

University of Toronto
University Arts Women's Club - University of Toronto Women's Association

NEWS & EVENTS

<https://uawc-utwa.artsci.utoronto.ca/>

Volume 4 No 2

December 2021

2021: second year of the Covid-19 pandemic continues!

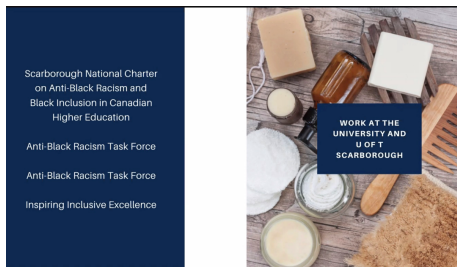
On **October 21, 2021**, we held our first general meeting of the new season - again on Zoom. Christine McClymont our Programme Co-ordinator introduced our guest speaker Raquel A. Russell, a University of Toronto Scarborough alumna, now in Communications and Marketing at University of Toronto Scarborough. Raquel started by explaining her hesitancy when invited by University of Toronto Magazine to write about her experiences growing up black and what the university was doing about racism. Her grief over the horrendous death of George Floyd as well as lost loved ones to COVID-19 seemed too overwhelming. "A year of amplification of emotions" she said. Raquel wondered if she was then too pessimistic to try to write this story.

However, Raquel did choose to accept the invitation and created a very powerful article *Out of Action, Comes Hope for U of T Magazine*. We learned about the people she interviewed and the various groups established on Campus who are *stepping up efforts against anti-Black racism and moving towards greater inclusion*. She sees positive progress and her enthusiasm was infectious - but most impressive and encouraging was her hope for the future. A very simple statement occupies her mind "Action Inspires Hope". Sharon McCarthy, Secretary, thanked Raquel - and praised the inspiration offered to all of us by her presentation.



Raquel A. Russell

Writer, Communications Professional, Podcaster



Anti Black Racism initiatives at U of T

On **November 18, 2021**, our Past President Gay Thomson introduced the day's speaker, Tena van Anandel of Toronto Master Gardeners. Tena's talk was entitled *The Orchid - Daunting Diva, Evocative Evolutionary, or Humble Houseplant?* First, Gay reminded us about the 90-minute private tour Tena guided last summer for UAWC-UTWA members at the Toronto Botanical Garden & Edwards Gardens. Then, she gave Tena a warm welcome and invited her to tell us (and show us on Zoom) all about orchids

– their amazing history, global diversity and beauty – and finally to advise us about the best orchids to bring into our own home.

“Daunting Diva? – yes. *Humble Houseplant?* – the absolute best!” Tena began. She revealed that fossil evidence discovered in 2000 proves orchids have been living on earth for about 80 million years, while *Homo sapiens* only emerged about 300,000 years ago. The first tropical orchid grown in Western captivity was nurtured to bloom in 1818. Her slides demonstrated the huge variety of orchids - the tallest, the largest, the smallest, the underground dwellers, the ones growing in and on rocks, and many more. She also gave us a close scientific look at the complex root and flower structure and pollination methods.

One of the most fascinating slides displayed the so-called “bucket orchid” and how it got pollinated. She explained that a male orchid bee, attracted by the flower’s strong odour, falls into the bucket-shaped part of the flower. To escape, the bee crawls out through its narrow spout, and some pollen sticks to the insect leg pouches as it leaves the flower. After courting with the nearest female bee, the male orchid bee then passes on the pollen to the next “bucket orchid”.

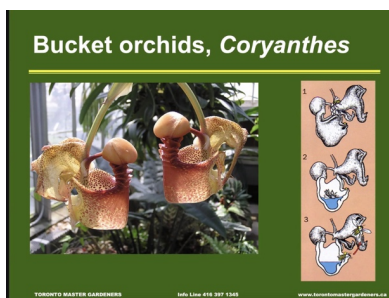
In the latter half of her talk, Tena focused on six of the most popular orchids to grow at home: Phalaenopsis - commonly known as “moth orchid” - once settled into a home, should flower reliably annually in February/March, Cymbidium can be kept outdoors well into fall, Paphiopedilum – well known as the “lady slipper orchid”, Cattleya – the corsage orchid - called “queen of flowers”, Dendrobium - very popular as cut flowers, and Oncidium – “dancing ladies orchid”.

Tena finished her talk with helpful hints on caring for orchids both indoors and in the garden, showing us techniques for watering, fertilizing, and maintaining temperature control. In the follow-up to her talk, members shared their orchid experiences: some displayed their beautiful house grown orchids and others asked a variety of questions and received Tena’s valuable feedback. It turned out to be a very interesting ‘show and tell’ session. To say good-bye, Bobbi Slater, our Treasurer, thanked Tena and expressed appreciation for her fascinating talk on orchids.



Tena van Andel

Toronto Master Gardener



Bucket Orchids and their Pollination

On **Thursday December 2, 2021**, at 12:00 noon, we held an in-person Christmas Special Event – UAWC-UTWA members lunch at The Faculty Club. Our traditional holiday arrangements were not possible again this year, however, many of our members took this opportunity to go out and see old

friends as we started to celebrate the holiday season. A wonderful seasonal menu was offered. Of course, proof of vaccination and ID was required and masks worn in public areas.

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

Maggy Stepanian

December 3, 2021