



UWCM

University Women's Club of Montreal Inc.

Club des Femmes Universitaires de Montréal Inc.

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June 2014 Newsletter

JUNE 4: SUMMER SEND-OFF

Open House at the Coach House from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

It's the last get-together of the season, and it's a time to gather over refreshments in the company of members and friends. We invite you to visit your Coach House and mingle with members in a relaxed and informal setting. Take this opportunity to bring a friend or potential new member. No speakers or speeches this time: just good company.

The Coach House is located at 3529 Atwater Avenue. It's the small white house next door to the Atwater Club on the north side. See you there!

Confirm your attendance by May 30 with Carly Pepler by e-mail. Let us know if you are bringing a guest.

JUNE 19-22: 2014 CFUW AGM AND CONFERENCE WATERLOO, ON



Registration for the 2014 AGM in Kitchener-Waterloo is now open. The final deadline for registration is **June 9th**.

For instructions on how to register and for information on tours, accommodation, dining and more, please visit:

<http://www.proreg.ca/events/cfuw/2014/>.

Please read the AGM Registration Information Guide before registering.

CENTRAIDE'S MARCH OF 1,000 UMBRELLAS OCTOBER 2, 2014

For more than 20 years, Centraide has marked the launch of its annual fundraising campaign with a public march through downtown Montreal. In an atmosphere of festivity, some 20,000 people from Centraide's partner companies, organizations and trade unions, as well as the agencies it supports, come together for the March of 1,000 Umbrellas in order to demonstrate their commitment to the fight against poverty and exclusion.

UWCM will be participating in the march this year and are preparing to order good quality umbrellas, large enough for two, printed with our logo. Stay tuned for more information.



Menu

- Finger food
- Sweets
- Wine

The next Dinner Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17. Mark your calendars!

Deadline for the September Newsletter: Friday, August 15

Interest Group Coordinator: Jill Wood

Newsletter Editor: Adeline Beaulac

Editorial assistance and proofreading services: Donna Jensen



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

I hope you have had the opportunity to visit our new website. You will notice the new drop-down menus that make the site easier to navigate. I wish to point out, under Documentation, you will find our charter and our by-laws. As members of this club, you will find this information valuable. Reading them will make you an informed member.

Facebook celebrated its tenth anniversary this year. With over 1.23-billion users, it was time for UWCM to join the social-networking circle. If you do not have a Facebook page, see it as a new learning experience. I'm certain you will be surprised at how easy it is to sign up.

I joined Facebook in 2006, only to keep an eye on what my then-teenaged daughter was posting. Yes, I confess, I was a helicopter mom! Today, I use it to keep informed on what CFUW posts, as well as posts from other organizations I am interested in. As an added bonus, I have made contact with several friends who live across the world, with whom I had lost touch. Facebook has shown me how big and how small the world really is!

I wish you a most enjoyable summer,

Dominique Racanelli

President, UWCM Inc.

UWCM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Good evening everyone,

I am pleased to report that the UWCM remains engaged and continues in its mission: *Social interaction, social responsibility, and growth of women in all areas of life.*

Program

This season our Program Chair, Margaret Jackson, enlisted diverse speakers, with emphasis on female leaders in their respective fields. They included: President of Premiere Moisson Lillian Colpron; artist and photographer Bonnie Folkins; wine expert Bill Zacharkiw; founding director of Persephone Productions Gabrielle Soskin; motivational retirement speaker Catherine Gilbert; writer and publisher Linda

Leith; and president of Centraide Lili-Anna Peresa. A donation was made to each speaker's favourite charity. This allowed our club to support such organizations as Sun Youth, Centraide, Gaia Nova, Persephone Productions, The Atwater Library, The SPCA Montérégie, and Our Harbour.

Interest Groups.

UWCM had 11 active interest groups, our most popular being Wine Tasting, Supper Club, and Art Etc. The list also includes: Chit Chat *en Français*, Carte Blanche, Movie Club, Outdoor Ladies, Reclaim Your Body, Scrapbooking, Stage & Soirée, and Travels With My Aunt. During Volunteer Week in

April, a tea party was held to thank all conveners who give their time and energy to ensure that our members have diverse activities from which to choose.

Advocacy

Three advocacy initiatives were part of our club activities. A group of our members attended the Polytechnique Memorial on December 6th. Letters were sent to Quebec Premier Pauline Marois, as well as various MNAs, denouncing the PQ Charter of Values. Lastly, in support of the 2013 CFUW resolution on lowering sodium intake, Jill Wood wrote a piece for our newsletter in which she recommended ways to reduce salt in our diets.

Website

With new innovations such as tablets and iPhones, the board saw a need to update our website. Adeline Beaulac took on the challenge and ensured potential new members had a fresh introduction to our club. Consideration to search engines was also a factor. In addition, Valerie Markham set up a Facebook page, as well as a Google+ page. This will increase visibility of our club.

Committees

I wish to thank all the various committees who made recommendations to the board. First, the Governance Committee, which was lead by Pam Georges, included all our past presidents. This committee made recommendations on the Elizabeth Monk lecture agreement, the newly proposed by-law, and the Coach House. The Membership Committee, chaired by Carly Pepler, worked tirelessly to attract new members. The Finance Committee, directed by our treasurer Maya Bergeron-Metivier, met to ensure our investments were properly handled. The Nominating Committee, headed by Liz Annesley, had countless meetings to ensure a new slate met the club's many requirements.

The Resolution Committee, chaired by Lesley Forester, ensured our voice will be heard at the upcoming CFUW AGM. The Ad Hoc Committee, under Margaret Jackson's initiative, is still actively searching for the best alternative to our current club location. Once this committee has a viable proposal, a special meeting of members will be called for input.

There are several board members retiring this year. Their immense experience and contribution will be greatly missed, and I wish to thank them for their dedication to UWCM. Carly Peplar has been my good conscience through the last two years. She has a special gift for bringing out the best in people, and she did so most effectively with our board members. Teresa de Genover was always ready with balanced views and impartial recommendations. Lesley Forster brought to light the immense contributions Elizabeth Monk made to our club. Adeline Beaulac has left a lasting legacy with our newsletter and our website. Although she leaves the board, she has volunteered to continue as our web master.

Finally, on a personal note, I wish to share with you my reason for volunteering to remain on the board for one more term. I joined the UWCM because I fully endorse the Club's mission. This past year, the board faced a challenge in ensuring our agreements met our mission and our goals. I want to ensure this mandate is completed. I believe full member participation and consultation is what contributes to a great club. With your continued support, you have my commitment to continue to lead conscientiously and with transparency.

Respectfully submitted,

Dominique Racanelli

President, UWCM Inc.

An Invitation to all Facebook and Google+ Users

The University Women's Club not only has a new website but it also has signed up for Facebook and Google+. You can now "friend" yourself by clicking on the Facebook and Google+ links found in the top right-hand corner of the website. Upcoming events will be posted every two weeks by the Publicity Chair and you can post comments on events. With the use of social media you can help spread the word about the club and be a part of free word-of-mouth publicity.

Valerie Markham

Publicity Chair



La Fondation publique du club des femmes universitaires de Montréal
The University Women's Club of Montreal Public Foundation
3529 Atwater Avenue, Montréal, Québec H3H 1Y2

ANNUAL REPORT 2013 – 2014

Fundraising began with the launch of our second Annual Giving Campaign in late October. We were pleased to have received \$3,370 from our members. However, we were somewhat disappointed that the amount received was half of that of last year from fewer members. We were most grateful for the donation of \$3,000 from the Board of Directors of UWCM, which brought our total donations last fall to \$6,370. We shall be completing our fundraising activities on May 28th with our evening of wine and food tastings *Savour the Flavour: Celebrating Quebec Terroir* on the rooftop terrace at Concordia University.

The monies generated from both the Annual Giving Campaign and the *Savour the Flavour* evening will be disbursed to women students attending Concordia University as well as to young women students enrolled in the Professional Theatre Program at Dawson College. In addition to supporting academic pursuits, the Foundation also supports local women's shelters.

The Foundation Trustees are most grateful to the Fundraising Committee who organized and brought about both of these fundraising activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Annesley

Liz Annesley
Chair, UWCM Foundation

Trustees

Leslie Brooks, Secretary; Sheila Horn Bisailon, Member-at-large; Gloria Ménard, Member-at-large; Dominique Racanelli, President, UWCM; Leah Trineer, Treasurer; Liz Annesley, Chair

Fundraising Committee

Valerie Aitken, Leslie Brooks, Johanne Desrochers, Donna Jensen, Zofia Laubitz, Gloria Ménard, Dominique Racanelli, Liz Annesley (Chair)

See Insert for Financial Statements.

Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Premises

A few facts to begin:

- Our charter calls for the UWCM to “provide a clubhouse and other conveniences for the members...” The letters patent say that the UWCM must “...acquire, lease or maintain... premises or other conveniences for its members, to the extent to which it may seem useful or advisable, in order to provide a meeting place for its members...”
- The Coach House is in a state of disrepair. Water has infiltrated the ground floor space that we rent and caused damage and produced mould.
- We pay the Atwater Club \$1,839.60 per month to rent the Coach House. It is used for various meetings (UWCM Board, Governance and Foundation Committee) and for special events. During the whole of 2013, the Coach House was used 55 times. To date in 2014, it has been used 29 times.
- The Club runs at a deficit every year. In 2013, expenses exceeded income by nearly \$30,000. When the Club was formed in 1927, the membership was about 250; today we have just over 100 members.
- These facts triggered the Board to strike a small Ad Hoc Committee (Margaret Jackson, Jill Wood, Maya Bergeron-Métivier) to explore alternatives to renting the Coach House.
- We are exploring renting space at the Atwater Library & Computer Centre where we could hold our various meetings. (We would need to hold our dinner meetings/special events elsewhere.) The space is unfurnished and we would need to pay for any leasehold improvements (i.e. installing a coffee station, shelving and storage, etc.).
- We are in discussions with the Atwater Club regarding their continuing to host our dinner meetings, including taking reservations and billing our members the cost of their suppers if we are no longer renting the Coach House. We may have to pay for renting the dining room.
- We are waiting to hear from the owner of the Atwater Club/Coach House regarding what and when renovations are planned and how our rental agreement will be affected.

When we have marshalled all the information and have firm costs, we will call a Special General Meeting to present the results of our study and, if appropriate, call for a vote should a move be recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee.

Margaret Jackson

Committee Chair

Here is where things stand:

- We have a proposal from the University Club of Montreal. For a monthly fee, they will rent us meeting space when required on a priority basis (and possibly permanent office space). The meeting space is fully furnished and has access to a coffee station. The rental would include their hosting our dinner meetings, including taking reservations and billing our members the cost of their suppers.