

MONTREAL LAKESHORE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB
ANNUAL REPORTS
2017-2018

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers and Committee chairs for the year 2018 - 2019:

Executive

Returning Officers:

President	Linda Sestock
Vice-President & CFUW Liaison	Nancy Doray, Patricia DuVal

New mandates for:

Past President	Gilda Martinello
Vice-President & Membership	Andrea Vey
Treasurer	Helen Findlay
Assistant Treasurer	Nicole Larocque
Communications & Publicity	Sylvie Ghanimé
Recording Secretary	Vacant

Standing Committee Chairs

Returning chairs:

Archives	Jane Cowell-Poitras
Fundraising	Victoria Pinnell
Hospitality	Kathleen McGrath
Interest Groups	Suzanne Chaussé
Scholarships	Maria DeWolfe
Webmaster	Sabra Ledent

New mandates for:

Newsletter	Gilda Martinello
Program	Devi di Guida

Other committees

Photographer	Hélène Duquet
Potluck Dinners	Linda Ricketts & Jeannie Hazel

MLUWC Scholarship Fund

Returning officers:

Chair	Heather Hamilton
Treasurer	Janet Ilavsky

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

PRESIDENT

The last 2 years have been a wonderful experience for me. The best part is to have been given the chance to get to know the members and to work along-side our various committees to benefit the MLUWC and the community. Last year I mentioned that we were working hard to not be the “West Island’s best kept secret” and I know that we are making ourselves known.

The new year always starts with a joint executive meeting with the current, outgoing and incoming executive members. We enjoyed a lovely potluck at Fritz Farm. We will continue to have our monthly executive meetings at the Residence le Selection.

Some of our achievements: 2nd annual Presidents Lunch (this time a picnic for all of the MLUWC members), the Fall Fundraising event, celebrating our 60th Anniversary (the Gala was a highlight of the year) while maintaining our membership numbers (not an easy job), increased community awareness through networking, social media presence (LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook), new website, increased use of electronic payments which makes life easier for our Treasurer. Helping various local communities including the West Island Women's Shelter, Omega, Food Banks and CAREJeunesse, (AJOI). Your Executive and all of the MLUWC Committees - and more importantly the volunteers, work so hard to make our Club so successful.

CFUW Involvement: my trip to Richmond BC was a great chance to learn more about CFUW and the women working across Canada at both the local and national level to improve the lives of fellow women. Being a part of the Quebec Council – this includes the 5 CFUW clubs across Quebec. There may be 6 next year, with a new French South Shore Club. The Quebec council meets twice a year – this past year we met in Quebec City in the Fall and we hosted the spring AGM. These meetings are an important way to learn about our sister clubs throughout Québec. We share ideas about advocacy, fundraising, membership and other topics. I encourage all of you to attend the Quebec Council meetings in the future.

I thank you for allowing me to be your President for one more year, and I am hopeful that the new President enjoys her trip to Winnipeg in August 2019 to represent us at the 100th CFUW AGM in 2019. May the MLUWC, CFUW and GWI continue for many more years to come! I am already looking forward to our 70th Anniversary Gala!

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Sestock
President**

VP/CFUW LIAISON

CFUW's advocacy priorities for this year were the prevention of violence against women, early learning and child care, education, economic prosperity and the empowerment of women as leaders and decision-makers.

In the context of Canada hosting the G7 Summit in June 2018, CFUW signed onto a joint letter urging Canada to show leadership and special focus on three issues that currently evade consensus among the G7 countries: 1) Supporting refugees, migrants and displaced peoples, 2) Tackling climate change and its impacts on poor and marginalized communities, 3) Ensuring the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all people.

CFUW has prepared an overview and response to the Federal Budget 2018

Two Resolutions were passed at the 2017 AGM in Richmond BC: The Right to Safe, Clean, Accessible and Affordable Drinking Water and Sanitation on First Nations Reserves in Canada and Universal Pharmacare.

Three Resolutions have been proposed this year:

Resolution 1: Fair and Non-Discriminatory Management of Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Proposed by CFUW Perth and District.

Resolution 2: Ending Youth Homelessness. Proposed by BC Council

Resolution 3: Education to Serve as a Vehicle for Social Justice for Vulnerable Children Living in Closed Religious Communities. Proposed by CFUW Nelson and District.

Two important motions have been proposed:

Motion 1: A two-tiered membership structure with membership in GWI being optional. Proposed by the Winnipeg Club

Motion 2: An \$8.60 increase in dues for GWI and a \$2.40 increase for CFUW. This GWI increase is significantly lower than the increase requested last year. Proposed by the CFUW Finance Committee

CFUW was represented by a self-funded delegation of 19 members at the 62nd United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March where they participated in a panel on "Opportunities and Challenges of Rural Women in the Global Community". For the second year in a row, CFUW was awarded the distinct honour of having our Oral Statement selected to be read in General Discussion. CFUW hosted a dinner for 37 guests from around the world. \$202 from the dinner proceeds was donated to the Charitable Trust. The CFUW delegation was invited to a reception at the Permanent Mission to Greece by the President of the International Alliance of Women. The week ended with a dinner for the International Alliance of Women members. A complete report is available on the CFUW website.

CFUW's Annual General Meeting for 2017-2018, will be held June 23. For the first time, the AGM will be held electronically. Proposed dues increases for both CFUW and GWI will be voted on at this meeting, along with the Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments.

CFUW will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2019. The AGM will be held in Winnipeg, where CFUW was founded. A writer has been hired to prepare a history of the 100 years of CFUW and a record of its efforts in advancing equality for women and girls.

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

QC COUNCIL OF CFUW CLUBS AGM

The MLUWC hosted the AGM of the Québec Council of CFUW Clubs on April 28th at the Herb Linder Annex in Beaconsfield. Representatives from the 5 clubs (Sherbrooke, South Shore, Québec City, Montreal Inc and MLUWC) attended the AGM. Thanks to the organizing committee: Linda Sestock, Jane Cowell-Poitras, Victoria Pinnell, Carolina Soulié, Anne Brohan and Connie Ellis for a day well appreciated by everyone in attendance. All of the Clubs were impressed by the welcome (especially the

food) they received from the MLUWC and by our guest speaker Carine Dahab from AJOI (who graciously stepped in when our Speaker called in sick). This is always a great opportunity for clubs to share new ideas and to collaborate together.

QC Council AGM Committee

VP/MEMBERSHIP

We have had a very interesting year with everyone working hard to ensure our club continues to flourish and meet ever changing needs in 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 apprised of developments and are encouraged to read the documentation that is sent to you.

We have 190 members of which 1 is a dual member, and 4 are lifetime members. This year 16 people joined our ranks which compensated for the members who chose not to return this year. Our newcomers' event was a success and we were able to get to know each other a bit better.

The membership fees will remain the same for the time being. The club will have to decide on the course of action if the CFUW decides to raise its fees.

I want to thank all of you for helping to promote our club. Many of our new members were referrals. Our new website has also attracted some inquiries and a couple of new members.

Our 60th gala event was an excellent opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones. The hard work done by the committee ensured that the evening was a complete success.

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

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY REPORT

This year seventeen cards were sent to members of the club:

sympathy cards, get-well cards and congratulations. Letters were also sent to ten members who had resigned, to inform them of the upcoming Gala dinner to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the club. Helpful information was sent to me from club members regarding people who should receive a card. This is a valued custom of the club as we provide support to our members.

Advertising and communications lists have been updated so that we can advertise our club activities and be seen in the community section of newspapers. We also participate in other media outlets and the West Island cities' electronic boards. Our website and Facebook page has been another popular way to keep people informed.

**Respectfully submitted,
Janet Ankcorn
Communications Chair**

WEBSITE REPORT

The 2017–18 club year was devoted to completely redoing the club's website. Website designer Sylvie de Sousa was engaged to produce the new site. Launched at the Convivium in September 2017, it was well received by club members. Among its many features, the new site includes a directory of members, as well as a PayPal connection that allows club members to pay for events via the site. Meanwhile, in

conjunction with the site, the club adopted a new logo, which was incorporated not only into the website but also into a new club brochure.

Plans call for a French-language version of the site to be launched in 2018–19.

**Respectfully submitted,
Sabra Ledent
Webmaster**

60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE REPORT

The 60th Anniversary, held at the Olympia Hall April 18th was a huge success thanks to the organizing committee and volunteers and the members who participated in the event. Highlights of the 60th Anniversary included:

- a chance to celebrate Hildburg Schleiermacher's 100th birthday
- outstanding volunteer award: *Gilda Martinello, Elizabeth Semmelhaack, Renate Sutherland, Francoise Perrault*
- a video highlighting 60 years of archival documents and photos
- archives table; photos, articles, summaries and memorabilia
- picture frame for photos (a huge hit) - photos will be made available to all members
- great food, candy table, gift bags and door prizes
- program (sponsors and thank you notes)
- volunteers emailing and calling past speakers, scholarship winners and past members
- live entertainment with Lorne Elliot
- front page coverage from the Suburban!

The 60th Anniversary gala committee and volunteers:

Linda Sestock, Victoria Pinnell, Mary Vlahos, Carolina Soulié, Patricia Duval, Paulette Cargill, Jane Cowell-Postras, Heather Hamilton, Maria Korab Laskowska, Maria de Wolfe, Diane Robinson, Janet Ankcorn, Sally Gurekian, Elizabeth Semmelhaack, Jane Edwards, Marie-Belle Cunningham and Hille Viires.

60th Anniversary Committee

TREASURER

Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club
Interim Statement of Revenue-Expenses Period of June 1st, 2017 to April 20h, 2018

	Year to date	Budget 2016/17
BALANCE SHEET		
Opening Bank balance as at June 1st, 2017	\$7561.34	\$4,937.44
Investment Manulife (May 31st, 2016)		\$1,672.29
Investment Interest (Manulife)		\$11.94
Transfer Investment Manulife to CIBC (2017/05/13)	\$1685.68	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$9247.02	\$6,621.67
INCOME STATEMENT		
Membership Dues Collected	\$22102.91	\$20135.00
MLUWC AGM	\$1119.40	\$4484.16
MLUWC Convivium	\$1609.21	\$1487.00
Other Income	\$400.00	\$535.02
Advertising/ Newsletter	\$600.00	\$540.00
Xmas Raffle donation & Muslim Victims & Flood Victims		\$2505.00
Xmas Raffle donation & Care Jeunesse	\$1720.00	
60th Anniversary Celebration	\$6900.00	
Prov. Council AGM	\$385.00	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$34836.52	\$29,686.18
EXPENDITURES		
MCW	\$50.00	\$50.00
CFUW	\$13160.00	\$13186.00
PCUW	\$372.00	
MLUWC AGM		\$4381.32
MLUWC Convivium	\$1396.00	\$1404.86
<i>Administration</i>		
Administration	\$715.15	\$285.77
Honorarium	\$100.00	\$100.00
...OSLB Insurance	\$208.37	\$246.74
<i>Communication</i>		
<i>Publicity</i>		
Publicity	\$49.33	\$48.88
Website	\$2559.36	\$572.63
Membership	\$406.63	\$711.78
Newsletter	\$114.28	\$196.63
Program	\$710.37	\$610.95
Hospitality	\$164.41	\$263.68
CFUW convention delegates 2017	\$1796.09	\$437.29
Rent	\$1610.56	\$1316.90
Xmas Raffle donation & Muslim Victims & Flood Victims		\$2505.00
Xmas Raffle donation & Care Jeunesse	\$1720.00	
*Donations: 100th CFUW anniv (\$200), CFUW scholarship (\$250), VGIF (\$200)	\$650.00	\$450.00
Other expenses	\$571.04	\$534.89
60th Anniversary Celebration	\$7070.00	
Hosting Prov. Council AGM	\$349.52	
60TH MLUWC Anniversary Scholarship Fund (2017)	\$1400.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$35,123.11	\$27303.32
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	-\$286.59	\$2,382.86
100th CFUW ANNIVERSARY \$200 (2019)		\$200.00
60TH MLUWC ANNIVERSARY (2017)		\$1,400.00
General Fund Beginning of Period	\$9,247.02	\$6,621.67
General Fund Ending of Period	\$8,960.43	\$9004.53
<i>Carolina Rodic</i>		
MLUWC Treasurer		

Notes

This report does not include the expenses done from April 20th to May 31st.

There is an amount indicated in MLUWC AGM revenue, coming from the tickets sold until now, but no expense is done for the event to date.

In general, the expenses were quite the same or under the budget projected in each field, except for the CFUW convention delegates because the meeting was held in Vancouver (\$296) and for the 60th Anniversary Celebration Gala (\$172).

The amount collected in the Xmas Raffle/ Care Jeunesse (\$1,720.) was given to this organization.

For further information about the organizations to which MLUWC gave the donations, indicated below, please consult their websites

***Donations**

* \$1720 to Care Jeunesse

\$250 to the CFUW Charitable Trust <http://www.cfuw.org/en-ca/fellowshipsawards.aspx>

\$200 to the Victoria Gildersleeve International Fund <http://vgif.org>

\$200 to the CFUW 100th Anniversary Scholarship

Respectfully submitted,

Carolina Soulié

Treasurer

REPORTS FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEES

ARCHIVES

2017-2018 has been a very busy year for the Archivist!

The year began with the unfortunate discovery that our Archives were in a very precarious state. For many years, they have been stored in the basement of the West Island Community Resource Centre in the old Valois Train Station. We were not aware until last Fall, however, that the archival materials were stored in a section of the basement that regularly floods! This has caused major problems from water damage and mold to complete destruction in some cases. I have spent a great deal of time trying to find suitable (read free) archival space with an organization or institution that preferably has a proper climate-controlled archive where the MLUWC materials could be stored. I have also been in touch with the CFUW to see if they had any "best practices" in the area of archives. No luck to date, but in the meantime, I have moved our Archives to slightly higher ground in the basement!

The 60th Anniversary Committee asked me to produce "archival capsules" for the monthly newsletters throughout our Anniversary Year. I had a great deal of pleasure digging through dusty boxes trying to find nuggets of interesting information. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the West Island Community Resource Centre for providing me with space to examine documents and make notes on site, so I did not have to transport boxes elsewhere. I would also like to thank the many members who kindly took the time to drop me a line and tell me how much they were enjoying reading about our Club's past exploits - I was very touched.

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

FUNDRAISING

The annual Fall Fundraiser was held October 25th, 2017 at Lakeside Academy's "Louise Pelletier Auditorium" in Lachine.

The Lyric Theatre Singers performed a delightful musical theatre revue of "Bravo Broadway"! It was a most enjoyable evening, however, ticket sales were lower than anticipated, given several other community events being held at the same time. The program booklet, with paid ads was extremely profitable, representing 40% of the evening's proceeds. "ShowTix4U", a new on-line ticket purchasing system, was introduced this year and has proven to be very useful.

The MLUWC 60th Anniversary Gala Dinner, held on April 18th, 2018, replaced the Spring Fundraiser

normally held at this time. This celebration dinner was not a fundraising event, however, the scholarship fundraising objectives were still met with a year to date profit of \$8,602.86.

Several changes were made to ongoing fundraising activities at the monthly General Meetings, which were well received by the membership;

The MLUWC Networking Meet and Greet Group hosted three evenings this year with a topic of interest and guest speaker. The proceeds from the evenings were donated to the Scholarship Fund. This year donations of close to \$300 were generated.

At the past two General Meetings the Photography Group has sold beautiful note cards with their unique photographs gracing the cards. This initiative raised \$106.

The 50/50 collection has now transitioned into a “Gift Certificate Raffle”. This change has increased earnings by 75%.

Over the past few years, fundraising has taken on a whole new dimension. It requires non-profit clubs such as the MLUWC to become creative in how funds are generated for the scholarship and bursary program, amidst an ever-challenging market. Given our 60-year history, I believe our club is adapting very well to these changing demands and will enjoy continued success in the future.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our Fundraising Committee; Janet Ankcorn, Margaret Czalbowska, Sally Gurekian, Judy Paquin, Carolina Soulié and Mary Vlahos. Given your invaluable support and dedication, you are the reason we are able to fulfill our club’s mandate.

**Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Pinnell
Chair Fundraising**

HOSPITALITY

The Convivium was held at the Beaconsfield Golf Club on Wednesday September 13th. Tickets were \$13; sweets, coffee and tea were served. One hundred and eighteen members attended. There were some concerns about the quality of the sweets offered and the lack of table service for coffee and tea, which were addressed with the golf club.

The Christmas charity concert and raffle was held at Beaconsfield United Church on Monday December 11th. The venue was very well received because of its location, ease of parking, and wonderful kitchen facilities. The Philomela choir performed to rave reviews. Care Jeunesse was the recipient of the raffle proceeds. Thanks to the generosity of our members we donated \$1720 and an additional 865 in gift cards to them. Sweets and savories were provided by our members and served with a mulled cranberry juice. Monthly meetings were held at the Karnak Shiners temple. Coffee, tea and cookies were offered.

The AGM will be held at the Beaconsfield Golf Club on May 16th. A roasted red pepper soup will be served as the entrée, followed by a southwestern chicken salad as the main course and a fruit tart with coffee and tea for a ticket cost of \$45. Wine will be available for purchase at an additional cost. Many thanks to all who helped the hospitality committee at the various events held this year. A huge thank you to Christine Hamilton, who, until her resignation in December, chaired the committee.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen McGrath
Hospitality Chair**

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 \$600. 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**

PROGRAM

The program committee met June 2017 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 and we had one last minute cancellation (for the AGM), 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 Gulf Club – September Convivium and May AGM.

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

Beaconsfield United Church – Christmas raffle and choir. The feedback was that the members far preferred this venue as not only was the parking much easier, but the room for the refreshments was superior to the previous church and we had a great turnout. We raised a record amount for the Charity (C.A.R. E. Jeunesse).

Monthly meetings:

- September 13, 2017 – Convivium. Held at the Beaconsfield Gulf Club, there was a good turnout for the meet and greet with the successful sign up for the many activity groups.

- October 16 - **Cindy Finn PhD** Director of Student Services, Lester B. Pearson School Board. (MLUWC Scholarship Winner, 1997-1998). Meeting the mental health needs of youth in schools: challenges and opportunities. Cindy gave an interesting talk about the resources and strategy to help students with mental health challenges. The current **Scholarship winners** gave great short presentations about their educational pathways.
- November 13- **Suzanne Morin MD MSc FRCP FACP** MUHC: Bone Health Basics: Get the facts! Dr. Morin gave a wonderful overview of how to keep our bones healthy with an emphasis on a balanced diet and exercise. She also talked about Osteoporosis and the current therapies.
- December 11 - **Christmas Charity Raffle and Carols** with the Philomela Choir, Beaconsfield United Church
- February 12 - **Janet Torge**; Radical Rest Homes: A Senior Housing Shake-Up. Janet presented a novel approach to senior care, which is currently being done in some centres in Europe, but Canada is far behind. This involves small groups of seniors who help one another out thus not only encouraging autonomy but also cutting the costs of senior care.
- March 12 - **Members' Night**: Getting to know us. **Discussion of Resolutions**. Three members (Gloria Bijun Gong; Luhan Wahbeh; Devi Di Guida) introduced themselves to the members by giving short talks about their career paths and life experiences. A couple of Interest Groups (Photography, Knitting groups) had displays of the products of their labours.
- April 9 - **Gary Schroder**, President of the Quebec Family History Society: The Magical World of Family History. Gary gave an inspiring talk about how to go about learning more about one's family history, which is much more than just assembling a family tree. He outlined the multiple sources of information that one can tap into to do this research, which can lead to surprises and even photographs of relatives. He also talked about genetic screens and recommended that if one is curious about this information, it is best to go with the company that has the largest database as not only can one find out about ancestral heritage but also possibly the identification of previously unknown relatives.
- May 16 - **Annual General Meeting and Dinner. Afra Jalabi**. The role of women in the Middle East in the fight for democracy. Beaconsfield Golf Club. This will be a very timely presentation given the ongoing civil war in Syria. Afra, born and raised in Syria, is an activist for democracy and is currently prohibited from going to Syria because of her activism.

Thanks are extended to the committee members as overall the speakers were extremely well received and appreciated by the MLUWC members.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianna Newkirk
Chair, Program Committee

SCHOLARSHIP

On behalf of the scholarship committee I would like to thank all MLUWC members who support the program with their donations and participation in fundraising events. I would like to thank the fundraising committee for their dedication and hard work planning major events and the monthly draws. I would like to thank the scholarship committee members (Theresa Sliz, Judy Kelley, Cendra Paas, Hille Vires, Pauline Van Nieuwburg, Nancy Acemian, Joanna Zaichkowsky and Jill Rollins) who have donated their time and their efforts to the work of the scholarship committee. I would also like to thank former co-chairs Theresa Sliz and Jill Rollins for agreeing to continue as committee members. Their guidance and suggestions have been invaluable.

We are currently in the process of choosing this year's winners of the Margaret Manson and Amy Williams scholarships. Our committee is consistently impressed with the quality of the applicants and narrowing the selection to two winners is not an easy task. In May we will choose the 2 John Abbott students who will receive respectively the Alberta Schearer or the Corinne Thompson Scholarship. We will also be meeting with our bursary winners at Jeanne Sauvé and Place Cartier Adult Education Centers. Earlier this year we awarded a bursary to a student in the technical (nursing) program at John Abbott College.

This year the university application form was revised to make it a fillable PDF file. This allowed applicants to complete the form directly on their computers. In addition, the application form was translated into French. There were many people involved with this work but two key contributors were Sylvie de Sousa and Sabra Ledent. Without their support these technological innovations would not have been possible. The change has resulted with many more West Island women attending French universities applying for the scholarships.

It has been a pleasure to serve on the scholarship committee and am appreciative of the support I have received and I look forward to the second year of my mandate as chairperson.

**Respectfully submitted,
Maria De Wolfe,
Chair, Scholarship Committee**

POT LUCK MEALS

In spite of heavy afternoon snow on Monday, 8th January, 76 hardy club members met to indulge in goodies and friendship at four lunches and six dinner parties – no afternoon teas this time around. The numbers were down for the second year running, possibly because the date was too near the Christmas and new year festivities. It will be a week later in 2019. We hear you all had a great time meeting old and new members and even benefitting from the snow-clearing efforts of family and neighbours! Many thanks to the hostesses who welcomed you into their homes and their assistants who worked hard to keep the event going smoothly, often staying to do the dishes!

Hostesses

Elizabeth Semmelhaack
Mary Jo Gascon
Jeannie Hazel
Judy Couillard
Sabra Ledent
Pamela Deans
Judy Paquin
Sally Gurekian
Margaret Vost
Kate Le Maistre

Assistant Hostesses

Kerstin Birch
Nancy Lloyd
Jane Cowell
Christine Hamilton
Joyce Schaaf
Jane Quail
Helen Findlay
Mary Vlahos
Judy Flannery
B.J.Bell

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Ricketts and Jeannie Hazel
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. Its 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.

MCW's monthly general meetings were held on the first 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 5th, 2017 and April 5th, 2018, the monthly MCW meetings, were held at 12:00 noon (Lunch \$10.00) with an afternoon program at 1:00 p.m. of interesting and inspiring guest speakers. Our MLUWC President, Linda Sestock, and other Executive members often attended the monthly meetings.

THE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS focused on the Year's theme: "Health in the Community, including Mental Health"

2017

- September 7 ***Doreen Chartier, "Children's Wish Foundation"***
October 5 ***Viveka Melki, "War Flowers"***
November 2 ***Kim Fraser, "Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation"***

2018

- February 1 ***Lynn Harris, "Jewish General Hospital, Family Peer Support"***
March 1 ***Jason Finucan, "StigmaZERO, Stigma surrounding mental illness"***
April 5 ***Jillian Ritchie, Collective Community Services Montreal,
"Education and Awareness around mental illness"***
April 29 ***"Woman of the Year Award' Luncheon at 11:30 am to honour
Margaret Trudeau, mental health advocate.***

Great news that 26 MLUWC members registered to attend this event at Le Mont Stephen Hotel, which attracted more than 200 people!

- May 17 ***MCW Annual General Meeting*** at 12:00 noon.
A motion, that the annual dues for federate membership be changed to a single amount of \$50.00 regardless of the number of members in the federate, effective retroactively for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, will be presented.

An MCW Survey 2018 requested the opinion of its grass roots membership on a future vision and directions to pursue in the next decade. MLUWC members were invited to respond to Joan Macklin, Membership Secretary,

The AGM of the National Council of Women Councils will take place in Niagara-on-the Lake in June. **The following RESOLUTIONS will be presented:** *Women and Precarious Employment/Non-Standard Work; Citizenship Education for New Canadians; Citizenship for Immigrants and refugees; Reconciling with Canada's Aboriginal Peoples; The Protection of Religious Leadership and Assemblage of Persons Met for Religion, Moral, Social or Benevolent Purposes. UPDATES: Eliminating Indian Act Discrimination; Female Genital Mutilation; Sewage Treatment/Wastewater Facilities; Long Term Stewardship of Nuclear Waste.*

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

MLUWC SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

The first order of business of the Scholarship Fund Committee this year was the decision to stay with our long-time Investment Manager Scott Wilcox when he transferred from CIBC Wood Gundy to TD Wealth. The fund was transferred in its entirety and no other changes were made, i.e. our portfolio remains invested in the same low-risk diversified monthly income fund.

The Canadian stock market has not performed well in recent months and therefore our investments are down approximately 2.5%. The good news is that our portfolio is still doing better than the TSX index which is down over 5% in the same period. The bank balance at CIBC is currently \$19,564. Our year end is May 31st and as usual, a full financial report will be presented in the September newsletter.

The Scholarship Fund received over \$6,000 in donations this year as well as profits from MLUWC events like Bravo Broadway and other fundraisers held at monthly meetings. In January we presented a motion to the Executive that we offer a \$1,000 one-time bursary in memory of Past President Corinne Thompson. This bursary is to be awarded to a John Abbott College student studying Science or Honours Science. The motion was accepted by the Executive and presented to the membership for ratification in February.

The Scholarship Fund Committee is made up of a group of dedicated volunteers who make my job very easy. Vice-chair Maria De Wolfe did double duty for most of this year as she chaired the Scholarship Committee and carried on as Secretary of the Scholarship Fund, taking minutes and sending out thank you letters to every one of our donors. Janet Ilavsky is our Treasurer, who keeps track of all monies coming in and going out. She also prepares and sends out tax receipts to our generous donors. Victoria Pinnell is our member at large, a position she took on in addition to her role as Fundraising Chair. In January we welcomed the addition of Gilda Martinello to our team in the role of Secretary. I am very fortunate to work with such capable and energetic women.

**Respectfully submitted,
Heather Hamilton
Chair, Scholarship Fund Committee**

REPORTS FROM THE INTEREST GROUPS

Another year is at its end and Interest groups continue to flourish at our club. They continue to be a popular way for us to pursue activities of our choice alongside members, old and new, with a similar interest. This year we had 26 different interest groups, providing a variety of options for everyone.

Thank you to those of you who accepted a leadership role in co-ordinating 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.

Suzanne Chaussé
Chair, Interest Groups

BON APPÉTIT DINNER CLUB

This dynamic and well-supported interest group of forty-six 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 took place, one in January and the other will be in June.

A \$5.00 contribution was collected from each participant upon registration at the Convivium in September and the proceeds were put towards our club's two Christmas raffle gift baskets. This year two restaurant gift certificates became a part of our lovely gift baskets.

The two remaining restaurants to visit for this year are: Bistro 1834 (May 24th) and Restaurant Ossiano (June 21st).

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

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

Another year of good discussion and fellowship. The books chosen were varied, and surprisingly current. We chose well!

" The Rainbow Comes and Goes, by Anderson Cooper about his relationship with his mother, Gloria Vanderbilt . This book touched on aspects of his life, and we have certainly seen many interviews with Anderson Cooper this year!

"The Stone Carvers " by Jane Urquhart , reminded us of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and this was the 100 the anniversary. The story of the building of the monument, and the people involved.

" Hillbilly Elegy" by J. D. Vance was a tale of the poverty in many sections of America- and the political fall out - the wish for lost jobs, and Make America great again.

" Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont " by Joseph Boyden. The struggle of the Métis against a powerful Upper Canadian Government. A settlement just made this year!

"The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd . The brave story of southern sisters, to free slaves . A Quaker perspective.

"The Bad Ass Librarians of Timbuktu " by Joshua Hammer. The amazing story of this ancient city, the historical books saved from destruction by caring librarians. And now Canada is sending troops to Mali to try to preserve the tense free government from radicals.

"The Chosen Maiden " by Eva Stachniac. The story of the famous Nijinsky and his sister Bronia. Our Grande Ballet performed one of Nijinsky's choreographed ballets this spring in Montreal.

" Do not say we have Nothing " by Madeline Thien. The story of revolution, hopes of young people, terrible loss, and China today. Trade talks are top news- human rights.

" Lab Girl " by Hope Jahren. We will never look at trees and grass the same way!

My thanks to all the hostesses, the discussion leaders for their hospitality, and research.

Hopefully we will choose well for next year in June!

Margaret Nicoll- Griffith

BOOK DISCUSSION II

Book Club Two had a very enlightening year travelling the globe through fiction and non-fiction. We began in South Africa with Trevor Noah's biography "Born a Crime". An account of his life growing up as a mixed race child under Apartheid. We then came home to Canada and read "The Promise of Canada" by Charlotte Gray who examines the idea of Canada from the position of a biographer who believes that ideas and actions can effect large social changes that mold our national identity. Next we were off to Russia with "Lara, The Untold Story" by Anna Pasternak, which is an account of Boris Pasternak's relationship with Lara. Since most of us had seen Dr Zhivago, this was a very interesting discussion including excerpts from the movie. The next month we ventured to Morocco and Spain reading "The time in Between", a true story written by Maria Duenos recounting the life of a seamstress acting as a spy during and after the Spanish Civil war. The new year began with a serious and critical environmental issue with "The History of Bees" by Maja Lunde set in China, England and the US during three different time periods.

March took us back to modern day Russia with "Red Notice". Bill Browder has written a very topical dissertation on Putin's possible involvement with a political dissident. "The Most Beautiful Women in Florence" by Kathleen Gonzalez was the selection for April.

We will close the year with a trip to Korea, both north and south, with "The Girl with Seven Names" by Hyeonee Lee. This is also a true tale of a young girl's long and treacherous journey to escape North Korea. Given the recent focus on the Korean peninsula both in the sports and political worlds, this promises to be a very interesting discussion.

Sandra MacDonald Smith

BRIDGE - AFTERNOON

It was another year of great bridge!

The Afternoon Bridge has 8 members:

Anne Adams
BJ Bell
Connie Ellis
Jocelyne Faille
Maude Grenier
Lorraine Retfalvi
Eleanor Shaver
Bogna Wajda

We played every second Wednesday from 1-4PM, each player hosted at least once and many have twice. We cancelled some Afternoon Bridge owing to bad weather. We had a lot of fun preparing the Christmas basket which was composed mostly of home made goodies and art work.

Afternoon Bridge is non competitive bridge, we play with different partners of the group which enhances the experience. The afternoon starts with coffee and a savoury and sweet table at which time we catch up on our activities and family life.

We all love to play bridge and be in each other's company, many players have been playing for over 50 years and others are still learning. For the novice and intermediate players this activity is perfect to improve your skills and for the experts to share their vast knowledge of the game.

Looking forward to another year of bridge in 2018-2019

Lorraine Retfalvi

BRIDGE - DUPLICATE

Duplicate Bridge meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings of the month. For most of this year we had 3 tables. We are a friendly group hoping to improve our bridge and we would like the group to expand and include more members. 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 Wednesday evening Bridge group has not met this year. We are hoping that more members will join us next year.

Shirley Wick

EVENING BOOK CLUB

This group has a very casual method of selecting our books. As it turned out this year, four of the seven books we read were non-fiction. *The Red Notice* by Bill Browder is a fascinating true story of power, corruption and human rights abuse in Putin's Russia. *Born a Crime* is Trevor Noah's memoir of growing up under apartheid in South Africa. In *The Stranger in the Woods*, journalist Michael Finkel explores the unbelievable story of Chris Knight who lived alone in the woods for 27 years. *Precious Cargo* is the true story of Craig Davidson's year of driving a group of special needs students to and from school everyday.

We also read three novels published decades apart. *The Handmaid's Tale* is Margaret Atwood's dystopian novel published in 1985 and read by many of us years ago. Its themes were definitely viewed with different eyes in 2017. *The Tin Drum* by Günter Grass was published in 1959 to much critical acclaim, but most of us struggled to get through it. *First Snow Last Light* by Wayne Johnston started strong but did not live up to our expectations.

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.

Janet Anderson

GERMAN CONVERSATION

Our year has been active and stimulating. Our goal is to complete our text, "German made Simple", having reached the second last chapter. In the fall we plan to begin the season with a general review of the text, applying it to every-day German conversation. We have been meeting twice a month and our members have shown a great deal of enthusiasm. Our upcoming meeting will be at Addie Ciebien's home, on Tuesday, April 17th.

Christine Hamilton

GOURMET 11

The 2017- 2018 Season has passed so quickly. We have a full membership of ten/ eleven people. The previous practice of taking turns to host five monthly gatherings has continued. Four people have planned and prepared menus with an extraordinary selection of dishes. In addition in December and February we dined at two excellent West Island restaurants and welcomed our menfolk on one occasion. We look forward to another "mixed meeting" at our final dinner in June. We will continue to explore new culinary experiences in the future and perhaps we will include some of the "tried and true".

Margaret Vost

GOURMET III

We have enjoyed great food and great conversation at our Gourmet evenings. This year, we welcomed two new spares: Astrid Defence and Franca Ferrara. By the end of the year, we will have met eight times. Our eighth meeting is usually at a restaurant and we do this in early June. We are currently eight members and there are two spares.

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. This past year we have enjoyed the following themed dinners: "Ceno Italiano", "Bye Bye Summer, Welcome Fall", "Christmas – a Season of Love & Laughter with Friends", "A Feast from the Middle East", and "Repas Fin d'Hiver". Our delicious desserts have included: Torte di Mele, Triple Chocolate Pumpkin Pie, Gingerbread Layer Cake with Candied Cranberries, Um Ali, and Marzipan Cake with Pears Poached in Red Wine. We still have a few dinners left this season, with great food and friendship.

Valerie Fortin

ISSUES TO ACTION

This past year we followed several major issues: sexual violence against women, the use of micro-beads, English education in Quebec, and the immigration detention of children. However, the main focus for the year was "Youth Aging out of Foster Care".

Violence against Women and Girls: As part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, the Issues to Action group gave orange ribbons to all MLUWC members to wear in support of the United Nations 'UNiTE to End Violence against Women and Girls Orange Campaign'. We also asked all local municipalities to light up their city or town hall in **orange** in support of this initiative on one or more days during the 16 days from November 25 – December 10, 2017.

Youth Aging Out of Care and Youth Homelessness: MLUWC worked with CARE jeunesse, (*Le Centre Amitié, Ressources et Entraide pour la Jeunesse*), an organization working to help youth establish themselves when they age out of foster care. This fall MLUWC collected over 100 suitcases for youth leaving their foster homes at age 18. The Club also donated \$900 in gift cards for them to use and raised \$1720 at the Club's Christmas gift basket raffle.

The group also initiated a letter writing campaign to the Quebec government to ask for additional support. All Quebec Clubs have agreed to participate in the campaign.

The Issues to Action group had a speaker from AJOI, a community outreach organization, which works with at-risk youth in the West Island (Dorval to Ste-Anne de Bellevue). MLUWC can help by raising

awareness of the organization and their needs. We can like their website and share their Community Dinner on social media. We will also see how we can help them with their fundraising.

CFUW Resolutions and By-law Amendments. Three resolutions were received: Fair and Non-Discriminatory Management of Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Ending Youth Homelessness, and Education to Serve as a Vehicle for Social Justice for Vulnerable Children Living in Closed Religious Communities.

A motion was also proposed by the Winnipeg Club to have a two-tiered membership structure, which would allow members to choose whether or not to belong to GWI. They have not yet been voted on this.

Micro-beads: Micro-beads were officially banned only in January 2018.

The Value of and Needs for English Schools in Quebec: Kate Le Maistre, the chair of the Advisory Board on English Education, prepared a very short survey on The Future of English Schools in Quebec, which was sent to our members in early December. The results were incorporated into a report to the Minister of Education.

Nancy Doray and Patricia DuVal

JAUNTERS

It was another wonderful year of Montreal jaunts, organized by energetic and enthusiastic women. Thank you, all of you, for making this interest group such a success.

September we had the privilege of a tour of the Bell Centre. October it was an enlightening architectural tour of the McGill campus. The Sir Georges Etienne house in Old Montreal gave us a glimpse of an Edwardian Christmas at the end of November. Two members prepared 2 beautiful Christmas baskets for our December meeting. The Stewart Hall Art Gallery greeted us in January. In February we revisited the Trestler House in Dorion: always a new experience. The March tour was to the Imperial household at the MMFA. In April we will visit the new Shriners Children's Hospital. In May it will be a visit to the city's best kept secret, the Musee Emile Berlinger in St Henri.

This summary does not come close to revealing the enjoyment, camaraderie and education we derive from these Montréal explorations. What a city we live in!

It has been my great pleasure to work with the UWC members as I coordinated this interest group over the past several years; I am sure by September one of you will come forth and take the reins from me. The Members do all the work, so it is not an onerous task. It is now up to one of YOU to keep this group alive!

In Gratitude

Pat Jones

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Six morning Montreal Symphony Orchestra concerts delighted our music group. Perhaps the highlight was Jan Lisieki's recent piano performance of Chopin's "Piano Concerto." Thanks to all our 17 participants : drivers who braved the Montreal road chaos, presenters who informed and entertained us

with background information on concert composers and repertoire, bakers, prep meeting hostesses and our restaurant arranger Janet Anderson. A potluck planning meeting is scheduled for May 24 at the home of Janet Guay.

Maria Cranker

MUSIC HISTORY

The Music History group met regularly on the second Thursday afternoon of the month except for January and March, when bad weather forced cancellation. The theme this year has been the history of Italian opera since many members of the group are subscribers to the Met Opera Live in HD series of operas from the Metropolitan Opera in New York. To mark the arrival of the royal baby and the forthcoming royal wedding, we are finishing the year exploring Music and Monarchy, David Starkey's examination of the significant influence and impact the monarchy has had on music in England.

Joan Dyer

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

The Mystery Book Club currently has 12 members.

These are the mysteries we read and reviewed this past year: The Woman in Cabin 10, The Resistance Man, Everything I Never Told You, To Love and Be Wise, By Gaslight, The Courturier of Milan: the Triad Years, The Unquiet Dead, The Miniaturist, and In the Woods.

We met monthly at various members' homes and although we didn't always agree on the books, we had some very good discussions.

Gilda Martinello

NETWORKING GROUP

It seems like we had a busy year with many events but when I add them up, we only had 3.

We started with our first event in October at my home with no guest speaker but many attendees and lots of interesting newcomers.

The next 2 events were held at Studio 77, in the Pointe Claire village. We had guest speaker Ann Marie Lussier, psychologist who came to give us some useful advice on how to worry less.

Most recently, April 11th, Emilie Ste-Marie Bissonnette came to give us a talk about the importance of having a notarized mandate in event of incapacity and having a notarized will. She even touched on the topic of assisted suicide and dying with dignity. All had a lively discussion and it was a wonderful evening.

We raised \$277 for the scholarship fund.

The Networking group might sound kind of intimidating for some women but it's a welcoming group that helps women connect with other women.

Women may have a business that they are seeking to develop and making little connections is key to getting the word out and letting people know what they do and how they can offer a service. They could be starting in number of different areas including: catering, massage therapy, psychology, accountancy,

notary, law, insurance, real estate, landscaping, interior design or even dog walking.

We have interesting speakers who talk about various topics not necessarily to do with business but might have a common appeal.

We try to meet about every 6 weeks at different locations from Sept to June.

The cost is generally \$15 and net proceeds go towards the MLUWC scholarship fund.

The Networking group is open to everyone whether they have a business or not and more importantly whether they are a member of the MLUWC or not. It's just a way to meet other people of all ages and find out all the interesting things they do.

Marlene Whittome

NEW BOOK EXCHANGE

As the 2017/18 reading year draws to a close, the 23 members have read a new book during each of the eight months (seven for one group). We are the “book” lovers who like to have the real thing to hold.

We thank Clio book store in the Pointe Claire Plaza for preparing a “suggested” list just for us each fall and for opening their premises to us for our planning evening. We also enjoy the discount they give us as well as the discount they offered the club for our 60th anniversary.

Do join us next year if you want to read the “latest” while only buying one book.

B.J. Bell

PHOTOGRAPHY

16 members joined, but 12 are active.

Activities:

During the summer and Fall we had several outings: to Dianne Robinson’s cottage, to the park, to Ottawa. During the winter we met in members’ homes and talked about pictures. We discussed our assignments, summer projects and we prepared our images for the exhibition which took place in February in the Beaconsfield library.

Maria Korab Laskowska

TRAVEL

37 members belong to this group.

Meetings are held once a month: October, November, January, February, April . This year we heard presentations about trips to Easter Island, Israel, Europe, and India.

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

Maria Korab Laskowska

URBAN WALKERS

This is the first year for this group and although over 20 people have signed up, only about 5 people showed up each week.

We met at 10:30 at various locales in the West Island every Saturday from September to November and walked for an hour. We decided not to walk during the winter because it was very cold and there was lots of snow. We started up again in mid-April and will probably continue through the summer months.

Gilda Martinello

WINE APPRECIATION I

Our season was fun and a learning process.

We kept on discovering unique, special wines, unknown vineyards, indigenous grapes.

Presentations covered Scotland's whisky distilleries. We sampled wines, ciders and cheeses from the Rhone Valley, Terra Alta in Spain, Portugal, Sicily and Quebec. In the spirit of the coming summer, we appreciated special Rose wines.

Each meeting was fun and event of the month.

Renata Bagga

WINE APPRECIATION II

We are a group of 8 regular members and 2 spare members who fill in if a regular member will be absent. Each pre-scheduled monthly evening from September to May is hosted by a member who selects the evening theme, wines and pairing foods. The hostess researches the selected wines and prepares the information sheets on each plus provides the wine tasting score cards for evaluation.

To end off our 2016/2017 season and kick off our 2017/2018 season, we organized a wine tour in the Eastern Townships whereby we toured 3 vineyards. We extended the invitation to the Wine Appreciation Group I and all members were at liberty to invite a friend. In total, we were a group of 22 people on the wine tour and enjoyed a beautiful day in the country plus discovered some great Quebec wines.

Our group this year explored red, white, rosés and sparkling wines plus porto from various countries such as France, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Australia and South Africa at various price points. We discovered many less expensive wines which are perfect for casual entertaining and some more expensive wines for that special occasion.

In March several members of our group attended the SAQ “Salon des Vins” at the Pointe-Claire Holiday Inn which is a wine tasting fundraising event for Partage Action/West Island Community Shares.

This upcoming June for our final evening of the season, we are planning a special outing and once again will extend the invitation to the Wine Appreciation Group I and the newly formed Wine Appreciation Group III.

Overall, our Wine Appreciation evenings are well marked by laughter, storytelling, great conversation, friendship and of course the discovery of some great wines!

Diane Gibb