



cfuw
MLUWC

Newsletter, December 2023

Volume 67, Issue 4

Celebrating over 65 years of Friendship, Advocacy and Education

General Meeting

Monday, December 4

6:00p.m.

The Church of Saint John the Baptist.

233 Sainte-Claire Ave, Pointe-Claire,
Québec H9S 4E3

MLUWC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



- Interest group Baskets to be won
- Sweet and Savory Treats
- Lakeshore Community Choir

Join us for a lovely way to start the Holiday Season

6:00 Help set up (see Program).

6 :30 Interest Group Baskets set up

7:00 - Social Time/Raffle tickets available

7:30 - Business meeting/Raffle

8:00 – Lakeshore Community Choir

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The leaves have fallen (most of them anyways), the clocks have fallen back once again (even though so many are saying we should stop this forward and backwards of the time) as many of us are busy winterising our gardens for another winter season ahead.

The November General meeting had us reflect on how some of our youngsters are being drawn into the sex-trade and how La Sortie is there to guide them out of it and be there to support them when they are ready to walk away from it. I then attended, on Worlds Children Day (November 20), a panel discussion organized by NCWC, MCW and Concordia University on *How to Protect our Children Online*. It is encouraging to see that so much effort is being put into laws and technology to shield our children from exposure to pornography online.

On a happier note, your executive is hard at work preparing for the December meeting, our Christmas party. The advocacy group is busy reaching out to the many organizations we support at this time of the year, as well as working on the 2nd edition of the essay contest whose theme will be space travel.

Some of the recipients of our charitable collections this year are **Care Jeunesse** with our usual gift-card collection and non-perishables for **The West Island Mission**. In January we will have a drive for warm coats and other items for **Resilience**. Details to follow.

To get us into the holiday spirit, we will have **the Lakeshore Community Choir** performing holiday music and even having us singing with them. What is a party without some food! Thanks to the generosity of many of our members, we will be treated to a sweet and savory table before the concert.

The good news is that the gift baskets are back after a 3-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Some lucky members will walk away with amazing baskets filled with goodies, all the while helping the charitable organization **Vox Aeterna**. Hope to see many of you at our next meeting,

Nancy Acemian

PROGRAM

MLUWC Christmas Celebration



WHEN: Monday, December 4, 2023, as of 6:30 p.m.

WHAT TO BRING:

- **Non-perishable** food for donation to West Island Mission
- **Gift cards** from larger stores for Care Jeunesse. Mary Vlahos will be collecting the cards.
- **Cash** to purchase your raffle tickets

ENTERTAINMENT: *The Lakeshore Community Choir* will perform, and have us sing along with them for some of their songs.

FOOD: There will be a sweet and savory table with goodies provided by some of our members.

Reminder: For those who signed up to contribute to our sweet and savory table, we would appreciate you being there **for 6:00p.m.**, so we have time to set up the table.

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER

To register yourselves and your guests, please click on the blue **CLICK HERE TO REGISTER** button below. This will take you to a form where you will be required to enter your email address, your name and the number of people in your party, as well as your guest(s) name(s).

Ctrl+Click

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

P.S. Don't forget to bring and wear your name tag



CFUW NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Saving Canada's Public Health Care System: A National Study Group

This Study Group is working on finding out how to improve our Public Health Care System, including considering federal and provincial level action.

If you are concerned about the direction our Health Care system is going, join us and make a difference.

CFUW National Long-Term Care and Seniors' Rights Study Group

- Long Term Care Standards implementation and accountability
- Funds and support for Aging in Place that ensure program accountability and equity at all Provincial, Territorial, and Municipal levels.

If you are concerned about these issues and wonder what you can do, contact the National Office and sign up to participate in these cross-Canada virtual interest groups.

MLUWC ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Advocacy Committee is once again sponsoring an essay contest thanks to the generosity of MLUWC member Slava(Halina) . Full details will be available in January. Students will be asked to respond to the following questions:

Jeremy Hanson is a Canadian Astronaut who will be Mission Specialist on Artemis 2 flight to circle the moon in 2024. If you had an opportunity to meet with him and he asked you the following question, how would you respond. What are the benefits of space exploration? Will increasing space research and travel positively affect our planet and environment?

The Advocacy Committee meetings take place on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. on ZOOM.

We always welcome new members. Please contact Patricia DuVal or Mary Vlahos for more information.

Patricia DuVal and Mary Vlahos (Co-chairs)



Graduate Women International
Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

GWU UPDATE

As members of MLUWC we are all also members of Graduate Women International (GWI). GWI groups together the National Federations and Associations and encourages graduate women to use their expertise to bring about change. Particularly change with reference to the education of girls, as well as the empowerment of women as leaders and decision makers.

Some of the ways that GWI uses to fulfill its mission is through international advocacy – through representations at the United Nations for example and through various programmes such as the Bina Roy Partners in Development Funding which provides small grants (max. \$3,100 CAD) to projects in low-income countries.

Have a look at their website: <https://graduatewomen.org/>

And find out what one such project in Nepal achieved!

Helen Findlay
GWU representative

POTLUCK EVENTS JANUARY 15, 2024

We wish to remind everyone who hasn't done so to please sign up for in-person **MLUWC POTLUCK EVENTS**, a traditional event in mid-January which replaces the **MLUWC monthly meeting for that month**.

At this time (November 21) about 40 women have already signed up for 3 lunch & 2 dinner events which are now complete.

However there are still several hosts with openings who would be very pleased to receive you at their events:

- E. Semmelhack: **LUNCH** in Hudson
- L. Retalvi & C. Ellis: **DINNER** at the Cambridge Residence, Pointe Claire
- S. Chaussé: 5:00p.m.to 7:00p.m., Kirkland
- L. Sestock: 5:00p.m.to 7:00p.m., Beaconsfield

There will also be signup sheets at our upcoming Christmas party Monday December 4 , a happy and joyful event with music, food and many gifts to raffle off: an event which you will not want to miss.

Otherwise you can email me Carole Newberry at carolevin2013@gmail.com tel: 514-704-3380.

Suzanne Chaussé has a new phone number & email due to having been hacked. As I write this I have only her phone number. Call me if you need it.

Carole Newberry
Suzanne Chaussé.
MLUWC Potluck Co-ordinators



MLUWC is looking for a podium to use at our meetings. If you can help out please contact Theresa Slitz or Nancy Acemian

MLUWC SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The MLUWC 2024-2025 Scholarship Program has been launched.

We offer two university scholarships, Margaret Manson and Alberta Shearer, each valued at \$2000.00. The deadline to apply is February 29, 2024. Further details, the eligibility criteria and application forms are available on the MLUWC website <https://www.mluwc.com/scholarships.html>.

Additionally, we also offer two awards for students from John Abbott College. The Amy Williams scholarship (\$2000.00) is offered to a graduating student who will be continuing their studies at University. A technical bursary valued at \$600 is offered to a John Abbott student in a technical program. Details and application forms for these two awards can be found on the John Abbott student portal.

Please share this information with students you know and with community groups, clubs church's etc. that you are affiliated with.

Kathleen McGrath
Chairperson, MLUWC Scholarship Committee

□

**I WILL HONOUR CHRISTMAS IN MY
HEART, AND TRY TO KEEP IT ALL THE
YEAR.**

A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Donation Form

MLUWC Scholarship Fund

Charity Registration Number 85457 5289 RR0001

Personal donation

Company donation

In Memory/In Honour

For: In Memory

or In Honour

Please complete the following:

Honouree Name: _____

I enclose my donation of \$ _____

Notification Information:

Please make cheque payable to **MLUWC Scholarship Fund**.

Name: _____

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$25.00 and more.

Address: _____

Donor Name: _____

City/Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Address: _____

City/Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Email: _____

Send to:

MLUWC Scholarship Fund

P.O. Box 383, Pointe-Claire, QC
H9R 4P3

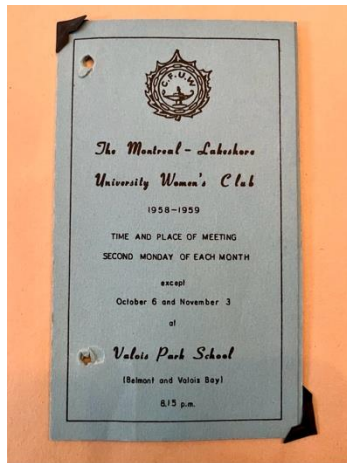
You can also make secure online donations using your credit card through CanadaHelps.org.

Visit mluwc.com and click on: Donate to the Scholarship Fund.

Thank you for your support!

LOOKING BACK TO LOOK FORWARD

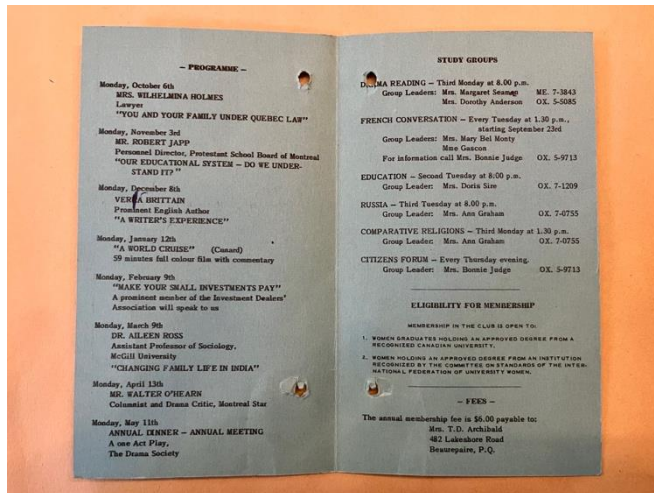
Stories from the Archives from MLUWC archivist Cendra Paas



A few short months after our inception, the MLUWC had elected an executive, collected membership fees, established a Scholarship Fund and committee, created study groups, and organized program speakers.

A yearly program was distributed to members. Some notable speakers were Mrs. Wilhelmina Holmes, a woman who went back to school after raising her children and studied law with her daughter. They both became lawyers, and she was part of one of the first all-female law firms in Canada. Renowned author [Vera Brittain](#) spoke to the club about “A Writer Experience”. She was already an accomplished author with twenty-two books to her name at this point

in her life. Her legacy continues in our current cultural context with a 2014 BBC film based on her WWI memoir, [Testament of Youth](#).



[Dr. Aileen D. Ross](#), a female pioneer in sociology, and assistant professor in sociology and anthropology at McGill. Her lecture on “Changing Family Life in India” gave insight into how life in India was rapidly changing especially regarding only 8% of the population being educated after the British left. (This is juxtaposed with a 2021 statistic of 78.8% of adult males and 59.3% of adult females’ literacy rate). She praised the attempts of Indian women to adjust to their new situation.

MLUWC CLUB NEWS

Introducing new members . . .



LORI MORRISON

Lori Morrison grew up in Pointe St Charles and has been a lifelong supporter of community. She has been a social activist since her teen years, created scholarships, and will never shy away from a challenge. Lori also put a spotlight on what was going on at the Herron facility in the very early days of the pandemic with a photo that was seen across Canada.

In 2019, the St Patrick's Society awarded Lori their Community Award for decades of helping others. She has signed Montreal's Golden Book, is a member of Mensa, and will be soon be a panelist on

a discussion about feminism.

She currently resides in Dorval. Among her many endeavors, she is serving as chair of the board of the Forest and Stream Club, vice-president of the United Irish Societies of Montreal, and LBPSB Commissioner, as well as sitting on the board of directors of the St Patrick's Society of Montreal. She runs her own audio production company.



Sally Selvadurai

Sally's academic accomplishments are a BSc in botany/zoology (with joint honours) in 1970, from Nottingham University, UK; a Diploma in Industrial Administration (DIA) in 1975 from the University of Aston, Birmingham, UK; and a Diploma in Environment in 2011 from McGill University.

After graduating from Nottingham, she spent nine months at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, helping to set up their new virology laboratories. From London, she moved to Birmingham where she served as assistant to the editor of the journal *Neuropharmacology*. Then, due

to continuing eyesight problems, she moved into a position as an administrative trainee with Birmingham Social Services and obtained my DIA from Aston University.

In August 1975, Sally and her husband immigrated to Canada where he accepted a professorship at Carleton University. In 1993, he moved to McGill University. In 1971, Sally launched a freelance scientific editing business and has many clients around the world, most of whom are seeking her help with their English and presentation of papers before submitting them to international scientific journals. For six years, she held a part-time position at the Centre for Literacy, a nonprofit organization that provides government agencies, researchers, tutors, and anyone interested in literacy in the twenty-first century with support and information in the form of library services, conferences, and workshops.

Sally has always had a keen interest in literacy and communications, with an emphasis on Plain Language writing, and she enjoys the challenge of working for herself. Among other activities, she is an avid reader and enjoys sports, including snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, walking and hiking, swimming, and regular workouts at the gym.



Debbie Hughes

I recently retired after 36 years of lecturing in fashion design and illustration at LaSalle College. I studied fine arts and art history at Concordia University before moving to fashion design. After working for a few years as a fashion designer, I made the transition to teaching and motherhood.

When I was a child, my father was transferred to India for two years. That experience awakened a love for travel and a desire to learn about the culture and art of other countries. Now that I have retired, my husband and I are prioritizing travel and are enjoying discovering different cultures, historical sites, and amazing landscapes.

My passions are art, fashion, reading, hiking, and traveling. I am looking forward to meeting new people in the MLUWC and sharing my interests. I anticipate joining in many activities and interest groups.



Tamara Colbeck

Tamara is a native West Islander who grew up in Dorval and Pointe-Claire, and she has lived in Beaconsfield since 2001. She attended Queen of Angels Academy, holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Concordia University, and is a Corporate Director of Global Business Development at Future Electronics with 30 years of seniority. Volunteering, clubs, and community involvement have always been important and fulfilling parts of Tamara's life.

Highlights include serving as a parent volunteer at St. Edmunds and Sacred Heart, Girl Guide leader, member of the Agility Club with her Portuguese Water Dogs, swim meet volunteer, and book club member. With her lovely daughter, Reese, now grown up and at Concordia this year (Mom isn't needed as much anymore), Tamara is excited to join MLUWC and has enjoyed meeting its very welcoming members and learning about issues, wine, and advocacy. In her spare time, Tamara enjoys hot yoga, reading, and walking her 10-year-old dog, Phebe, at the Morgan Arboretum.

CONDOLENCES




We extend belated condolences to **Pat Murray** on the loss of her husband,
Dr. Jacques Murray on June 6, 2023.

[6001Jacques_Murray.webp \(545x600\) \(jjcardinal.ca\)](#) {CTRL+click}

INTEREST GROUPS

Interest Group coordinator: Chitra Chopra

Jennifer Ferguson is MLUWC technology Liaison and Zoom contact  If your Interest Group and / or committee would like to schedule a Zoom meeting, you should contact her by E-mail at dd.ferguson@sympatico.ca to advise of dates and times so that she can set up. Please give, at minimum, 12-24 hours notice of your intentions.

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

Our next presentation will not be until the end of January. Jane Cowell will bring us on a trip to the British Isles. Watch for more details in the January Newsletter. Enjoy your holidays with family and friends and if you travel...remember to take pictures to share with us!

Joyce Schaaf

BOOK CLUB II

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 14 at 1:00p.m. on Zoom. Ina Lessard will review “The Three Lives of Alix St-Pierre” by Natasha Lester. This book is the story of an orphan turned WW II spy turned fashion icon in Paris.

Susan Pick Vadivel

BOOK CLUB III

We will be meeting in person on Tuesday afternoon December 5 to discuss the book “Trust” by Herman Diaz.

Look forward to seeing all members present at that time!

Linda Ricketts

BOOK CLUB IV

We will meet on December 11 at the home of one of the members to discuss the book. “Anywhere You Run”. by Wanda M. Moris. We will discuss the book over a potluck lunch and an exchange of a secret Santa tree ornament.

Merry Christmas to all with wishes of a peaceful, healthy, and prosperous 2024.



Happy reading!

Luhan Wahbeh

COFFEE TIME



Coffee Time 2023-24 will continue on Wednesdays at 10:30am via Zoom. No reservations required. A topic of conversation is suggested for each week in the invite that is sent out on the Monday by either Joyce Schaaf or Marianna Newkirk, the new co-hosts. It is a chit-chat group where we share laughs and opinions from the comfort of our homes. Hope to see some new faces. **Visitors to Coffee time are always welcome. We meet**

by Zoom every Wednesday at 10:30 and have a different topic to discuss each time.

Joyce Schaaf and Marianna Newkirk

DINNER CLUB



As the December Newsletter is “going to press” our Dinner Club is heading to La Serenata on November 23, 2023, at their new location on St Charles Blvd in Kirkland. We have a very enthusiastic group signed up and look forward to the evening.

There is no dinner scheduled for December, however a dinner or luncheon will be scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2024; details to follow in early January. We have a wonderful list of restaurant suggestions received at an earlier gathering.

We welcome any MLUWC member to the Dinner Club, meeting the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. for dinners and 12:00 p.m. for luncheons.

If you wish to join the group, please feel free to contact us.

Group leaders

Sally Gurekian (shgmontreal@gmail.com)

Victoria Pinnell (vpinnell@gmail.com)

FRENCH CONVERSATION

French Conversation meets on Zoom on Friday December 15 at 9:30a.m.

Janet Anderson

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

We are meeting on Wednesday, December 13 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Susan Pick will be reviewing “**Symphony of Secrets**” by Brendan Slocumb.

A music professor discovers a shocking secret about the most famous American composer of all time - his music may have been stolen from a Black Jazz Age Prodigy, Josephine Reed. A powerful organization wants to keep the truth hidden but the professor is determined to uncover the truth.

Gilda Martinello

WEST ISLAND WALKS

West Island Walks will meet every Monday for a one-hour walk: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

This interest group is open to walkers of all abilities – some of us walk quickly, others at a slower pace. Every week we walk for an hour in a different location in the West Island. We walk rain or shine. The only time we might cancel is if surfaces are icy or muddy or we have high winds.

For more information please contact Jane at : jane.cowell.poitras@sympatico.ca

Jane Cowell



On this page, we announce activities that are going on in the community, e.g., breakfasts, concerts, etc. as well as other topics that may be of interest to our members but are not directly associated with our Club, e.g., commissioner of oaths. If you have any items you would like published on this page, please email the information to me (mluwc.newsletter3@gmail.com) and note that it is for the Community News page.

Montreal Council of Women

Please note the concerns raised by all the English-speaking organizations in Quebec regarding Bill 15 - another of Premier Legault's draconian measures to reduce and eliminate our representation (and services) with our health care and social services network. The Premier is determined to railroad the passage of Bill 15 before December 8th.

The Montreal Council of Women participated in the webinar organized in November on Bill 15 by QCGN. The reorganization of our current health and social services network is tantamount to eliminating our voices.

For more information, please review QCGN's cogent request below from Sylvie Martin-Laforge to sign a petition asking for more significant consultation and to delay the passage of Bill 15.

Please consider signing the petition as time is of essence to add your voice to the concerns being raised. **The deadline is December 3rd, 2023.**

[LINK TO PETITION](#) (ctrl+ click)

Maria Peluso, VP of Government Affairs, Quebec Council of Women

Linda Serpone, President, Montreal Council of Women

For reservations for the Forest and Stream Christmas lunch with an author please contact MLUWC member Janet Ankcorn.



Mark Abley worked for many years as a feature writer and language columnist for the Montreal Gazette. A Rhodes Scholar and a Guggenheim Fellow, he was born in England, grew up in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and has lived in the Montreal area since 1983. He is the author of eight books of nonfiction, four collections of poetry, and two children's books. Part of his talk will be about his 2023 book of literary travel, *Strange Bewildering Time: Istanbul to Kathmandu in the Last Year of the Hippie Trail*.



avec | with
Mark Abley

Mark Abley a travaillé pendant de nombreuses années comme rédacteur d'articles de fond et chroniqueur linguistique pour la Gazette de Montréal. Boursier Rhodes et Guggenheim Fellow, il est né en Angleterre, a grandi en Alberta et en Saskatchewan et vit dans la région de Montréal depuis 1983. Il est l'auteur de 8 ouvrages non romanesques, de 4 recueils de poésie et de 2 livres pour enfants. Une partie de son exposé portera sur son livre de voyage littéraire de 2023, *Strange Bewildering Time: Istanbul to Kathmandu in the Last Year of the Hippie Trail*.



Stewart Hall Singers

Handel's Messiah, plus Christmas songs

Saturday, December 2, 2023 8 p.m.

Cedar Park United Church, Pointe-Claire

Tickets \$25 stewarthallsingers.ca

ST. COLUMBA CONCERT SERIES 2023-2024 CONCERT INFORMATION: stcolumbaconcerts@gmail.com

Sat., December 16

7:30 PM

Suggested donation: \$20

Free for children

Christmas - Montreal Welsh Male Choir

Claude Marie Landré, director

John Miranda, accompanist

The beautiful singing and great Christmas music of the Montreal Male Welsh Choir will lift your spirits and ease you into the joy of the season by candlelight

For full concert series click on:



Lakeshore Chamber Music Society

On Friday, December 8, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. the Lakeshore Chamber Music Society will present the following concert:

Thomas Chartré, cello

Serhiy Salov, piano

Works by Brahms & Schumann

Location: Union Church
24 Maple Avenue
Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue

Tickets are available at the door: \$25 for adults; \$10 for students; free for 16 & under.

You can sign up for a season membership on our website at <https://www.lakeshorechambermusic.org>

The concerts are sponsored in part by the Conseil des arts de Montréal.

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

Do you know the role of a Commissioner of Oaths?

It is an individual who is empowered to certify the oath or “solemn affirmation” of a person upon documents such as diplomas, birth certificates and other records.

If you need this service, please contact

Jennifer Ferguson (between 9am and 5pm)



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678 Surrey, Baie-D'Urfé, Québec H9X 3S1

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST at the MAXWELL Senior's Residence.

A delicious home cooked breakfast every Tuesday from 7:30 a.m.- 9:30a.m.

No reservation required. Everyone welcome



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Senior Discovery Tours takes care of all your travel details, so all you have to do is enjoy our beautiful world. As Canada's largest and most trusted operator of escorted tours and cruises for over 45 years, our tours are designed to provide peace of mind for the mature traveller who enjoys a carefree experience.

Our travellers love our tours because we include everything! They also rave about our Tour Managers, who go above and beyond to ensure that their trip runs smoothly and that everyone has a wonderful experience!

*For every MLUWC member that travels with Senior Discovery Tours, the MLUWC will receive a 4% commission per booking!
Please contact Joyce Schaaf (joyceschaaf@gmail.com) for booking details.*

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Tours**



Please note: If you travel with Senior Tours and are a member of the club, the Scholarship Fund will get a 4% rebate on the cost of your trip. If you use Senior Tours, please contact me after you return and I will send in the appropriate paperwork. I just need to have your name, the date of travel and the name of the tour. Thank you and Happy Travels.

Joyce Schaaf

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singing-tips-with-barbara-lewis.com

December

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Coffee Time 10:30 a.m. Zoom		1	2
3	4 General Meeting 6:30-900 p.m.	5 Book Club III	6 Coffee Time 10:30 a.m. Zoom	7	18	9
10	11 Book Club !V West Island Walks 10:00 a.m.	12	13 Coffee Time 10:30 a.m. Zoom Mystery Book Club 1:00	14 Book Club II 1:00p.m. Zoom	15 .French Conversation 9:30 a.m. Zoom	16
17	18 West Island Walks 10:00 a.m.	19	20 Coffee Time 10:30 a.m. Zoom	21	22	23
24 	25 	26 	27 	28 	29 	30 

Newsletter Editor: Maria De Wolfe mluwc.newsletter3@gmail.com

I take full responsibility for all errors, omissions or spelling mishaps and incorrect punctuation. If you would like me to correct an error in the next newsletter, please email me at:

mluwc.newsletter3@gmail.com.

If you would like to contact someone mentioned in the newsletter but you don't have their email address, please send a message to the email above and I will forward it.

Proofreaders: Janet Ankcorn and Gilda Martinello (Many thanks)

December Newsletter Deadline: December 13



GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER



Jennifer Smart introducing our November guest speaker Gabrielle Barrette from La Sortie



Yolande Martin, Gilda Martinello and Jane Cowell proudly wearing their name tags