



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

PAST PRESIDENT

As Past-President and Chair of the Nominating Committee, I am happy to present to you the following slate of Executives for the 2022-2023 year:

Executive

President	Jane Cowell
Vice President CFUW	Mary Vlahos, Patricia DuVal
Vice President Membership	Nancy Acemian
Treasurer	Jane Hamilton Weber
Recording Secretary	Sally Gurekian (Exec.), to be filled (General meeting)
Communications	Candice Quinn, Susan Campbell-Fournel
Past President	Linda Sestock

Standing Committee Chairs

Archives	To be filled
Newsletter	Maria De Wolfe
Website	Marianna Newkirk
Scholarship Committee	Kathleen McGrath
Hospitality	Theresa Sliz
Interest Groups	Vida Guido
Program	Sabra Ledent
Fundraising	Victoria Pinnell
Potluck Dinners	Carole Newberry, Suzanne Chaussé
Newsletter Distribution	Carolyn Cunnison
Photographer	Margaret Czalbowska, Veronica Desaulniers
GW/International Rep	Mariam Ishak
Social Media	Linda Sestock

Scholarship Fund

Chair	Gilda Martinello
Secretary	Heather Hamilton
Treasurer	To be confirmed shortly
Member at Large	Jane Hamilton Weber
MCW	Maria de Wolfe Heather Hamilton

QC Council

President	Linda Sestock
RD English	Judy Hopps
RD French	

I would like to thank everyone who has decided to stay on during this odd pandemic year and for everyone who volunteered

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Sestock
Past President**

PRESIDENT

2021-2022 has been another challenging year for us all – both personally and as a club. The seemingly never-ending pandemic may have curbed our in-person activities but has not curbed our enthusiasm. Our monthly meetings and most Interest Groups were able to continue on Zoom – thanks to the technical wizardry of Nancy Acemian - and we were even able to squeeze in a fun, in-person Christmas Party before the full force of the Omicron variant hit our community.

Our membership has stayed relatively stable through this time. Thanks to all who renewed their membership and welcome to our ten new members!

The Executive held 9 meetings since the last AGM. I would like to sincerely thank all our Executive members who worked so hard over the last year. Thank you to out-going Executive members Helen Findlay, Nicole Larocque, Carolyn Cunnison, Anne Brohan, Franca Ferrara, Robin Ouellette, Luhan Wahbeh, Tina Tessari, Amy Dhinsda and Rachel Chenier. We will miss you and we thank you for your service to the club.

Our monthly meetings were well-attended and thanks to our Program Committee, we had interesting speakers each month.

Our Advocacy Committee has gone above and beyond this year. They organized the March in Solidarity with the Women of Afghanistan. The group continued to work with CARE Jeunesse in support of young people aging out of care and collected over \$3,000 in gift cards for the youth at Christmas. For the second year in a row, they organized a collection of winter coats and home-baked goodies for the Résilience Day Shelter that serves the indigenous community near Cabot Square. The group also partnered with the West Island Women's Centre and collected new pajamas for women and children. They also organized a strong letter-writing campaign concerning the opioid crisis.

Our Scholarships and Bursaries Committee assessed dozens of scholarship applications and handed out \$11,200 - \$6,000 in scholarships and \$5,200 in bursaries - to deserving women in our community. Although the pandemic precluded us from holding fundraising activities, our faithful membership continued to solidly support the Scholarship Fund.

Despite the pandemic, we have managed to keep our public profile relatively high. We have a beautiful and informative website that is meticulously kept up to date. Our Facebook page is well-followed. We share CFUW, advocacy, GWI and local community clubs on our Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram pages. Our Newsletter not only goes to members but is widely circulated in the community. Our March in Solidarity with the Women of Afghanistan in October not only attracted many local officials (3 Members of Parliament, five local Mayors and several City Councillors) but also attracted media attention. Our Christmas Fundraiser raised \$1600 for the Friends of Mental Health. Thanks to the hard work done by Linda Sestock during the years she was President, and her current work on social media, we have excellent visibility in the West Island, as well as a reputation of being “movers and shakers”.

So, while it wasn't quite the year we envisioned, I am proud nonetheless of all we managed to accomplish despite the roadblocks placed in our way.

**Respectfully submitted,
Jane Cowell
President**

VP CFUW LIAISON

CFUW's advocacy priorities for this year were violence against women and girls, Indigenous peoples' rights, early learning and childcare, long-term care, and climate change.

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was again held virtually. Four resolutions were passed:

1. Single-use Plastics and Plastic Packaging (CFUW Nepean)
2. “Right to Repair” for Large Household Appliances (CFUW Cape Breton)
3. Canada's Opioid Crisis (Montréal Lakeshore)
4. Post-Pandemic Recovery for Women in Canada (CFUW International Relations Committee)

CFUW continued its initiatives to help clubs and members deal with the pandemic, including a Zoom account available to all clubs and Information on virtual events being held by Clubs across Canada.

To celebrate International Women's Day, CFUW co-sponsored a virtual conference with the Afghan Women's Centre of Montreal to learn about the current crisis in Afghanistan as well as identify and implement actions that will alleviate the increasingly precarious plight of

Afghan women. Participants included guest-speakers from across the world, as well as the testimonies of witnesses currently living in Afghanistan.

Due to the continuing COVID19 global pandemic, the 66th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women was again held electronically March 14-25. This year's theme was *Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes*. CFUW is a member of the UNCSW and sends delegates each year. Any Club member can apply to be a delegate. In addition, all CFUW members have the opportunity to register for the NGO CSW parallel forum and attend any of the parallel sessions by NGOs.

The 2022 CFUW AGM will also be held electronically, August 25-27, with virtual workshops held in advance. There are six proposed resolutions for consideration at the 2022 AGM:

1. Archiving Selected Policies, I (CFUW Advocacy Committee)
2. Archiving Selected Policies II (CFUW Advocacy Committee)
3. Strengthening Employment Equity (CFUW Nelson & District)
4. Tightening Bail Laws to Protect Victims of Intimate Partner Violence (UWC North York)
5. Violence against Women in Politics (CFUW Oakville)
6. A Clean, Healthy & Sustainable Environment is a Human Right (CFUW Headwaters)

CFUW and GWI. MLUWC has voted to be one of the "opt-in" clubs, and continue to support GWI's international initiatives.

**Respectfully submitted,
Patricia DuVal and Mary Vlahos
VP/ Liaison CFUW**

VP/MEMBERSHIP

Once again, MLUWC is experiencing a challenging year with the new COVID variants and government restrictions. At this point most of our members are veteran Zoom users. We have relied on Zoom for most of our "gatherings/meetings" be it for our monthly general meetings or the interest group meetings.

Membership numbers for 2021 – 2022:

Total number of members: 164 (a decrease of 6.7% from last year). Of these:

- 6 are Life Members
- 3 are Students
- 10 are New Members

**Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Acemian
VP Membership**

TREASURER

The Club will be in a loss position for this year, due mainly to an increase in the dues paid to CFUW as well as an additional amount paid for a GWI surcharge related to the prior year. We anticipated these increases and rather than increasing our dues for the current year we chose to budget for a loss. This loss will be covered by the surplus amount that has accumulated in the Club's bank account over the previous years. However we cannot continue to operate in a deficit position.

**Respectfully submitted,
Helen Findlay and Nicole Larocque
Co-Treasurers**

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

As we started this new year, we had high hopes that at some point we could meet in person. It turned out that this did not happen. However, the conditions did not discourage us from continuing our mandate in landing a hand wherever it was needed.

We started in October by taking part in the "Orange Campaign", protesting violence against women by encouraging local municipalities to light up their billboards or buildings in orange.

On October 2, in collaboration with the City of Dollard des Ormeaux, we organized a walk at Centennial Park in solidarity with our Afghan sisters and to raise awareness of their plight. Despite the rainy day, it was well attended by dignitaries, members of the Afghan Community and the general public.

In November, we filled 6 cars with warm clothing, and baked goods delivered to Resilience in support of homeless Indigenous people.

In December, as in past years, we repeated the collection of gift cards accompanied by encouraging notes for C.A.R.E. Jeunesse. Over \$1600.00 was collected.

Chitra and Barbara worked on the Opioid Crisis Resolution, which was passed, and a letter was circulated to all CFUW Clubs to be sent to MPs and MNA's.

As we close the year we are looking forward to new and worthwhile projects for next year.

Of course, without your help we cannot go very far. We appreciate everyone's willingness and generosity in bringing everything to fruition. A BIG thank you to each and everyone of our members.

Hope you have a safe and pleasant summer. Looking forward to seeing you in the Fall.

**Respectfully submitted,
Patricia DuVal and Mary Vlahos
Co- Chairs**

ARCHIVES

This past year the task of digitizing historical material, which is in storage in the basement/crawl space of West Island Community Shares, was put on hold. Moving into the next membership cycle the focus will be on creating and maintaining an organizational structure of our documents on Google Drive as well as digitizing the historical material.

**Respectfully submitted,
Amy Dhindsa**

FUNDRAISING

The **Montreal Lakeshore University Woman's Club (MLUWC) Scholarship Fund** encourages education and life-long learning by awarding scholarships and bursaries to qualified and deserving West Island women. To this end, the Fundraising Committee sought to meet a 2021-2022 Scholarship Fund objective of \$12,000.

"Poolside Chat" with author Jennifer Robson, reviewing her novel **Our Darkest Night** was held on June 10, 2021. This virtual summer fundraiser drew 64 participants raising \$1626.86.

The Fall Fundraiser and General Meetings, where funds would normally have been generated, were not held. In lieu of these activities, a **Scholarship Fundraising Drive** was held from September 2021 until March 2022. As of the end of February, a total of \$9158.00 was raised.

Games Day which was to have been held on April 22 was cancelled due to low registration numbers. Those members who did purchase tickets donated the money to the Scholarship Fund. A total of \$553 was raised.

The total amount raised for the year is \$9711.00, which regrettably is \$2289.00 short of our objective.

As was the case last year, our members were very supportive and donated to the **Scholarship Fund** in lieu of the fundraising event they would have attended and for this we are most grateful.

Over the past few years, fundraising has taken on a whole new dimension. It requires non-profit clubs such as the MLUWC to become creative in how funds are raised for the scholarship and bursary program, amidst ever-challenging world and market conditions. This certainly was the case these past two years dealing with COVID.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to sincerely thank our Fundraising Committee: Anne Brohan, Sally Gurekian, Carole Newberry and Mary Vlahos for their support and dedication, allowing us to once again strive to meet our club's scholarship mandate.

**Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Pinnell
Chair**

HOSPITALITY

A holiday party was held at Cedar United Church on Monday, December 6, 2021. There were 50 happy members in attendance. The room was decorated beautifully, and the music was light and lively. Liquid beverages were provided, and a paid boxed meal was provided by **Les Biscuits Marookies**.

A pleasant time was had by all. This is the only time hospitality had an event.

**Respectfully submitted,
Luhan Wahbeh and Tina Tessari
Coordinators**

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN (MCW/CFM)

The Montreal Council of Women is a vibrant, proactive, council of women reflecting the diversity of society, encouraging informed political decision making and public attitudes for the well-being of society, through education, consultation and cooperation. MCW strives to empower all women to work together towards improving the quality of life for women, families and society through the forum of its membership of autonomous federated societies and individuals.

Below are some program highlights from the past year. Due to COVID-19, MCW's two monthly meetings, a hybrid of advocacy work and social events continued to be held virtually at 12:00 noon or 5:00 p.m. MLUWC members are always welcome to register for these events. All of these meetings and others have been recorded and are available for viewing [here](#).

Hate Speech: A Violent Attack on Canadian Diversity: A panel discussion with Dr. Barbara Perry, Dr. Vivek Venkatesh and Amira Elghawaby

Trafficking and Children: No Safe Space: Penny Rankin, MCW Past President and founder of Canadians4Action, a collective dedicated to advocating for legislation to protect children from online abuse and exploitation

Health and Healing in the Garden: Monica Giacomini showed the many ways gardening contributes to our physical and psychological well-being

Stories of Serving our Country: In commemoration of Remembrance Day three current members of Canada's military shared their experiences.

Marking Black History Month with Marlene Jennings: Ms. Jennings shared some of her family's history in Montreal including her father's experiences working as a CPR train porter.

Fairtrade: A Framework for Sustainable Farming: Jennie Coleman, owner and president of Equifruit, on the basic mechanics of Fairtrade production

The Annual General Meeting on May 19th is an opportunity to hear of all the good work done by the Council throughout the year and ask questions. Immediately following the AGM, MCW will celebrate its **2022 Woman of the Year: Senator Julie Miville-Dechêne**. Senator Miville-Dechêne is an accomplished, empathetic woman and a lifelong activist. She is being recognized for her relentless championing of the rights of women and girls, both as a Senator and throughout her very successful career in journalism and in public service.

**Respectfully submitted,
Heather Hamilton and Maria De Wolfe**

NEWSLETTER

The MLUWC newsletter was published 9 times from September 2021 to May 2022. It was emailed to all members and sent by regular post to a few members. It was shared with other clubs. The monthly newsletter is posted on our website.

The newsletter hosted 4 advertisers which earned the club \$400.00 in fees.

Many thanks to our most efficient proofreaders, **Jane Edwards and Janet Ankcorn**. Without them the newsletter would suffer greatly in terms of quality. Thank you to **Carol Cunnison** who ensured the newsletter was mailed to members who do not have access to email. Thank you to **Marianna Newkirk** for posting our newsletter on the website.

A very special thank you goes to **all members** who took the time to send their contributions as requested. It made being the editor a lot easier.

**Respectfully submitted,
Maria De Wolfe
Newsletter editor**

POTLUCK EVENTS

Due to the COVID epidemic still going strong, there were very few ladies who felt at ease either to hosting an event at their home and/or meeting in person. However, thanks to Nancy Acemian some of us did enjoy online Zoom meetings in small groups that were organized for the afternoon and evening of January 17th.

Hopefully by January of 2023 we will be able to meet in person once again!

Respectfully submitted,
Carole Newberry
Suzanne Chaussé
Coordinators

PROGRAM

The Program committee met via Zoom in June 2021 to brainstorm and evaluate the suggestions submitted for speakers. Committee members were assigned responsibilities to invite speakers and then oversee the gathering of the critical information for the monthly newsletters etc. Due to the COVID pandemic, the decision was made to continue preparing a digital version of the program booklet instead of a hard copy one as our Kick-Off was done via Zoom. The complete booklet was emailed to all members in good standing and the list of events with dates and guest speaker names was posted on the MLUWC website.

Procedure for the second pandemic year:

- An invitation for each general meeting was emailed to members a week before as well as a reminder three days prior to the event.
- Members were required to register for an event to receive the Zoom link.
- The link was emailed 24 hours before the event only to those members who registered.
- Format of the meeting was as follows:
 - Members were asked to join the Zoom meeting by 7:00 pm.
 - 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm was allotted to chat among members.
 - The business meeting began at 7:30 pm.
 - 8:00 pm (or so, depending on the length of the business meeting) the guest speaker was introduced.

Monthly meetings:

Attendance numbers were generally down from the year before, perhaps reflecting Zoom fatigue.

- *September 15, 2021* – A panel of three realtors representing Royal LePage (Linda Sestock), Re/Max (Pauline Van Nieuwburg), and Adresz (Georgiana Cretu) discussed the benefits and perils of the present housing market.
- *October 5, 2021* – 60 members registered for the event. Stéphane Aquin, director-general of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, described the path ahead for the museum

and reflected on his new position as director of the museum.

- *November 8, 2021* – 67 members registered for the event. Victoria Kucynzski from Friends of Mental Health described the state of mental health services on the West Island.
- *December 6, 2021* – 46 members registered to attend the event. Our only in-person event of the year was held at Cedar Park United Church. Purely social, the event featured snack boxes prepared by Marookies and the presentation of a donation to Friends of Mental Health.
- *February 14, 2022* – 61 members registered for the event. Sam Watts, CEO and Executive Director of Welcome Hall Mission, described his organization's offerings to the homeless and poverty-stricken of Montreal. Some WHM staff joined us as well.
- *March 14, 2022* – 68 members registered for this event. In celebration of International Women's Day, this meeting featured a presentation by Cinthy Leyva Mancilla, owner and manager of Terra Viva Gardens, in Mirabel, Quebec.
- *April 11, 2022* – 66 members registered for this event. Members' night. Members Marianna Newkirk, Janet Guay, and Nancy Acemian described their craft making for members.
- *May 11, 2022* – The Annual Meeting will be held on Zoom and will welcome former editor of the *Montreal Gazette*, Lucinda Chodan.

Finally, much thanks go to the program committee members: Nancy Acemian (who also kindly handled the Zoom technicalities), Janet Ankcorn, Jane Cowell, Heather Hamilton, and Linda Sestock.

**Respectfully submitted,
Sabra Ledent
Chair**

SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY COMMITTEE

The scholarship committee gave out \$11,800 in scholarships and bursaries for the 2021-2022 school year on behalf of our club. As I write this report, the scholarship committee is busy reviewing the applications for the 2022-2023 school year. The university scholarship recipients will be decided by the end of April, and we hope to introduce the recipients at the AGM on May 11th. As most club activities wind down for the summer, the work of the scholarship committee will continue through May as we review the applications for the John Abbott bursary and the bursaries for Place Cartier and Centre Jeanne Sauvé adult learning centers.

In the fall, a proposal was made to establish 2 new bursaries in the amount of \$500.00 each to be awarded to female students from Place Cartier and or Centre Jeanne Sauvé who complete

the requirements for their high school diploma and are registered in a Cegep program for the fall semester. The motion was approved by the scholarship fund committee and the brought to and approved by executive. Additionally, a onetime bursary of \$1000.00 will be awarded to a female student from John Abbott College for the 2022-2023 school year in memory of former member Diana Nevins who passed away in June 2021. The scholarship fund received almost \$4,000 in memorial donations; the balance of which was invested in the scholarship fund. On behalf of the Scholarship Committee, I wish to offer sincere thanks to our members, the scholarship fund committee, fundraising committee, and the executive for the ongoing support of female students.

This year a major revision was made to the application forms for the University scholarships. Changes were aimed at improving the clarity of the information provided by the applicants in order to simplify the difficult task of reviewing the applications. The forms were also reformatted so that the English and French forms have a consistent look, and the word documents were made into fillable pdf's. A HUGE thank you to Nancy Acemian for her technical expertise and patience in transforming the Word documents into fillable pdf's.

The selection process is always challenging which attests to the incredible achievements of the applicants. Thank you to the members of this year's scholarship committee,; Theresa Sliz, Judy Kelley, Cendra Paas, Joyce Schaaf, Marie-Helene Gauthier, Linda Ricketts, Eve Jolicoeur and Anne Brohan, for their work in reviewing the applications and for their input into the selection of the candidates.

Finally, I would like to thank Maria De Wolfe for her dedication and leadership in chairing the Scholarship Committee for the past 4 years. I am thrilled that Maria will remain a member of the committee for next year. I will look to her for guidance as I assume the role of chairperson.

**Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen McGrath
Co-Chair**

SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

Again, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to have any fundraising events this year. As of April 22, 2022, we have raised \$10,383 just about \$1617 less than our stated goal of \$12,000. You still have time to donate to the Scholarship Fund and help us reach our goal by May 31, 2021.

We received close to \$4,000 in donations in memory of Diana Jane Nevins who passed away in June. We are very grateful to all who donated. The Membership approved an extra bursary of \$1000 to a student at John Abbott College in memory of Diana Nevins. The remaining money we received in her memory has been kept in the Scholarship Fund.

We also received approval from the Membership to provide additional bursaries for female students from the two adult learning centers we support: Centre Jeanne Sauvé and Place Cartier. Women studying at these centers struggle to make ends meet and our two bursaries will provide much needed help to those who decide to continue their education at the CEGEP level.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who contributes to the success of the Scholarship Fund. This includes all those who support the cause by making donations or purchasing tickets to fundraising events, as well as the members of both the Scholarship committee and the Fundraising committee who adapted to new challenges in order to fulfill their mandates.

A heartfelt thank you to the Scholarship Fund Committee. Treasurer, Rachel Chenier handles banking, issuing receipts and filing the annual charity return and will be stepping down at the end of May after being on the Committee for three years. Heather Hamilton stepped into the role of Secretary and thanks to her, I was able to survive my first year as Chair. Thanks also to Jane Hamilton Weber who took on the role of Member-at-Large this year. Maria De Wolfe continued as Vice-Chair and Kathleen McGrath will be taking over that position as of June 1, 2022. Without this team of exceptional women, I would not have been able to complete my first year as Chair.

**Respectfully submitted,
Gilda Martinello
Chair**

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook page – **598** likes (up from 550 likes) and **691** followers

We advertise our events, share CFUW and GWI news and important community information and social topics.

Petition CHSLD - (temporary page) already has 153 likes (141 last year) and 157 followers. It is being transitioned into a Quebec Council CFUW page

Instagram Page - @MLUWC **396** followers (up from 257 followers last year)

MLUWC Networking Group (Private) - **236** members (up from 196 members last year)

Linked-In @MLUWC CFUW **259** connections (up from 256)

Twitter - @MLUWCWestIsland **90** followers (up from 83 followers)

Did you know that every time you like and share a social media post you are increasing awareness for the Club? Why is social media necessary today? Many people today do not subscribe to traditional print media and instead often get their news from the internet. Thanks to social media we are able to advertise the MLUWC and our events for free, and even attract new members. When we have a fundraiser or event, the followers on our social media are advised through social media posts and they in turn share our club news with their social media friends.

We use free sites like Canva to create our media. If you are creative and want to help, let me know.

Thank you to everyone who is on social media and actively participates with MLUWC social media. Please send me photos of your MLUWC event or group to post to social media.

We need people who are active on social media to help out. Let me know if you would like to help.

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Sestock
Coordinator**

WEBSITE

The Website is a resource that increases the visibility of the Club's activities and facilitates events which range from the monthly meetings, the different advocacy activities to the networking group. In general, there are approximately 500-800 visits to the site per month and each visitor to the site views 2 to 3 pages each visit. The club directory pages on the website, which are password protected, continue to be a valuable resource for the members as are the monthly newsletters. Due to the ongoing pandemic and the risks of in-person meetings, many of the activities of the club were by necessity conducted by Zoom so the website was important for keeping everyone up to date.

Don't hesitate to visit the website should you need information about future or past activities.

**Respectfully submitted,
Marianna Newkirk
Webmaster**

INTEREST GROUPS

During the 2021-2022 year the MLUWC had 25 Interest Groups registered. During the virtual September Kickoff on Zoom 12 groups were open to recruit new members. Thirteen groups opted for and scheduled Zoom meetings on the internet with their members. During the year we also advertised in the MLUWC Newsletter to create 3 new Interest Groups: The Day Games Group, the Outdoor Activity Group and a Pickle Ball Group.

**Respectfully submitted,
Franca Ferrara
Coordinator**

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

With COVID restrictions and other concerns, we have not been able to meet in person. Meanwhile we have kept in touch by phone. I will be moving in May and hope to host a bridge party in person. Members of "Afternoon Bridge" are Eleanor Shaver, B.J. Bell, Lorraine Barry Retfalvi, Maude Grenier, Connie Ellis and Bogna Waida.

**Respectfully submitted.
Lorraine Barry Retfalvi**

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BON APPÉTIT DINING CLUB

The **Bon Appétit** ladies met once in November at AYA, the new Lebanese restaurant in Kirkland along with the Club's other dining group, **Exploring World Cultures**. The group did not meet for the remainder of the 2021-22 season due to the high incidence of COVID and the government restrictions that were in effect.

Victoria Pinnell
Coordinator

BOOK DISCUSSION I

Our hopes of returning to our normal living room discussions did not materialize, but thanks to Zoom, and our wonderful Zoom master, Judy, we were able to carry on and complete reading and discussing the books chosen for the year.

Books chosen:

Our Darkest Night by Jennifer Robson,

The Sisters Tale by Beth Powning,

Five Little Indians by Michelle Good, (chosen by Canada Reads as their choice of the year)

21 Things You May Not Know About The Indian Act by Bob Joseph (read with **Five Little Indians**).

The Age of Creativity by Emily Urquhart - a story about her father Tony Urquhart, the artist, who passed away early this year just weeks after we had reviewed his life with this book.

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins,

The Truth be Told by Beverley McLachlin,

The First Actress by C. W. Gortner,

The Forgotten Daughter by Joanne Goodman,

A Town Called Solace by Mary Lawson .

A varied collection of good books, keeping us together for another successful year.

Our thanks to all our members for contributing to our lively discussions. Selections for next year will be chosen at our June meeting, hopefully in-person, in someone's garden !

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Kelley and Marg Nicoll- Griffith

BOOK DISCUSSION II

Book Club II's eleven members attended meetings via Zoom on the third Thursday of the month.

We enjoyed each other's company so much that we decided to continue meeting over the summer months and selected three books to read, which were:

Hamnet, by Maggie O'Farrell

The Vanishing Half, by Britt Bennett

The King at the Edge of the World, by Arthur Phillips

With regular meetings beginning again in September, we chose this mixture of fiction and non-fiction books:

American Dirt, by Jeanine Cummins

Yellow Wife, by Sadeqa Johnson

Agent Sonya, by Ben Macintyre

In the Garden of Beasts, by Erik Larson

Big Lies in a Small Town, by Diane Chamberlain

The Exiles, by Christina Baker Kline

The Night Watchman, by Louise Erdrich

The Code Breaker, by Walter Isaacson

The Four Winds, by Kristin Hannah

Now in the process of choosing books for next year, we look forward again to experiencing lively and thought-provoking discussions.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pick Vadivel

THE BREAKFAST CLUB GROUP

As a result of the pandemic and COVID restrictions during 2021-2022, the group only met once for breakfast at Maurizio Restaurant.

Respectfully submitted,
Franca Ferrara

COFFEE TIME

What started off as a “temporary” and informal online gathering to help with COVID isolation has metamorphosed into an Interest Group this year. We meet every Wednesday for an hour at 10:30am using Zoom. An invite is sent out every week to all MLUWC members. As we meet on Zoom there is no restriction on numbers. The invite includes a proposed topic of discussion (some serious, some funny and some just plain silly) of the week and the Zoom link. Registration is not required. The goal of this group is to offer companionship, friendship and of course lots and lots of laughter.

We have organized “secret” card exchanges for Christmas, Valentines Day and St-Patrick Day among the attendees of this group.

There is a core of about a dozen members who attend regularly.

**Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Acemian**

EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION I

As with most groups this year, our ten members met the first Tuesday of the month on Zoom. Despite restrictions of getting together in person, we nonetheless had some lively discussions about the authors and the story lines.

The following books were selected in the fall and discussed throughout this season.

The Vanishing Half by Britt Bennett
The Doctors Blackwell by Janice Nimura
The Rose Code by Kate Quinn
Save Me the Plums by Ruth Reichl
Anxious People by Fredrik Backman
They Call Me George by Cecil Foster
The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles
White Ivy by Susie Yang
Hamnet and Judith by Maggie O’Farrell

We would welcome 2 or 3 new members who may wish to join this group in September.

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Ricketts**

EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION II

Our amazing group meets every third Tuesday evening, via Zoom. Here is the list of books we read and will read for 2021/2022

Anxious People by Fredrik Backman
As Bright As Heaven by Susan Meissner
Before The Crown by Flora Harding
The Book Of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michelle Richardson
The Yellow Wife by Sadeqa Johnson
The Henna Artist by Alka Joshi
The Clockmaker's Wife by Daisy Wood
The Shadow by Melanie Raabe
The Slave Across the Street by Theresa Flores
Shop Suey Nation by Ann Hui
The Secret Keeper of Jaipur by Alka Joshi

We are a group of five amazing women who enjoy meeting and discussing the books we read. We always have time for self-reflection, joking and laughter. We welcome new members. Happy Reading.!

**Respectfully submitted,
Luhan Wahbeh**

EXPLORING WORLD CULTURES

We brought a Moroccan themed take-out dinner to our homes, provided by Bistro 1843, and enjoyed hearing of Chef Tarik's love of cooking influenced by his grandmother. He also explained his use of herbs and natural greenery in nature that he enjoys using.

Lebanese Restaurant "AYA"

EWC joined with Bon Appetit for a lovely lunch in this newly opened restaurant on the West Island.

Quebec's North shore - Family ancestry

Jennifer Ferguson took us on a tour from Quebec City to Tadousac and Baie Come. She explored the history of the Gulf Pulp & Paper industry and Family connections along the way.

Krakow Poland – "one of the European cities of culture"

Maria Korab-Laskowska shared a beautiful collection of pictures from scenes near Krakow and the Tatra Mountains region.

Portugal - "Viewpoints by Portuguese native and Tourist"

Carolina Soulié & Sally Gurekian

A variety of landscapes richly influenced by its extensive seacoast and Mediterranean climate.

**Respectfully submitted,
Sally Gurekian**

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Nous avons encore eu une belle année avec Tête-à-tête. Comme d'habitude nous nous sommes réunis le troisième vendredi du mois pour parler du thème sélectionné.

**Respectfully submitted,
Janet Anderson**

GOURMET II

Membership: 10, we usually meet once a month.

This season of 2021- 2022 we will have gathered five times in each others' homes and once for lunch in a restaurant in December.

We endeavour to plan menus with interesting themes that will introduce our members to different taste experiences in food and wines. So far this season our menus have included Vegetarian, Scottish, "Welcome to Spring "and Eastern European fare.

We all look forward to the lively conversation and enjoyment of good food each month.

**Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Vost**

JAUNTERS

It was one of those years, again...

Since **JAUNTERS** is an in-person group where members get together and enjoy a jaunt and a meal with friends, it was again impossible to have any meeting this past year. The group had previously indicated that they were not interested in any online or Zoom events.

I am sure that we all missed seeing each other and enjoying all those fun jaunts.

Hopefully, we will be able to make up for lost time and get together in person in the coming year!

**Respectfully submitted,
Chitra Chopra**

KNIT & CHAT

We met only when the weather permitted us to meet outside, either at a park or someone's backyard. Hopefully we will resume getting together at the end of May. We meet the last Saturday of each month from approximately. 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. We are 12 ladies in our group, therefore full. However, if someone would like to join they are welcome as we have never had a full group at any meeting.

**Respectfully submitted,
Tina Tessari**

MUSIC HISTORY

The Music History group has been on pause this year owing to the pandemic.

**Respectfully submitted,
Joan Dyer**

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

This year's meetings were all held via Zoom. We met from September 2021 to May 2022. This past year we decided to read mysteries from different countries. These are the mysteries we will have read and reviewed this past year:

Dead Lemons by Finn Bell	New Zealand
All the Devils are Here by Louis Penny	Canada
Daughters of the Night by L Shepherd Robinson	England
Behind God's Back by Harri Nykänen	Finland
A Rising Man by Abir Mukherjee	India
Newcomer by Keigo Higashino	Japan
The Winter Queen by Boris Akunin	Russia
Finding Nouf by Zoe Ferraris	Saudi Arabia
The Coldest Case by Martin Walker	France

We also met last summer – June to August – and these are the books we read:

The President is Missing by James Patterson & Bill Clinton
The Rose Code by Kate Quinn
The Windsor Knot by SJ Bennett

Our meetings are on the second Wednesday of every month. We currently have 13 members.

**Respectfully submitted,
Gilda Martinello**

NETWORKING GROUP

The 2021-2022 Networking Group continued to meet on zoom and in-person this year.

We were able to have a mix of in-person and zoom events. Our first in-person event was held in November and was much appreciated by everyone in attendance. Thank you to **Studio 77** for their hospitality and to **Marookies** for providing such good food. It was interesting to see the changes from November to March regarding our ability to get together due to covid restrictions. We can only hope that we will continue to meet in person in the Fall.

A total of \$235.00 has been raised for the MLUWC Scholarship Fund, so far. Marie Claude Marchessault, a MLUWC networking participant and friend of the Club, donated \$240, proceeds of her Black Friday sales from her online store **Marché Nordique Oxygène** to the MLUWC Scholarship Fund.

- September: Mini golf in Dorval
- September: Kerry-Anne Kutz, Founder and Artistic Director of the **Festival de la Voix de Montréal** and the **Art Songs of Canada Project** was our guest speaker at Studio 77 and \$105 was raised for the MLUWC Scholarship Fund
- October: Zoom – open networking
- November: In- person at Studio 77. \$130.00 raised for the MLUWC Scholarship Fund
- January: Open Zoom event
- February: open Zoom event – topic “How can I help you grow your business”
- March: Marie, owner of **Marookies** - \$720 (including a raffle and postcard sale – thank you to Susan Campbell Fournel, Barbara and Veronica Desaulniers) was raised in support of Ukrainian refugees
- May: Maryse (MLUWC member) and owner of **Lutaflore**, will host us at her garden atelier and the net proceeds will benefit the MLUWC Scholarship Fund.

We shall continue to have a mix of in-person and Zoom events next year, all depending on COVID.

Join our Facebook group: **MLUWC Networking Group**

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Sestock, Susan Campbell Fournel and Vida Guido

OUTDOOR GROUP

We had a slow start due to weather and schedules, but we will start again in the Fall. We managed one day at Cap St-Jacques.

Pickleball: will be starting in early May and will continue in the Summer and Fall.

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Sestock**

TRAVEL GROUP

Our Travel meetings are usually held on the 4th Tuesday of the month. We have 51 members. Recently, we decided to remain on Zoom, as it turned out to be convenient and comfortable. We are really an “Armchair Travel Group” now. This year thanks to members and friends we have traveled the world.

We “Cycled in Sri Lanka” with Dianne Robinson.

Margaret Czalbowska brought us on a “Discovery Tour of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico”.

Pam Manning took us on an African safari, from Tanzania to Zanzibar. Later in the year she shared with us her time in “Columbia, Panama City, Cartagena, the Sierra Nevada Mountains and her visits to the local Kogi Indians.” Wonderful experiences all!

Joyce Schaaf brought us from “Barcelona to Istanbul” on a Mediterranean Cruise.

Maria Korab-Laskowska took us on two trips to Poland. First with a video presentation and then on to the Southeast borderland of Poland and Lviv in the Ukraine.

Our last presentations will be in April and May with guest travellers. We will be visiting the United Kingdom and Ireland with Steve Jackson and then for our last trip we will be off to Switzerland with John Anderson Pittman.

We welcome new members and new presenters!

**Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Schaaf and Maria Korab-Laskowska**

WEST ISLAND WALKS - MONDAY MORNINGS

The Walking Group had several lovely walks during the fall and took a long break from Christmas until early March because of the number of COVID cases. We greeted March with a feeling of excitement to be able to walk and catch up with each other! Three new members have joined the group, and we have enjoyed getting to know them better as we rack up our kilometers. We will continue to walk during the summer so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to join us!

**Respectfully submitted,
Jane Cowell**

WINE APPRECIATION I

Although a difficult year to put together our Wine Appreciation evenings, we managed to have half our meetings in person. All of us appreciated seeing each other after such a long time. As well, we all continued to enjoy seeing each other on Zoom when unable to meet in person. We are hoping to have in-person evenings in May and June if the stars align and this sixth wave wanes. May all stay strong, healthy and happy in this new world of COVID.

**Respectfully submitted,
Anne Howard**

WINE APPRECIATION II

Our group of 8 regular members and 2 spare members made the best efforts to stay connected throughout the season in spite of the on-and-off COVID restrictions.

In August, as a conclusion to the prior season, Diane Gibb hosted a backyard get together that was a potluck supper/dessert event with 3 wines to experience. A normal get together of 2-hours turned out to be a 5-hour fun time with lots of lively conversation, some wonderful food and good wines to discover and enjoy.

The group's official "kick-off event" was held in September at Vignoble Côte De Vaudreuil in an outdoor gazebo setting in the vineyard whereby we sampled 5 wines (2 white, 2 red and a porto-type of wine). The event catered with a gourmet box-lunch plus a game of wine-related trivial pursuit with prizes made the outing a lot of fun!

The monthly get togethers of October and November did allow us to meet up in person at one of our member's homes whereby the hostess selected and prepared the evening theme, wines and pairing foods. The hostess researched the 3 selected wines, plus provided the wine information sheets and wine tasting rating sheets for the evaluation of the wines.

December proved to be a fun in person get together at La Maison Verte Restaurant where we enjoyed a gourmet 3-course lunch of an appetizer, main meal and dessert with each service accompanied by an appropriate wine. We had our traditional "Secret Santa" so everyone went home with a small gift to help get more into the Christmas spirit.

Unfortunately, February, March and April returned us to virtual get togethers so each person attending selected a wine and food pairings to personally experience allowing them to share with the rest of the group the wine information they researched and their opinion on the wine. This modified concept as opposed to our in-person group wine tasting at least keeps us all connected allowing us to have wonderful conversations in addition to perhaps discovering some new wines.

In May and June, we hope these get togethers will be in person and at our June get together we usually decide on our summer schedule for July and August which we try to make as special outdoor gatherings.

Overall, our Wine Appreciation evenings are well marked by laughter, storytelling, great conversation and growing friendships.... plus of course the discovery of some terrific wines!

Respectfully submitted
Diane Gibb