

Rideau Park United Church Women

June 2020 – An Update: In lieu of a report at our June Dinner.

I hope you and your families are managing during this time of COVID 19.

We UCW members, and we are including all of you who are our loyal supporters and helpers, are facing this Covid19 Pandemic in many and varied ways. Some are in Seniors' Residences like Oak Park, Maplewood or the Waterford, some are in Long Term care like the Perley, Elizabeth Bruyere Residence, or West End Villa. Some of our members live on their own, some have teenagers or school age children, preschoolers, toddlers or babies at home and are trying to cope with supervising kids' on-line classes, having no access to daycare while working from home or having to go out to work, often in challenging situations such as health care, teaching or other essential services.

It is lonely, stressful, and scary for every one of us, especially if we have health concerns. Some of us have lost friends and family during this time - when gathering to comfort, to celebrate or just visit with friends is strictly off limits. Each of us is dealing with COVID 19 time in different ways but we always hold each other in our hearts and prayers. We stand together sharing the anxiety and hoping for better times.

Behind the COVID 19 shutdown the UCW Executive has been busy with regular Zoom meetings and much discussion about our fundraising projects that were stopped in their tracks, such as the Unit 7 pre-Easter bake sale, our Easter Memorial Project of flowers or cards for shuts-ins, the Unit 3 Spring Nearly New and Book Sale, and the Unit 2 deli pie making parties.

Our June general meeting and dinner became a "Non-Event Fundraiser" and we are delighted that the response to this event has been positive. It saved us a lot of work and planning but we sure are missing our usual social time. Thank you to all who have already contributed.

As United Church Women of faith, we believe in nurturing Christian spirituality by reaching out through commitment and devotion to all God's people in the promotion of truth, justice, peace, caring, and respect for all throughout the earth – God's world.

The funds the UCW raises are used to support a number of local charities such as women's shelters, the local food bank, and the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church with its outreach to congregations less fortunate than ours. We also help our own church community financially.

We are planning for our autumn events such as the Fall Nearly New and the Christmas Bazaar (our biggest UCW fundraising event) and we are planning as if these events WILL NOT HAPPEN AS USUAL.

As it becomes evident that social/physical distancing will continue for the months ahead, as we realize that many of our UCW ladies are in the most vulnerable age group; we feel it is only common sense to plan for the worst and *perhaps* be surprised by the best.

Our current thinking is that we possibly move to an on-line fundraising event. While this idea is just beginning to take form, we believe it is doable. We will still need our helpers in ways we cannot even

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begin to imagine. We have found some church on-line auctions and certainly they look like it could be an option. Stay tuned!

In the meantime we welcome your thoughts and ideas on fund raising possibilities. We need your inspiration. Email me at nandjdurkee@ncf.ca or phone me at 613-521-2051.

If you have not purchased a ticket to the Non-Event Fundraiser dinner (even though the date may be past) you can still contribute.

Your Invitation to a Non Event Fundraiser

Due to the cancellation of our spring events (Nearly New Sale, Easter Memorial Project, etc.), the UCW Executive has decided to turn their Annual Dinner and General Meeting into a virtual fundraiser. **We are inviting ALL Rideau Parkers: ladies, gentlemen, young, not so young, and the young at heart for a donation of \$20 NOT TO ATTEND the one and only (we hope)...**

GREATEST UCW DINNER AND GENERAL MEETING YOU NEVER ATTENDED on Monday, June 1, 2020. PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING BUT PLEASE DO NOT SHOW UP! Donations should be made payable to "RPUC United Church Women" and mailed to our UCW Treasurer at 31 Pittaway Ave, Ottawa ON K1G 4P3 or to RP United Church or use the online [Donate Now](#). (Donations to RPUC UCW directly will be included in year-end receipts.)

Just think...no agonizing over what to wear, no worries about food allergies or food poisoning (never happened), no worries about the heat in Beecroft Kitchen or cold in Beecroft Hall, and no worries about who will run that dishwasher or will the dishwasher break down or leak?

THANK YOU for your support of the UCW!!

A virtual event doesn't actually HAPPEN. It's just a clever way to raise some money for our beloved UCW, in lieu of all the events we couldn't run this spring because of the lockdown.



Christmas Bazaar Bake Table UCW members with the city Mayor and local Councillor