

“Celebrating and Empowering Women”

Project Sponsored by the Advocacy Committee of CFUW White Rock Surrey March 2023

The Advocacy Committee is sponsoring and promoting a multi-year project which goes back to the roots of the organization to provide current relevant support for the equitable treatment of women in their homes, workplaces and society in general; to draw upon our respective experiences to inform the next generation of women about how far we have come and caution against losing what we have earned and to attract women to the Club who are passionate about protecting and improving the rights of their daughters and granddaughters.

The focus of our efforts would be

- Historical:
 - The collecting, sharing and archiving of the individual stories of our members in their experiences as women in the home and workplace with particularly emphasis in the period up to 1980 (the purpose being to illustrate the state of women’s rights during that period). This project will help to avoid the loss of these stories and possibly, with an enhanced archives arrangement with the White Rock Museum, could serve as a valuable resource for future generations.
- Educational:
 - Speaking at local high schools to relate member stories to classes to provide a history and background to women’s rights today. An enhancement would be to have high school students to prepare questions and interview our members.
 - Inviting local women in their midlife to speak to the Club to describe the current issues they are facing on equity and safety issues including their advice or recommendations on how the Club could assist to address these issues at a local level
 - Celebrating the lives of our members by adding an item to each meeting to have a member share a memorable moment in their life or to have our archivist read an anecdote about our current or past members.
- Advocacy:
 - Working with local newspapers to have a regular column to showcase the historic lives and experiences of our individual members as a way to illustrate how far we have come and to showcase the problems and issues still facing women
 - Supporting the initiatives of National in relation to women’s rights by engaging in requested letter writing by individual members and by the Club
 - Identifying and seeking out collaborative arrangements with other organizations in the community who are actively working on women’s rights issues to leverage our ability to make an impact.

- Musing: could the various local clubs work together to get Margaret Atwood to give a well-publicized speech based upon the dangers to women's rights reflected in her books – particularly Handmaid's Tale
- Membership:
 - Using this project to showcase the Club in the media and position itself as a viable and worthwhile organization to focus potential member interest in advocacy for women's rights. Recent events in the US make it clear that these issues are alive and well and in danger of being lost or severely restricted.

Next Steps

The Advocacy Committee has established the following advisory working groups to support the project – each to be chaired by a member of the Advocacy Committee. A member of the Advocacy Committee will be Project Manager to help coordinate all these efforts.

- **Historical Working Group** (possible members – anyone with an interest in writing, history, museums or technology; preliminary work to be completed by May 30 2023) Possible activities:
 - To identify human resources available and interested in assisting members to write or record their individual stories
 - To identify technical resources available to collect/maintain stories including contact with local and provincial archives
 - To identify members interested in providing their stories with a particular effort being made to identify members whose stories could be lost
 - To locate/request any previous records of member stories which might be available to add to the collection
 - To identify any financial resources required and the source of such resources
- **Educational Working Group** (possible members – anyone with a background in education or equity rights; preliminary work to be completed by May 30 2023) Possible activities:
 - To identify the strategy for proposing these connections with students
 - To identify possible teachers or administrators who are or might be interested in giving their students the opportunity to participate
 - To prepare the content of possible programs with students (in school, in the community, at our club meetings)
 - To identify women in mid-life in our community who are interested in speaking to our club about the challenges they are facing on equity and safety issues

- **Advocacy Working Group** (possible members – anyone with an interest or with connections in the media; preliminary work to be completed by May 30 2023) Possible activities:
 - To identify media outlets, editors, reporters and producers who might be interested in a regular column or program or social media project highlighting the stories of our members
 - To provide technical support to members wishing to write letters in support of national and local advocacy initiatives
 - To identify other community groups interested in collaborating on women’s rights issues
 - To identify the means to reach out to Margaret Atwood or her agent to see if a speaking engagement might be possible (what are her current interests? preliminary work to be completed by May 30 2023)

PROPOSED TIMELINE

January – March 2023	Project Approval and Launch	January 17, 2023 – approved draft proposal by Advocacy Committee
		February 2023 - Review by Executive. Approved March 9.
		March 25, 2023 – Introduction of Project at Members’ Meeting
		March 25, 2023 – elicit support from members for National resolutions
April – September 2023	Historical	April /May 2023 – preparation of template for member narratives and invitation to participate
		May – ongoing – solicitation and receipt of member narratives
	Educational – High School	April – June 2023 – contact career counsellors at local high schools to elicit interest in presentations to students and student assignments
		Summer 2023 – identify potential members to participate in presentations

		and panels with students
	Educational - Club	Spring 2023 – plan two panel discussions for Advocacy Committee sponsored events (separate from regular programming)
	Advocacy	April – June 2023 – identify local women reporters who may be interested in regular articles on the lives of our members
		Summer 2023 – identify members who are prepared to share their narratives publicly
September – December 2023	Historical	September 2023 – discussions with White Rock Museum to keep narratives
	Educational – High School	September – December 2023 – work with high schools to make project presentations
	Educational - Club	Fall 2023 – Advocacy Committee to sponsor two speaking events on subject arising from this project
	Advocacy	Fall 2023 – launch series of media articles (and perhaps social media??) on member narratives and women’s equity and safety issues
		Fall 2023 – seek out organizations with similar interests for possible collaboration
December – January 2024	Project Review	Review, evaluation and adjustment of activities as necessary
2024	Ongoing activities above	
	Educational	Promote an invitation by lower mainland clubs to Margaret Atwood to speak