

CFUW West Vancouver

The BEACON
cfuwwestvan.ca

September 2025



*HAAPPPPY BBBAACK!!!
And NEW NEWS*

We're in the SAME location.

Great Hall - Kiwanis Terrace Garden *

Different DAY = 4th TUESDAYS

2pm - 4pm,

(our first Tuesday, September 23, 2025)

*And
for our opening meeting
'Have your cake (or cookie) and eat it...'*

***location in detail**

975 21 Street - West of 21 Street, West Vancouver



OR on the path

**North of Senior Rec Center Tennis Courts
2151 Gordon Avenue, West Vancouver**

President's Message

Hello CFUW West Vancouver current and *prospective members*,

As it says, Happy Back!!

Very much looking forward to seeing you again.

And if you want to introduce new members to the club – by alllll means, do!!

Bring them along.

Hope you have had a wonderful summer -- a bit too hot for me, admittedly, but I've bought an air conditioner, so all is well.

Fellow members have been busy – and consequently, we have an exciting program of interesting and insightful speakers, we have a number of new social gatherings (for example, Happy Hour), and we have a new day on which to meet.

Together let's make it a great year!

Best wishes,

Glenys Galloway



Graduate Women International (GWI)

35th TRIENNIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE



Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education and Empowerment for Sustainability

11-13 September 2025
Lusaka, Zambia

GWI International AGM

Wanna be part of a West Van contingent?

AND

**Best Wishes to our CFUW Delegation heading to
GWI Triennial General Assembly**

Voting Delegates: Linda Sestock, Grace Hollett, Joy Hurst, Lynne Kent, Gail Neff, Pat Patton, Brenda Robertson, Kathryn Wilkinson

Alternates: Eleanor Christie, Beryl Matthewson, Lorraine O'Donnell

We look forward to hearing all the details on their return!

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, originally and still colloquially known as Orange Shirt Day, is a Canadian day of memorial to recognize the atrocities and multi-generational effects of the Canadian Indian residential school system. It occurs every year on September 30.

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) Residential School (1891-1981) Commemoration Project and Reunion events that took place in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in May 2013. This project was the vision of Esketemc (Alkali Lake) Chief Fred Robbins, who is a former student himself.

It brought together former students and their families from the Secwepemc, Tsilhqot'in, Southern Dakelh and St'at'imc Nations along with the Cariboo Regional District, the Mayors and municipalities, School Districts and civic organizations in the Cariboo Region. The orange shirt has become a symbol of hope, reconciliation and a commitment to a better future. By wearing an orange shirt on September 30th, you make a statement to support reconciliation and commit to the enduring truth that

EVERY CHILD MATTERS. (<https://orangeshirtday.org/orange-shirt-day/>)

Advocacy

This year, we are going to highlight some National Advocacy initiatives in our Beacon, and at our meetings. Look out for a display at our Sept 23 meeting.



Membership

Time for another club year of CFUW West Vancouver! Thanks to all the members who have already renewed and a reminder to others to renew so that you can enjoy everything that CFUW West Vancouver offers. An interesting program has been lined up, several interest groups are continuing and a couple of new ones are proposed too. We'll continue to make Education Awards to provide opportunities for students to follow their dreams. We'll advocate locally for issues and through all of these different aspects of the club we'll have so many chances for fellowship and fun.

Please help us to recruit some new members by inviting women you know who are not yet involved.

CFUW Membership is open to any person who identifies as a woman and who supports the goals of CFUW.

See you on Sept 23 at the Kiwanis Great Hall, 975 - 21st St. West Vancouver from 2-4.



Report from Program Committee – And about the rest of the meetings of the year

Given our new afternoon meetings **on TUESDAY from 2:00 - 4:00pm at the Kiwanis Great Hall, 975 21st St. West Vancouver**, and the wonderful space we have to use, we plan to share friendship, fun, knowledge and occasionally food along the way. All guests are welcome.

Monday, September 23, 2025

- Michelle Dodds, Discussion on Current Issues facing the NS Women's Centre

The roundtable discussion will address challenges facing women in our community and how we can provide support. In addition, Michelle will speak to the challenges faced by the North Shore Women's Centre and changes at WAGE Canada.

Michelle has worked as the Director of the North Shore Women's Centre since 1999, following an MA in Women's Studies from Simon Fraser University and community work in women's social justice and advocacy organizations. She is passionate about gender equity, and creating accessible community spaces and learning opportunities that facilitate social change. Michelle has enjoyed living on the North Shore since 2006.

Tuesday October 28, 2025

- Melissa Duchak, A Day in the Life at Kay Meek Centre

Have you ever wondered what it takes to put on a show at the Kay Meek Arts Centre? In this talk, Executive Director Melissa Duchak gives a behind-the-scenes look into the daily life of a

vibrant venue that presents everything from plays and films to concerts and dance performances.

Melissa has over 20 years of experience in performing arts management, locally and internationally, including the curation and implementation of both artistic and educational programming. An oboist by training, she holds a Masters' Degree in music performance from UBC, and recently completed a Doctorate in education from the University of Sheffield. .

Tuesday November 25, 2025

- **Elimination of Violence Lunch, noon, Location TBD** Our annual lunch commemorating those who lost their lives in the L'Ecole Polytechnique massacre. This fundraiser supports scholarships for women in our community.

Tuesday December 9, 2025

- Christmas Season Social

A time of fun, games and music creatively arranged by our Social Committee to celebrate the Season. Take the opportunity to share with those less fortunate by contributing to a worthy Community Organization.

Tuesday January 27, 2026

- Dan Levitt, BC Seniors Advocate, Conversation on Seniors' Issues

Join Seniors Advocate Dan Levitt for a conversation about what's working and what's not for seniors in the community. He will also share insights into the role of the Office of the Seniors Advocate, discuss key concerns raised by seniors across BC and present highlights from recent and ongoing studies from the office.

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

- Iona Wishaw, author of the Lane Winslow mystery series

Iona was born in Kimberley BC, but grew up in a number of different places, including a small community on Kootenay Lake, as well as Mexico and Central America, and the US because of her father's geological work. She took a degree in history and education from Antioch College, and subsequent degrees in Writing at UBC and pedagogy at Simon Fraser University. Her own writing output took a brief back seat during her teaching career, but she shared her passion for writing by nurturing a love of writing in the students in English, Creative Writing, and Spanish classes. During the course of her career as a Principal in Vancouver, she was awarded the Woman of Distinction in Education by the YWCA in 2010 and a Canada's Outstanding Principals award in 2012.

Tuesday March 24, 2026

- Proposed Resolutions Meeting

A meeting to consider our input to potential proposed policy issues that are coming up from CFUW Clubs across the country. To assist us, a small treat will be provided.

Tuesday April 28, 2026 - Earth Day Event

- Lenore Newman, Innovative Research on Improving Food Production

Lenore Newman will speak about growing and accessing affordable food, her innovative research on food production, as well as her ground-breaking work utilizing agricultural technology and enhanced land use to facilitate productivity. Lenore is the Director of the Food and Agriculture Institute at the University of the Fraser Valley where she specializes in agricultural innovation and policy. She holds a research chair in food and agriculture innovation and is a past Canada Research Chair in Food Security and the Environment. She is an associate professor in the School of Land Use and Environmental Change and is an emeritus member of the Royal Society of Canada's New College.

Tuesday May 26, 2025 - AGM

Keynote Speaker - Heather Galilee - Safe & Smooth Travels

Learn about practical tips to save time, money, and hassles during your travels. We'll discuss ways to ensure smooth interactions wherever you go, followed by essential travel medical tips. Heather will tell us about useful apps for both travel convenience and safety. And we'll wrap up by exploring some of Heather's personal favourite destinations and current deals through Travel Best.



Upcoming Events

The Executive team has arranged an array of social and serious opportunities for the coming year. These are in addition to our ongoing Interest Groups.

1. **Meeting dates** have changed to **4th Tuesdays**, with our first meeting on September 23. Time and location remain the same: 2pm – 4pm, at the Kiwanis Great Hall, 975 – 21st Street. (We were unable to book space on our traditional Monday.)
2. **September meeting.** Our first meeting will feature a discussion with Michelle Dodds, Executive Director, North Shore Women's Centre. Given the changes the federal government proposes for staffing and funding the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity, this will be a particularly relevant time to learn the impact on our local Women's Centre.
3. **Programming.** We have an array of speakers lined up for the balance of the year covering topics in the performance arts, books, travel, food production, and seniors' concerns. And for something completely different, our November meeting will be over lunch. Further details will be published in our upcoming Beacon and posted on the website.
4. **Membership Renewal fees.** Fees are due. Thanks to those who have already paid. For those who have not yet done so, the fees remain at \$135. A renewal form is attached for your convenience with e-transfer or postal info.
5. **Social and Advocacy Activities.** We have a number of social opportunities planned various lunches, dinners, and a monthly Happy Hour at local restaurants. We will also be

advocating for women throughout the year promoting peace, funding education for women, supporting climate initiatives. Details will be set out in our monthly Beacon.



Interest Groups 2025-2026

Lynda Mackay – Convenor

Interest and study groups are open to all paid-up club members.

*Indicates joint WV and NV membership

Anyone who is curious about the different interest groups is welcome to contact the convenor and perhaps attend as a guest.

COMMUNITY ISSUES GROUP *

The Community Issues Group meets at 1:00 PM in person on the third Friday of each month, except in December. We will be discussing issues which the members feel are important, with an emphasis on local concerns.

This is a joint CFUW North Van and West Van interest group. Each home hostess is in charge of the topic for the month.

Our first meeting will be on Friday, September 19th, at Eleanor Scarth's home. We will be discussing the final CFUW resolutions and their follow-up actions plans. Please let Eleanor know if you will be attending, via email: eleanor.scarth@gmail.com, or cell phone: 778-772-3338.

4 BOOKS INTEREST GROUP

Currently ten members: Judy Bickart, Louise Adams, Isobel Bodie, Jay Coulter, Virginia Dalton, Gretchen Goode, Pamela Philip, Leslie Pratt, Selma-Jo Richards, Deborah Spicer.

We are a group of 10-12 members who read an eclectic selection of 10 fiction and nonfiction books per year. We do not have a designated presenter; In a lively discussion, members exchange observations and opinions on the book's content, level of interest, author, writing style, use of language, etc. Book selections for the following year are made in June.

We meet at members' homes monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 12:30 pm. Light refreshments are served by the hostess, who also gives a brief biographical sketch of the author before the group discussion. New members are welcome.

Convenor is Judy Bickart, 778-279-2295, email jbickart@gmail.com

MORNING BOOKS

This interest group meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 9.30 in group member homes.

Each month, we discuss one of the titles chosen at our last meeting of the club year in June. We always welcome new members.

Please email Eleanor to get meeting info if you are not already on our list.

September 's meeting will be Sept 10 at 9.30 at the home of Diane Reid. 1158 21st St, 604-921-9111 and our book will be The Chancellor- The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel by Kati Marton.

DAMES WHO DINE (DWD)

Dames Who Dine is an evening interest group of CFUW WV where members meet 4 or 5 times annually for dinner usually on the North Shore. This is intended as a social get-together to have pleasant conversation and enjoy one another's company.

At each dinner we collect \$5 from each attendee so that at year end we can donate the total collected monies to support a local charity in line with the goals and objectives of CFUW .

Beginning in 2025 we began a rotating convenor approach to organizing the group. At each dinner one of the members volunteers to organize the next dinner on behalf of the group. The restaurant and the date for our next get-together are chosen by the group.

Our membership of 11 includes the following people: but more are welcome to join. Our first dinner for the 2025/2026 year is scheduled for late September.

Adams	Louise
Bickart	Judy
Lumb	Sue
McKenna	Liane
Perowne	Barbara
Pratt	Leslie
Roden	Vi
Scarth	Eleanor
Spicer	Deborah
Thompson	Claire
Zaitzeff	Anna

HAPPY HOUR INTEREST GROUP

By popular request, we are creating a new interest group to meet monthly to enjoy a social time together for Happy Hour. The initial idea is to meet on the first Tuesday of each month from 4p-6p at a local restaurant. The first Happy Hour will be on October 7. The first Happy Hour will discuss details for future events. If you are interested in attending, please let Babs (bperowne@telus.net) know.

GWI INTEREST GROUP

This is a new group for this year to learn more about our international association, Graduate Women International (GWI).

Meeting date and time to be determined at an initial meeting with those who are interested. A sign-up sheet will be available at our Sept 23 general meeting.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES – 2025-2026 *

International Studies has been a joint CFUW North Vancouver – CFUW West

Vancouver interest group since September 2002 – one year after the horrific 9/11 attacks on New York’s twin towers.

In the spring of 2003 Phyllis Scott and I, on behalf of CFUW National, had attended the United Nations 46th annual Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York where we had NGO (non-governmental organization) status. Phyllis had been to commission sessions before, but it was my first opportunity. I was profoundly blown away by the import of it all, the solemnity of it all and the grandeur of it all.

A collective voice for progress for women and humanity and I was part of it. While outside the United Nations compound, and in order to enter in, the security everywhere was intense, the police presence pervasive and the solemnity and reminder of the horror of the recent losses omnipresent.

When we arrived back home, Phyllis and I decided we had to start an International Studies interest group – and we did. Over the years, we have looked at the structure of the United Nations, etc., various ideologies, including Islam, the differences, similarities and idiosyncrasies of and between many countries of the world and other various forms of trying to self-educate ourselves on this broad subject on International Studies. We have learned individually and collectively through readings of all sorts, videos, comparative journalism from various countries of the world, speakers, forums – live and on zoom – etc. etc. etc. And our individual learnings we have shared with one another.

Especially with and since COVID, we have been relying more and more on information sharing via emails – information about and in any form in which we think the others in the group may be interested. Sometimes we comment on them, often we don’t. But we do keep on sharing – helping one another to better understand what is happening in the world and why.

The group continues but no longer meets monthly nor does it have learning/teaching sessions. Last year we tried meeting three times during the year for “discussions and tea”. And I suggest we should try this format again. We have no group leader this year.

To that end, I offer to hold the first meeting on Tuesday, October 21st at my home.

(A little earlier than last year, as we got “stormed out” and the November get-together was cancelled). Coffee/tea and cookies will be offered.

If you would like to join International Studies, please let me know via email – kimcollett@shaw.ca – and I will add your name to the contact list. And, if you would like to attend the October 14th meeting, please also let me know via email as well.

Temporary convenor, Kim Collett

The CREATIVE MEMOIR INTEREST GROUP *

The Creative Memoir Writing group began in January 2018 with members from both CFUW North Van and CFUW West Van. We meet monthly in person to learn from each other by sharing our writings and our constructive criticism. For a few years, each month one of us choose a topic in the creative memoir writing genre or a writing concept to explore and report back on briefly which we then discussed. After seemingly “done it all” we went back to our own individual writing. This past year, at a few sessions, we tried some writing exercise for the first half hour each session which was eye opening and worthwhile – a practice we each can embark on at home as we see fit. Our sessions are often intense and always a fascinating

journey that we venture forth on each month, both individually and collectively. Many of our creations are posted on our blog:

<https://seastrandstorygroup.wordpress.com/>

We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am for an hour or two usually in a West Van condo. New members are welcome but must be committed to the group and respect confidentiality.

For more information contact:
kimcollett@shaw.ca

Fundraising and AWARD GIVING

CFUW West Vancouver makes awards annually in 2 ways.

1. From a BC Community Gaming Grant of \$18,000 which we apply for each fall.
2. From our CFUW West Vancouver's Education Trust Fund which receives donations and proceeds of our fundraising.

The following is an update from Athena Serbourne, a winner of one of the Ed Trust Awards made in 2024-2025, at UBC in the Fine Arts program with a Creative Writing Major. It certainly shows what an important impact our awards have for the individual recipients!

"I'm finishing up the summer semester now and still on track for graduation in May (!!). Thanks to all of you, I've been able to have healthy food while studying and get some good sleep. I cried when I was able to buy some books for myself, and I've been able to get some wonderful grief support. The small things are really the biggest.

"Because of this, but mostly because of your encouragement and confidence in me, I've been able to focus a lot on my writing. I really wanted to let you know that The Malahat Review has accepted two of my poems for publication in a Winter 2025 issue! Many of my professors and many writers I deeply admire have been published in this journal. This will be my first time being published and I'm over the moon! I thought of you all immediately. Thank you so much for being here. I can't express how grateful I am, knowing that you think I'm worth supporting. I won't let you down!"

Warmly,
Athena Serbourne

Very Happy September Birthday wishes to :

4- Phyllis Scott
12 - Jan Harvey
12- Pamela Philip



In Memoriam

Dip. (Dental Hygiene) University of Alberta
Lillian "June" Coe (Née Bulych)
October 17, 1934 - July 9, 2025
RN

June was an active member in CFUW WV for the past 25 years. We are grateful to her for graciously serving as President, Vice President, Past President, and Assistant Treasurer, and for participating in our Program, Social and Caring committees.

In addition, June led Interest Groups, such as Antique Studies and two book groups: the Book Worms and the Bodacious Bibliophiles with Bonbons.

We will miss June's smile and her cheerful willingness to participate in CFUW activities.

Our sincerest condolences to her brother John and sister Nancy, her daughter Cathryn, grandson Bradley, and sons Kenneth and David and their families.

Reminder:

Please have Beacon items into glenys.galloway@gmail.com
by 'Christmas' in October, October 25, 2025
Thank you





THE UNIVERSITY
WOMEN'S CLUB
of VANCOUVER
at H Y C R O F T

Persons Day Commemoration



Keynote Speaker:

The Hon. Senator Marilou McPhedran

Independent Senator from Manitoba

Wednesday,
October 15th, 2025
Hycroft
1489 McRae Avenue
Vancouver

Reception:
5:00 pm with Appetizers

Keynote Address : 6:00 pm

Dinner: 7:30 pm

Cost \$85
(less 15% UWCV members)
Members and Guests,
Men as Allies Welcome

Please indicate your meal
choice (chicken or
vegetarian) and any dietary
restrictions when you
register.

Registration:
office@uwcvanancouver.ca

Sponsored by:
Status of Women and
Federation Committees

THE FAMOUS FIVE



Henrietta
Muir Edwards



Nellie
McClung



Louise
McKinney



Emily
Murphy



Irene
Parlby

Biography

Born and raised in rural Manitoba, Canada, called to the Bar of Ontario (1978-2007), named a Member of the Order of Canada (1985) in recognition of her co-leadership in the successful campaign for stronger gender equality protections in the Canadian constitution and appointed to the Senate of Canada by Governor General David Johnston on the recommendation of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2016, Marilou McPhedran is a legally trained advocate and educator who specialized in teaching and developing systemic and sustainable change mechanisms to promote equality and diversity, having co-founded several internationally recognized non-profit Canadian organizations, such as LEAF - the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, which has conducted constitutional equality test cases and interventions for 30-plus years, METRAC - the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children, and the Gerstein Crisis Centre for homeless discharged psychiatric patients.

She founded the International Women's Rights Project in 1998 and the Institute for International Women's Rights at Global College in 2009 - based on her intergenerational models "evidence-based advocacy" and "lived rights". When Chief Executive Officer of a Federal Centre of Excellence based at York University, Canada, she directed staff and programs that included a cyber research network on women's health and rights.

She has developed human rights courses online and in the classroom and has chaired three independent inquiries into the sexual abuse of patients (1991-2015), co-investigated and co-authored applied research, including: the first international study to assess impact of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women in ten countries (1998-2000); What about accountability to the patient? (2001), the National Study on Rural, Remote and Northern Women's Health in Canada (2001-2003); the textbook, Preventing Sexual Abuse: a Legal Guide for Health Care Professionals (2004); a strategy paper for Canada's ambassador to the UN, Engendering the 'Responsibility to Protect' Doctrine (2005); Women's Constitutional Activism in South Africa and Canada (2009 International Review of Constitutionalism); 28-Helluva Lot to Lose in 27 Days: The Ad Hoc Committee and Women's Constitutional Activism in the Era of Patriation (2015).

Her authorship includes: the 2006 National Journal of Constitutional Law article, Impact of S.15 equality rights on Canadian society: beacon or laser?; the 2007 Supreme Court Law Review article A Truer Story: Constitutional Dialogue; and the 2014 Michigan State Law Review article, Complements of CEDAW - U.S. foreign policy coherence on women's human rights and human security.

A pioneer in research and advocacy to promote human rights through systemic reform in law, medicine, education, governance, she chaired the 2006 international Forum on Women's Activism in Constitutional Reform, held the Ariel F. Sallows Chair in Human Rights at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law, was appointed Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission in 2007, and was Principal (Dean) of The University of Winnipeg Global College in Manitoba from June 2008 to July 2012, then served as the Human

Rights Fellow in the UNFPA Geneva Liaison Office and taught as a Visiting Professor at the UN-mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica in 2012-13.

From 2008 to 2019, she was a tenured full professor at the University of Winnipeg. She was the founding director of the Institute for International Women's Rights at Global College from 2009 to 2016 and the creator / director of the annual 'Human Rights UniverCity' summer institute based at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights from 2011 to 2018.

And here is NEWS from GWI.



Dear GWI Family,

We would love to reconnect at our 2025 Triennial Conference- hosted in the air-conditioned State of Southern Africa, Zambia.

As you already will be aware and most grateful to those who have taken advantage of Early Bird registration, open until 31st August, we will convene at the Mulungushi Conference in Lusaka from 11th-13th September 2025. The theme is as above: 'Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education and Empowerment for Sustainability.'

Why not join us to experience-

Many opportunities to connect, share experiences, and plan future collaborations with fellow GWI members.

**General Assembly and Conference Lusaka,
Zambia
11-13 September 2025**

See you in ZAMBIA