

BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2026



Become a UWC Member

Now is the perfect time to join UWC! For just \$100, enjoy an exclusive *Introductory Year* membership packed with incredible benefits. Don't miss out—unlock new opportunities, connect with a thriving community, and make the most of everything UWC has to offer!



Exclusive rental discounts
at the historic Ralph
Connor House



Members-only programs
designed to inspire and
engage



Access to continuing
education courses to
expand your knowledge

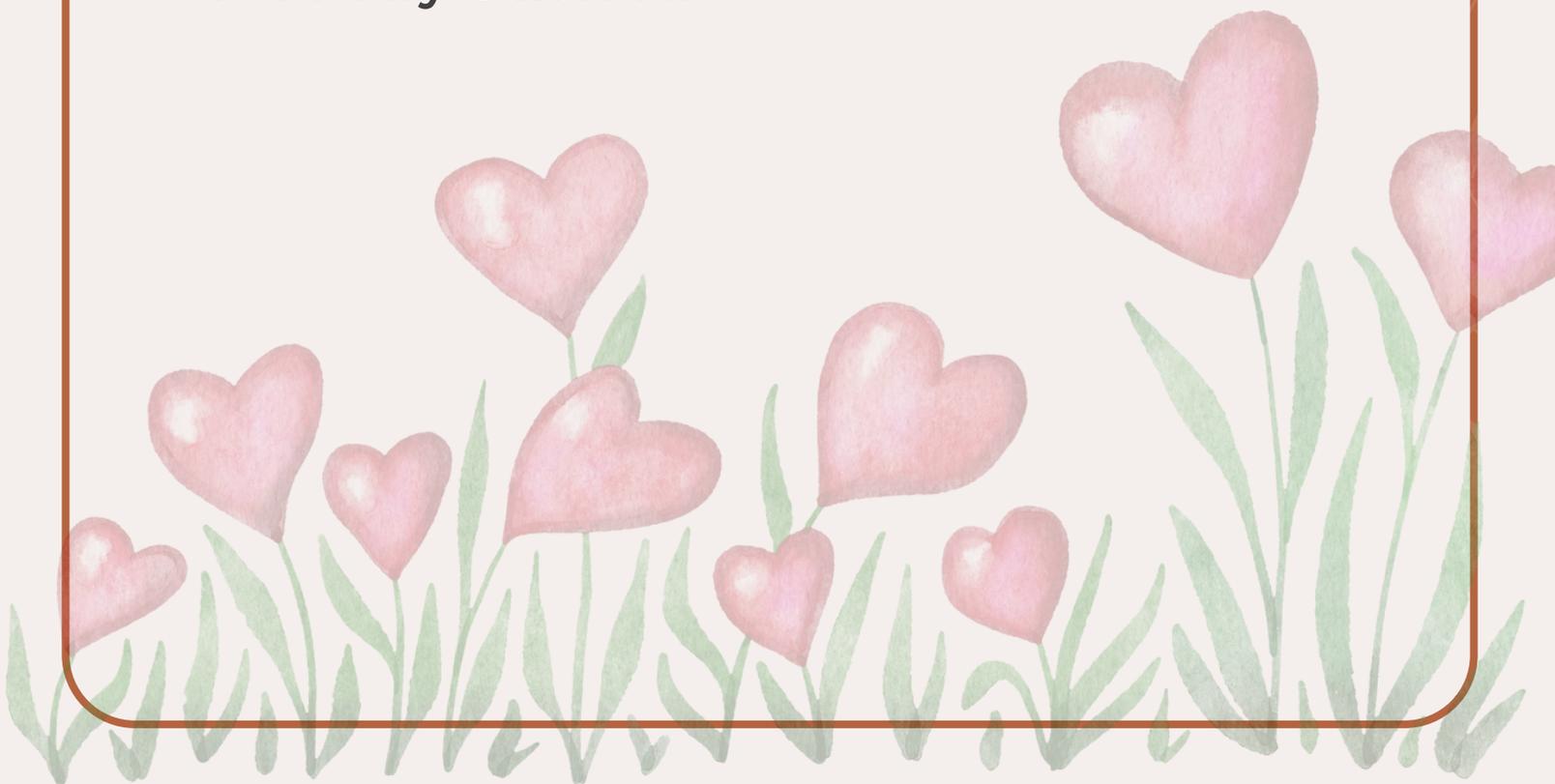


Vibrant social groups
catering to a variety of
interests and passions

Check out our website at www.uwcwpgmb.com for more details. You may also download the application form [here](#) or email uwcmember@mymts.net.

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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Those cold winter January days are behind us. Why not spend some time at the club enjoying some of the many February events outlined in this bulletin?

Here's just a sampling of club happenings.

Music historian John Einarson continues to entertain for two more Sunday afternoons at our Continuing Education course.

Our February 13th program lunch features three of our very own member authors who discuss their authoring journeys.

February 13th also kicks off our "Show your Love for the Club" fundraising project. Stay tuned for all the details.

What is bioscience anyway? On February 25th, Andrea Ladouceur, President & CEO of the Bioscience Association of Manitoba explains what goes on in this industry that employs over 14,000 employees!

Check out the club calendar for all these events. And remember — the ongoing book clubs, scrabble, bridge, and mahjong are open to all so feel free to sample and explore!

UWC Activity Groups

CONTEMPORARY

LITERATURE BOOK CLUB

On Tuesday, February 3, we will be discussing Mary Lawson's book, A TOWN CALLED SOLACE. If possible, come for lunch and then at 1:00 pm for discussion of the book.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

We meet the second Wednesday of the month from October to June, excluding January, from 1p.m. until 3p.m.

Feb. 11: Anne Dunlop will present Bookworm: A Memoir of Childhood Reading by Lucy Mangan. Club members are welcome to join us for any of the presentations.

SUNROOM GROUP

Hello everyone, I hope you are all keeping cozy and warm on these chilly winter days! Come and join us in the Sunroom on Thursday afternoons at 1:15. Enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea and delicious cookies, along with lots of laughter and interesting stories. Everyone is welcome- so come and join us for a fun afternoon! We look forward to seeing you there! 😊

WRITING GROUP

The Writing Group will meet next on Thurs. Feb. 19th at 1 pm. We are always glad to get together because we enjoy each other's company. But we will soon get down to work writing a rough first draft in response to a set topic. This experiment in not-quite-free writing always throws up a few surprises and shows us once again the incredible fertility of the human imagination. We have no shortage of things to talk about as we share our writings and plan how to use our insights in future projects.

MAHJONG

We meet the first and third Tuesday of the month from 10a.m. until noon. In February we will meet on the 3rd and 17th.

MYSTERY READERS

Mystery Readers will meet on Feb. 25, 2026 at 1 p.m. We will discuss "The Safe Place" by Anna Downs. All welcome.

SCRABBLE N' BABBLE

Wednesday, February 25th at 10 a.m.
Hope to see you there!

SOCIAL BRIDGE

Our Social Bridge group happily welcomed a new player in January. We enjoy receiving new members, and are willing to coach beginners and returning players. We play on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of each month, starting at 1:00 p.m., and finishing around 3:00 p.m. In February we will meet on the 10th and the 24th. Members who are interested are welcome to come and observe.

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

THE OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH invites you to join us at: Food Culture Ukrainian Restaurant & Bar
At 645 Sterling Lyon Pkway
Friday, February 27 at 11:30 am.
To reserve your spot, please RSVP to Carolynne Presser, Co-Convenor
by Monday, February 23
Need a ride? Let us know!



PROGRAM

Thanks to Judy Stupak, who started off our year engagingly, speaking about her life and book, *From Mennonite to Mainstream: Abandoning the Old Colony and Growing Up in Rural Canada*.

And please mark your calendars for the following programs:

- February 13 lunch - Writing from the Heart, with three of our member authors: June Dutka, Juanita Giesbrecht, and Sharon Hamilton. See more information in the poster.
- February 25 dinner - Andrea Ladouceur, with interesting and probably surprising info about the bioscience sector in Manitoba. Andrea is President and CEO, Bioscience Association Manitoba. See more information in the poster.
- March 6 lunch celebrating International Women's Day - Katrina Leclerc, U of W, Feminist Peacebuilding
- March 24 lunch - Dr. Kim Wiebe, Medical Director, MAID in Manitoba
- April 10 lunch - Balmoral Hall Vocal Jazz / Bellringers group
- April 22 dinner - program tbd
- May 14 afternoon, dinner, and evening - The Inequality Virus: Impacts and Antidotes with Senator Marilou McPhedran, Mary Scott, and others.

UWC - ENGAGE PROGRAM & LUNCH

Writing from the Heart



Date: February 13, 2026

Bar Open: 11:30PM

Lunch: 12:00PM

Presentation to follow.

Menu

Chicken mushroom crepes, tossed green salad vinaigrette, chocolate cupcakes

Cost \$25

What are you passionate about? As we near Valentine's Day, we will talk with three of our club members about something important to them. All are keen writers.

Please join us when June Dutka, Juanita Giesbrecht, and Sharon Hamilton talk about why, what, and how they write.

June, a native Winnipegger, reinvented herself at retirement! Librarian Emeritus and author of two books, her research and writings focus on topics affiliated with the Ukrainian community and the city's North End. Her interest in travel, theatre, music, and reading provide her with a life of gratitude and contentment.

Juanita was born in Norway House, spoke Cree as a child, and lived in Manitoba, Ontario, and New Brunswick growing up. She has a couple of degrees, is married, has two sons, and now two grands.

Juanita's career has evolved from social worker to employment counsellor to adult educator and now happily retired.

Sharon grew up in St. Vital, began her teaching career in a one-room eight-grade schoolhouse near St. Adolphe, and ended it as Chancellor's Professor Emerita and Associate Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Indiana University. She has authored five novels, a memoir, and two plays. In her spare time, she walks in the neighbourhood with her two shelties, Seamus and Drummond. Sharon will have some of her books available for \$15, and donate \$5 of each to our Scholarship Fund.



Register ASAP and by noon, Wednesday, February 11th online, by emailing uwc@mymts.net, calling 204-954-7880, or in person. We accept e-transfer to uwcfin@mymts.net, cheque, cash, and card.

UWC - ENGAGE Program & Dinner

Manitoba's Amazing Bioscience Sector

Did you know that Bioscience, also known as life sciences, is one of the top five sectors in Manitoba, generating more than 10.4 billion in revenue and 5.6 billion towards our provincial GDP?

Medicaments, or general medicines, are a key part of the bioscience sector and are Manitoba's top export. We are the second largest province for pharmaceutical manufacturing.

This program will give you an inside look on Canada and Manitoba's innovation in healthcare and how we compare to care around the world. We will look at how we build better healthcare for all through innovation and collaboration (and tackling hard things).

Andrea Ladouceur is an innate leader who pairs innovation, finance, systems, government, and markets to map pathways for growth.



**Andrea Ladouceur,
President and CEO,
Bioscience Association
of Manitoba (BAM)**

Date: February 25, 2026
Bar Open: 5:30PM
Dinner: 6:00PM
Presentation to follow.

Chicken breast stuffed with apricots and pine nuts, pear
William potatoes, mixed corn and red peppers, spinach
salad, and blueberry square

Menu
Cost \$35

Register ASAP and by noon, Monday, February 23rd online, by emailing uwc@mymts.net, calling 204-954-7880, or in person. We accept e-transfer to uwcfm@mymts.net, cheque, cash, and card.

CIA

Peace Initiative

Ros Howard of Program Committee confirmed that the guest speaker for International Women's Day will be Katrina LeClerc, Chair of the Canadian Women, Peace and Security committee. We believe that highlighting Peace may be a way of raising the profile of the advocacy work that UWC does. Please join us for this speaker.

Housing

One of the resolutions adopted at last year's CFUW AGM was on the right to affordable housing. We have been looking at the Winnipeg/Manitoba situation and at our last meeting Kirsten Bernas from The Right to Housing Coalition spoke to us about their work. She is the Director of Policy Advocacy at the West Central Women's Resource Centre and chairs the Provincial Working Group of the Right to Housing Coalition and helps coordinate the national Social Housing and Human Rights Coalition. More info on the coalitions can be found at www.righttohousing.ca and www.moresocialhousing.ca We were very impressed with the work of the coalition, particularly their approach which was respectful, nonpartisan, evidence based and backed by research. We are exploring ways that UWC can be supportive of their work. We want to thank the members who joined us for this very informative session.

Building Awareness

We have had a discussion with the Communications and Marketing folks, and they are building the new website. It will have a section on Advocacy, and they assure us that things like the excellent paper that Debbie McKenzie has just done for us on the analysis of the housing issue in Winnipeg/Manitoba could go on this site. Please keep tuned for more information on this initiative. But one of the things that we are very aware of is that there are MANY issues that cry for our attention. We will share our actions with you over the coming months but there are three issues about which we are asking Club members to be vigilant:

Abortion rights – the issue raised by Dr. Jen Gunter who flags the potential of Abortion Rights in Canada being under attack given what has happened (so rapidly) in the United States with the overturn of Roe v Wade. She warns that Forced-Birth groups are testing their strategies.

Protection of children - the Free Press story of the young woman who simply was not believed when she identified her abuse by a trusted adult and the reporting on classroom/teacher issues with children and abuse continue to raise concern.

These areas are VERY complex issues, and we struggle with the best approach BUT we all agree that they are egregious and are seeking to identify actions that are appropriate for the Club.

The unthinkable situation(s) that international children are facing. One facet that has grabbed our concern is the fate of 35,000+ children that have been kidnapped from the Ukraine and taken to Russia and Belarus, presumably for indoctrination and as potential child soldiers.

These children, victims of genocide, must not be forgotten. (UN definition of genocide (<https://www.un.org/en/genocide-prevention/definition>)). We have recommended a speaker to the Program committee.

EVENTS

Thanks for your patience and understanding during the January 20th club closure. This season won't air for awhile, but check out Season One which also had scenes filmed in the house!



**ANCIENT BODIES:
SECRETS REVEALED**

FRCH

Hello Everyone

This New Year has been a busy one for FRCH so far. We are working on several Grant submissions for the many upcoming projects in 2026. The first, a Provincial Grant - Manitoba Sports, Culture, Heritage and Tourism - Heritage Resources Conservation Grant, has now been submitted. We will be notified sometime in April as to whether our application has been approved. The second - Federal - National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places is in the process of being completed for submission. And the third - The Winnipeg Foundation - this is also in the process of being completed for submission. A big "Thank You" to Board Member Mark Ranson for his tireless work on these grants, and Janice MacDonald for supplying all the required paperwork for each application.

We are so pleased to see our Living History Program - School Tours having bookings for 2026. We have four bookings so far, with a fifth in the works.

There is a Performers meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 29 at 11:00 - if you would like more information on what is involved in being a performer please join us on the 29th. It really is such a wonderful experience interacting with the students during the tours!!

Thank you, take good care, stay warm 🥰

Your Friends of The Ralph Connor House Inc. Board of Directors



LIVING HISTORY SCHOOL TOURS

Have you wondered what it would have been like to live at 54 West Gate? While Ralph Connor House is now our beloved UWC clubhouse, it was also the Gordon family home during many historical events.

Our school tours take students through a day in the home as it would have been in 1917. They learn about how women's roles and daily lives changed due to the war. As they progress through the rooms they will meet Helen Gordon, Mrs. Ledger (cook), house staff, and visiting ladies helping in the war effort.

It is a great way to learn about the history of the house while also creating an interactive and memorable experience for students!



"The women who volunteer at the Ralph Connor House (University Women's Club) deliver an informative field trip that transports my students back to World War One. As a Grade 6 teacher, I appreciate the hands-on approach to learning to bake with rationed foods. My students enjoy playing with the wooden toys and learning the importance of rolling a Red Cross bandage the right way. Getting to feel the knitted socks and seeing the other primary sources makes this field trip one of my favourites! I recommend this field trip to any educator who wants to raise awareness of the value of women's work on the war front."

- Mme C. Lothian

Grade 6 Social Studies Teacher, École John Henderson School

In Memoriam



Johanna Gudrun Wilson (née Skaptason)

November 15, 1919 – January 2, 2026

Johanna (Jo) Wilson passed on January 2, 2026 at the age of 106.

She joined the University Women's Club of Winnipeg in 1946 shortly after graduating from the University of Manitoba with a degree in Home Economics. Thus Jo was a member of UWCW for 80 years making her our longest active member and the longest member of CFUW. In 2019 when CFUW was hosted by UWC for the 100th anniversary of the national organization, Jo, at 100 years of age spoke at the anniversary dinner. Those of us who attended the November birthday celebration of 2024 had the delight of meeting and talking with Jo. As a younger member, Jo and her husband Frank, encouraged and taught the bridge groups that continue in the Club and encouraged the use of the house by various Icelandic organizations, including the annual Fjalkona celebratory lunch which she attended again this past fall. She has been an inspiration and living proof of the longevity afforded those who are members of women's groups.. She will live on in our memories.

Anna Birgis

Anna Birgis passed away on September 27, 2025 in Reykjavik.

Iceland. She was an Honorary member of the University Women's Club of Winnipeg for the time her husband was Icelandic Consul in Winnipeg. She organized a wonderful tour of Iceland in 2015 celebrating 100 years of women in Iceland and some in Manitoba receiving the voting franchise. Again in 2018 she assisted with a second more extensive tour of Iceland for another Club organized group. She gave to the Club through programs and participation in events.

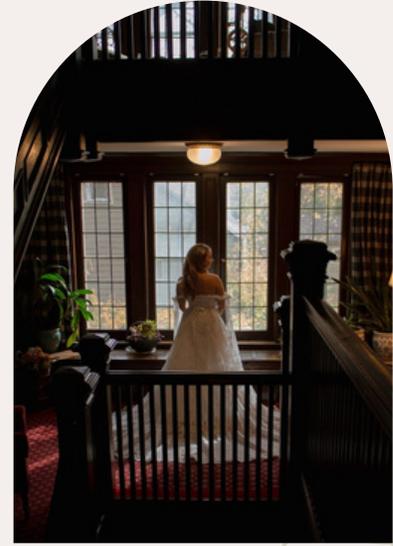




RALPH CONNOR HOUSE

Nestled in the heart of Winnipeg, this stunning heritage venue offers a romantic backdrop with its grand architecture, vintage details, and beautifully manicured gardens. Whether you're planning a cozy gathering or a lavish affair, Ralph Connor House provides a warm and sophisticated atmosphere that feels both exclusive and welcoming. Imagine exchanging vows in a sunlit room filled with character, toasting with loved ones in an elegant setting, and capturing timeless photos in a space steeped in history.

Let this enchanting venue be the start of your forever story.



Ralph Connor House isn't just for weddings—we're the perfect venue for all your special celebrations! From birthday parties and bridal or baby showers to anniversaries and corporate gatherings, our elegant and historic setting provides the ideal backdrop for unforgettable moments. Plus, we offer vendor recommendations to help bring your vision to life. Reach out today to learn more about our rental options and start planning your perfect event!



uwcevents@mymts.net

CALL US FOR MORE INFO



<https://www.uwcwpgmb.com/venue-booking/>



(204) 954-7880



UNIVERSITY
WOMEN'S
CLUB

2026

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 1:30 Continuing Education	2 UWC is Closed	3 10:00 Mahjong 11:30 Club Bar & Lunch 1:00 Contemporary Book Club 1:15 Food Services Committee Meeting	4	5 10:00 Scholarship Committee Meeting 11:00 Archives Committee Meeting 1:15 Sunroom 1:30 Nominating Committee Meeting	6 UWC is Closed	7 UWC is Closed
8 1:30 Continuing Education	9 UWC is Closed	10 11:30 Club Bar & Lunch 1:00 Social Bridge	11 1:00 Wednesday Book Club	12 10:00 House & Grounds Committee Meeting 1:00 Finance Meeting 1:15 Sunroom Group	13 11:30 Program Lunch & Speaker	14 UWC is Closed <i>HAPPY Valentines DAY</i>
15 UWC is Closed	16 UWC is Closed 	17 10:00 Mahjong 10:30 Program Committee Meeting 11:30 Club Bar & Lunch 1:15 Board Meeting	18 1:30 CIA Committee Meeting	19 1:00 Writing Group 1:15 Sunroom Group	20 UWC is Closed	21 UWC is Closed
22 1:30 Winter Membership Birthday Celebration	23 UWC is Closed	24 11:30 Club Bar & Lunch 1:00 Social Bridge	25 10:00 Scrabble & Babble 1:00 Mystery Readers 5:00 Program Dinner and Speaker	26 1:15 Sunroom Group 2:30 FRCH Board Meeting	27 UWC is Closed	28 UWC is Closed

