



Our Theme this year:

Shine a Light on Our Community

January 2025

Leadership Circle Members:

President: Christine Pagan president@cfuwpq.ca

Vice President: Position Available vp@cfuwpq.ca

Treasurer: Christine Pagan treasurer@cfuwpq.ca

Website: Val Gunn website@cfuwpq.ca

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

Meeting: Monday, Feb 10, by Zoom, join at 6:30, speaker at 7:00

Program: The Work of Island Crisis Care Society in Oceanside

Speaker: Violet Hayes, Executive Director

What To Look For:

President's Message

Program Information

Scholarship & Bursary Trust

Global Outreach

IWD Update

Fashion Example

Ladies who Lunch

Thoughts and Smiles

Book Club News

Book Review

President's Message



Greetings and a belated Happy New Year to everyone. (I think we can still say that until the end of this month?)

I hope that 2025 will be a good year for you all, and that you will find lots of interesting CFUW activities to participate in: our Speaker Series; the New Members' Tea, and Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) walk in February; and the IWD presentation, and the TOSH exhibition in March. In addition, we have our many Interest Groups: the Talking Circle on Indigenous Issues, Fun Walks, Ladies Who Lunch meetings, and of course our many book clubs and 'Out N About' activities. For details of these events, check out the calendar at www.cfuwpq.ca.

We already got off to a great start to 2025 with our first speaker of the year, when Barney Perry-Ellis gave a 'no holds barred' overview on the work of the Nanaimo and District Hospital Foundation. Barney has enabled some contacts within the Fair Care Alliance (the group advocating for more equitable Health Care for communities 'north of the Malahat') which I am following up on, so hopefully we can pursue some advocacy initiatives as 'Partners In The Community' with them. Watch This Space...

Our next speaker on, February 10, will be Violet Hayes, the Executive Director of Island Crisis Care Society (ICCS), talking about the work of the society in bringing help to those suffering in crisis situations in our community. Very timely, as ICCS receives all Oceanside CNOY funds. Last year the CFUW PQ Ramblers raised over \$5600.00; let's see if we can reach that amount on February 22 this year. To walk or donate, go to <https://cnoy.org/home>, or contact me.

Our Silent Auction at the Christmas Lunch raised ~\$2000.00, for Parksville Haven House - the volunteers and staff at Haven House were delighted by this gift, and I can only say a deep thanks once again to all of you who reached into your wallets to make this happen. As a club, we can 'make

a difference', and to that end, The Strategic Giving Group (SGG) have established the boundary conditions for our future giving. I will share these soon. I will reach out to members to canvas ideas on near and longer-term strategic initiatives for the club to vote on. We may not be a large club, but I hope we can continue to make a difference locally in our community when we can.

On the subject of strategic thinking, as agreed at the November Business Meeting we have set aside a sum from our surplus to seed the Special Projects fund to mark our club's 50th anniversary in May 2031. *Please contact me* if you would like to be part of the working group involved in the planning for the upcoming 45th and 50th anniversaries - not only planning fun activities for members, but coming up with ideas for a Special Project for us to carry out in the community.

Our place in the community is important - we don't want to be 'the best kept secret in town', so to that end, I am excited that as a club we agreed to sponsor the 'Mothers' photography exhibition at The Old School House (TOSH) opening on March 03. This will show our commitment to our First Nations, makers, commercial and civic partners; and hopefully increase our profile locally. Being recognized as a partner in the community will enable us to utilize our resources and skills - capital, intellectual, and philanthropic - more effectively. It's all about making the most of what we have.

Enjoy the weekend, and I look forward to seeing you all at the New Members' Tea on February 08.
Christine

Please visit the website (www.cfwpq.ca) for more details on all our activities and don't hesitate to contact me if you have something to share, good or bad (president@cfwpq.ca)

(Contributed by Christine Pagan.)



February speaker to focus on Island Crisis Care Society's work in Oceanside



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cfuw PARKSVILLE
QUALICUM

SPEAKER SERIES 2024/25

Shine A Light on our Community

The Work of Island Crisis Care Society In Oceanside

Speaker:
Violet Hayes is Executive Director of Island Crisis Care Society, a Nanaimo-based organization that provides support for people with substance abuse disorder and homelessness. With many years experience in the social services field, Violet is focussed on building the society's capacity, developing new programs and increasing visibility in the community.



**Monday
February 10
2025**

The meeting will be held by Zoom.
Link opens at 6:30 for socializing, followed by the speaker and general meeting at 7:00 pm.

Realizing potential. For all women.

www.cfuwpg.ca

Violet Hayes, Executive Director of the Island Crisis Care Society (ICCS) since 2011, will join us on February 10 to discuss the Society's work in Oceanside. Prior to her present role, Violet gained extensive knowledge and skill during many years of experience in the social service field. She's supervised soup kitchens, worked with volunteers in hospice, helped to organize emergency social services during forest fire emergencies and serves on a variety of committees and boards focused on homelessness. Through her experience, Violet has developed insights into coaching and guiding groups of dedicated people dealing with a variety of challenging situations. In 2022, she was a presenter at the Canadian Association to End Homelessness national conference in Toronto. (Contributed by Sonya Felix.)

Scholarship Bursary and Trust

What's Happening:

SBT is revising the application forms, also we are planning our publicity for 2025 awards year.

Did you know our best publicity is word of mouth? That means CFUW PQ members informing women you know. Therefore, I want you to be aware of the application criteria. This is outlined on the website once you click on 'apply for a scholarship', which I realize is unlikely for most members, so I will outline it here.

The most important criterion for the academic scholarships is, women applicants must be graduates of school district 69 Secondary Schools (SD69). There are 2 exceptions, the Mature Student and Early Childhood Education (ECE) awards. For these, the women applicants could apply if they have lived in SD69 for 3 years.

For the mature student award, they must be returning to school after an absence from school of at least 2 consecutive years and be registered but not currently attending, an accredited Canadian education institution. For the ECE award they must be entering the second year of a two-year ECE programme at an accredited ECE training institution.

The trust also administers a scholarship on behalf of the JC Reid family.

The applicants can be women or men, entering their 4th year, or greater, at an accredited Canadian university, with preference for Music, Fine Arts, Liberal Arts or Education academic programmes.

The two trades awards are administered by North Island College and VIU. Preference is given to SD69 graduates, but any woman in the second year of a trade programme may apply to their school counsellor.

(Contributed by V Gunn, SBT Chair)

Global Outreach

These images are from the Aldea Maya newsletter and were contributed by Wendy Reimer, co-chair of the Global Outreach group.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER - 2024

NEWSLETTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

EDUCATIONAL TOYS FOR THE PRESCHOOL



One of the foundations of Aldea Maya is improving the educational opportunities of the children in Chuk Muk. Our programs assist preschool, elementary school, middle school, high school and university students. This newsletter is focusing on each end of our education spectrum: preschool and university.

For many years Aldea Maya has been donating educational toys to the Chuk Muk Preschool. The preschool does not have a budget for toys and really appreciates when Aldea Maya brings down supplies for their school. We were very excited to deliver a huge box of donated trains with extensive wooden track including bridges and switchbacks. The children have never seen or played with anything like this, and it was wonderful watching them work together to form a humungous track and use trial and error to solve design issues. To say the children were overjoyed would be an understatement. The volunteers had an amazing time too. This donation will bring years of fun to many wee children, and we would like to thank the donors.



OUR UNIVERSITY / TRADE SCHOOL GRADUATES



In 2024, we are extremely pleased to have our manager and 8 students graduating university or trade school.

Our education program is contributing lasting change to the families in Chuk Muk by giving them a family member with a good income. It is just as importantly, supplying community leaders and mentors. We could write several pages on each of our amazing graduates: their history with Aldea Maya and what they bring to their community. Alas we can only fit in a small synopsis.

SPOTLIGHT

Marvin

Marvin is graduating with his **Master's degree in Math and Physics** with a 99% average. Marvin was not going to go past grade 6 due to family finances. Marvin was in our first class at the Chuk Muk middle school. Marvin has been on the Aldea Maya Guatemalan board of directors for 7 years. He tutors our students who now excel in math and physics. He has been sponsored for 12 years. He presently has a full-time job at a private school. His dream job is to be a university professor which he will apply for when he receives his paperwork.

Miriam

Miriam is graduating with a **full degree in Education**. Miriam has been sponsored for 17 years. Miriam was also in the first year of the Chuk Muk middle school which Aldea Maya started in 2012. She is the Aldea Maya office manager. In this job, Miriam tutors' students who visit our learning centre, teaches the nutrition and cooking classes, cooks for the elderly and meets with families all while overseeing all the financial books. Miriam absolutely loves her job which she has had for 3 years. She uses her income to help with the medical expenses of her mother who has chronic illness.



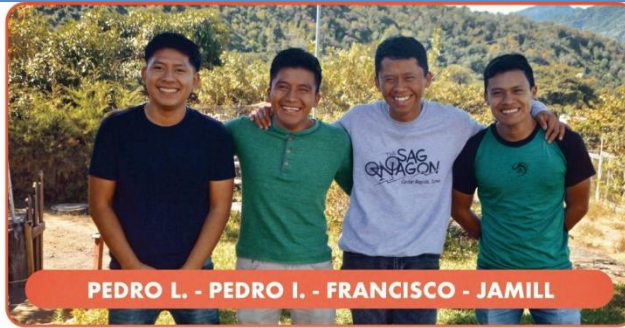
Marvin - Miriam - Josefa - Marcos

Josefa

Josefa is graduating with a **degree in Social Work**. She is also a master bead work artist. Josefa has been sponsored for 9 years. She runs the Aldea Maya satellite office in Santiago Atitlan which is funded by Gwen, who has a women's beading and embroidery cooperative. Josefa has been married for a few years and is due in February. She hopes to use her degree to help her community.

Marcos

Marcos has just completed a 3 year program to get his associate degree as an **XRAY technician**. Marcos received his supplies in middle school through our Christmas card program. His older 2 siblings were full sponsored and his sister, Ema, became a Lab Tech. Due to his older siblings being sponsored, the family had enough money to put Marcos through high school. He did his practicum in Solola, excelled and has been hired full time as an X ray Tech. He hopes to complete his full degree learning CT scan and MRI. Marcos is also on our Board of Directors.



Pedro Lopez

Pedro has been sponsored for 17 years and he has just completed university as a **Systems Engineer**. This is a very difficult course, and Pedro did have to repeat a year. He never gave up and got extra tutoring. He did very well at his practicum with the company SSASS, writing programs for banks and hospitals. They hired him full time in his last year of university. He now works 3 weeks remotely in Chuk Muk and one week at the office in Guatemala City earning a good salary.

Pedro Ixbalan

Pedro has been sponsored for 9 years and has just completed his **Master's in business administration**. Pedro has been on our Guatemalan board of directors for 5 years. He was initially sponsored by another NGO, but they stopped at the end of middle school. Pedro was the top student and Aldea Maya started sponsorship in high school. He works for a national computer store as the manager and hopes to get promotions when he receives his paperwork.

Francisco

Francisco has been sponsored for 17 years and just completed an **Agriculture and forestry engineering degree**. This is a difficult degree. When Francisco started there were 40 students in his class, only 4 graduated with the full degree. Francisco has run our organic garden program for many years and just co wrote our elementary school garden book. He is in the process of getting head hunted by organizations like the Ministry of Agriculture.

Jamill

Jamill has just completed a 2 year college program to become a **certified electrician**. This program was at INTECAP (trade school) in Santa Lucia which is 3 hours away from Chuk Muk. The distance of the school from Chuk Muk means that few if any local students will study there, which increases job opportunities. Just like Marcos, Jamill received his supplies in middle school through our Christmas card program but was not full sponsored. Jamill did his practicum in Santiago Atitlan, a large city near Chuk Muk. The head of the town works was totally impressed by his knowledge and work ethic, and they have hired Jamill full time.



Jaime

Jaime has been the Director of Aldea Maya for over 10 years. He is an extremely hard working employee who goes above and beyond in his position. Jaime often drives students to hospital appointments in Guatemala City at 2 in the morning on his day off.

Jaime has just completed his **Masters in business administration**.

Jaime had been paying for his own degree, but it was taking many years as he had to raise the funds. Our Student Pedro Ixbalan was going to be completing his program before Jaime, even though he started years later. We therefore came up with an agreement with Jaime and his wife, Lola. We would pay for a portion of his final year and Lola would volunteer running our nutrition and cooking classes as well as the elderly feeding program with Miriam.



A definite win win for all. A huge thank you to the many sponsors who made this small miracle possible.

At Aldea Maya we love sustainability

International Women's Day Working Group Update

Update as of January 2025:

CFUW Parksville International Women's Day Event

2pm – 4pm Saturday, March 8, 2025

The Sanctuary

Knox United Church

Parksville

Guest speaker: Alexandra Morton

Alexandra Morton has been called "the Jane Goodall of Canada" because of her passionate thirty-year fight to save British Columbia's wild salmon. Her account of that fight is both inspiring in its own right and a roadmap of resistance.

Her most recent book:

"Not on My Watch" is an urgent, essential read for anyone who cares about the rapidly dwindling wild salmon population of British Columbia. Meticulous, penetrating and passionate, Morton's thorough exploration of the history and effect of placing an industrial zone in prime wild salmon habitat is chilling and infuriating.

Responsibilities of the IWD Committee:

- ✓ Book meeting space and confirm room logistics - *confirmed*
- ✓ Book speaker - *confirmed*
- ✓ Contact treasurer for honorarium and payment of room rental - *confirmed*
- ✓ Confirm members to introduce and thank speaker- *confirmed*
- ✓ Confirm members to work at event: three members to greet including to monitor donation bowl - *confirmed*
- ✓ Two members to greet at doors enter sanctuary ie.answer queries from attendees - *confirmed*
- ✓ Create poster: forward to website - Val; newsletter – Barb; and social media – Brenda
- ✓ Insurance – President Christine
- ✓ Invitation to elected officials – *confirmed*

What's left to do?

- Publicity in paper including ad
- Possibility of a lunch with guest speaker
- What else?

Budget: \$1350.00

Expenses pending:

Knox Sanctuary Rental \$469.00 (includes equipment + tech)

Speaker honorarium: \$1000.00

(Contributed by Mary Ellen Campbell.)



Fashion

Val Gunn in vintage costume, circa 1940, at 100 Women Who Care meeting Jan 8th, celebrating 8 years giving to the community.

(Contributed by Janet Farooq.)

First Ladies Who Lunch

The first group of CFUW PQ members will have had lunch on Monday, Jan. 27 at Deez. This gave us a leisurely opportunity to visit. The next lunch is planned for Tuesday, Feb. 25 at The Bayside at 12 noon. If you're free, mark your calendar and let L. Miller know you'll be coming. The plan is to change the day and venue each month so we can find the days you're free to come. See you in February, L. Miller

Thoughts and Smiles

One of my presents from my wonderful daughter. A box full of books. Each wrapped with a synopsis of the storyline on the outside. Can't wait to get started.



Winter solstice





Siding with a difference

The real Luxuries in life:

- time
- health
- a quiet mind
- slow mornings
- ability to travel
- rest without guilt
- a good night's sleep
- calm and "boring" days
- meaningful conversations
- home-cooked meals
- people you love
- people who love you back



By the 1950s, 'Mackey D' had sold 1 million happy meals. By the 2050s, rocket thrusters will boost Tesla acceleration.



A "Serious" Invitation :))

We would like to invite various states such as Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts in the east or Washington, Oregon, and California in the west to join Canada and become our 11th+ province.

To our American cousins, sorry to have to say this, but the benefits of joining Canada include:

- Life expectancy will go up from a world ranking of 48th (USA) to 20th (Canada).
- Education will get better from 31st (USA) to 19th (Canada).
- Math scores will improve from 34th (USA) to 9th (Canada).
- Robberies will go down from 98 per 100,000 population to 62.
- Traffic accident deaths will drop from 12.7 per 100,000 to 5.3.
- You will spend half as much on health care yet get better outcomes.
- Poverty in Canada is 1/3 the rate in the USA.
- Although Canada has fewer millionaires, we more fairly distribute wealth (better income equality).
- The minimum wage in Canada is double that in the USA.
- Quality of life will improve (Canada ranked #5, US #22)
- and most importantly... you will be happier (Canada ranked 15th, USA 23rd in happiness).
- (We couldn't find a politeness index, but thank you)

(If ever you wish to have a copy of anything in the newsletter, just email me and ask.)

Book Clubs, Book Review

QFP (Quality Foods Parksville) Booklovers

Date	Facilitator	Book
Sept. 12	Sheila	The Woefield Poultry Collective
Oct. 10	Linda	The Salt Path
Nov. 14	Val and Dianne	The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store
Dec. 12	Susan	Too Soon Old, Too Soon Smart
Jan. 9	Maureen and Tracy	The Island of Sea Women
Feb. 13	Liz	The Postcard by Ann Berest
Mar. 13	Brenda	The Nightingale
Apr. 10	Pat	Greenwood
May 8	Sam	The Phoenix Crown
June 12	Jane	Always Pack A Candle, Marion Cook

(Contributed by Dianne Anderson.)

Shrinking Violets Book Club

Tuesday, November 26, 2024 - Theme: Books About Books

- Bayard, Pierre . *How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read*. 2007
- Cameron, Claire. *The Last Neanderthal*. 2017
- deWitt, Patrick. *The Librarianist*. 2023
- Mullan, John. *What Matters in Jane Austen? Twenty Crucial Puzzles Solved*. 2012
- Mustich, James. *1,000 Books to Read Before You Die*. 2018
- Ruiz Zafron, Carolos. *The Shadow of the Wind*. 2003
- Spence, Annie. *Dear Fahrenheit 451; Love and Heartbreak in the Stacks*. 2017.
- Williams, Pip. *The Dictionary of Lost Words*. 2020.

(Contributed by Noreen Ballanyne.)

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 - Theme: Books Listed for Giller Prize

- Endicott, Marina. *Close to Hugh*. 2015. (Longlist 2015)
- Endicott, Marina. *Good to a Fault*. 2008. (Shortlist 2008)
- Mayr, Suzette . *The Sleeping Car Porter*. 2022. (Winner 2022)
- Ondaatje, Michael. *The Cat's Table*. 2011. (Shortlist 2011)
- Price, Steven . *By Gaslight*. 2016. (Longlist 2016)
- Taylor, Timothy. *Stanley Park*. 2001. (Shortlist 2001)

(Contributed by Noreen Ballantyne)

Book Review of the Month

The House of Doors by Tan Twan Eng (2023)

Having read both of Tan Twan Eng's first two novels, I was naturally curious. By the way, you will often find his books filed under the Es, but Tan is his family name. This one is also (partly) set in Malaysia, and the time period is mostly in 1921, with events that take place in 1910-11 and 1947. In 1921, the British were the administrative masters of Malaysia, nominally on behalf of the sultan. It involves a real person, W. Somerset Maugham (known to his friends as Willie), who visited his friends in Penang then. It also includes a real event, a murder trial that took place there in 1911 and it begins and ends in South Africa.

Robert and Lesley welcome Maugham and his male companion to their beachfront home in Penang for a visit. He is unwell. He had an arduous trip in China and made a bad investment, endangering his ability to support his wife and child in Britain as well as travel the world in first class style with Gerald. The only social event he agrees to attend is a reception at which Sun Yat Sen is present. (Yes, you need to brush up on your Chinese history.) As Lesley has no women friends to talk with and has concerns about her marriage she begins to confide in Maugham. One of the topics she talks about is the trial of her friend, Ethel (in 1910-11), who was accused of the murder of her lover and tried in Kuala Lumpur. Naturally, Maugham is hungry for interesting stories so he is a good listener.

Meanwhile, Robert continues to serve as a lawyer. Lesley becomes a translator for the group supporting Sun Yat Sen's efforts to overthrow the Qing dynasty in China and establish a democratic republic there. Maugham continues healing and spending some time with his companion. He is an eager listener as Lesley explains why she supports the republican forces. Robert, however, has decided to move to Doornfontein, South Africa, which decision Lesley mourns. She loves living in Penang. (Their sons are in school in Britain, so not part of their decisions.) Lesley enjoys a house that she has dubbed The House of Doors, owned by a local republican supporter. The owner has many historical and artistically significant Chinese doors on display. Lesley lives within but also moves beyond the British colonial society.

Since doors are part of the title, that opens the significance of doors as a theme. They conceal and reveal. They protect the inside from those outside but allow those inside to go outside. Secrets are shared with some. I still do not quite understand why Lesley chooses to share many of her secrets with their visitor, since she knows that he is a writer, who uses what he experiences vicariously. She seems to trust that he will present his stories as fictionalized (which he does). Names and circumstances will be concealed to protect the innocent . . . and the guilty. More than doors, this is a fiction about those who tell truths . . . and untruths. The writing is spare,

precise, elegant. The book explores how often fiction and non-fiction are blended. You cannot trust a writer. You could use him, as Lesley appears to do.

Since this is a fiction about fiction, you can enjoy the process and enjoy the writing style. You can ponder a how a quote from Horace is relevant. “Caelum non animum mutant qui trans maie currunt,” means “They change their sky, not their soul, who rush across the sea.” You can find the poem “L’heure exquisite,” by Reynaldo Hahn and the music it inspired. You can consider the humorous remark that “Arguing . . . with a man is as fruitful as trying to push back the wind.” And it may be true, as Lesley believes, that “what sustained a marriage . . . were the things we left unmentioned.” The writer’s intelligence and control of his material are evident. I found the book layered and thought-provoking.

You will also want to find (available online) the short story, “The Letter,” that Maugham published in *The Casuarina Tree*, in 1926. That version of the same court room drama was also made into a movie, starring Bette Davis, in 1940. It is available on some streaming platforms, for a fee.