



Canadian Federation of University Women – Parksville / Qualicum



Our Theme this year:

Strong Women – Making a Difference

November 2023

Leadership Circle Members:

President Mary Ellen Campbell president@cfuwpq.ca

Vice President Christine Pagan vp@cfuwpq.ca

Treasurer Bonnie Stableford treasurer@cfuwpq.ca

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

Meeting: November 6, Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, gather at 6:30, begin 7PM

Program: Affordable Housing: Answer to the Housing Crisis

Speaker: Andrea Blackman

What To Look For:

President's Report

Program Information

Global Outreach

Advocacy

Resolutions

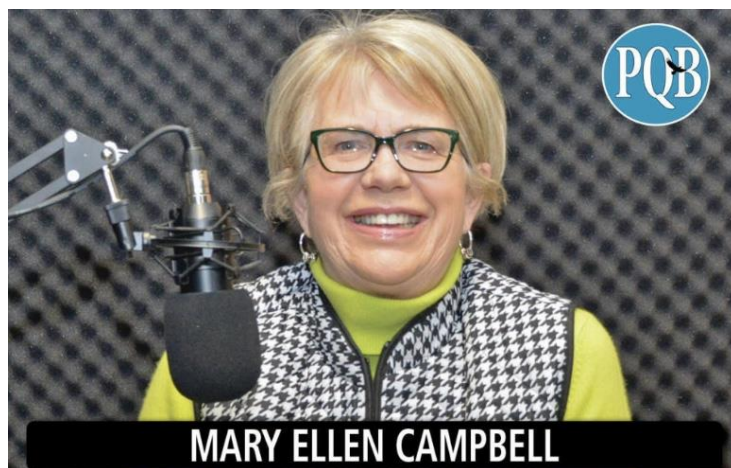
Social Media Committee

Ideas to Consider

Book Club Information

Book Review

President's Report



Oh my! What an exciting CFUW PQ year! Our membership continues to grow – welcome to 63 new and returning members. Our book sale committee pushed the limits and the sale lasted longer than any other sale and yes, raised more money than any other sale. Our programmes continue to be packed full of info whether it be ghoulish Scottish tales, birds and butterflies and this month one of the most discussed topics: affordable housing. Our new approach to the programme with mingling at 6:30pm is a hit! Everyone is so happy. Speed dating must feel like this ☺ The new CFUW logo is making its way onto our posters, website and other modes of publicity. Our club continues to offer friendship, scintillating conversation and the opportunity to make a difference in our local community and the wider world.

(Contributed by Mary Ellen Campbell)

Program Information

Affordable housing the topic for November meeting

On November 6, speaker Andrea Blakeman will discuss the critical need for affordable housing in our community. Andrea has both domestic and international experience working with organizations, developers, funders and cities to provide housing for communities in need. While at Vancouver Island University, she managed the development of VIU's off-campus housing. Much of what currently exists today for students was initiated during her tenure at VIU. In 2015, she joined The Ballenas Housing Society as a board member. From that initial role and, excited about the work of the society, she moved into the role of Chief Executive Officer in 2019. Ballenas now operates over 850 homes including two in Parksville. Andrea's passion for community building, her ability to build strong stakeholder partnerships and a commitment to developing high quality properties have contributed to the success and recognition of Ballenas as one of the most respected providers of affordable housing in British Columbia.

(Submitted by Leigh Dybenko and Sonya Felix.)



cfuw PARKSVILLE
QUALICUM

SPEAKER SERIES 2023-24: Socially Responsible Women

Affordable Housing: Answer to The Housing Crisis

SPEAKER:

Andrea Blakeman

Andrea is now the CEO of Ballenas Housing Society (used to be Affordable Housing) and responsible for all the new developments from Cedar through QB including the new large complex in Parksville. She will be speaking on the housing crisis for low income families.



**Monday
November 06
2023**

**Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
6:30 pm: meet and mingle
Meeting starts at 7:00 pm
all welcome**

Realizing potential. For all women.

www.cfuwppq.ca

Speaker Series September 2023 - May 2024

Theme: Socially Responsible Women

November 6, Andrea Blakeman, Affordable Housing, Answers for The Housing Crisis. QBCC

January 8, Nancy Randall, Linda Fullalove, Climate Actions for All. Parksville CC

February 12, Silva Mangué, Vancouver Island Black History. Zoom

March 8, International Women's Day TBD

April 8, Resolutions and Budget. Parksville CC

May 13, Deep Bay Marine Centre, Protection of Our Coast. Parksville CC

Fun + Friendship + Food = CFUW Parksville Qualicum Christmas Party

11:30am mingle 12pm lunch served
Sunday, December 3rd
Bayside Oceanfront Resort
240 Dogwood Street
Parksville, BC

salad, pasta buffet, garlic toast, dessert,
tea/coffee, taxes + gratuities = \$60

cheques payable to CFUW Parksville
Qualicum and may be collected at our
November 6th meeting
etransfer: treasurer@cfuwpq.ca



Everyone invited -

RSVP and payment required prior to midnight, Saturday, November 25th

Dress code: festively informal 😊

(Contributed by Mary Ellen Campbell)

Global Outreach

CHES has sent sincere apologies for an address error in the recent letter they sent to us. If you are intending to write to 'our' student in Tanzania, please note the correct address below to use when writing to her.

Name of your student (Magdalena James)

CHES HOUSE, Hanang

P.O. Box 69

Katesh, Hanang

Manyara, Tanzania

The CHES office in Katesh will ensure that your letter gets to your girl in a timely manner and that she will also answer questions that you may have asked her.

Please no longer send letters through her school address.

This has come from Joy Ruffeski, Executive Director, CHES

Submitted by Catherine Khan and Wendy Reimer, Co-Chairs, Global Outreach

PS Thanks, in advance, for taking the time to write to Magdalena. The girls love hearing from their sponsors and you are a great motivating factor!

Advocacy

Since our earliest years, CFUW has had a voice at the highest level in the country, and is regarded both at the federal and provincial levels as an effective and non-partisan organization.

CFUW PQ Advocacy

CFUW PQ is proud to be active as an advocate for causes we collectively support, and we are working to ensure that all members can participate in advocacy in a way that is comfortable for them, whether it is individually, in small groups, or part of a larger team.

Please bring your ideas for club-level advocacy to our VP (Christine Pagan) who will be happy to work with you to bring a proposal to the club for support.

Private Member Initiatives

We welcome hearing what members are doing individually to advance and support causes close to their hearts. Please feel free to share what you are doing at general meetings during our 'announcements' time. Let Christine know ahead of time, and come and share - you will have **1 minute of floor time**, so be prepared!

(Contributed by Christine Pagan.)

Resolutions

The BC Council and National Resolutions process is gearing up - Resolutions are currently being researched, proposed and drafted by our sister clubs and the parent organizations. In February-March 2023, we will receive the draft proposed Resolutions for club-level study/review/feedback.

More information will be shared in the new year on the timeline, and how CFUW PQ members can participate meaningfully in this process...and maybe in future years we can work on some Resolutions of our own to propose! The snippet (***) below captures why Resolutions are such a key component of our advocacy process, and why our grassroots involvement is important.

**** CFUW uses adopted resolutions to develop policies for advocacy undertaken by the membership and by National Office and to provide information about CFUW and its policies to elected members of federal, territorial, provincial, and municipal governments, United Nation entities and other organizations. Policy serves as a foundation for briefs to Ministers of the Crown, House, and Senate, to Royal Commissions and other hearings and in deciding whether to support statements or actions of other organizations.*

(Contributed by Christine Pagan.)

Social Media

Please -please-please send Christine any updates for calendar or upcoming club or local activities of interest to club members so that we can keep the website up to date.

If you are involved with an activity that you think other members might like to join you and participate in, let us know so that we can share it here too.

.... any computer-nerds (like Christine) out there?

Please -please-please-please get in touch with Christine if you have any of these skills and would be willing to share - graphics, media prep, editing, FB, instagram, etc.

As we move ahead with updating the website, we'd like to create a 'media team' who will together create and manage all public-facing materials. Having one group to collectively manage these activities will make us more efficient and effective. And it's fun - honest!

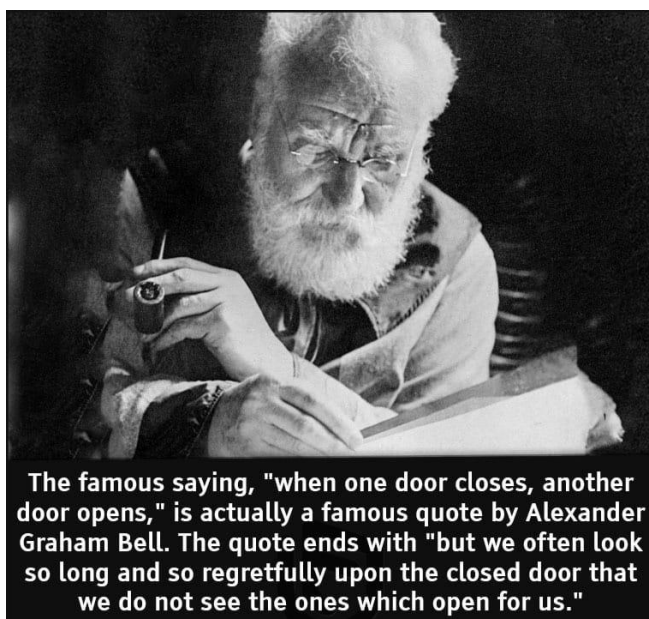
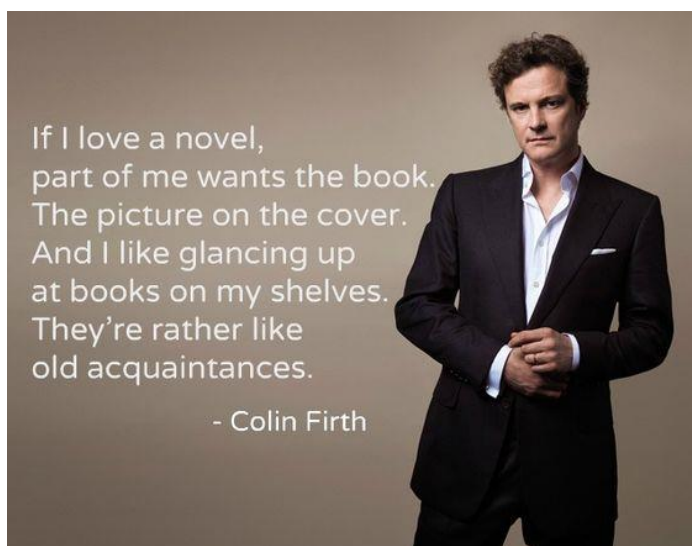
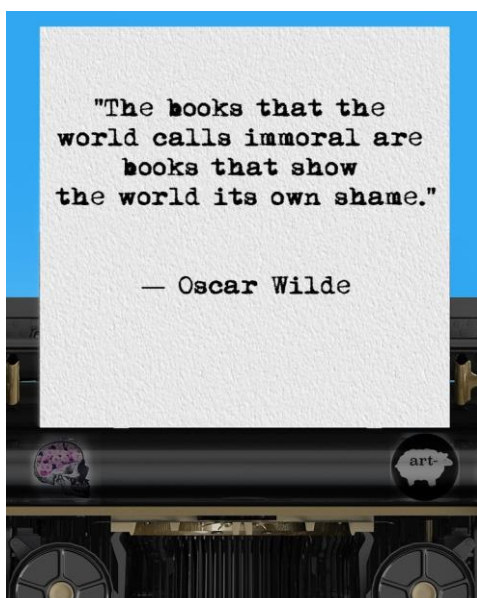
(Contributed by Christine Pagan.)

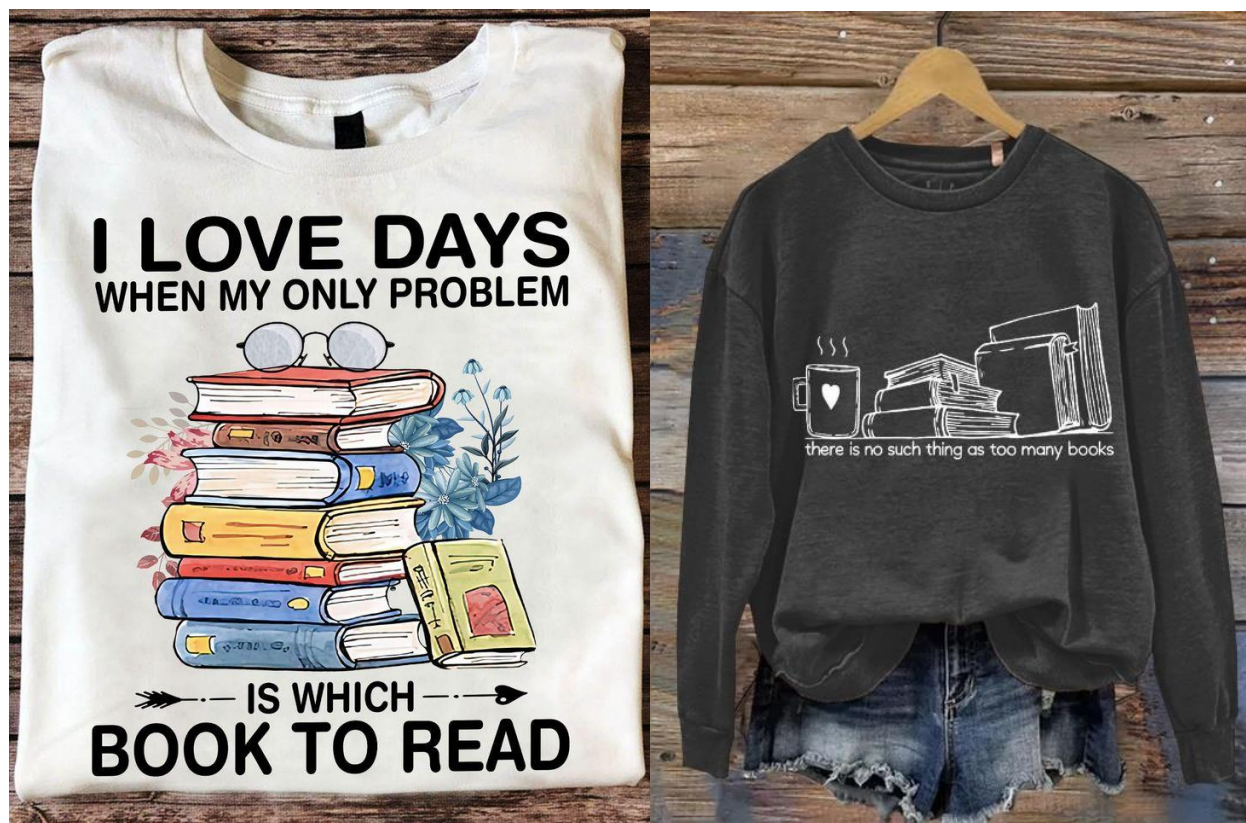
Ideas to Consider

Inspiration does not come like a bolt, nor is it kinetic, energetic striving, but it comes into us slowly and quietly and all the time, though we must regularly and every day give it a little chance to start flowing, prime it with a little solitude and idleness. -Brenda Ueland, journalist, editor, and writer (24 Oct 1891-1985)

A new book and an interesting interview with John Valiant.

> https://youtu.be/P8nQlod_foQ?si=e147cjA0b9NTzwNs





Book Clubs

Shrinking Violets Book Club Picks

No report this month.

Quality Foods Parksville Book Lovers

SEPTEMBER 14 *Ragged Company* by Richard Wagamese

OCTOBER 12 *Permanent Astonishment* by Tomson Highway

NOVEMBER 9 *Freshwater for Flowers* by Valerie Perrin

DECEMBER 14 *Educated* by Tara Westover

JANUARY 11 *Women Talking* by Miriam Toews

FEBRUARY 8 *The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World* by Laura Imai Messina

MARCH 14 *This Changes Everything* by Naomi Klein

APRIL 11 *The Family Chao* by Lan Samantha Chang

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

MAY 9 *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See

Book Review of the Month

I hope that others of you who are reading interesting things will also be inspired to tell us about it! In the meantime, I hope this one interests you. Please mail the editor, Barbara Bond at babond@telus.net with contributions or comments.

Learned by Heart (2023) by Emma Donaghue

I put a hold on this book through the library system when I heard of its existence, because I have admired most of what Emma Donaghue has written. The book was extensively and thoroughly researched and is closely based on a real-life relationship between two girls who met at a boarding school in 1805. The relationship may have been documented in a secret journal written by one of the girls but Donaghue probably imagines some of the details of the events of 1805 and 1806, when they were at school together and creates the letters one writes to the other ten years later.

Donaghue's focus is based around the likely experiences and reactions of Eliza Raine, a real person (but not the one who kept the journal). She was the younger of two daughters of a doctor who worked for the British East India Company in Madras and who took what was then known as a 'country wife', an Indian woman (who is unknown). He acknowledged his daughters, had them baptized, provided for them in his will, and arranged a guardianship for them when they were sent to England to be educated at the time when the youngest, Eliza, was six. He later died. When Eliza was fourteen, at the Manor School for young ladies in York, she met Anne Lister, who wrote the journal that provides the historical inspiration.

As a biracial girl, albeit an heiress, Eliza had an uncertain place in society. She knew she was known as "*a young lady of colour*." She thinks: "Bias rarely declares itself, after all; you have to peer through a wall, strain to hear the faint note, scent the trace lingering on the air." The story depicts her as a quiet, even meek child, for whom the bold personality of Anne Lister (known as Lister) appealed. Lister shocks Raine with her daring exploits and emboldens her: "Lister unsettles and thrills her as if something's about to topple from a shelf, as if a thunderstorm is on the way." The two become boon companions, then lovers, and had a passionate relationship into 1806 when Lister broke her leg and was sent home to recuperate. She also, to Raine's misfortune, was a chronically unfaithful lover. The book is divided into alternating parts, one taking place in 1805-06 and one in a series of letters addressed to Lister that bemoan the situation. At the later time, in 1815, Raine was an inmate in an asylum, secured there (it seems) because of her occasional angry and frenzied outbursts. She remained there for her lifetime.

Ruefully, Raine says, "I was studying the wrong books all along; I never quite learned the rules no matter how hard I studied them." She recognizes how the relationship with Lister changed her: "As scenes of youth are impressed on the senses forever, so the shock of first love leaves a hot thumbprint that nothing can match." Reading about the love affair may have a similar effect. It is portrayed with so much feeling that the reader understands how earth-shattering and compelling it was. For Eliza, Lister brought her to life. The story is passionate and heartbreaking. It is also slightly tedious when we suffer lessons, meals, and outings with the students. The everyday life of a schoolgirl of the time is simply less absorbing a topic than the

attic bedroom trysts, but the contrast is likely part of the appeal for the girls. As a review in the Guardian says, “Sex on the page can be excruciating but Donoghue’s prose is beautiful and beautifully controlled. Simply and without a shred of sentimentality, she evokes a relationship that is convincing and exquisitely touching.” It is an ultimately tragic story, despite its interest for historians and the pleasures of Donaghue’s prose, as if Juliet were confined in an asylum and Romeo had a succession of affairs after the intensity and purity of their young love. It is beautifully written, but terribly sad.