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Prepared by Sherri Eichhorn
President’s Report: 2020–2021

Submitted by Sylvia Marsh. CFUW President 2020-2021

CFUW Edmonton has been active since 1909. Our membership is a community of women that has a long history of successful efforts to improve the status of women at the local, provincial, national, and International levels and a commitment to continue those efforts today and into the future.

2020-2021 was filled with challenges and changes due to COVID-19 and our Alberta guidelines. This forced us to rethink ways that we could keep CFUW Edmonton alive and well. Not being able to meet face to face our members, who enjoy meeting for sharing information, discussions, and advocacy and socializing, this proved to be a sad time for the club. Then ZOOM came into our lives and proved to be our best friend and we learned to face these changes and adapt.

Zoom allowed us to join CFUW National in Webinars, Town Halls, Special Presentations, and Teleconferences and stay connected.

Locally our Executive and General meetings and our Annual General meeting were held monthly. Interest groups stayed active with virtual meetings. Alberta CFUW clubs invited us to share their Speakers and meetings thus allowing club members the opportunity to share ideas and meet other members.

The year’s success would not have been possible without the members support, investment of their time and contributions to our club. Having been blessed with a fantastic Executive, I especially want to thank Amy MacLeod Past president /CFUW Liaison, Regional Director for Alberta, Webmaster and Nomination Chair, Lea Belter General Meeting Secretary, Sherri Eichhorn Executive Meeting Secretary, Anne Valentine Treasurer, Vicky Grabb Membership and Academic Awards Fund Chair, Vivian Giang Communications and Newsletter Editor, Gail Perrin and Dale Wilkie Program, Mary Davenport and Karen Lewis-Caron Social, Lynda Gibson Interest Group Coordinator, also Margaret McInall Bylaws Committee Chair and Cathy Garvey Phoning Committee Chair, Nafeesa Mohamed and Janet Clark Bursary Convener, Anne Valentine and Cynthia Boodram Scholarship Convener and Jaynne Carre Casino Convener including the ad hoc committee Joyce Law and Past Presidents Committee Gail Perrin. To our member Joy Hurst who splits her time between CFUW Edmonton and CFUW National and International, congratulations on being nominated CFUW Vice President of International Relations. Also, congratulations to Amy MacLeod for her nomination of Regional Director for Alberta, who also splits her time and involvement on many CFUW National committees. Also Vicky Grabb on her nomination as VP Prairies.
To all our CFUW members, your willingness to step in when needed, through your kind donations and your enthusiasm for the Club endeavours, you have made a difference.

Thank you from the Director of the Campus Food Bank, CFUW Edmonton donated $1,019.52 over the holiday season and January.

I am looking forward to the virtual International Women’s Day being celebrated during the month of March and CFUW Conference this June. This is a great opportunity to share ideas and learn what women are doing across Canada and the World.

Having the opportunity to serve CFUW Edmonton as Club President 2019-2021 has been a great honour and privilege.

Have a safe summer with family and friends.

Membership

Membership this year totals 100, including three students, three dual members and four life members. We have two new members this year.

In Memoriam: Tammy Irwin.

IN OUR MEMORY

It is a miracle, nothing less than a miracle, that flowers bloom every spring,
That living thing begets living thing,
That we humans emerge again and again,
From ignorance to knowledge
From hopelessness to meaning
From sadness to joy.

It is a miracle, nothing less than a miracle.
Today we celebrate family members who were miraculous and sacred in our lives
Each made a contribution in a way
That was unique and irreplaceable.
Each is missed but what has been given will not be lost.
In the rising of the sun and its going down...
In the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter...
In the opening of the buds and the rebirth of spring...
In the blueness of the sky and the warmth of summer...
In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn...
In the beginning of the year and when it ends...
When we are weary and in need of strength...
When we are lost and sick at heart...
When we have joys we yearn to share...

We will remember them

Written by Rose Ferries

Academic Awards Fund (AAF)

Since 1911, CFUW Edmonton has supported post-secondary education and advanced study and research by women students at the University of Alberta. In 1971, CFUW Edmonton established a needs-based Bursary Program and in 1985 established the Margaret Brine Graduate Scholarship Program, which awards scholarships based on academic merit and contribution to the community. The CFUW Edmonton AAF is a Registered Charitable Organization.

Thank you to the 2020 AAF executive: Vicky Grabb (Chair), Linda Moisey (Secretary), Valeta Roach (Treasurer) and our Scholarship, Bursary and Casino Conveners – Anne Valentine & Cynthia Boodram (Scholarships), Nafeesa Mohamed and Janet Clark (Bursaries) and Jaynne Carre (Fund Raising).

Our 2021 executive is: Vicky Grabb (Chair), Linda Moisey (Secretary), Heather Pick (Treasurer) and Conveners: Scholarship (Cynthia Boodram & Anne Valentine – Co-Convenors), Bursary (Nafeesa Mohamed) and Casino (Jaynne Carre.) Anne Valentine is also Convener for the Aboriginal Undergraduate Woman Scholarship. Sylvia Marsh, CFUW Edmonton President, participated in the AAF executive in 2020. The President in 2021 will participate in 2021-22.

In 2020 a total of $42,750 was awarded by CFUW Edmonton:

- $16,000 to four Margaret Brine Graduate Scholarship recipients: $3,500 each to two Master’s winners and $4,500 each to two Doctoral winners.
In December 2019, bursaries totalling $26,750 were awarded to 20 women, including the Elsie Mitchell Newland, Frances McConnell and Margaret Brine named bursaries, each of which had a value of $2,500. The University of Alberta awarded undergraduate scholarships from an endowment established by CFUW long ago. Three first year and two second year students received $1,300 each. These scholarships are awarded annually, based on superior academic achievement, to Alberta high school graduates entering the first and second year of an undergraduate degree program at the University of Alberta. Recipients entering first year must have achieved a minimum average of 85% on the required Grade 12 Alberta examinations. The second-year scholarships are based on academic merit.

In 2019, with funding from the Alberta Council in recognition of the centennial of CFUW, CFUW Edmonton participated in awarding an Aboriginal Undergraduate Woman Scholarship of $2,000. An anonymous donor has undertaken to provide funding to continue this scholarship for five more years. The first award funded by the anonymous donor was awarded at the February 2020 meeting.

Our total endowment reached $329,814.00, as of December 2020. These funds are invested in the ATB Management Inc. Compass Balanced Portfolio.

In January 2021, the Endowment received a very generous bequest from the estate of Jean MacIntyre in the amount of $173,814.

Communications

Submitted by Amy MacLeod

After 5 years on the executive the time had come to exit the CFUW Edmonton executive in June 2020 but without a member to fill the CFUW Liaison position I continued in a consulting capacity, assisting the CFUW Edmonton executive as Acting CFUW Liaison this year. It was a busy year, as every year seems to turn out to be, keeping up with the information at the regional, national, and international levels of the organization for the club. Each month I relayed the highlights of what was going on at the various levels of the organization related to upcoming events, current advocacy, and news of various activities and accomplishments. I also updated regional and national levels of our membership numbers for GWI and CFUW national, as well as putting together the package of materials for the annual Alberta Societies report. This year there was a lot of activity around and required related to the decision by CFUW national to allow clubs to opt-in or opt-out of the GWI per capita dues.
IT Support

This year was a year of online activities mainly via the Zoom platform. I supported CFUW Edmonton with technology assistance hosting the club's zoom meetings and assisting members connecting their various devices to the platform. Also helped a few club members with other technological needs in their life related to devices, social media, etc. This was also a year that CFUW Edmonton's Academic Awards - Bursaries and Scholarships - went online only for applications and interviews so I worked with the chairs to design and implement a system that would work for them to achieve those goals. The system worked well for the chairs and they plan to continue using it in the future.

Webmaster

As webmaster I kept the website updated throughout the year. The site, on average, had 3225 visits per month during July-February of 2020-2021. Down from an average of 3782 visits per month July - June 2019-2020 but with the bulk of the club scholarships not open in February as in previous years this is not a surprise that traffic to our website decreased somewhat. Bursary and Scholarship application periods see the highest levels of visits to our club website. But over all we consistently get at least 2000 visits per month so it is a resource that is found and used by club members and the public.

Social Media

The club has both a Facebook group and a Twitter account. The club Facebook group has 71 members and, on average members post ~20 posts per month. 117 Twitter accounts currently follow the CFUW Edmonton Twitter Account. During the past 8 months, on average per month the club tweets/posts 2 posts, receives 494 Tweet impressions, 45 profile visits, 1 mention, and gains 1-2 followers per month. This is down from July-June 2019-2020 which, on average per month posted 7-8 times, received 2163 tweet impressions, 1-2 mentions, and gained 2-3 followers per month; this was in part due to the change of scholarship application period from the spring of 2021 to the fall of 2021. Bursary and scholarship periods are the most liked/retweeted/commented on posts for the club. The club social media presence continues to grow and engage more followers each year since it was started a few years ago.
Thank you to the phoning committee who call members to inform them of upcoming meetings and reminders of special events. We have kept our website www.cfuwedmonton.org. updated throughout the year. We continue to post on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/groups/CFUWEEdmonton/ and on our Twitter account https://twitter.com/cfuwedmonton which allows us to quickly interact with a variety of organizations and individuals on issues relevant to CFUW.

Social Report

Submitted by Mary Davenport

Social committee - Karen Lewis-Caron joined the Social Committee in May 2020.

The COVID-19 restrictions severely restricting gatherings meant that all our planned in-person activities were cancelled. The University Club was willing to cancel the dates that had been booked and agreed to waive any cancellation fees.

The social committee organized a social meeting on zoom for December. Thank you to Amy Macleod for the technical help and Karen Lewis-Caron for organizing the games.

Dates for next year’s monthly general meetings have been booked at the University Club with the understanding the bookings will be cancelled if in door gatherings are not permitted.

Program Highlights

Submitted by Gail Perrin

This year all our programs were presented on ZOOM and the format was made seamless with Amy’s technical support to the presenters. The following information highlights our guest speakers.

October 19th How to Continue Ministries Without Public Gatherings

Dr. Catherine MacLean, Minister, St. Paul United Church, Edmonton
Dr. Karen Medland, Minister, Office of Vocation for Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regions, Uniter Church of Canada

Catherine and Karen had to adapt to online connections and have found successful adaptations. Some unexpected benefits include an increase in Sunday Service participation and Karen is able to reach more groups each week within her jurisdiction.
November 16th Organizing Winter Homes for People With no Street Address
Michelle Nicviadomy, Assistant Director, Edmonton Native Healing Centre, Edmonton

November nights are cold especially for folks in the tent encampment in downtown Edmonton. Our speaker, Michelle Nicviadomy, worked with the team organizing winter homes for the camp residents. Tammy Irwin and Michelle organized a compelling argument for care and concern of people living on the margins of our community.

February 22nd The Garden Going on Without Us
Donna Lynn Smith, Edmonton and Area Land Trust Donor
Sheila Campbell, Executive Director, Edmonton and Area Land Trust (EALT)

Donna and Sheila created a wonderful outing with photos, family farm history and the value of saving natural features of our environment. Vicky Grabb’s idea of a country outing, even if only virtual, did give us a boost in mid-winter.

May 17th Caring For and About Older People in Canada: What Really Matters Now?
Dr. Donna M. Wilson, Professor, School of Nursing, University of Alberta

At this time of economic, environmental, and social crisis in Canada, arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and from other concurrent as well as preceding matters, the care of older persons has become a welcome focus of public and government attention. Donna’s presentation will feature the most pressing concerns and unmet or under-met needs of older people in Canada today. Priorities for action, based on evidence and with policy-timing and policy-success considerations in mind, will be highlighted.

Interest Groups

Submitted by Lynda Gibson, Interest Group Coordinator

Our Interest Groups took on a new look during the COVID 19 pandemic. As social distancing and lockdown measures became a way of life, our groups transitioned from being active within the Health Canada guidelines to staying connected online only.

We started our year with 8 active Interest Groups: Morning Book Club, Afternoon Readers, Evening Readers, Afternoon Bridge, Hospitality Cooking, Healthy Gourmet, Art for Fun and Fibre Arts.
Two groups were inactive and will not be meeting until it is safe to do so: The Film Group and the Lunching Out Group.

The number of participants in each group varied from 6 to 10. In total 54 of our members were involved in at least one interest group and of those, 12 participated in 2 groups. Thank you to the Interest Group Conveners who submitted the following information:

**ART FOR FUN**
Art for Fun has 6 members and ran all summer, meeting weekly. We met outside on my back deck where there was enough room to paint with tables more than 6 ft between all artists. We wore masks, each person brought their own mug and snacks. In mid-September, when the first gathering restrictions were declared, we met at the Granite Curling Club, in a large room that was licensed for 120 people. We met there until mid-November when the strict pandemic rules came into effect. Submitted by Anne Valentine

**FIBRE ARTS**
The Fibre Arts Group has 7 members this year. We managed 2 in person meetings this year, on Oct 8/2020 and Nov 5/2020, following mask and distancing protocols, and have not met since the strict pandemic rules were implemented in mid-November. Submitted by Anne Valentine

**HOSPITALITY GOURMET GROUP**
Hospitality Gourmet has been running for 42 years. We have not met in person but do a ZOOM call each month on the day and time we would normally meet. Submitted by Judi Cosco

**MORNING BOOK CLUB**
The Morning Book Club meets once a month on the fourth Wednesday at 9:30am. Since the spring of 2020 until now we have met through ZOOM and have had some lively and fun discussions! Our group has shrunk to six participants, Beryl Sayer, Linda Ascah, Ollie Triska, Mary Fairhurst, Norma Kabaroff and Edith Morgan. We have found that on ZOOM this is an ideal number, and our video conferencing works very well. This year we voted on member suggestions to compile our book list. We did not have a summer break in 2020. We very much enjoy our monthly connection with each other, especially in this time of COVID.

These are the books we have read, or will read, since June 2020 – September 2021.

- And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie
- Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover
- A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende
- Aria by Nazanine Hozar
- A Hundred Suns by Karine Tanabe.
- Children of the Land by Marcelo Hernandez Castillo.
The Splendid and the Vile. A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance by Erik Larson
The Mirror and the Light by Hilary Mantel. (Conclusion to Wolf Hall trilogy)
The Silk Roads - A New History of the World by Peter Frankopan
The Pull of the Stars by Emma Donoghue.
Beloved by Toni Morrison
The Teacher Man – a Memoir by Frank McCourt
The Company We Keep by Frances Itani.
The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson
The Illegal by Lawrence Hill
From the Ashes by Jesse Thistle

Submitted by Edith Morgan

AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB
Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month online since last October. Our discussions have been lively both about the book and other topics. We will continue our online meetings until it is safe to meet in person at each others’ homes. Submitted by Sherri Eichhorn

EVENING RANDOM READERS
This group has been meeting on ZOOM.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE GROUP
Some members of the club have continued to play online on Tuesday afternoons. We use the free online site Trickster. We chat as we play, and it has been a great way to keep in touch and have some fun. We are all looking forward to the time when we can play in person. Submitted by Sherri Eichhorn

HEALTHY GOURMET
We are meeting once a month on ZOOM. Starting last month we each submit a recipe and have a collection to try on our own. We enjoy keeping in touch and look forward to a time when we can all be together.
Submitted by Audrey Keen
Financial Status

**CFUW Edmonton Financials for 2020-2021**
Financial Information for CFUW Edmonton members only.

Stay safe and healthy

I remain respectfully yours.

Sylvia Marsh President CFUW Edmonton 2019-2021