



## *Message from the President. . .*

Happy Spring...although it isn't really much different from Feb these days you can surely expect some warmer weather soon.

We planned to do our Euchre fundraiser on April 8<sup>th</sup> this year but there has been very little response to my email poll sent out last week. Some members are travelling or have other commitments but I only had one person email me that they were coming. Louise S. (Fundraising coordinator and host) and I have come to the decision to cancel this event.

We still need to deal with the fundraising for this year's scholarships. I don't have the exact number we have so far and Dorothy is one of those that are travelling at the moment. I will put this issue on the agenda for this month's meeting so bring ideas with you.

One option would be to simply do direct donations. For instance, at Euchre we were spending \$15 on admission and then volunteering to donate snacks, drinks and prizes. One could easily have spent \$30 on that evening. If we aren't going to get any outside people to participate then it would be more beneficial to the scholarship bottom line to donate the total directly.

On a lighter note, we will also be discussing the executive slate. If you feel more comfortable emailing me your thoughts ahead of time that's fine too. We must at least have a Vice President next year. If you want to jump to President, that's a possibility too. Please consider this opportunity to enjoy your club from a different angle. There may be other opportunities if one were to have a particular interest.

There's lots of food for thought this month, see you soon!



## **Next General Meeting**

**Thursday,  
April 6, 2017**

**"Special Olympics"**



**Speaker: Ryan Colpitts**

**Meeting Location:**

**Scientists in School  
Offices,  
975 Dillingham Rd, Unit 2,  
Pickering**

**Meeting Time: 7:00 p.m.**

*Business meeting begins at 7 pm.*



## Minutes of General Meeting Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Since the meeting this month was resolutions, no minutes were taken. Two resolutions and two amendments were voted on with the following results:

Resolution #1 (Safe Water), Motioned by Carolyn, seconded by Agnes passed unanimously

Resolution #2 (Universal Pharmacare), Motioned by Marcy, seconded by Dorothy passed unanimously

Amendment #1 (Regional Director's group) passed unanimously

Amendment #2  
a (GWI membership) passed with 1 against and 1 abstention  
b (dues increase ) did not pass, unanimously

## Dates and Data

### CFUW Websites:

Main website: <http://www.cfuw.org>  
Ontario Council Website: <http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/>

### CFUW on Facebook

CFUW has a Facebook group! If you are a Facebook user you can join the group by searching for Canadian Federation of University Women, or visit <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2232370205>

### Ajax-Pickering on Facebook:

Our club now has its own Facebook page. You do not have to have a Facebook account to view this page. Simply Google Ajax-Pickering CFUW Facebook page or click on the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/CFUWAjaxPickering?ref=stream>

### Ajax-Pickering on Twitter: Use @CFUWajax

The Ontario Council newsletter, **Dates and Data**, is available on-line on the Ontario Council website. **The Communicator** newsletter is available on-line on the main website.

## CFUW News and Events

### Ontario Council AGM and Conference

CFUW Ontario Council 2017 Annual  
General Meeting and Conference  
May 12 and May 13, 2017  
Festival Inn, 1144 Ontario St,  
Stratford, ON

The  
Transformative Power of  
the Arts

Friday evening: Leadership Workshop & Welcome  
Reception

Saturday: Ontario Council AGM & Conference  
Keynote Speaker: Anita Gaffney  
Executive Director, Stratford Festival

Hosted by: C.F.U.W. Stratford Club  
[www.cfuwstratford.wordpress.com](http://www.cfuwstratford.wordpress.com)  
Email: [cfuwstratfordontariocouncilagm@gmail.com](mailto:cfuwstratfordontariocouncilagm@gmail.com)

Canadian Federation of University Women  
ONTARIO COUNCIL

May 12 - 13, 2017 in Stratford Ontario  
**"THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE  
ARTS"**  
Experience 'Stratford on the Avon' where  
Shakespeare Comes Alive!  
**REGISTRATION FORM HERE**  
**REGISTRATION INFORMATION HERE**  
**Key Note Speaker and Workshops HERE**



## Interest Groups

### Book Club

Book Club is open to all, and all are welcome!

The April Book Club meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm at Erica B's. The book is **The Thirteenth Tale** by *Diana Sellarfield*. Please contact Erica at 905 686-2690 to confirm attendance.



### This Month's Speaker



Ryan Colpitts is a 26 year old student at Durham College in the Sport Business Management program. When he was a child, he was diagnosed with an intellectual disability

(Asperger's). His connection with Special Olympics has been going 10 years strong, heading into its 11<sup>th</sup> season this summer. Ryan is an athlete with Special Olympics and participates in softball and basketball. In his 11 years with the program, he has been to a total of 5 provincial games (1 this upcoming summer in Peel) and 1 national games. In those, he has won 3 Golds (2012, 2012, 2016 Provincials), 1 Silver (2008 Provincials), and 1 Bronze (2014 Nationals). When training or playing in Special Olympics, he keeps active playing tennis and ball hockey. He also enjoys going to sporting events, hanging out with friends, and relaxing by the lake. He looks forward to meeting new people and sharing his story with the hopes of inspiring the next generation of youth as well as others who want to get involved.



### Update from Ontario Council March 25th Meeting

#### Advocacy Session

Representatives from CFUW attended the opening session of the 2016 United Nations in New York City last fall. The main priority theme being addressed by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women was Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work. Included in this overall theme was the issue of mentorship. One of the main United Nations agencies UNESCO also has a CFUW representative on its committee and CFUW is granted consultative status. The CFUW delegation explained the process of how a draft report is established followed by a written and oral statement. There is then established agreed upon conclusions. They explained the process of consulting with other NGOs as well as the Canadian government delegation, which was also in attendance during the opening week. The CFUW representatives did prepare a written as well as oral statement. They also explained the importance of representing an organization seen as credible which CFUW is among various government and non-government organizations. The Canadian government delegation also expressed their respect for CFUW and the work we do. The CFUW delegation expressed their belief in the importance of our input into the adoption of a resolution on the issues of women's empowerment in the changing world of work. It was a very interesting session and showed how our influence as a national organization plays out in an international forum. Next years theme is "Aboriginal and Rural women".

*Submitted by Marcy R.*





## Food for Thought...

The following articles have been included in the newsletter for the interest of club members. The first two are opinion articles with some very interesting points on current topics affecting young girls. The third article celebrates the work of a well-known British suffragette.

### 'Girls in STEM' culture is failing both girls and STEM

By Cleoniki Kesidis

Source: *The Toronto Star*  
Thurs., March 23, 2017



Growing up, I increasingly saw my good grades as a trap locking me into a single career: STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). It felt like a dystopian YA novel, and my high school report card was *The Choosing*. A's in math and science? Here are your jeans and sweatshirt.

Well-meaning people lied to me. They said computer science was a great work-from-home career if I wanted children (when in fact a majority of women quit STEM because the culture of poor work-life balance makes it too difficult to raise a family), that STEM careers are secure (actually the industry has frequent layoffs and is very competitive), and more.

The Girls in STEM culture guilted me. The statistics on girls who "stop liking math" and women who quit STEM were cited to me as tragedies (even though changing careers is increasingly normal). I was unsure of what I wanted, scared of unemployment, and vulnerable.

I suffered four miserable years of a bachelor's degree in computer science and another year in a

*The movement should focus on fixing the issues that make women quit — by changing workplace culture and policies and by training and supporting women already in the field — instead of recruiting more girls.*

*"Some try to fix ... problems by pressuring girls into STEM by any means," writes Cleoniki Kesidis.*

*"Lying, for example, is so accepted that one author begins an article by saying outright that she's going to lie to a bunch of Girl Scouts*

big STEM corporation before I found the courage to quit. Now I wake up every day grateful that I got out.

Unfortunately, the impact of those years will not disappear. By quitting STEM, I became another statistic and another bad example that women who do truly love STEM have to live down. When the Girls in STEM culture pressures girls into careers they don't want, they make it more difficult for women who want to pursue STEM to succeed.

Even more importantly, recruiting girls leaves less time to solve serious problems in the industry. Sexual harassment remains common. Gender bias causes managers to consider women less qualified for STEM jobs, contributing to the "glass ceiling" that prevents women from advancing. Statistics Canada reported that men with STEM degrees have lower unemployment and higher wages than men in other fields, but there is no significant difference between women in or out of STEM.

Research has found that increased parental leave results in more women staying in the field, but women who take parental leave are seen as less committed, face pressure to work more, and feel penalized. Social isolation and a workaholic culture all contribute to keeping the number of women in STEM low.

Meanwhile, our workforce needs more engineers and gender diversity increases companies' success. Girls and women interested in STEM need support, but the Girls in STEM culture isn't helping.

Some try to fix these problems by pressuring girls into STEM by any means. Lying, for example, is so accepted that one author begins an article by saying outright that she's going to lie to a bunch of Girl Scouts that they can do anything in STEM, even though she knows women face career-stunting obstacles in the field.

Added to the lies is the guilt: even as adults, many women report feeling that they represent all women and are failing their gender if they change careers. The people running Girls in STEM events are well-intentioned, but they could support girls who love engineering without guilt tripping or deceiving girls who don't.

Some might argue that it doesn't matter that some girls feel coerced if the overall result is more women in STEM. But evangelizing STEM won't increase the percentage of women because the lack of women in STEM isn't a pipeline problem.

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The percentage of women is low because too many leave, not because too few enter. Unlike me, most of these women truly do want STEM careers but quit for reasons ranging from discrimination to maternity leave policy.

Pouring more girls into this broken system is as useless as pouring water into a leaky bucket. Increased numbers of women could solve some of the problems, but that critical mass can't be reached if women keep quitting at this rate.

The Girls in STEM movement should focus on fixing the issues that make women quit — by changing workplace culture and policies and by training and supporting women already in the field — instead of recruiting more girls.

It's unfair to encourage girls to enter a field many grown women find unbearable.

In this situation, the best thing for girls is also the best thing for STEM. But even if it wasn't, our moral obligation to girls is clear. It is just as wrong to tell girls to do STEM because they were born with a certain kind of brain as it would be to tell them to have babies because they were born with ovaries. Feminists should encourage girls to pursue goals based on their dreams, not their abilities.

*Cleoniki Kesidis recently left a career in computer science to pursue a Master's degree in another field. She lives in Ottawa.*

## Teens Ask, Where Are the Girls with Disabilities in Pop Culture?

By: Emily Flores

Source: <http://womensenews.org/>

AUSTIN, Texas (WOMENSENEWS)—Being a teen girl with a disability is definitely not easy. While I get to deal with hormonal outbursts and teen drama, I also have to deal with the nice plate of ableism that's handed to me every day.

So, what do I do to escape these annoyances in my life? I turn on the TV and allow myself to laugh at other people's problems and not mine. However, as I binge watch entire seasons, I don't laugh, I don't cry and I don't smile. Not even when I'm watching "Speechless," the sitcom centered around a disabled teenage boy. For years I watched TV like this, until I wondered, "What if I saw a disabled girl on my television screen, just like me?"

Kaliane Faye had the same feeling. As a 19-year-old with a disability she is familiar with feeling isolated from pop culture. "I don't think it affected me in a noticeable way until I was older and looking back on it," she said from her home in Arizona. Faye has cytomegalovirus, a virus she contracted at birth that limits her physical abilities. "The fact that there wasn't anyone to refer to was frustrating and it actually wasn't until I read 'The Fault In Our Stars' that I realized how nice it was to have someone to even vaguely identify with." This book, published in 2012, was the only one at the time to have a lead character, Hazel Grace, with a disability. While it was nice to have a literary representation of girls like me and Faye, it was clear to Faye that Hazel wasn't as authentic as she could be because the book's author, John Green, is an abled bodied man. It wasn't until Faye was a high school senior that she realized she "went a really long time without being properly represented in literature or anything else," she said over GroupMe.

### Actresses Face Hurdles

One reason there may be a lack of this representation could be because of the hurdles actresses with disabilities face in getting work.

Virali Modi, a Mumbai-based blogger and actress who uses a wheelchair, has become a victim of ableism in the acting industry. "I've applied for many acting gigs, sending in my portfolio via email or meeting with casting directors/agents. I've always had the same response, 'you're beautiful and you have the talent — but we can't hire you because you're not walking. Start walking and you have a job available,'" she said over Facebook.

Women getting denied work just because of their physical limitations is unfortunately very common. Of the nearly 2.5 percent of characters with disabilities portrayed in the media, 81 percent were played by males with disabilities, and only 19 percent by women with disabilities, according to a 2016 report by the University of Southern California, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

However, there is still another factor that greatly limits an actress with a disability from getting work — the impossible beauty standards set by society, said Emily Ladau, a disability rights activist based in New York.

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She said these actresses have to deal with a “double whammy” in the industry, meaning that these women not only encounter ableism, but must also be sure they meet the standard of what a “pretty disabled woman” is supposed to look like.

“When it comes down to having to meet appearance standards and standards of looking ‘too disabled,’ that really tends to work against women with disabilities,” Ladau said in a phone interview.

### Stereotypes and Misconceptions

The spectrum of common stereotypes towards women with disabilities is indeed broad. But, there’s one specific misconception that gets tiring to hear after a while, and that is women with disabilities are sexless human beings.

While I’m still a teen and learning about my sexuality, I know that at my 14 years of being on this planet that I am not an abnormal sexual being. And neither are the rest of the disabled teen girls and women that I know.

Storme Toolis is a U.K.-based actress who is very familiar with these misconceptions and has been challenging these stereotypes in the media. Toolis, who has cerebral palsy, has done several projects challenging the “undesirable” taboo. One of her most recent projects was the Maltesers commercial, which premiered in the U.K. in fall 2016. The commercial portrayed Toolis and her disability in a way that is humorous and unexpectedly raunchy.

“I think when you have a disability and you’re a female you have to fight to be glamorous. I really wanted to play sexy, I want to be provocative in the work I do, which is why I succeeded so well at the Maltesers commercial,” she said in an email interview.

More strong women like Toolis need to be embraced in the pop culture world so more disabled teen girls like me can live with the comfort of knowing we’re being heard and represented. As Ladau said, “Inclusivity is not that hard to do. Hollywood needs to stop resisting.”

*This story is part of Teen Voices at Women's eNews. In 2013 Women's eNews retained the 25-year-old magazine Teen Voices to continue and further its mission to improve the world for female teens through media. Teen Voices at Women's eNews provides online stories and commentary about issues directly affecting female teens around the world, serving as an outlet for young women to share their experiences and views.*

## Millicent Fawcett Is First Woman to Get Statue in London's Parliament Square

By [STEVEN ERLANGER](#)

Source: *NY Times*, APRIL 2, 2017

LONDON — Britain, which has its second female prime minister and a queen who is the world’s longest-reigning monarch, is getting its first statue of a woman in Parliament Square in London, where there are 11 statues of men. Prime Minister Theresa May announced on Sunday that Millicent Garrett Fawcett, who campaigned for the right of women to vote, will be honored with a statue to stand in the company of Winston Churchill, Abraham Lincoln and Nelson Mandela. Mrs. Fawcett formed the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies in 1897 and died at 82 in 1929, a year after all women in Britain won the right to vote.



Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. May said, “continues to inspire the battle against the injustices of today.” She added: “It is right and proper that she is honored in Parliament Square alongside former leaders who changed our country. Her statue will stand as a reminder of how politics only has value if it works for everyone in society.”

The statue will be paid for from a 5 million pound fund announced in this year’s spring budget to celebrate next year’s centenary of the first British women to get the vote.

Mrs. Fawcett considered herself a suffragist, a moderate opposed to the sometimes violent protests of campaigners like Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst, a mother and daughter who were known as suffragettes.

Caroline Criado-Perez, who started a petition campaign for a suffrage statute in London, praised the choice of Mrs. Fawcett and thanked supporters. Writing on Twitter, Ms. Criado-Perez said: “Delighted with such a decisive response” from Mrs. May. “Huge thank you to everyone who supported the campaign from the beginning,” including Mayor Sadiq Khan of London.

Mrs. Fawcett inspired a women’s rights charity, the Fawcett Society. Its chief executive, Sam Smethers, said of plans for a statue in her honor: “Her contribution was great, but she has been overlooked and unrecognized until now. By honoring her, we also honor the wider suffrage movement.”

**Newsletter Deadline**

Information for the April newsletter should be submitted by **Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**. Submissions can be mailed, dropped off, or sent via e-mail (sbriell@bell.net). Contact Sandy at 905 428-0003 for further information.

**Note from the Editor**

*The Grapevine* is available in both electronic (Adobe PDF) and hardcopy formats, with electronic being the preferred, more cost-efficient format. **If you have recently changed your e-mail address or other contact information**, please let me know so I can update the club membership list and get the newsletter to the right place!

**CLUB WEBSITE**

<http://www.ajaxcfuw.ca/>

Our new website is now ready! If you have anything you wish to add, or any new content you would like to see, please contact Sandy. Newsletters will be posted on the new site so you will be able to access them from there if needed.

**Facebook/Twitter**

We now send out meeting information via these social media platforms to try to encourage new members. Visit our new **Facebook page** (see page 2 for more info) or connect with us on **Twitter** (@CFUWajax).

<b>April 2017</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2	3	4	5	6 <b>Club Meeting</b>	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/ 30	24	25	26 <b>Book Club</b>	27	28	29