

MONTREAL LAKESHORE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB
ANNUAL REPORTS
2016-2017

PAST PRESIDENT

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers and Committee chairs for the year 2017 - 2018:

Executive

Returning Officers:

President: Linda Sestock
Vice-Presidents & CFUW Liaisons: Nancy Doray and Patricia DuVal
Vice-President Membership: Paulette Cargill
Co-Treasurer: Carolina Soulié
Communications & Publicity: Diane Gibb
Past President: Connie Ellis
Recording Secretary: Carol Ohlin

New mandate for:

Co-Treasurer: Jocelyne Faille

Standing Committee Chairs

Returning chairs:

Archives: Jane Cowell-Poitras
Fundraising: Victoria Pinnell
Hospitality: Christine Hamilton
Interest Groups: Suzanne Chaussé
Newsletter: Barbara Armbruster
Programme: Marianna Newkirk
Webmaster: Diane Gibb

New mandates for:

Scholarships: Maria DeWolfe
Hospitality Co-Chair: Kathleen McGrath

Other committees

Photographer: Hélène Duquet & Maria Korab-Laskowska
Potluck Dinners: Linda Ricketts & Jeannie Hazel

MLUWC Scholarship Fund

New mandate for:

Chair: Heather Hamilton

Returning officer

Treasurer: Janet Ilavsky

**Respectfully submitted,
Constance Ellis
Past President & Chair, Nominating Committee**

PRESIDENT

Our year started in May with the official transfer of Executive Portfolios and a potluck dinner. This is a great way to say goodbye to members who have contributed so much to our Club and to say hello to our new Executive. Monthly Executive meetings begin in August and are held at the Residence Le Sélection. We have many hard-working volunteers who run our committees and who ensure that the Club is run smoothly. We are fortunate to have a large group of volunteers, not just in the Executive, who make our Club such a success.

In June, Jane Cowell-Poitras did a wonderful job of representing the MLUWC at the CFUW's Annual General Meeting held at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario. The topic of GWI (formerly IFUW) dues was and continues to be an important topic of conversation throughout the year. Should we agree to a CFUW increase, this amount would only come into effect for the 2018-2019 year. Declining memberships and rising costs are affecting everyone and are of concern for the MLUWC. A motion was brought forth at the March general meeting and members voted in favour of an increase of \$10.00 in the Club's annual fees. Therefore, the MLUWC Club fees for the 2017-2018 year will be \$120.

The Programme and Fundraising Committees worked hard to present us with a great line-up of monthly speakers and new Fundraising Events. Fundraising does such a good job that we were able to increase our bursary amounts. We are forecasting that about \$16,000 will have been raised this year. The Spring Fundraiser is already sold out! Our Christmas Concert continues to be a great opportunity to come together and help local charities; food was collected for the West Island Mission and \$1305 was given to the Dorval Omega Centre.

This has been a year of change for our Club; we have a committee working on a new, more user-friendly website, we have introduced PayPal and expanded our social media exposure through Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. We have been taking advantage of our association with the City of Beaconsfield and other municipalities to advertise in their community magazines and billboards.

As your new President, I had the opportunity to represent the Club, along with other Club members, at different community events this year: assisting the Kiwanis at the Xmas Train, the WIWC Women's Day Breakfast, Zonta Lunch for International Women's Day, MCW luncheon, and other various networking events around the West Island at which I am always happy to extol the virtues of our Club. We are all doing what we can in order not to be "The Best Kept Secret of the West Island".

The Quebec Provincial Council of University Women meets twice a year and consists of the five CFUW Clubs in Quebec. In October, the meeting was hosted by the SSUWC in St. Lambert and the Sherbrooke & District club hosted the spring meeting. All MLUWC members are encouraged to attend. It is a great opportunity to meet with other Clubs and to learn from each other.

Thank you to all of the volunteers and Committee Leaders, without whom I could not do my job. For the new year, I am looking forward to representing our Club in Richmond BC in June and to representing you as President during our upcoming 60th Anniversary year!

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Sestock
President**

VP/CFUW LIAISON

CFUW President Karen Dunnett resigned in December and President Designate Grace Hollett took over as the new President.

CFUW's advocacy priorities for this year were Gender-Based Violence, Child Care, and Electoral Reform. A brief was sent to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women for their study on Violence against Young Women and Girls which was quoted in their final report! A brief was also sent to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women for their study on Women's Economic Security.

Letters were sent on Canada's first Gender-based Analysis budget, integrated public transportation, electoral reform, support for a National Early-learning and Childcare Strategy, a plea to repeal the safe third country act, our concerns and changes we would like to see in CSW 61 agreed conclusions, delays to reforming the Access to Information Act, to the Minister of International Affairs on Turkish Parliament passing a bill, which lowers the age of consent to 12. CFUW also issued a Joint public statement on Trump's Global Gag Rule.

Five Resolutions were passed at the 2016 AGM in Saint Catharines, Ontario: 1) Ending the Marginalization of Indigenous Women in Canadian Society, 2) Diagnostic, Intervention and Support Plan for children, adults and families affected by FASD, 3) Strengthen the Pest Management Regulatory Agency in Order to Protect the Environment, 4) Electoral reform: Adding Proportionality to the Electoral System in Canada 5) Sustainable Development Goals.

Two Resolutions have been proposed this year:

Resolution 1: The Right to Safe, Clean, Accessible and Affordable Drinking Water and Sanitation on First Nations Reserves in Canada

Proposed by: The University Women's Club of Winnipeg

Resolution 2: Universal Pharmacare

Proposed by: University Women's Club of North York

Two amendments to the CFUW Constitution have been proposed:

Amendment 1: add 'Regional Directors' to the list of standing committees mentioned in Article 54 of the CFUW by-laws.

Proposed by the Regional Directors Group

Amendment 2: In Canadian Federation of University Women Articles and Bylaws – Articles, strike out Article 4 - Membership in International Federation of University Women (IFUW) CFUW shall be a member of the IFUW.

Proposed by CFUW St. Thomas

In 2016, CFUW St. Thomas brought forward the same motion, which was narrowly defeated.

GWI voted for a significant dues increase at the triennial meeting in August 2016. In January 2017 this increase was postponed indefinitely.

CFUW was represented by a self-funded delegation of 20 members at the 61st United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March.

CFUW will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2019. MLUWC is proposing three of our members for the CFUW 100th Anniversary Notable Women Awards: Elizabeth Semmelhaack, Françoise Perreault and Renata Sutherland.

CFUW's Annual General Meeting for 2016-2017, to be held June 22 to 25, is being hosted by the Richmond BC Club. Proposed dues increases for both CFUW and GWI will be voted on at this meeting, along with the Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments.

**Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Doray & Patricia DuVal
Vice Presidents & CFUW Liaisons**

VP/MEMBERSHIP

We have had a very interesting year with everyone working hard to ensure our club continues to flourish and meet the ever-changing needs of our community. We will have to decide in the coming months where our priorities lie and what direction our club will take. You will be kept informed of developments and you are encouraged to read the documentation that is sent to you.

We have 188 members of whom 3 are dual members, and 4 are lifetime members. This year 9 people joined our ranks and have greatly enriched our club by their willingness to get involved. Our newcomer event was successful and allowed us to get to know our newest members.

The membership fees will be increased to \$120 for the upcoming year. This increase only meets our club's needs and does not take into account any increase in our affiliation fees.

We are hoping to rejuvenate our website to make it more informative and attractive. It will also be possible to pay your Membership fees online via PayPal.

I want to thank all of you for helping to promote our club and endorsing our values in promoting women's issues and education.

**Respectfully submitted,
Paulette Cargill
Vice President & Membership Chair**

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY REPORT

Contact information reviews and updates were conducted on the following lists: community leaders/political officials/municipality, radio, TV & print media/houses of worship/school board officials.
Recommendation: Continue to do an annual update.

Facebook page continues to be an information tool about the MLUWC and its activities. It continues to generate viewer interest and a regular following of viewers.
Recommendation: Continue with Facebook, expand on the frequency and variety of postings plus start to measure the progression (likes & shares).

Advertising of info sessions, special meetings (Convivium, Holiday Evening, AGM), fundraising events plus scholarship applicant invitations were announced through the website, newsletter, Facebook, blogger sites and other media outlets.
Recommendation: Continue to advertise on these selected outlets.

Postcards, continue to be an effective means of advertising for fundraising activities.
Recommendation: Continue to advertise fundraising activities using postcards.

Posters were discontinued as a means of advertising for the info sessions and other activities (excluding the fundraising activities) as the conclusion was reached that this type of advertising had not in the recent past generated outside membership participation, contrary to Facebook and website advertising of such events that had attracted participation and membership inquiries.
Recommendation: Continue to advertise using posters for only the fundraising activities.

Press releases were submitted to the media outlets for special announcements and activities.
Recommendation: A media campaign on the MLUWC should be launched to raise the awareness of the MLUWC.

Thoughtful Cards (sympathy & get well) were sent out to members when notified by a club member in addition to the condolence announcements mentioned in the newsletter.
Recommendation: Continue with this practise as it is an expression of comfort and support to the member(s).

**Respectfully submitted,
Diane Gibb
Chair, Communications**

WEBSITE REPORT

General information reviews and updates were conducted on all of the website pages after the AGM.
Recommendation: Continue to do an annual update after the AGM and just before the Convivium.

Monthly information pertaining to activities and events was kept current.

Recommendation: Continue to do updates on a monthly basis and need to basis of the activities and events.

Email addresses and passwords were reassigned to Board members with newly appointed portfolios. Two additional email addresses were created (Treasurer & Survey).

Recommendation: None.

Airmiles Donation Program was reinstated.

Recommendation: Continue with the posting of the Airmiles Donation Program in the monthly newsletter.

PayPal is being set up and incorporated onto the website by the Treasurer and President to facilitate payment of the annual dues.

Recommendation: To be kept as a direct responsibility of the Treasurer.

Website Survey invitation to the entire membership was initiated in January 2016 to better understand and evaluate the members' current usage patterns and information needs. A report, due to be completed by April 2017, is to be presented to the Executive Board members for discussion.

Recommendation: Executive Board members are to evaluate the results of the Website Survey.

Website revamp following the completion of the Website Survey, the Executive has asked the Website Committee to investigate different website options with the goal of creating a new, modern website that will best suit the MLUWC budget and creative objectives and help the MLUWC attract new members.

**Respectfully submitted,
Diane Gibb
Webmaster**

TREASURER

Revenues from membership dues were slightly lower, when compared to last year, owing to a decrease in membership, in spite of the 9 new members added.

Expenses: Our rental fees for Karnak almost doubled. Expenses for the CFUW AGM, since it took place in Ontario, were significantly lower than the previous year.

A donation of \$250 was given to the Charitable CFUW Trust for the Ecole Polytechnique Scholarship Award. The club also made its annual contribution of \$200 to the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF).

On February 20th, 2017, the Executive Committee decided that the money held in the Manulife Account (\$1,670), previously designated to be used for 100th Anniversary of CFUW, will be dispersed in the following matter: \$200 will be given to CFUW's special anniversary Fund (2019) and the remainder will be used by the Club for special scholarship or bursaries (2017/18). These amounts are indicated in the pie chart as "special expenses".

At the time of writing, final numbers are not available for the AGM and some expenses related to hospitality and others.

**Respectfully submitted,
Carolina Soulié
Treasurer**

Please see page 8 for the Budget statement and pie chart

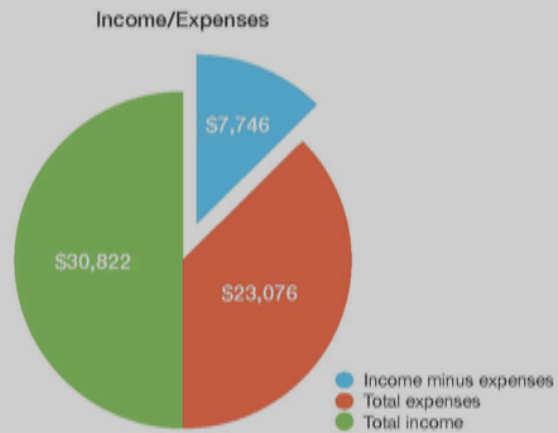
Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club
Interim Statement of Revenue-Expenses Period of June 1st, 2016 to April 10th, 2017

INCOME STATEMENT & ASSETS	
Opening Bank balance as June 1st, 2016	\$4,937
Investment Manulife (May, 31st, 2016)	\$1,672
Investment interests	\$10
Membership dues	\$20,135
Convivium	\$1,487
Xmas Raffle & Muslim Victims donation	\$1,505
Other income	\$535
Advertising/Newsletter	\$540
TOTAL INCOME	\$30,822

EXPENDITURES	
MCW/PCUW	\$50
PCUW	\$376
CFUW	\$12,810
Convivium	\$1,405
Administration	\$632
Communications (Publicity&Website)	\$484
Membership	\$561
Newsletter	\$86
Program	\$511
Hospitality	\$218
CFUW convention delegate 2016	\$437
Rent	\$1,317
Xmas Raffle donation&Muslim Victims	\$1,505
Donation (VGIF & CFUWC charitable trust)	\$450
Other expenses	\$635
*Special expenses	\$1,600
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$23,076
*100TH ANNIVERSARY CFUW (2019)	\$200
*60TH, ANNIVERSARY MLUWC (2017)	\$1,400

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY
 CAROLINA SOULIÉ
 MLUWC TREASURER

EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	
Income minus expenses	\$7,746



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. in order to preserve memories for future use. For the last couple of years, I have been keeping digital records of pictures, newsletters, etc., which should make things easier to find in the future.

I have slowly begun to inventory our holdings to create a complete listing and a map of where each box is held, in compliance with current archival standards. As I can only put in a couple of hours each month because of my schedule and that of the storage space (they are not open on weekends or evenings), this is likely to take me some time.

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

FUNDRAISING

The main Fundraising event took place on October 26, 2016. The venue for this event was changed to John Rennie High School Auditorium in order to accommodate a larger crowd due to the popularity of the group REPLAY, who interpret songs of The Beatles. They played to a full house and had the crowd dancing in their seats, clapping and singing along with them. They received a standing ovation and came back for three encores. All this to say that the evening was a great success and a profitable one for the Scholarship Fund. The profit is almost \$11,000, not including donations.

Unfortunately, during our monthly meetings this year we could not continue our popular book sale owing to new regulations at the Karnak. We did, however, continue with the 50/50 collection, back by popular demand. Thus far, we have raised \$196. We are hoping to increase that amount after the bake sale and “one time” book sale to be held at the April meeting.

Our next Fundraising event will take place on April 26, 2017 at the Beaconsfield Golf Club. This year we decided to change the Spring event from Games Day to a fashion evening with well-known style consultant Kathryn Mademann. It is a “ladies night out” that is full of fun. The event is sold out. We are forecasting a profit of at least \$2,000, including a raffle sale.

If we are on target, after all is said and done, we should realize a profit for the year of at least \$15,000.

Once again, our membership has come through and we thank all of you for your contribution and support throughout the year. We would not be able to bring all this money without you.

We also extend our appreciation and thanks to the Committee members: Joyce Schaaf, Janet Ankcorn, Sally Gurekian, Judy Paquin for their dedication and hard work.

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

HOSPITALITY

The Convivium took place at the Beaconsfield Golf Club on September 12th. Profiteroles, coffee and tea were served. Cost to members was \$13.50. Wine was extra. Maria Kolodziej assisted at the entrance.

The Christmas Raffle took place December 12th at Summerlea United Church, Lachine. Many generous members contributed with savouries and sweets and helped in the hall and kitchen. Due to the difficult parking conditions, the Christmas event has been changed to Beaconsfield United Church on Woodside for this coming year. The church has been booked for Monday, Dec. 11th, 2017.

This year's AGM is taking place at the Beaconsfield Golf Club on Monday, May 8th, 2017.

The 2017 Convivium has been booked for Wednesday, September 13th at the Beaconsfield Golf Club.

There was no co-chair in place for the Hospitality function. I would like to acknowledge the kind assistance of the following members, especially at the monthly meetings: October - Gilda Martinello and Yolande Martin, November - Yolande, February - Diane Nener and March - Hille Vires.

**Respectfully submitted,
Christine Hamilton
Chair, 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.

This year, six members opted to pay for business card advertising in the newsletter. This netted the Club \$540. 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 conscientiously maintained 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 June 8th 2016 to evaluate and rank all the suggestions for speakers that had been submitted over the past year. Committee members were assigned responsibilities to invite speakers and then oversee the gathering of the critical information for the monthly newsletters etc.

Discussions were centered on coming up with a suggestion for the charity for the Christmas raffle proceeds, venues, audiovisual details and more. Although not all our first choice of speakers were available for our meetings, the whole program came together well and the booklet was published in August. It was decided to continue with the practice of doing evaluations by the attendees for the regular meeting in order to access the speakers and gather suggestions for future speakers.

Venues for the meetings:

Beaconsfield Golf Club – September convivium and May AGM.

Karnak – regular monthly meeting, except December and January (thanks to the able staff, and particularly for the upgrade in the speaker system)

Summerlea United Church – Christmas meeting. Feedback was that parking was difficult and street lighting a challenge for our members, thus necessitating a change of venue for the future.

Monthly meetings:

- September 2016 – Convivium. Held at the Beaconsfield Golf Club, there was a good turnout for the meet and greet with the successful sign up for the many activity groups.
- October 2016 - More than Buzzwords: What beekeeping has taught me about sustainable living. Speaker: Shona Watt, Environmentalist / Bee keeper. Shona gave us insight into urban bee keeping and we learned quite a bit about the bee keeping world. Prior to her presentation we were pleased to hear the career aspirations of this year's Scholarship winners as they gave their short presentations.
- November 2016 - Grand Plans: Hospital Architecture in Montreal, 1893-2016. Speaker: Dr. Annmarie Adams, Chair, Dept. of Social Studies of Medicine, McGill University. Annmarie gave a wonderful talk on the architectural history of the Royal Victoria Hospital as well as interesting insight from an architect's point of view of the new super hospitals in Montreal. Her passion for old buildings was very evident.
- December 2016 - Christmas Raffle and Carols, Summerlea United Church, Lachine. McGill Conservatory Youth Choir. We were entertained by the beautiful pure voices of the young people from the McGill Youth choir, a group composed of young people from the West Island between the ages of 12 and 17. The interesting seasonal songs by these young voices really helped to set that Christmas atmosphere. Suzanne Chausse and the interest groups provided intriguing baskets that allowed us to raise \$1305 to benefit the Dorval Omega Centre. Teodor Vidam who represented the Omega Centre gave an interesting overview of the Centre and the types of activities that they support in order to help adults with mental health issues help themselves. Many members also donated non-perishable food items for the West Island Mission. All participants and volunteers contributed to a wonderful evening.
- January 2017 - Potluck Dinners, lunch, or high-tea (please refer to the annual report for the Potluck dinner group for the details).
- February 2017 - From the light microscope to the dark side - the academic career requires learning by doing Speaker: Dr. Anja Geitmann, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and

Environmental Sciences, McGill University. Dr. Geirmann gave an entertaining and informative talk about the microscope and the sex lives of plants. Her videos were terrific.

- March 2017 – Members’ Night: Getting to know us. Discussion of Resolutions. Artistic expressions and more (all members). Members night speakers were Pat Jones, Heather Trump, and Jocelyne Faille. It was great to learn more about the Healing Pathway (Pat Jones) and the career pathways of Heather and Jocelyne, two new members. Our President also gave a presentation promoting the MLUWC and encouraging us all to spread the word.
- April 2017 -How the evolving role of Nurse Practitioners will impact your health care.
Speaker: Shannon McNamara, RN, MScN, SNP, Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery (former recipient of a MLUWC bursary). Shannon reviewed the rocky history of the Nurse Practitioner’s role; it’s evolution through the years and where we are now. We learned more about provincial and international differences in legislation, practice norms and education standards. Most importantly, we got to appreciate the impact of Nurse Practitioners on our health and access to the Health care system.
- May 2017 - Annual General Meeting and Dinner, Beaconsfield Golf Club. Music and Media in Mutation - a view from Montreal. Keynote speaker: Kelly Rice, University Advancement, Schulich School of Music, McGill University As a broadcaster, producer and lecturer, Kelly Rice is a passionate voice for music in Montreal. For over two decades, he was a producer and broadcaster at CBC. He continues to be very active in the arts community as a journalist and board member, and hosts pre-concert lectures at the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and other ensembles.

**Respectfully submitted,
Marianna Newkirk
Chair, Programme Committee**

SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee this year consisted of Maria DeWolfe, Cendra Paas, Pauline van Nieuwburg, Hillie Viires and Joanna Zaichowsky. The chair position was shared by Jill Rollins and Theresa Sliz.

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 forms for the Margaret Manson and Alberta Shearer Scholarships, and planned our publicity procedures. We also added a Photograph Permission page to the website which grants the MLUWC permission to take photographs of the awardees and authorizes the MLUWC to use and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

As in previous years, the highlight of the October monthly meeting was the attendance and presentations 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 13 applications for the 2017 Margaret Manson and Alberta Shearer Scholarships. At the time of this report, the committee has not yet met to discuss the applicants and select those who will be interviewed.

This coming year, the MLUWC will celebrate its 60th anniversary and to honor this occasion the club has decided to offer an additional scholarship in this year only. The amount of the scholarship will be \$2000, the same amount of the other scholarships awarded. The committee will select candidates for this scholarship from those applications already received. In addition, all those awarded a scholarship will also be given a one-year guest membership in the MLUWC.

The support the club extends to adults returning to complete their high school studies is continuing, through bursaries provided to le Centre d'éducation des adultes Jeanne Sauvé and to the Place Cartier Adult Education Centre. This year the committee recommended changes to the amount of the bursaries as shown below. The changes were approved by the executive as well as by the membership at the December meeting.

The \$600 bursary for a student of limited financial means in a John Abbott College technical program continues and was awarded in the fall semester. This bursary was awarded to a mature student who immigrated to Canada in 2012 and is currently completing the Biopharma program.

Bursary	Current Amount	Total	New Amount	Total
John Abbott	1 x \$600	\$600	1 x \$600	\$600
Centre J. Sauve	8 x \$150	\$1200	8 x \$200	\$1600
Place Cartier	8 x \$150	\$1200	8 x \$200	\$1600
Total		\$3000		\$3800

The applications from the students of both adult education schools will be coming in early May when our committee will choose eight recipients from each school.

We have also been in touch with Barth Gillan, Executive Director of the John Abbott College Foundation, 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 MEALS

On January 9th, eighty-six club members participated in one afternoon coffee party, one afternoon tea, two lunches and six dinner parties held to celebrate our 24th annual potluck get-togethers. We do hope everyone met a member they didn't know previously and enjoyed the friendship of our club.

We wish to thank all the hostesses and assistant-hostesses for all the work they did to make this day the success it was.

Hostesses

Adeline Ciebien
Beate Cloetta
Victoria Pinnell
Francoise Vien
Kate Le Maistre
Marney MacDonald
Helene Quaid
Elizabeth Semmelhaack
Janet Ankcorn
Lorraine Retfalvi

Assistant Hostesses

Margaret Vost
Jane Cowell-Poitras
Gilda Martinello
Joanne Fraser
Valerie Fortin
Carole Newberry
Diane Nener
Jeannie Hazel

**Respectfully submitted,
Janet Ankcorn and Donna Bourne
Potluck Meal Co-ordinators**

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**. Except for two evening meetings at 6:00 p.m. (light supper \$10.00) on October 6th, 2016 and April 6th, 2017, the monthly MCW meetings were held at 12:00 noon (Lunch \$10.00) with an afternoon program of interesting and inspiring guest speakers.

Shirley Gyles became President after having served as Executive Vice-President and Bulletin Editor for two years. For over 25 years she has been the President of the Coloured Women’s Club and has served on other boards including the Negro Community Center, and the South Shore Black Community Association. She was MCW’s Woman of the Year in 2002.

THE YEAR’S PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

September 2016 – The guest speaker was ***Penny Rankin***, Co-chair of Refugee Support Program at St. Matthias’ and St. Mark’s Anglican Churches. Her inspiring presentation, entitled ***“Statistics and Strategies: A Crisis Unfolding”*** focused on the refugee status around the world as well as her own experience in sponsoring a Syrian couple to Canada.

October 2016 – ***Elizabeth Johnston***, author, professor of creative writing and certified autography coach, delivered a very insightful presentation on how one goes about ***“Writing about your life”***. For more information on E. Johnston and the services she offers, visit her website: ownyourcreativity.com

November 2016 – An informative presentation by ***Ms. Nadia De Riggi***, a notary with Lamarre and Di Riggi, spoke on various aspects of her career and the different services provided by a notary – importance of having a will, mandate; duties of a power of attorney; difference between a notary and a lawyer.

December 2016 – The ***“WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD” LUNCHEON*** was held at the **Hotel Omni Mont-Royal** and was attended by 45 plus members, guests, and former “Women of the Year” recipients. Its focus was to honour a woman who has made an outstanding contribution towards **Suicide Prevention**. The 2016 honoree, **Monique Séguin, Ph.D.**, is a professor in the Department of Psychology and Psychoeducation at Université du Québec en Outaouais. She is a researcher at the McGill Group for Suicide Studies and at the Quebec Network on Suicide, Mood Disorder and Related Disorders. It was an informative and successful afternoon.

February 2017 – A brief historical overview on the topic of ***“Women’s Mental Health across the Life Cycle”*** was given ***Dr. Maria di Tomasso***. She showed how mental health needs differ across the lifespan, from child rearing to the menopausal years and later in life. She described mental health as a state of well-being in which every individual realises her or his own potential, can cope with the stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to one’s community. Dr. di Tomasso ended her very informative presentation on a positive note with some recommendations for optimal aging. ***She insisted on the importance of positive thinking, social and physical activity, learning to manage stress and lifelong learning to activate brain neurons.***

March 2017 – ***Mylène Freeman’s*** experience as a young woman in politics was addressed in her presentation ***“Why I ran...and is there a difference between male and female candidates”***. Elected at age 22 as NDP MP for Argenteuil-Papineau-Mirabel, Mylène had had very little political experience and she realized that being a young woman she was less valued, had fewer opportunities and had to work harder to gain some recognition. During her time on Parliament Hill (2011-2015), Mylène did notice a difference between female and male MP’s. Women are more likely to experience some workplace harassment and are often the targets of hate mails and hate speeches via social media, which provide people with the necessary anonymity to make direct threats and be extremely violent. In spite of the many challenges facing young women, Mylène also advocated for more women to seek political office, women who will demand better policies that will benefit and empower all women. Hateful speech in all its forms should be denounced and instead openness, respect and gender equality should be fostered.

April 2017– MCW celebrated the ***“150th ANNIVERSARY of CANADA”*** at a fun evening meeting which included a supper meal with tantalizing food from across our great land, participating in a short quiz on the history of Canada and the screening of ***“Quilt of Belonging”***, a film that shares the story of making an immense collaborative art project: ***a 120-foot-long textile mosaic***, which is the work of volunteers from Victoria to Newfoundland to the Arctic Circle. Participants were invited to contribute their talents and ideas, reflected through the prism of their cultural backgrounds - range of materials used, from sealskin to African mud-cloth, from embroidered silk to gossamer wings of butterflies.

May 2017 - The ***MCW Annual General Meeting and Silent Auction*** will be held on May 18th, 2017 at 12:00 noon. The AGM of the National Council of Women Councils will take place in Ottawa in June. **The following RESOLUTIONS will be presented:** *The Provision of Humane Holding Conditions for Migrant Detainees; Environmental Harm from Cigarette Filters; Safety of Food Additive Azodicarbonamide; Increasing Security by Relocating Railways to Outlying Areas; Addressing Aboriginal Suicide.*

The Montreal Council of Women publishes *a monthly BULLETIN* and its website: montrealcouncilwomen.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 final 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 Scott Wilcox at CIBC Wood-Gundy and continue to enjoy conservative and steady growth. As of December 30, 2016, our account now has a book value of the \$135, 851.22. 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 Janet Ilavsky who, in her first year as treasurer, has skilfully managed our financial reports with great patience and detail. We are extremely pleased that Janet will be staying on to complete her second term. We welcomed Maria DeWolfe as our secretary last year and she too will be staying to complete her mandate. Maria did an exceptional job with the minutes and the numerous thank-you letters. We thank Jeanne Marie Lefebvre as our member at-large who has completed her mandate. Our committee decided to ask a member of the Fundraising committee to serve as the member-at-large in the future so that we can have a positive flow of information between the committees. We welcome Victoria Pinnell in this role. Also, our gratitude goes to Jill Rollins and Theresa Sliz who are now completing their mandates as co-chairs of the Scholarship committee. They have brought enthusiasm, commitment and passion about their role in deciding where to allocate the fund money and it is greatly appreciated. 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. I am leaving you in the more-than-capable hands of Heather Hamilton as my successor. I wish her well in her role as chair of this talented committee.

**Respectfully submitted
Barbara Marcolin
Chair, Scholarship Fund Committee**

REPORTS FROM THE INTEREST GROUPS

This has been another successful year for the activities of the Interest groups who seemed to renew themselves, once again, in their activities and in stimulating the interests of our members. This year we had 29 groups providing a variety of options for everyone.

Thank you, ladies, for accepting a leadership role in co-ordinating these groups and continuing the traditions. Thank you to the new leaders who have fulfilled a new role. Thank you for volunteering your time and effort. Without your enthusiasm, such a success would not have been possible.

Suzanne Chaussé
Chair, Interest Groups

ART APPRECIATION

This year we enjoyed guided tours and visits to three Montreal Museum of Fine Arts Exhibits. Attendance at each event was at least 15 members, with our visits followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant.

The exhibits were Robert Mapplethorpe's Photography in September, a visit to the new Michal and Renata Hornstein Pavillion for Peace and a tour of its art treasures in December, and the Marc Chagall Color and Music Exhibition in March.

During winter and spring, many members have enjoyed, and are still enjoying the Art Series *In The Gallery* at Cineplex Theatres, including films on Botticelli, Claude Monet, American Impressionism, the Russian Avant-Garde Movement, and Michelangelo.

Linda Ricketts

BON APPÉTIT DINNER CLUB

This dynamic and well-supported interest group of forty-nine 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 15 -25 ladies an outing. As an alternative to all evening meals, two luncheons were introduced, one in January and the other in June. This change was well received by all.

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, Restaurant Terra Mare donated a gift certificate that became a part of one of our lovely gift baskets. The two remaining restaurants to visit for this year are: Bistro 1834 (May 25th) and Restaurant Villa d'Estel - Chateau Vaudreuil (June 22rd).

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

In conclusion, I wish to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the "Bon Appétit" clan who did an exceptional job of organizing our monthly dinners.

Victoria Pinnell

BOOK DISCUSSION I

This past year we have met regularly on the second Wednesday of the month, and have reviewed ten books, as follows:

The Bridge Ladies by Betty Lerner, *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough, *Children of the Broken Treaty* by Charlie Angus, *When the Moon is Low* by Nadia Hashimi, *Lord Beaverbrook* by David Adams Richards, *The Morning After* by Chantal Hebert, *The Magic Flute* by Gabrielle Roy, *The Golden Son* by Shipi Somaya Gowda, *Rush Home Road* by Lon Lansen, and *The Piano Maker* by Kurt Palka.

All ten books were presented and discussed as we enjoyed each other's company in our homes. My thanks to all hostesses, reviewers, and members!

We were sorry to lose one of our book club founders, as Nora moved to the Nation's capital. We miss her humour, insight, and common sense.

In June we will have our annual potluck lunch, and make our selections for the next year, the nine special, and the extra for summer reading. There are many new and old books to explore.

Margaret Nicoll- Griffith

BOOK DISCUSSION II

The members of Book Club II read a most interesting selection of fiction and non-fiction during the past year, travelling the world and spanning the centuries.

We began in Elizabethan England with *A Year in the life of Shakespeare* and then crossed the Channel to France and Germany in *All The Light We Cannot See*. *The Golden Son* followed taking us to India and the USA, then on to a fictional island presumably in the Indian Ocean in *The Illegal*. *Barkskins* covered the period from colonization of North America to the present day. Then we were off to China with *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* and *Barbarian Lost: Travels in the New China*. In April we will venture to Holland with *The Last Painting of Sarah De Vos* and our final trip will be to Poland with *Once We Were Brothers*.

Sandra MacDonald Smith

BRIDGE - AFTERNOON

No report submitted.

Eleanor Shaver

BRIDGE AFTERNOON MIXED MARATHON

No report submitted.

Eileen Ross

BRIDGE - DUPLICATE

Duplicate Bridge meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings of the month. For most of this year we had 3 or 3 1/2 tables. We are a friendly group hoping to improve our bridge and we would like the group to expand. A big Thank You to the City of Beaconsfield for allowing us to play our games at Centennial Hall.

Jane Quail & Ginger Brossard

INTERMEDIATE EVENING BRIDGE

The Intermediate Bridge has enjoyed a successful year

The introduction of each player giving one dollar to the pot has proven to be very popular.

The two top players receive \$5 and \$3 respectfully.

We meet in each other's homes from 7:30 to 10 pm

Membership of the group remains stable and they include: Barbara Ambruster, Ginger Brossard, Lillian Brown, Marilyn Flaherty, Marilyn Gollan, Jane Hamilton Weber, Eibblin McHale and Shirley Wick. Isobel Wright. Jane Edwards and Sandra Parekh are spares.

Shirley Wick

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Once again, there was no cross-country skiing this year; the group dwindled due to injury, lack of snow and/or lack of interest.

Dianne Robinson

EVENING BOOK CLUB

Through our book selections this year we travelled around the world and through time; beginning in modern day Rwanda and ending our journey in 17th century New England. We were entertained and intrigued by the characters we met and the places we visited. Our stops included post-war Barcelona, Scotland's Outer Hebrides, Revolutionary China and the Malayan island of Penang.

These are the books we read:

- Baking Cakes in Kigali by Gaile Parkin
- The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Luis Zafon
- Travels with my Aunt by Graham Greene
- The Japanese Lover by Isabel Allende
- The House Between Tides by Sarah Maine
- Do Not Say We Have Nothing by Madeleine Thien
- The Gift of Rain by Tan Twan Eng
- A Measure of Light by Beth Powning

Heather Hamilton

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 discuter du thème sélectionné. Gisèle Aubin nous a gentiment aidée pour pas que l'on perde le fil de nos idées.

Janet Anderson

GERMAN CONVERSATION

We began the year on September 16th, 2016 with an afternoon BBQ at Chitra Chopra's. We met every month and on May 12th, we will work on Chapter 37 of our text. During the summer, we are concentrating on grammar and fluency, in order to maintain continuity.

Christine Hamilton

GOURMET II

THE EDUCATED PALATE

Gourmet II enjoyed another fine year of great food and company. Our themes ranged from Festival Fall Feasting to Menu to Fight the Winter Blues to Louise Penny, the Nature of the Beast - always creative and interesting. With a couple of months still to go, plus our closing when spouses are invited, it is safe to say that we have enjoyed another delicious year.

Barbara Marcolin

GOURMET III

As always, we have had great meals and entertaining evenings. We've eaten a variety of foods and had different wines. Along with the food and wine, we had great discussions and lots of laughs. By the end of the year, we will have met seven times.

We are currently eight members and we also have a substitute who replaces an absent member. This has worked out great.

Gilda Martinello

GOURMET IV

We have nine members in our group and we cook in groups of three, with dinners from October to June in each other's homes. Spouses join us in December and June. Some of the main course meals we have enjoyed, so far, this year have included Filet Mignon with Madeira Green Peppercorn Sauce, Noisettes of Lamb Florentine, Baked Whole Salmon with Lime Ginger Mayonnaise, Herbed Pork Tenderloins with Apple Chutney, and Indian-Spiced Shepherd's Pie.

We were pleased to have Marie-Belle Cunningham join us in February as the winner of the Christmas raffle. We always enjoy great food and friendship.

Valerie Fortin

ISSUES TO ACTION

This past year we followed several major issues: electoral reform; sexual violence against women, especially against indigenous women and women on university campuses; financial literacy; and the immigration detention of children.

Electoral Reform: We looked forward to the final report of the Electoral Reform committee, but were disappointed with its failure to recommend a specific type of proportional representation. The survey that was sent to the whole population did not result in any consensus.

Violence against Women and Girls: The CFUW brief to the Committee on the Status of Women was made available at the Convivium and on the web. We were asked to participate in the survey of the sexual assault policies on university campuses.

This is in addition to the survey of university campuses comparing the general status of women in universities today with the original survey done 25 years ago.

Resolutions and By-law Amendments. Two resolutions were received: one on Universal Pharmacare and the other on the “Provision of Safe Drinking Water to Indigenous Peoples”. Two changes to the CFUW By-laws were also received and discussed, the more significant one is about whether the CFUW should remain a part of the GWI. They have not yet been voted on.

Financial Literacy. Constance Ellis arranged one workshop centering on Wills and Estates. We are collecting information and materials and have found several websites that will be very beneficial to our members.

Immigration and Refugee Issues: The arrival of Syrian refugees is being followed with the West Island Refugee Network. We are also following the government’s promises to improve the conditions of children who are detained in unsuitable premises, sometimes in criminal detention facilities.

We have been asked to consider what can be done about the inequality of cosmetic and other products between men and women, known as the Pink Tax.

The Issues to Action Group is reaching out to organizations like Care-Jeunesse, FADOQ (Fédération des aînés et aînées du Québec) and CARP (the Canadian Association of Retired People).

Up-dates:

Micro-beads were declared toxic in June 2016, but will be officially banned only in 2019.

Nancy Doray and Patricia DuVal

JAUNTERS

As usual, our Jaunters group of 37 members has had really interesting outings. Each outing is planned by 2-3 members of our group, and I always marvel at the unlimited number of places there are to see in Montreal or even revisit.

September we visited the McCord Museum’s Eleganza: Italian Fashion.

October took us to the Musée des Maîtres et Artisans.

November/December we were joined by the Art Appreciation group at the MMFA Michal and Renata Hornstein Pavillion for Peace.

January/February was close to home: The Dorval Museum of Local History and Heritage, and Le Club Forest and Stream.

March was with the Art Appreciation group to see Chagall: Colour and Music.

April we will tour and taste at L’Institut de L’hôtellerie du Québec.

May will be at the Chateau Ramsay.

June is still in the planning stage but we are considering an outing to the McCord Museum to see the exhibit on Fashioning Expo.

We hope you have all enjoyed the places your colleagues have organized, and you will join us April and May or even next year if you are not already part of our group. Thanks to you ladies who organized! We could not have the Jaunters without your valuable help.

Pat Jones

KNIT AND CHAT

We meet the fourth Saturday of every month. We help each other with knitting problems by providing advice or hints. We also enjoy chatting as we knit or crochet various items: scarves, blankets, or sweaters. Each month our hostess provides great goodies to nibble on. We learn a lot about knitting but also about each other. We're looking forward to a fun year again next year and we hope that others will consider joining the group.

Tina Tessari

MUSIC APPRECIATION

We enjoyed six morning concerts by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra as we have done in the past twenty years. Our twenty-one music group members all contributed to enhancing our listening experience by their participation. For the second year in a row, when Adla Halwani hosted a planning meeting, she treated us to a mini-private concert of her own beautiful piano playing. Thanks to Adla and all the hostesses, bakers and presenters who researched the composers and pieces for upcoming concerts. Special thanks to Dianne Robinson for assuring music was available at all meetings.

And kudos to the drivers Dianne, Brenda Wisenthal, Barbara Sauve and Nancy Lloyd who generously and patiently braved highway delays to deliver members to the concert hall and back home. The MSO produced their usual high quality performances. Some outstanding soloists entertained us and Kent Nagano himself directed two concerts. Twelve of our twenty-one members subscribed to the six series morning concerts, while others attended when they could.

Lunches after concerts were ably organized by Janet Anderson who has started us through the alphabet of restaurants including Bistros F and T. Thanks to Janet for arranging inside restaurant reservations during the winter months. We will complete our season with a final wrap-up meeting and potluck lunch at Dianne Robinson's home in May.

Maria Cranker

MUSIC HISTORY

The 15-member Music History group met regularly on the second Thursday afternoon of the month except for the December meeting, which had to be cancelled.

We attend the Orchestre Metropolitain concerts offered in West Island churches so we began the year listening and learning about Mendelssohn in anticipation of his Violin Concerto in E Minor being played locally at St Joachim's Church. April's

meeting will be devoted to Haydn since he is the featured composer in an upcoming concert that month.

A particular focus recently has been the piano -- the development of the keyboard, great pianists of the 20th century, and that consummate master of the keyboard, Frederic Chopin.

Members of the group have supplied delicious refreshments (for which many thanks) to sustain our bodies as we feed our souls listening to glorious music and learning about its history.

Joan Dyer

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

The Mystery Book Club is still flourishing and we currently have 12 members.

We met monthly at various members' homes and discussed the mysteries we read which were: *Those We Left Behind*, *The Various Haunts of Men*, *The Devotion of Suspect X*, *Those Girls*, *The Ice Child*, *The Night Bell*, and *Deadly Jewels*. In April we will be reviewing *Death of a Nurse* and in May, our book will be *The Corpse Bridge*.

Not all books were well received or liked by everyone but we have always had interesting discussions about the characters, the authors and the storyline.

As always, our hostesses provided great munchies and the reviewers provided interesting information on the authors and books they were responsible for.

Gilda Martinello

Networking Group

This was our third full year of networking events, thanks to our new member - Marlene Whittome - who organized and even hosted 2 of the 3 events held this year. Speakers covered topics from cyber security to coping with transitions in life.

We are hoping to finish the year with 1 more event.

This is a great group for working women and women who want to return to the job market or who are busy volunteers that wish to meet like-minded women and network.

The networking group is also a wonderful opportunity to introduce new women to the MLUWC. Almost 3 tables at the Spring Fundraising Event will be filled with our networking members. So far, we have raised \$315.00 for the Scholarship Fund.

Linda Sestock

NEW BOOK EXCHANGE

We are still alive and well! In spite of iPads, eReaders, and Kindles, many of the MLUWC members still like to hold a real book. This year twenty-seven of us have been reading and exchanging recently published books on the first of each month.

The group can expand or shrink to any size so, if you like to read the latest and feel real paper, do consider joining us next fall. There is one planning meeting usually late in September to choose our books.

Everyone is welcome. Happy reading.

B.J. Bell

PHOTOGRAPHY

13 members signed up to join, but only 9 remained active for the year.

Activities:

During summer and fall we had several outings: to parks, to downtown Montreal, to visit photography exhibitions and one longer 3-day outing to Dianne Robinson's cottage.

During the winter we met in members' homes and talked about our pictures. We discussed assignments, summer projects and I made a few presentations. This year we organized our first photography exhibition, "Garden". Everyone liked the experience and the exhibition was well received, so we plan to hold another one in the following season.

The Photography Group can accommodate more members.

Maria Korab Laskowska

TRAVEL

35 MLUWC members joined the Travel Group.

Our meetings took place once a month: October, November, December, February, March and April. This year we heard presentations about trips to Europe, China, Indonesia, birding trips in Canada and South America. For this April's presentation we will have a speaker representing the Senior Discovery Tours Company.

The Travel Group can accommodate more members.

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

Maria Korab Laskowska

TUTTO ITALIANO

In September we joined the Jaunters group to visit the Musée McCord for the exhibition of Italian Style "Eleganza". In October we had our 1st meeting and planned our agenda for the year. In November we had a slide show of Italy's "Le Marche", in December our Italian potluck lunch. In January and March, we had

a meeting at a member's home. No meetings were held in February & April, and in May an Italian luncheon is scheduled.

Carole Newberry and Mary Vlahos

WINE APPRECIATION I

Wine Appreciation Group 1 has twelve regular members and six spares.

This year we 'visited' many wine regions and learned about the geography and viniculture of each area.

We learned about the history of fortified wines, indigenous grapes and still some un-named grape varieties. We also enjoyed a mystery evening which tested our knowledge of the wines served by our hostess.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month and take turns to host the evening.

Each month, our hostesses have delighted and educated the group. We learn about food and cheeses offered in our local markets which match the wines offered.

In June we will be joining Wine Appreciation Group 2 to travel to the Eastern Townships to visit three vineyards and have lunch.

Janet Ankcorn

WINE APPRECIATION II

We are a group of eight members and two spares that fill in if someone is absent. We enjoy the wine, the fellowship and the laughs.

The group this year explored wines from various countries, including, 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 of the evening. The wine tasting is always followed by delicious refreshments provided by the hostess of the evening.

In June of last year, we joined with Wine Appreciation I for a wonderful wine and pairing evening at La Maison Verte. We had a wonderful year and our glasses runneth over.

Joyce Schaaf