership list and have slotted CFUW members into week-long spots. If someone is unable to do the job, please contact one of the coordinators who will arrange for a replacement. If the week is not suitable for you, please phone a friend on the list to exchange dates. Cull the books at home whenever possible and take them to the storage bin. If you would like to arrange to meet one of the coordinators there please call and we would be happy to help you. Please send an email on your last day to the next person on the list as a reminder for them. Happy picking!

Feb. 22-28: Sheri Plummer
 Mar. 1-7: Betty Price
 Mar. 8-14: Wendy Reimer
 Mar. 15-21: Robin Robinson
 Mar. 22-28: Jacqueline Russell
 Mar. 29-Apr. 4: Dolores Saulter
 Apr. 5-11: Vivian Sears
 Apr. 12-18: Val Gunn
 Apr. 19-25: Bonnie Stapleford
 Apr. 26-May 2: Sherrol Tait
 May 3-9: Claire Tallman

Quotes

As they approach the moored boat, the sun inserts a finger of light between the clouds and it is all at once a lovely day, at that moment, on that towpath. At almost the same instant, when the two women are close enough to each other for a nod and a smile of greeting, if either or both of them thought that was appropriate – they are complete strangers, so it seems unlikely – at that precise moment, the narrowboat begins to howl. It howls as if it were a mezzo-soprano in mid-aria spotting her husband committing adultery in the stalls while being impaled from behind by a careless spear carrier. Both women stop walking.

From *Three Women and a Boat*, by Anne Youngson

A man from a boat moored in the direction Noah was looking had come out half-dressed and was widdling on the weeds by the hedge. It would be the only good thing about being born a man, Eve thought. Otherwise, she felt sorry for those who had been born male. She had realized, when she started work, the burden of having expectations to live up to a position within a masculine society to maintain, that the men carried and she didn't. Expectations of her were so low as to be easy to exceed.

And, now when the idea of diversity, the constant challenges to the notion that being a man required and even mandated certain patterns of behaviour, they were, instead of being liberated, cast into darkness where the rules were not yet clear enough for them to be sure they had read and interpreted them correctly.

From *Three Women and a Boat*, by Anne Youngson

she's almost got there with Mum, although it was a hard slog, especially when she was fourteen or fifteen and Mum was prone to hysteria when she didn't get her own way

now she knows better than to try to control or contradict her daughter

all Yazz needs to say these days is, don't sass me, Mumsy! and she shuts up

Dad's on that learning curve too

he'll thank her in the end

From *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernardine Evaristo

how *very* inconsiderate, not to her

to choose to throw yourself in front of a mechanical iron beast weighing thousands of pounds and racing at a top speed of one hundred and forty miles per hour?

to choose such a brutal and dramatic finale

Carole knows what drives people to such despair, know what it's like to appear normal but to feel herself swaying

just one leap away

from

the massed crowds on the platforms who carry enough hope in their hearts to stay alive

swaying

just one leap away from

eternal

peace

From *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernardine Evaristo

Carole stops a while and looks out of the glass wall on to the undulating wave of the Millennium Bridge

elegantly slim-line and initially so unstable it closed for two years shortly after opening because no one suspected that so many people crossing it at the same time would begin to walk in lockstep

and the effect, like armies of marching soldiers stamping the ground in sync, created vibrations that caused the bridge to sway

it's how she sees herself, walking in silent lockstep with the people who are going places

From *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernardine Evaristo

Spotted at Mulberry Bush Bookstore (Parksville):

