



UWCM

University Women's Club of Montreal Inc.

Club des Femmes Universitaires de Montréal Inc.

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FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER



DINNER MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, from 6:00 pm Dr. Suzanne Fortier, Principal, McGill University — *A Better Future*

Professor Suzanne Fortier, a respected scholar in the field of crystallography, earned a BSc and a PhD from McGill University and has authored or co-authored over 80 scientific publications. Before returning to McGill, she served as President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). She has been awarded the Queen's University Distinguished Service Award, honorary doctorates from Thompson Rivers and Carleton Universities, and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

When she returned to her alma mater in 2013, she found the same passion for learning and dedication to excellence that she knew as a student—but a very different student body. Professor Fortier will talk about the many student-centred and student-led initiatives that are the hallmark of this generation of globally engaged, purposeful students—and how their drive and spirit has inspired “the McGill Commitment,” the university’s new pledge to enrich students’ educational experience through more innovative, non-traditional learning opportunities.

NEXT MONTH – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Dr. Alan Shepard, President and Vice-Chancellor, Concordia University — *Where is university education going? And Concordia?*

Professor Alan Shepard will answer these questions and share his vision for the ‘next-generation’ university. Professor Shepard has held senior roles in universities in the United States and Canada, including Ryerson and Guelph before his Concordia appointment as President and Vice-Chancellor in 2012.

His current and past board service includes the Stratford Festival of Canada, Public Health Ontario, the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal, Fondation Montréal Inc., and the Montreal Science Centre Foundation.

In 2014 he was awarded the Jacques Cartier Medal for service to higher education in Quebec.

FEBRUARY 18 DINNER

MENU

- Sweet potato and carrot soup
- Homemade stuffed pasta
- Tiramisu
- Coffee and tea

Our dinner meetings are held at:

Atwater Club
3505 Atwater Avenue

Cocktails: 6:00 pm
Dinner: 7:00 pm

Member cost: **\$31.04, incl. tax**
Non-members: **\$50.00,**
including a glass of wine
(by cheque payable to UWCM)
Guest cover charge: **\$5.00**

Please reserve with the Atwater Club at **514-935-2431** or reception@clubatwater.ca by Friday, February 13.

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

Mention any food allergies or dietary restrictions when you make your reservation.

Please don't forget your



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

The start of a new year is the ideal time to reflect on the previous one. What did UWCM accomplish in 2014?

A major undertaking was the overhaul of our website. It is now a hub of interaction for our members while also inducing visitors to join our club. One of our guest speakers was so impressed with it, he plans on hiring our web designer to update his own website. Have you taken a look lately?

The Coach House was refreshed and has once again become an inviting drop-in centre for our members. Have you had a chance to visit?

In 2014, our advocacy role widened. Both your involvement and our new social media presence (find us on Facebook, and on Twitter @UWCM-CFUW), allowed us to champion:

- initiating and circulating the Restore the Casgrain Award to Prime Minister Harper
- circulating a statement regarding English Montreal School Board electoral registration
- drawing attention in October (Women in History Month) to Sister in Spirit vigils, International Day of the Girl, and 1929's The Persons case
- bringing awareness to the Quebec Writer's Federation 2014

Judy Mappin award

- participating in Centraide's March of the 1000 Umbrellas
- supporting and circulating a petition to the Quebec health minister regarding Bill 10
- nominating Nakuset, Executive Director of Native Women's Shelter of Montreal, as MCW Women of the Year (Ten of our members were present as she accepted her award.)
- attending a remembrance service for the 25th anniversary of the École Polytechnique massacre

In a year of major government cuts, we were able to make donations to charitable organizations like Persephone Productions, Our Harbour, the Atwater Library and Centraide. The UWCM Foundation proudly awarded bursaries to Concordia University and Dawson College students. It also continued in its strong support of Auberge Madeleine, Auberge Shalom, the Montreal Native Women's Centre, and Chez Doris.

Along with its measurable achievements, UWCM offered social interaction and friendship. It was a good year, and we expect 2015 will bring additional triumphs. As we embark on a new membership drive, I ask you to continue to share what we do. You are our best recruiters.

Sincerely,

Membership News

Welcome new member

NICKI LYNN AYOUB

Best wishes to our longest-standing and active member Elspeth Angus, 85, for comfort and strength during her recovery from a significant stroke at Château Westmount. Elspeth is ever grateful for the support and care provided her by past board member Lesley Forrester. To read more about Elspeth's fascinating connection to Montreal, read a 2010 Gazette article at <http://www.okthepk.ca/dataCprSiding/news/2010/10122010.htm>.

Board Meeting Highlights

- Invoices sent to members for 2015 fees.
- Available board positions for 2015-16.
- Finance Committee proposes using qualified advisor to efficiently manage investment funds.
- Strategic planning sessions to be held to establish five-year plan and timeline.

MEMBERSHIP FEES
are due JANUARY 31.



EVENTS CALENDAR — FEBRUARY 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Wine tasting	10	11 BOD meeting	12 Stage & Soiree	13	14 
15 Outdoor Ladies	16	17	18 Dinner meeting	19	20	21
22	23	24 Supper Club	25 Travels With My Aunt	26 Chit-Chat <i>en français</i>	27	28

Social Media

Good news! Some of our shared stories on social media are reaching 50 to 80 people; that is, members are sharing information with their families and friends and so we are reaching a wider audience.

Follow us on Google+

Go to www.uwcm.com and click the red Google+ link. Google+ is another social media site that allows you to create separate circles for niche content such as work, news, friends, interests, community. This way, you can control what you see from each community circle and share content with exactly whomever you want. By following us, you can link to interesting articles and updates from, for example, past dinner guest speakers and their chosen charities. Try it today!

Christmas Charity

At our December dinner, two dinner guests, who are employees of DESTA Black Youth Network, spoke for a few minutes about DESTA, which we had chosen to sponsor for this year's holiday season.

Frances Waithe, Executive Director, and MSW Youth Worker Shanna Strauss spoke about the organization and its goals. They were so pleased with the positive response they received and sent us a lovely, heartfelt thank-you note.

We raised over \$440, allowing DESTA to sponsor a future program, and an Atwater Club staff member even offered to become a DESTA volunteer!



INTEREST GROUPS

CHIT-CHAT *en français*

Thursday, February 26, 6:00 pm

Restaurant de l'Institut

3535 rue Saint-Denis, Montréal H2X 3P1

Join us for French conversation while dining at L'Institut de Tourisme et Hotellerie de Quebec. Reservations a must. Space is limited.

RSVP Dominique Racanelli and Johanne Desrochers

WINE TASTING

Monday, February 9, 7:00 pm

As we will meet so close to Valentine's Day, this month will be themed Seductive Wines. Whether it be the name, the varietal or the context, come and be seduced by wines. Registering by email is a must!
Convenor: Linda Snell

STAGE AND SOIRÉE

Thursday, February 12, 7:30 pm

PRONTO...MUSICA

St. John the Evangelist Church
137 President Kennedy, near Place des Arts

Alan Belkin - *Overture, Night Passages*
W.A. Mozart - Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major, K. 216
D. Shostakovich - Chamber Symphony, op. 110a

Alexis Hauser, Artistic Director and Conductor
Lara Deutsch, Executive Director
Yolanda Bruno, Violin

Reserve tickets at tickets@prantomusica.org.
Cash only: \$30 Adults, \$20 Seniors, \$10 Students

OUTDOOR LADIES

Sunday, February 15, 11:00 am

Mount Royal Park

We will meet at the Chalet on the parking lot side near Beaver Lake. Then we will walk up to the Lookout and around the Cross and back. **Dogs welcome.** Hot chocolate available at the Lookout, and lunch available at the Chalet (but no dogs allowed inside Chalet).

For details, contact Carly Pepler

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT

Wednesday, February 25, 7:00 pm (Coach House)

Want to share stories of your travel adventures? Are you interested in an aspect of travel? If so, "Travels" is available for February and March.

And remember, the Coach House is also available for any member interested in organizing a "one-off" event, such as a 5-à-7, or an evening of recipe sharing, a book club, potluck or an afternoon of coffee or tea. Contact Valerie Markham for details.

SUPPER CLUB

Tuesday, February 24, 7:00 pm (we meet at 6:45 pm)

Restaurant Lea (Spanish/Portuguese)
4922 Sherbrooke Street West

Reservations a must!!!!

Call Gloria Ménard before 6:00 pm, February 17. One place reserved for a new member until reservation deadline.



Call for Nominations

The Nominating Committee (Valerie Aitken, Carly Pepler and Liz Annesley) announce that, for the 2015-2016 period, the following board of directors positions need to be filled:

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Publicity
- Interest Group Coordinator
- Advocacy and Community Affairs Coordinator

If any member is interested in participating on the Board in any of these positions, or if any member knows of another who would be a good candidate, please get in touch with me to find out more.

Liz Annesley
Chair

April Home Dinners

We will be holding Home Dinners again, this year on April 21 and 22. This event offers an opportunity for our members to join with a small group of others in organizing, preparing and enjoying a friendly dinner in a member's private home.

If you are willing to host a dinner in your home, or you would like to attend a dinner in someone else's, please contact elaine bander. If you are offering to host, please specify which night and how many guests you can accommodate. If you wish to participate, please mention any food or mobility restrictions.

Elaine Bander

Advocacy / Community

The UWCM's community role is widened through its membership in the CFUW, part of whose mission is to advocate for the advancement of the status of women, human rights and the common good locally, nationally and internationally.

If you have any issues you wish to bring to the forefront (for example: women's rights and access to prenatal care, the allowable GMOs in Canadian food, contributions to environmental issues), please contact me. Your board will put them forward as resolutions to the CFUW for consideration at the 2016 AGM.



Maya Bergeron-Métivier
Vice President

Dates in History

January 28 recognizes the Morgentaler vs. Canada Supreme Court 1988 decision, which overturned the criminal abortion law to give women the right to abortion on request without restrictions, saying the law violated a woman's constitutional rights to bodily security, life, liberty, autonomy and conscience. Read more in a CBC 2009 news report at <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/abortion-rights-significant-moments-in-canadian-history-1.787212>.

February 16 is the day in 1967 when Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson initiated the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. Read more at <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/rc-cr/roycom/index-eng.html>.



FEBRUARY IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH

Your membership fees have brought you many knowledgeable and interesting speakers on diverse and thought-provoking topics.

Your membership fees help support many women and social organizations.

Your membership fees give you the chance to share a glass of wine with friends.



Your membership fees, over the past year, helped to support:

- Persephone Productions
- Our Harbour
- Atwater Library and Computer Centre
- Centraide
- Doctors Without Borders
- UNICEF Canada
- DESTA Black Youth Network
- Dawson College Professional Theatre Program
- Concordia University
- Chez Doris
- Auberge Shalom
- Auberge Madeleine
- Native Women's Shelter



Your membership fees have lent a voice to important and worthwhile advocacies such as:

- Enhanced CPP, plain language, culture of peace, increasing voter participation (CFUW resolutions)
- International Women's Day
- EMSB electoral register
- Demanding restoration of the Casgrain Award
- Women in History Month, Sisters in Spirit vigils, International Day of the Girl
- Celebrating more than 100 years that the legal definition of 'person' included women
- QWF Judy Mappin award
- Centraide's March of 1,000 Umbrellas
- Petition to Quebec health minister re Bill 10
- International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women
- MCW's Women of the Year Award nomination for Nakuset, Executive Director of Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
- 25th anniversary of Ecole Polytechnique massacre
- Denouncing the PQ Charter of Values

Show some love! Ask a friend to be your Valentine: Ask her to join the UWCM!



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Copy-editing and proofreading services

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