

# CFUW Kelowna Newsletter Sept/Oct 2025

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[www.cfuwkelownaclub.org](http://www.cfuwkelownaclub.org)

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# CLUB LEADERSHIP REPORT

## Leadership Team Report

Submitted by Jeannette Mergens, Past President

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the new CFUW Kelowna year. Please welcome Janet Bowes and Martha Jane Lewis who are joining Jeannette Mergens on the Leadership Team. We thank Ruth Mellor and Carrie Izumi for their work on the Team for the past several years. Our Executive is headed by the Leadership Team. We cooperate in the planning and chairing of our Executive and General meetings.

The Leader who chairs the General Meeting will also chair the Executive Meeting that month. Here is the chairing plan as it stands now:

**September 15** – Jeannette Mergens

**October 20** – Janet Bowes

**November 17** – Martha Jane Lewis

**December Luncheon** – Program/Membership/Social

**January 19** ZOOM – Janet Bowes

**February 16** – Jeannette Mergens

**March 16** – Martha Jane Lewis

**April 20** – AGM & General Meeting – Janet Bowes

Our in-person meetings will be at Reid Hall, starting at 6:30 pm for socializing. The speaker presentations will begin at 7 pm. The exceptions are the January meeting which will be a Zoom meeting, and the February luncheon meeting which will start at 11:30 am followed by the speaker at noon. Another group will be using the church in the evening and parking can be an issue. Please carpool if at all possible.

# CLUB LEADERSHIP REPORT

As usual, our first meeting will focus on giving our current members the opportunity to visit with each other after the summer recess, introducing new members and guests, and signing up for our interest groups. Remember, you must sign up again for the coming year, even if you were a member last year of that interest group.

If you have a friend or neighbour who might be interested in CFUW Kelowna, please bring them along to our September meeting. Looking forward to seeing you at our Meet and Greet September 15th!

A reminder of our CFUW Kelowna purpose as stated in our Articles and Bylaws:

## Article II – Purpose of CFUW

1. To promote high standards of education, lifelong learning and advanced study and research by women through various avenues including the awarding of bursaries and scholarships.
2. To promote understanding, friendship and support amongst women within the Club as well as the local, provincial, national and global communities.
3. To promote member knowledge and participation in local, provincial, national and international issues.
4. To advocate and support the advancement of the status of women, human rights, education and social justice issues in the local, provincial, national and global communities.
5. To support the purposes of BC Council, CFUW / FCFDU National, IAW and GWI.
6. To carry on the business of The Club without purpose of gain for its individual members.



# CLUB LEADERSHIP REPORT



**Introducing our new Co-President:**

**Janet Bowes**



First, I would like to say how welcoming CFUW Kelowna is. Our club is not my first experience with CFUW. I belonged to CFUW Calgary from 1995 - 2021. When I became Regional Director for Alberta in 2006-2010, I joined Calgary North, making more CFUW friends.

When my husband and I moved to Kelowna in 2021, I hesitated to join. I knew my calendar would fill up quickly with CFUW events, and, with the busyness of moving and settling in, I wasn't ready to make commitments. In 2022, I met Martha Jane, who, once discovering that I had belonged to CFUW, insisted that I join, which I did September 2023. She promised you were a lovely and welcoming group of women and she was quite right.

A bit about my past: I was born in London, England, immigrated to Calgary in 1966, met my husband in 1969; I had been working as a geophysical technician. After three children, I started my postsecondary education at the U of C, eventually obtaining a B.A. in Linguistics and Anthropology from the University of Toronto. My husband had been transferred to Toronto, so we lived in Oakville for four years. I also trained as a kitchen and bathroom designer during the Oakville years. On returning to Calgary, I applied to the graduate programme in Communication Studies, where I focused my studies on multiculturalism. After receiving my M.A., I taught English at Mount Royal University for 10 years.

It was a difficult choice to move to Kelowna, leaving life-long friends and the familiar, much-loved landscape, but we thought that we had reached the age when we needed to be closer to at least one of our children. We have a daughter and a granddaughter here.

In the two years that I have belonged to our club, I have met some delightful women in the Thursday afternoon book club and the Friday morning strollers/coffee group. I am looking forward to meeting many more of you. Joining CFUW here has made me feel a sense of belonging. I thank you for that, and I look forward to serving as your Co-President.

# CLUB LEADERSHIP REPORT



**Introducing our new Co-President**

**Martha Jane Lewis**

I am very happy to be working together with Janet Bowes as we undertake our roles as joint presidents of CFUW Kelowna this year.

I have been extremely fortunate with my education. I attended excellent girls schools in Canada and Switzerland where there was never any question that girls could go to university. When I went to the University of Victoria and focused on Economics I didn't really notice that there weren't many girls in my classes. In one fourth year class, the professor asked if I "believed in equal pay for equal work". It wasn't something I had ever thought about so I answered, "Yes, of course." He then commented, "I wonder if that is affordable". And that was the end of the conversation.

When I graduated with a BA in Economics in the summer of 1972, I was the only female among the 41 students who graduated with a BA (Econ) that year. I was told I was the first female to graduate in Economics. Working for financial institutions in Toronto and Montreal there were certainly many more men than women, except for the secretaries and clerks.

Continued on next page

# CLUB LEADERSHIP REPORT

I went to the University of British Columbia Law School when I was in my 40s, and two of my children were at UBC while I was there. My daughter was in Engineering and commented on her not understanding much about Women's Lib as there were a lot of females in all areas of study. Things had certainly moved quickly in Canadian universities and colleges in a quarter century. After graduating in 2001 with a Bachelor of Laws or LLB (now called a Juris Doctor or JD), articling with BC Legal Services Society and BC Public Interest Advocacy Centre, and passing the Bar exam, I was ready to apply for work with the Legal Services Society as my purpose in going to law school was to practice in the area of Social Justice, where the government paid for free legal services for low income people. But then the incoming BC government announced closures of many of the LSS offices.

I was so angry that I wanted to get out of Canada, as I didn't like the federal party any more than the provincial one that year. I went to Bristol University in England and graduated with a Master of Laws in 2003. My final paper was about the failure to educate Jamaican youth in the UK and whether the government could be held legally responsible. Very interesting indeed.

As a lawyer I first practiced in the areas of family law and child protection, and a short stint doing duty council in criminal law. I then became Executive Director of TRAC Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre, and later Executive Director of Seniors First BC. Both are excellent organizations and provide valuable information and free legal services for low income clients.

And now I am retired in Kelowna and grateful to be part of CFUW here.



# Board Members 2025-2026

**Leadership Team:** Janet Bowes and Martha Jane Lewis (co-Presidents), Jeannette Mergens, Past President

**Secretary–Monthly meetings:** Patricia Giannelia

**Secretary–Board:** Carrie Izumi

**Treasurer:** Linda Schillemore (Cathie Meehan Chapman, Nancy Longman in training)

**Co-VPs:** Vacant

**Membership:** Marilyn Porter and Christine Wood (co-chairs)

**Program:** Carol Bradley

**Advocacy:** TBA

**Social:** Brenda Gilbert

**Education Awards:** Marguerite Bilyk and Penny Lobdell (co-chairs)

**Public Relations:** Lorrie Brown

**Newsletter:** Susan Bruchet and Charlene Hodgson (co-editors)

**Communication:** Charlene Hodgson

**Website:** Pam Laing

**Archivist:** Jan Fraser

## CFUW BC COUNCIL WEBSITE

<https://sites.google.com/site/cfuwbccouncil/bcc>

## CFUW NATIONAL WEBSITE

<https://www.cfuw.org>

## GWI WEBSITE

<https://www.gwi.com>



# Committees 2025-2026

**Leadership Team:** Janet Bowes and Martha Jane Lewis (co-Presidents),  
Jeannette Mergens, Past President

**Secretary—Monthly meetings:** Patricia Giannelia

**Secretary—Board:** Carrie Izumi

**Treasurer:** Linda Schillemore (Cathie Meehan Chapman, Nancy Longman in training)

**Co-VPs:** Vacant

**Membership:** Marilyn Porter and Christine Wood (co-chairs)

**Program:** Carol Bradley (chair), Marilyn Harris, Catherine Doherty

**Advocacy:** TBA

**Social:** Brenda Gilbert (chair), Sharon Coghill, Dorothy Genge

**Education Awards:** Marguerite Bilyk and Penny Lobdell (co-chairs)

Linda Schillemore, Catherine Disbery, Sheila Ferguson, Pamela Goode,  
Carrie Izumi (ex officio).

**Public Relations:** Lorrie Brown

**Newsletter:** Susan Bruchet and Charlene Hodgson (co-editors)

**Communication:** Charlene Hodgson

**Website:** Pam Laing

**Archivist:** Jan Fraser



# Treasurer's Report

## Club Dues for 2025-2026 submitted by: Linda Schillemore

I will be continuing my trip I started in the fall of 2023 and will not be at either the September or October meeting. As always you can pay your dues at the September or October meeting. Nancy Longman has kindly offered to do the deposits brought to the meetings. Around 40 members paid their membership by the end of August which is appreciated very much.

The options for paying are:

1. You can send a cheque post-dated July 1st 2025 to the club's mailbox. See below.
2. Anytime after July 1st send an etransfer to [cfuwkelownaoper@gmail.com](mailto:cfuwkelownaoper@gmail.com)
3. Contact to arrange cash payment.

Cheques can be mailed to our mailbox:

CFUW Kelowna  
P.O. Box 21168, Orchard Park  
Kelowna V1Y 9N8

### A Note on Etransfers

The Club has two accounts for etransfers:

- **Operations:** this account deals with the operations of the club such as dues, hall rental, committee expenses, social events, and community donations like Malawi and Christmas stocking.
- **Education:** this account deals with anything to do with the Education Committee allocation of funds for bursaries and scholarships as well as craft fairs and coffee sales.

The 2 emails are similar with each having a unique identifier:

- **oper** for operations ==> [cfuwkelownaoper@gmail.com](mailto:cfuwkelownaoper@gmail.com)
- **bank** for education ==> [cfuwkelownabank@gmail.com](mailto:cfuwkelownabank@gmail.com)

# A Look at the Year Ahead

The Program Committee has planned a year of interesting speakers who will delight and inform us at our Meetings. All General Meetings, except where indicated, will be at Reid Hall, Benvoulin Heritage Church, 2279 Benvoulin Road. Coffee, tea and goodies provided!

**September: Monday, September 15, 6:30pm.**

Jennifer Gullins, Okanagan College Students' Union, Pantry Coordinator.

Bring a friend to the first meeting of our new Club year!

**October: Monday, October 20, 2025, 6:30 pm**

"Life on the Space Station"

Professor Howard Hisdal, Department of History, Okanagan College

**November: Monday, November 17, 2025, 6:30 pm**

"Legally Blind"

Ann Hancock, CNIB Volunteer

**December: Monday, December 8, 2025, 11:30 am**

Christmas Luncheon

Tower Ranch Golf Club

**January: Monday, January 19, 2026, 6:30 pm via Zoom**

"New Love and Relationships Later in Life"

Dr. Sarah Knudson, Associate Professor (Sociology),

St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon

**February: Monday, February 16, 2026 Noon**

**Lunch Meeting**

"Opera Kelowna - Inception and Future"

Rosemary Thompson, Artistic Director

**March: Monday, March 16, 2026, 6:30 pm**

"North Sea Saga - Faroes and Fair Isle"

Steffany Walker

**April : Monday, April 20, 2026, 6:30 pm**

"Project Literacy - 40th Anniversary"

Paul Zuurbier, Executive Director

**May: Monday, May 11, 2026, 11:30 am**

Spring Luncheon and Silent Auction

Location TBD



# The Value of Your CFUW Club Membership

## Locally

- The enjoyment of friendship and fellowship with women of similar interests
- a whole year of interesting speakers at our monthly meetings
- many interest groups to choose from
- a positive way to contribute to the community through the giving of education awards and community-based projects (local clubs across Canada award over \$1 million yearly)
- a forum in which to discuss and promote local, national, and international issues with other educated women in the form of resolutions and advocacy
- contact with our municipal mayors and councils, MLAs, and MPs on issues of current concern.

## Provincially

- Our club, as a member of BC Council, is able to bring issues to the provincial government. BC Council has an Advocacy Committee that has representation from all 18 BC clubs. This group meets monthly September to June.
- Our BC Council, along with the other councils across Canada, works to promote education and the improvement of the status of women and girls.
- We actively participate in public affairs in a spirit of cooperation and friendship

## Nationally

- We are a national organization of 90 clubs with over 6700 members. We have clubs in every province.
- Our national board advocates directly to the Federal Government on education, the status of women, peace, justice, security, health, and the environment to name a few topics.
- Our Charitable Trust raises money and administers the funds for Fellowships and Awards to assist women university graduates to further their post-secondary education. It administers an investment portfolio of over \$1 million for fifteen CFUW Fellowships and Awards valued at over ninety thousand dollars yearly.
- We have special consultative status at the United Nations with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This status allows CFUW to actively participate in UN processes, including submitting annual statements to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and sending a delegation to engage with the international community on issues of gender equality and women's empowerment.

## Internationally

- Through our affiliation with GWI (Graduate Women International) we support women and girls in third world countries throughout the world. CFUW is the largest NFA (National Federation and Association) of GWI and was a founding member.
- Through its UN representatives in New York, Geneva, Paris, and Vienna, GWI raises awareness, promotes gender equality, and works to ensure lifelong quality education for women and girls worldwide.
- GWI offers global contacts, information, and influence.
- CFUW members travelling abroad are offered hospitality in GWI members' homes.
- GWI has a strong Young Members group that networks with young women from many countries around the world.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

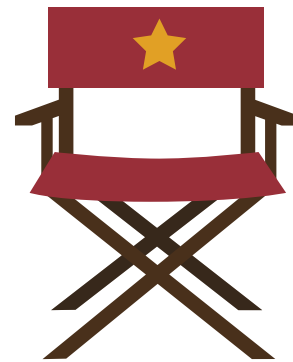
## Adopt a Road Program

Our next road cleanup date is Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. We meet at Parkinson Rec Centre, parking at the south end near Harvey, at 9:30am to carpool (or drive on your own if preferred) to our two streets—Weddell Place, and Poplar Point Drive. Please bring work gloves. Safety vests, reachers, and bags are provided by the City. If this is your first time, a waiver must be signed. Signs on both roads designate the streets as ours—one way of raising awareness of our organization. We welcome members who've not enjoyed this experience! We spend about an hour and a half picking up garbage, and then repair to the Marmalade Cat Café on Richter across from the RCMP station for coffee. This is another way to get to know members. Please call Susan Morrison if you have questions: 250-762-8885



## SAVE THE DATE

Fall Field Trip  
Monday October 27TH, 2 pm  
Behind the scenes tour of  
Kelowna Actors' Studio  
More details to follow.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## A Learning Experience – Federal Programs and Benefits

September 19, 2025, starting at 10:00 am

Location: Lakeview Heights Baptist Church, 2630 Alhambra Drive, West Kelowna.

Lee Anne Baker, Citizen Services Specialist, Service Canada, will be our speaker.

Her presentation will include these programs:

- CPP/OAS/GIS Pensions, CPP-Disability and Employment Insurance
- Disability Tax Credit
- Survivors Benefits
- Canadian Dental Care Program

A one-on-one station will be set up, and she will answer questions and provide private assistance with issues of concern to you. One example might be how to establish your Service Canada account.

The cost will be \$8.00 per person.

Offered by National Association of Federal Retirees

### Mark your Calendars!

The Annual Fall Great Okanagan Book Sale  
Wednesday Oct 15th to Saturday the 18th at  
Immaculate Conception Church Hall 839 Sutherland.  
More details to follow.



# Committees - Education

The Education Committee met at KLO Middle School in March 2025 to read over the applications and select recipients for the **Central Okanagan Bursary and Scholarship Society Awards** (COBSS). We all agreed that it was inspirational to read the applications from the many talented and worthy recipients. Five Grade 12 students were the recipients of awards at their June graduation ceremonies. Since Covid (2020 ) COBSS representatives and donors do not attend ceremonies and the awards are are presented by the schools.

The award recipients were:

**Lara** Kelowna Senior Secondary CFUW Kelowna Scholarship \$2,000 (COBBS Trust Fund). Plans to attend UBC and pursue a career in Medicine.

**Olivia** Kelowna Senior Secondary CFUW Bursary for Creative Arts \$2,000 (CFUW Ed. Fund). Plans to attend UVic to pursue a career as an author and screenwriter.

**Layla** Rutland Senior Secondary CFUW-UBCO Bursary \$1950 (from BC Gaming). Plans to attend UBCO and pursue a career in Medicine.

**Kiara** George Elliot Senior Secondary CFUW-UBCO Bursary \$1950 (from BC Gaming). Plans to attend UBCO and pursue a career as a criminal defence lawyer.

**Amalia** Mount Boucherie Senior Secondary CFUW -BC Bursary \$2,000 (from BC Gaming). Plans to attend UBC to pursue a Masters of Management degree with an International Relations major.



# Committees - Education

Okanagan College awarded the CFUW Kelowna Foundation Trades Award of \$1,000 in June, 2025. The award recipient, Hannah, had been studying Carpentry/Joinery for the last semester and will pursue courses in Interior Design this Fall. The remaining awards will be presented in November at the end of the Fall semester. The Education Committee has begun the process of applying for Gaming Grants from the Provincial Government. The main part of the documentation and application will be done in Oct/Nov. Last year we received \$10,000 in Grant Funding from the provincial government and we are hoping that they will provide these grants again. We are not guaranteed this money and each year we wait to hear in February if our grant application is successful.

**Education Committee:** Marguerite Bilyk and Penny Lobdell Co - chairs

**Members of the Committee:** Linda Schillemore, Catherine Disbery, Sheila Fergusson, Pamela Goode, Carrie Izumi (ex - officio)



# Committees - Membership

## Submitted by Marilyn Porter and Christine Wood

There have been inquiries from 3 potential new members over the summer. The Committee has done the appropriate followup. Whether they join remains to be seen. We expect some will come to our September meeting to check out the club.

Most of our existing members have paid their 25/26 membership fees which is greatly appreciated.

We encourage people to bring a new person along to our September 15th meeting for our meet & greet evening.

### **New Address for Linda Williams**

Linda Williams  
#116-3788 Bird Place  
Kelowna BC V1W 4T3



# Committees - Website

## A Message from our Web Master: Pam Laing

The club website is found at [www.cfuwkelownaclub.org](http://www.cfuwkelownaclub.org) The most important pages are the Home, Program and Members' Only pages. I try to keep these as current as possible with an update at least once a month shortly before the club meeting. Executive members for the 2025 – 2026 year are listed on the Members' Only page #3, along with contact info for the various interest groups. Members' pages are accessed using the passcode kel234

You may see a notice at the top of your screen that our website is not a secure site. That's correct, it isn't. If we were using our website to sell something we would need special encryption software in order to keep purchasers' financial details private. But we aren't so we don't need to pay for the kind of website that would allow that. It is club policy not to post any personal information on any of the public pages, only the private ones. Our website is as secure as it needs to be and you can feel confident using it to find out club information.

This is YOUR website, help me keep it up to date. Send me your photos! Take a look now! And visit every month...

Pam Laing [pamlaing2309@gmail.com](mailto:pamlaing2309@gmail.com) / (250) 868-9924



# Committees - Advocacy

## Would you like to Chair the Advocacy Committee?

Our 2024/25 chair, Sharon Shepherd, is unable to fulfill this role during the coming year due to family responsibilities. We thank her for the excellent job she has done in guiding our group through many projects in our community, province and country. It is our hope that she will join us at meetings when possible and offer her expertise and knowledge.

The Advocacy Committee members are an active and keen group of women who always welcome new members to join them in their work to promote projects in the community, province and country that are in line with the goals of CFUW. They are currently in need of a leader who will chair the meetings and keep track of the work that is being done. The chairperson does not need to be an expert in all things advocacy. She will act as a conduit of information passed on from the Leadership Team. The Committee will look at the issues sent to them and decide if they wish to take on any of these projects. Jeannette Mergens will act as a mentor for the new chairperson. She was our chairperson for many years and has served as Chairperson at CFUW National Advocacy.



# Interest Groups

Our club offers a variety of Interest Groups for members. These groups facilitate friendships and collegiality among members who share a common interest. Any member may suggest the formation of an interest group and become the coordinator. Please contact Jeannette Mergens if you have an idea for a new group: [jfmergens@gmail.com](mailto:jfmergens@gmail.com)

The following are interest groups we had last year. You will note that some groups no longer have a coordinator. Please consider volunteering to be the coordinator for a group currently without one. The group cannot continue without a coordinator. More information on Interest Groups, as well as sign up sheets, will be available at the September General Meeting.

Adopt a Road – Susan Morrison

Book Chains – Pam Laing

Bridge – Cathy Richards

E-Bike Riding – Lynne Cousins

Evening Dining Out – Pat Brown

Games & Grub – Charlene Hodgson

Golfing - **Coordinator needed**

Hiking - **Coordinator needed**

Advocacy - **Coordinator needed**

Morning Chat - **Coordinator needed**

Knitters & Crafters – Linda Olinger

Book Discussion – Brenda Gilbert

Book Discussion – Marilyn Porter

Out & About – Pat Scarlett, Susan Morrison, Linda Schillemore

Out to Lunch Bunch – Charlene Hodgson & Linda Olinger

Walking Group – Martha Jane Lewis



# Interest Groups: Walking

## Walks for September and October

Walkers meet at 9.30. Coffee starts at 10.30 or soon thereafter. These walks are intended for CFUW members only. The schedule is also posted on the [CFUW Kelowna website](#).

### SEPTEMBER 2025

**September 12**, Marmalade Cat Café, 2903 Pandosy Street. We will walk to the lake from there and then return for coffee.

**September 19**, Brandt's Creek (Sutton Glen Community Gardens), Sutton Crescent. Coffee at Tim Hortons, 1936 Kane Road.

**September 26**, Sails statue at the lakeside end of Bernard Avenue. Coffee at Bread Co, 363 Bernard Avenue.

### OCTOBER 2025

**October 3**, Belmont Park, 444 Belmont Park Road, just off Lexington Drive. There is street parking on Lexington between Gordon and Lakeshore. Coffee at the Milk Shed Coffeehouse, 4629 Lakeshore Road. There is some parking there, more across the road.

**October 10**, Sarson's Beach Park, 4398 Hobson Road. Coffee at Urban Fare, 3155 Lakeshore Road.

**October 17**, EECO Centre, 2363 Springfield Road. Coffee at Deli City, 1889 Springfield Road.

**October 24**, Downtown Library, 1380 Ellis Street. Coffee at the Bike Shop Café, 1357 Ellis Street.

**October 31**, Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Park, 4711 Raymer Road. Coffee at Urban Fare, 3155 Lakeshore Road

### NOVEMBER 2025

**November 7**, Dilworth Mountain Loop, Chilcotin Crescent. Coffee at Tim Hortons, 1936 Kane Road.



# Interest Groups: Biking

## Attention all E-Bike Enthusiasts!

The E-Biking group has been active over the summer. We have ventured out most Mondays (weather permitting) and had lots of fun discovering new biking trails, stopping for coffee, getting fresh air and exercise. We hope to keep riding into October. New riders always welcome!

Let's keep riding as long as weather permits! Please contact Lynne Cousins for further information. [cousinslynn@shaw.ca](mailto:cousinslynn@shaw.ca)



The E-Bike group getting ready for a ride!



# Interest Groups: Book Chains

Are you someone who likes to read but welcomes suggestions of titles to try? Perhaps you like to read but don't want yet another meeting once a month. Have you ever felt that discussing a book you've read is a chore you prefer not to tackle? You might be someone for whom Book Chains would be a good fit. This is a book group with a difference, since we read a variety of books during the club year but do not meet to discuss them. Participants instead keep a different book each month to read and pass it on to the next reader in the chain after their time is up. Everyone in the chain is thus reading a different book at any one time, but by the end of the year the books will have circulated through the entire chain. Readers pay the average cost of the books and at the end of the year can choose to keep one if they wish. Pay for one, read eight, keep one – what's not to like?

This year we have three chains with eight readers in each. Two of these chains are for one-book-a-month readers, the third is for those who read two books a month. Currently there are two openings in each of the former and one in the latter. Why not give it a try? If you find an author new to you or a title you love, great! Conversely if you don't like a book you don't have to feel obliged to read it. And the cost can't be beat... Let me know immediately, before the September meeting, if you are interested and I will fit you into one of the chains. Every book is labelled with the names of the readers and when they should have the books. All the titles are posted on the club website on the Interest Groups page if you want to check them out.

Pam Laing: [pamlaing2309@gmail.com](mailto:pamlaing2309@gmail.com) / (250) 868-9924



# Member's Corner

## LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE OUR CLUB?

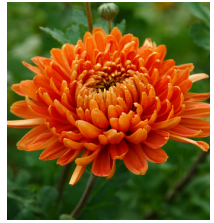
Ruth Mellor has made the decision this summer to step back from her role in heading up coffee sales for CFUW Kelowna. We cannot thank her enough for her devotion to this fundraiser amongst the many other ways she has supported the club.

For many years Ruth Mellor has tirelessly devoted her time to the ordering and selling of our Fair-Trade coffee. The sale of coffee is a vital part of the success of our scholarship and bursary program that supports girls graduating from high school and going on to post-secondary education as well as women in financial need (often single parents) attending Okanagan College. The club would not be able to apply for BC Gaming Funds without the money raised from our coffee and craft sales. So how does the club move forward with this vital project ?

Ruth is willing to train her successor(s) in the ordering and sale of the coffee. She has a list of customers who purchase the coffee from her on an ongoing basis outside of craft fairs. The bins to hold the coffee and tables to display the coffee at the events come with the job. Perhaps the new organizers or other club members will have ideas on how we can sell our coffee and raise even more money. This job could be taken on by one or more club members. Please contact Jeannette if you have questions or would like to take on this way of supporting our club and the important work we do! [jfmergens@gmail.com](mailto:jfmergens@gmail.com)



# Club Coffee Fundraiser



## Try our Flavourful Coffee!

**FEMININO COFFEE** Please order your coffee in advance by emailing Jeannette at: [jfmergens@gmail.com](mailto:jfmergens@gmail.com). Jeannette will bring your order to the meeting. Full pound is \$18 and 10 oz is \$14 Regular and decaf coffee is available for purchase.

The money helps grow our Education Fund and helps the women who grow the coffee.



# Club Business

## Articles for Newsletters

Articles for the newsletter or the monthly information bulletin can be submitted at any time throughout the month to Charlene Hodgson and Susan Bruchet. The newsletter and monthly bulletin are published on alternate months and go out to members after the Executive meeting which is the first Tuesday of the month. Please keep this in mind when submitting articles. The Leadership committee has final editorial control.



# Summertime with CFUW Kelowna



# Graduate Women International (GWI)

## GWI Spread the News 2025 September

### **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.

**Good luck to the 8 CFUW members who are running for positions on GWI.** Elections will be held at the Triennial. We will keep you posted on the successful candidates in the next newsletter.

GWI Call for inputs - "Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cultural Rights, and the Right to Development"

The GWI Discussion Network\* is a platform for members to exchange ideas on important topics and contribute to collective advocacy outcomes. It enables national federations and associations (NFAs) to share knowledge, experiences, and recommendations that reflect our diverse realities and strengthen GWI's voice in global policy spaces.

In response to a call for inputs from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for the upcoming study by the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (EMRTD) on "Artificial Intelligence, Cultural Rights, and the Right to Development."

Given that GWI has held Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1947, it is especially important for us to contribute to this OHCHR call. Our longstanding engagement with the United Nations system makes this consultation particularly relevant to our mission and value.

This "AI, Cultural Rights, and the Right to Development" discussion will be open for contributions from 21 August to 12 September 2025.

To contribute, simply respond to the original post shared in the Discussion Network thread with your answers, comments, or examples.\*

By responding to this discussion and submitting content, you are giving your consent for GWI to include your input in the compiled submission to OHCHR, with appropriate attribution where applicable.

We look forward to receiving your contributions.

\*To Join the GWI Discussion Network: You, as a CFUW member, can register as a member of GWI allowing you to access their Members Corner on the Graduate Women International website:

<https://graduatewomen.org/>

Once you are a member registered with GWI, you can access the Members Corner and join the discussion group which 'operates' via email.

More Details:

This study will explore the ways in which AI affects cultural rights, both positively and negatively, within the broader framework of the right to development. It will also look at regulatory approaches, risks such as disinformation or algorithmic bias, and opportunities for ensuring AI contributes to cultural diversity, inclusion, and equal access to development.

# Graduate Women International (GWI)

As GWI has modernized over the decades, we continue doing so through AI as our mission intersects with the study's themes through our work on education, gender equality, and women's access to culture and technology. Your insights, especially with concrete examples from projects or national experiences, can ensure GWI contributes meaningfully to this important global conversation.

We believe the following questions are relevant:

1. In your opinion, what, if any, are the potential benefits of AI for cultural rights in the context of the right to development? You may, for instance, consider AI's impact on development, cultural participation, cultural diversity (including language preservation, artistic creation and expression, access and participation in science, academic and scientific freedom, and the protection of moral and material rights of authors and creators)?
2. Can you provide any specific real-life examples where AI has already enhanced the enjoyment of cultural rights when pursuing the right to development?
3. What are the main risks posed by and drawbacks already identified of AI, including, amongst others, generative AI, to cultural rights in pursuing the right to development?
4. What do you believe might be the long-term effects of AI use on cultural rights and, in that context, the future of the right to development, including cultural self-determination?
5. How can cultural rights be protected in the era of rapid AI development? You may, for example, consider prevention and mitigation.

We encourage you to share your perspectives, experiences, and, where possible, examples from your national work to ensure that women's voices and gender perspectives are well represented in this global policy discussion.