

# The Guelph Line

February 2011

## CFUW Guelph

June Ayrhart, President

### The CFUW Mission

- Improve the status of women and girls; work for human rights and peace;
- Support education, life-long learning and research;
- Encourage graduate women, associate members and students to place their education and professional training at the service of the local, national and international community;
- Work in concert with IFUW, a global network of women working for social change.

Club activities and membership details are available online at [www.cfuwguelph.on.ca](http://www.cfuwguelph.on.ca).

## President's Message



Our Issues and Action Group has been hard at work on causes important to women and children. Read below for specific information on what you can also do as individuals. The efforts of I & A on our behalf are much appreciated.

Our February meeting is OPEN and we encourage you to invite everyone you know to hear Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, Director of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. At this meeting, you will also have an opportunity to financially support the Grandmothers in Africa through the local Go Go Grannies Guelph ([www.gggg.ca](http://www.gggg.ca)). Jay Marett (Clara's son), will be selling his photographs of S. Africa, Israel, Jordan, etc. (cash only). They are mounted on cards with envelopes for \$4 each, 3/\$10. He also has a few framed 8x10s and can take orders. All proceeds from cards sold at this event will be donated to the Go Go Grannies.

In January, 21 members enjoyed a meal, fellowship and a wee toast to Robbie Burns. Come join us for an Italian themed dinner prior to the next meeting. (See adjacent details → ) June Ayrhart



*If you are interested in being on the committee to study a possible project for our club, please contact June Ayrhart by phone or email.*

## February General Meeting -- OPEN MEETING

February 22, 2011

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph

7:00 Refreshments 7:30 Business Meeting  
8:00 Speaker

You are invited to attend a presentation by two extraordinary women from the Stephen Lewis Foundation who are making a difference.

### Ilana Landsberg-Lewis and Joanna Henry "Grandmothers to Grandmothers"

- A campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation

Hear how Canadian grandmothers are supporting sub-Saharan African grandmothers who, on their own, are raising their orphaned grandchildren.

Tuesday, February 22, 2011 @ 8PM

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 161 Norfolk St, Guelph

CFUW Guelph is privileged to host this open meeting.

For more information phone 519-821-2517

*\*Please bring your own mug!*



## Join Us for Supper

before the February 22nd Meeting

Members are invited to the church for 6 p.m. to have dinner and a social time together. This is an alcohol-free event.

\*NB If at the January meeting, you left \$20 without signing the sheet, please let June know who you are.

### Dinner:

- Cheese-stuffed Ravioli in tomato sauce
- Green Salad                      Rolls & Butter
- Fruits
- Tea, Coffee, Water, Juices

**Cost is \$20** - Cheque payable to CFUW Guelph to arrive by February 17th to

June Ayrhart,  
7112 Gore Rd. RR #2  
Puslinch ON N0B 2J0

♦ If you have paid and then find you are unable to attend, and you inform June by Thursday, February 17th, you can put the \$20 toward a dinner at another meeting.

♦ Profits will go into a special reserve for a future CFUW Guelph project

CFUW

Canadian Federation  
of University Women



CFUW Guelph

Mailing Address: RR#2, 7112 Gore Road, Puslinch ON N0B 2J0  
Website : [www.cfuwguelph.on.ca](http://www.cfuwguelph.on.ca).

## Condolences



CFUW Guelph sends condolences to **Shirley Ann Holmes** and family on the passing of her husband Allan on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2011. Shirley Ann is a long-time member of CFUW Guelph.

Sympathy is also extended to the family of **Elizabeth Hale** who died in Lethbridge on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the age of 92 years. Born in Montreal, Elizabeth attended McGill University. She was an internationally competitive fencer, representing Canada in the 1948 Olympic Games, and the 1950 British Empire Games. She obtained a Master of Library Science from McGill in 1978 and worked as a rare book librarian and, for many years, as a consultant to the MacDonald Stewart Foundation. Elizabeth moved from Guelph to Lethbridge in 1999.

## Treasurer's Report

The membership year is more than half over and our finances are in good shape. We have 177 members, less than the 190 members on which the 2010-2011 budget was based, so our revenue is slightly lower than anticipated. However, many of our expenses appear to be below estimates, so the year-end surplus may not be much lower than the projected \$630. If anyone would like to see a copy of our financial statement and budget, please call or email me.

Heather Bailey.

## Interest Groups

### Issues and Action Update February 2011

*Submitted by Teresa McKeeman, Chair*

#### Poverty

Over the next year Issues and Action is focusing our efforts on research regarding poverty in Canada, along with a few other projects. Over the coming months we hope to research information about the depth of poverty in Canada, some of the causes and suggestions for action. Starting in the 1980s, more and more individuals and families could not afford housing, or could not find jobs or income support at a living wage, or could not obtain appropriate addiction or mental health support.

The many reports dealing with this issue suggest three main areas of focus to alleviate poverty in Canada:

- Housing
- Income Support
- Other support services (child care, education, mental health etc.)

There is currently a private member's before Parliament: Bill C-304: An act to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians. CFUW National is asking members to write to MPs in support of this bill. Bill C-304 is in keeping with the 1999 CFUW policy calling on the government to create programs for low cost housing. It has passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and been referred to committee for further study. Frank Valeriote, MP, Guelph voted for the bill while Michael Chong, MP, Wellington-Halton Hills has voted against it.

June Aryhart has sent letters to our MPs on behalf of CFUW Guelph. For more information on this topic visit the CFUW National website <http://www.cfuw.org>. Look under Current Issues/Affordable Housing and Poverty/Homelessness Tool Kit.

#### Early Learning and Child Care

There are several recent developments in the area of Early Learning and Child Care that are of interest to the Issues and Action committee.

- All child care funding has been transferred from the Ministry of Children and Youth to the Ministry of Education.
- Premier McGuinty announced that school boards, instead of operating before and after school programs for those in need, will now have the option of using third party providers to deliver these programs – this is a move away from the intention of a “seamless day” as outlined in Dr. Pascal's report on Early Learning. The seamless day envisioned by Dr. Pascal has benefits for children as well as providing appropriately paid, full time employment for Early Childhood Educators.

With an upcoming provincial budget Issues and Action will work with the executive to draft a letter to our provincial MPPs outlining our concerns and need for further action, as well as, our support for some of the positive changes to this portfolio.

For more information on these issues and to view our letters see the CFUW Guelph website <http://www.cfuwguelph.on.ca>. Look under Issues and Action Updates. Please support our club goals by talking, emailing or writing to your MP (Frank Valeriote or Michael Chong) regarding housing issues and your MPP (Liz Sandals or Ted Arnott) regarding Early Learning and Child Care.

*“I am only one, still I am one. I can not do everything, still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do.”*

*Helen Keller*

## Ontario Council Standing Committees

Saturday, January 22, 2011

Report by Dr. Sandra McCormick  
VP CFUW Guelph

On Saturday I left Guelph at 8:15 a.m. with Teresa McKeeman and Joan Fuller both from our *Issues and Actions Group*. I mention this because I would like to tell CFUW Guelph members that I learnt as much on the drive to and from Toronto talking with Teresa and Joan as I did from the presentations and discussions at the Ontario Council Standing Committee Meetings. Teresa and Joan are a wealth of information; both are able to provide so much valuable knowledge about the work of CFUW Guelph in the area of advocacy. Teresa and Joan reminded me about past and ongoing efforts by our club members to promote awareness of issues that daily affect our lives and the lives of others and the legislative process that must support that recognition. We are lucky to have the kind of leadership and passion that the Issues and Actions Group and the Civic Affairs Group provide for our Club.

Saturday's meetings provided information on a number of issues that CFUW Ontario and CFUW National are supporting. Specifically, the speakers for the morning session addressed the complex issues connected to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). There is biographical information about the speakers and background on this complex and costly (human costs as well as financial) problem on the CFUW Ontario website. Also, Teresa McKeeman provides a summary of the information in this issue of *Guelph Line*. At our January Monthly Meeting, Teresa presented further information on FASD and a request to support a letter-writing campaign to ensure labelling on alcoholic beverages in Ontario, warning pregnant women that drinking alcohol during pregnancy is the cause of FASD. Labelling is considered a first step in awareness. Currently two bills are approaching legislation: C-532 to ensure labelling and C-569 to support a National Strategy on FASD which would provide programs, services and funding to educate men and women about FASD, to train teachers to better cope with and understand students with FASD, to treat FASD in children and adults as the disability that it is and not as a behaviour problem.

I attended the Legislation Standing Committee in the afternoon and was apprised of two other ongoing issues that are being carefully watched by CFUW Canada (please go to the CFUW National site for more in depth information). A report on the latest water legislation and information about a New Commission of Child Welfare were presented.

With regards to water legislation, the government is finally

making the connection between Economic Prosperity and Water Conservation. It seems that only when the economic benefits become clear, is there strong motivation to support environmental sustainability. Specific concerns discussed were Interbasin Transfers of water between lake systems in Ontario and the Federal Dumping of Mine toxic Waste that continues especially in areas far north both in Ontario and B.C. Presently 16 lakes have been approved in Canada for use as dumping sites. To prevent only a doom and gloom examination of our water systems, know that since the Clean Water Act of 2009 stopped use of pesticides for lawns etc. there has been an 80% decline in surface water pesticides in Ontario.

To learn more about the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare in Canada, interested members should google the commission name. The first report came out in June 2010. There are 73 Child Welfare Offices in Canada and they are all to be interviewed, visited and assessed.

Finally, one new resolution for CFUW policy was introduced to us. CFUW Oakville has proposed a resolution for a "Mental Health Strategy for Ontario". The resolution has 9 points attached, five pages of background and a two page bibliography. It is available online in its entirety. As a club, we will have to decide if we support this proposal as CFUW policy. If anyone is interested in working on this year's Policy and Resolutions Committee which would include looking at the Oakville resolution for the CFUW Ontario AGM as well as looking over the CFUW National resolutions, please let me or Teresa McKeeman know. We would like to meet late Feb./early March. We would have to make recommendations to our club, including any proposed amendments for approval at the April General Meeting.

The final sessions for this year's Ontario Council Standing Committee Meetings take place on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. We organize car pools to leave about 8:15 a.m. The afternoon sessions end at 3:00 with arrival back in Guelph shortly after 4:00. Please let me know if you are interested in attending. We can send as many members as are interested. The cost is \$30. which includes the morning speakers, afternoon session, lunch and coffee and treats upon arrival. Value added always comes from the camaraderie and sharing of interests and ideas on the "road trip".

Please check [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca) for further information on any of the above.

## Ontario Council Standing Committees, continued

### Afternoon Session: **Status of Women**

Report by Joan Fuller

So often when we are discussing issues that concern women they are matters that need a remedy of some sort. At this gathering it was a delight to hear good news; it was a story of what one person can accomplish albeit with a lot of passion and persistence.

You may have heard of Sabina Ali, the speaker, since she has been profiled in the papers and interviewed on Metro Morning. Originally from India, she became a resident of Thorncliffe Park, a predominantly immigrant community, when she and her family emigrated to Canada.

She joined with a few other women who were concerned that the only park in the neighbourhood had no playground, no grass, a broken water fountain and poles with no lights on them making it dangerous at night. They wrote a letter to their city councillor who came to meet them with some members of the parks department. Two and a half years later all of the above problems except the playground have been resolved and in addition they have trees, flowers, benches and picnic tables.

She didn't stop there; she helped organize Friday evenings in the park for the kids with volunteers who gave a science demonstration, a puppet show, and story-telling. After the entertainment she urged the children to pay back by cleaning up the park. In the second year an art program in the park was organized for the children and a few tables were set up to hold a community market to help support women who were able to sell items and food made at home. A concerned neighbour suggested that they apply for a grant which when it materialized helped them buy their own tables, purchase art supplies and pay for such things as permits.

In 2010, their third year, they added a winter carnival with hot soup and hot chocolate for the kids and by then they were receiving help from such sources as the city recreation department, the library and the police. They participated in Doors Open Toronto and Nuit Blanch invited them to set up a small market in a lane near Ryerson.

Sabina had to push and cajole reluctant participants along the way: nothing came easily. But when we think that something is impossible and beyond reach we can learn from her what the power of one person can do if they are passionate and committed enough. By the way, she arrived in Canada only in June 2008 and started her park campaign on her second day here.

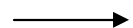
### **Presentation on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)**

Report by Teresa McKeeman

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is the leading cause of developmental delay in North America, affecting 9 of every 1,000 babies born in Canada. It is caused by exposure in utero to alcohol. Primary symptoms are growth deficiency, central nervous system dysfunction and facial deformities. It is 100% preventable but incurable. The consequences of the disorder impact all aspects of the life and functioning of affected individuals and lead to higher costs for health care, special education and correctional services (50% of inmates in Canadian prisons suffer from alcohol-related birth defects).

In 1993 CFUW passed a resolution urging the government of Canada to create awareness, standardize curricula and promote the collection of data, post warning signs and legislate labeling regarding the dangers of alcohol consumption prior to and during pregnancy. To date little progress has been made despite the fact that there is no safe level of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and beverage alcohol is the only consumer product known to cause harm if misused, that does not have a warning label – although Canadian firms label products for US markets.

At the Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> Ontario Council meeting we heard two very knowledgeable speakers talk about FASD. Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, who is an Advisory Member of the Mental Health Commission of Canada and a member of the Chipewewa First Nation, spoke about the impact of FASD on the lives of those affected and their families. Sheila Burns, a



## Ontario Council Standing Committees, continued

### Presentation on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), continued

founding member of the FASD Ontario Network and a trainer and consultant on disability, spoke about the need for a comprehensive approach to both prevent the problem (labels on alcoholic drinks are just the first step in raising awareness of the risk of FASD) and provide early diagnosis and intervention. If you would like to know more - a summary of the presentations is available on our club's website.

Advocates have been trying to get warning labels on alcohol since 1976. **It is time for action.** There are two private member's bills currently before parliament: C- 532 regarding warning labels and C- 569 to develop a National Strategy for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. You can help make a difference by writing to your Member of Parliament and the Minister of Health asking them to support of these bills. Sample letters and the names and mailing addresses for the federal Minister of Health and our MPs can be found on our website.

Ontario is the only province without a policy on FASD. There is no strategy or resources except for a small amount of early years funding for Aboriginal FASD. We know FASD impacts children born to non Aboriginal mothers too. You may want to write to your MPP to ask them to develop a strategy and include funding to support it in the next provincial budget. Please visit our web site for sample letters and the names and mailing addresses of our MPPs.

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The **Nominating Committee for 2011-2012** requests your help. If you are interested in serving on the Executive or on one of its committees, or if you have any suggestions of members whom we might approach, please contact a committee member: Barbara Kuczynski, Clare Irwin or Mary McEwen.

### International Women's Day Breakfast, March 10, 2011

After a two year hiatus, the **Zonta Club of Guelph** International Women's Day Breakfast is back! On Thursday, March 10, join us at the Italian Canadian Club to hear **Dr. Julia Christensen Hughes**, Dean of the College of Management and Economics at the University of Guelph. She will speak on **Advancing the Status of Women In Business and Academe: "A Report Card – How We Are Doing"**. Tickets are **\$25 Adult, \$15 Student or \$220 for a table of 10** and available in advance from any Zonta Member or by calling 519 822 2710.

The **50th Anniversary Video** is now on our website, ([www.cfuwguelph.on.ca](http://www.cfuwguelph.on.ca)), in 3 segments. Carol Herrmann is hoping to get it to play within a window on the website. She may not be able to get around "YouTube" advertising itself; however, it is video hosting this very large file at no charge.

### Reminder to Interest Group Convenors:

*We would like to increase the coverage of Interest Group activities in The Guelph Line. If you have a good quality photo from an activity, outing, etc. by your group that you would like to share, please send it to Clare Irwin and Marilyn Crooks and we will try to fit it into an edition of the newsletter, as space permits. Please include the names of any club members in the photo and a sentence describing where the photo was taken.*



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