

## **The Canadian Federation of University Women**

As the world was rising out of the ashes of the First World War, three women decided to form an organization that would foster ties between women in order to prevent another such catastrophe. Their dream became a reality in a group known today as Graduate Women International (GWI).

A century later, GWI is a huge network comprised of thousands of women in over 60 countries. It's global voice reaches as far as the United Nations, where it acts as a powerful force for change for girls' and women's access to quality education. The 107 GWI groups in Canada, called the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), fund about \$1 million annually for scholarships and awards for women.

The West Vancouver CFUW club, through fundraising and donations, promotes higher education for women – locally, nationally and internationally. This club also has interest groups that provide its members with opportunities for fostering friendships and professional networking. International Studies, book clubs and Financial Literacy are but a few of the many kinds of subgroups that convene monthly.

In keeping with the theme of ongoing education, this branch of CFUW features a program of keynote speakers on a variety of topics at its monthly meetings (starting at 7 p.m.) that are free for anyone wishing to attend at the Westerleigh Parc in West Vancouver.

Beginning on October 15th, UBC Engineering research scientist Candace Cook will talk about her work with RES'EAU – WaterNET and its challenges to provide clean drinking water to many First Nations reserves and other communities in B.C.

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Adine Mees, CEO of the West Vancouver Community Foundation, will reveal insights obtained from a study called “2017 Vital Signs” that looked at belonging, diversity, inclusion and housing in our beautiful West Vancouver.

The January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting features author Kate Bird, who will talk about her book “City on Edge: A Rebellious Century of Vancouver Protests, Riots and Strikes.” It's sure to be both an enlightening and shocking look back at a city during volatile times.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the North Shore Emergency Management office will hold a workshop on West Coast Emergency Preparedness.

At the last public meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, Clinical Counselor Sharon Selby will talk about stress and outline strategies for coping with it in today's fast-paced world.

This slate of CFUW's guest speakers is designed to entertain, provoke and inform us about a range of topics that can apply to us personally as well as to the world at large.

This dynamic group with its humble beginnings is living proof of Margaret Mead's wise words:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

To find out more about the CFUW West Vancouver Club, drop in to a meeting at Westerleigh Parc, 725 – 22 St, West Vancouver at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. Any woman who supports the goals of CFUW is welcome to join. It just might change your world.

For more info, go to: <http://cfuwnvww.vcn.bc.ca/>

Sheonaid Kuchera