

MONTREAL LAKESHORE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB
ANNUAL REPORTS
2018-2019

PAST PRESIDENT

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, I am pleased to present the following slate of Officers and Committee Chairs for the year 2019-2020:

Executive

New mandates for:

President	Vacant
Vice-President & Membership	Barbara Armbruster
Recording Secretary	Carol Ohlin

Returning officers:

Vice-President & CFUW Liaison	Nancy Doray, Patricia DuVal
Treasurer	Helen Findlay, Nicole Larocque
Communications	Sylvie Ghanimé
Past President	Gilda Martinello

Standing Committee Chairs

New mandates for:

Hospitality	Luhan Wabeh, Tina Tessari
Interest Groups	Franca Ferrara
Program	Nancy Acemian
Webmaster	Sabra Ledent, Marianna Newkirk

Returning chairs:

Archives	Jane Cowell-Poitras
Fundraising	Victoria Pinnell
Newsletter	Gilda Martinello
Scholarships	Maria De Wolfe

Other committees

New mandates for:

Potluck Dinners	Mary Vlahos, Carole Newberry
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Returning for an additional year:

Newsletter distribution	Carolyn Cunnison
Photographer	Hélène Duquet

MLUWC Scholarship Fund

Returning for her third year:

Chair	Heather Hamilton
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New mandate for:

Treasurer	Margaret Czalbowska
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**Respectfully submitted,
Gilda Martinello
Past President & Chair, Nominating Committee**

PRESIDENT

The last three years have been a wonderful experience for me, some of the highlights of my term include getting to know the members of the club and working along-side our various committees to benefit the MLUWC and the community.

I am proud to say that we are no longer the “West Island’s best kept secret”. MLUWC exposure within the West Island Community continues to grow thanks to our media presence: social media, municipal billboards, print media and radio. Fundraising benefits our Scholarship Fund but also helps to attract new members and to give us a presence in the community.

The Executive started the new year with a shared dinner of the outgoing Chairs in May, held at Piazza Romana. Monthly meetings were once again held at the Residence le Selection. We enjoyed a rich and varied year in thanks to our Executive Chairs, Interest Group Leaders, Committees and supportive members.

We continue to maintain membership numbers (we usually gain as many members as we lose due various reasons) again through increased community awareness, including advocacy, networking, and our social media presence (LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook and website). Building ties with local community organizations, including the West Island Citizen Advocacy and CAREJeunesse and other community groups also helps with membership.

Electronic payments through PayPal have increased and this in turn makes life easier for our Treasurers.

Our Quebec Council – this includes the six CFUW clubs across Quebec - meets twice a year, each club takes a turn to host the meeting. This past year we met at the University Women’s Club of Montreal at the Fall meeting and the South Shore University Women’s Club hosted our spring AGM. The clubs share ideas about advocacy, fundraising, membership and other topics. I encourage all of you to attend the Quebec Council meetings in the future.

Helen Findlay hosted several members at her home during this year’s first electronic one-day CFUW AGM. While I can appreciate the need for saving money, by not attending a conference, you lose the contact that is made with like-minded women from across the country and you lose the chance to learn from each other. I am looking forward to going to Winnipeg this year - either as President or Past-President and to celebrate the CFUW's 100th Anniversary alongside the 3 Notable Women recipients from our Club.

As always, our success lies in our membership including our hard-working Executive, without whom our Club could not function. And our Members - thank you for all of the volunteer work you do and for supporting our meetings, fundraising events and interest groups.

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Sestock
President**

VP/CFUW LIAISON

CFUW's advocacy priorities for this year were Violence Against Women, Early Childhood Education, Climate Change, and Indigenous Peoples.

CFUW has prepared an overview and response to the Federal Budget 2019, stating CFUW's policy on: Funding for Women's Organizations, Universal Child Care, Climate Change, Anti-racism and Discrimination, Indigenous Reconciliation, and Pharmacare.

2018 AGM: For the first time, the AGM was held electronically. Proposed dues increases for both the CFUW and the GWI were voted on at this meeting, along with the Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments.

Three Resolutions were passed at the 2018 AGM: 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.

Two by-law motions were proposed and defeated: A two-tiered membership structure with membership in GWI being optional. 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.

In January 2019, the CFUW hosted a workshop titled *“Negotiating Fair Pay: Empowering Women Entering the Workforce”* at the Queen University's Female Leadership in Politics Conference.

CFUW introduced a mentoring initiative this year. Training will be offered to interested clubs.

CFUW was represented by a self-funded delegation of 17 members at the 63rd United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 2019 where they presented a workshop on "The Promise of Global Citizenship Education and the Power of Digital Literacy" with Graduate Women International and the University of Alberta. A complete report is available on the CFUW website.

The CFUW celebrates its 100th Anniversary in 2019. The AGM will be held August 15-17 in Winnipeg, where the 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. An Anniversary toolkit was sent to clubs.

No Resolutions have been proposed this year. Since it is a federal election year, CFUW National Office has sent a list of possible election issues on which CFUW already has policy. Clubs voted on their 5 most important issues. Our Club's priorities are: The Environment and Climate Change; Immigration; Universal Pharmacare; Pay Equity; and Housing and Homelessness. National Office will then prepare background information and questions that can be used in meetings with candidates.

Motions have been proposed to change the CFUW by-laws in order for the Members at Large group to become an eClub.

**Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Doray and Patricia DuVal
Vice Presidents/CFUW Liaison**

VP/MEMBERSHIP

It's been a great year for the MLUWC, with many interesting activities and successful fundraising events. Of our 190 members, we have 15 new members this year, so once again the year over year total membership of the club remains steady, bucking the trend of many other branches of the CFUW. This large and constant membership is due to the many activities and interest groups as well as the interesting program throughout the year, so thanks to all who

work hard to make that happen, as well as to the membership at large, who recommend the organization to their friends and acquaintances.

The membership dues for next year remain unchanged at \$120, but as you all know, increases in the CFUW and GWI fees are under discussion and will be voted on at the CFUW AGM in Winnipeg this year. The matter will be discussed at the MLUWC AGM on May 13.

**Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Vey
Vice President/Membership**

COMMUNICATIONS and PUBLICITY

During the course of the year, nine sympathy cards and seven get-well cards were sent to members and their families. Publicity sheets were prepared for the fall kick-off to attract new members. Postings were done in various west island libraries, community centres, grocery stores and cafes. French and English local newspapers were sent a short description of the event. The annual fundraisers were announced in media outlets including local newspapers, municipal electronic boards, a west island blog, a local radio station, a television community calendar. Publicity notices were done in libraries, community centres and churches. In collaboration with the Scholarship committee, bilingual media notices were sent out announcing scholarship application deadlines. Throughout the year at various events, such as community day and networking events, ongoing publicity awareness-raising for MLUWC was prioritized. My gratitude to the executive team and the club members for their continued support throughout the year.

**Respectfully submitted,
Sylvie Ghanimé
Communications & Publicity Chair**

TREASURER

MONTREAL LAKESHORE UNIVERSITY WOMENS CLUB

	Budget Jun 1, 2019-May 31, 2020	Estimated Year End Jun 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019
REVENUE		
MLUWC Dues	\$21,600	\$21,768
MLUWC AGM Revenue	5,000	5,000
Fall Kick-Off Event Revenue	2,340	2,322
Christmas Meeting Funds Raised	1,500	1,420
Advertising	400	400
Other Revenue		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$30,840	\$30,910
EXPENSE		
CFUW Membership Dues	12,880	12,670
Quebec Provincial Council Dues	368	376
Montreal Council of Women Dues	50	50
Total Memberships	13,298	13,096
MLUWC AGM Expenses	5,000	5,000
Fall Kick-Off	2,340	2,016
Rent	1,734	1,692
Hospitality - Other	223	218
Total Hospitality	9,298	8,925
Communications - Website	100	418
Communications - Publicity	100	0
Total Communications	200	418
Office, Bank, Postage	350	300
PayPal Fees	275	220
Insurance	230	219
Total Administration	855	739
Membership	400	280
Newsletter	100	89
Program	600	600
CFUW Convention Delegate 2019	4,000	0
Advocacy	200	0
Donations	450	400
Donation - Xmas Fundraiser	1,500	1,420
MLUWC Scholarship Fund	2,000	1,000
Other Expenses	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$32,901	\$26,967
NET INCOME	-\$2,061	\$3,943

NOTES:

Bank Balance 2019.04.07: \$14,160.00 We anticipate finishing the year with a balance of approximately \$10,000
 This higher than usual amount provides us some flexibility to deal with the potential dues increase from
 CFUW and partially offsetting the cost of attending the CFUW AGM in Winnipeg in August 2019.

REPORTS FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEES

ARCHIVES

As you may remember from last year, we unfortunately discovered 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 - in a section that regularly floods. 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. No luck so far, therefore I have started very slowly digitalizing some of our more fragile records. This will have the added advantage of ultimately making the files available to every club member who would like to consult them. I am always looking for assistance! All you require is a smart phone or a digital camera and a well-lit place. Even if you can only give me a couple of hours over the next year, I would be thrilled to hear from you.

**Respectfully submitted,
Jane Cowell-Poitras**

FUNDRAISING

The annual Fall Fundraiser “**Bowser and Blue**” was held October 24, 2018 in the Reception Hall of the Dollard des Ormeaux Civic Centre. The event was sold out with 282 tickets purchased of which 30% were club members and 70% was the general public. The program booklet, with paid ads, was extremely profitable, representing 43% of the evening’s proceeds. PayPal, an on-line ticket purchasing system was used this year and has proven to be very effective. Forty-five percent of sales were made using this service. This fundraiser earned \$11,026.70

The Spring “**Bingo Bonanza**” was a new venture and proved very successful. It was held on Friday, April 12, 2019 at the Alexander von Humboldt German International School in Baie D d’Urfé. Ninety-four tickets were sold. This event earned \$2,978.52.

Several changes were made to ongoing fundraising activities at the monthly General Meetings and were well received by the membership. At two meetings, the Photography Group sold beautiful note cards with their unique photographs gracing the cards. Earnings were \$118. The 50/50 collection transitioned into a “Gift Basket and Certificate Raffle”. Earnings were \$768.50 representing a 75% increase in profits over last year.

The MLUWC Networking Meet and Greet Group hosted three evenings with a guest speaker addressing a topic of interest. Proceeds totaled \$595 and were donated to the Scholarship Fund.

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 61-year history, I believe our club is adapting very well to these changing demands and will enjoy continued success in the future.

This year the Fundraising Committee raised a total of \$15,331.72 for the Scholarship Fund. This does not include personal donations made by club members unrelated to our two specific fundraising events.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our Fundraising Committee: Anne Brohan, Margaret Czalbowska, Astrid Defense, Sally Gurekian, Jane Edwards, Franca Ferrara, Carole Newberry and Mary Vlahos. Given their invaluable support and dedication, we were able to fulfill our club's scholarship mandate.

**Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Pinnell
Chair Fundraising**

HOSPITALITY

The Kick-off was held at the Beaconsfield Golf Club on Wednesday September 12, 2018. Tickets were \$18 which included a selection of savory appetizers and coffee/tea. Wine was available for purchase at an additional cost. One hundred and twenty members attended.

The Christmas Charity Concert and Raffle was held at Beaconsfield United Church on Monday December 10, 2018. The buffet table was plentiful and the goodies much appreciated by the choir, our members and guests.

Monthly meetings were held at the Karnak Shiners temple. Coffee, tea and cookies were offered.

The AGM will be held at the Olympia Reception Hall on Monday May 13, 2019. Tickets are \$50 and the meal includes soup, salad, and choice of three main courses: grilled chicken, grilled salmon with lemon or a vegetarian option of pasta primavera. A tiramisu cake will be served for desert with choice of coffee/tea. Bottled water and unlimited soft drinks are also included and there will be two bottles of wine per table.

Many thanks to all who helped the hospitality committee at the various events held this year.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen McGrath
Hospitality Chair**

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 35 voluntary organizations and more than 50 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 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 MLUWC members often attended the monthly meetings.

THE MONTHLY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS focused on interesting guest speakers: Marine Boulas, Executive Director, Chez Doris; Barbara Arseneau, Retired R.N. and former President, Montreal General Hospital Nursing Alumnae; the 125th MCW Anniversary Luncheon at the Forget Maison in Montreal; Nakuset, Executive Director, Native Women's Shelter; the Honourable Marlene Jennings, former Liberal MP and Parliamentary Secretary – Black History Month; Anthony Housefather, Liberal MP, Chair of Federal Justice Committee, on "Human Trafficking"; Maylissa Luby, Social Worker and Intervention Counsellor for "La Sortie-The Way Out", "Help and Support for Victims of Sexual Exploitation"

On May 5, 2019 the "Woman of the Year Award" Luncheon at the Mount Stephen Hotel, honours Chantal Hébert, author and national affairs writer with the Toronto Star and weekly participant on the CBC's The National's "At Issue" political panel.

On May 16, 2019 - MCW Annual General Meeting welcomes MLUWC members, Chitra Chopra and Renate Sutherland, to their Board of Directors as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. The newly elected President 2019-2020 is Penny Rankin.

The AGM of the National Council of Women will take place in Winnipeg, Manitoba in June. The following 11 RESOLUTIONS will be presented: The Montreal Council of Women submitted the following three resolutions: Consumer Charter for Seniors; Human Trafficking: Canadian Complicity in the Cybersex Trafficking of Children; Temporary Foreign Worker's (TFW) Access to Temporary Status (Caregiver Program). Others dealt with: Ending Child Marriage; Ban Single Use Plastics; Nanoparticle Additives in Consumer Products; National School Food Program; Seasonal Agricultural Workers; Special Court for Perpetrators of Crimes of Terrorism; Truth & Reconciliation: Historic Sites and Monuments; Update: Policy on Advertising of Alcohol and Need for Continued Educational Campaign.

On the local scene: The MCW's Homeless resolution has been favorably received by Montreal's Executive Committee and the Social Services agencies. Funding for the City's Day Centers and

Shelters for the Homeless has been increased from \$1.6 M to \$2.8 M in 2018 in support of a variety of measures to welcome and assist people in precarious situations in a globally supportive approach in line with MCW's holistic approach. MCW's involvement and advocacy work will continue.

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

NEWSLETTER

Nine newsletters were published between September 2018 and May 2019. Each newsletter is distributed via email to the Club's members as well as to our Scholarship recipients and other Quebec clubs. Some members continue to receive a printed copy of the newsletter by regular mail. The newsletter is also published on our website.

Four members placed business card advertisements in the newsletter this year. This netted the Club \$400.

This year the newsletter started a new feature called "Community News" in which information relating to events in the West Island community are noted.

Each year in April, the Newsletter Editor is required to edit and publish the annual reports of the various interest groups and executive. These annual reports are distributed to the membership so that members get them before the Annual General Meeting as required by the Club's constitution and by-laws. The annual reports are also published on our web page.

This was my first year as Newsletter Editor and although, at first, it was a little challenging, I soon got into the swing of things and, hopefully, people have enjoyed reading the newsletter. Thanks to my proofreaders: Jane Edwards, Heather Trump and Tina Tessari. I take full responsibility for any errors that may have appeared in the newsletters. Many thanks also to Carolyn Cunnison for ensuring that those members who do not have access to email receive paper copies.

**Respectfully submitted,
Gilda Martinello
Editor, Newsletter**

POT LUCK DINNERS

Participation: The weather cooperated quite well on January 14 this year, the day of the Pot Luck Meals. We had 84 members participate in the event, up from last year's 75. Six new members attended the meals this year.

Date: The greater attendance could have been due to the date being set the 2nd Monday in January, rather than right after New Years as previously.

Type of Activity: We also had a variety of meal options this year – 1 brunch, 1 luncheon, 6 dinners, as well as 2 cocktail/dinatoire events, for those who preferred a lighter, less formal meal. Having several options seem to appeal to a broad range of members – those who prefer to go out during the day than the evening, those who are working and are free only in the evening, those who like the tradition of dinner in the evening, and those who prefer a lighter option than dinner.

This year following the events, we asked for feedback from the Hostesses and Assistant Hostesses, asking for their thoughts on what factors worked particularly well, and if they had any suggestions for future Pot Luck Coordinators to improve these events.

Most comments were extremely positive. Some suggestions were made for improving the process directed at the Coordinators, for example sending out meal plan ideas, ensuring the email addresses and phone numbers of listed guests are correct, suggesting guests share their recipes within their groups, have a waiting list ready if a member cannot attend at the last minute. The Cocktail/Dinatoires had some advantages in that more guests could be accommodated in an informal way, but they do require more work for the Hostess and Assistant Hostess in planning and coordinating the menu with the guests beforehand. It was suggested that we explain to members in September, the history of Pot Luck Meals and how they came to be the January meeting and an important part of the MLUWC's annual agenda.

Sharing the role of coordination of this event, again turned out to be a very positive experience.

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Ricketts and Jeannie Hazel
Co-Coordinator, Pot Luck Meals**

PROGRAM

The program committee met in June 2018 to brainstorm, evaluate and rank all the suggestions submitted for speakers 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. Although not all our first choice of speakers were available for our meetings,

the program in its entirety came together well. The Program booklet was published in August 2018. 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 were:

- Beaconsfield Golf Club – September Kick-Off.
- Karnak Shriners Temple – regular monthly meetings.
- Beaconsfield United Church – Christmas Raffle and Choir.
- Olympia Reception Hall – Annual General Meeting and Dinner.

Monthly meetings:

- September 12, 2018 – The Fall Kick-Off was held at the Beaconsfield Golf Club. There was a good turnout of members and guests dining to an evening of tapas, meet and greet and sign up for the various interest groups and activities.
- October 22, 2018 – Two past scholarship recipients, Jennifer Ferguson and Catherine Cherry, shared their educational journey and career pathways. The four scholarship recipients for the current year each gave a short presentation on their education and career goals.
- November 12, 2018 – Dr. Colin Rose Cardiologist, M.D., Ph.D., Practising community cardiologist and retired professor at McGill University spoke about cardio-metabolic diseases and its relation to lifestyle choices. This was an interesting talk on how our environment can cause diseases. Dr. Rose gave recommendations on how we can optimize habits to prevent and treat cardio-metabolic disease followed by a lively question/answer period.
- December 10, 2018 – The Christmas Charity Raffle and Carols with the Philomela Choir at the Beaconsfield United Church combined with sweets and savories brought in by members and volunteers provided a wonderful evening full of Christmas cheer. Great teamwork all round contributed to raising \$1420 for the West Island Citizen Advocacy and \$1575 in money and gift cards was raised for CAREJeunesse (helping youth aging out of foster care).
- February 11, 2019 – Barbara Lewis, a new member, entertained with selections from her show *Blood Orchid* that blends songs and stories about how women feel—from the outrage of the #Me-Too Movement to the joys of sexual bonding, from the heartbreak of lost love to the mystic pleasure of ancient times.
- March 11, 2019 – a very informative meeting as four dedicated members talked about their volunteer work.
- April 8, 2019 – Dr. Dolly Dastoor, Chair, Education Committee, McGill Centre for Studies in Ageing, well known in the psychiatric community for her work in Dementia and Alzheimer’s diseases, gave an informative session on healthy aging and how diet and exercise help us to navigate age-related changes.
- May 13, 2019 – The Annual Meeting and Dinner at the Olympia Reception Hall will be a great venue to end the MLUWC’s year with cocktails and dinner. For this lively occasion,

Dr. Anja Geitmann, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture at McGill University will give a presentation and talk on a very timely subject, *cannabis*.

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

**Respectfully submitted,
Devi Di Guida
Chair, Program Committee**

SCHOLARSHIP

I would like to thank the members of the scholarship committee (Judy Kelley, Cendra Paas, Theresa Sliz, Hille Vires, Joanna Zaichkowsky, Luhan Wabbeh, Kathleen McGrath, Nancy Acemian, and Pauline van Nieuwburg) for their continued commitment to the process of selection and awarding of the MLUWC scholarships and bursaries. I would like to thank Pauline for arranging the use of the conference room in the Remax office on Elm street for meetings and interviewing the selected final candidates. I would also like to thank Heather Hamilton, chairperson of the Scholarship Fund Committee, for the management of the fund. Special thanks go to all MLUWC members, friends and families who support the scholarship program through their participation in fundraising events. And last, but not least, thank you to our hardworking and creative Fundraising Committee for the amazing activities that ensure that the program will continue.

This year we received twice the number of applications as we have received in previous years. This increased number is due to the efforts of the MLUWC Communication Director, Sylvie Ghanimé. She ensured that the MLUWC scholarship message was displayed on many of the West Island electronic bulletin boards. She arranged contact with West Island Blog. She also organized the radio interview with our president to discuss the scholarship program. All these efforts not only increased the number of applicants but also raised the profile of our club in the community.

This year's university applicants range from first year to doctoral students. They come from all universities in the Montreal area and Bishop's, a variety of programs and many of them are deserving of recognition. However, the committee is tasked with narrowing the number to a final choice of two. As I write this report, we are in the middle of this process and hope to announce the recipients of the Margaret Manson and Amy Williams scholarships at the MLUWC Annual General Meeting in May. The Alberta Schearer Scholarship for a John Abbot College student will be decided later in May.

Committee members will also be attending ceremonies to award the 16 bursaries to adult learners at Centre Jeanne Sauvé and Place Cartier in June. The John Abbot College bursary for a student in a technical program was awarded in February.

For the year 2020-2021 we will continue to update and modernize our application form and procedures.

It is an honour to serve on the Scholarship Committee and have the opportunity to work with committee members and to meet the talented young women who apply for the scholarships. If you are interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee for 2020-2021, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Respectfully submitted,
Maria De Wolfe
Chairperson, MLUWC Scholarship Committee**

SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

I am pleased to report that the Scholarship Fund continues to enjoy a healthy financial position. Our Investment Fund is currently valued at approximately \$168,000. Thanks to the very successful fundraising events this year, we will be able to add to this amount after paying out this year's scholarships and bursaries.

In addition to revenues from the Club's fundraising events, the Scholarship Fund received over \$5,000 in individual donations this year. Interesting to note is that approximately 30% of these donations were made online through CanadaHelps.org.

The fiscal year-end for the Fund is May 31 and, as usual, a full financial report will be published in the September newsletter.

The Scholarship Fund Committee is made up of a group of talented and dedicated women. Louise Dagenais joined the Committee in October as Secretary and got us caught up on acknowledgements and thank you notes in very short order. Our Vice-chair is Maria De Wolfe and she also serves as Chair of the Scholarship Committee. Victoria Pinnell is member at large, in addition to her role as Fundraising Chair for the Club. Janet Ilavsky who has been Treasurer of the Scholarship Fund for the past 3 years is stepping down this year. Thank you, Janet, for your diligent work keeping track of donations, issuing tax receipts and filing our annual charities return with the CRA. I am very grateful to have the opportunity to work with this team.

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

REPORTS FROM INTEREST GROUPS

This year there are a total of 22 interest groups. Thank you to those who accepted a leadership role in coordinating these group activities.

Suzanne Chaussée
Interest Group Chair

ADVOCACY GROUP

This year the group focused mainly on youth homelessness, prevention of violence against women, and mental health.

- CAREJeunesse works with youth aging out of foster care. We donated \$1575 in gift cards at Christmas and circulated a petition to the provincial government on Change.org regarding support beyond the current age of 18. We are also raising awareness of the needs of AJOI, an organization working to provide shelter for homeless youth on the West Island.
- We have had a preliminary talk with Place Cartier adult education to identify possible mentoring opportunities there. We are also speaking to West Island Citizen Advocacy, who have a youth engagement program to discuss working on youth mentoring through their framework.
- In support of the UN Orange the World campaign in October, letters were sent to all local municipalities asking them to light up their city halls in orange or to mention the campaign on their community bulletin boards.
- For International Women's Day, club members attended the West Island Women's Center brunch and the Zonta lunch.
- Friends for Mental Health provides support for West Island families dealing with this issue. We have suggested that the club program committee schedule a mental health panel as part of next year's program.
- Indigenous Awareness: based on the Reconciliation Report, many groups now begin their meeting with an acknowledgement statement. The group has recommended that the MLUWC adopt this policy.
- The Advocacy group investigated what facilities are already in place for children with disabilities who age out of care, such organizations such as WIAIH, AIJOI, and WICA (West Island Citizen's Advocacy). Recent developments in the laws affecting this issue are being followed.
- Many club members volunteer in the local community. We conducted a survey of their efforts. Several respondents will be interviewed in the Newsletter, and four have already shared their experiences at a general meeting, raising awareness of their organizations' efforts.

Nancy Doray and Patricia DuVal

BON APPETIT DINNER CLUB

This dynamic and well-supported interest group of forty-two 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 planned, one in January which unfortunately was cancelled due to poor weather and the other will be in June.

A \$5 contribution was collected from each participant upon registration at the Convivium in September and the proceeds were put towards our 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 23rd) and Restaurant Ossiano (June 20th).

Any MLUWC 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 interesting book club reading is coming to the end, and we are beginning to think about what books we should explore next year. There is certainly no shortage of available material.

We will celebrate with our pot luck luncheon in June. We had our annual visit to the Clio Book Shop in the Pointe Claire Plaza in April, when Jo-Ann suggests some new authors and books to add to our list of choices for the coming year. It will be hard to choose the nine books for next year - the rest will go on our "summer reading list". We hope we choose well. Our present membership stands at 16, with an average of 12 members at each month's book review. All the books provided good discussion, from travel, politics and music.

Books reviewed this year: Carnegie's Maid, by Marie Benedict; The Alice Network, by Kate Quinn; The Story of Beautiful Girl, by Rachel Simon; Cooking For Picasso, by Camille Aubray; Glenn Gould, by Mark Kingwell; Two Steps Forward, by Graeme Simpson; Barbarian Lost, by Alexandre Trudeau; A Hope More Powerful than the Sea, by Melissa Fleming; Small Great

Things, by Jodi Picoult.

My thanks to all the members for their hospitality, leadership, and above all, the fun and friendship a book club can provide

Margaret Nicoll- Griffith

BOOK DISCUSSION II

The books we read this year covered a wide spectrum of topics: Manhattan Beach (mid-20th century USA); The Home for Unwanted Girls (1950's Quebec when Church and State colluded to declare orphans mentally deficient, and their subsequent detention in mental institutions); Pachinko (Korean immigrants in Imperialist Japan - a fictional account that traces a family dynasty over the sprawl of seven decades); Legacy: How the French Canadians Shaped Canada (French-Canadians' contribution to North American history are apparent in all regions of the Continent); The Dutch Wife (from German occupied Netherlands and Nazi Germany to the dictatorship of 1970s Argentina, the novel explores two of the most oppressive reigns of terror in modern history); The Orphan's Tale (a visceral story of Nazi Germany told through the eyes of a traveling Jewish circus); Tears of Salt (Lampedusa, Italy. A tale of dignity and dedication amid the current refugee crisis); The Prague Sonata (from Nazi-occupied Prague to turn-of-the millennium New York - a young musicologist seeks to solve the mystery behind an 18th century sonata manuscript); Forgiveness (the true account of the author's grandparents as they survived World War II from vastly different positions and emerged resilient)..

A number of our group attended a reading by Joanna Goodman of her book The Home for Unwanted Girls, at Victoria Hall in Westmount.

We are currently 12 members.

Hélène Quaid

BOOK DISCUSSION – EVENING

This year we welcomed two additional members, bringing our number to 14. Although it wasn't exactly planned this way, we ending up studying five books by Canadian authors. They take place in different times and places, but they all touch on themes of abuse, reconciliation and forgiveness.

The Best Kind of People, by Canadian novelist Zoe Whittall, explores rape culture from the viewpoint of the alleged abuser's close family.

The Home for Unwanted Girls by Joanna Goodman (another Canadian author) tells the story of a young unwed mother in rural Quebec who is forced to give up her baby.

River Thieves by Michael Crummey is the story of 19th century expeditions by British settlers in Newfoundland seeking to establish relations with the Beothuk people.

Forgiveness by Mark Sakamoto was the 2018 winner of Canada Reads. This is a memoir about the authors grandparents during World War II. His maternal Japanese grandparents were interned in Canada after Pearl Harbour while his paternal grandfather was a POW in Japan. The Unquiet Dead by Ausma Zehanat Khan. The 1995 massacre of Muslims at Srebrenica during the Bosnian War is the backstory for this murder mystery.

Our last 2 selections for the year are:

The Bridal Chair by Gloria Goldreich which chronicles the life of Marc Chagall through the eyes of his daughter, Ida.

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown is the true story of how 9 working class American boys beat the odds and won gold at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

Heather Hamilton

BRIDGE - AFTERNOON

As we meet in members' homes, with the severe winter, our schedule was curtailed. We met twice in the Fall and plan two for this Spring. We are still a viable group. Members are: Lorraine Retfalvi, B.J. Bell, Eleanor Shaver, Maude Grenier, Anne Adams, Bogna Wajda, Connie Ellis

Lorraine Retfalvi

BRIDGE – DUPLICATE

Duplicate Bridge meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings of the month, starting the 4th Thursday in September and finishing on the 4th Thursday in April. This year we had twenty players on the roster but had to scramble to find spares for the winter months. Our purpose is to introduce people to duplicate bridge and provide a pleasant learning atmosphere. We thank the City of Beaconsfield for allowing us to use Centennial Hall to play our games.

Ginger Brossard and Jane Quail

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

GOURMET III

We have eight members in our group and two spares. We will have met eight times this year (we had to cancel our February meeting due to bad weather), including a night out at a restaurant as our final outing.

Gilda Martinello

GOURMET IV

We have nine members in our group and we cook in groups of three, with dinners from October to June. So far this year, we have enjoyed main course meals that have included rack of lamb with honey-hazelnut crust, Cornish game hens with mustard and rosemary, cioppino and garlic toasts for a luncheon, and côte de veau de lait du Québec.

Hors d'oeuvres to date have included canapés de duxelles de champignons, mussels on the half-shell, salmon gravlax and mustard cream canapés, wild mushroom, caramelized onion and ham quiches, duck breast and caramelized onion jam crostini, and smoky eggplant dip with pita.

One of our own members won the Christmas Raffle this year and brought a friend as a guest to our luncheon.

The fantastic food, fellowship, and friendship continue to keep us together!

Valerie Fortin

JAUNTERS

It was a successful and different year for this Interest Group. Instead of having one designated leader of Jaunters, the tasks were shared by several people. We managed to come up with a variety of places to visit each time and this diversity seems to please most active members. Here is a summary of the various events that were arranged by members of the group.

October Jaunt – Gilda Martinello/Gisele Lambert

Sixteen members attended a guided tour of the Egyptian Queens Exhibit at Pointe a Calliere in Old Montreal, followed by lunch at the on site restaurant.

November Jaunt – Joyce Schaaf

A visit to the Cosmodome, a space science museum and education centre in Laval, was enjoyed by eighteen ladies. Everyone learned more about outer space and our own galaxy through a guided tour around the solar system. Lunch followed at the Elixor in Laval.

December Jaunt – Pat Jones

Fifteen members had a guided tour of the Alexander Calder Exhibit at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, which was informative and fascinating. Lunch followed at l'Academie.

January Jaunt – Sally Gurekian/Mary Vlahos

Twenty-four brave souls turned out on a very snowy day for a visit to the McGill University MacDonald Campus Food Lab. The event was hosted by Dietetics Students who introduced their team, provided a tour of the food lab, and led a Q&A discussion on nutrition. They also prepared and served a plant-based lunch to our members.

February Jaunt - Valerie Fortin

Seven ladies went to the Montreal Aviation Museum in Ste.-Anne-de-Bellevue for an informative tour guided by a volunteer pilot. The museum contains many models and artifacts, as well as on going projects of restored airplanes from Quebec's aviation heritage. One participant experienced landing an airplane by simulator – no easy task! Lunch followed at Le Vieux Manago in Kirkland.

March Jaunt – Diane Nener/Orian Leggett

Twelve ladies visited the Chateau Ramezay in Old Montreal, with a guided tour of the permanent collection. The War Flowers, an art exhibit also visited, was a moving experience, followed by lunch at Maggie Oakes, a restaurant on Place Jacques Cartier.

April Jaunt – Linda Ricketts

A visit and guided tour of the MMFA's Michal & Renata Hornstein's Pavilion of Peace is planned displaying an international collection of works from the Middle Ages to contemporary art.

May Jaunt – Gilda Martinello

Planned visit to the Bibliotheque et Archives nationales du Quebec. Lunch at La Seranata.

Chitra Chopra and Linda Ricketts

KNIT & CHAT

We have been meeting at each other's home every last Saturday of the month from 1:30 to approximately 4:30 p.m. We enjoyed the knit and also the chat. This has given us the opportunity to share our stories and we have become not only a group of knitters but also a group of friends. We end our session with some delicious and yummy cake or cookies with either coffee or tea. Our group is complete but if you wish to join, please do, and you can be on our "spare" list giving you the chance to join us periodically.

Tina Tessari

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Once again, the Music Appreciation Group enjoyed six wonderful morning concerts by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. Currently we are in the process of ordering tickets for the 2019-2020 MSO morning concerts. It will be the last year under Kent Nagano's very capable direction. Thanks to all 18 members who contributed hosting prep meetings before the concerts, making presentations and refreshments and driving to the concerts.

A special thanks to Janet Anderson for organizing a variety of lunch menus following the concerts. Much appreciation to MLUWC's club members and professional violinist, Claire Segal who entertained us recently with the wonderful story of her 49-year career with the MSO. We look forward to our end of the year potluck luncheon and wrap-up meeting in May which will be held at Diane Robinson's home this year.
be held at Diane Robinson's home.

Maria Cranker

MUSIC HISTORY

The Music History group met regularly on the second Thursday afternoon of every 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 MetOpera 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

These are the mysteries we read and reviewed this past year: Full Disclosure, Take-Out, The Good Liar, The Widows of Malabar Hill, Hysteria, No Known Grave, The Only Café, Twist of the Knife, and The Word is Murder.

As usual, we met monthly at various members' homes and although we didn't always agree on the books, we had some very good discussions. We currently have 12 members.

Gilda Martinello

NETWORKING

The Networking Group just finished another successful year - we have been doing this since I started with MLUWC eight years ago, thanks to Connie Ellis.

Marlene Whittome took over networking when she joined the MLUWC and passed the torch back to me, and Cendra Paas, this past January.

Our Networking Events are usually held at Studio 77 in the Pointe-Claire Village. Our speakers this past year were: new member, Laurie McCullagh of WSI Digital Marketing and Jody Gowans from the Cultured Foodie

Our January event was purely networking (no speaker) and was a big hit, in large part, thanks to Cendra's daughter Jordan McKenzie.

As always, our group ranged in ages, professions and community leaders. The Networking Event is a great way to showcase the MLUWC and is another avenue to encourage new members to join the MLUWC.

We raised \$595 for the scholarship fund this year. This amount covers the John Abbot Bursary.

Our next event will occur late September or early October.

Linda Sestock

NEW BOOK EXCHANGE

Because there are 24 ladies in our club who still like to hold a book and who are interested in the "latest" books, we are able to have three groups of "exchangers". We met at Clio's book store in September and chose a book for each of us. (Can be bought anywhere but Clio gives us a discount.) Then on the first day of each of the following eight months, we pass on a book.

A few of the excellent books that we have read so far are: Lear's Shadow, Women Talking a Novel, Warlight, Washington Black, and All Things Consoled. Do consider joining us next year.

B.J. Bell

PHOTOGRAPHY

During the summer and fall, we had several outings: to the parks, downtown Montreal, the Ecomuseum and a three-day outing to Dianne Robinson's cottage.

During the winter we met at members' homes and talked about our pictures. We discussed assignments, and I made few presentations. This year we were learning to make portraits. Marnie Linder and Krystyna Adamczyk-Pleszewska put a lot of work to organize studios and their homes.

We also have a site to share and leave comments our images.

<https://www.korabphoto.com/PhotoClub>

Maria Korab-Laskowska

TRAVEL

Meetings are held once a month: October, November, December, February, March and April at the Vivalis retirement home. This year we purchased a projector.

Here was this season program:

- October 13, 2018 - Maria Jakubiec "Rome: City of soul"
- November 20, 2018 - Renata & Arun Bagga "Down the Dnieper river - Kiev to Odessa"
- December 18, 2018 - Ann Arial and Maria Korab-Laskowska "Walking and hiking in Europe"
- January 15, 2019 - Pamela Dean "Valencia" & Maria Korab-Laskowska "the Dolomites"
- February 19, 2019 - Ian MacDonald "North Atlantic Saga" - Isle of Lewis, Shetland, the Faroes and Iceland"
- March 19, 2019 - Gilda Martinello and Carolina Soulié "The Baltic Sea and the Splendors of Eastern Europe".
- April 16, 2019 - Dianne Robinson "Cherry Blossoms and biking in Japan".

Ann Arial and Maria Korab-Laskowska

WINE APPRECIATION I

Hard winter and slippery roads have not stopped us from having a great season. We had excellent attendance. Hostesses rose to the challenge of the presentation each month. Great wines from France, Italy, Argentina, Chile were carefully selected. IGA has a number of good and inexpensive wines (black bottles). If you can, get ' Otazu ' of Spain and Cuvee Klimt for nice gift. Cheers to us all!

Renata Bagga

WINE APPRECIATION II

We are a group of eight regular members and two spare members who fill in if a regular member will be absent. Each pre-scheduled monthly evening from September to May (with exception of January as it is our MLUWC traditional Pot Luck Dinner month) 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 wine plus provides the wine tasting rating sheet for evaluation of the wines.

Our group this year explored a variety of red, white, rosés and sparkling wines from various countries such as France, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Australia, Canada, United States 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. Some nights the wines presented were newly offered wines from wine importers and available at the SAQ. Over the course of these 8 evenings, the members discovered 24 wines all in good company.

In December, we invited all members (regular & spares) to our Holiday Celebration evening which included a Secret Santa gift exchange.

This upcoming June 5, some of our members will be joining with some members of the Wine Appreciation I & III Groups plus members of the Bon Appetit and Gourmet Groups for a special wine tour adventure in the Eastern Townships.

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

Diane Gibb

WINE APPRECIATION III

We had another great year and welcomed new members into our group. We decided to go to eight participants this year and have enjoyed good conversations, discovered great wines and dined on some interesting and delicious dishes from different areas of the world.

We have organized a wine tasting excursion to the Eastern Townships for June 5 and will welcome anyone who would like to join us as long as there is space available.

Paulette Cargill