



Semaphore

Newsletter of CFUW-Scarborough—January 2012



President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU — with best wishes for good health and happiness in this new year.

This edition of "Semaphore" combines reflections on our activities in the autumn and spotlights what's ahead for our Club in 2012. With high attendance at our September General Meeting, we had a good start as everyone reconnected and enthusiastically signed up for interest groups and caught up with CFUW and its AGM. We ended our calendar year with a very successful Christmas Party.

On the big CFUW stage, Club representatives attended the Ontario Council Standing Committee meeting in September to hear pre-election discussion by speakers from the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Mental Health Association. On behalf of the Club I wrote to our MPs concerning the cancellation of the Long Gun Registry and our new policy on Criminalization of Non-State Actor Torture. I also wrote to our MPPs concerning the policy on Mental Health adopted by Ontario Council in 2011. The Toronto Caucus again organized a December 6 lunch and speaker to honour the women killed at the Ecole Polytechnique du Montreal and to raise money for the related fellowship. Seven Club members attended.

Closer to home, we welcome **four** new members. Our Awards Committee was busy. We were delighted to attend the December 1 reception that UTSC gave us in recognition of our awards to their students. We helped Juliette's Place again with Christmas gifts. Pat Westcott's committee has completed its work on revising our Constitution (for discussion in January). All in all, we ended 2011 on a high note of accomplishment.

LOOKING AHEAD:

We also have big tasks ahead of us—to become better known in the community,

increase membership and develop leadership within our Club. I suggest that this last is our most important work for the coming year, even beyond our awards and attempts to educate and work with politicians. We must discuss how we can involve more members in the tasks of planning and administering our Club activities and in deciding our future. How can we nurture members to take on some responsibilities?

We've celebrated our **50th** anniversary. The Club needs your ideas and commitment to plan for the future.



Anne Smith, President 11/12

May Dinner Reminder

Mark your Calendars for the May Dinner speaker, Raheel Raza. Ms. Raza is an Intercultural and Interfaith Diversity Consultant, author and public speaker. She is an outspoken advocate for gender equality and a women's rights activist. She is a recipient of the City of Toronto's Constance Hamilton Award. She is also the first South Asian woman to narrate a CBC documentary on "The Passionate Eye". Raheel Raza brings a fresh global perspective to her mandate "there is unity in diversity". Please come out and join us for her presentation on May 14, 2012.



Important Dates

OC Standing Committees

Saturday, January 21, 2012

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church
1585 Yonge Street

Topic: *Climate Change and Mental Health:*

Saturday, March 17, 2012

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

Topic: *Pay Equity in Ontario*

ONTARIO COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting

May 11 and 12, 2012

Hampton Inn
5515 Eglinton Avenue West,
Toronto

Theme: **Energy**

Hosted by CFUW Etobicoke

CFUW

Annual General Meeting

June 21-25, 2012

Victoria, BC

Details to Follow

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!



Interest Groups

Revolving Book Group

The following books were chosen for this year to provide a variety of styles. Although they are all novels, they explore many characters and ways of telling a tale.

CUTTING FOR STONE – Abraham Verghese

This is a novel about love and betrayal, medicine and miracles, and 2 brothers whose fates are forever intertwined.

SARAH'S KEY – Tatiana de Rosnay

Alternating between Paris 1942 and Paris 2002, the story of Sarah and her brother unfolds.

THE SENSE OF AN ENDING – Julian Barnes

This is the story of one man coming to terms with a past that is not the same as what he witnessed.

THE REDEEMER – Jo Nesbo

A gripping crime novel set in Oslo.

THE FORGOTTEN GARDEN – Kate Morton

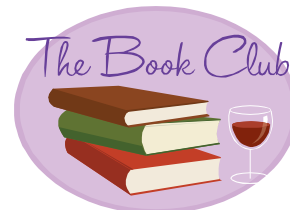
This is a tale of unknown parentage, family intrigue, and generational secrets leading to a haunting ending.

THE BEST LAID PLANS – Terry Fallis

This is a satire on Canadian politics. It is full of unforgettable characters, and the good guys win!

SECRET DAUGHTER – Shilpi Somaya Gowda

This novel explores the emotional terrain of motherhood, loss, identity and love as witnessed through the lives of 2 families and the child that connects them.



Ruth Wolff

Film Femmes

On the 3rd Tuesday afternoon of each month we meet at the AMC Theatre at Kennedy Commons. This past fall our group enjoyed three very different, interesting movies.

In SEPTEMBER we saw "SARAH'S KEY" about the arrest of Parisian Jews during WW2, specifically the story of one little girl who escaped from her prison camp and returned to Paris to find her brother.

In OCTOBER "THE IDES OF MARCH" showed us the cut throat competition between two contenders for the Ohio

Primary win and hopefully for the presidential nomination later.

In NOVEMBER "THE WAY" took us on a pilgrimage from France across Spain to worship at the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela.

We are looking forward in the New Year to some of the wonderful movies already being promoted .

Marion Johnston

416-293-8014

Muriel Cluett

416-497-5242



Afternoon Books

This fall season, thanks to Maureen Corby, we had a reading experience unlike any in the life of our group - the unforgettable THE FORGOTTEN GARDEN by Kate Morton, a 550 page enchanting masterpiece. The plot line: the search for the identity of a young girl abandoned in 1913 on a ship sailing from England to Australia . We are taken back and forth over time between Australia and England through the lives of several generations of an imagined aristocratic family ..every human emotion is explored .. there is intrigue from beginning to end ..fantasy combined with realism .. beautiful prose .. to quote one reviewer "Escapism at its best" . MC

Theatre Group

"Now that I'm dead I know everything."

So begins "The Penelopiad", Margaret Atwood's daring response to Homer's "The Odyssey".

Penelope recounts her life's story and the murder of her twelve handmaidens by her vengeful husband.

Our Theatre Group will be seeing this production in January at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, performed by an all-female cast headed by Megan Follows.

Back in October, we began our theatre outings with "Hardsell", a one-man play originally performed by Rick Miller for Canadian Stage in 2009 and re-worked by him in 2011. A one-man show, it was presented at Factory Theatre as a performance/lecture that boldly examined "the commodification of everything and the lies inherent in advertising". We were also invited to a pre-performance chat with the actor and an author who prepared us for the evening's presentation. Dynamic!

Ann Rutherford 416-261-6753



More Interest Groups

Hiking Group

We have had 3 enjoyable hikes – along the Belt Line Trail, around the Don Valley Brickworks and along the Danforth. The Don Valley Brickworks was particularly interesting as there have been tremendous changes since we were last there about 5 years ago. There was a particularly interesting wall mural on one of the buildings. It appeared to be a large picture of a tree with the branches and roots planted with moss. On closer observation we realized the branches were the river valleys in the Toronto area and the roots were the bays and shoreline of Lake Ontario.



Marilyn Lind 416-282-0946

Interest Group Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Making a Difference			Lunch Group — Couples Bridge	
	Afternoon Books			Healthy Gourmet		
		Film Femmes		Afternoon Bridge		
Hiking Group	Evening Books			Theatre Group (usually 4th Thursday)		
		Out to Lunch (Last Tuesday)				

CFUW Scarborough Summary of Receipts and Disbursements November 1 - December 31, 2011

	November-December	Year to date
Receipts	\$ 3,130	\$ 9,612
Disbursements	1,789	5,719
Excess (Shortfall) of Receipts over Disbursements	1,341	3,893
Cash, Opening Balance	8,867	6,315
Cash on Hand, End of Period	\$ 10,208	\$ 10,208

Book Review

THE WOMAN WHO COULD NOT FORGET

by YingYing Chang (2011)



Iris Chang

"PLEASE believe in THE POWER OF ONE. One person can make an enormous difference in the world. One person actually, one idea can start a war, or end one, or subvert an entire power structure. One discovery can cure a disease or spawn new technology to benefit or annihilate the human race. You as ONE individual can change millions of lives. Think big. Do not limit your vision and do not EVER compromise your dreams or ideals ..."

This is Iris Chang (1968-2004), THE WOMAN WHO COULD NOT FORGET, speaking at a graduation ceremony at the University of Illinois in 1998 (263).

What was it that she could not forget? Why will she not be forgotten? It was the Japanese massacre of the Chinese in Nanking 1937-1938, an event her parents had survived, a holocaust similar to the treatment of the Jews by the Nazis in WW2. She had researched records of the happening and visited Nanking to interview survivors. The photos from that era changed her life. All of this "forgotten" or "ignored" holocaust she detailed for the world in her book, THE RAPE OF NANKING, subtitled "The Forgotten Holocaust of WW2". It was later made into a film. The reception of the book, an international bestseller that changed the world's view of WW2 forever and is of lasting importance to the historical record, demonstrates THE POWER OF ONE.

The research she was doing at the time of her death was a horror story similar to that of Nanking, the treatment by the Japanese in WW2 of American prisoners of war in the Philippines (355). Iris' mother, Ying Ying Chang, is her biographer, the book a six year project. It was written for Iris' son who was two years old when his mother committed suicide, a record of her life for him to read when he was older. She portrays Iris as a driven, intense, goal oriented woman, passionate about truth, beauty and justice, who advocated the preservation of the truth of history and learning from the mistakes of the past.

It is the life of a successful author, from the birth of an idea through strenuous research, dealings with agents and publishers, public appearances, radio and television interviews, book signings and exhausting travel. It was Iris' dedication, courage and determination to accomplish her goals that was Ying Ying's inspiration for writing this book.

Muriel Cluett (2012)

Awards

Anne Smith and Kathie Krashinsky and I reviewed the applications in June for the entrance award for UTSC. There were many very deserving candidates and the award winner was Madina Ghafori. In September Ruth Wolff and Po Chi Eng helped me to select the recipients for the two in-course awards. Those awards went to Tharnya Gengathata and Sara Jaffer. All of the recipients held leadership roles in a variety of volunteer activities with women and children as well as maintaining very good marks. I met Tharnya at the reception before the awards ceremony in November and she was thrilled to receive this award. She asked many questions about CFUW and spoke enthusiastically of her work with AMY, a group that offers programs in music, art and drama for children and young people who could not otherwise afford them. Ruth Wolff spoke at the awards ceremony and gave good information about the history of

CFUW and CFUW Scarborough and our involvement with Scarborough College (now UTSC) over the years. Some of us met Sara at the Donor Appreciation Event. That was attended by about thirty club members as well as award recipients and representatives of the staff at UTSC. It was interesting to hear from award winners as well as the exciting plans to expand UTSC. Also in November Grace Lord and I attended the Centennial College Awards Ceremony and met the recipient of our award. Marianne Winchester is a graduate of York University and is studying to be a mental health and addictions counsellor. She is the single parent of a three year old son.

Marilyn Lind, Awards Convenor



UTSC Thank You Reception

In recognition of our significant scholarship funds now held by the university, the University of Toronto at Scarborough (UTSC) hosted an evening reception in the brand new Instructional Building on December 1, 2011. Organized by Georgette Zinaty, Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations and her assistant, Alan Savlov, it was attended by 29 of our own club members and many of our award recipients and their families. With a wonderful array of beverages and refreshments it was a great opportunity for our members to meet the people supported by our scholarships and to hear from them directly how helpful our funds were. Principal Franco Vaccarino stressed the importance of UTSC donors; Anne Smith, our current CFUW Scarborough president gave an overview of the CFUW organization; Connie Guberman, Program Director, Women's and Gender Studies, talked about the new Gender Studies program; and Farrah Chanda Aslam, one of our 2008 scholarship winners gave an enthusiastic address about the need for financial support of today's students. Farrah is putting a face on this need by helping to promote U of T's "Boundless" fundraising campaign. Our club could play a large role in this effort by raising our capital fund to \$150,000 so please consider these students when making your charitable donations.



BACK ROW (left to right):

Madina Ghafari, 2011 CFUW Scarborough Entrance Award Scholarship

Jenna Hossack, 2007 CFUW Scarborough In-Course Award Scholarship

Sara Jaffer, 2011 CFUW Scarborough In-Course Award Scholarship

FRONT ROW (left to right):

Georgette Zinaty, Executive Director, Development & Alumni Relations, University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC)

Farrah Chanda Aslam, 2008 CFUW Scarborough In-Course Award Scholarship

Anne Smith, President, Canadian Federation of University Women Scarborough

Abirame Sivaskandarajah, 2006 CFUW Scarborough Entrance Award Scholarship

Chantelle Bharat, 2009 CFUW Scarborough Entrance Award Scholarship

Claudia Rios-Navarro, 2008 CFUW Scarborough In-Course Award Scholarship

Dec 6 Memorial Luncheon

With the sale of the Toronto Club's clubhouse the question was raised about if and where to hold this annual luncheon. The Toronto Club now holds its activities at the Faculty Club on Wilcox Street and they were able to arrange to have the Dec 6 Memorial Luncheon at that facility in their large Wedgewood Room. The management staff were very helpful in finalizing plans and we were able to boost the attendance to 120 because of the larger space. In spite of mobility problems for some of our members the buffet style service went well and the wait staff were very attentive to those needing help. With the change of venue went a change in format as well. After everyone had helped themselves to the extensive array of choices in the buffet we were treated to the address by our speaker, Alice Metcoff. Then the day was brought to a close with a trip to the buffet for dessert and coffee. By all accounts this new venue and the new format for the luncheon were well received. I think the Dec. 6 committee was encouraged by the results and will go ahead with plans for next year.

Gail Doehler

Membership

We now have a total of 62 paid up members including 4 new members. It was gratifying to see how many signed up early after our initial email campaign. All receipts, membership cards and directories have now been distributed. Those on our email list also receive updates from the National Office as well as our newsletter. This format affords the club considerable savings in postage but we are always happy to send out paper copies to those members without email.

We are sorry to lose Mary Allen as an active member since age and transportation have become a problem in attending meetings. There are also some who cannot come on our traditional Monday meeting night. In spite of these conflicts, though, we are fortunate to have between 25 – 30 faithful and interested members who attend on a regular basis.

Thanks to all of you who support this Club and who participate in its many Interest Groups and fundraising activities. We need your continued participation in order to keep the Club vibrant so please consider an executive position either alone or with a partner.



Gail Doehler

Ontario Council Report on Education - September 24, 2011

Nora Loreto, Communications and Government Relations Coordinator for the Canadian Federation of Students, spoke about the effects of labour disruptions in Colleges and Universities. The Community Colleges have system-wide governance and unions so labour disruptions affect all colleges. This year the support workers were on strike so there was no support for students with disabilities, no childcare and no IT solutions. Low funding leads to labour tension. She said the Canadian Federation of Students position is that working conditions are learning conditions.

The universities are independent and have many different unions so there are no system wide labour disruptions. Boards of Governors encourage top talent with top salaries for presidents and administrators. Positions on the boards are often determined by large contributions and endowments. She said budgets are determined by meeting targets and this affects admissions selection. Business courses are cheap to offer so they are big but people in business actually need courses in math, economics, ethics, sociology etc. These courses are not as well funded so not available to all students. With large classes, students' exams are often Scantron tests. Some students get through university without doing a research essay at least in the first two years.

Ontario does not have an integrated plan for Colleges and Universities. Funding for colleges per pupil is less than for high school. If the colleges offer degree programs they get better funding. Georgian College has 7 credentialed professors in a degree program for 10,000 students (I believe those are the numbers she said but might have misheard the number of students.) Universities and colleges hire many part time practitioners to teach only one course. They are paid \$5,000.00 while a full time tenured professor would receive about \$70,000.00. Ontario tuition fees are the highest in Canada.

What can CFUW members do?

Write letters to your local newspaper talking about the real costs of post secondary education.

Establish relations with local students' unions.

Write to your member of parliament to request support for a national strategy for post secondary funding.

Write to your MPP to request support for lower student debt and tuition fees.

Thanks as always to our faithful correspondents for their contributions to this newsletter. Feel free to send any future submissions by e-mail to toby10@rogers.com.

We hope you have enjoyed receiving this newsletter via email. This format allows us to save printing and distribution costs and keep our membership fees as low as possible.



Toby

Newsletter edited by

Toby Tenenbaum

Content accurate as of
January 6, 2012

We're on the Web!

<http://cfuwscarborough.org>