

CFUW Wolfville December 2025

Editor: Anne MacInnis

Facebook:

Canadian Federation of
University Women -
Wolfville

Website:

<https://cfuwwolfville.com/>

Important Dates:

December 5 - National
Day of Remembrance &
Action on Violence
Against Women

December 10 – General
Meeting at 7:00 pm.
Special Guests – Valley
Voices A Cappella Chorus

December 10 – RD
Meeting

January 15 – Archivist
Workshop

January 21 – Finance and
Treasurer Workshop by
National



At the Booking Site



cfuw Realizing potential.
For all women.

Our third meeting of the year took place on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at the Wu Welcome Centre in Wolfville. Our guest speaker, Debra Fendrick, gave a fascinating talk on The Yukon where she lived and worked for many decades. Her stunning photos and artifacts enhanced a superb presentation. Frieda Burger gave a talk on the local Probus Club for any who might be interested in joining. Many thanks to Patricia Gallant for running the meeting!



Booking Space at the Mall

We opened our book processing space at the County Fair Mall on November 22. A few of us had collected boxes of books from donors over the summer so we had quite a few boxes to process on the first day. We are open on Tuesday and Saturday from 9:30 – 11:30 and everyone is welcome to come and help out. Don't worry about a long-term commitment, we just need people to come when they can and help out. Since we have advertised extensively, we decided to work through December.





Enviro Depot at McConnell's in Greenwich: We have an account there, if you drop off your recyclable bottles/cans – you can designate our club as the recipient of the money you would have received for your recyclables.



Valley Voices A Cappella Chorus

National CFUW Website:

www.cfuw.org



Treasurer's Report

Pat Alexander presented her report. More cheques have been disbursed, and she reported on some funding requests that have been made to our club from other groups. Patricia Gallant read a thank you letter from the Wolfville Refugee Support Network for our donation to them.

Noella Basque, Membership Chair, reported that we have 28 paid members. An ad hoc committee on membership will be formed in the new year to brainstorm ways to increase membership.

Membership Grant Awarded – Anne applied for a grant to enable us to purchase a vertical banner for meetings, our book sale, and other events. We were selected and they will send an e-transfer to our club account.

Program – The Valley Voices A Cappella Chorus will entertain us in December with an assortment of music including festive numbers. Their director, Adele Merritt, and Associate Director, Corinna Garriock, have been recognized by our Premier and also in the House of Commons for their win at the Harmony 1 International Competition in Hershey, Pennsylvania in November. They were crowned Harmony Queens for winning the international quartet contest. In addition, the chorus won their Area 1 competition in June in New Brunswick.

Helen Whidden would like to have one more volunteer for providing snacks for our December 10th meeting. She also needs more volunteers for after Christmas as well. Contributions to Charlotte (Coffee Fund) are appreciated!

Advocacy – We will meet to select a focus in the new year.

Archives – Patricia Gallant shared some of the information given at the online archivist workshop she attended on November 13th.

Status of Women – Linda Eyre presented a comprehensive report on articles pertaining to women around the world. This report was distributed with the meeting agenda and other materials.

Interest Groups

Lit Wits – On December 9, the Lit Wits will meet at the home of Heather Pineo-Regan to discuss Jane Urquhart's "In Winter I Get Up At Night."

Book Exchange Several people signed up. Everyone contributes one book. On a chosen day, everyone will pass their book to the next person on the list. Please contact Maxine McCuaig if you are interested.

Shoebox Project



Bridge Group The Bridge Group meets on the first Saturday of the month at Wickwire. Please contact Ann McGrath if interested.

Creative Writing – Noella reported that they will meet on the first Friday of the month at the home of Jean Sutherland.

Art – We will meet monthly at our Book Processing site. Please contact Anne MacInnis if interested.

Theatre – Here is the link for the Cineplex New Minas Arts and Culture offerings: <https://www.cineplex.com/events/arts-culture>

1000 Shoebox Project

Thank you to those who have opted to participate in this worthy project. I have received five shoeboxes containing necessities and small luxuries for women who may be experiencing homelessness. I sent an email outlining the guidelines – if you have any questions, please reach out to Anne. If you are participating, you can bring them to the December Meeting.

International Service Project (from National Newsletter)

CFUW invites Clubs and members to support our International Service Project: **Young, Happy, Healthy & Safe – Zambia** in partnership with the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Our goal this year is to raise \$15,000 to help ensure that girls in rural Eastern Zambia have access to critical sexual and reproductive health education. This knowledge can protect girls from:

- early marriage and pregnancy
- gender-based violence
- HIV infection
- burdensome caregiving responsibilities
- other factors that limit their health, safety, and future opportunities

National Conference in July 2026

Anne is planning to attend. If anyone else is interested, please let her know.





Noella Basque

Writing Group Features

Noella Basque

Two Decembers ago, on my early morning walk, I chose to follow Main Street, instead of taking my usual route along Harvest Moon Trail. I was alone to enjoy the beautiful seasonal decorations coordinated by the downtown merchants and the Town of Wolfville. The setting inspired a poem which I shared with our club's Creative Writing group. My fellow writers loved the poem and encouraged me to have it published. This fall, I responded to a call for submissions by Local Gems Press and submitted the poem. In November, I was excited to learn that *December Dawn* has been accepted to appear in *Harmonic Verses 2025 Poems for the Holidays*. According to the publisher, "This anthology aims to kindle the holiday spirit and create a poetic tapestry of traditions, memories, and shared moments." I share the poem with the club and hope it adds to the spirit of the holidays.

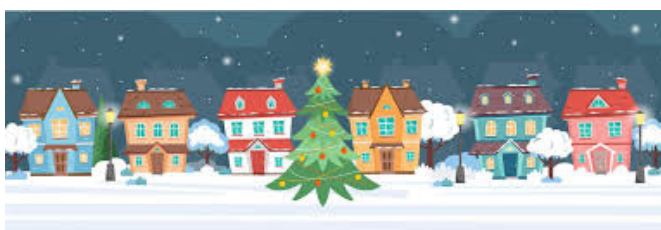
December Dawn

in the hushed first light

Victorian lampposts carry wreaths and bough-filled baskets
and potted conifers stand at attention
between the shops that line the noiseless main street
that awaits shoppers still asleep in their beds

twinkling snowflake lights hang in Town Square
reminiscent of a starry night
merry and bright

evergreen boughs dotted with crimson bows trim shop doors
as storefront windows announce in green, white, and red
Joy to the world
Peace on earth





Blanca Baquero

Blanca Baquero

Yuletide Blessings

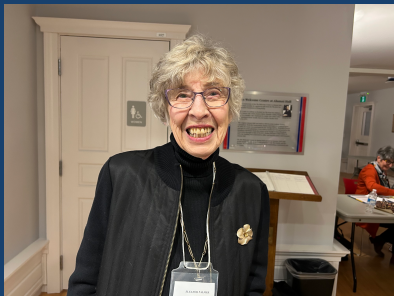
If you were here, my friend,
together we would spend
a perfect day
slowly sipping and gently dipping
words in a cup of yuletide blessings
while outside a plethora
of down-filled snow
would fall softly, silently
upon an earth-in-waiting.



Christmas eve
the old spruce tree
takes on some colour
old Balsam fir
not half so bad looking
once decorated
snow cap
on the fence post the roundness
of silence
squalls of white powder
in my front yard
the neighbour's snow blower
in the window pane
frosted ferns and flowers
cold becomes designer
toboggan hill
the slow ascent of red cheeks
back to the top



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Eleanor Palmer



Eleanor, Judy, Anne, Cathy



Pat, Cathy, Winnie, Judy, Eleanor

Eleanor Palmer – A Tribute to a Great Lady

Sadly, we lost Eleanor on November 8th of this year. Just the week before she had been playing bridge with our Bridge Group. Many thanks to Winnie, Heather, and Marian who shared information about her long history with CFUW – I was able to pass that information on to others who were interested and cared about her. Karen Dunnett, our ARC President, wrote a lovely tribute which was published in the December 5th National Club Action Newsletter. I am reprinting it here and adding some photos that I have collected over the years.

A Tribute to Eleanor Palmer

By Karen Dunnett, CFUW ARC President

Eleanor Marion (Gates) Palmer passed away peacefully on November 8, 2025, at Valley Hospice in Kentville. She is survived by her husband, Malcolm; her children, Janice (Dan), Andrew, and Sarah (Mike) and her grandchildren, Jay, Leah, Heidi, and Eric.

Eleanor was a proud graduate of Acadia University, where she served as Class Secretary and maintained lifelong connections with the Acadia community. She was very active promoting the establishment of the local library, which opened in 1993. She was extremely active in her community over the years for the Red Cross as well as Heart and Stroke NS.

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) was an important and enduring part of her life. A member of CFUW Wolfville since 1965, she served as CFUW Wolfville President six different times and chaired the local CFUW Wolfville Constitution and By-Laws Committee. She served as Club Archivist from 1989-2020. Her deep passion for the Dr. Marion Elder Grant Fellowship saw her serve as the treasurer of the body that invested and handled the funds for the Dr. Marion Elder Grant Fellowship (1989-2011) as well as devoting many hours to the annual CFUW Book Sale that supported it. She served on CFUW Wolfville's 50th and 75th Anniversary Committees during her club presidency then.

At the CFUW national level, she served as VP Atlantic – this making her President of the Atlantic Regional Council - as well as these national committees: Nominations, History, 100th Anniversary, Ad-Hoc Committee on Governance. She was instrumental in forming the national RD committee. Provincially, she served as RD NS in the early 2000s as well as recently as 2023 and was a member of the Atlantic Regional Issues and Advisory Committee. She served on the planning committee for the first NS Provincial Conference in 1968, which was hosted by Wolfville. She was the Registrar/Treasurer for the first Atlantic Regional Council Meeting in 1988 and again in 1998.

This message from Grace Hollett, CFUW St. John's NL (former CFUW President) gives a personal snapshot of how all who knew her feel the loss – "It was a shock to hear that Eleanor is no longer sorting books for



Spring Luncheon 2024



Spring Luncheon 2025

Wolfville's 58th book sale and engaging in all things CFUW. Past presidents' bios, CFUW History, the value of GWI membership, ridding the world of one-time-use plastic bags, scholarships, Triennials, national AGMs, ARC and Clubs were a big part of Eleanor's life as were frequent long telephone calls to discuss the then current CFUW-related issues. Eleanor gave freely to CFUW, a cause she truly believed in". She (Eleanor) wrote this about her contributions: "a significant portion of my volunteer work involves quietly helping others on an individual basis - those individuals (friends, neighbours, relatives) who need help/support at a particular point in their lives be it for either a short time or an extended period of time".

She took it one step further in CFUW – doing the roll up your sleeves hands-on work to get a job done, or as an initiator of organizational growth and lifelong promoter of CFUW. I am not sure if CFUW inspired her or whether CFUW draws inspired women into its folds.

All I know is we always will remember her and her dedication.

Her friend,

Karen

Karen Dunnett

CFUW VP; Atlantic Regional Council President

For more details:

<https://www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/188858>

