



Our Theme this year:

Strong Women - Making a Difference

February 2024

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: by Zoom

Program: Vancouver Island Black History

Speaker: Silvia Mangué

What To Look For:

President's Message and a Reason to Celebrate

Program Information X2 – January *and* February

Coldest Night of the Year

Resolutions and CFUW National AGM

Red Dress Display by Talking Circle on Indigenous Affairs

Global Outreach

IWD Plans

Theatre Opportunity

Publication of Interest

SBT Celebration

Book Sale Pickup Schedule, Diversions

President's Message



Hello 2024!

I'm happy to be back here in the newsletter. I want to express my gratitude to everyone for stepping in during my absence and assuming additional responsibilities over the last three months. We truly are a club of caring, compassionate women.

A busy new year awaits us. There are many opportunities for all members to get involved over the next five months. Please consider helping in any way – big or small – every action lightens the load and it's always more fun to work with others – trust me, I'm tired of talking to myself!

One of the best aspects of being President is meeting the members and learning about their activities outside of the club. As members, we know that when one of us shines, the club shines! Please continue to share with me your joy.and yes, it will show up in the newsletter 😊

Happy reading!

(Contributed by Mary Ellen Campbell.) 😊

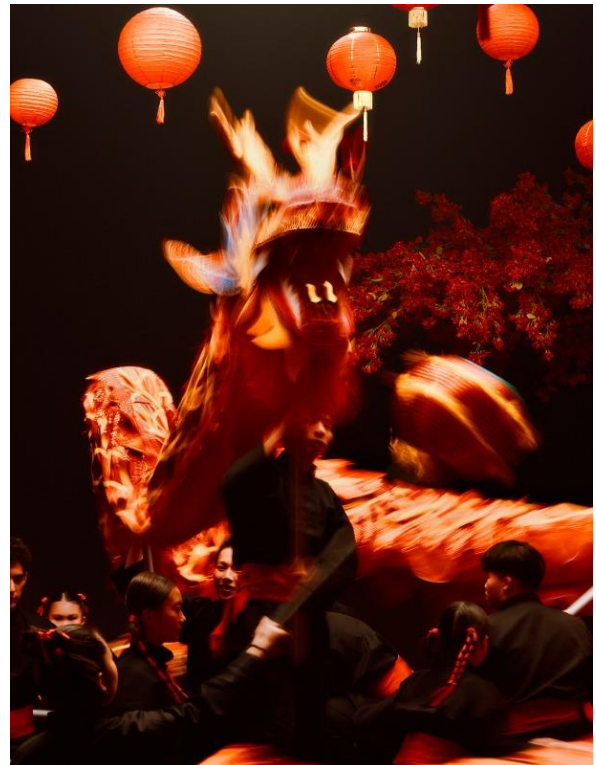
Reason to Celebrate - Happy Year of the Dragon

2024 is the Year of the Wood Dragon, beginning on February 10th, 2024 (Chinese New Year) and concluding on January 28th, 2025 (Chinese New Year's Eve). The Dragon is also associated with the years 2012, 2000, 1988, 1976, 1964, 1952 and 1940. People born in Dragon years usually possess natural courage, tenacity, and intelligence, often displaying enthusiasm and confidence (sounds like almost all the membership of CFUW Parksville Qualicum.)

The Dragon holds a significant place as an auspicious and extraordinary creature, unparalleled in talent and excellence. It symbolizes power, nobility, honor, luck, and success. **Consequently, 2024 is forecasted to bring about opportunities, changes, and challenges.** If you're seeking a shift in your current lives, this year might offer a favorable chance.

To celebrate the beginning of this auspicious year, I suggest those who are interested to help choose a venue and we will all have dinner at 5pm, Saturday, February 10th. Car pooling available.

Contact Mary Ellen Campbell.



(Contributed by Mary Ellen Campbell.)

Program Information

We are Zooming in February,

Program presentation for the General Meeting on February 12 2024, will be by Zoom.

The presenter is Silvia Mangué who is the president of the BC Black History Awareness Society, an organization that educates disseminates and supports Black British Columbians achievements' past present and future. The society brings together diverse groups of people who have an interest in promoting education and learning about British Columbia and Canada black history.

Sylvia is also the co-founder of Kulea Culture society whose purpose is to raise awareness about and reduce discrimination and stereo typing by engaging respect for equity, diversity and inclusion through education, information, consultation, programs, conferences and cross-cultural exchanges.



Sylvia holds a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration with a major in human resources from Camosun college and a post graduate diploma in Intercultural Education from University Victoria and a certificate in diversity equity and inclusion from Cornell University.

Sylvia comes from Equatorial Guinea (West Central Africa) and raised in Spain from age 8., and now lives in Victoria and works for the City of Victoria in the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion office.

(Contributed by Val Gunn.)

Theme: Socially Responsible Women

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

March 8, International Women's Day – see below

April 8, Resolutions and Budget. Parksville CC

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

Climate Action Presentation January 8, 2024.

Nancy was unable to join us on Monday Jan 8 however Linda Fullalove gave her presentation on the clothing industry, explaining how discarded clothing these days turns into rivers of rags in the high plateaus of Chile, and the environmental damage it causes. This discarded clothing trade has ruined local garment manufacturing trade in Chile and the silk industry in Thailand.

Executive Summary: Top Three Climate Actions

1. Ensure Ongoing Water Supply Resiliency supported by Natural Asset Management
2. Review and update existing RDN policies and bylaws to remove barriers to climate mitigation and adaptation and ensure RDN policies support climate-appropriate development.
3. Increase support for home energy adaptation retrofits.

Nancy gave a handout of the resources of the presentation. See below for list of books.

Nancy wanted to make sure CFUW members were aware of a climate action workshop.

Regional District of Nanaimo: Climate Action Outreach

Free In-Person Workshop January 26th, 2024, from 3pm to 5pm Qualicum Civic Centre

GHG Emission Reduction: Learn from industry experts how to locate and fix draft issues, how to weather strip your door or window, air-sealing techniques, and explore interactive displays to get hands-on expertise.

Seats limited. Must pre-register. Contact Taylor Nielsen, RDN Climate Action Outreach Coordinator at 250-390-5422 or sustainability@rdn.bc.ca

CFUW Climate Action Presentation Resources

1. Varner, Collin. *Edible and Medicinal Flora of the West Coast*. Vancouver, BC: Heritage House Publishing Company Ltd. 2020.
2. Tallamy, Douglas W. *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in your Yard*. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press Inc. 2019.
3. Hawken, Paul. *Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation*. Penguin Random House. 2021.
4. May, Elizabeth & John Kidder. *Climate Change....*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, Inc. 2022.
5. Jason, Dan & Hilary Malone & Alison Malone Eathorne. *The Power of Pulses: Saving the World with Peas, Beans, Chickpeas, Favas & Lentils*. Madeira Park: Douglas & McIntyre. (2013) Ltd. 2016.
6. Stark, Eileen M. *Real Gardens Grow Natives*. Skipstone. 2014.

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Regional District of Nanaimo: <https://www.rdn.bc.ca/approach-to-climate-change>

Climate Action: Final Report of Technical Advisory Committee

Executive Summary: Top Three Climate Actions

4. Ensure Ongoing Water Supply Resiliency supported by Natural Asset Management
5. Review and update existing RDN policies and bylaws to remove barriers to climate mitigation and adaptation and ensure RDN policies support climate-appropriate development.
6. Increase support for home energy adaptation retrofits.

Pollinator Gardens



Herbs &

Seeds

Chives
Lavender
Mint
Rosemary
Thyme
Bee Balm
Basil
Catnip
Borage
Calendula
Sunflowers
Marjoram
Oregano

Fruit Trees &

Plants

Apple
Blackberries
Blueberries
Cherry
Currants
Elderberries
Hazel Nut
Huckleberries
Pear
Plum
Quince
Raspberries
Strawberries

Vegetables

Eggplant
Peppers
Pumpkins
Squash
Tomatoes
Watermelon

Let Flower:

Broccoli
Carrots
Kale
Onions
Parsnip

Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) sponsored walk: February 24

It's cold out there. On February 24, we want to do something about it. Together with thousands of Canadians across the country, we hope you will walk with us and fundraise to support Island Crisis Care Society (ICCS) who serve people and families experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness in our community

<https://cnoy.org/location/oceanside>



What: this walk is open to everyone in our Oceanside community - and we'd like to get a CFUW PQ team (made up of members, their families, and friends) to participate in a 2 kilometre walk in downtown Qualicum. Team members request sponsorship (from family and friends), with the money raised going to ICCS. Individuals sponsoring the team members receive a charitable tax receipt for donations over \$20.00. Anyone who raises more than \$150.00 gets a highly coveted, very snazzy official cnoy touque (see above)

When: Saturday February 24, meet up and sign-in at 4:00pm, start walking the route at 5:00pm, hot drinks and hugs when we are done. Lots of laughs as we walk.

How: If the club membership approves the proposal, Christine will set up the team site in the next day or so on the official cnoy Oceanside site, and let everyone know what is required. Then members and their family and friends can go online and sign up to register; and start limbering up for the walk!

More information to follow.

(Contributed by Christine Pagan.)

Resolutions

The BC Council and CFUW National Resolutions processes are on slightly different timelines. Our club study, review and amendment process will be the same in both cases, but our approval and voting procedure will be adjusted accordingly.

Review and Study period: Once Resolutions have been received, I will load them to the website, and send an email (via the club President) with the link, and to canvas volunteers to declare an interest in participating in the study/review/amend process.

- Depending on member interest we will meet in small groups to examine individual draft Resolutions, or as one larger group
- Meeting locations tbd.

Amendment and Voting process:

- email vote to be used for BC Council Resolutions
- dedicated club meeting on April 08 to discuss and vote on our suggested amendments for CFUW National Resolutions.

BC Council timeline - we will receive the draft BC Council Resolutions (2 or 3 are expected) on February 15, and have until March 15 to get them back to BC Council.

- One of the Resolutions (from CFUW North Vancouver) is focussed on the Housing Crisis. CFUW West Van will be hosting a webinar on February 28, at 4:00pm, with a presentation by renowned urban planner Michael Geller (<https://pibc.bc.ca/michael-geller-rpp-fcip>)
 - I will sent the zoom webinar details to everyone as soon as they are available.

CFUW National timeline - we will receive the draft National Resolutions (6 or so are expected) on March 12, and have until April 24 to get them back.

(Contributed by Christine Pagan.)

CFUW National AGM 2024



The AGM and Conference will take place at the Sandman Signature Edmonton Downtown Hotel from Monday, July 22nd - Wednesday, July 24th, 2024.

The events will begin with an opening ceremony dinner on Monday night, followed by the AGM and Policy Session on Tuesday and a full day Conference on Wednesday.

The hotel has provided us with a discounted booking code. Please use the link and code below to book your rooms. You will note that the group rates have been extended 3 days prior and 3 days post our event dates for those who choose to extend their stay in Edmonton.

Group Link: <https://reservations.sandmanhotels.com/113066?groupID=4153384>
Web Access Code: 2407CFUW20

The theme for the 2024 Conference is “Realizing potential. For all women.” to incorporate our new branding and CFUW’s vision.

The new website will soon house the CFUW AGM and Conference landing page. This is where you will find all up to date information about the event and where you can register. We will inform everyone in the coming weeks of the page once it is ready and active.

Clubs have been wondering about registration fees, so we wanted to ensure you had the information as soon as possible. Fees for this year are below.

Registration Fees:

Registration fees include:

- Monday Dinner
 - Tuesday Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and
 - Wednesday Breakfast and Lunch.
- Coffee/Tea breaks will also be provided throughout Tuesday and Wednesday.

Register by **April 30, 2024** for Early Bird Pricing: \$495.00/person.

Registration after **April 30, 2024**: \$525.00/person.

(Contributed by Mary Ellen Campbell.)

Red Dress Memorial 2023 (November 25 to December 10)

As part of the club’s activities to mark the UN 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, The CFUWPQ Talking Circle on Indigenous Affairs oversaw the hanging of Red Dresses at the Qualicum Beach Town Hall and Parksville City Hall (see below). This beautiful and moving memorial was in place from November 25 to December 10.

The empty Red Dresses represent Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People. The empty dresses are intended to bring awareness to the issue of Canada's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People and to support the survivors and families. They were hung during the UN 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which also encompasses and honours the day over 30 years ago, on which 14 young women who were murdered at the Ecole Polytechnique Montreal for no other reason than their gender.

Although May 5 is the official Canadian Red Dress Day, in 2012 the Club decided to tie the hanging of the Red Dresses in with the UN 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, as a reminder that gender-based violence impacts all women.

In the past, there was a candle ceremony and blessing at the City and Town Halls led by Rev. Twiddy of St. Edmond's Church, attended by Council Members and representatives from local First Nations. As Rev. Twiddy is now retired, there were no ceremonies this year; but a beautiful and informative poster was created by members of the Talking Circle on Indigenous Affairs and hung with the dresses (see below).

The Club encouraged members to take the time to visit either the Parksville City Hall and/or the Qualicum Beach Town Hall during the 16 Days to view the empty dresses. It was quietly dramatic and sobering to see them hanging; being where the Red Dresses are hung helps one to pause and reflect. We hope you were able to visit the dresses and spend some time in quiet contemplation.

We will continue with this tradition, and also encourage members to hang a dress outside the door of their homes during this time .



Red Dress Memorial

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Here they are hung in conjunction with the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. 14 young women were murdered at the Ecole Polytechnique Montreal over 30 years ago.

We encourage you to take time to pause and view the empty dresses. Being where they are hung helps one to pause and reflect.



**Nov 25
to Dec 10
2023**

(Contributed by Christine Pagan.)

Global Outreach

Tutorial Sessions in Tanzania

By Chris and Catriona Harker (in the CHES newsletter for November)

English as a 3rd language

Think back to when you went to school. How would you feel about entering Grade 8 and having to cope with 9 out of 10 subjects in your third language? Imagine, too, attempting to learn some pretty sophisticated math without the assistance of a regular math teacher. These daunting challenges face virtually all our students in Tanzania. Primary school classes in rural Tanzania often have 60 or more students in each class and formal English lessons don't begin until standard (grade) 3. Also, English is not widely used in Tanzania. In everyday conversations

people speak either their own mother tongue or Swahili. Learning the days of the week or the numbers up to 100 plus vocabulary and verb tenses in English certainly helps, but many students find themselves initially lost in secondary school having to listen to teachers lecture in English on topics such as the implications of the 1885 Berlin Conference or how bees pollinate a flower. Math is taught well in primary school but students are expected to listen and learn; there is seldom time for questions and clarification. To help our girls succeed, CHES provides a one-month tutorial session during the school holidays in June and July each year. Two weeks are dedicated to Math and another two to English.

The “Mocks”

In 2023 eighteen teachers (many of whom were CHES grads) were hired to work with the 237 (out of 244) girls who attended. Smaller classes, focused study and a variety of teaching methods combined to assist the students prepare for their year-end exams. In their final week, students wrote “mock” exams similar to those they will sit for in November. The success of this program has been proven by the increase in the number of girls graduating from Form IV with marks entitling them to continue on to Form V and VI, known in Tanzania as high school. The tutorial report, prepared by our office staff in Katesh for 2023, stated, “The support that our girls get through these programmes is very valuable and all of us here in Tanzania appreciate and treasure it.

\$4 per day

The help the girls are getting makes a big change in our girls’ lives. We appreciate and thank one and all for this huge support.” The students are accommodated at the Sara Williams Hostel. As our girls attend 29 different schools during regular term time, it is a wonderful opportunity for them to meet and work with each other. Often lifetime friendships begin here. The cost for all this is covered by the sponsorship fee of \$650. This annual event cost \$19,500 last year. This included all the necessary food, security, teacher fees and classroom rentals. It worked out to a bit more than \$4 per day per girl. As this programme has proven to be instrumental in improving the marks--and therefore the futures--of virtually every girl, it is, indeed, a bargain.

(Contributed by Wendy Reimer.)

International Women’s Day 2024 (IWD 2024) - March 08

We have an exciting new plan for IWD 2024. Instead of our usual evening public lecture, we are planning a potluck brunch this year, on Friday March 08.

We will meet to celebrate each other’s friendship and camaraderie, and to honour two young women who came to Canada as refugees and have made successful lives for themselves and their families.

When: Friday March 08. ~11:30 am to 1:30pm

Where: Knox United Church, Parksville, in the lounge

What: sit-down main course and desert; informal presentations; meet and mingle; chat and fun

How much: bring a meal item for the potluck table, and your enthusiasm

How: to make this work, the organizers (Mary Ellen, Christine, and Janet) ***NEED YOUR HELP***

Please volunteer to:

- organize the meal logistics (numbers, menu items)
- Greet members at the door greeter
- Help in the kitchen
 - set tables before the event from 10:30 am
 - Clear up and load the dishwasher after the event until 2:30 pm

Please: step forward and volunteer

let Mary Ellen, Chrisitne, or Janet know what you are willing to sign up for

This will truly be a celebration of International Women

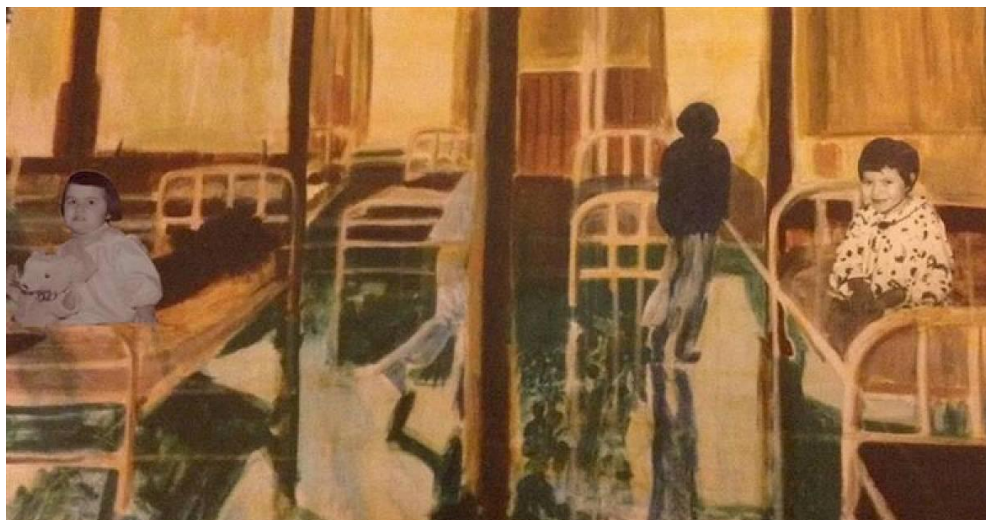
(Contributed by Christine Pagan.)

Theatre Performance Opportunity

Scenes from the Nanaimo Indian Hospital

Dr. Laura Cranmer, of 'Namgis and Haida descent, an Indian hospital and residential school survivor, wrote "Scenes from the Nanaimo Indian Hospital" based on her three-year stay at the hospital as a young child. In this applied theatre research project, we pose the question:

"How does an applied theatre research process (told through Hul'q'umin'um', Nuu-chah-nulth and Kwak'wala) advance language reawakening for the actors, audience members, and the researchers?"



In this staged reading, the Nanaimo Indian Hospital is re-imagined to be the confluence of the Island's great linguistic diversity embodied by the three young girls—Dorothy Myth representing Kwak'waka, Esther Williams representing Hul'q'umin'um', and Mary Robins representing Nuuchahnulth—whose growing friendship in Ward B consists of delight in language comparisons while sinister medical undercurrents are revealed in the dialogue and action between the medical staff.

Governance

As an Indigenous-led research project, our governance structure is founded on principles of respect, reciprocity, relevance and responsibility (Kirkness & Barnhart, 2001). We exercise a natural practice that exemplifies a non-hierarchical, consensus-building decision-making style that began from our first meetings with our applied theatre research members. The accompanying graphic, designed by Daisy Elliott (RA, IRSSS Crisis Team Lead, and Indigenous/Xwulmuxw Studies graduate) symbolizes the sun in the Northwest artistic style. As with any major decision, the primary principles guiding our collaborative consensus-based approach are represented by the rays: respect, reciprocity, relevance, and responsibility. From the choice of the visual representation to the text to its placement on each ray involved significant discussion between all applied theatre research team members prior to reaching a consensus of the final design.

We approach any collaboration in openness and transparent communication, in a deeply reflective way to grow and develop on a personal level. Along with the two settler allies, Amanda Wager, and Becky Thiessen, who bring a deep sense of social justice, responsibility and respect to our deliberations, each member of our research team—Laura Cranmer, Daisy Elliott and Ann Woodward—embodies relational, familial, inter-tribal connections that stretch from Central Vancouver Island to the North Island and the West Coast. In other words, each of us brings long term historical, familial and networks of communities and professional contacts to the table. It is through these respectful relationships that we are supported by the stellar Partner Organizations who have chosen to be part of this decolonial endeavor to highlight a dark chapter of colonial history to reclaim and reawaken our linguistic heritage.

Friday, February 16th 1:00pm Sid Williams Theatre, Courtenay tickets \$35

Car Pooling available Contact Mary Ellen if interested.

(Contributed by Mary Ellen Campbell.)

Publication of Interest by Member Susan Blacklin

Water Confidential:

A Memoir about First Nations' Drinking Water and Justice Denied Description

In *Water Confidential*, Susan Blacklin (formerly Sue Peterson) revisits the important work of her late ex-husband, Dr. Hans Peterson. Beginning in 1996, Peterson, growing frustrated with his work in government funded research in Saskatchewan, brought attention to the desperate need for equal access to safe drinking water after a health inspector encouraged him to visit the Yellow Quill First Nation. In response to the issue, he developed biological technology for effective water treatment, still in use today.



Peterson and Blacklin joined forces with scientists from around the world to establish the registered national charity, the Safe Drinking Water Foundation. The SDWF developed accredited education programs for schools across Canada, while also educating the general public and Water Treatment Operators from Indigenous communities. Advocacy became a high priority when they discovered a variety of challenges to their mission, including questionable government practices that were blocking the reality of safe drinking water in First Nations communities. As committed activists, it became their life's work to ensure that access to Peterson's technology was available to all rural and First Nations communities.

Thirty years later, the majority of First Nations communities in Canada continue to face atrocious health issues as a result of unsafe drinking water. Blacklin, now retired, shares her deep concerns at the indifference, corruption, and lack of due diligence from all levels of government in response to the safe water movement. She echoes the work of the SDWF stating that Canada needs to implement federal drinking water regulations, and that a responsible government should use rather than abuse science when accurately determining Boil Water Advisories and addressing the deplorable state of access to potable water.

In this passionate and timely memoir, Blacklin shares her experiences with fundraising, activism and lobbying work. She reveals the complexities of negotiating between cultures, communities and the provincial and federal government. Blacklin emphasizes that ensuring safe drinking water to each and every First Nations community should be the top priority toward reconciliation with Indigenous people of Canada.

Reviews

*“Susan Blacklin's memoir, *Water Confidential*, should be required reading for all Canadians. With an inside look at how the system snuffs out innovation, this fine, thought-provoking book speaks the generally unknown truths about long-standing water injustices. Canadians should be very concerned—particularly those of us committed to real reconciliation with our Indigenous Peoples. Her concerns and critical analysis also apply to many other Canadian communities—as she shows, many of the water quality problems that trouble Indigenous communities haunt many other rural water supplies without public awareness or appropriate treatment. In *Water Confidential*, Susan documents how the SDWF [Safe Drinking Water Foundation] was built with grit and great effort, with personal and family sacrifice. With great honesty, she shows how various levels of government and other vested interests kept it from achieving widespread acceptance. This is a grand contribution to ecological and Indigenous justice.”*

—Harvey Scott, PhD, Professor Emeritus U of Alberta, Elders Council, Keepers of the Water

Get Involved

The impact of the water crisis on First Nations communities is devastating, and it is up to all of us to take action. There are a number of ways you can get involved and support the fight for clean and safe drinking water, including donating to organizations that work to improve water infrastructure on reserves, contacting your elected representatives to demand action, and educating yourself and others about the issue.

To Order

Water Confidential is available for pre-order from Caitlin Publishing, Chapters-Indigo or from Amazon. BC Ferries have already placed orders, and it will be available at libraries across the country. (Contributed by Mary Ellen Campbell. 😊)

Scholarship & Bursary Trust Honours Lorna Miller

On Dec 6, 2023, at 4:44 PM, Lorna Miller wrote:

Dear S&B Trustees,

Your gifts today were both a great surprise and equally a great delight. I hope the photo that Jackie took shows both emotions. I was my honour to represent S&BT at both 100+ Women Oceanside and 100+ Men Who Care. S&BT has a special place in my heart, so that too makes your gifts extra special to me.



Very best wishes for the Holiday Season to each of you, Lorna

(Contributed by Val Gunn.)

Book and Puzzle Collection 2023 -2024 From the Drop Box at Save-on-Food

We are trying a slightly modified version of picking up from the CFUW PQ Book Drop Box. The book team members will email their team before the month they are assigned to. They will discuss a compatible meeting time at the book storage at Island Self Storage, 1340 Alberni Highway, Parksville. The member who is picking up books will cull the books and take the books to storage at the agreed upon time and will help the team member put the books in the proper categories. If further culling is needed the team member will take the books home to disperse. These changes are to eliminate last minute drop offs and pickups which can make the weeks just before the sale rather hectic. The rest of schedule will be completed in February.

OCTOBER 2023	NOVEMBER 2023
Team Members: Erin Holmes & Susan Marlatt	Team Members: Joan Michel & Claire Tallman
Oct 2-8 Ann Stevenson	Oct 30-Nov 5 Diane Anderson
Oct 15-21 Noreen Ballantyne	Nov 6- 12 Carolyn Russell
Oct 16-22 Sharon Sawkins	Nov 13-19 Barbara Bond
Oct 23-29 Lorna Miller	Nov 20-26 Paulette Harcourt
	Nov 27 Dec 3 Lisa Marshall
DECEMBER 2023	JANUARY 2024
Team Members: Sheila Reed & Brenda Pengelly	Team Members: Sheila Reed & Shelley Johnson

Dec 4-10	Shelley Johnson	Jan 8-14	Wendy Smith
Dec 11-17	Liz Douglas	Jan 15-21	Mary Ellen Campbell
Dec 18-28	Brenda Pengelly	Jan 22-28	Jacqueline Russell
Dec 29-Jan 7	Sheila Reed	Jan 29-Feb 4	Vivien Sears
FEBRUARY 2024		MARCH 2024	
Team Members: Erin Holmes & Susan Marlatt		Team Members: Claire Tallman & Brenda Pengelly	
Feb 5-11	Ann Stevenson	Mar 4-10	Pat Morrison Wheeler
Feb 12-18	Noreen Ballantyne	Mar 11-17	Sherri Plummer
Feb 19-25	Deb Sullivan	Mar 18-24	Jane Atagi
Feb 26-Mar 3	Lorna Miller	Mar 25-31	Sharon Sawkins

Anyone with a large donation PLEASE email – booksale@cfuwpq.ca

(Contributed by Sheila Reed.)

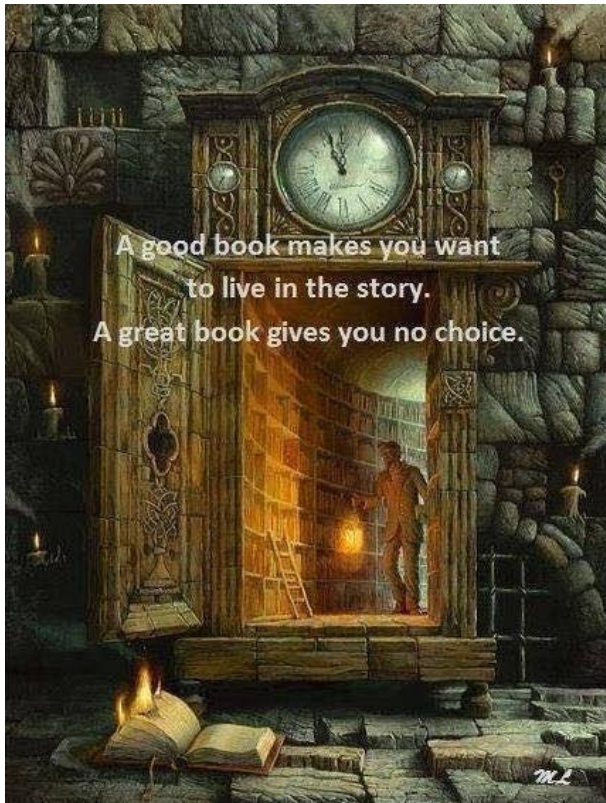
Thoughts and Smiles

This short speech on the current condition of women's rights worldwide is made by Emma Watson (who played Hermione in the Harry Potter series).

For “No Country in the World Has This” See:

https://youtube.com/shorts/8qtMEVDuvZ4?si=ot9ebf_QbCe_Yaqf

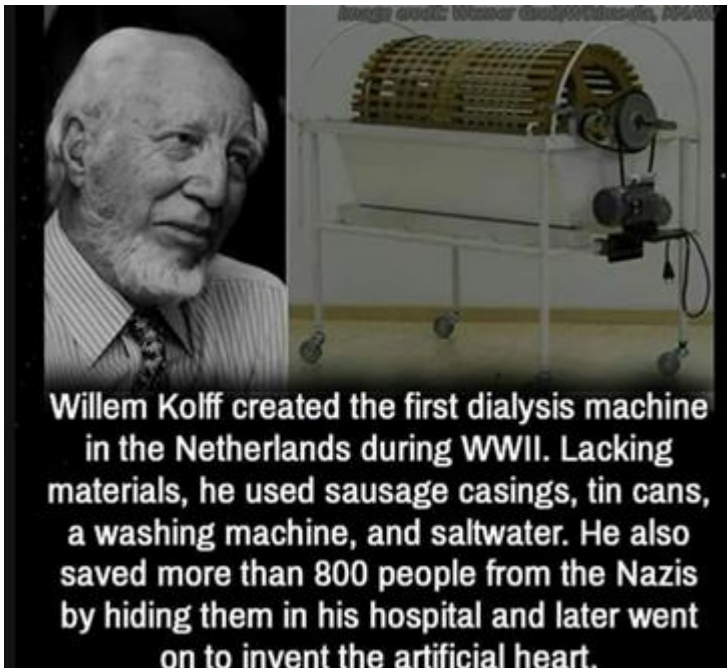




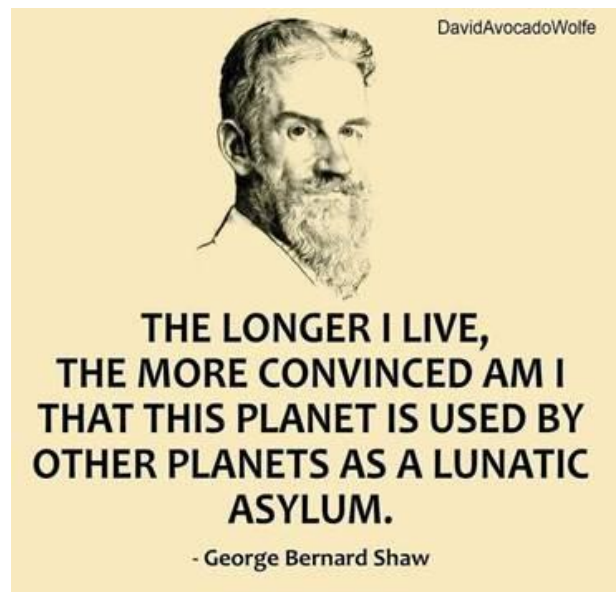
A good book makes you want
to live in the story.
A great book gives you no choice.



THAT'S WHAT I DO
I READ BOOKS
I DRINK TEA
AND I KNOW THINGS

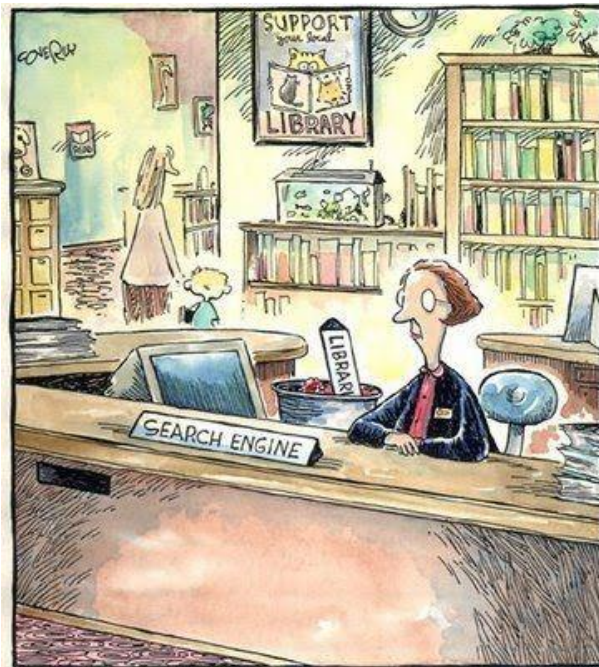


Willem Kolff created the first dialysis machine
in the Netherlands during WWII. Lacking
materials, he used sausage casings, tin cans,
a washing machine, and saltwater. He also
saved more than 800 people from the Nazis
by hiding them in his hospital and later went
on to invent the artificial heart.



THE LONGER I LIVE,
THE MORE CONVINCED AM I
THAT THIS PLANET IS USED BY
OTHER PLANETS AS A LUNATIC
ASYLUM.

- George Bernard Shaw



Book Clubs, Book Review Quality Foods Parkville 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

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store (2023) by James McBride

This book was on the list of the 10 most-borrowed books of 2023 in the New York Public Library. I found it on the Express Reads shelf at the library and even though the timing was bad, I grabbed it. What a packed adventure it was! I won't say rollicking, even though there are humorous situations but there are a lot of people and a lot of communities involved in a book that involves the rescue of a boy from a cruel institution, so, perhaps it is rambunctious. The story

has a black man talking about having the town's white doctor attend his son's illness. "It was a case of amnesia. I paid him in advance and he forgot I was colored and thanked me." The author takes some serious swipes at the pretensions of the United States and critiques some of the modern world's worst tendencies. The book is devoted to the principle of *tikkun olam*, a concept in Judaism that means improving or repairing the world, or (in modern times) social action. Chona, (the store-keeper) in particular, exemplifies that principle, as did the real-life man to whom the book is dedicated. This book may be McBride's contribution.

The book opens in 1972 with the discovery of a body in a well. There are few clues to its identity. The person was wearing something red and had a *mezuzah* (a medallion) with Hebrew words on the back. The rest of the book leads to the point where the person's identity is revealed and tells us how the body came to be where it is.

The story takes place in a shanty-town on the outskirts of Pottstown, Pennsylvania in the 1930s, called Chicken Hill. There, immigrant Jewish people, black people (then called Negroes) who had moved north, and a few recent immigrant whites scratched out an existence with poorly paid jobs and small businesses. The roads are dirt and there is no access to city water or sewer systems. The air is darkened by smoke from the steel mills and the creek is polluted with toxic waste. There is one telephone, in the grocery store. The children walked to town (10 blocks away) to the school, which *was* integrated. People on the hill often helped each other. They were all in the same situation of adjusting to an English-speaking, white, Christian-dominated culture that made the rules and enforced them.

The primary focus is on Chona and Moshe. She owns and runs the grocery store where credit is always available. He owns a theatre and books bands that attract crowds of either Jews or blacks to dance. A black couple they know (Nate and Addie) take in their twelve-year old orphaned nephew, called Dodo, who is deaf after an accident. The state resolves that the boy ought to be placed in a notorious institution for the insane, so Moshe and Chona help to hide him from the authorities. However, he is discovered. His family and friends are helpless, or are they? There are a great number of people of different colours, cultures, languages, and faiths involved in the effort to free him, each one doing a small part, some for money, others because they believe it is the right thing to do.

This author seems to always take the long way around. The story has a lot of digressions that end up where the reader once was, before deviating off the path again. The attempted rescue of Dodo begins with a bullfrog in the women's *mikvah* (ritual bath). It has the feel of a rambling yarn told on a porch. You will learn about how it was, there and then. Some things have changed but the roots of long-held attitudes are there for you to understand. I learned about the differences within populations I had assumed were homogenous, more about Judaism, and more about why people join the Ku Klux Klan.