Dear FWC friends,

The world is facing a serious crisis, and every single one of us is affected. I sincerely hope that this newsletter will find all of you in good health and in good spirits. I also hope that this time of sadness, fear, and constant worry for ourselves, our loved ones, and the entire world, will soon be over. In the meantime, we are all learning creative ways to connect and remain a community. We are also all reminded of the importance of seeking beauty and happiness. In that spirit, I am including some beautiful photos taken by my aunt, Régine Florin, in her garden in France. Spring always makes me happy, and I hope it will you too.

As I explained in my recent letters, the Executive and I agreed that your health and well-being is our first priority, and as a consequence, we have postponed our Annual General Meeting (May 5, 2020). It was not an easy decision to make. While our AGM is a time for Club decision-making, it is also a moment for friendship and good times.

At the time I’m writing this message, we have yet to determine a new date for the rescheduled AGM. If the pandemic recedes soon, June may be possible; if things last for a while longer, we could hold it jointly with the Wine and Cheese social in September. We will of course keep you updated on the decisions we make.

With the timing of the AGM unknown, we had sent an email asking you to vote electronically on a topic we had hoped to discuss at the AGM: whether or not Club membership should be broadened. Thanks to thoughtful feedback from some of you, we have decided to make a friendly amendment to the motion, and to delay a vote on this amended version until further notice. For now, the background for the motion and the amended motion can be found on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter.
This academic year has been a real pleasure for me as your President. The events we organized were successful and well attended. I really enjoyed getting to know many of you better. The Coffee Morning was a particularly joyous moment for me; I try to remember that happy day whenever I feel sad about the stressful times we are facing right now.

This year we have also made a few changes. Some of them had an immediate impact (for example, serving a plated meal instead of the usual buffet at the Spring Luncheon event) and some of them will impact next year’s events (for example, we will hold the Coffee Morning in March instead of February, to try to avoid winter’s shenanigans). I also feel very fortunate to have worked alongside smart and generous women in the Executive. I hope some of you will join the Executive – again or for the first time – as many positions are available this year (see pages 5 to 7 for more details). It is a real treat to volunteer for and work with such an amazing group of women!

This is not the positive and uplifting message I would have liked to write, unfortunately. Please do not hesitate to email me or other members of the Executive if you have any questions or concerns, or simply to let us know how you are doing. The kind messages many of you have sent me over the last few months have been heartwarming, energizing, and inspiring. We all need more of that nowadays, so please, stay in touch with us and with one another.

Stay well,

Lucie

SAVE THE DATE

The Wine and Cheese will be held September 15, 2020. More information will follow in the August newsletter.
Motion to Change the Criteria for Membership in the FWC: Background and Friendly Amendment
(Vote delayed until further notice)

Background

Since the creation of the Faculty Women’s Club in 1933, the definition of “membership” has changed a few times. In the 1970s membership became restricted to AASUA members and spouses of AASUA members (including retired members).

Since then, the number of women working at the University of Alberta has greatly increased, and the types of positions that women hold have also changed. Similarly, the AASUA has often changed the type of teaching and administrative position designations that were included in the AASUA membership. Most recently, the AASUA has been advised that a significant number of U of A staff designations may become excluded from the association. A January communication from AASUA reads:

On December 20, 2019, the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta (BOG) gave notice to AASUA that, in 2020, it plans to change the academic designation of select employees within the Administrative and Professional Officer (APO), Librarian (LIB), Trust Research Academic Staff (TRAS), Temporary Librarian, Administrative and Professional Officer (TLAPS), or Faculty Service Officer (FSO) categories. The BOG intends to do so, on the basis that these employees are involved in confidential labour relations or exercise managerial authority within the scope of their positions. De-designation means that an employee occupying that position would no longer be a member of, or represented by the AASUA, and that the terms of the Collective Agreement and the salary settlement would no longer apply to them.

The FWC Executive believes that it is time to revisit our constitution in order to retain loyal members, recruit new members, and be more inclusive and welcoming to all university-affiliated women.

Regarding changes, our FWC Constitution states:

12. This Constitution may be amended as follows:
   (a) by the President reading at any meeting of the Club a Notice of Motion of any proposed amendment which has been approved by the Executive Board and which will be voted upon at the next meeting of the Club;
   OR
   (b) such Notice of Motion in writing may be forwarded by mail, electronic means or by way of the club newsletter to all members of the Club one month prior to the meeting of the Club at which the amendment is to be voted upon;
   (c) any such amendment may be passed by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.
With an AGM postponed or possibly held online, the Executive thought option (b) was a prudent and viable way to proceed.

While we recognize that a significant number of women will now be able to join the FWC, we don’t expect numbers to increase drastically. We will not make any official announcement to the university community. We will simply welcome women who enquire about it individually or at new staff orientations.

The clause in the FWC Constitution currently reads as follows:

3. Those eligible for membership in the Club shall be:
   a. Academic women staff and women who are spouses of academic staff*; women retired from the academic staff; women whose spouses are deceased from the academic staff, and women whose spouses have retired from the academic staff. All members in good standing may remain members regardless of any change of circumstances.

*academic staff, as designated by the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta in consultation with the AASUA

Based on the feedback we received from a few members, we would like to make a friendly amendment to the earlier motion.

The motion will now read as follows:

NOTICE OF MOTION: Lucie Moussu moves and Karen Doucet seconds, to amend the FWC Constitution's membership criteria to read:

3. Those eligible for membership in the Club shall be:
   a. University of Alberta women FACULTY AND STAFF, including wives and partners of FACULTY AND STAFF who are working, retired or deceased. All members in good standing may remain members regardless of any change of circumstances.

We will contact you at a future date about when and how you will be asked to vote YES or NO to this amended motion.
Hello Fellow Members and Friends:

I hope you are all healthy and in good spirits during this uncertain time of COVID-19. As we endure these ups and downs, I try to remember what is constant in our lives. For me, it is the important connections through family and friends. I am so proud to be part of the Faculty Women’s Club, supporting each other with messages of concern through our interest groups and just by sharing the little things that get us through each day. Thank you!

It has been my honour to serve on the Executive these past seven years. It has also been especially rewarding sharing ideas, excitement, and creativity at our various events. I must commend our President, who is under tremendous pressure as well as fulfilling her duties on the board, and all the Executive for their extra commitment at this time.

A call for volunteer Executive members!

We currently have four openings in our Executive and are seeking nominees for the next season. The voting would normally occur at the Annual General Meeting; however, this year may have a different format. In general, the Executive has five meetings per year, including the Annual General Meeting. Duties are divided well, and Executive members support each other. Even those who travel away from Edmonton for part of the year can get involved. Yes, there is some level of commitment, but we have a large membership and, with some simple co-ordination, help is very near at all times.

Share your valuable skills and get involved at another level. One of these positions could be rewarding for you! Please contact me at past.president.fwc@gmail.com, or through the directory, if you are interested in any of these positions. Your club needs you! I look forward to your call!

Current members of the Executive who are leaving their positions share some of their thoughts below.

Vice-President
by Robin Inskip

The best part of being the Vice-President of the FWC is the interaction with people, both the interest group conveners and with Executive members. I was moved by an out-of-the-blue email from a convener that simply said: “Thank you for taking care of us.” That sentiment made me happy and proud.
The Vice-President is the entry position into a three-year commitment to the FWC Executive’s top echelon. (The Vice-President proceeds to President and Past-President, a three-year commitment.) I think the Vice-President’s job is to be the Convener of Conveners. The interest groups, their communities and activities, are the FWC’s bedrock. My first year on the Executive has involved both working with the conveners to facilitate their groups’ communication and co-ordination with the FWC Executive, and promoting the Executive’s program events and its news and policies to the members. The Vice-President is active in the Executive’s decision-making and routines, both at our meetings and through email threads for a year.

The Vice-President has a vital role in communicating and co-ordinating with FWC interest group conveners and in representing the interest groups’ concerns to the Executive. Yes, there are logistics in this position; however, they became smoother and predictable when settled into routines which can work for several years.

**Newsletter Editor**  
by Allison Lewis

I have enjoyed being the editor of the FWC’s newsletter. The role has allowed me to learn more about the club and its members from the comfort of my own home! Pulling together the newsletter involves some creativity in layout and editing skills, which can be challenging but also enjoyable. I have had contact via email and through the Executive with members of the club that I hadn’t met in other contexts. This has given me an appreciation of the many wonderful, active members of this club!

The newsletter editor is responsible for putting out a newsletter three times a year. Each edition contains information about upcoming Club events, a review and photos (if available) of past events, and updates from the Executive, individual members, or interest groups if they have something that they would like to share. The August edition includes a summary of each interest group and their plans for the year. The editor has to communicate, mainly by email, with members of the Executive, interest group conveners, and other members of the FWC about their submissions or to request information.

**Secretary**  
by Linda Seale

This is an interesting position for anyone who wants to keep track of everything happening in the Club and how we are evolving as an organization. It involves taking minutes of the Executive meetings (four per year, plus the handover meeting to the new Executive in June) and the AGM, and sending them to Executive members within two weeks of the meeting. Action items are particularly important, to ensure all our decisions are followed up. This is not a big time commitment and is an essential one for the Club. Executive meetings usually last no more than two hours. If you have done anything of this kind before, this is a straightforward job and an important one for the Club.
Program Committee
by Jan Heaman

My first year on the Executive was in 2013, as a Program Chair. It was easy to follow the steps of previous years’ planning. I was told by the powers above that I could do anything I wished. “Are you sure?” I thought to myself with a smile. I will say that the Arts Café was a big party and success, as we danced to “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun” as a finale to the evening. I cannot accept credit for this; it was a huge group effort.

As a party/event planner, this position will fulfill your need for creativity, as your planning is open to almost any activity. The year begins with the exciting annual Wine and Cheese membership drive and interest group sign-up, a re-kindling of friendships. You will collaborate with two program Executives, one being the program chair, preparing for three events. There is also an option to add more should you find yourselves having difficulty deciding which you would like to offer. Certainly there are more details and duties involved, so please feel free to contact me through our directory for more information.

GET AHEAD of the game and register for next year online

Members can now complete next year's membership form online. There is a link to download the registration form on the website (http://uab.ca/fwc).

If you choose to fill out the form online, payment should be e-transferred to treasurer.fwc@gmail.com or mailed (cheque) to Marie Dafoe, Membership Secretary. For more information, contact her at membership.fwc@gmail.com.

A copy of this year’s registration is also attached for those who would like to mail their registration to Marie.
INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

A message from Vice-President Robin Inskip

In the August 2019 FWC newsletter issue I talked about each FWC interest group as a community. Members enrol in at least a few groups because they have the freedom to pursue their interests; another layer of community is built. Lastly, all of us belong to FWC. The organization itself strengthens community-building.

I believe our current coronavirus situation is better called physical isolation instead of social isolation. The FWC is not isolated socially. The change is that we are not out and about to see and talk with our friends in person. We can still talk to each other and watch over each other to ensure that all are included.

I’m aware that a few interest groups are carrying on with their projects. Drawing Together is an example. With an email called “Use your pencils,” the group’s convener, Margot Wanke, assigned homework, setting the submission date for drawings to match the group’s meeting date. The group’s drawings are delightful. Through email the group has been sharing drawings and offering commentaries, but also supporting those in isolation and distanced from each other. Some emails have evolved into conversations akin to meeting face to face. I commend Margot for her inspirational leadership, offering warm instructions, deadlines, reminders, and a way for the group’s members to welcome and share each other’s work.

A phone call to another FWC member is wonderful. Conference calls are one idea for social sharing. Many members are familiar with FaceTime (Apple only) and Skype for videoconferencing because their children and grandchildren have left Edmonton. Facebook (heavens above) is another possibility. I read one neat article that described how to continue our interests during these times using the Zoom videoconferencing system. In their own homes, people get together for their regular Thursday morning coffees or to play bridge on Monday afternoon. I can see Zoom working for our interest groups: Book Discussion, Creative Writing, Knitting, Bridge clubs, Cooking clubs, and so on.

If FWC members decide to maintain our social connections by email, voice, or video, we can alleviate our collective sense of trauma, anxiety, and isolation. We can continue our community-building. The physical isolation possibly could last for months.

It has been a pleasure and an honour to serve as your Vice-President, 2019-2020. Stay safe. Embrace (virtually) your community.
(Editor’s note: Many of the following updates were submitted before the restrictions put in place because of the coronavirus pandemic, which has altered all our activities.)

**Drawing Together** by Margot Wanke

Our group meets at 1:30 on the 4th Tuesday of each month, (except in December) at the home of a member. In January we spent a lovely afternoon at the home of Karen Doucet, who is a new member. One of her drawings is to the right. I would like to encourage others who like to draw to come and join our group.

**Evening Book Club** by Karen Bain

Evening Book Club is GREAT! Third Thursday evening meetings involve:

- Good books and reviewers as well as guests (who lead)
- Respectful conversations (providing)
- Educational evenings (including)
- Active participants (who serve)
- Terrific snacks!

What’s not to like?
For further information, kebain@telus.net

**French Conversation** by Sarah Nyland

This winter term the FWC French Conversation Group did not meet often, just twice in January, and once only in February and March. We enjoyed meeting for lunch at the University Club following the FWC annual Coffee Morning on February 5. Weather tends to be a factor in winter and as some members were travelling, et cetera, we didn't meet again until March 4th.

Since then we don't try to meet due to the coronavirus, which we all need to be mindful of.

May we all stay well!
**Lunching Out** by Laura Steadward

The members of the Lunching Out interest group have experienced many different venues this season. Three of our most recent events are pictured below, the third one being the Brasserie Bardot. Judging by the noise and laughter during lunch I would say: “A good time was had by all.”

![Lunching Out photos](image1.jpg)

**International Movie Group** by Mualla Berksoy-Boluk

We have enjoyed meeting one Thursday afternoon a month to explore the diversity of movies from around the world. Movies we have viewed so far this year had all been nominated for or won awards internationally. They were: *The Wind Will Carry Us* (1999), an Iranian film directed by Abbas Kiarostami; *Things to Come* (2016), a French film directed by Mia Hansen-Love; and *Never Look Away* (2018), a German film directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck). Add them to your list!

**Mall Walkers**

This relatively new interest group has been in existence three years now, with a current roster of about 16. Some six to eight members attend on the usual second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, from 10:30 a.m. year round. We have begun scheduling a few other Wednesdays from time to time. These meetings embody fun and fitness, accompanied by food, drink, chats and sociability. Twice around the Southgate Mall interior can equal 2000 steps in half an hour. Do visit or join us!
Knitting: From the Needles of the Knitters

2019-2020 has been a difficult but rewarding year for the Knitting group. From illnesses to hip replacements, the members have found solace in an activity which helps to heal. It’s an interest shared by all. Working with beautiful:

Colours

Textures

Sharing stories, project successes and failures, laughter and goodies with other Faculty Women’s Club members has made our year another success.
Mystery Reading Circle by Jean Frost

The Mystery Circle continues to swirl in intrigue, evil and careful sleuthing. The world is our hunting ground as we search for criminals and solve difficult cases, led by favourite and new authors. Memory, love, revenge and a desire for justice entice us to turn pages and perhaps ignore our chores.

Walking Group

It has become a tradition that our group celebrates Marcia’s birthday in August with goodies that she prepares for us. It is a treat that we all enjoy. This year we gathered in Hawrelak Park after having completed a one and a half hour circular walk that took us through the McKenzie Ravine.

To capture our entire group, just one short of a dozen, Jan hung Marcia’s camera in a tree.

We always meet Thursday mornings at 10:00 o’clock, regardless of the weather. Every week takes us to a different scenic trail. We encourage everyone to come and join us. Fresh air and exercise is good for everyone!
A reflection on the Quilting Group by Laura Steadward

As reported in the December 2019 FWC newsletter, the Quilting group has decided to disband. Laura Steadward sent this reflection to the newsletter.

Gone But Not Forgotten

I wanted to share this memory of the FWC Quilting group with our members. Although I was never a member of the group, I had many friends who were, some of whom created this fabulous wall hanging (shown to the right). It was created for and given to the University of Alberta in honour of the University’s 75th anniversary. After hanging for many years on the campus, it is now preserved in the art collection of the University. I know that some of the Quilting interest group members are still members of the FWC today and thank them so much for leaving such an incredible memory of our club.

❖ Member News ❖

Our Condolences

Our sympathy goes to Lynda Neil whose husband, David, passed away on February 8, 2020. A reception to honour his life and legacy were held at the University Club on March 7.
Winter 2020 Events

Conveners’ Dinner – January 29, 2020

by Robin Inskip

The Wednesday, January 29, 2020 FWC Conveners’ and Executive Dinner was a sold-out success. As you know, this dinner is an acknowledgement and thank you to the FWC volunteers serving on the Executive and as conveners. Thirty attendees enjoyed a buffet dinner, candy favours, and an historical presentation by our guest speaker, Shirley Lowe.

Shirley Lowe was Edmonton’s Historian Laureate from 2012 to 2014. She is a former member of the Edmonton Historical Board and served as the first chair of the Historic Resources Review Panel. She is the co-author of several early histories of Edmonton neighbourhoods and reports regarding heritage preservation and neighbourhood renewal.

Shirley’s talk was entitled Edmonton: Two Cities, Two Towns, Two Villages. It was a condensed overview of the development of the place we call Edmonton. While acknowledging that many people have lived and formed communities here for thousands of years, the presentation focused primarily on how the city grew as a result of local, national, and international factors. Shirley discussed the fur trade to the development of two settlements on the north and south sides of the river; she focused in detail, however, on the late 19th and 20th centuries’ development of Edmonton and Strathcona. She showed slides of census rolls, immigration records, photographs, newspaper articles, and speeches, and showed the arrival of railroads, first to Strathcona (CPR subsidiary) and almost a decade later to Edmonton (CNR).

The FWC audience had the chance to see Edmonton’s patterns of development: commercial beginnings; the influx of citizens influenced by the government of Canada’s proactive immigration policies; the crucial role of Canada-wide transportation systems to send out our agrarian, commercial, and oil goods and to facilitate new arrivals to take their part in Edmonton’s growing economy.
Coffee Morning – February 5, 2020
By Lucie Moussu

This year, fortunately, the weather was kind to us and many of our long-time members were able to attend this lovely event. We all chatted enthusiastically, ate the University Club’s muffins and danishes and the delicious baked goods brought by members of the Executive, shared memories of old times, drank tea and coffee in lovely china donated by members, made new friends, and celebrated our long-time members with many oh’s and ah’s and applause.

Thanks to everyone who helped decorate the tables, brought food, carried teacups, cleaned up at the end, and helped make this event the great success that it was!

Here are some pictures of those amazing long-time members and friends.
The FWC Spring luncheon was held on March 11, 2020 at the University Club, the last large gathering before descending into the dystopian isolation times of the coronavirus. The 34 women in attendance enjoyed a plated lunch while socializing with friends. The meal was followed by a presentation by Dr. Lee Foote. Dr. Foote has been a University of Alberta Professor of Conservation Biology for 24 years and is the current Director of the University of Alberta Botanic Garden (formerly known as the Devonian Garden). Dr. Foote gave an overview of the gardens, including projects for community outreach and future development. He explained some of the intricate planning that went into the award-winning Aga Khan Garden that opened two years ago. With spring around the corner, the gardens will soon be reopening for the season. Members left the Luncheon with intention to visit this beautiful botanical resource.