

Canadian Federation of University Women Hamilton

Annual Report
2014–2015

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Compiled by Michelle McGinn, Club President
In Recognition of the Club's 90th Anniversary Year
May 2015

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CFUW–Hamilton Annual General Meeting and Dinner Agenda
19 May 2015

Welcome, Guest Introductions, Greetings	<i>Michelle McGinn</i> <i>Deborah Harasym</i>
Toasts to the Queen and Canada to CFUW and CFUW–Hamilton 90 th anniversary	<i>Joanne Curtis</i> <i>Doreen McKerracher</i>
Grace	<i>Ethel MacDonald</i>
Dinner	
Introduction of the Speaker	<i>Judith Purdell-Lewis</i>
Presentation	<i>John Terpstra</i> "Falling Into Place"
Appreciation	<i>Trudi Down</i>

Meeting Agenda

Call to Order and Introduction of the Executive	<i>Michelle McGinn</i>
Approval of AGM Agenda	<i>Myrtle Greve</i>
Approval of 2014 AGM Minutes	<i>Ethel MacDonald</i>
Approval of 2014–2015 Annual Report	<i>Brenda Wright</i>
Treasurer's Report and Financial Review	<i>Linda Gill</i>
Approval of 2015–2016 Budget	<i>Linda Gill</i>
Report from the Nominating Committee and Election of 2015–2016 Executive	<i>Myrtle Greve</i>
Installation of 2015–2016 Executive	<i>Deborah Harasym</i>
Incoming President's Remarks	<i>incoming president</i>
Door Prizes	<i>Ellen Gillespie/</i> <i>Suzanne deSouza</i>
Adjournment	<i>incoming president</i>

Minutes of the 2014 CFUW–Hamilton Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The CFUW–Hamilton Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. at the Waterfront Banquet Centre, 555 Bay Street North, Hamilton, Ontario. President Michelle McGinn welcomed members and guests.

Joanne Curtis proposed the toast to the Queen, Mary Tompkins to Canada, and Myrtle Greve to the CFUW. Judith Purdell-Lewis said grace.

After dinner, Linda Gill introduced the guest speaker Anne Bokma, award-winning writer and editor. Anne spoke about her career as a writer, which has extended over a period of thirty years. She was influenced to become a writer as a teenager after reading *The Diary of Anne Frank*. She highlighted the various types of writing and broad range of print media for which she has written. She said that finding stories is easy and that she liked to write about the personal dramas of ordinary people. She recounted an interesting story about tracking down and spending time with a stepbrother that she didn't know she had. It was also interesting to hear about her struggles to achieve pay equity with her male counterparts. She was an entertaining and humorous speaker.

Ellen Gillespie thanked Anne and presented her with a card and honorarium.

President Michelle McGinn then called the business meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the 2014 AGM Agenda. Moved by Ethel MacDonald; seconded by Trudi Down and carried.

Rosemary Knechtel moved the acceptance of the 2013 AGM minutes; seconded by Alison Healing and carried.

Barbara Ledger moved the acceptance of the 2013–2014 Annual Report; seconded by Brenda Wright and carried.

Dian Kuzyk presented the Treasurer's Report and Financial Review. The Report was reviewed by Barbara Mahaffy on April 30, 2014, and approved. Dian moved that the Report be accepted as presented; seconded by Pat Cino and carried. Dian also reviewed the proposed budget for 2014–2015 and noted that there will be a small deficit of \$500. Dian moved that the proposed budget be accepted; seconded by Joanne Curtis and carried.

Linda Gill and Myrtle Greve of the Nominating Committee presented the proposed slate of officers for 2014–2015, noting that some vacancies remained. Three calls for nominations were made before the following slate was declared approved by the membership.

2014–2015 Executive

President	Michelle McGinn
Vice-President	to be determined
Past President	Linda Gill
Secretary	Pat Stephenson-Cino
Treasurer	Linda Gill
Membership	Myrtle Greve, Mary Tompkins
Newsletter Editor	Judith Purdell-Lewis
Programme 2014–2015	Judith Purdell-Lewis, Ethel MacDonald, Linda Gill
Programme 2015–2016	Rosemary Knechtel, Brenda Wright
Publicity	Barbara Ledger
Advocacy & Action	Myrtle Greve, Pat Stephenson-Cino
Scholarship	Myrtle Greve
Social	to be determined

President's Appointees

Archivist	Christine Gerth
Author Night Coordinator	Trudi Down
Goodwill Ambassador	to be determined
Ride Convenor	Ellen Gillespie
Website Coordinator	Joanne Curtis

Ontario Council Standing Committee Representatives

Education	Rosemary Knechtel
Legislation	Alison Healing
Status of Women & Human Rights	to be determined

Arlene Midriak installed the new executive.

Four attendees were recipients of door prizes.

Trudi Down ended the meeting with thanks to the executive, to returning and new members, to the interest group leaders and to the Social Committee (Barbara Ledger and Brenda Wright) for the venue and planning of the meal for the AGM.

Michelle McGinn adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

President's Message

This annual report brings the 2014–2015 year to a close. The pages of this report show the many accomplishments and considerable excitement and fun our Club has experienced over this past year. We have benefited from terrific speakers, our ever-popular Author Night, special interest groups of all persuasions, committed advocacy efforts, and so much more. These activities have also contributed to our wider community through enticing and supporting our local community and beyond.

Our Club was founded by a group of 8 dedicated and engaged women on February 10, 1925. This is our 90th anniversary year. Our group has grown ten fold through the efforts of many committed women over these 90 years. Since inception, CFUW–Hamilton has highlighted education as a primary focus. Life-long learning, personal improvement, professional development, and scholarship fundraising have been the heart of our mission and mandate since those early days. In partnership with our sister clubs across the country—through our parent organization, CFUW—and around the world—through Graduate Women International, which was formerly the International Federation of University Women—our Club influences education, the advancement of women and girls, and the promotion of equity and human rights. Congratulations and thank you for all your contributions to these efforts. I want to thank each and every one of you for your many and varied contributions to the Club this year. This Club could not exist without you and your contributions.

I am honoured to have had the opportunity to serve a leadership role in our organization over the past two years. Thank you for your support and confidence in me. Have a lovely summer break and see you in September for our anniversary party.

About CFUW and CFUW–Hamilton

CFUW–Hamilton is the local chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), a nationwide network of women that was founded in 1919 as a voluntary, non-profit, self-funded, bilingual organization to raise the social, economic, and legal status of women as well as to improve education, the environment, peace, justice, and human rights.

CFUW–Hamilton and its parent organization, CFUW, are equality-seeking organizations that work to advance the human rights of women and girls by:

- (a) Promoting high standards of public education in Canada, advanced study and research by women, and a sound concept of lifelong learning;
- (b) Advocating for the advancement of the status of women, human rights, and the common good locally, nationally, and internationally;
- (c) Promoting cooperation, networking, support, and understanding among women; and
- (d) Encouraging and enabling women to apply their knowledge and skills in leadership and decision making in all aspects of political, social, cultural, educational, and scientific fields.

CFUW-Hamilton Executive Members

Position	2014–2015	2015–2016 Proposed
President	Michelle McGinn	Debbie Welland
Vice-President	vacant	to be determined
Secretary	Ethel MacDonald	Margaret Johnson Carolyn VanHoevelaak
Membership Convenor	Myrtle Greve Mary Tompkins	Myrtle Greve Mary Tompkins Christine Gerth
Treasurer	Linda Gill	Alexandra Gall
Past President	Linda Gill	Michelle McGinn
Advocacy & Action Chair	Myrtle Greve Pat Stephenson-Cino	Pat Stephenson-Cino
Scholarship Chair	Myrtle Greve	Myrtle Greve
Publicity Chair	Barbara Ledger	Barbara Ledger
Programme Chair (current year)	Judith Purdell-Lewis Linda Gill Ethel MacDonald	Rosemary Knechtel Brenda Wright
Programme Chair (subsequent year)	Rosemary Knechtel Brenda Wright	Jan Armstrong Theresa MacDonald
Social Committee Chair	Ellen Gillespie Suzanne DeSouza	Ellen Gillespie Suzanne DeSouza
Newsletter Editor	Judith Purdell-Lewis	Judith Purdell-Lewis
Social Media Convenor	Joanne Curtis	Joanne Curtis
Ontario Council Representative (Education)	Rosemary Knechtel	Rosemary Knechtel
Ontario Council Representative (Legislation)	Alison Healing	Myrtle Greve
Ontario Council Representative (Status of Women & Human Rights)	Ethel MacDonald	Ethel MacDonald
Archivist	Christine Gerth	Christine Gerth
Goodwill Ambassador	Ethel MacDonald	Ethel MacDonald
Ride Convenor	Ellen Gillespie	to be determined
Author Night Chair	Trudi Down	Brenda Wright
90 th Anniversary Committee Chair	Trudi Down	Trudi Down

Executive and Other Reports

Action and Advocacy Committee

We have had a productive, interesting year fulfilling our CFUW goals as advocates of all human rights and particularly, equality for women and children. We have a voice at the Provincial Council with Linda Gill and Myrtle Greve representing our organization at Standing Committee meetings. Committee members have made presentations at all of our monthly meetings.

This year we made an innovation by strengthening our commitments through the support of a specific Hamilton shelter. We chose INASMUCH House because it services all types of women and children in need. Personal care items for their residents were collected monthly from our membership. It was very much appreciated and we enjoyed the effort. In addition, Anne Newbigging continued to be involved in poverty resolution in our city. Her reports to our group were very informative.

We advocated for the 2014 National resolutions by contacting all MPPs and MPs to make them aware of the resolutions and to provide access to the backgrounds of each resolution. CFUW Burlington has experience in promoting voter interest in the democratic process. We decided to consult with them on methods our group can use in Hamilton to encourage voter participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrtle Greve, Patricia Stephenson-Cino, Debbie Welland, Linda Gill, Janice Armstrong, Anne Newbigging, & Theresa MacDonald

Membership Committee

CFUW–Hamilton has 83 members for this year 2014–2015. There are 6 very keen possible members who may commit in September. Unfortunately, we have lost some former members due to age or health issues.

In December, the executive again hosted a Pot Luck dinner for our new members. A lovely evening was had at Linda Gill's home.

All current information is in a computer file. Please continue to provide updates regarding your contact information. Our Membership Directory for the current year is also online in the password-protected section of our website.

Thank you to those who sent in membership dues before our first meeting in September. This is always appreciated and gives more time at the meeting to mingle.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tompkins & Myrtle Greve

Newsletter, Directory, and News

I started to produce the CFUW–Hamilton newsletter—now called “CFUW–Hamilton Happenings”—with the Spring 2014 edition. It contained a President’s Letter, information about the next three month’s Interest Group dates and events, news articles of general interest, and pictures. These newsletters were saved in pdf and emailed to the majority of members using the MailChimp system. A few newsletters were printed at Impressive Printing on Cannon Street to be distributed or mailed to those who needed them and for new members.

The Directory was compiled in November 2014 to include new members. It also included the Executive Members and the Interest Group leaders. It was produced in Word and 82 booklets (12½ pages each) were printed and distributed.

CFUW–Hamilton News was sent out before each general meeting and at other times with urgent messages. The MailChimp system is used for all mailings. The mailing list increased from 73 to 86 during the year and the average number of subscribers who opened the email for the 20 mailings was 65%.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Purdell-Lewis

Programme 2014–2015

The Programme Committee planned and supported seven programmes with six speakers, the topics covering the important things of life—medicine, ecology, the needs of others, and history and geography of Hamilton.

At the opening meeting in September, fellow members shared their bucket lists and enjoyed delicious desserts. In the fall, Dr. Doug Oliver, the lead researcher of the Tapestry Project explained how trained volunteers interviewed patients in Hamilton to discover where community agencies could valuably assist people to stay in their homes and live more fulfilling lives. Jeff Mahoney told stories of the “Women of Steel” who worked in the Hamilton factories during WWII.

In the New Year, Elizabeth Clarke who runs Mary’s Place in Kitchener–Waterloo, spoke of the work done in that emergency housing centre for people who are experiencing homelessness. February was a very popular month with many guests coming to hear Jane Mulkewich, a Hamilton human rights lawyer who told the story of Sophia Pooley, a slave owned by Samuel Hatt, the founder of present day Dundas. In April, many guests as well as members heard Ellen Horak give a very informative, entertaining, and sometimes humorous account of her family’s transition from suburban Burlington to an off-the-grid lifestyle in rural Glenn Morris. The final meeting in May, we have planned for John Terpstra to speak at the annual dinner. He is a writer, poet, and cabinet maker and will talk about his love of Hamilton, as he wrote about it in his book, *Falling into Place*,

and will illustrate with pictures he took as he explored the history and geography of the Iroquois Bar. We anticipate that his talk will be both provocative and entertaining.

We would like to thank Barbara Ledger and Joanne Curtis who spread the word about the monthly speakers, and also the many people who introduced and thanked speakers for their presentations during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gill, Ethel MacDonald, & Judith Purdell-Lewis

Publicity

Brochures and business cards were produced in time for September.

I sent notices to approximately twelve local media outlets for each of the general meetings. This garnered us mentions in *The Dundas Star*, *The Mountain News*; *View Magazine*; and “Too Good to Miss” and “Signpost” in *The Hamilton Spectator*, as well as several online listings. As a result, we did on occasion have members of the public in attendance at the meetings. Some postering was done, with the assistance of the executive committee, and targeted emails were sent out for some of the meetings, such as to environmental groups for “The Sustainability Adventure” in April, but it is not clear whether these efforts succeed in attracting guests.

I provided Trudi Down with some assistance in promoting the Helen Humphreys author night, both postering and submitting events listings.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ledger

Scholarship Committee

This year the committee reviewed and revised the McMaster University Scholarships and added a one-time prize in honour of Diana Beacham. Because of the generous donations of our members and the success of our annual Author’s night we were able to increase the amount to be given this fall in each of the existing scholarships.

1. CFUW–Hamilton Diana Beacham Memorial Scholarship \$1,500.00
Established in 2015 by CFUW–Hamilton in honour of Diana Beacham B.A. (Class of '57). To be awarded to a female student who has completed Level III of an English program and has demonstrated high academic achievement.

2. CFUW–Hamilton Scholarship \$2,000.00
Established in 1945 by the University Women’s Club of Hamilton, now CFUW–Hamilton. To be awarded to the female student who attains the highest Sessional Average in the penultimate level of any program.

3.	CFUW–Hamilton Past President's Prize	\$1000.00
	Established in 1976 by the Past Presidents of the University Women's Club of Hamilton, now CFUW–Hamilton, in recognition of the Club's 50th Anniversary (1975). To be awarded to the female student who has completed Level 1 and an additional 60–85 units of a program in Engineering with the highest Cumulative Average.	
4.	CFUW–Hamilton Memorial Prize in Political Science	\$1,000.00
	Established in 1992 by CFUW–Hamilton to honour the memory of past members and renewed in 2015 on the occasion of the Club's 90th anniversary. To be awarded to a female student graduating from a Political Science program who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement.	

Our Brock University and Mohawk College awards total \$1,000.

At the April general meeting we were pleased to have Jane Huang, the CFUW–Hamilton Scholarship winner present to thank our Club for the financial and moral support. Jane is graduating in Honours Biology and will do her graduate work at the University of Windsor.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrtle Greve, Rosemary Knechtel, Nancy Tuk, & Linda Gill

Social Committee

The Social Committee works with the Interest Groups to provide refreshments for our monthly meetings. The Social Committee provides the beverages and the Interest Groups provide the food. I want to thank the following Interest Groups for providing delicious and nutritious food, both sweet and savory: Advocacy and Action, Art Appreciation, Bridge, Déjà Lu, the Executive Committee, The Friday Group, the Programme Committee, Reader's Circle, and Out and About.

The Social Committee also arranges for the Annual General Meeting dinner, this year being held at The Courtyard Marriott on May 19, 2015.

My sister, Suzanne deSouza, and I have enjoyed our work on the Social Committee and are pleased with the co-operation of CFUW members in assisting with refreshments.

Ellen Gillespie

Treasurer

I have spent this year trying to simplify the treasurer's role to make it more straightforward and reflective of the relatively small amount of money the Club deals with. I have reduced the number of "funds" into which we separate our money: General and Scholarship. Long-term investments are being placed in the appropriate funds as they come due because the interest earned was barely more than the bank fees we

paid. Now that larger balances are being held in the bank, the Club no longer has to pay bank fees and the money is available whenever needed. After this budget year, we will still have two long-term investments.

The proposed budget for 2015–2016 was ratified by the Executive on May 5 and will be presented at the AGM for your acceptance. Our fee structure remains the same for the coming year, meaning that your \$100 membership fee includes \$76 for National and Ontario Council fees, leaving \$24 per member at the Club level for CFUW–Hamilton to run its functions.

I would like to thank the members of the Club for their support for my efforts to simplify our finances.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gill

Social Media (Website, Facebook, and Blog)

We have been using a template-based website for many years now and the costs have been going up. This session we tried accessing Wordpress for our blog and found it very easy to use. The Club could secure a specific web address through Wordpress for considerably less than what we have been paying. When our existing site comes up for renewal this summer, it will lapse and we will start using a Wordpress site.

Our Facebook page has been very active. We have gone from reaching 3 people regularly to a maximum of 30 people. Thanks for sharing.

Finally, our blog report. We have just under 30 “followers” (people who get email notifications of blog updates). This is a new way for us to share information. The blog keeps Club members informed and allows us to easily share what we do with our friends and family. The single most successful post was compliments of the creative writing group. It seems they were not the only ones interested in the “Great Yorkshire Pudding Debate.”

Thank you all for using those social media buttons to promote CFUW–Hamilton.



Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Curtis

Archivist

As archivist I collect and file all materials that document the activities of our Club each year. This includes membership lists, newsletters, annual reports, and minutes of general and executive meetings. When about 5–10 years worth of documents have accumulated, I deposit them with the Local History and Archives Department of the

Hamilton Public Library. Once the materials are in the Public Library Archives, they can be viewed at any time, but not removed.

This year as part of our 90th Anniversary celebration on February 10, members of our executive toured the Library Archives and were able to view files from our Club's records. It was an interesting journey into the past. For the month of May, Archivist Margaret Houghton is putting together a special exhibit that reflects our Club's history and she invites all our members to come and visit.

Also for our Anniversary festivities this year, I will have on hand some of the materials from my files that do not go to the Public Library. These are photographs, awards, booklets describing activities of our Club, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Gerth

Author Night

The Author Night is held every year to raise money for our Scholarship Fund. We are very grateful for the assistance of Bryan Prince Bookseller in securing authors for this event.

We welcomed award-winning Canadian author Helen Humphreys to our 2015 CFUW–Hamilton Author Night on Monday March 16th. Ms. Humphreys was introduced by Jill Downie, a member of the Modern Books Group. Helen spoke about her new book, *The Evening Chorus* and, following a short reading, engaged in an interesting Q&A with the audience. The event, which attracted over 90 visitors, was held at the Hamilton Public Library Central Branch auditorium again this year.

Final arrangements for the evening were not completed until mid-January, so time was short for advertising and selling tickets. Club members are to be congratulated on their super efforts in getting the word out and selling tickets.

Many thanks to my helpers, Joanne Curtis and Barbara Ledger, who along with Brenda Wright, worked so hard to make this year's event successful.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudi Down

Goodwill Ambassador

As Goodwill Ambassador, Ethel MacDonald sends cards to celebrate or console Club members. This only works if you inform her about Club members' news.

Ride Convenor

No rides were requested this year, so there is really nothing to report. Reach out if you do need a ride. Continue to offer rides to others.

Ellen Gillespie

Ontario Council Standing Committees

Ontario Council Standing Committees on Legislation, Education, and the Status of Women and Human Rights were developed to keep members aware of current issues in Ontario. The committees meet in September, January, and March in downtown Toronto for a day with speakers, workshops, and discussion. All Club members are invited to attend these meetings. CFUW–Hamilton representatives are Alison Healing (Legislation), Rosemary Knechtel (Education), and Ethel MacDonald (Status of Women). Linda Gill was the co-chair of the Status of Women Committee for the first half of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ethel MacDonald

Ontario Council Standing Committee on Education

Dr. Doug Hart, Institutional Researcher (Retired) at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto presented key findings and patterns in the “18th OISE Survey of Educational Issues: Public Attitudes Toward Education in Ontario in 2012” at the September 27, 2014, meeting. At the January 24, 2015, meeting, Cheryl Boughton, Headmistress of Elmwood School, Ottawa, gave a lively presentation entitled “Finding Her Voice...How Single Gender Education Empowers Girls.” The March 14, 2015, meeting was on the topic of “Transforming Ontario’s Postsecondary Education System.” Paddy Buckley, Director, Strategic Policy and Programs, Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities presented the goals and mandates that are transforming Ontario’s Postsecondary Education System. Professor Bonnie Patterson, President and CEO of the Council of Ontario Universities, and Anna Goldfinch, National Executive Representative, Canadian Federation of Students, Ontario, also participated in this presentation.

The topics covered at these meetings are always interesting and relevant to CFUW. Summaries of these meetings can be found in the CFUW Ontario Council Website listed under the Ontario Council Education Standing Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Knechtel

90th Anniversary Committee

This year marks the 90th Anniversary of CFUW–Hamilton. A small committee was struck in the fall of 2014 to discuss and plan possible events to commemorate this wonderful milestone in our Club’s history. Committee members were: Trudi Down, Joanne Curtis, Rosemary Knechtel, Ellen Gillespie, and Brenda Wright.

The Committee’s suggestion to have two or three special events during 2015 was approved by the Executive.

- Executive members met on Tuesday, February 10 at the Hamilton Public Library to look at our archival materials and have a photo taken in the children’s department. This was in recognition of the eight women who met on Tuesday, February 10, 1925, in the children’s department of the library to establish the Hamilton CFUW Club. There was a lot of interest in the archival items, which included meeting minutes, Interest Group minutes, and annual reports. We are indebted to Vince Curtis for taking the excellent photographs of our time with the archives, as well as the group photo. Archivist Margaret Houghton agreed to mount a display of our archives in the Local History & Archives Department during the month of May 2015 for the benefit of all members.
- Our member Doreen McKerracher is providing a special anniversary toast to CFUW–Hamilton at the May 2015 Annual Meeting & Dinner.
- At the general meeting in September, we will conclude our celebrations by enjoying an “anniversary cake.” Former presidents will be introduced and recognized, and there will be displays of photos from events over the years.

In addition, a short comment or reading from our official history book, *University Women’s Club Hamilton 1925–1985*, was provided at most general meetings by Trudi Down.

In February, an article about the Club’s 90th Anniversary was published in *The Hamilton Spectator*. In March, the online *McMaster Daily News* featured the Club’s long-standing association with the University through scholarships (“Celebrating 90 years of community impact”), and CFUW–Hamilton was also added to the donors’ profile section of the University’s philanthropy website.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudi Down

Interest Group Updates From 2014–2015

Art Appreciation

Art Appreciation offers members the opportunity to visit local galleries, to hear presentations from local artists, to study artists through papers given by members, and to enjoy the company of other members over the occasional lunch but always over art.

The 2014–2015 CFUW year for the Art Appreciation Interest Group included the following:

September	Burlington Art Centre—Fibre Art Exhibit
October	Art Gallery of Hamilton—Blair Bruce Exhibit
November	Grimsby Art Gallery—Exhibit of Miniatures and Large Works to Illustrate Perspective
December	Historical Talk and Tour of Whitehern
February	Art Gallery of Hamilton—Cezanne Still Lifes
March	Burlington Art Centre—Ceramics
April	Art Gallery of Hamilton—Italian Baroque Masters
May	Regina Haggo—A Brave New World: 19 th -Century Landscape Art in Canada and Australia
June	Glenhyrst Gallery—Lunch and tour of works from the permanent collection

The Art Appreciation Interest Group began in 1932 only 7 years after the formation of CFUW—Hamilton. It is our largest group with 27 registered members. New members are always welcome.

Myrtle Greve & Mary Barrette

Bridge Group

Three bridge groups met from September to May at 1:00 in the afternoon on the second Monday, fourth Monday, and first Friday, respectively. In June, a tournament of 12 bridge players will be held at my house. New spares are always welcome to fill a temporary opening with one of the groups and may become regular members when a vacancy opens. Contact me to add yourself to our list.

Frances Branch

Creative Writing

Candy, Charity, Brass, Death, Trivia, and Fire were just some of the topics that inspired the Creative Writing Group this year. Memoir, Short Story, Vignette, Family History, Poetry, Chapters of Books were some of the genres that emerged from our imaginations in both comic and tragic manifestations. Good criticism and good fun.

Linda Nelson

Daytimers

The Daytimers group has had a very enjoyable year exploring some of Hamilton's wonderful trails and streets. We have anywhere from 4–8 members walking 8 months of the year. This year we had no cancellations because of weather. Mind you, a few of our walks were VERY cold. We have walked along the Spring Valley trail in Ancaster, King's Forest Park in Stoney Creek, along Ottawa Street, through the streets of old Dundas, Bayfront Park, a trail off Scenic Drive, the RBG Arboretum off York Road, and along Mountain Park Avenue by the mountain brow. In June, we plan to visit the Waterdown Wetland Trail.

Brenda Wright

Déjà Lu

This book group met on the fourth Friday of the month usually at 50 Governors Road in Dundas. However, Linda Helson very kindly hosted the November meeting.

The most popular topics on this year's programmes were Farley Mowat and The North. Ireland, Spirituality, The Golden Age, A Prize Winner, and Short Stories were also discussed. Some progress has been made in cleaning our bookshelves.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Gall

Friday Group

The theme of this year's meeting was "Art In Our Daily Lives." We started off with a presentation on "My World of Music," followed by "Portrait of an Artist" with one of our members demonstrating her sketching talent and the work involved in producing a picture. Opera was a subject we enjoyed with musical arias from recent productions and interesting tales about divas. We veered off topic at times, touring the West 5th St. Joseph's Campus where we learned that art is part of the therapy for their patients. In the new year, we had interesting accounts from two of our members who had taken African Safaris. Their journeys took us to lands of exotic people and unusual, almost extinct animals. June is our planning picnic meeting. We hope to have some good ideas from our group members for next year's meetings.

Ellen Gillespie

H.E.A.L. (Healthy Eating and Living)

This year our theme of, "Living Well, Living Swell" outlined our philosophy on living in a healthy way to make the most of our lives. Needless to say, all our meetings have been fun, with the camaraderie lifting our spirits, and the talks and information exercising our minds and our bodies. We learned about Friendship Force International; exercised and danced with scarves; juggled (or tried to); watched and discussed, "The Imitation Game"

on the life of Stephen Hawking; played a computer brain game called GeoGuesser to identify places around the world given landscape clues (and were we ever good at that!); and talked about the aging process and ways to age healthily. Yes, we delighted in some healthy snacks and healthy meals too, with some wonderful soup and sandwich meetings, tapas, and delicious potluck dinners.

Thank you to all the gals who hosted our meetings. It really made the year so easy to plan. We welcomed some new members this year and it was great to have you with us. We invite anyone else who would like to try us out, to come out to a meeting. Here's to more healthy eating and living in the coming year!

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Oliver

Modern Books

The Modern Books Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:45 p.m. in the homes of members. We collect dues of \$20 yearly in order to purchase new books for our lending library. This year we have 18 members. Books that were reviewed were *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin, *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt, *Sweetland* by Michael Crummey, *Blood Will Out* by Jill Downie, *Tell* by Frances Itani, *Looking for Alaska* by John Green, *The Hamiltonians—100 Fascinating Lives* by Margaret Houghton, *The Dinner* by Herman Koch, *Smoke River* by Krista Foss, *Stone Mattress* by Margaret Atwood, *The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher* by Hilary Mantel, *Based On a True Story* by Elizabeth Renzetti, *Girl Runner* by Carrie Snyder, and *All My Puny Sorrows* by Miriam Toews. In addition, the following books were bought and added to our lending library: *The Evening Chorus* by Helen Humphries, *The Back of the Turtle* by Thomas King, *Us Conductors* by Sean Michael, *Adult Onset* by Ann-Marie MacDonald, *Nora Webster* by Colm Tóibín, and *No Relation* by Terry Fallis. At our annual pot luck dinner in June, we look forward to hearing guest speaker Judy Pollard Smith, the author of *Don't Call Me Lady—The Journey of Lady Alice Seeley Harris*.

Respectfully submitted by co-leaders,

Carolyn Van Hoevelaak and Margaret Johnson

Out and About

6–9 members have tried out several new restaurants this year. Lord Byron Steak and Seafood House in Waterdown, and Il Fiasco in Dundas have stood out as our favourites. We have enjoyed good discussions and company. We look forward to you joining us next year.

Alison Healing & Pat Cino

Readers' Circle

The Readers' Circle groups meet monthly, excepting December, July, and August, to discuss books chosen the previous June after a convivial meal.

The Tuesday group, which meets on the first Tuesday evening of the month, has ten members, but generally about six attend. This year we read novels, varying in time and place from 17th century Persia—*The Blood of Flowers*, by Anita Amirrezvani—to World War II-era Hamilton—*The Good Doctor* by Vince Agro. Neither of those books got rave reviews from members, and nor did *The Wife*, by American writer Meg Wolitzer, or *The Flanders Panel*, by Arturo Perez-Reverte. Better liked were *The Deception of Livvy Higgs*, by Canada's Donna Morrissey; *In Falling Snow*, a moving World War II story by Rose MacColl; and *The Burgess Boys* by Elizabeth Strout, who hasn't lost her knack for making you care about people you cannot like. *The Imposter Bride* by Nancy Richler is on the slate for May.

The latter three books were also chosen by the other Readers' Circle group, which meets on the first Wednesday afternoon. This year, holiday plans and severe winter temperatures kept attendance down to six or seven members most months. Rousing discussions—varied opinions make for the liveliest meetings—have been enjoyed. Topics ranging from the blistering reality of Rocky Mountain reforestation in *Eating Dirt* by Charlotte Gill to the contagious humour of *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion were both entertaining and informative. Mystery, adventure, and the search for a solution created vigorous discussions of the novels *Before The Poison*, by Peter Robinson and *Sister*, by Rosamund Lupton. *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt garnered the greatest criticism for its excessive detail and description. Although the characters and plot maintained the interest of the reader, the group's discussion centred around the lack of editorial constraint over the redundancy that was evident throughout.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Hladun

Barbara Ledger

CFUW-Hamilton 2015–2016 Programme**Sept. 15** Anniversary celebrations**Oct. 20** Gail Walters: *Canadian Nurses For Africa*

Gail Walters is a nurse and member of this nurse-led organization based in Burlington conducting medical missions in Africa. The mission of the organization is to provide free medical care to communities in the Kakamega and Vihiga counties of Kenya.

Nov. 17 Susan Jasper: *Telling Tales*

Susan is the Chair and Founder of the Telling Tales Festival held in September at Westfield Heritage Village. This is the largest children's literary festival in Ontario. Going into its 7th year, it is a model for cooperation and partnerships with many community partners, including Rotary Clubs, Hamilton Conservation Authority, Hamilton Public Library, the school boards, Hillfield Strathallan College, Mohawk College, Ontario Arts Council, and many others. In September 2014, the attendance topped 6,000. The CBC has recognized this festival as one of the best in Canada!

Jan. 19 Dr. Laurel Trainor: *Live Lab—Music that Moves Us: From Rhythm to Social Behaviour*

Dr. Laurel Trainor, Professor of Psychology at McMaster University, will discuss what children learn through exposure to music and how it shapes behaviour.

Feb. 16 Dr. Christine Lei: *Women in Local History: Unsung Heroes*

Christine Lei is an educator for Nipissing University. Christine is a committed advocate for heritage preservation; she believes if we are to survive as a city, it is vital to preserve Hamilton's history for future generations.

Mar. 15 Resolutions**Apr. 19** Jennifer Brant: *Aboriginal Women's Certificate Program, Brock University*

Jennifer Brant, Gidyaamin Program Developer will discuss this transitional program for Aboriginal women who wish to pursue university studies. The purpose of the program is to increase the academic skills of the women while encouraging them to maintain a strong cultural identity.

May 17 Chris Burke: *Public Transit in the GTHA*

Join us for dinner and the AGM. Chris Burke, Director, Policy and Planning, METROLINX, will present current and future plans for transportation in the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA).