

MONTREAL LAKESHORE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB
ANNUAL REPORTS
2015-2016

PAST PRESIDENT

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, I am pleased to present the following slate of officers and Committee chairs for the year 2015 - 2016:

Executive

New mandates for:

President	Linda Sestock
Vice-President & CFUW Liaison	Nancy Doray Patricia DuVal
Vice-President & Membership	Paulette Cargill
Communications & Publicity	Diane Gibb
Past President	Connie Ellis
Recording Secretary	Carol Ohlin (for General Meetings) Vacant (for Executive Meetings)

Returning officer for her 2nd year:

Treasurer	Carolina Soulié
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Standing Committee Chairs

New mandates for:

Hospitality	Christine Hamilton
Interest Groups	Suzanne Chaussé
Programme	Marianna Newkirk
Webmaster	Diane Gibb

Returning chairs:

Archives	Jane Cowell-Poitras
Fundraising	Mary Vlahos and Victoria Pinnell
Newsletter	Barbara Armbruster
Scholarships	Jill Rollins Theresa Sliz

Other committees

Returning for an additional year:

Photographer	Judy Paquin & Janet Ankcorn
Potluck Dinners	Janet Ankcorn & Donna Bourne

MLUWC Scholarship Fund

Returning for an additional year:

Chair	Barbara Marcolin
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New mandate for:

Treasurer	Janet Ilavsky
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**Respectfully submitted,
Gilda Martinello
Past President & Chair, Nominating Committee**

PRESIDENT

Portfolios were officially transferred at the joint executive meeting (current and incoming members) held in May 2015. Thereafter executive meetings were held monthly beginning in August 2015. At these meetings plans for upcoming events were refined and matters of interest or concern were discussed.

In June I had the opportunity to represent the club at the Annual General Meeting of the CFUW which was held in Quebec City. In addition to some very interesting workshops there was ample opportunity to exchange ideas with members from all over the country. Resolutions addressing a range of subjects, among them **Reducing Climate Change through the Use of Carbon Taxes** and **Physician Assisted Death**, were presented, discussed and put to the vote. We also heard from some of the attendees of the successes to be achieved by working with other non-profit groups on specific projects.

During the summer the Programme and Fundraising Committees were very busy with preparations for the new year. The programme was presented to the executive meeting in August and distributed to the membership starting at the Autumn Convivium in September. The major fundraising event, which took place in October, was a presentation by The Lyric Theatre Singers. In spite of a downpour, this was very well attended and very well received. Once again the Scholarship fund has benefited from the efforts of a very hard-working Fundraising Committee and the generosity of our members - 24 of whom donated a total of \$1500.

General Meetings were held monthly from September through December and February through April. The speakers at these meetings addressed a range of issues all of which have been identified as being of concern or interest to members. As a result, the meetings were very well attended. The election call for October 19 gave us the opportunity to hold an all-candidates' meeting in October. The audience was so engaged that the 'question period' had to be cut short. Once again the Programme Committee is to be congratulated for obtaining an outstanding slate of speakers. The proceeds of the raffle which was held at the December meeting - \$1640 - were donated to the West Island Mission. At the March meeting - 'Members Night' - we had the opportunity to learn more about three of our newer members. They certainly impressed us with their achievements.

As a part of our community outreach, two presentations were held. Issues of interest to seniors and their children were addressed.

Our club is now recognized as a community partner of the City of Beaconsfield. The hope is that the community partners will work together, where possible, to be as effective as possible in the community.

The Quebec Provincial Council of University Women meets twice a year. In October the meeting was hosted by the Sherbrooke & District club. We had the pleasure of welcoming Brenda Shanahan M.P., the former CFUW VP Quebec. Several of our Executive members attended. This year's Annual General Meeting was hosted by UWC Montreal Inc. in April. At both these meetings the clubs represented had the opportunity to report on activities which had taken place and discuss potential projects.

I have come to the end of my term as Club President. I wish to express my appreciation to those members who have offered me advice from time to time. My thanks go to the many members who have helped to make this another successful year for the club.

**Respectfully submitted,
Constance Ellis
President**

VP/CFUW LIAISON

1. RESOLUTIONS:

This year, at our General Meeting on March 14, we voted on 4 proposed resolutions:

RESOLUTION 1:

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – Ending the Marginalization of Indigenous Women in Canadian Society.

RESOLUTION 2:

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) - Diagnostic, Intervention and Support Plan for children, adults and families affected by FASD.

Amendment:

Resolved No.1, part 1, add: f: Prevention plan through early education of parents and children on the dangers of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

RESOLUTION 3:

Strengthen the Pest Management Regulatory Agency in Order to Protect the Environment.

RESOLUTION 4:

Electoral reform: Adding Proportionality to the Electoral System in Canada.

2nd resolve: Omit:

4. A review of the new electoral system after elections take place under the new system.

RESOLUTION 5:

Sustainable Development Goals

2. Other points of interest:

- a. Four CFUW members were elected to the House of Commons:
 - i. Elizabeth May (BC)
 - ii. Karina Gould (ON)
 - iii. Karen McCrimmon (ON)
 - iv. Brenda Shanahan (Chateauguay, QC)
- b. The new Liberal party has voted to make an inquiry into missing or murdered native women
- c. The Liberal Party takes positive actions as regards to: Physician Assisted Death
- d. At the end of January 2016, at the **World Economic Forum**, the Secretary of the United Nations announced the first Hi-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Chaussé
Vice President & CFUW Liaison

VP/MEMBERSHIP

Dear fellow members,

How quickly the last 2 years have passed - it is hard to believe that my membership mandate is over. So much goes on at the club: meeting new members and established members, monthly meetings, interest groups, special events, the list goes on.

Our **Facebook** likes have climbed to 89. This is an increase of more than 50%. We use our Facebook page in a variety of ways: to showcase current and upcoming events at the club, share CFUW news and to share events that are of concern to women across the world. Next year, we may even be on Pinterest and Twitter.

Membership fees remain at \$110 for the 2016-17 year. An invoice will be going out to the Membership regarding our upcoming dues. As always, you will have the option of paying your upcoming annual dues at our AGM. Cheques may be post-dated August 15, 2016.

We hosted a very successful Newcomers Event in the Fall and I look forward to meeting more new members at our next event.

Our membership, as of April 1, 2016, stands at 202, including 10 life members and 2 dual members. Members come and go and sometimes come back again.

Wishing all of you a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you and your friends in September.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Sestock
Vice President & Membership Chair

COMMUNICATIONS

In the past year, sympathy and get-well cards were sent to a number of members of the club. This is a valued custom which provides comfort and support. It is possible that some were missed as the communications from club members when they know of a member either in hospital or who has lost a family member is not always transmitted to us.

In order to promote the club, the list of community advertising e-mail addresses has been updated, so that we can continue to advertise our meetings and be seen in the community section of the newspapers and other media outlets. We are also making sure that notices, as appropriate, are placed on the Club's Facebook Page. For meetings which are not open to the public but that we welcome the presence of the media, a press release prior to the event has been sent. This has led to coverage in media blogs as well as in hard copy.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianna Newkirk
Chair, Communications

TREASURER

Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club Interim Statement of Revenues-Expenses For the period of June 1, 2015 to April 11, 2016	Year to Date
CIBC Bank Account, Opening in June 1st	\$4,974.37
Manulife Bank Savings Account	\$1,668.71
Total Assets	\$6,643.08
Income Statement	
Membership Dues Collected	\$20,570.00
Annual Meeting	
Convivium	\$1,190.00
Other Income	\$40.00
Advertising/Newsletter	\$520.00
Total Revenues	\$22,320.00
Expenses:	
CFUW Fees Paid	
Other Association Fees Paid	\$444.00
Annual Meeting	
Convivium	\$738.85
Administration	
Admin	\$124.17
Honorarium	\$100.00
Bank service charges	\$6.00
Membership	\$839.64

Communications	
Publicity	\$9.78
Website	\$296.69
Program	\$779.04
April 25th, 2015	\$519.64
Hospitality	\$213.38
Newsletter	\$43.82
CFUW convention delegate	\$1,285.74
Rent	\$755.00
Donations	\$200.00
Miscellaneous expenses	\$338.21
Total Expenses	\$6,693.96
Excess of revenues and expenses	\$15,626.04
General Fund beginning of period	\$6,643.08
General Fund, Ending of period	\$22,269.12

Respectfully submitted,
Carolina Soulié
Treasurer

REPORTS FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEES

ARCHIVES

The archives of the Montreal Lakeshore University Women' Club continue to grow each year, as we keep important documents, minutes, photographs, directories etc. and preserve memories for future use.

All photos from the last two years are now being kept on USB key instead of in scrapbooks and some other documents are also being held electronically. As paper documents can deteriorate over time - especially photographs with their significant acid component - I am trying to ensure that we can safely maintain a permanent history of what the club is achieving at this time.

My aim over the next year or two is to go through the entire archive and to ensure that nothing is deteriorating. This is a huge undertaking that will require several volunteers.

**Respectfully submitted,
Jane Cowell-Poitras
Chair, Archives**

FUNDRAISING

This year's main fundraising event took place on October 28, 2015 at the D.D.O. Banquet Hall. The Lyric Theatre Singers performed "Back to Broadway" to a "sold out" venue. The audience was extremely happy with their performance and they all left with smiles on their faces. This event gave us a clear and record profit of \$12,000.00

Throughout the rest of the year, at the monthly General Meetings, we continued the "Bring-a-Book/Buy-a-Book Sale", as well as, the "50/50 Sale". The revenue from these activities is \$350.00.

At the General Meeting of April 11th, we held the "Antique & Unique Vintage Sale", plus a "Bake Sale". These annual fundraisers have become very popular and are welcomed with anticipation. At the end of the meeting, the total money raised was \$882.00

On April 28th, we will hold the Games Day at the Beaconsfield Lawn Bowling Club. It is expected to have an attendance of at least 80 ladies who enjoy playing their favourite game. Based on the results of previous years, we are hoping to realize a profit of \$1500.00. This amount is raised through ticket sales, raffle tickets, 50/50 and donations. This should bring the total for 2015-2016 fundraising revenues to over \$14,000.00. This amount does not include donations from numerous donors.

On behalf of the Fundraising Committee, we would like to thank all who participated in these events and have supported the Club throughout the year, in one capacity or another.

Of course, it goes without saying that the members of the Fundraising Committee have worked hard all year to realize these results. A big thank you goes out to Janet Ankcorn, Jane Cowell-Poitras, Judy Paquin and Joyce Schaaf for their time and effort.

Have a pleasant and safe Summer. See you in the Fall.

**Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Pinnell & Mary Vlahos
Co-chairs, Fundraising**

HOSPITALITY

The 2015 Convivium was a simple event, held at Karnak Shriners Temple, on September 14th. Coffee, tea and pastries were served at a cost of \$10.00 per attendee. Approximately 115 members attended.

The Christmas Raffle/Party was held at Summerlea United Church in Lachine, on December 14th. The McGill Conservatory Youth Choir regaled us and we appreciated the help of several high school students. The West Island Mission was the recipient of our raffle and was able to purchase 180 turkeys for their Christmas boxes. Hot "witches brew" was served, as well as sweets and savouries, kindly supplied by many of our members. A huge thank you.

The monthly General Meetings were held at the Karnak. Coffee, tea and cookies were offered.

The AGM will be held at the Beaconsfield Golf Club in Pointe Claire, on May 9th. The ticket price will be \$45 for a three-course meal and glass of wine and again, a cash bar will be available.

**Respectfully submitted,
Christine Hamilton and Gilda Martinello
Co-chairs, Hospitality**

NEWSLETTER

Nine newsletters are published monthly from September to May. Each newsletter is distributed to the membership via email. A few members continue to receive a printed copy by regular mail. Every month a copy of the newsletter is emailed to our Webmaster who makes it available to all on our website.

At the start of the season, five members opted to pay for business card advertising in the newsletter. Before Christmas, a sixth member joined the advertisers. This netted the Club \$510. During the course of the year, we permit members to submit short notices regarding community events in which they are involved. We do not charge a fee for these announcements.

Also, during the course of the year, the newsletter chair is asked to send out email reminders or other notices to the membership. The master email list is rigorously kept up to date with the help of the Membership Chair.

In April, the Newsletter Editor is required to edit and publish the Annual Reports. These reports must be distributed to the members before our Annual General Meeting; they are also posted on our web site.

I have truly enjoyed producing the newsletter again this year. I wish to thank Janet Guay and Gilda Martinello for proofreading the newsletter with their eagle eyes and Carolyn Cunnison for printing and mailing the newsletter to our members who do not have internet.

**Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Armbruster
Editor, Newsletter**

PROGRAMME

The Program Committee met on June 1, 2015 to discuss a wide variety of topics which might be of interest to the MLUWC membership. Committee members were assigned to follow up with potential speakers.

Meetings were held at the Karnak Shriners' Temple where we were fortunate to have the assistance of William Pitts, who retired in December, and Lyle Ball who replaced him. Unfortunately, Mr. Pitts' laptop is no longer at our disposal. Questionnaires were distributed at the meetings to allow members to evaluate the evening and give suggestions for future topics and speakers.

The General Meeting schedule remained the same with hospitality starting at 7:15 p.m., the business meeting at 7:45 p.m. and the speaker at 8:15 p.m.

The Autumn Convivium in September was organized by Paulette Cargill and Gilda Martinello and also took place at the Karnak Shriners' Temple.

Monthly meetings:

October

Lysanne Blanchette-Lamothe, NDP candidate for Pierrefonds-Dollard, and Francis Scarpaleggia, Liberal candidate for Lac-Saint-Louis spoke to us about their respective parties' platforms relating to women's issues in the upcoming federal election. Unfortunately the Conservative candidate canceled at the last minute. Some of the 2015 scholarship recipients also spoke on how receiving financial assistance from the MLUWC was helping them pursue their studies.

November

Teresa Dellar, Executive Director, and Rose De Angelis, Nursing Director, of the West Island Palliative Care Centre spoke about “Demystifying Palliative Care”. They noted that while most people don’t want to die in hospital, only 16%-30% of Canadians have access to palliative care which they feel should be universally accessible.

December

The McGill Conservatory Youth Choir entertained us with seasonal and popular music. This was followed by a buffet of sweets and savouries generously brought by members . Proceeds from the evening’s raffle were donated to the West Island Mission.

January

Potluck Dinners

February

Dr. Mark Ware, Director of Clinical Research, Alan Edwards Pain Management Unit, MUHC spoke to members about “Medical Cannabis: From Plant to Patient”. We left more knowledgeable about medical cannabis and especially how to become involved in clinical research to relieve chronic pain.

March

New members Francoise Vien, Denyse Boivin and Judy Kelley inspired us with stories from their personal and professional lives while several other members shared their hobbies. Resolutions, discussion and voting also took place in response to the deadline for proposing CFUW resolution amendments.

April

Cathy Wong, President of the Conseil des Montrealaises, spoke about the role of the Conseil which was created by Montreal City Council in 2004. It acts as an advisory body to the municipal administration on all issues concerning gender equality and the status of women and hopes to encourage women’s participation in the public life of Montreal.

May

We will be returning to the Beaconsfield Golf Club for the Annual General Meeting and Dinner on Monday, May 9. Dr. Victoria Kaspi, Associate Professor of Physics at McGill, will talk about her love of astrophysics.

Many thanks to the Committee members whose suggestions and contacts provided us with informative presentations and enjoyable entertainment: Janet Ankcorn,, Paulette Cargill, Jane Cowell-Poitras, Louise Dagenais, Diane Gibb, Marianna Newkirk, and Linda Sestock.

**Respectfully submitted,
Jane Edwards & Gilda Martinello
Co-chairs, Programme Committee**

SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee this year consisted of Maria DeWolfe, Jane Edwards, Cendra Paas, Jane Quail, and Hillie Viires. The chair position was shared by Jill Rollins and Theresa Sliz. Sandra Munro assisted us with her knowledge and support.

The Committee met in the fall to get acquainted and to set our agenda for the year. At that time we also updated the posters and application form for the Margaret Manson and Alberta Shearer Scholarships, and planned our publicity procedures.

A highlight of the October monthly meeting was the attendance of the Margaret Manson Scholarship, the Alberta Shearer, and the Amy Williams Scholarship recipients who each spoke to us about their studies and aspirations. All were extremely appreciative of our support, and the club members in turn were most impressed by their passion and dedication in their respective fields of study.

We received a total of 11 applications for the 2016 Margaret Manson and Alberta Shearer Scholarships and, of these, four were selected for interview. At the time of writing this report, the interviews have yet to take place.

The support the club extends to adults returning to complete their high school studies is continuing, through providing bursaries to le Centre d'éducation des adultes Jeanne Sauvé and to the Place Cartier Adult Education Centre. Up to \$1200, in the form of \$150 bursaries, is given annually to each of these centres. The applications from the students of both schools will be coming in at the end of April, when our committee will choose eight recipients from each school.

For the first time this year a bursary of \$600 is being awarded to a student of limited financial means in a John Abbott College technical program. Exceptionally, this year the bursary is awarded in the winter semester; however, in future it will be awarded in the fall semester, that is, at the start of an academic year when students often incur their greatest expenses. At the time of writing this report, this year's recipient has been selected and is in the process of being notified.

We have also been in touch with Roxanne Dupuis, the Financial Aid Officer from John Abbott College, about the Amy Williams Scholarship. Some members of our Scholarship Committee will join us to go to John Abbott College toward the end of May to interview the candidates and select the recipient.

At this time, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of the members of our Scholarship Committee for their time and dedication to this work.

**Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Sliz and Jill Rollins
Co-chairs, Scholarship Committee**

POT LUCK DINNERS

The 23rd Annual Pot Luck Dinners were held January 11, 2016. Both the weather and the flu co-operated this year and all the events went off as planned. There were 93 participants at two lunches, nine dinners and one afternoon tea. We hope that everyone enjoyed themselves!

A big thank you to the Hostesses and Assistant Hostesses for all you did to make this event a success!

Hostesses

Jeanne-Marie Lefebvre
Veronica Valentine
Christine Hamilton
B.J. Bell
Renata Sutherland
Diane Robinson
Maria Kolodziej
Kate LeMaistre
Lorraine Retfalvi
Elizabeth Semmelhaack
Marie-Belle Cunningham

Assistant Hostesses

Gilda Martinello
Marilyn Flaherty
Marianna Newkirk
Patricia DuVal
Beate Cloetta
Jane Cowell-Poitras
Pat Murray
Maude Grenier
Jane Edwards
Diane Nener
Linda Ricketts

**Respectfully submitted,
Gisèle Lambert and Patricia DuVal
Potluck Dinner Coordinators**

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN (MCW/CFM)

Founded in November 1893, the Montreal Council of Women, directly affiliated with the National Council of Women in Canada, is a non-partisan, non-confessional federation that brings together *70 voluntary organizations and 80 individual members from Montreal and surrounding region*. The membership represents 30,000 women who work together to achieve the objectives of the Council which are the improvement of social conditions, particularly for women and children. It prides itself on the ability to bring together people of different cultures and backgrounds to work together for the betterment of society in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance.

General Council meetings of the Montreal Council of Women are held monthly on the second Thursday of every month at “Les Jardins du Canal”, 2700 Rufus Rockhead in Montreal. These monthly MCW meetings, including a Luncheon (\$10.00), hosted by the Board and a designated federate, are held at 12:00 noon, followed by an afternoon program of interesting and inspiring guest speakers.

Dr. Chitra Chopra, a former MLUWC President (1996-1998; 2010-2012) is completing her two year term as President of the Montreal Council of Women in May 2016.

This year's theme "Violence against Women" was reflected in many of the program events.

THE YEAR'S PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

September 2015 – The guest speaker was a 19 year old McGill student, Hannah Taylor, who had established the Ladybug Foundation, a registered charitable foundation that raises funds and awareness for people who are homeless and hungry, <http://ladybugfoundation.ca>

October 2015 – In light of the upcoming Federal elections, a round- table panel discussion was organized by The Honorable Eleni Bakopanos with three candidates, Daniela Chivu (Conservative Party); Alexandra Mendes (Liberal Party) and Anne Lagacé Dowson (NDP) .

November 2015 – The topic of "Rape Culture at Universities" was eloquently addressed by Dr. Shaheen Shariff, Associate Professor in the Department of Integrated Studies, Faculty of Education, McGill University.

On December 4th the "WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD" luncheon was held at the Hilton Garden Inn and was attended by 85 plus members, guests, and media including past Women of the Year winners. Its focus was to honour a woman who has made an outstanding contribution towards the prevention of violence against women. The 2015 honoree, Ms Junie Michell is the Co-founder and Coordinator of Femmes Averties/Women Aware. During the afternoon, Mrs. Ingrid Berzins Leuzy, a film producer and former board member of Women Aware, introduced and spoke briefly about June; she then presented a brief video to guests "Red Flags", a learning tool that will be used in schools to help Ms Michell with her work in addressing this abusive act of violence against women. After the screening, the producer/director Mr. Chuck Scott, who also worked on the project and who came from Toronto specifically for this event, gave a brief synopsis of how it all came about. It was an informative and successful afternoon.

February 2016 – Our Black History Month guest speaker was Me Rachel Zellars, an attorney and PhD candidate at McGill in Education. Her presentation, "On place names, symbols and anti-blackness in Quebec", addressed the *Toponymy Commission's* recent decision to de-officialize and rename 11 natural sites in Quebec that bore racially charged names in English and French in light of Quebec's and Canada's histories of anti-Black racism and slavery, as well as the absence of Black Studies programs and curricula throughout the country.

March 2016 – "Gender Equality in Montreal" was the topic addressed by Ms Sharon Hackett, Vice-President, Conseil des Montréalaises, a group that acts as an advisory body to the administration of the City of Montreal, on all issues concerning gender equality and the status of women. A librarian by profession, Ms Hackett holds diplomas in Political Science, Literature and in Strategic Knowledge Management. The Conseil encourages women's participation in the governance of the city by teaching about the structures of the city, by encouraging women to attend meetings, to question and make suggestions to elected officials, and to promote gender-based analysis.

April 2016 – Guest speaker, Ms Wanda Bedard, (McGill, B. Com) and MBA graduate of Hautes Études Commerciales (HEC) Montreal, is President and Founder of 60 Million Girls Foundation, She enlightened us on Rachel Raspberry Pi’s “Innovation in Girls’ Education in the Developing World”.

May 2016 - The *MCW Annual General Meeting and Silent Auction* will be held on May 19, 2016 and will raise funds for the National Council of Women of Canada Development Organization (NCWCD) that was established in 1985 by the National Council of Women of Canada. This is a charitable organization, dedicated to the support of projects in Canada and developing countries which are, in turn, directed to educational and social welfare programs to improve the quality of life for women and their families.

The AGM of the National Council of Women Councils will take place in Saskatoon in June. Resolutions on the following will be presented on the following: *Better Quality and Cruelty Free Meat; National Dementia Strategy; Plastic Microfibres in Bodies of Water; Wireless Communication - A Hazard to Humans?; Paid Apprenticeships and Internships; The Right to Potable Water on First Nations Reserves; Updated and Adequately- Funded National HIV/AIDS Strategy; Update 2016 – Cessation of the Use of Solitary Confinement in Federal Prisons.*

The Montreal Council of Women publishes a monthly bulletin and its website: www.mcw-cfm.org provides an important role as a voice for women in Montreal and surrounding areas.

**Respectfully submitted,
Renate Sutherland and Frances Lortie
MCW Representatives**

MLUWC SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

As I complete my second term as chairman of the Scholarship Fund Committee, I am pleased to report that we are in excellent financial shape. We are continuing to invest our money with ScottWilcox at CIBC Wood-Gundy and continue to enjoy conservative and steady growth. We voted to move \$12,000 from our current account to our Wood-Gundy account which now has a book value of the \$131,295.43. Our current account balance is \$13, 289.03. Our year end is May 31 and the financial report will be ready after that date. This would not be possible without the hard work of a number of individuals. I would like to thank Susan Keating, our treasurer, who has skillfully managed our financial reports with great patience and detail. Susan’s mandate is up and she will be leaving the treasurer’s position in the capable hands of Janet Ilavsky. We welcomed Maria DeWolfe as our secretary and Jeanne Marie Lefebvre as our member-at-large. Maria replaced Helena Scheffer who deserves a much needed break after doing the job so well for so many years. Many thanks, Helena. We also welcomed Jill Rollins and Theresa Slisz who are now co-chairing the Scholarship committee. They are passionate about their role in deciding where to allocate the fund money. I would also like to thank Mary Vlahos, Victoria Pinnell and their fund-raising committee for their innovative and attractive ways of generating funds. The success of their efforts is obvious when one looks at the financial statements. And finally, a big

thank-you goes to our members and donors. You are the reason that we are able to fulfill our mandate of supporting worthy women in their academic pursuits

Respectfully submitted
Barbara Marcolin
Chair, Scholarship Fund Committee

REPORTS FROM THE INTEREST GROUPS

Interest groups continue to flourish at our club, and are a popular way for us to pursue activities of our choice alongside members with similar interests. This year we had 31 different interest groups, providing a variety of options for everyone.

Thank you to those of you who accepted a leadership role in coordinating these groups, especially those who have taken over the role for the first time. Without volunteering time and effort, none of these diverse activities would be possible.

Linda Ricketts
Chair, Interest Groups

ART APPRECIATION

This year we had 28 members sign up for Art Appreciation. I took on leadership of this group rather reluctantly, as I knew I would be away three months out of the year.

In spite of that we had two successful visits and tours at the MMFA, “The Beaver Hall Group” on October 18th, and “Pompeii, a Roman City” on March 31st. Following these visits, our group of 15 enjoyed lunch at nearby restaurants.

Some members have enjoyed art presentations at Kirkland Cinema over the past few months, including Florence and the Uffizi Gallery, Goya, Renoir and Leonardo de Vinci.

A visit to the Lachine Museum and an adjacent tour of outdoor sculptures by contemporary artists is planned for May.

Linda Ricketts

BON APPÉTIT DINNER CLUB

This popular interest group of forty MLUWC members had a very successful season of dining out. On the fourth Thursday of every month, with the exception of December, nine different restaurants in and around the West Island of Montreal were agreed upon in September and visited over the course of the year. Participation ranged anywhere from 12 -24 ladies an outing. As a change to all dinners, two luncheons were introduced, one in January and the other in June. This change was well received.

A \$5.00 contribution was collected from each participant upon registration at the Convivium in September and the proceeds were put towards our group’s two Christmas raffle gift baskets. This year, two restaurants, Terra Mare and De Mangione donated gift certificates that became a part of our lovely gift baskets.

The two remaining restaurants to visit for this year are: Bistro 1834 (May 26th) and Restaurant Villa d’Este/Chateau Vaudreuil (June 23rd).

Any member who would like to join this vibrant group and experience new dining experiences is most welcome.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the “Bon Appétit” clan who did an exceptional job of organizing our monthly dinners.

Victoria Pinnell

BOOK DISCUSSION I

This year we reviewed many interesting books and every meeting provided discussion, insight, fellowship, and fun! Our membership numbered fifteen, with an average of twelve per meeting, a good number for lively input.

The books reviewed included, "My October" by Claire Holden Rothman, "River Music" by Mary Soderstrom, and we invited the author to our meeting to share her thoughts on this book. We combined with the other book clubs at the Cambridge. We continued our reading of *The Extraordinary Canadian Series* with "Nellie McClung" by Charlotte Gray. Other books included, "I am Hutterite" by Mary Ann Kirkby, "The Children's Act" by Ian McEwan, "The Gold Finch" by Donna Tart, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks", by Rebecca Skloot, and "The War That Ended Peace" by Margaret MacMillan.

We will end the year with a pot luck luncheon, in June, and hopefully finalize our selections for next year. As usual, our members have suggested many good books and we hope to continue to choose books to make us think! Thank goodness, reading never goes out of style.

Margaret Nicoll- Griffith

BOOK DISCUSSION II

The books we read this year covered a wide spectrum of topics: *Zemindar* (India in the mid-1800s); *The Anatomy Lesson* (a fictional account of the painting of the same name by Rembrandt); *Fin de Siècle Vienna* (a portrait of the cultural and political life of Vienna at the end of the 19th century); *The Lady in Gold* (about a famous painting by Klimt and how it was returned to the original family); *The Churchill Factor* (a biography of Churchill during WWII); *History's People* (brief biographies of various personalities of the past); *The Zookeeper's Wife* (the story of how Warsaw's zookeeper and his wife helped save Jewish lives during the Nazi occupation); *Lady's Maid* (a fictional account of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's maid); and lastly, *The White Road* (a history of porcelain, “white gold”).

The varied opinions of the group members on these books ensure that we always had very lively and interesting discussions. Many thanks to the reviewers and hostesses and the group members for a great literary year. We are currently 12 members.

Gilda Martinello

BRIDGE - AFTERNOON

Our Afternoon Bridge met every two weeks. The members all took turns at hosting the group and delicious refreshments were served. There were ten members in the group. We tried to improve our bridge but the main thing was that we enjoyed each other's company.

Eleanor Shaver

BRIDGE AFTERNOON MIXED MARATHON

Our mixed marathon bridge group continues on. It is shrinking from year to year and this year we have had 6 couples playing each other for a total of 5 games each, winner yet to be declared at our wind up party in May. We are always hopeful of receiving new members.

Eileen Ross

BRIDGE - DUPLICATE

Duplicate Bridge meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings of the month at Centennial Hall in Beaconsfield. We have 3 to 4 tables of participating bridge players. We thank the city of Beaconsfield for providing us with this venue.

Jane Quail & Ginger Brossard

BRIDGE - INTERMEDIATE

This group has been around for quite a few years. We meet once every two weeks from 7:30 to 10:00pm in the home of one of the members. Each member is expected to host the event twice during the season. The group varies in its bridge skills from intermediate to advanced. This year a one-dollar fee to play has been converted into two prizes for the highest scores. This has added a different fun component to the evening.

The members of the group are:

Shirley Wick	Isobel Wright
Marilyn Gollan	Barbara Armbruster
Ginger Brossard	Marilyn Flaherty
Lillian Brown	Eibhlin McHale

Shirley Wick & Eibhlin McHale

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Our group had planned to ski each Tuesday morning. However, owing to this past winter's weather and snow conditions, we were unable to meet our goal. We remain hopeful that next winter will be more favourable for cross-country skiing.

Dianne Robinson

EVENING BOOK CLUB

After a few years of being a group of only four, our group blossomed this year to nine members! This year we continued to meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday for lively discussions about the books, as well as current events and other themes.

These are the books we read:

- Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo
- Circling the Sun by Paula McLain
- The Lemon Tree by Sandy Tolan
- The Illegal by Lawrence Hill

- Orange is the New Black by Piper Kerman
- The Shadow Girls by Henning Mankell
- Fifteen Dogs by André Alexis

Heather Hamilton

FRENCH CONVERSATION

The French Conversation Interest Group continues to gather every month and its members enjoy a wonderful morning of friendly discussions on a wide-ranging selection of interesting topics. All welcome.

Janet Anderson

FILM CLUB

This year, we tried to join the Hudson Film Society which offers films from the Toronto International Film Festival.

1st film: Sept 21st, 2015, WILD, from Jean-Marc Vallee; we had a nice attendance

2nd film: October 19th, 2015, ID; our attendance diminished

3rd film: November 16th, 2015, REMEMBER, with Christopher Plummer, what a performance; again less attendance.

Suzanne Chaussé

GARDEN CLUB

Going back in time:

September 2015: Visit to Margaret's garden in Beaconsfield.

October: A presentation on hosta, one of the gardeners' favorites.

November: We talked about winter protection, composting and cleanup.

December: We talked about favorite garden tools.

January 2016: The topic of discussion was MEDICINAL PLANTS.

February: The topic was **Fertilizers and Compost**

April: Visit to Liliana's garden in Pierrefonds.

Liliana Perodeau

GERMAN CONVERSATION

Our group met once a month, at my house, until January. In addition to working on our German Textbook, we watched several brief, educational German programs on the TV Station "Deutsche Welle". Since mid-February we meet twice a month, taking turns hosting. Our group, while small in numbers, is vibrant and learning extremely well. We enjoy each other's company and the sweets we consume are delicious.

Presently our members are as follows: Adeleine Ciebien, Chitra Chopra, Joan Dyer, Christine Hamilton,

Margarita Reti, Hildburg Schleiermacher and Louise Gauthier (brand new MLUWC member).

Christine Hamilton

GOURMET I

The group holds a dinner each month from September to April. Each dinner has a hostess and two assistant chefs. The other members enjoy the meal and the conversation, and all members of the group share in the cost and receive copies of the recipes.

As always, the menus were imaginative and delicious, and this year we had two themed dinners. "The Maharajah's Meatless Monday" included a cocktail of white wine with ginger syrup and lime, Chena Dahl with Berry Pilaf, Cabbage Fritters, Mango Mousse and Masala Coffee. "Grandma's Romanian Recipes" included Roasted Eggplant Salad with tomatoes and onions, Cooked Red Bean Puree with Onions served with Roasted Smoked "Cabanos" Sausages, Cabbage Rolls with Bacon and warm Polenta Cream, and Ricotta Angel Cake.

For the non-themed dinners, appetizers this year ranged from Asian Edamame Dip and Dried Fruit Mostarda to Ricardo's Avocado and Shrimp Verrine. Soups included a Creamy Apple Onion and a Root Vegetable Soup. Among the main dishes were Braised Lamb Shanks, Carbonade de Boeuf, Rosemary Port Roast with Vidalia Onions, and Salmon with Lemon and Dill Rice. Desserts were especially good this year, including Mini Chocolate cheesecakes with Salted Caramel Sauce, Cranberry Upside Down Cake, Poached Pear Almond Trifle, and a Layered Apple Cake with Chantilly cream.

To accompany all this, we enjoyed a variety of wines and cocktails such as Prosecco with Pomegranate, Pink Lemonade Sangria and Pomegranate Lime Punch

Patricia DuVal

GOURMET II

Our gourmet group, the Educated Palate, is arguably the oldest interest group in the MLUWC. We enjoyed another very successful year of wining (okay, occasionally whining!) and dining, enjoying excellent food and company. Some of our themes have been "An Autumn Harvest", "Mediterranean Medley", and "Lucullan Feast-Convivium Felix". We are all salivating at the prospect of another wonderful year.

Barbara Marcolin

GOURMET III

This year, as always, we have had very enjoyable dinner evenings – the hostesses provided us with delicious food and great recipes. In addition to the food and wine, we had interesting discussions and lots of laughs. Due to various reasons, we met only five times this year.

We started the year with seven members but unfortunately one member stepped down during the winter. We are now looking for two new members to join our group.

Gilda Martinello

GOURMET IV

We have ten members in our group and we cook in groups of four. Our themes so far this year have included: A Cool Autumn Evening Dinner with Friends, Christmas Dinner Gourmet Style, Flavours from the East, and Let's be Irish. Focusing just on the main courses, we have enjoyed the following: Double Rack of Pork with Burnt Orange Caramel Sauce, Blanquette de Veau, Salmon in Phyllo with Leeks and Red Peppers, Thai Coconut Fish Curry, and Bio Wild Irish Salmon with Citrus Cream Sauce. We invite spouses to join us in December and June. We always enjoy great food and company.

Valerie Fortin

ISSUES TO ACTION

The purpose of the group is to educate and to advocate. Therefore, the group has changed its name from "Issues" to "Issues to Action" to put the emphasis on action. Based on input from MLUWC members, the Issues to Action Group has focused on 3 issues this year: Microbeads, Syrian Refugees, and Financial Literacy. The Group also assisted in the review and evaluation of the proposed CFUW Resolutions.

Microbeads: Microbeads are tiny plastic particles used in household products (surface cleansers, scrubs, soaps), personal care products (toothpaste, body & face washes and scrubs,) and cosmetics (skin exfoliants). They aren't removed by water-treatment and last in the waterways for centuries, creating a health hazard for fish and humans. There are eco-friendly alternatives.

Status: The U.S. has legislation in progress to prohibit microbeads, and the Canadian government is drafting regulations to ban them as well. Many manufacturers and retailers are planning to discontinue them, but they will still be on store shelves for 2-3 years.

Posters were displayed at meetings to inform members of products containing microbeads, and club members are being encouraged to dispose safely of existing products and replace them with the eco-friendly ones.

Syrian Refugees: Canada will be accepting 2500 refugees from war-torn Syria. We decided to work through one of the organizations in the Montreal area sponsoring refugee families.

Status: A Group member attended meetings of the Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition. A family has been selected, and government paperwork is now being filled out. Club members can help by making a financial contribution to Union Church or by working directly with the family once they arrive. Anyone interested in working directly by providing Arabic translation, teaching French or English, babysitting, accompanying the refugee family to appointments, etc. is required to complete a 'police check' form. This is being coordinated by Summerlea United Church.

Financial Literacy: It has been seven years since some people in our community suffered great financial loss due to a lack of basic knowledge of how and why there are rules in place to protect investors and what those rules are. We decided that the time was right to address the subject of financial literacy as part of our ongoing commitment to education.

Status: Two workshops were held, based on the Financial Literacy material produced by UWC Montreal. The workshops addressed issues faced by seniors and/or their children.

Nancy Doray and Patricia DuVal

JAUNTERS

Jaunters had a great year again. Thank you to all the group members who participated and shared by organizing such interesting 2015 Jaunts to Musée des Hospitaliers de Hotel Dieu, the Art at the Glen Site, The Exhibit at the Canadian Center for Architecture, and a beautiful Christmas basket. In 2016 we visited the Black Horse Museum, Stewart Hall Art Gallery, Pointe à Callière Musseum, and will be finishing the year off with The Montreal Holocaust Museum (April 26) and a Kahnawa:ke cultural tour (May 18). Join us next year for more fun outings to Montreal's marvelous jewels.

Pat Jones

KNIT AND CHAT

It was the first year for this group. We enjoyed chatting as we knitted or crocheted various items: animals, scarves, blankets, and sweaters. Every hostess provided great goodies to nibble on at the end of each session. We learned a lot about knitting but also about each other. We're looking forward to a fun year again next year.

Tina Tessari

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Twenty women participated in the MLUWC Music Appreciation Group this past year. In the homes of our members, we met to prepare for upcoming concerts by studying the programme selections and their composers. Six planning meetings preceded the six morning concerts of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. Lunch followed at a nearby restaurant. Thank you to everyone who participated: hostesses, bakers, presenters, drivers and concert-goers. We will complete our season with a final wrap-up meeting and potluck lunch at Janet Guay's home in May.

Maria Cranker

MUSIC HISTORY

The Music History group has been on a symphonic journey this year, meeting on a monthly basis, on the second Tuesday afternoon of the month, to explore the evolution of the symphony from Haydn and Mozart onwards to Beethoven, Berlioz and Brahms. We will jump ahead in May to Shostakovich in view of the concert program being offered locally that night, May 12, by the Orchestre Métropolitain (Symphony No 9, Grand Concert at Église Saint-Joachim). We have used André Previn's BBC series on DVD, "The Story of the Symphony", on our way, along with the relevant programs in the Keeping Score series by the San Francisco Orchestra directed by Michael Tilson Thomas. Our musical journey will continue in the fall with an exploration of Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky *et al*, supplemented by the OMM's live concerts on the West Island in Pointe-Claire and Pierrefonds.

The group, currently, is full, with 15 members and attendance varying from a full house (literally!) to 10 participants, depending on availability.

Joan Dyer

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

This was the first year of the Mystery Book Club and many people wanted to join the group. Unfortunately we had to limit the number of members to 12.

We met monthly at various members' homes and read mysteries set in various countries: Great Britain, Montreal, Venice and Sweden. Not all books were well received but we always had interesting discussions about the characters, the authors and the storyline.

The books we read this year were: Elizabeth is Missing, Black Rock, The Hypnotist, A Question of Honor, Raven Black, Through a Glass, Darkly, and The Cuckoo's Calling.

Thanks to our hostesses and reviewers for all their work and to the group for a very interesting first year.

Gilda Martinello

NEW BOOK EXCHANGE

Thanks to Sylvie, the owner of Clio book store in the Pointe Claire Plaza, we had a very interesting gathering on Sept 29th to look at all the "new" books for the coming year. Choosing is fun. There are 24 members involved this year divided into 3 groups of 8 and each one passes a book to another on the 1st of 8 months.

In my group we have the latest Louise Penny, the winner of Canada Reads, an historical novel about one of the world's first female aviators and 5 others.

Do join us next year - we expand and contract as required.

B.J. Bell

PHOTOGRAPHY

Eleven members signed up and seven are active.

Activities:

During Summer and Fall we have several outings: to the park, to downtown, to visit photography exhibitions. We saw and discussed 3 exhibitions. During the winter we met in members' homes and talked about pictures. We discussed our assignments, summer projects and I made a few presentations. In April we started outings, our first one to Botanical Gardens, to photograph butterflies. We will continue to meet during the summer.

This group can accommodate more members.

Maria Korab Laskowska

TRAVEL

We currently have 30 members.

Meetings were held once a month: October, November, December, February, March, and the last one is planned for April 18th. This year we heard presentations about trips to Northern Quebec, the Silk Road, Argentina, Netherlands and India.

This group can accommodate more members.

To join contact Maria Korab-Laskowska mariakorab@gmail.com

Maria Korab Laskowska

TUTTO ITALIANO

This past year we had several photo presentations. In November one of our members showed us her native Milano and in January we saw some of the churches of Rome. A documentary movie on the origins of Opera was presented at another meeting.

At our Christmas pot luck lunch we had a guest who had recently done an Italian language course in Sorrento. In March, an Italian movie was shown.

In April we are planning a visit to the Pompei Exhibition at the Montreal Art Museum followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant. Our last meeting, scheduled for the end of May, will be an Italian dinner prepared by an Italian chef.

Carole Newberry

WINE APPRECIATION I

This winter, we tasted excellent wines from Portugal and Israel, we also discovered less expensive wines which were very good.

Some members of the group supported the West Island Community Shares wine tasting evening held at the Holiday Inn on March 17th.

We will enjoy another tasting in April. In May, for our final evening we will partner with another member of our group to taste wines and match them with appropriate canapés for all to share.

In June we will join Wine Group II for a dinner at La Maison Verte.

Janet Ankcorn

WINE APPRECIATION II

We are a group of eight members and one spare that fills in if someone is absent. We enjoy the wine, the fellowship and the laughs.

The group this year explored wines from various countries, which included reds, whites and rosés.

Each evening was hosted by a member, who selected the wines and gave us wine information sheets and wine tasting score cards. We are always surprised and never know what we are going to be tasting each

evening. Sometimes, it is even a “blind tasting evening” and we only know the names of the wines at the end.

The wine tasting is always followed by delicious refreshments provided by the hostess of the evening.

In March the group attended the SAQ “Salon des Vins”, wine tasting at the Holiday Inn. The profit goes to the West Island Community Shares. The food and wine tasting was a fun adventure for all.

Joyce Schaaf