

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB OF WINNIPEG

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February 2024

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# Co-Presidents' Message

People in some parts of the world have been marking leap years since 1582, but somehow it always feels like a surprise when you realize that this particular February has an extra day!

We hope you look forward to every day of the month, including the days you plan to come to the club. Perhaps you'll join the friendly conversation in the sunroom on Thursday afternoons. A lunch with chocolate sampling - we've got that! A conversation circle that picks up on our November sharing circle with Mary Scott - we've got that too! Fancy a relaxed afternoon gathering? - get a glass of wine from the bar and catch up with friends. And the next Continuing Education course starts Sunday February 25 - Join Alison Gillmor with her new course exploring how to watch movies.

See you at Ralph Connor House!

Sue Bishop and Ellen Peel, Co-Presidents.

## Communications and Membership News

### Entertain at Ralph Connor House.... And Leave the Cooking and Cleaning to Us!

Did you know that your UWC membership entitles you annually to one Free Venue Rental of Ralph Connor House for personal events!? Several members have used this benefit for family Christmas parties, bridal showers, memorial services and birthday parties. Contact [uwcmember@mymts.net](mailto:uwcmember@mymts.net) for details. Here's what one happy member had to say:

*"I used my yearly one Free Venue Rental for the first time in December. My family gathered in the beautifully decorated house. Our group consisted of children, teens and adults of all ages and the space worked great for everyone. It was a real treat to leave the party prepping, serving, and clean-up in the capable hands of the House staff so that our family could focus on visiting. This is a great member benefit. I plan to use it again."* Catherine C.



# UWC - ENJOY Winter Birthday Celebration!

If your birthday is in December, January, or February, then mark your calendar for our **UWC - ENJOY Winter Birthday Celebration, Sunday, February 11th**. Come and celebrate another year around the sun with your fellow members and enjoy the delicious complimentary birthday cake and mimosa cocktails. Invitations will be sent to birthday celebrants but all members are encouraged to attend to help celebrate.

Debby B.

## In Memory of...

**Inez Striemer** On January 1st, past UWC member Inez Striemer passed away peacefully at the age of 99. Inez was a member and an active bridge player for several years.



A unique Program set up in the Living Room



CMU President Cheryl Pauls and UWC Co-President Sue Bishop

# Join the University Women's Club!



Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## Post Secondary Education (degree, certificate, etc.) and Names of Institutions

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## Career / Occupation

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## Interests

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## How did you hear about the club?

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## Is there anything else you'd like to share about yourself to club members?

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☐ Special 1st Year Rate (\$100)    ☐ Full (\$453)    ☐ Student (\$75)

**Payment may be submitted by e-transfer to [uwcfm@mymts.net](mailto:uwcfm@mymts.net), by cheque to the University Women's Club of Winnipeg, or in person at 54 West Gate. This form may be filled out online by clicking [HERE](#).**

UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB OF WINNIPEG  
54 West Gate, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2E1 • [www.uwcwpgmb.com](http://www.uwcwpgmb.com)



## REMEMBERING

Vivian May  
Bruce



**1931 - 2023**

A Club member for over 50 years, Dr. Vivian May Bruce passed away on October 12, 2023 at 92 years of age. Born in Saskatchewan, Vivian took her undergraduate degree in Dietetics at the University of Manitoba and interned in Vancouver. She was a hospital dietitian until completing her Master of Science degree in Manitoba, and eventually a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin.

She was an accomplished professor and research scientist in the Faculty of Human Ecology at the University of Manitoba. Her career was recognized with the Order of Manitoba presented in 2019. Vivian was active in the Club, chairing the Scholarship Committee for many years, as well as the Dining Room Committee, Duplicate Bridge, Current Events and the Walking Group.

Vivian endowed a scholarship at the Club. She was a regular attendee at the Tuesday lunches, and supported Club programs and activities weekly despite having to travel by taxi and requiring the use of a walker after a driver ran a red light, seriously injuring her leg. Vivian made friends with everyone and was a source of institutional memory for both the Club and the University.

She remembered all her students and kept in touch regularly with many of them. She was an honorary aunt to many children and volunteered with refugee families. Vivian will long be remembered for her practical advice, straightforward reasoning and unwavering loyalty and humanity.

Ruth B.

# Program Committee

In January we welcomed the new year with an intriguing, thoughtful Women and Leadership lunch presentation by Cheryl Pauls, President of Canadian Mennonite University, and also a lovely symphonic afternoon concert with Sophie Caron, Bella Rogers, and Makayla Sawatsky. Sophie is a past UWC scholarship recipient.

Here's what's coming up in February.

As Valentine's Day approaches, our lunch program entices us on, and with, chocolate. **Friday, February 9**, author, freelance writer, and speaker **Doreen Pendgracs** joins us for an informative presentation on everything chocolate... and yes, there will be samples! Doreen authored *Chocolatour: A Quest for the World's Best Chocolate*, which won the Reader's Favourite Book Award in 2014.

At our November conversation circle, we met with our Mary Scott and Tammy Christenson, E.D. of Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre. We were celebrating Ma Mawi's honouring of Mary as an ally, and speaking and listening to our experiences and thoughts about Indigenous peoples and reconciliation.

We are very pleased that we will be "**Continuing the Conversation**" on **February 20, at 10:30** with another circle. We are honoured that Mary will be joined by **Clayton Sandy**, her long-time friend, who in his quiet and effective manner, exposed her to the realities of the Indigenous community, their lives and challenges. Clayton is a respected knowledge keeper, cultural advisor, and community activist who's spent his working life educating generations of non-Indigenous people in the province about the history of Indigenous people in this country, and among many honours, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws from University of Winnipeg.

What do we know and think about allyship and reconciliation? What do we want to know? What can we do, as individuals and as a club? Let's talk more. **This is open to all members, whether or not you joined in the first circle.**

In March, we focus on global issues, with a human rights perspective.

**International Women's Day is March 8**, and for our lunch program, we welcome **Christina MacIsaac, Director of Innovation, Fund for Innovation and Transformation**. Christina will talk with us about Canada's support for innovative development work designed to engage and impact women around the world.

Later in March, **for the March 27 Dinner Program**, we welcome **Doug Darling**, Doug is President and CEO of Tripwire Media Group. He will be showing and commenting on his short film, **Memories in a Box: Across Borders**, about a group of human rights defenders from Afghanistan coming to Canada, to Edmonton.

Rosalyn H.



# UWC - ENGAGE LUNCH AND SPEAKER

Meet Doreen the Chocolate Queen

Chocolate anyone? On **Friday, February 9th** author, freelance writer, and speaker **Doreen Pendgracs** joins us for an informative presentation on everything chocolate... and yes there will be chocolate to sample!

Doreen authored *Chocolatour: A Quest for the World's Best Chocolate* which won the Reader's Favourite Book Award in 2014!



Bar Opens: 11:30 Lunch: 12:00 Speaker: 1:15 pm

Lunch and Chocolate Samples - \$25 for Members and Non-Members

Menu - Sweet potato and Vegetable Soup, Assorted Sandwiches, Lemon Square, and Chocolate Presentation.

If you missed the registration deadline, and are interested in attending, please contact the office at [uwc@mymts.net](mailto:uwc@mymts.net) or 204-954-7880.

Payment upon registration is preferred but may be received at the door by cash or cheque. Refunds will be provided with a minimum 24 hour notice. Registrations without payment in advance will be charged the full fee if not cancelled 24 hours before the event (some exceptions apply).

# Special Program

Tuesday, February 20th

## Continuing the Conversation

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On February 20, at 10:30 we will be **Continuing the Conversation** with a second conversation circle on allyship and reconciliation. We are honoured that Mary will be joined by Clayton Sandy.

Clayton is a respected knowledge keeper, cultural advisor, and community activist who's spent his working life educating generations of non-Indigenous people in the province about the history of Indigenous people in this country, and, among many honours, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws from University of Winnipeg.

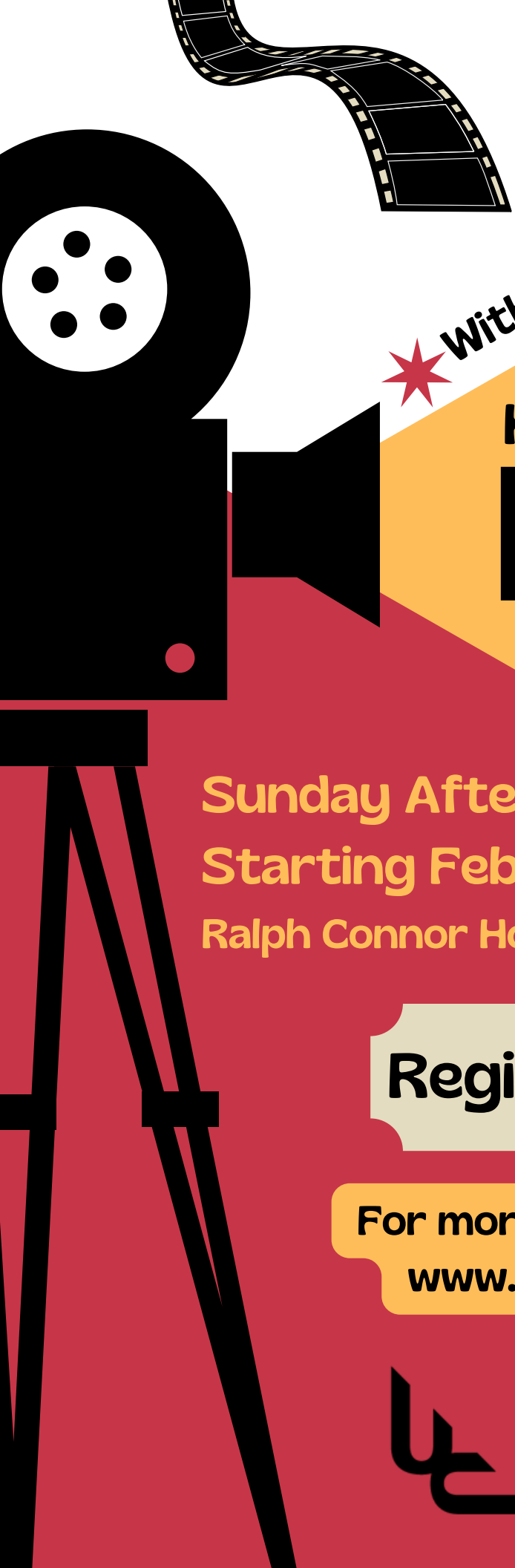
What do we know and think about allyship and reconciliation? What do we want to know? What can we do, as individuals and as a club? **Let's talk more.** This is open to all members, whether or not you joined in the first circle.

Sign up for this event online, by emailing [uwc@mymts.net](mailto:uwc@mymts.net), calling 204-954-7880, or signing up at UWC. We encourage you to also sign up for lunch afterwards to keep the conversation going.

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★ With Alison Gillmor ★

# How to Watch **MOVIES**

A UWC Con. Ed. Course

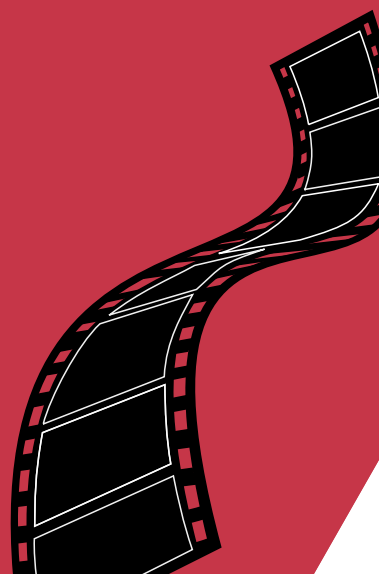
**Sunday Afternoons**  
**Starting February 25th**  
**Ralph Connor House, 54 West Gate**

**Register Today**

**For more information visit**  
**[www.uwcwpgmb.com](http://www.uwcwpgmb.com)**



UNIVERSITY  
**WOMEN'S  
CLUB**



## UWC CURRENT ISSUES AND ACTIONS STANDS WITH CFUW HAMILTON TO ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

### DID YOU KNOW...

- StatsCan has reported that 523 women died from complications of pregnancy or childbirth between 2000 and 2020.
- The World Health Organization estimates Canada's maternal mortality rate to be as much as 60% higher than what is reported by StatsCan.
- Canada's maternal mortality rate, while still low by global standards, was in the top third of countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2017 — and was double the rate of other high-income countries such as the Netherlands, Ireland and Japan.
- The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada states the no one really knows how many mothers die during pregnancy or in the months after.

The Hamilton CFUW Club member, Dr. Elizabeth Bagshaw (1881-1982) was one of the Canada's first women doctors and she championed safe pregnancies all her life. Maternal mortality was the second leading cause of death for women of childbearing age during the 1920s and 1930s in Canada. When she established her clinic, Hamilton had one of the highest maternal death rates in Canada. By the end of the clinic's first year the maternal death rate began to drop and in time Hamilton's rate of mortality moved from being the highest to the lowest in any Canadian city.

With that background, CFUW Hamilton, put forward a resolution (paraphrased below) focussed on preventing illness and death in pregnancy and childbearing. Here's the link to the full resolution and rationale... [https://cfuwadmin.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Res-4\\_Maternal-Death\\_Hamilton\\_June-1-23.docx](https://cfuwadmin.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Res-4_Maternal-Death_Hamilton_June-1-23.docx)

RESOLVED, that CFUW urge the federal government to work with the provinces/territories to **establish a model to collect and analyze data about maternal deaths** and close calls AND that CFUW urge the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, along with the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and other relevant groups, **to work together on a comprehensive maternal death prevention strategy.**



As a women's organization this resolution is one UWC applauds. A clearer understanding of the mortality and morbidity associated with pregnancy and childbirth would allow for more targeted interventions. Sharing of information would lead to more effective best practices.

Current Issues and Actions invites you to stand with us and **join us at the club for our next meeting Thursday, February 22, at 1:30** as we continue to do our part to advocate for women.

Shelagh M.



## International Women's Day

Friday, March 8th, 2024

Join us as we welcome Christina MacIsaac, Director of Innovation, Fund for Innovation and Transformation.

Christina will talk with us about Canada's support for innovative development work designed to engage and impact women around the world.



The Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT) is a national pilot program funded by Global Affairs Canada and administered here in Manitoba. FIT supports Canadian organizations and their partners in the Global South who are testing innovative solutions with the aim of advancing gender equality. The presentation will introduce the FIT program but will focus primarily on some of the innovative solutions being supported and how these solutions are improving the lives of women, girls and their communities.

Registration for this event will open closer to March.

Dear Friends,

Announcing the new Website for CFUW!! Take a look to see the new and refreshed site. It will be incorporating more information about CFUW so current and prospective members can see all the wonderful things happening throughout CFUW. It is a work in progress so you will see more and more being added to it over the next few months. Check it out here - [www.cfuw.org](http://www.cfuw.org).

An interesting and timely session that you can sign on to as CFUW members:

- **Housing, a National Crisis: A CFUW Think Tank. Tuesday February 6, 5:00 CST.** We all know that there is a housing crisis in Canada. Let's get together to discuss how CFUW could improve the situation. Find out what is happening federally, provincially with housing initiatives. Let's talk about what is possible collectively. Here is the existing resolution: Approved in 1992.

### **Affordable Housing - 1992, UWC Vancouver**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada to reinstate non-profit, co-operative and affordable housing programs, and to promote and to finance these programs; and

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge all levels of government to co-operate in establishing comprehensive plans for land use, which will guarantee affordable housing within community developments.

Register [here](#).

Best to you all – and hope to see you February 20 – **Continuing Our Conversation** on Allyship, 10:30 am. Lunch to follow.

Mary S.







Let the Ralph Connor House at 54 West Gate be the backdrop to your perfect day. Whatever you're planning, our event specialists will ensure your event exceeds your expectations. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.



Photography by [Serena Friesen Photography](#), styled shoot by [Ann & Co.](#)

# Social Bridge

Social Bridge players met on the 9th and 23rd of January, with more players being available this month.

We will meet on the **13th** and **27th of February**.  
New players are welcome.



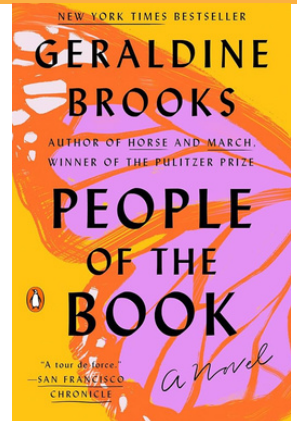
Heather M., Convenor

## Monday Afternoon Book Club

On Monday, **February 5th: Lorraine Y.** will present *People of the Book* by *Geraldine Brooks*.

**Club members are welcome to attend any of our presentations.**

Agnes C., Convenor



## Contemporary Literature Book Club

**Have you ever heard of Pack Horse Librarians?**

**The Giver of Stars** by Jojo Moyes will be reviewed on Tuesday, February 6th. This is a historical fiction based on packhorse librarians in remote areas of Kentucky.

All are welcome to join us. Do not forget to sign up for lunch!

Judy M.





# Writing Group

I hope all of you had a warm and safe Winter Holiday and are inspired with new writing plans and resolutions for another year of writing and reflection.

The group will meet on **Thursday, Feb. 8.**

We enjoy writing together and sharing our ideas on a wide variety of topics. New members are welcome at any time. Coffee and tea will be available.

Laura A.



# Mystery Readers

Mystery Readers will meet on **Wednesday, February 28.** All welcome to join us.

We shall discuss the books of **Daniel Kalla.** Choose one of his many stand-alone thrillers. Each member will have time to present their chosen book. Several of his novels are available in the Winnipeg library.

**Reminder to bring healthy snacks for Mulvey School.**

Dianne S., Convenor



# Mahjong

Mahjong meets twice a month (with some exceptions) from September until June.

In February they will meet on the **2nd, 16th, and 27th.**

Agnes C., Convener



Our next Scrabble & Babble game is on **Wednesday, February 21st.**

Hope to see you there!

Dianne B., Convenor



# Sunroom Group

Good bye January - and welcome to a milder month we hope. The ladies of the Sun Room are appreciating the warmth of old friendships as the winter grinds by.

We are hoping to welcome some new members to our group so drop in any Thursday afternoon for laughter and shared anecdotes. See you in the Sun Room.

Irene L.

## Out to Lunch Group

P.F. CHANG'S

Our next Out to Lunch is on Wednesday, **February 7th** at **P. F. Chang's**, 865 St. James Street (Plaza at Polo Park). You can check out their menu at [pfchangs.ca](https://pfchangs.ca). There is lots of parking available.

Hope you can join us - **RSVP by February 5th.**

Dianne B.  
Convenor

## 2024 Calendar Collection

Eleanor Stardom, who spearheads the collecting of calendars for numerous hospitals, sends a thank you to everyone who contributed calendars this past year. This year the total count collected was exactly 500 calendars. They were divided among Deer Lodge Centre, The Victoria Hospital, and the Misericordia Hospital. As in past years, the hospitals send their sincere appreciation for all these calendars, which make the patients' rooms cheerier.

**The calendars do make a difference!**



June D. and Dianne B.

# February Menus

All Tuesday lunches are \$23.00. The cash bar opens at 11:30 and lunch is served at noon. Dinners are \$35, with the cash bar opening at 5:00 and dinner at 6:00. Meal costs include buns, coffee/ tea, taxes, and gratuity.

Reservations are a must and should be made at least 48 hours in advance by signing up at UWC, by phone, or by email. **Cancellations require 24 hours notice to avoid penalty.** Menu substitutions are available if requested in advance.

## February Tuesday Lunches

- Feb. 6th Rueben sandwich, French Fries, Ice Cream and Cookie
- 13th Pasta Primavera with Chicken and Vegetables, Garlic Toast, Blueberry Square - **Invite your Valentine to Ralph Connor House!**
- 20th Pickerel Almandine, Baby Potatoes, Orange-Glazed Carrots, Pound Cake with Lemon Sauce - **Come at 10:30 for the Conversation Circle**
- 27th Quiche with Swiss Cheese and Spinach, Strawberry Almond Salad, Brownie with Whipped Cream

## Program Lunch - \$25 (Includes chocolate samples)

Friday, Feb. 9th Sweet Potato and Vegetable Soup, Assorted Sandwiches, Lemon Square.

**Reservations are required for all meals** and can be made by signing up at 54 West Gate or contacting [uwc@mymts.net](mailto:uwc@mymts.net) or 204-954-7880. Menu substitutions are available if requested in advance. **Please indicate any special preferences (seating, parking, etc.) at the time of registration.**

Ellen P.

# FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>What could we accomplish if we knew we could not fail? - Eleanor Roosevelt</b>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outside Booking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday Afternoon Book Club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archives</li> <li>11:30 - Club Lunch</li> <li>Contemporary Literature Book Club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Out to Lunch at P.F. Changs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing Group</li> <li>Sun Room Group</li> <li>Outside Booking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mahjong</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outside Booking</li> </ul>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UWC Winter Birthday Celebration!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Living History Committee Meeting</li> <li>Membership / Communications Mtg</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fundraising Committee (tent.)</li> <li>11:30 - Club Lunch</li> <li>Social Bridge</li> <li>Program Committee Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Living History Tour</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finance Committee Meeting</li> <li>Sun Room Group</li> <li>Outside Booking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mahjong</li> </ul>	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	<b>Club Closed</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30 - Conversation Circle</li> <li>11:30 - Club Lunch</li> <li>Board Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrabble and Babble</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archives</li> <li>Sun Room Group</li> <li>Current Issues &amp; Actions</li> </ul>	<b>Club Closed</b>	
25	26	27	28	29	<b>Love is something eternal; the aspect may change, but not the essence. - Vincent Van Gogh</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:30 - Week 1: How to Watch Movies, with Allison Gilmor</li> </ul>	<b>Club Closed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mahjong</li> <li>11:30 - Club Lunch</li> <li>Social Bridge</li> <li>Food Services Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mystery Readers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sun Room Group</li> </ul>		