

Our Theme this year:

Shine a Light on Our Community

May 2025

Leadership Circle Members:

President: Christine Pagan president@cfuwpq.ca

Vice President: Position Available vp@cfuwpq.ca

Treasurer: Christine Pagan treasurer@cfuwpq.ca

Webmaster: Val Gunn website@cfuwpq.ca

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

Meeting: May 12 - join at 6:30 PM for 7 PM, Knox United Church

Program: Brief Business meeting and Shine a Light on Club Members

Speaker: Leadership Group and Members

What To Look For:

President's Message
Program Information
Nominations
Scholarship Alumni News
Book Club News
Book Review

President's Message



Suddenly it's May, and we are now planning the winding-up activities for this club year: the fun club meeting on May 12 when we 'shine a light on members' and discover some of the hidden talents in our club; our spring supper at Cuckoo in Coombs on June 09; and the club AGM (via zoom) on June 16. Looking back we have had such a great year: fundraising, community engagement, advocacy, book clubs, speaker events, teas and lunches, and *ad hoc* get togethers - none of which would happen without the enthusiasm and dedication of the Leadership Circle, Committees, and all the club members who volunteer.

With that in mind please put your thinking caps on as we need more folks to step up to take on leadership roles - our nominations process starts soon. Past President Mary Ellen will be managing the process (see below), so please get in touch with her about opportunities. If you are hesitant about taking on a full role, we are open to exploring shared or shadowed roles.

Please show-up and show our support for the May 05 National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2-Spirit+ Peoples (MMIWG2S+). In collaboration with the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR) our club will mark this day with a Red Dress Raising Awareness walk. The walk starts sat KSS at ~12:30pm, and ends at the MABR Education Centre, where Chief Recalma will welcome the attendees, followed by a reception and a number of craft and engagement activities. My thanks to the Talking Circle on Indigenous Issues for coordinating this special community-facing event.

I'm off to the CFUW BC Council AGM this weekend, so am looking forward to meeting representatives from other clubs, hearing how they do things, and showcasing CFUW PQ and our members. I'll report back with a short summary, and see if there are some best practices we can learn from.


...looking forward to see you all at our next meeting, Knox United Church, May 12. A short business meeting, followed by lots of fun (and some learning). The meeting starts at 7:00 pm, but come for 6:30 pm so we can all catch up beforehand.

Christine

Please visit the website (www.cfuwpg.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@cfuwpg.ca)

Program Information



type to enter text


cfuw PARKSVILLE
QUALICUM

SPEAKER SERIES 2024/25

Shine A Light on our Community

Sharing the Joy of Life Long Learning & Creativity

SPEAKERS:
In 10 minute segments, 10 CFUW members will showcase a variety of talents that bring them joy—everything from flower arranging, painting and quilting to self-publication and lessons in longevity.



**Monday
May 12
2025**

**Knox United Church
345 Pym Street, Parksville
6:30 pm meet and mingle
Meeting starts at 7:00 pm**

Realizing potential. For all women.

www.cfuwpg.ca

Nominations Information

Nomination Committee Report:

- A. What do we do?
- B. Why do we have nominations?
- C. Who can be involved?
- D. What do we require of you?

For answers to these questions, we go to our club's bylaws:

From the cfuw Parksville Qualicum Bylaws:

What do we do?

- The Chair of Nomination Committee shall present a slate of Officers of the Club, Chair(s) of Committees of the Club, and two Trustees to the CFUW PQ S&BT to the Business meetings of the general membership preceding most closely the Annual General Meeting.
- The Chair of the CFUW PQ S&BT shall inform the President(s) of the name of the Chair for the coming year.
- The election of Officers of the Club and two Trustees to the CFUW PQ S&BT; the appointment of Chairs of Club Committees; and the confirmation of the current Chair of CFUW PQ S&BT shall take place at the Annual General Meeting.

Why do we have a nominations?

- The term of office for all Officers of the Club is one year.
- The Officers of the Club shall be the President(s), Vice President(s), Secretary(ies), Treasurer(s), Membership Coordinator(s) and the immediate Past President(s).
- No Officer of the Club shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms unless approved by vote of the majority of those members attending the AGM where this shall be decided.
- Nominations for Scholarship and Bursary Trust

From the CFUW Scholarship and Bursary Trust Bylaws

- Trustees shall be recruited from the Active or Life Members of CFUW-PQ and their appointments shall be confirmed at the CFUW-PQ Annual General Meeting.
- An Active Member shall be deemed to be in good standing when she has paid her current annual membership dues of CFUW-PQ.
- A Trustee's term of office shall be four years.
- A retired Trustee may serve a further four-year term after one year's absence.

Who can be involved?

The Past President shall:

- be Chair of the Nomination Committee. (All members may join the nominating committee)

What do we require of you?

- Please contact Mary Ellen mecampbell@shaw.ca identifying the area that interests you for our upcoming CFUW 2025 – 2026 year

(Contributed by Mary Ellen C.)

Scholarship Alumni**Guess who I had lunch with today??**

Erin Wadge won three of our scholarships over the past 7 years. I remember handing her the high school leaving one. She had a Memorial scholarship as an undergraduate at McEwan University and then a graduate one while pursuing law at Queens. She is now doing an articling year with Crown Council in Edmonton and then the bar exam and so will become a junior Council. So proud of our young girls, sorry, young ladies!! I invited her to join one of our meetings when she is next in town.



(Contributed by Janet F.)

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 A.)

Shrinking Violets Book Club

No report this month.

Book Review of the Month

Demon Copperhead (2022) by Barbara Kingsolver

I resisted reading this book, despite the many awards the author has received and its ‘best-seller’ status. For one thing, it is long (546 pages). I had veered away from Kingsolver’s books because I felt she served her latest ‘cause’ instead of just writing an entertaining story. This time, it is the damage that poverty and drug addiction does to children who grow up neglected by their families and society. As you may know, Kingsolver is re-writing Dickens’ *David Copperfield*, which exposed the Victorian era’s brutal treatment of poor families. If you have read it, or even just read the plot summary (available online) you have the story arc. Even the names are borrowed. In Dickens’ book, the bad guy is Uriah Heep and in this one, it is a man known as U-Haul.

As you read, you will learn about rural southern Appalachia, the lack of services, the few options for employment, the limited services. You will also delve deeply into the drug addiction that is a curse and tragedy for many families now. Young Demon was born to an utterly insensibly

stoned single mother who works (when she does) at Walmart and they live in a single-wide trailer on a hill. His father has died. It goes downhill from there, or at least, his life has few redeeming pleasures and scant security. The book is depressing at this point and I found it a real trudge. Demon is also depressed. He shrugs at attending Remedial Math, knowing that next year, he is likely to be with a different family and possibly in a different school. Most of the foster families in this book are exploitive ones, offering substandard care and forcing the children to work. The reader becomes as dispirited as Demon. When he seems to be living in an acceptable home and becomes a football hero, you know it will end. And it does when his knee is wrecked. The team doctor prescribes him oxycodone. And the only way forward is down.

I salute the author for knowing so much about the teenage sub-culture and the common use of drugs of various kinds. She also knows how rare it is to succeed in leaving it behind and how few possibilities there are for help in doing so. She vividly portrays being seized by the ever-present need for a substance and how unthinkable it is to deny it to yourself. You may know someone who has become a victim of that trap.

She revealed to me the stereotype of 'the hillbilly' and how pervasive (and destructive) it is. I unthinkingly read the L'il Abner cartoon and watched the Beverly Hillbillies TV series. Even living so far away, we have an idea in our heads of what these people are like. It is, of course, a rank generalization and massively unfair. Kingsolver not only helps us know and understand the people who live near her, but she also shows us the camaraderie, the generosity, the kindness, and the pleasures of country life.

Like David, Demon is a survivor and eventually, his life improves and he has a possibility of meaningful work, a home, and someone to love. It is a long and rocky road when so much is stacked against you. But, a few good people care and do not stop trying. One helps him come to believe he is worth the effort. One helps him recognize his own strengths. Recalling one of his high school Literature classes, Demon says: "Likewise the Charles Dickens one, seriously old guy, dead, and a foreigner, but Christ Jesus did he get the picture on kids and orphans getting screwed over and nobody giving a rat's ass. You'd think he was from around here."