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January 2026



President's Message: Christine Marin

Happy New Year 2026, CFUW Richmond members!

While you are reading this message, I am trying to relax, recovering from the festivities of Christmas, and from my second cataract surgery. So far so good on both counts.

As we move into 2026, in a world that is changing every day and often brings challenging news, I am grateful for all of you in CFUW Richmond who have made our club a place of comfort, friendship and passion. Never underestimate the importance of belonging to our CFUW family. If you know of any friends or family who might benefit from joining our club, please invite them to any of our meetings. Guests are always welcome! May the club continue to bring you much joy in the coming year.

I hope that you had a chance to try some of the suggestions in our Plastics-free Christmas challenge, in anticipation of our February speaker from Ocean Legacy, Chloe Dubois. I reused gift bags, used real plates and glassware, made many of my gifts, and gave experiences and certificates. I did find handling the leftovers a challenge, even though my family always arrives with their own containers!

I was so please with the recent gatherings we enjoyed. Our Dec. 6 Vigil for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women was held at the Library plaza, and was very special as we welcomed the Re:Sisters to sing with us again.

Our wonderful Christmas Social on Dec. 8 was organized by Judi Sponarski and her committee and I thank them sincerely. What a beautiful evening at Country Meadows!

Morning Coffee on Dec. 5 at Sylvia's gorgeously decorated home was well attended despite the pouring rain! Thank you, Sylvia!

The Lunch Bunch enjoyed the delicious Quilchena Golf Club buffet on Dec. 18, and we offer our heartfelt thanks to Amy Yu and Priscilla Bollo for organizing the lunches throughout the year.

I am thoroughly looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year – for more fun, conversation, advocacy, games, eating, reading, walking and knitting/crocheting!

I hope to see you at the next General Meeting on Monday, January 26!

Christine Marin, President CFUW Richmond (2025–2027)



Advocacy Committee

Deb Track and Jenny Toone, Co-Chairs

Thank you to everyone who supported the December 6th vigil to honour the women who died in the Montreal massacre and those who have since died.

The next Advocacy meeting will be on January 13 at 2pm at the home of Jenny T. Kathy and Diane will update us on progress in Reconciliation and lead a discussion on issues arising from the Cowichan Lands ruling. We will discuss the Committee's Advocacy report to provide feedback on the Richmond Childcare plan using the information provided by Chris Duggan at our November meeting.

CFUW Richmond General Meeting:

Monday January 26, 2026 at 7:00 pm at Caring Place

Featuring: Anthony Sinclair, UBC, on the Serengeti ecosystem

Hostess: Susan L; **Co-hostesses:** Susan J, Marg P; **Set up:** Bev C, Heather C



Program Committee

Brenda King and Moreen Takada, Co-Chairs

We are looking forward to a very interesting presentation for our January meeting. Professor Anthony Sinclair of the Biodiversity Research Centre at UBC will talk about the life both he and his wife experienced in the Serengeti while he was doing research on the bio-diversity of the ecosystem there. Tony's wife, Anna, will also join in and share her perspective.



Scholarships and Special Events Committee

Judi Sponarski, Chair

The Christmas Social held at Country Meadows was a huge success with 66 members enjoying themselves at this year end event. After an hour of socializing, we enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner followed by playing a game and handing out the many door prizes. The evening was rounded out thanks to Kathy Tisdale and De Whalen leading everyone in the singing of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

There are a number of people that I would like to acknowledge who stepped up to make this evening such a huge success. Thank you to each and everyone of you. Your contributions were sincerely appreciated.

Donna Sargent provided the festive table decor and has done this for a number of our Socials in the past. The decorations really take our event to the next level.

Brenda Denchfield, Lisa Colby, Lila May, and Sue Priest made up our social committee, showing up early to set up, to man the door, to help with the evening events and to do the take down at the end of the evening.

Many members contributed door prizes that were sincerely appreciated by the winners of the draw. Thank you to all for your generosity and in making our event more special.

To all our members, may the New Year bring good health, much happiness and many more fun times with CFUW.



Membership Committee

Karen Keogh, Chair

It was wonderful to see such a large 'record' turnout at the Christmas Social at Country Meadows. Thank you to Judi and her crew for organizing!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and that you are finding time to enjoy the holiday season with family and friends.

Our membership total remains at 96 members.

I will be putting another order in for more name badges on January 6. If you are interested in ordering one, please e-transfer \$9 to richmondcfuw@gmail.com by January 4. A magnetized name badge will be ordered unless you indicate that you prefer one with a pin.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2026!

Happy January Birthday to:



- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Silvia B. | 18. Suzan M. |
| 1. Gail P. | 22. Heather C. |
| 5. Mary Z. | 24. Barbara H. |
| 6. Margot D'S. | 25. Lisa Colby |
| 10. Pam E. | 27. Marilyn S. |
| 14. Donna S. | 30. Helen C. |

Young at heart. Other parts slightly older.

CFUW News

CFUW's Club Action Newsletters contain relevant information pertaining to Club news and events. You are encouraged to stay in the know by signing up here:

<https://members.cfuw.org/club-action-newsletter>



Book Sale Fundraiser

Sandy Bichard



The Book Sale Fundraiser continues to be a popular event with lots of participation from our members – both by donating and purchasing books and jigsaw puzzles. Donations of two or three books at a time - especially newer titles which are quickly snapped up - are greatly appreciated. And unlike everything else, the cost to purchase a book has not gone up - still only \$2.00! Correct change is appreciated. The funds raised are allocated to a worthy cause identified by the Advocacy Committee. Books unsold after two months are donated to the Friends of Richmond Public Library which hold sales to raise funds for the Library.

Coldest Night of the Year

We will have a team called "CFUW - Richmond Steps Up". Kathy Moir will Captain the Team. The information will be posted on the CNOY website (cnoy.org) once all fundraising details are received by Advocacy and approved by the Executive. Mark your calendars for February 28! More details to come at the January general meeting and in the February newsletter.





The Grapevine by Sandy Bichard



I hope many will continue to participate in the Grapevine. If you have any upcoming events you'd like to share, or would like to comment on any of these topic areas (just a line or two would do – no formal report needed!) please send them to me at sandybichard045@gmail.com.



Staying Connected: Special personal events you'd like to share with the group?
We'd love to hear.



The Re:Sisters - from our November meeting to our Dec. 6 Vigil, we thank the Re:Sisters for their courageous and interactive singing with us! (see two photos)



December 6th Vigil National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women was a successful event. It was organized by CFUW, with representation from provincial and municipal governments, and local activist and philanthropic groups. Thanks to all who attended and helped out!



December Social – A spectacular celebratory evening enjoyed by all.....



...with many thanks to Judi S. and her wonderful team of organizers!

Grapevine continued...



Travel Tips & Tricks: Experience is the best teacher. Please share what you have learned along the way to make travels easier and more enjoyable.



Use the TV's USB for Charging

If you left home without your smartphone plug, but you still have the cable, insert the USB connector into the side or back of the television in your vacation rental or hotel room and it will charge up your device. (Source: Marc Saltzman, July 28, 2025, [Zoomer Living](#), Aug. 5, 2025)



Around Town: Anything noteworthy you'd like to share? Did a local business or service provider go above and beyond? Want to recommend and support a local business? Openings and closings? New finds?

Anar Persian Cuisine has merged with Lavash Seaside Grill and moved to 108 – 3800 Bayview St.



A treat for your tastebuds!
www.anargrill.com



Annual Steveston Icebreaker 8K Run, Sunday, January 18, 9:00 am



“More than 1000 runners are expected to race through Richmond and Steveston streets.... Kajacks Track and Field Club 8K run...to raise money for KidSport Richmond and Richmond Foodbank..... The 2026 race will start at Good Co. in Steveston Village and take place along the dike trail towards No. 3 Road and back, with full road closures in place.....”
www.icebreaker8k.ca (Sources: Richmond News article, by Valerie Leung, Dec. 24, 2025.)

Grapevine continued...



Bookworm's Bite: Book recommendations from members -- not a full-on book report, mind you!

Nonfiction = learning through information

Bookworm = one who reads like their life depends on it

Fiction = learning through imagination

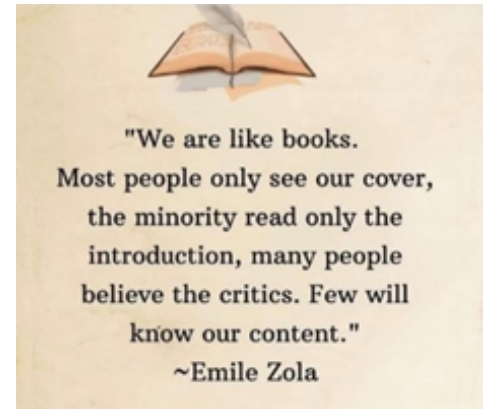
Bookdragon = hoards books like treasure



"You Will Not Kill Our Imagination: A Memoir of Palestine and Writing in Dark Times" by Saeed Teebi. When I heard Saeed Teebi interviewed on CBC Sunday Magazine, I immediately reserved a copy of his book at the library. It is a memoir of his family's displacement. Reading this book helped me understand "what it means to be of the Palestinian diaspora at this moment." (Shared by Agnes T.)

FOODIES FAVOUR: Tell us about your favourite dine in or dine out establishments. Had a great meal lately? Share favourite cookbooks, recipes, wines.

Soups! 'Tis the Season



Life Hacks 101: Humorous or serious tips and tricks on any topic: health and wellness, sports, technology, photography, household, gardening, automotive; best or worst advice ever received or given; or anything else that you've learned along the way that helps ease life's big and small challenges.



Thinking of Buying a Used Car? Or selling your Car? Or forgot when you last had an oil change? A car's history can be searched through www.carfax.ca by entering the car's VIN.



Planting Seeds: Read a line or a quote lately that caught your attention and perhaps 'planted a seed'? Please share.

"Everything is a win -- if the goal is experience"



Interest Group News **January 2026**

Coordinator: Anne Marie Kelly 604 275 2158 tarasan@telus.net

N.B: When replying to an RSVP request, please send the email to the hostess or leader only. Avoid using REPLY ALL, unless requested, so that others don't receive emails not intended for them.

Interested in setting up a new interest group? We welcome new interest groups in our club. All a group needs is someone willing to be the leader. Contact me for details.

Book Discussion Groups

Afternoon Book. Leader Claire Smythe clairesmythe@icloud.com. We will meet on Wednesday, January 7 at 1:30 pm at Donalda Buie's to discuss The Paper Birds by Jeanette Lynes..

The Tuesday Murder Club. Leader Linda McNab 604-277-7450, mcnab.linda@gmail.com. We will be meeting at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, January 20 at the home of Linda Holden Clode. We will be discussing Thrillers by Canadian authors (Linwood Barclay, Shari Lapena, Rick Mofina and Robyn Harding).

Lit Lovers - Evening Book. Leader Sandy Bichard 604-961-5433, sandybichard045@gmail.com. The Lit Lover's Evening Book Club meets at 7:30 pm the third Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 21 at Jenny Toone's to discuss The Time of the Child by Niall William.

Fun and Games

Bridge. Leader Heather Campbell 604-271-5045. Contact Heather for information about the plans for the month of January.

Euchre. Leader Lisa Delarue-Riffel 604-448-1650 delarif@telus.net. We will be meeting on Thursday, January 8 at 1:30 pm, hosted by Penny McFarland.

Mahjong. Co-leaders: Karen Keogh (604-946-9965; karen_keogh@dccnet.com) and Priscilla Bollo (604-290-3364; priscil@telus.net). For 2026, the Mahjong Interest Group will be moving our monthly session from the 3rd Friday of the month to the 4th Friday of the month. This means that our next session will be at 1:30 pm on Friday, **January 23** at Wisteria Place. Please let Karen know if you wish to play.

Food and Conversation

Coffee Group. Leader Penny McFarland 604 275-0232 pemcfarland@gmail.com. The coffee group get together will be Friday, **January 9** (the second Friday) at 10 am at Jean Garnett's; her helper is Judi Sponarski. All club members are welcome to attend and this is a great place for new members to get to know others. Everyone, please wear your name badge if you have one.

Dinner Group. Leader Vicky Erickson, erickson4vicky@gmail.com. We will begin to plan our first dinner of the new year. Have fun everyone and have a happy New Year.

Wednesday Walking. Leader Linda McNab 604 277-7450. Garry Point Park Walks: 9:30 - 10:30 am either along the West Dyke or around Garry Point itself. We meet on the boulevard by the washrooms in the parking lot. Coffee afterwards at Blenz optional.

Lunch Bunch. Contact Amy Yu (604-277-8270; yuamysp@gmail.com) or Priscilla Bollo (604-290-3364; priscil@telus.net). The Lunch Bunch will be going to Yaas Grill on January 15.

TALK. Leader Jean Garnett 604 277-1130, jeangarnett@shaw.ca. Next Philosophers' Corner will be at Wisteria Place at 10 am **February 5**. Topic: Canada is at a major crossroads: what now? \$5 drop in; no preregistration necessary. See our programs at www.kpu.ca/talk. Interested in joining our TALK Board and/or the Program or Marketing Committees? Contact Jean for details or see more at kpu.ca/talk/volunteer.

