



UWCM

University Women's Club of Montreal Inc.

Club des Femmes Universitaires de Montréal Inc.

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MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

MARCH 19, 2014: A COMMUNITY OF WRITERS AND READERS SPEAKER: LINDA LEITH



Linda Leith is the Montreal novelist and essayist who created Blue Metropolis Foundation in 1997; the first Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival took place in 1999 and soon put Montreal on the literary map of the world. An activist in Montreal's literary community since the mid-1980s, she revitalized *Matrix* magazine in the late 1980s, was fiction editor for Véhicule Press, and was involved in the creation of QSPELL and its successor, Quebec Writers' Federation.

Since resigning as Founder and Artistic Director of Blue Metropolis after fourteen years in late 2010, she has created a new literary house, Linda Leith Publishing, which publishes half a dozen titles annually in print and electronic form. LLP books are mostly literary fiction and trade non-fiction, including a number of books by emerging authors (including Peter Kirby's crime novels, Felicia Mihali's *The Darling of Kandahar*, and Jennifer Quist's *Love Letters of the Angels of Death*), short essays on current issues (by Rick Salutin, Wade Rowland, and Stephen Henighan) and cartoon books by Terry Mosher (Aislin). In *Writing in the Time of Nationalism: From Two Solitudes to Blue Metropolis* (Signature 2010; Leméac, 2014) she tells the story of how Montreal's literary community has evolved. Linda will be offering some of her books for sale at the end of the evening.

Door prize: Book: Tickets \$5 each; 3 tickets for \$10.

APRIL 23, 2014: ENGAGEZ-VOUS / GET INVOLVED (Bilingual presentation), SPEAKER: LILI-ANNA PEREŠA

Lili-Anna Pereša was named President and Executive Director of Centraide of Greater Montreal on January 1, 2013. In a career that has taken her from Sahelian Burkina Faso to the Bosnian armed conflict, Lili-Anna has always stayed true to her personal calling of making a contribution to society. An electrical engineer by training (École Polytechnique, 1988), she headed several non-profit organizations before joining Centraide, including the Montreal YWCA, Amnesty International-France, UNICEF-Québec, and the One Drop Foundation founded by Guy Laliberté.

Lili-Anna nous parlera de sa carrière et elle abordera la question de l'importance de l'engagement sous toutes ses formes.

She will also talk to us about the role of Centraide in our community and how connecting with women is one of the most satisfying parts of her job.

Dinner Menu

- Leek and Pear Soup
- Navarin of Lamb on a bed of Rice
- Chocolate Cake with Raspberry Coulis
- Tea/Coffee

Remember to mention any food allergies or dietary restrictions when you make your reservation.

Cocktails: 6:00 pm

Dinner: 7:00 pm

Member Cost: \$31.04 including tax; Non-members \$50.00, including wine (please pay by cheque to UWCM); Guest cover charge: \$5.00

Our dinner meetings are held at: Atwater Club
3505 Atwater Avenue

Please reserve with the Club by Friday, March 14 at 514-935-2431 or reception@clubatwater.ca

Notes:

- Cancellations made any later than 5:00 pm on the Monday before a meeting will result in a charge of 50% of the cost of a meal.

DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAGS!

*** Courtesy the Outdoor Ladies and companions



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

International Women's Day celebrates the many gains women have made socially, economically and politically, while focusing global attention on the enormous challenges still ahead. When it comes to education rates, women have made enormous progress around the world. In many countries, girls and young women have outnumbered and outperformed boys and men at all levels of schooling, yet these advances have yet to translate into greater equity in employment, politics and social relations. The reality is that the world is still far from equal. IWD brings global awareness to the immense work still to be done.

Board Meeting Highlights

Many of the decisions the Board takes are based on the recommendations from various active committees. These committees include Membership, Governance, Finance, and Resolutions. They meet regularly every year and present the best course of action for continued improvements to our Club.

JUDITH MAPPIN



It is with sorrow and regret that we learnt of the passing of Judy Mappin on February 14, 2014 at the age of 85.

In November 2006, McGill honored Judith with an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

Judith W. Mappin, Canadian bookseller and philanthropist, earned her BSc at McGill in 1950. In 1974, she established The Double Hook Book Shop on Greene Avenue in Montreal with two partners and became a well-known champion of Canadian authors.

At last month's Board meeting, a special ad hoc committee was struck to evaluate our present arrangement with the Atwater Club. UWCM has been renting the Coach House and holding its dinner meetings at the Atwater Club for over 25 years. Throughout those years we have benefited from this arrangement, but the present condition of the Coach House requires immediate attention.

Once the committee has recommendations for us, the membership will be consulted and called upon to make the final decision. The UWCM is your Club and your voice is what drives the Board.

On a last note, I wish to congratulate Brenda Shanahan who will be the Quebec English Regional Director for CFUW 2014 -2016. It is terrific to see one of our members take on a leadership role at the national level.

Sincerely,

Domínique Racanelli

President, UWCM Inc.

Judith served a term as Director of the Canadian Booksellers Association, and was a founding member and director for nine years of the Quebec Society for the Promotion of English Language Literature (QSPELL). For two years, she served on the jury selection committee of the Quebec Writers Federation. (<https://www.mcgill.ca/reporter/39/05/honorary/>)

In April 2013, for her contribution to Canadian writing, to the Montreal writing scene, to her support, devotion, and passion, Blue Metropolis acknowledged Judith Mappin for the important role she played in the writing and literary community of Montreal." (Excerpt from Blue Metropolis brochure)

FOUNDATION FOOTNOTES

The Annual Giving Campaign last fall generated \$3,730. Although we were pleased with the result, we were somewhat disappointed that the amount received was half of last year's donations. We were most grateful for the donation of \$3,000 from the Board of Directors of UWCM, which brings our total donations to \$6,370. These monies will be distributed in June in the form of bursaries and donations to local women's charities.

We shall be holding our major fundraising event in May. You will be invited to a *Québec Terroir* evening of wine and food tastings featuring Quebec products. Stay tuned for further details.

The UWCM Foundation contributes to local women's charities including the following.

Auberge Madeleine

Auberge Madeleine is an east end shelter for women in difficulty which began with 19 places but will be opening 26 more in a new residence in January '14. Women receive not only temporary shelter but also emotional support and assistance in getting attention for their particular healthcare needs.

In 30 years, the shelter has helped over 10,000 women aged 18 to 83. Some older women had been thrown out of residences because of behavioral problems. They are allowed to stay longer while they are helped to find new accommodation. Workshops are provided for younger residents to help them look for stable housing.

"Maybe the biggest service we provide to residents comes after they leave: helping them look after themselves, shop and cook; checking on their state of health. They can come back for meals and consultations and to participate in our workshops and activities. A major problem is needing to turn women away. Last year we had to refuse 5,000 calls for shelter."

Native Women's Shelter of Montreal

The Native Women's Shelter provides emergency shelter mostly to downtown natives. Designed to hold 16 women and children, it has been crowding in up to 20 because of demand. Clients include many young mothers. 90% of clients have addiction problems. The shelter is raising money for a new transition house to prepare women to move on to autonomous living i.e. a supervised living environment where women receive skills and educational training and follow-up counselling until they become autonomous. Also there are plans for a transition home for aboriginal children leaving youth protection care. The shelter has just introduced a handbook for non-aboriginal adoptive parents of aboriginal children that provides cultural information and resources to help them respect and nurture the origins of their adopted children.

Liz Annesley

Chair, UWCM Foundation

CALCIUM SUPPLEMENTS

Researchers at the Montreal General Hospital are conducting a study to examine how the health of your heart and blood vessels is affected by calcium from the food that you eat compared to the calcium that you take in the form of supplement. If you are a healthy postmenopausal woman (more than 3 years since last menstrual period), over the age of 50 and a non-smoker, you may be eligible to participate in this one-year study.

For more information, please contact the study coordinator, Michelle Wall, at 514-934-1934 extension 45742 or michelle.wall@mail.mcgill.ca.

HOME DINNERS 2014

Dear Members,

This year, Home Dinners, will be held on **Wednesday April 9 and Thursday April 10**. The deadline for guests to sign up is **Friday March 21** at the latest. Organizing Home Dinners requires a great deal of effort, so please respect the assignments made and do not ask to change the home/hostess you have been given.

As a reminder to all, and as information to our new UWCM members, here is a how Home Dinners work. Hosts open their homes for a dinner event. Each host plans a menu for the evening and asks each guest to bring a dish from that menu to the dinner. Some of our members are wonderful cooks, or like to experiment with new recipes; others with time constraints are encouraged to pick up an already prepared dish. We ask that you be considerate of your host's request and do your part to assist her with the menu she has planned for the evening. A suggestion to make the task of being a host easier is the option of co-hosting the event with another member of the Club. The main objective of the Home Dinners is to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere while enjoying a meal together.

Teresa de Genover is coordinating this event. Please contact her at her home.

CFUW AGM 2014

The host Club, Kitchener/Waterloo, and the CFUW Board are finalizing preparations for the CFUW AGM in June. Please watch for details and registration information very soon.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – MARCH 8

International Women's Day has been observed since the early 1900s, a time of great expansion and turbulence in the industrialized world that saw booming population growth and the rise of radical ideologies.

In accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Woman's Day (NWD) was observed across the United States on February 28, 1909. Women continued to celebrate NWD on the last Sunday of February until 1913.

In 1911, International Women's Day (IWD) was honoured for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on March 19.

On the eve of World War I, campaigning for peace, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February 1913. In 1913 following discussions, International Women's Day was transferred to March 8 and this day has remained the global date for International Women's Day ever since. In 1914 more women across Europe held rallies to campaign against the War and to express women's solidarity.

Since its birth in the socialist movement, International Women's Day has grown to become a global day of recognition and celebration across developed and developing countries alike. For many years the United Nations has held an annual IWD conference to coordinate international efforts for women's rights and participation in social, political and economic processes. Women's organizations and governments around the world have also observed IWD annually on March 8 by holding events that honour women's advancement while reminding everyone of the continued vigilance and action required to ensure that women's equality is gained and maintained in all aspects of life. (Excerpt from article at <http://www.internationalwomensday.com>)

“Social interaction, social responsibility and growth of women in all areas of life”