



White Rock / Surrey

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For many, as the clock clicks to midnight on December 31, something happens as we move to a new day and the beginning of a new year. The new year is a chance to look back and reflect, to look forward with hope and perhaps to resolve.

The beginning of a new year is celebrated on different days by different cultures. The European tradition of beginning the new year on January 1 began in 45BC with the introduction of the Julian calendar. Chinese New Year falls on the second new moon after the December winter solstice. Diwali, the Festival of Lights in India, is a five day festival celebrated by Hindus, Jains and Sikhs during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika. During the Jewish celebration of Rosh Hashanah, over two days in the fall, people ask for forgiveness and atone for things done wrong during the past year. Babylonians return borrowed objects. Scots go 'first-footing' to visit friends and neighbours and wish them well. In England, where I grew up, our tradition was to open the front door and the back door and bang pots to shoo out the old year and welcome the new year into our homes. My husband, from the Netherlands recalls New Year's celebrations with a treat called Oliebollen, a round, deep-fried donut, translated as 'Oil Balls'; the circle is a symbol of success.

The traditions of welcoming a new year, regardless of culture or dates of the celebration, involve rituals such as special food, celebrations of light and a hopeful look towards a new tomorrow. In many traditions, parties are held during new year festivities to bid goodbye to the problems of the past year and prepare for a better year ahead.

The restrictions necessitated by Covid-19 this year have curtailed many of our customary ways of gathering with friends and family to celebrate the beginning of a new year. However, the tradition of saying good-bye to the past year as we welcome a new year with optimism has prevailed.

Last year when we celebrated the beginning of a new year, who could have guessed what 2020 held in store for us! Early in 2020, Covid-19 concerns quickly became a global crisis. Throughout the year, we have been reminded of how quickly things that we took for granted in our everyday lives can change. It

has been a time of challenges, but also a time for growth. We have learned new skills and discovered that we are more resourceful than we knew. We have learned that we can maintain connections and care about each other even if we are physically separated. We have gained a new appreciation of our medical professionals. We have found opportunities for creativity within the crisis and shown resilience in many areas of our lives. Our CFUW club has embraced our theme for the year of Community-Connecting-Caring. Whatever your new year traditions have included, I hope that the coming year brings you and your family health, happiness and light as we enter 2021 and transition to the next decade.



Happy New Year - Bonne Année - Feliz Año Nuevo - Kung Hei Fat Choy - Shanah tovah - Newydd Dda

Buon Anno - Frohes Neues Jahr - Gleðilegt nýtt ár - Mutlu yıllar - Šťastný nový rok - Godt nytår - Hyvää uutta vuotta Godt nytt år

MESSAGE FROM Anne Low, VICE PRESIDENT

WE ARE NOT ALONE!

Happy New Year!

The positivity and strength that has emerged this pandemic year fortifies my faith in our collective ability to weather the bumpy road ahead. We can do it!

Graduate Women International, where \$76.00 of your dues go, has been keeping the issues facing women and girls front and centre. A series of webinars was presented by the Education Committee in November and December, and another one dealing with COVID-19. They also had a '16 days of activism campaign against gender based violence'. Congratulations to India and Norway for 100 years of membership.

On the CFUW level, there is an important discussion taking place. They noted it is the 50th anniversary of the Status of Women report.

Since our international organization was changed to become a more inclusive GWI in 2015, there have been some reorganizational issues, nationally. Costs are high, partly because of money exchange. In Canada, there has been much discussion, discord, and many changes resulting in a national Mediation Report issued this fall regarding internal communication. There are also urgent financial issues.

To this point, I attended an excellent zoom meeting in November. Fifty-five members representing clubs from Halifax to Vancouver attended. The conversation was led by an Alberta member and focused on the results of a survey. Small groups of 8 carried the discussion to club level, then returned to report to the whole.

It was Zoom at its best! From very experienced members to novices, we all shared and listened. Vancouver has been successful in attracting young members, but many clubs are facing declining membership and have related struggles. This is critical to the financial well-being of our organization. One club has members so passionate about the values of CFUW, they are willing to go a long way to keeping us alive. How do **you** feel about CFUW?

Please read the '*Message from CFUW President Kathryn Wilkinson*' [on the last page of this newsletter](#). The board will be discussing this at our January meeting and will appreciate your thoughts and ideas. We need to move forward and reset. How can you support this club and how can we support National?

B.C. Council asked each provincial club to report about their advocacy activity. The Fall Advocacy Package "Take Action on CFUW Policies Adopted in 2020" will be a great guide and starting point.

As vice president, it is my job to get the ball rolling, so, please, let me know if you are interested in helping me find direction and issues for our club.

We can do it!

CLUB NEWS

Program Committee Write-Up following *Inside and Outside the Prison Walls* Presentation

(submitted by Lynn Robertson)



Dianne Brown, Guest Speaker

On November 28, close to 50 of our members were online during our zoom general meeting. We were engaged as we listened with interest and curiosity to Dianne Brown, our guest speaker.

Dianne and I reconnected last year during the planning of our high school's 50th Reunion since our graduation. I was fascinated to learn that Dianne had achieved her goal of becoming a prison warden. I invited Dianne to speak at one of our general meetings, as it is not often we have the opportunity to gain a clearer understanding of what it is like "Inside and Outside the Prison Walls".

Dianne was a pioneer woman in the world of prison reform for women. Early in her career, she was one of only two women who held the responsibilities and challenges of a warden in all of Canada's prisons. Meeting the needs of women prisoners, Dianne and her team designed a new prison which was to be built, and she implemented new protocols and procedures. The new prison for women looked very different from what many of us likely imagine prison to be. Providing women prisoners with a set of tools and skills for collaborative and independent living once they are released from prison was a focus in developing responsibility in community living.

At the time of her retirement in 2008, she held the position of Warden, Grand Valley Institution for Women in Kitchener, Ontario. As many of us do, for several years after her official retirement, she was contracted by the federal government to address issues and challenges in women's prisons as well as to provide training to staff in this field.

Dianne's presentation certainly piqued our interest and spurred us on to learn more about the challenges women prisoners encounter upon their release from prison. Perhaps we will have the opportunity to invite Dianne back to one of our future meetings. Certainly, the feedback we received was an indicator that many of us could listen to and learn from Dianne for another hour!

The following links have been provided by Dianne Brown, should you wish to explore more information regarding women in prison and their re-entry into the community:

Documentary Conviction: convictiondocumentary.com

Correctional Service of Canada: csc-scc.gc.ca

Task Force Report on Federal Sentenced Women (Creating Choices):
<https://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/women/toce-eng.shtml>

British Columbia Corrections: <https://www.2.gov.bc.ca/content/justice/criminal-justice/correction>

CFUW PROGRAM COMMITTEE

(Sandra Kraft)

WHO IS DIANE?



Diane Salter Menzo

We are pleased to present *Diane Salter Menzo* as our speaker for this month's general meeting, which once again will be via Zoom.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know our club president, Diane, as she shares the family and career experiences she has had while traveling the world.

Date: Saturday, January 23, 2021 via Zoom
Time: 10:15 – join the meeting by using the link emailed to you prior to the meeting
10:30 – meeting begins

You Never Know Where Life Will Take You

This will be an interactive talk. Questions can be posted on “Chat” as Diane speaks, and she will answer as she goes along.

Guests are welcome to join us. Simply forward your guests' names and email addresses to Diane at dianesaltermenzo@gmail.com.

A THANK YOU

(submitted by Robin Funk)

This year, the program committee wanted to send a special Christmas message to all CFUW members.

With this in mind, we approached our long time member and creative card designer, Margaret Long, to design a card for us. Members of the program committee put together these cards to send to all our members. We hope you enjoyed receiving this special greeting.

Thank you to Margaret for her help to make this project possible!

Sincerely,

Karen, Lorna, Lynn, Marjorie, Penny, Robin, Sandra, Sandy and Sherrill

(your Program Committee members)



CFUW GIVING CONTINUES



YOUR PROGRAM COMMITTEE WAS OVERWHELMED BY YOUR GENEROSITY WHICH CONTINUED PAST CHRISTMAS DAY. THE JOY YOU GAVE TO THE RECIPIENTS AND THE STAFF WAS MIRRORED ON THEIR FACES. THEY COULD NOT BELIEVE THE ABUNDANCE OF GIFTS.

SHERRILL BERG, AMA HOUSE LIAISON

THANK YOU PROGRAM COMMITTEE

(Joanne Cunningham)

Fantabulous, hard working, creative and fun... all words to describe our wonderful White Rock/Surrey CFUW program committee.

Eblast #21

This committee has kept the club membership connected and true to our Mission statement.

With their Eblasts of everything from webinars and Christmas recipes, to music videos, games and promoting our Christmas meeting, they have continually kept members attentive, amused, and involved. Throughout all this, they have continued to help the club support Ama house.

A huge thank you to Sherrill Berg, Marjorie Foxall, Robin Funk, Penny Harrington, Sandra Kraft, Lorna MacGregor, Sandy McKenzie, Lynn Robertson, and Karen Webster.

BURSARY BOARD NEWS

(Carolyn Oram)

Happy New Year!

The bursary board will meet by Zoom later this month to prepare for our Spring applications.

The deadline for applications this year is May 28, 2021. We hope that we can use the same socially distanced, masked selection process outside as we did last year.



Following the 60th Anniversary of our club, members, present and former, were invited, as part of a special project, to share their remembrances and reflections of their membership in CFUW.

Attached is an article by Sandra Kraft to continue the "Memories" series of articles.

For several years before I retired, I had viewed notices of CFUW events in the Peace Arch News and thought that the events advertised appealed to me. I wanted to join the club, but didn't have time while I was still working. About a year after I retired, my friend Anne Low and I saw the "Gardens in Bloom" tour advertised, and we decided to each buy a passport and attend. There was an application form attached, and we joined the club in 2007. We had been members of the club for less than a year when then President Gladys Utendale asked Anne and me to become program chairs. We took on the job and did it for the next two years.

I also joined the community affairs committee led by Jane McNamara. At that time, this committee was really an education committee, committed to early childhood learning, educational opportunities for mothers and children in Surrey and our One-to-One tutoring program in schools. Pat Hyde led the One-to-One Program. I was a volunteer reading tutor in this program at Peace Arch Elementary for about three years.

Jane left the club and the community affairs program was taken over by Elva Reid who championed early childhood education programs at Camp Alexandra. I worked with Elva on this committee for a couple of years. Elva and I also attended the BC Council early education advocacy committee at Hycroft. I worked with Elva on this committee for several years until Elva's health failed and she passed away.

In 2010, I became co-president of our club with Diana Sells, who has since moved to Florida. Diana and I attended several BC Provincial conferences which we thoroughly enjoyed. Through the BC conferences, we learned so much about other clubs, advocacy and resolutions.

In 2019, I became club treasurer and plan to keep this job for many years.

All of the members make a significant contribution to the club in various ways, but Elva Reid's passion and work for early childhood education and affordable daycare programs was really outstanding. Elva was an admirable woman who had tremendous energy and enthusiasm for bettering the lives of women and children.

Elizabeth Bordeaux was also an inspiration and role model to me. She cared deeply about our club and stepped in wherever needed to make our club vibrant. She recruited members, hosted events, took on executive positions and participated in interest groups and committees.

I feel privileged to belong to CFUW White Rock/Surrey, because I belong to a group of women who play together (golf and bridge), learn together and from each other (meetings, book club, art group) and provide service to the community (bursaries, community grants, Ama House). I believe in providing opportunities for the betterment of children and women and as an educator, I have tried to provide such opportunities all of my adult life.

It is rewarding to belong to a club where I can continue to contribute to the community and to enjoy the fellowship of like-minded women.

Sandra Kraft



FROM THE ARCHIVES

CONTRIBUTIONS BY PAST PRESIDENTS

Mary Ann Rainer - President from 2004 - 2006

Mary Ann Rainer was our Club President from 2004 – 2006. She was a true advocate of protecting the environment and led the club in several initiatives to fulfill this goal. Education and opportunities for community

involvement were priorities as well.

Some Highlights of Mary Ann's Presidency:

- The 2004 IFUW Triennial Conference was held in Perth, Australia, and three club members, Marion Setterlund, Jean Putman, and Gladys Utendale attended.
- Three members, Mary Ann Rainer, Doreen Hoath, and Gladys Utendale attended the 2004 National CFUW conference in Regina, and accepted 2 special project awards: - the early readers project and increased membership. The club welcomed 18 new members that year, bringing the total membership to 124.

- In 2004, five bursaries of \$1500 each were awarded and in 2005 four bursaries of \$2000 were awarded at dinners held at Morgan Creek golf club.
- The 2004 Gardens in Bloom raised \$11,262.95 net, and 80% of the proceeds went to the Bursary Foundation.
- The environment group, encouraged by CFUW National, worked on the Burns Bog project to have the Bog named as a Ramsar site which is a step toward having it designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Ramsar is an international treaty of global importance that gives a framework for national and international wise use of wetlands.
- The environment group compiled a list of questions regarding Burns Bog to be used at all candidates meetings for the upcoming BC election. These questions were distributed to all of the Vancouver area CFUW clubs for their use.
- The education issues group established the One-to-One reading program. Patricia Hyde led 10 volunteers in a reading mentoring program for students at Thrift Elementary School. Later, a second school, Peace Arch, was added as the program thrived.
- In 2005 the education committee researched and wrote a resolution concerning early childhood learning & development for presentation to BC Council.
- At the 2005 National CFUW AGM in Oakville Ontario, attended by Jean Putman, Joan Clark, Bernice Baril, and Gladys Utendale, the club was presented with a special project award for the one-to-one reading program.
- The last meeting of the 2005 season was a social "Remembering the Summer of 1959 ", to mark our 45th Anniversary.
- A motions' book, a record of the Club's motions was started. An advocacy book for advocacy letters was also initiated.
- In March 2005, the membership approved a gift of \$10,000 to the Kwantlen Endowment Fund to establish a \$1,000 annual bursary in the club's name at Kwantlen University College. This gift was matched by Kwantlen, thereby providing a bursary in perpetuity.
- An ad hoc visions/planning committee formulated the club's strategic plan for 2006 – 2010.
- The club monetarily supported Ama House, a six-bed transition house for women over age 55, who have experienced violence or abuse. It was the first of its type to be established in North America.

During Mary Ann's presidency, the club not only grew in membership but also in terms of our goals. Resolutions were given priority for club involvement and the goals of community connection were expanded

Lois Hunter, Archivist



CFUW White Rock/Surrey Interest Groups ~ Activities and Leaders

Monday

Dames Who Dine

1st Mon., 5:30 p.m.
vacant

Duplicate Bridge

2nd Mon., 1:00 p.m.
Betty Bishop; Donna Freeze

Club Cuisine

4 times a year
Anna Ferguson

One to One Literacy Group

once a week
Carolyn Oram



Tuesday

Alpha Book Group

2nd Tues. 1:30 p.m.
Shirley Nord

Evening Book Club

3rd Tues., 7 p.m.
Kathy Steele

Who can play, Who can host? Bridge

Tues. & Fri.,
9:30 a.m.
Astrid Lancelle

The Bridgets Afternoon Bridge

1st & 3rd Tues.,
1:00 p.m.
Janice Cook



Wednesday

Afternoon Matinee-Dinner

2nd Wed., 3:00 p.m.
(varies)
Barbara Cook

Golf for Fun

Wed. Afternoons
Sue Foley-Currie

Art Appreciation

3rd Wed. (varies)
Marilyn Dyer-Seidel



Thursday

Fully Booked Book Group

2nd Thurs. 1:30 p.m.
Joanne Cunningham

Newbies Bridge

1:00 p.m., Thurs.
Sandra Kraft



Friday

Stitch and Chat

2nd Fri., 1:00 p.m.
Daphne Graff



French Conversation

Friday 1 p.m. on
Zoom
Sylvia Riddell



Interest Groups Info*

For more information contact Interest Group Leaders,

**Groups subject to change.*

MEMBER RESOURCES

Web Resources for Members

CFUW Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/CFUW-White-RockSurrey-1491088411167597/timeline/>

and the closed group page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1547358335477392>

(to access, you must be a member of Facebook)

CFUW White Rock/Surrey Website

<http://cfuwwhiterocksurrey.com/>

BC Council

<https://sites.google.com/site/cfuwbccouncil/home>

CFUW (National)

<http://www.cfuw.org/>

GWI (Graduate Women International)

<http://www.graduatewomen.org/>

Semiahmoo Arts

<http://www.semiahmooarts.com/>

Arts Council of Surrey

<http://www.artscouncilofsurrey.ca/>

NOTE:

just click on the URL and you will be taken to the respective website.

Please contact Membership Chair, Faye Koll, if you have changes to your contact information:
Telephone - 604-599-0714;
email: kollfm@shaw.ca

Send a Card... Please advise **Linda Tedman** about any member of our club who is ill or bereaved, so she can send a card. Contact information: **Telephone 604-536-4898;**
email: lindatedman@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Editor and Layout - Veronika Bichler
Proofreaders - Helen Christiansen
- Maureen Buchholz

Email Distribution : - Veronika Bichler

Deadline for Feb. 2021 Newsletter
submissions is **Monday, Feb. 8, 2021**

Please submit news by email with the subject line
'Newsletter' to: vbichler@shaw.ca

Important Message from CFUW National President, Kathryn Wilkinson

In the past we have used the Newsletter to update members on the Mediation Report, Strategic Plan and CFUW-GWI relationship. However, we are sending this separate message containing important information which I trust you will share with the members of your Club.

At the Board meeting on Tuesday, December 1, a motion was passed to allow **Clubs to opt out of the GWI per capita dues calculation beginning with the 2022 GWI dues. This means that CFUW's dues obligation to GWI will be based on the number of members in clubs that did not opt out. All clubs will continue to pay CFUW per capita dues of \$76.00 unless the dues are changed at an AGM.**

As background, dues in both CFUW and GWI are calculated on a per capita basis. Per Capita dues is a calculation used to determine the total amount of dues owed. For example, CFUW Somewhere has 100 members. Per capita dues are \$76. Total dues owing for CFUW Somewhere are \$7600.

Each November, CFUW reports membership numbers to GWI for calculating dues payable in the following calendar year. We just received GWI's January 1, 2021 invoice, based on membership numbers of 6300 as reported by clubs last month.

In November 2021, for purposes of calculating GWI dues, CFUW will count only membership numbers from Clubs which have indicated their willingness to be included in the GWI per capita calculation.

As further background

- The CFUW Board of Directors has a responsibility to find a means of moving past the divide caused by CFUW's continued membership in GWI.
- **Both Legislation** and advice received from legal counsel are clear: **The CFUW Board owes a duty of care as the fiduciaries of CFUW**, not GWI.
- **Serving as the Fiduciary means the board is entrusted with the well-being of the corporation** (CFUW) including financial well-being.
- Board members, therefore, have an obligation to act in the best interests of the corporation even when doing so might be perceived as being at odds with the membership. **Legislation or the Act comes before Articles and By-laws.**
- **The board has no authority to change bylaws.** Therefore, we must comply with Article 4 which requires CFUW to be a member of GWI until such time as a change is made to the Articles and Bylaws.
- **CFUW, as an NFA, is the member of GWI. CFUW Clubs are not members of GWI**, nor are individual club members.
- The motion passed by the Board allows **CFUW to remain an NFA member** of GWI while permitting clubs to determine whether their members will be part of the dues calculation.
- **We are keeping GWI informed** of our current situation.
- GWI has proposed a new Dues Structure which excludes the option of in-kind contributions from which CFUW has previously benefitted. Moreover, under this new structure, as the number of members included in the GWI

dues calculation declines, the average per capita rate that CFUW owes will increase.

- **CFUW members have not supported motions to increase CFUW dues aimed at covering the GWI dues increase that took effect on January 1, 2018.** Fundraisers and requests for voluntary contributions have not netted sufficient funds to cover this shortfall. In 2019, unrestricted reserves were used to ensure all dues owing at that time were paid. However, shortages for 2020 and 2021 are accumulating. **CFUW cannot continue to accumulate deficits in GWI dues.**
- The Board is aware that there will be individuals who will not be supportive of the majority decision made by their Club. As a Board, **we are committed to the interest of all our members** and will endeavour to help find solutions and options, including membership in the CFUW Canada GWI.
- Only clubs that are included in the GWI dues calculation will be permitted to vote on delegate instructions for GWI.
- **What happens next?** The **CFUW dues structure can only be amended at an AGM** so all CFUW Clubs will continue to pay \$76 per capita until a change is adopted at an AGM.
- **The GWI invoice will be paid from dues received from clubs included in the GWI dues calculation.**
- The equivalent amount from clubs not included in the **GWI dues calculation** will be put into the **restricted reserve fund pending a decision** about how to use it. That decision will be made at an AGM, and only clubs that are not included in the GWI dues calculation will vote on this matter.

I am sure many of you will have questions and comments and there will be an opportunity to ask questions at dialogue sessions in the new year.

I would like to thank Board members for taking what I believe is a very courageous step towards ending the conflict within CFUW and allowing us to move forward as a national organisation. The [Mediation Report](#) highlighted that there was unanimous agreement that there was great value in the CFUW continuing as a unified, strong, cohesive organization. Everyone involved wants the CFUW to continue as a single organization and it is hoped that this motion passed by the Board will allow us to put the CFUW-GWI controversy behind us and to focus once again growing as an organization.

National President
