

The Guelph Line

March 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.

President's Message



Welcome to a refreshed and revitalized CFUW Guelph. Over the last few years, our club has shown renewed interest in our original purpose as an advocacy group. Now, a new segment in our newsletter (p. 3) has been launched to keep you apprised of results of our advocacy efforts on causes important to women and children.

Our pre-meeting dinners are the newest opportunity for fun/food/fellowship/fundraising across Interest Groups. In February, twenty-one members attended and we are hoping you will join us in March.

We are also rekindling our passion to share our blessings with others ~ Stay tuned as we select our new venture. **New Due Date for Project Proposals: April 15th**. Presentation to members: April meeting; vote at September meeting.

Thank you to all the individual members who continue to contribute to such a positive club outlook.

June Ayrhart

March General Meeting

March 22, 2011

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph

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



Ellen McIntosh-Green, author of *"Elizabeth Simcoe's Canadian Journey"*

A fascinating glimpse into life in Upper and Lower Canada in the late 1700's from a woman's point of view.

Publication of this book, which will be available for sale at the meeting, was the result of Ellen winning an international competition*

*Please bring your own mug!



Thank You

to Dan Struthers of Burlington Network Services for his generosity in continuing to host the CFUW Guelph website.



Join Us for Supper
before the March 22nd Meeting

Members are invited to the church for 6:00 p.m. to have dinner and a social time together. This is an alcohol-free event.

Dinner:

- Beef Bourguignon
- Green Salad Rolls & Butter
- Fruits
- Tea, Coffee, Water, Juices

Cost is \$20 - Payable to CFUW Guelph by March 17th. Call June Ayrhart to confirm.

- ♦ If you have paid and then find you are unable to attend, and you inform June by Thursday, March 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



Thank You Jay

At last month's meeting Jay Marette sold \$260 worth of his beautiful photographs in support of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation'.

Interest Groups

Issues and Action

Submitted by Teresa McKeeman, Chair



What's in Your Cup?

Many of us heard the excellent presentation by Stuart McCook on the history of coffee. But it left many of us wondering: What does it mean? What should we do now?

Two things that our members could do are:

1. Become aware of issues related to coffee production and its impact on the people who produce it and the environment. The Guelph Public Library has an excellent new video called *Black Gold* outlining the international coffee trade and the difference made in people's lives when they join a cooperative. Check it out.
2. Consider using your buying power to purchase Fair Trade coffee – and other Fair Trade products – and to support companies who make an effort to do so as well. Although Starbucks is one of the largest buyers of Fair Trade coffee, there are also a number of local coffee shops that make it a practice to use fairly traded products. So next time you enjoy a cup at your favourite café, ask where they buy their coffee. If they don't buy fair trade coffee, ask why not?

The Faces of Poverty

The Issues and Action group continues to educate itself about poverty in our community. Our members have been busy reading reports, writing letters and attending community events regarding this issue. You can read our letters on the CFUW Guelph website. We continue to urge all members to contact their elected representatives to express their personal views on these issues.

On February 23rd Senator Art Eggleton gave an impassioned talk about poverty. A number of CFUW members were in attendance. His main message: we can't afford poverty anymore – not on an economic level and not on a societal level. There are parallels between the stories we heard at the February general meeting from Ilana Landsberg-Lewis about grandmothers in Africa and families struggling to live in poverty in Canada.

We too have people whose basic needs are not met. We have families who do not have access to safe housing, nutritious food or social inclusion. They face stigma and discrimination. At a Community Voices meeting on the topic of transit in Guelph, I heard from people who want to use the buses but simply cannot afford to. Yet we have buses running the routes nearly empty other than at peak periods. Many of those living in poverty work at part-time, minimum wage jobs. They are often expected to work shifts and statutory holidays and must beg rides or pay out a good portion of their wages to get to work on days and times when the buses do not run. A local woman who is disabled and spends most of her time volunteering in the community said "It is not just the homeless person you see on the street. I am the face of poverty, and so is the person who works at the coffee shop or the grocery store."

The Issues and Action group is meeting with representatives from the Guelph and Wellington Poverty Elimination Task Force to find out how CFUW Guelph can support their work. The meeting takes place on Tuesday, March 22 at City Hall. We welcome you to join us. Please contact a member of the Issues and Action group as space is limited.

"Anyone can make a difference. Everyone should try."

Anonymous origin

ADVOCACY UPDATE

New Monthly Feature

Letters Sent under CFUW Guelph letterhead

To MPP's:

Calling for a coroner's inquest into the death of 14 month old Duy-An Nguyen in an unlicensed home child care.

To MP's

Urging members of Parliament to pass an intact version of Bill C-393 on March 9 to fix Canada's Access to Medicine Regime (CAMR). (The Bill narrowly passed second reading on March 9) The Bill allowing companies to produce generic drugs for AIDS and other contagious diseases is only for developing countries and those on a UN list as requiring aid.

To Hon. Michael Chong, P.C., M.P. and Mr. Frank Valeriote M.P. requesting a meeting to discuss the growing inequality in Canadian society. The recently released Senate report: *In From the Margins* recommends a number of strategies that would reduce this disparity.

Received from:

Liz Sandals, MPP who shared our letter on Early Learning and Childcare in Ontario with the Minister of Education, Leona Dombrowsky.

Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Hon. Jack Layton, Hon. Michael Chong, P.C., M.P. and Mr. Frank Valeriote M.P.



International Women's Day 2011



International Women's Day celebrated its **100th Anniversary** on March 8, 2011 with a number of events organized throughout the week to honour this occasion.

In Guelph: The Zonta Club hosted their IWD Breakfast on March 10 with Dr. Julia Christensen Hughes, Dean of the College of Management and Economics at the University of Guelph speaking on *Advancing the Status of Women In Business and Academe: "A Report Card – How We Are Doing?"*

In Wellington County: The "Grannies" of Elora-Fergus held a special FREE evening with entertainment, silent auction, marketplace, sweet and savoury food, and karaoke. All proceeds to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

In Ayr: March 9 to April 10, 100 Women Artists exhibit -- *International Women Celebrate! observing the Centenary of International Women's Day* -- partners with two local individuals to raise money for grassroots Haitian relief

In Kitchener-Waterloo: The Zonta Club hosted their annual IWD Dinner on March 9 at the Walper Terrace Hotel.



*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. New due date for project proposals: **April 15th**.*