



# IN TOUCH

Volume 29, Issue 7  
April 2011

Recognize the opportunities we are presented with to make a difference in the quality of our own lives and those of others.

## HIPPY in Oakville

In 1529 Erasmus wrote *“One cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of those first years for the course that a child will follow throughout his entire life.”*

We are still wrestling with the implications of that statement in 2011!



At our April meeting June Cockwell will trace the development of literacy, the effects of early experiences on brain architecture and the implications of deficits in development.

She will describe the costs of illiteracy to us all and the damaging economic outcomes of functional illiteracy and remedial approaches . In addition she will outline one of our local approaches to early literacy – HIPPY Oakville (Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-school Youngsters) . HIPPY is a pre-school, home based education programme that empowers parents to be their child's first educator and to prepare them for success when they enter Kindergarten.

See more at [www.hippoakville.org](http://www.hippoakville.org).



Do you take tea in a bonnet and white gloves? ...  
Feel free to do so as  
President Marlene Bristol welcomes you to  
a sit down

### Spring Tea Party

during the social hour (7 – 8 p.m.)  
prior to our CFUW-Oakville  
April General Meeting.

Whatever you choose to wear,  
be sure to cast off your dieting cares.  
Enjoy this rare social affair--  
Cookies, squares and treats everywhere.

With spring in the air,  
Your friends will all be there  
Ta-ta for now.  
Cheryl Bailey, Well Past President

## April Meeting - April 18, 2011

**Speaker: June Cockwell; HIPPY Oakville**

**Operating Engineers Hall, 2245 Speers Road**

**7 p.m. Social Hour, 8 p.m. Programme**

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## Final Recipients of the In Memory of Eleanore Stone Performing Arts Award

Due to the sudden passing of Mr. Ed Stone, who sponsored this award, these students will be the last ones to receive the award from CFUW-Oakville. Over the last several years this award has raised the profile of the performing arts in our local high schools as well as helping many young women to pursue their dream of a career in this discipline.



**JESSICA PARR**, a graduate of Abbey Park High School, is presently attending the University of Alberta. She is studying for a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama with a Stage Management major. After working on several productions, she plans to complete a master's degree in

stage management and eventually work for the Stratford or Shaw Festival, Mirvish or Dancap.

Throughout high school Jessica was involved in many extra-curricular activities. In the drama productions she held various positions, including props, student producer and stage manager. She was in charge of the sound and lighting crew. In addition to her drama activities, she was on the debate team, the social justice council, Eagles tv, the ski team and Hallowe'en for Hunger.

As well as participating in the technical side of the performing arts, Jessica also performed. She was involved with a dance academy for twelve years taking several hours of classes each week in various dance forms including modern, jazz, hip hop, ballet, musical theatre and swing. She showed her leadership qualities with younger students and was an assistant teacher at the academy.

Jessica's drama teacher wrote in her reference letter: "There is no doubt in my mind that Jess not only will benefit from attending post-secondary school, but she will be an asset to the program. I respect Jess as an individual and as a theatre colleague. She is the type of person that I believe will be focused enough to reach any goals she aspires to achieve."

We wish Jessica every success as she pursues her dream.



**LAURA WHEELER**, a graduate of White Oaks Secondary School, was also the winner of the In Memory of Eleanore Stone Performing Arts Award. She is currently attending the University of Ottawa in the Theatre Studies, French Immersion program. After receiving her

undergraduate degree, she plans to go to teachers' college for her post-graduate studies. At the request of her high school drama teachers, she will be volunteering in their classrooms when she returns to Oakville this April.

Laura's passion for drama is obvious from her participation in the drama activities at White Oaks. She was vice-president of the Drama Council, produced three shows and was in significant roles in nine other shows as well as being an assistant stage manager.

To quote Laura's drama teacher: "Her patience, knowledge and enthusiasm for drama have been clearly demonstrated time and again. Quite simply, Laura is one of the most exceptional students that I have had the pleasure to work with."

To sum up her goals for the future, Laura wrote: "As well as learning more about productions, I wish to continuously expand my knowledge of the theatrical world at the university level, both on and off stage, while encouraging the love of theatre in others."

We can be confident that many students will benefit from Laura's great love of the dramatic arts.

**Joanne Badame and Brenda DeHaan,  
Awards Co-chairs**



Over the last few weeks, we have all been horrified by the terrible tragedy that has unfolded in Japan. As many of you are aware, Oakville has a sister city in Japan - Neyagawa - which is located in the prefecture of Osaka, a little south of Tokyo. A

few years ago, two CFUW Oakville members, Maureen Rudzik and Margaret Perschy, travelled to Neyagawa with a delegation from the Town of Oakville and stayed with the welcoming and gracious ladies from the Japanese Association of University Women or JAUW. This Christmas we received a lovely card from the women in the Neyagawa club, written in Japanese and carefully translated into English, wishing us well. Two weeks ago, I sadly sent a note back to them on behalf of CFUW Oakville expressing our sympathy and hope for their safety and well-being. I could not imagine how we would react to a disaster of such magnitude in our community!

During difficult and good times, it is important to remember that the Canadian Federation of University Women is part of the International Federation of University Women. Through IFUW, we are connected with women of similar interests and concerns to our own, all over the world. Roberta Brooks, a former President of CFUW Oakville and former President of CFUW National, is currently Convenor of the IFUW Finance Committee. In this month's newsletter, you will see a copy of the memo which CFUW National received from IFUW Secretary General Leigh Bradford Ratteree, discussing her communication with Reiko Aoki, JAUW President. A memo was received by IFUW from JAUW a few days ago expressing appreciation for the messages that they have received from clubs around the world. JAUW is now beginning to hear from members in the badly damaged area of Sendai.

Please join us at our next General Meeting on April 18. Instead of our usual social hour, we are going to celebrate the warm weather and flowers, which will hopefully arrive soon, with a Spring Tea from 7:00 until 8:00.

**Marlene Bristol**  
**President CFUW-Oakville**

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# Ontario Council Standing Committee Meeting March 19, 2011

The **Keynote speaker** was Greg Pollock, a member of the Task Force on Financial Literacy. He was concerned that the average Canadian has a debt load that is 150% of income and that many Canadians have inadequate savings for retirement. The report can be accessed at [www.financialliteracyincanada.com](http://www.financialliteracyincanada.com)

The **Legislation Committee** heard a riveting presentation entitled Why Women are the Fastest Growing Prison Population from Kim Pate, a lawyer with the Elizabeth Fry Society in Ottawa. Causes included low income, inadequate social assistance, inadequate mental health treatment both in the wider community and in the prisons and criminal charges initiated when women call for help.

**Anne Douglas**  
**Vice President**

## **Status of Women Update**

The discussion at this meeting was very appropriate—the lack of women in federal politics. The Status of Women coordinator attended the Equal Voice Conference in Ottawa and shared with us the concerns expressed by the speakers with the lack of women seeking political office and only 22% actually elected. Equal Voice has set a target of 33% for the next election.

There are many reasons why women are not successful. As CFUW members, we can make a difference by supporting female candidates at the provincial and federal level.

**Donna Kraayeveld**  
**Status of Women Chair**




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just issue  
tickets,  
we plan  
trips.*

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*Karen Oliver*  
CFUW



A heartfelt thank you goes to all of the newsletter walkers who worked so diligently all year to get the newsletters delivered. This dedicated group includes Margot Camp, Marg Maclure, Sue Monaghan, Ann Oakley, Phyllis Parish, Rosemary Shea and Nora Smyth.

**Mary McCarney**  
**Newsletter Distribution Chair**

## Future CFUW events

April 2: Belleville CFUW is hosting **Stevie Cameron**, an award winning author and journalist. Topic: Everyone's Sister, A Community's Response to the disappearance of Marginalized women. Empire Theatre, Belleville 10 a.m.

April 14: Hamilton CFUW is hosting **Johanna Skibsrud**, the 2010 Giller Prize winner, reading from her novel The Sentimentalists. Advance tickets available at [www.princebooks.net](http://www.princebooks.net).

May 4: North York CFUW is hosting **Honourable David Crombie**. Topic: Toronto in the 21st Century. Free. Don Mills Public Library, 888 Lawrence Ave. East at 7:30 p.m.

## International Women's Day



The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Women's Day was Celebrated in early March with a dinner sponsored by the Women of Halton Action Movement. CFUW-Oakville is a founding member of WHAM, an umbrella organization of women's groups that lobby on local and international issues to improve the status of women in Canada.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Samantha Nutt the Founder of War Child Canada. She volunteers in the politically unstable Democratic Republic of Congo and Darfur. The Congo is rich in natural resources but the citizens are poor. The mining and smuggling of Coltan, a rare mineral that is used in the manufacture of consumer electronics, is fueling the war and genocide in the Congo.

It is women who are leading the charge for social change in Africa. What can we do to help the African women?

1. Commit to monthly donations to international organizations such as War Child Canada
2. Develop a ethical framework for investing
3. Before purchasing electronics such as cellphones, DVD players, video game systems and computers, contact the manufacture to determine if they use ethical coltan
4. Find your voice to support women in need internationally and nationally



CFUW- Oakville Annual Meeting

**Monday, May 9, 2011**

*at*

**Harbour Banquet & Conference Centre**

2340 Ontario Street, Oakville

(Bronte Rd & Ontario St)

**Cash bar: 6:00pm    Dinner: 7:00pm**

**Cost \$40.**

Elizabeth Miller, *Guest Speaker*

***“Life with Dracula: the Good, the Bad and the Downright Crazy”***

Tickets can be purchased at the March & April general meetings, or call:

Susan Walkinshaw ( North Oakville) 905-338-0572

Jane Heakes ( SE Oakville) 905-849-8779

Irene Shlapak ( all other areas) 905-844-2285



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# April Interest Group Meetings

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Interest Group	Convenor(s)	Meeting Date/Time	Meeting Location & Topic/Activity/Speaker
Arts Quest	Joan Garside	Wed April 20th at 10:00am	Event: Hindu Temple Organizer: Jean & Gloria
Boomers	Karen Oliver	Wed April 27th at 7:30pm	Event: Cooking Class Organizer: Jackie
Beyond Bloomsbury I	Bonnie Jackson	Tues April 26th at 7:30pm	Event: World Literacy Hostess: Irene Food: Roberta & Pat
Beyond Bloomsbury II	Sue Monaghan Jane Avery	Tues April 5th at 7:30pm	Event: Future of Healthcare Hostess: Susan W Planner: Carol & Sue M
Book Beat Morning I	Laurie Nordin-MacLeod	Wed April 27th at 9:30am	Book: The Elegance of the Hedgehog Author: Muriel Barbery Presenter: Maureen Hostess: Jenny
Literary Ladies	Gail Jefferies Christel Call	Thurs April 7th at 10:00am	Book: Major Pettigrew's Last Stand Author: Helen Simonson Presenter: JoAnne Hostess: Carmen
Book Beat Morning III	Sue Monaghan	Wed April 6th at 10:00am	Book: Rush Home Road Author: Lori Lansens Presenter: Beth Hostess: Gillian
Book Beat Evening I	Sarah Sims	Thurs April 28th at 7:30pm	Book: I Shall Not Hate Author: Dr Izzeldin Abuelaish
Book Beat Evening II	Judy Walker	Wed April 6th at 7:30pm	Book: Winter Vault Author: Anne Michaels Presenter/Hostess: Jane
Book Beat Evening III	Sue Stephens Sharon Pogany	Tues April 5th at 7:30pm	Book: Forgotten Garden Author: Kate Morton Presenter/Hostess: Lisa
Forebears	Cheryl Bailey	Wed April 13th at 7:00pm	Central Library
Great Books	Iris Zawadowski	Thurs April 28th at 9:30am	Book: Out of the Cradle Author: Whitman Hostess: Donna Endlessly Rocking
Gourmet III	Jeanne Crockatt	Thurs April 14th at 7:00pm	
Gourmet IV	Sue Stephens Lisa Droppo	Thur April 14th at 7:00pm	Hostess: Lisa
Happy Hikers	Rosemary Shea Suzanne Yager	Every Tuesday at 8:50am for a prompt departure at 9:00am. Sears Parking Lot at Oakville Place	Most hikes are of 1 1/2 - 2 hours in duration and take place on the Bruce Trail. Poles and Hiking Boots are suggested. We are generally back to Oakville by noon.
In Town Trails	Beth Jefferson Marg NaCLure	Every Tuesday at 9:10am	Walk the trails in & around Oakville. Once a month we explore a museum or gallery in the GTA.
Issues	Lin Mackrael	Thur April 28th at 7:15	
Lunch Bunch	Susan Walkinshaw	Thur April 21st at noon	
Movies Couples	Susan Walkinshaw	Sat April 21st	
Music Appreciation	Dagmar Rydlo Maike Hanus	Wed April 13th at 10:00am	
Psychology/Spirituality	Louise Brownlee Joanna Blair	Thur April 14th at 9:30am	Topic: Family Systems Presenter: Eleanor Hostess: Sue

## The Revised Constitution and By-Laws – August 2011

At the 2009 National AGM, delegates passed a motion that the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules (CBS) be totally revised for the 2010 AGM. An Ad Hoc committee was appointed by then President Patricia DuVal, to begin the process. That Committee presented its report to the 2010 AGM, which included a draft of the proposed revision. That draft was passed on to the CBS Committee to complete the project. The revision process included consultation with Clubs, Provincial Councils, the Board Alumnae Resource network and the Board, as well as review by a lawyer and editorial proofer. On March 3, the National Board passed a motion that the final text, labelled August 2011, be sent to eligible voters for their consideration.

Because of the consultation process, there will be no secondary amendment process. At the August AGM in Newfoundland, our Club will be asked to vote in favour or against the motion to approve the proposed Constitution and By-Laws. The motion will require a

two-thirds majority to pass. The amendments to the current constitution, which were approved in December 2010, have been incorporated into the new text.

At our General Meeting on April 18, we will be voting whether or not to approve the new Constitution and Bylaws. This will give direction to Anne Douglas, our incoming president and club delegate as to how she will vote in August at the AGM.

A working committee comprised of CFUW Oakville Exec members and past Presidents has been reviewing the new document and will make recommendations to our membership before the April 18 meeting, but it is up to each member to decide how she will vote. A copy of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws was forwarded to everyone with the notice of last month's General Meeting, and can be found on the CFUW National website.

**Marlene Bristol, president**

### **CFUW-Oakville Announces All Candidates Breakfast**

With the federal election now in full swing, CFUW-Oakville is in the final planning stages for our All Candidates Breakfast. We will be hosting two separate events, one for Oakville riding and another for Halton riding, to insure that all our members get to meet their candidates. The dates and venues were not confirmed at the time of publication. Please check your e-mail or the CFUW-Oakville website for communication of the upcoming events.

Share the news with your friends and neighbours! We are organizing these events to be open to the public. (A registration fee will pay for breakfast at the event.) The planning committee is challenging all CFUW-Oakville members to participate in the meetings to get to know their candidates seeking election. Our goal is to have more than 50 members (plus guests) in attendance at each of the breakfast events.

For more information contact **Darla Campbell** 905-845-9760 or [darla@amonavi.com](mailto:darla@amonavi.com).

## Message from Leigh Bradford Ratteree, IFUW Secretary General

March 21, 2011

Dear IFUW Members,

We have spoken again twice with Reiko Aoki, JAUW President. On a positive note, Reiko was in contact with the president of the Sendai branch who reported that she was safe, but confirmed that the situation is very difficult with no electricity or heating and food shortages. There is not yet news from other JAUW members in the Sendai area. Communication is almost impossible. Strong aftershocks have continued to the north of Tokyo, in areas where JAUW has other branches. The threat of radiation from damaged nuclear centres is another serious concern. JAUW has cancelled all activities for the coming weeks.

Reiko said that JAUW is beginning to think about the best way to help. They are talking now about establishing a JAUW Relief Fund that would help with immediate food and shelter needs and look beyond to helping re-establish education and jobs. It may be a couple of weeks before details are known. When their plans are final, they will let IFUW know, in case members in other parts of the world would like to assist.

In the meantime, the IFUW Board encourages members who would like to give immediate assistance to donate using your normal channels for disaster relief at the local, institutional or national levels or organizations such as the Red Cross or Red Crescent. Some offer tax deductions. This donation could be made in the name of the Japanese Association of University Women (JAUW) - Daigaku Jyosei Kyokai, Japan.

Reiko said that the solidarity of IFUW members throughout the world has been very much appreciated. They are now collecting messages, which they will share with JAUW members in different parts of the country. Messages can be addressed to Nobuko Akita [akinoko@ve.netyou.jp](mailto:akinoko@ve.netyou.jp).

Kind regards,

Leigh Bradford Ratteree, IFUW Secretary General

## Resolutions

Thank you to all members who participated in the Issues Group's discussion of this year's two National CFUW resolutions. We will be voting as a Club on whether to accept or reject these resolutions at the April 18, 2011 general meeting.

The agenda for that meeting will include three motions: one for each of the National resolutions, and one for the revised Mental Health resolution that our club has sent to CFUW Ontario Council. For background to the National resolutions please go to the CFUW web site [http://www.cfuw.org/resolutions\\_31.html](http://www.cfuw.org/resolutions_31.html) and click on Proposed Resolutions Booklet for Clubs .

1. Moved by the interest group that CFUW Oakville vote to reject the resolution entitled "CONTROLLING IDLING OF ALL TYPES OF VEHICLES" at the Annual General Meeting of CFUW in August, 2011.

Rationale:

- (a) The resolution is redundant, as CFUW already has policy that would cover this issue. "Addressing Climate Change: Greenhouse Gas Emissions (CFUW Victoria)" was passed in 2009 but was not included in the list of related policies in the background to the resolution.
- (b) National, Provincial and Territorial standards for vehicle idling would be impossible to establish or enforce: what works in Toronto would not be suitable for Yellowknife. Note: this proposed resolution could be simply amended by removing "Federal and Provincial and Territorial" and just leaving it at "Municipal", but because the proposed resolution is redundant, we are recommending that it be rejected and not amended.
- (c) Many municipalities already have by-laws that limit vehicle idling. The problem is enforcement.
- (d) A Climate Action Commissioner at the National level, as suggested in the background, would need an army to carry out the duties of such an office.
- (e) The resolution background seems to be aimed mainly at drive-throughs and does not properly justify the resolved clauses presented.
- (f) A letter-writing campaign based on existing policy would be more likely to encourage enforcement of existing by-laws and discourage idling.

2. Moved by the interest group that CFUW Oakville recommend that the proposed resolution "CRIMINALIZATION OF NON-STATE ACTOR TORTURE" be deferred for further study.

Rationale:

- (a) Although torture is unacceptable, we are not clear on how defining it as a distinct criminal offence would affect the administration of justice in Canada. The potential impact of making this change needs to be fully assessed by experts in Canadian criminal law.
- (b) Since the maximum sentence for both aggravated assault and state actor torture is 14 years, it's unlikely that non-state actor torture would carry a longer sentence.
- (c) It is unclear how a victim would benefit from a separate criminal offence of torture. It is possible that, if a specific definition of "torture" could not be proven, an offender might be acquitted.
- (d) Having torture as a separate criminal offence for individuals might reduce the gravity of torture as a state offence.

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

(e) The background of the resolution provided to justify a need for a separate criminal offence of non-state actor torture dwelled heavily on international issues of gender-based torture and violence against women. Aggravated assault, or torture, is harmful to whomever is the victim, male or female. In addition, the gender-based reasoning presented in the background seems less relevant as justification for a separate offence of non-state actor torture in the Canadian context.

The provincial resolution on Mental Health proposed by CFUW Oakville was presented to our membership in an earlier form **in November 2010** and passed in principle. A revised version has since been sent to Ontario Council. Please go to the CFUW Oakville web site, <http://www.cfuwoakville.ca/>, click on Interest Groups, and then on Advocacy and Resolutions to see the current version. We will vote on this revised version for the record at the April 2011 meeting.

3. Moved by the interest group that the CFUW Oakville resolution “Mental Health Strategy For Ontario”, as revised and sent to CFUW Ontario Council, be approved.

**Luba Podolsky**  
Resolutions Chair

## Happenings

We have sad news to report this month. **Patrick Murphy**, the husband of **Barbara Murphy** died on March 5. Although she dropped out this year, Barbara has been a member of our club since 1977.

Also, **Nicholas (Nick) Korpan**, the husband of **Jenny Korpan** passed away on March 10. Jenny has also been a long standing member of the club. We offer both Barbara and Jenny our condolences.

On a more cheerful note, many congratulations to **Pat Zelonka's** daughter **Kim** [Queen's (Ph.D.) 2004] who graduated in March from the officer training programme at the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School. Her very proud mother reports that Kim won both top student and best comradeship awards for her platoon.

**Maureen Rudzik, Past President**



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## Dates of Interest

Date	Meeting or Event	Location	Theme
Apr 11, 2011	CFUW Oakville executive meeting	Oakville Public Library Central Branch	
Apr 18, 2011	CFUW Oakville general meeting	Operating Engineers Hall, 2245 Speers Road	Hippy in Oakville
May 13,14, 2011	CFUW Ontario Council AGM	Holiday Inn Oakville	Poverty
Aug 4,5,6, 2011	CFUW National AGM	St. John's, NL	Wind in our Sails; Women at the Helm.



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**Darla Campbell**

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