



Retired Women Teachers of Mississauga



Hello Fellow Members,

May 2024

Another year of RWTO is coming to a close. We have done our best to make it an enjoyable one for all members and have had some successes and some failures. It seems that I have a few good and bad news items to share.

Good News: Provincial has decided to hold the AGM and Convention virtually this year so we will be saving some money. This savings will be used to subsidize the cost of our luncheons.

Bad News: Attendance at the luncheons is still down and is far below average. We're not quite sure why more people are not attending. The meals have been excellent, the locations lovely, and the entertainment has been very well received. If you can tell us why you do not attend luncheons, and what you would like to see changed, please do not hesitate to speak up. We welcome your input.

Good News: Our Trips and Tours Convenors have worked very hard to provide a wonderful variety of events for you to attend.

Bad News: Again, attendance is lower than expected. We have had to cancel some trips because we did not meet the minimum number.

Good News: We have been very careful with our expenditures, allowing us to reduce the Branch Membership fee from \$20 to \$15.

Bad News: Provincial has raised their portion of your fee from \$40 to \$50. This means that there will still be an increase in our total fees. We will now pay \$65, instead of \$60 for this year. This fee is due by August 1st.

The Best News: Your RWTO Mississauga Branch continues to be a vibrant and inclusive organization for women educators. Interest groups are thriving, and friendships continue to be developed as our members find support, comfort, and fun in one another!

Yours in Caring and Sharing,

Marie Solarski

President



RWTO Mississauga: **The Lighter Side**

INTEREST GROUPS – From the desk of Patti Lawrence

There are many different groups **you can join** as a member of RWTO Mississauga. Some meet monthly, a couple of times a year, or weekly.

The following will describe each group and their availability. If something is full, don't hesitate to sign up. When we get enough new signups, we can then start a new group.

ART GALLERY—A couple of times a year, interested members are invited to join a trip to a local gallery or museum. Usually followed by a lunch. OPEN

BEADING—This beading group is full, but a wait list is being formed.

BOOK CLUBS—We have several clubs that meet monthly. They usually meet at members' homes, however there is one particular group which meets virtually if that better suits your needs. There are spots available. You must enjoy reading and want to meet other people.

BRIDGE—Most of our groups are full but we do have a waiting list/supply list. Perhaps you are on a sub list, but you could start a new group. It would be great if someone would like to include new members who don't know how to play and would be willing to teach a group.

CRAFTS—We do have room in one of our craft groups. They usually meet monthly at a members' home.

EUCHRE—Most of our groups are full but we do have a large sub/wait list. Perhaps you are on this list and would like to start a new group of any skill level. Also one of our members would like to start another bid euchre group. Please let me know if you are interested.

GARDENING—We have 2 groups which usually operate over the spring and summer. They often go to interesting places and stop for lunch as well. OPEN

GENEALOGY—Members meet to explore this interesting topic. OPEN

WALKING—Members meet once a week to go on interesting walks. It's a great way to meet new people and enjoy the fresh air at the same time. The routes may vary and ladies of all walking abilities are welcome. OPEN

KNITTING—The groups are full at the moment but a wait list is available.

LUNCH—Once a month ladies meet at different restaurants to enjoy a meal and great friendships. OPEN

SCRABBLE—The group is full but we do have a wait list. If more sign up, we can start a new group.

MAH JONG—This group is just in its initial start up phase. Members are taught to play and would like to expand the membership numbers. A wait list is available.

Remember, interest groups are a great way to meet new people and really feel part of the organization. We are always looking to start new groups when we get enough ladies to sign up. **Also new group suggestions are always welcome!**

Contact Patti Lawrence - Interest Groups Convenor - pattilawrence@gmail.com

Euchre Group #6

Linda M. told the **Lighter Side** that, “Our eight members meet every other Thursday at 1pm and take turns hosting at our homes. Treats are enjoyed and we usually share recipes. This is a definite added bonus!

Before we play euchre, we catch up, hear about each others’ lives and stay connected. Good advice has been passed around 😊 We’ve learned how to play 3, 5 and 6 handed euchre, which most of us had ever done before. It’s always fun!”





Bridge Group #10

Nancy S. tells us that this group was formed in 2013 following completion of lessons from the brilliant team of RWTO Mississauga members, Theresa M. and Judy D. Six of the eight Bridge Ten members are part of that original group of keen learners, with expertise offered from an additional two.

This cluster of Bridge Buddies has struggled to find a regularly scheduled game time that accommodates grandchildren, travel, cottages, and other RW interest groups; for now, it meets twice a month on Wednesdays rotating between homes. A rather competitive bunch, they do love the challenge of a good bridge game, but given the amount of chatter, our focus clearly remains on friendship and fun.

This photo was taken on a rainy morning, but there is no better way to spend it than with these smiling faces! (Note: this was taken before the cards were dealt and the complaining about few points began.) 😊



BOOK CLUB 7

We are a very social group who loves to read! We still meet on ZOOM every third Thursday of the month at 1:30pm. Since some of our members go away for the winter or summer at the cottage, we find this works so that they can join us any time of the year from anywhere. We meet all year round.

Books we have read and enjoyed recently are:

The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni

The Night Portrait by Laura Morelli

We would welcome new members to our group. Contact Patti Lawrence

Book Club #9

Janice M. tells us that her group meets on the third Tuesday of every month: We have been sharing our love of reading for over ten years, and in that time, have forged strong bonds of friendship.

We have said goodbye to a few members and welcomed new ones. Right now, our numbers total 8, which we find is just about the right size for accommodating everyone in our living rooms.

One of our favourite books read last year was, "The Gown: A Novel of the royal wedding" by Jennifer Robson. We had a tea party and dressed in fascinators for that discussion!

This year, we have really enjoyed "Symphony of Secrets", by Brendan Slocumb, and "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus.



Fascinating Hats!

Knitting Club #2

Julie M. relates that Tuesday afternoons, bags of yarn, knitting needles, patterns, pots of tea and platters of treats: that's how the women of the RWTO Knitting Group #2 enjoy our monthly meetings.

Taking turns hosting each other in our homes, we have bonded over challenging patterns, group projects and a shared interest in our beloved craft. Our skill levels are varied but we help and inspire each other with new ideas and fresh designs.

We have enjoyed group trips to Mary Maxim and Lens Mills to source new yarns and needles, followed by a restaurant lunch. Our shared interest has led to close friendships and treasured sources of support; every month we look forward to enriching these relationships while enjoying a pleasant afternoon. Sounds so nice!

Euchre Group #1:

Janet H. tell The Lighter Side that her group started with four members around 1997. They now have 8 members and going strong.

Their meetings take place on the first Monday of the month from October to May. During Covid and continuing to the present day, they play on the internet using Trickster.

This June they will be discussing going back to in-person Euchre. Then, each member will host one gathering at her home per year. They plan to enjoy a sweet treat, followed by cards and lots of conversation. In September and June, they meet for lunch at a restaurant.

Many ladies have been in this group for 10, 15 or 20 years. Friendships have been forged, birthdays celebrated, problems discussed, deaths mourned, and many laughs shared. They like playing cards too!

Duplicate Bridge Club

Judy D. tells us that this club has 12 members and plays every 2nd Tuesday on Trickster. They made the decision to continue playing on Trickster for a number of reasons. Some of these included health, mobility, caregiver responsibilities and because a few members fly away to warmer climes for the winter. This way all can continue to play!

Unfortunately, Trickster does not support duplicate so they play a regular bridge game, but with 3 tables. This way everyone can still enjoy the game they love and keep in touch by chatting. Even though they play online, they do meet a few times a year for lunch.



Book Club #6

Book Clubs are one of the most popular interest groups of our association, judging from the number that we have. **Louise P.** tells us that they meet the last Thursday of each month in members' home. Their club has existed since before 2004. She says that, "We have many of the core members, but we have gotten considerably smaller over the years. Recently, we have made plans to join our group with **Book Club #4** and will meet in June to finalize all the details."

A phenomenon of the last twenty to thirty years has been to join book clubs as a way of sharing ideas about this otherwise solitary activity of reading. Most of us love the idea of not only sharing our impressions of the protagonists, the social settings, the plausibility of the plot, but also realizing that others differ from our impressions. This is one of the things that make book clubs vibrant.

The other aspect of this organization that Louise relishes is that people recommend books that get others out of their comfort zone. Members want and insist on a great variety of readings. Our club has read plenty of WW II pieces: Still Life (S. Winman), Paris Library (J.S. Charles), The Rose Code (K. Quinn). They have also read about Black Lives with Caste (I. Wilkerson) and The Nickle Boys (C. Whitehead). They have also sought current Toronto authors: Scarborough and The Story of Us (C. Hernandez), plus lots of other titles in between.

Finally, and most importantly, the RWTO book club has allowed the forging of some great friendships with great people. After all, we are all from what I call "the same tribe" – teachers – nurturers, fixers, explainers, organizers, and some social activists.

Bridge Group #8 is a thriving group of nine players who love each other's company. Anne D. tells us that they continue to meet every other Thursday morning to chat and play bridge. Often, they have to be reminded that it's time to stop chatting and deal the cards!



Bid Euchre Club #1

Mary Y. Tells us that her club meets on the first Monday of the month, throughout the year. We gather at the Sunset Grill at 9:30am. We enjoy breakfast while engaging in conversation and then play cards. Our morning is filled with laughter, friendship and good card playing!



Book Club #11. Joanne J. emailed to tell us that “Our book club meets the first Tuesday of the month. We meet at various people's home. The person hosting the meeting leads the book's discussion. We share information about the author and various aspects of the novel. Our discussions are lively and engaging, as well as entertaining. We also share some delicious treats and enjoy spending time with one another. We have shared many books over time. Unique and enjoyable books include: The Mayfair Bookshop by Eliza Knight and, Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano.”



Craft group #3:

Barb R. tells us that this is a wonderful group of inspired ladies that share their artistry and conversation monthly on the final Tuesday morning of the fall, winter and spring months.

Each member hosts a meeting and provides the group with materials and verbal instructions for a new project.

Our meetings not only share creativity through the task at hand, but also lively discussion and sharing.

Book Club #5

Sandra R. emailed that they do not meet in person at the present time. Sadly, one of their members, Jane R, passed away and they miss her immensely. A new member of the club, Eva H., is not in the supplied photo, as they have yet to meet in person for a while.

According to Sandra, "Eleven of us meet by Zoom on the last Wednesday of the month. Our book club's name is READERS AND COMPANY BOOK CLUB #5. We have been together since at least 2010, perhaps longer. It would be nice to have a place to meet since most of us are finding it difficult to get about, but I think that soon we will be getting together again in some way."

Recently, they have read some terrific books:

OFF THE RECORD by Peter Mansbridge

THE PRISON BOOK CLUB

by Ann Walmsley

HOMECOMING by Kate Morton

THE GERMAN WIFE by Kelly Rimmer

SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE

by Claire Keegan

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

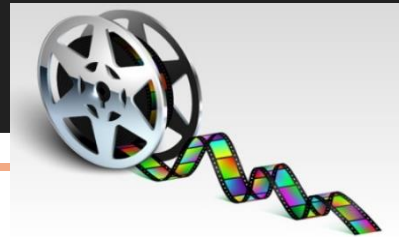


Beading Group

Cynthia V. sent in a photo of two different projects that her beading group has been working on during the last few months. The 3D stars were made in varying sizes to be used as Christmas tree ornaments or as pendants. The group members made the bracelets using a variety of colours.

The eight members meet on the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at a member's home.

According to Cynthia, they are a very creative and supportive group of beaders who look forward to monthly meetings where they share the projects they are personally working on and "catch-up" on the events in their lives.



Movie Group

This year the movie group had a total of 23 members. They convene on the 2nd Tuesday afternoon of each month. Deborah H. tells us that they have seen movies at both Cineplex Mississauga (near Square One) and at the Courtney Park Cineplex locations.

The turnout has not been robust, however those that were able to attend enjoyed the movies seen. In December they watched Oppenheimer, and in March, viewed the movie Cabrini.

The group needs a new convenor to take over the helm. Please let Patti Lawrence know if you are willing to take on this role.

Bridge Group #3

Dolores W. tells us that the group of eight members meets every second Monday at 12:30 p.m. and begins the afternoon with dessert and tea/coffee. We take turns hosting in our homes, where we enjoy the always new and challenging cards that are dealt. Since no hand is ever the same, we are always learning.

April 8th was on our schedule to play bridge, so we took a break at 3 PM to enjoy the partial eclipse together. The fact that the clouds alternated to cover the eclipse and then moved away to expose it, made the event even more interesting. There were cries of "There it is!" "Oh, it's gone!" "Oh, now I see it" for the whole viewing. What a great experience for us to share!



Book Club #4

Jennifer R. tells The Lighter Side that this is a group of avid readers with diverse interests, and it shows in the types of books they select.

Book Club #4 was first formed more than 20 years ago. They meet on the second Thursday of each month at noon. Members take turns hosting the group by providing coffee/tea and a dessert. Discussion can often be lively. In addition, each June they meet at a restaurant to discuss book selections for next year.

Among their favourite books read this past year are: "The Venice Sketchbook" by Rhys Bowen, "Coronation Year" by Jennifer Robinson and "The Other Einstein" by Marie Benedict.

Book Club #10

Bibi D. tells us that Book Club #10 consists of 8 members who meet 8 times a year on the last Friday of the month. Each member is responsible to choose a book to be read and to chair the ensuing discussion.

Before Covid, they would meet at each other's houses for coffee/tea, a snack, good conversation and an in-depth discussion of the book of the month. Unfortunately, Covid meant that they couldn't meet in person anymore, and so switched to Zoom meetings. It took a while to get used to it, but soon they started to like it. They still meet on Zoom during the winter months and meet in a park or in someone's backyard in the Spring or Fall.

A book club means that we are introduced to authors and books that we would not have read otherwise, and we get to meet new people that we now consider friends.

Recently they read, "**Remarkably Bright Creatures**" by Shelby Van Pelt. It wasn't only a great story, but we learned so much about the giant Pacific octopus 🐙 They also quite enjoyed, "**Mad Honey**", by Jodi Picoult; It's very topical, dealing with gender identity.

Gardening Group #1

Theresa G. says that Gardening Group #1 is getting ready for another fun and exciting Gardening season starting in May 2024. Their activities include visiting: a Nursery, a park to watch the Cherry blossoms, a working vegetable or flower farm, RBG, a local park to enjoy the rhododendrons and showcasing the gardens of some of our members. We always have a fun time. Members of our garden group enjoying lunch after an outing.



Book Club #8

Joanne K. tells us that her book club has been meeting once a month since 2011 to talk about books. Although historical fiction is a perennial favourite of the group, their books cover a wide range of subjects and genres. They always look for books that will provide plenty of discussion when choosing the roster for the upcoming season. Lately, we have added a little more non-fiction into the mix.

Also, this year we tried something a little different; we got together to watch Sara Polly's movie, **Women Talking**. We followed this up by reading her book of personal essays entitled, **Run Toward the Danger**. Both the movie and the book shed light on a number of women's issues and provided us with a lot to think and talk about. Over the years, the books have brought us together, but it is the friendship that keeps us coming back!

► RWTO Walking Group

- Walking, talking, sharing, caring...that is what the RW Walking Group is all about!!
- When leader Carole A. joined RWTO in 2013 on the recommendation of her mom, she discovered a whole new community of passionate retired educators with a zest for living!! The RW Walking Group was just the right activity to meet new friends and be active outdoors.
- The group walks weekly in the Spring, Fall, and Winter. The unusually milder winter this year meant ideal conditions on their favourite trails. Highlights included seeing the resident Bald Eagle at the Adamson Estate and hearing the gorgeous sounds of small ice chunks tinkling like wind chimes near the shore of Lake Ontario. It was great to be able to walk the Rattray Marsh—a location usually reserved for spring and fall!!
- Adventures continue with the 8-week Spring Walking season which began April 25 and ends June 13. New walkers always welcome!



Mahjong Club

This is a brand-new interest group. Convenor Deborah H. learned to play American Mahjong during the summer of 2023 at the cottage and pitched it to the Executive as something members would enjoy. It was decided to start with a small group and then open it up as the core group was able to help mentor other players. Presently we have 8 members who've shown up to play and learn the game.

Members meet at The Sunset Grill on Lakeshore Road. Players purchase their breakfast and play from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They talk, eat and often get in 3 games.

The proper game of American Mahjong has 4 players per game. While instruction occurs, members double up if needed. Mahjong is far more than the tile-matching game many have seen or played on a device; it is a real thinking game involving concentration, memory and strategy. If you are interested in learning more about the game and possibly joining in the future, check out the following link.

<https://ilovemahj.com/american-mahjong-getting-started>



Every month, according to leader Shelley D., an avid group of readers converges on Swiss Chalet to share adventures, enjoy a meal, and discuss their most recent book choice. Each member suggests a few books, then the group will choose favourites to read throughout the year; the only criteria being that they must be readily available from the public library.

Although this month's book choice, "Leave the World Behind", was not everyone's favourite, it provided some excellent discussion, and the movie was an added bonus!

Some of the favourite books this book club has read are: "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus, "A Town Called Solace" by Mary Lawson, "The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane" by Lisa See, "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr, "Woman on the Edge" by Samantha M. Bailey, and "The Giver of Stars" by Jojo Moyes.

BOOK CLUB #2

Lunch Group #3

Judy P. tell us that her luncheon group, the Dinettes, meets monthly on the third Wednesday at various restaurants. A group decision will decide the location. The last two luncheons were held at Jac's Bistro in Oakville and the Mediterranean Bistro in Clarkson. Although the last luncheon comprised only four members, they had a great visit and thoroughly enjoyed their meals!

Total

Members

= 275



Ann-Marie B.'s Bridge Club #4 began in 2005 and was organized by Alba F. Throughout the years they have stayed together and some even continue to play during the summer months.

Covid was very difficult for the group, but ingenuity and some tech knowledge found them playing bridge on "Trickster". This program allowed them to socialize and talk to each other during the games. It was invaluable.

In addition, they lunch at restaurants twice a year so that they can enjoy a meal together and celebrate their friendship!

Lunch Club #2

This group meets monthly at wonderful Mississauga restaurants. In February, they dined at Hibachi Japanese near Square One. It was a fun location! In April, they met at Astoria for some tantalizing Greek cuisine and in May, they will meet at WIND Japanese for some great Bento Boxes! It is always fun to try new foods and share our lives.



Gardening
Group #2



March 27th Luncheon

The members had a wonderful lunch at Renaissance by The Creek Convention Centre on March 27th. Delicious appetizers and non-alcoholic cocktails were accompanied by a fantastic chicken entrée and Crème Brûlée for dessert. This was followed by a musical performance by the exceptional acapella group from the Golden Horseshoe Chorus. It was a fabulous day!




Upcoming Event:

- ❖ We will be returning to the **Credit Valley Golf and Country Club** for our final lunch of the year. Please note that it will be held on **Thursday, May 23, 2024**
- ❖ **Not on the usual Wednesday.**
- ❖ Lianne Harris Racioppo, researcher, historian, and one of our most popular presenters in the past will introduce us to “The Queen’s Closet” where “nothing was worn by chance”.
- ❖ **Last day to send in your \$ is May 9th**
- ❖ Our **Golden Girls** will be honoured at this luncheon. Email/call Anne Dowling.
- ❖ See the email sent on May 5th for the latest details.

The RWTO Mississauga Branch AGM was held on April 23rd at the Port Credit Retirement Residence.





**\$500 was donated
on our behalf to
Food Banks
Mississauga**



Blue Jays Game

July 20th

Details to come