

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
**University Arts Women's Club/
University of Toronto Women's Association**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Number 3

March 2021

It seems almost unbelievable that we have been experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic for an entire year. During that time, we have learned to adapt to new ways of meeting. Although not as good as meeting in person, Zoom has offered us a way to get together. We have enjoyed presentations by Carol Bishop-Gwyn; Becky Sigmon, and Molly Thom, and look forward to hearing from Marta O'Brien and Barbara Dickson to round out this year's programme. Many thanks go to Linda Andrews and to Bobbi Slater for their technical skills in running our meetings.

Long-time member Margaret Blair has been honoured by Scandinavian guitarist, composer and music professor Per-Olov Kindgren. He was so moved by the ending of her book "*Gudao, Lone Islet: The War Years in Shanghai – a childhood memoir*", that he created a piece of music "*Leaving*". You can listen to this piece at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHOnYsTk5WI>.

In other member news, we are grateful for donations of \$175 from members. On a sadder note, Marjorie Sweet passed away in November 2020. Marjorie was a former president of UAWC and will be missed by her many friends.

Our website has a new URL which reflects the combined clubs <https://uawc-utwa.artsci.utoronto.ca>. Using the old URL will automatically redirect to the new URL. Updated histories of UAWC, UTWA and UAWC/UTWA have been posted on the website.

Our AGM will take place via Zoom on Thursday, April 15th. As always, we welcome nominations to the executive. If you are interested in serving please let us know. In particular we need an Archivist Coordinator and Historian, but nominations for all positions are appreciated. If we were meeting in person, voting would be done by a show of hands. Our plan is to replicate that on Zoom.

Our next General Meeting will be held by Zoom on Thursday, March 18th with a presentation by Marta O'Brien, Architectural Historian, Founder of Citywalks, Tour Guide.

Sincere thanks go to Sue Russell, Archivist Coordinator and Historian, who wrote *A Continuation of the History of the University Arts Women's Club 2000-2020*, and to Marlene Cummins who has so ably served on the executives, first as treasurer for UTWA, and currently as recording secretary for UAWC/UTWA. We will miss you and wish you well.

Kirsteen McLean
President, UAWC/UTWA

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Committee: Kirsteen McLean, President
Patricia Nevins, President Elect**

Gay Thomson, Past-President

Candidates for the 2021-2022 Executive

Honorary President Joanna Gertler
Past President..... Gay Thomson
President Kirsteen McLean
President Elect Patricia Nevins
Recording Secretary Sharon McCarthy
Treasurer Bobbi Slater
Membership Coordinator..... Linda Andrews
Media Coordinator..... Maggy Stepanian

Interest Groups Coordinator Maggy Stepanian
Programme Coordinator Christine McClymont
Publications Coordinator..... Patricia Nevins
Special Events Coordinator Gay Thomson
Lunch Coordinator Claudia Colas
Scholarship Coordinator Kirsteen McLean
Archive Coordinator & Historian..... TBA

REPORT ON THE INTEREST GROUPS FOR 2020-2021

Antiques & Art Appreciation (A): Patricia Nevins reports that even though the group is comprised of 29 enthusiastic members, this year due to Covid-19 they have had no planned activities.

Gourmet Lunch (Go): Patricia Nevins indicates that the group has 8 members. Five members of the group met on September 5, 2020 at Snug Harbour restaurant for a lovely lunch on their outside deck. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions they could not make plans for more get togethers this year.

Reading (R): Barbara Harrison reports that the Reading group has 10 members. Thanks to Eleanor Thomson for starting their virtual season and to Ruth Clarke for overseeing Zoom. They reconvened on October 29, 2020. Meetings were held at the end of November 2020 and in February 2021 which nearly all members were able to attend. This year their reading and discussion lists have been a mix of fiction and nonfiction: *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce, *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan, *Five Wives* by Joan Thomas, *The Island* by Elin Hilderbrand, *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley, and *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel.

Theatre (T): Claudia Colas indicates that currently there are 13 members in her group. Due to COVID-19 all activities were suspended. However, during normal times they would have enjoyed shows at Soulpepper Theatre, as well as some at the Stratford and Shaw Festivals.

Maggy Stepanian
Interest Groups Coordinator

Please visit our web site <https://uawc-utwa.artsci.utoronto.ca>

Also, please feel free to share the following links with the U of T Community, and your friends, who may be eligible and might be interested in joining UAWC/UTWA:

- U of T main page: <https://www.utoronto.ca> “Jump to A-Z Directory” or “Search” for “University Arts Women’s Club/University of Toronto Women’s Association”
- Retirement and Pension - Division of HR: <https://hrandequity.utoronto.ca/careers/retirement/> “Keeping in touch with the University after Retirement”
- Senior College Centre: <http://seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/?p=1727>

Maggy Stepanian
Media Coordinator