

CUUWA 2014 Spring Newsletter

Welcome to April with all its attendant blooms and blossoms! It is the Easter holiday season as well. In May, the CUC ACM will be held in Montreal. This year, however, the



CUUWA AGM will be a June 1 teleconference cluster meeting. In 2015, we hope to have a larger presence in Ottawa when CUC delegates and members gather. Therefore, I forward this newsletter on behalf of our Council with the hope that members might get together informally if you travel to Montreal in May and that everyone will prepare for the June teleconference by organizing a cluster meeting in your home locale. Please read on for further details that summarize CUUWA activities since the December newsletter.

Easter is the only moveable statutory holiday in our calendar. The dates we celebrate it vary because they are based upon the lunar cycle. That variance makes this celebration a very ancient holiday, one connected with fertility, birth and life itself. Estrogen and Easter have the same root word (fertility) and derive from the Goddess Estre (several known spellings of this name). Although the exact date differs each year, usually the holiday is in April – count forward nine months and you have further insights about how our own solar calendar rotates. Think further about how women perpetuate cultural traditions. We select food for the feast; we organize family and friend get-togethers. We decide what annual activities to continue and what to drop, therefore, we are custodians of holiday celebrations. As you purchase special breads, cook a festive dish, send a card, give flowers or decorate eggs, remember how its important symbolism provides continuity in your life and in our society. May this Easter truly be a Happy one for you.

The Calgary CUUWA AGM pink tea was so popular that Council plans to continue this theme as our signature offering at future CUC events. Although our Montreal presence will be small because no Council members are able to attend, Mary Lu MacDonald (Halifax) has suggested that any attending CUUWA members who might like to share some time together could contact her. Caroline Jondahl, a Montreal-based lay chaplain is our local host. She is arranging a small “tea” table with information about our organization. There will be a postcard inviting you all to the Ottawa 2015 event – it will have an herbal tea with an aboriginal theme.

CUUWA members meet every other year for a face-to-face AGM. On alternative years, we cluster locally with other members, if possible, and hold a national teleconference meeting. Depending upon local time, the cluster might have lunch, tea, potluck or simple rituals. June 1, 1-3 pm Pacific time is the scheduled sign-in. Please work out what hour that would be in your time zone and make plans for how your local cluster might have fun together while joining other members across Canada to continue the organizational work. One feisty item of discussion will be whether to admit men. The sub-committee that formed in Calgary is split with differing opinions so we hope that clusters will talk about the topic while off air then share thoughts during the teleconference.

Since December, one highlight has been the March 9 services. Council hoped that we would double the number of participating congregations and we did!!! At least 12 services with a reference or focus upon women-centred topics were held – from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, each quite meaningful. For a more complete report, see the summary on our web page.

Another highlight was the establishment of Ministerial liaison. We have two wonderful Ministers, Rev. Frances Deverell and Rev. Kathy Sage, who have been attending Council meetings. This link will become a strong tie that binds us as our organization evolves.

AGM meetings are the time when memberships are renewed. Please try to recruit one additional member – perhaps purchase it as a gift for someone. And – don't forget to renew your own membership. Go online for further information if necessary: www.cuuwa.org.



À bientôt to all who will be in Montreal in May! Know that we are joining in spirit as you lift cups of tea. Talk with you June 1 at our AGM. And please invite women who would appreciate knowing about our national women's organization.

Happy Spring Days to all!

*Betty Donaldson
President
On behalf of Council:
Margaret Linton
Adina Lyon
Martha Wilson
Janice Tait
Gillian Burton
Jessica Motherwell (inactive)*