

**University of Toronto
University Arts Women's Club/University of Toronto Women's Association**

NEWS – EVENTS
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2020: first year of the Covid-19 pandemic!

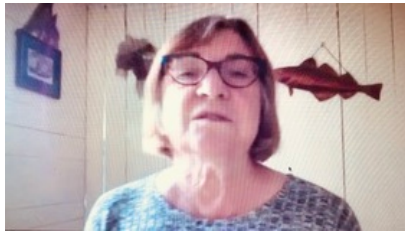
Because of the coronavirus, the UAWC/UTWA Executive was forced to cancel both our General Meeting of March 19 and the Spring Luncheon and Annual General Meeting on April 16. Molly Thom, long-time actor with the Alumnae Theatre Company; and the Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy, former Senator of Canada, Chancellor Emerita of U of T, and accomplished author, had been scheduled to speak.

Fortunately, on October 15, we were able to hold an online General Meeting on Zoom to avoid getting physically too close to each other. We invited Carol Bishop-Gwyn, author of *Art and Rivalry: The Marriage of Mary and Christopher Pratt*, to be our guest speaker. Carol is a well-known Canadian writer who has homes in both Toronto and Newfoundland.

Sue Russell, our archivist and historian, gave the lead-in to Carol's talk. Sue gave a detailed biography of her friend Carol. The author began by introducing the main characters in her book, Mary Pratt and her husband Christopher. Both were superb painters who led an eventful life together with their four children in Newfoundland. Christopher explored many themes: landscapes, roadscares, waterscapes, and nudes. Mary, in contrast, brought brilliant colour and significance to ordinary household objects. Carol showed many of their paintings on screen. To mention a few: Christopher's *Battery Road* (1956), *Boat in Sand* (1961), *Sunset at Squid Cave* (2004), and Mary's *Supper Table* (1969), *Salmon on Saran* (1974), *Girl in a Wicker Chair* (1978).

After a brief Q & A period, Past President Gay Thomson thanked Carol on behalf of us all. Afterwards our programme coordinator Christine McClymont thanked the Executive for their smooth handling of the technical aspects of Zoom. She wrote, "I am grateful to Carol for a wonderful presentation. And thanks of course to Christopher and Mary for being such fascinating artists and stellar Newfoundlanders (and Canadians!). Thanks to Carol, the Pratts' personal story enriches and enlivens their artistic work."

No doubt we'll be enjoying our speakers' presentations on Zoom for the foreseeable future.



Carol Bishop-Gwyn, Dance Specialist and
Author of *The Pursuit of Perfection: A Life of Celia Franca*

Those interested in joining UAWC/UTWA are invited to contact Linda Andrews, Membership Coordinator, at 416-485-4903 or lindajanea@sympatico.ca

Maggy Stepanian

November 1, 2020