



UWCM

University Women's Club of Montreal Inc.

Club des Femmes Universitaires de Montréal Inc.

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MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER



DINNER MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, from 6:00 pm

Brenda Shanahan - Member of Parliament for Châteauguay-Lacolle, *A Day in the Life of an MP*

Brenda Shanahan has been a long-time active member of our club, and served as Vice-President of the QFUWC in 2014-2015. On March 15, Brenda will be coming home!

Brenda holds an MBA from the John Molson School of Business at Concordia University and a Bachelor of Social Work from McGill University. During her careers — as a banker, social worker and financial educator — she provided counsel in financial management, developed numerous financial literacy workshops and educational materials and was a frequent commentator on financial issues for various Montreal media outlets.

A long-time resident of Châteauguay and mother of three adult children, Brenda has been an advocate for several years for improving the education of women and girls and the defence of human rights. Formerly active in a number of organizations including Amnesty International and Refuge Juan Moreno, Brenda remains an active participant in various citizen forums and a member of the Social Justice Committee and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Châteauguay.

In her first term as a Member of Parliament, Brenda served on the Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Death. She is now a member of the Committee on Public Accounts and of the Committee on Governmental Operations and Estimates.

HOME DINNERS — April 26 or 27

Contact: Maya Bergeron-Métivier

Again this year, "Home Dinners" replace our usual monthly Club Atwater dinner. This is a chance to get together with a smaller group in a member's home and enjoy a friendly potluck dinner. Usually a welcomed change of pace, this also helps new members get to know other people.

If you wish to host a potluck dinner, simply choose one of the above dates and decide how many guests you can handle. If you wish to attend a dinner, please mention any food or mobility restrictions. Sign-up sheets will be at the March dinner meeting (or contact Maya directly). Final lists will appear in the April newsletter and your assigned hostess will let you know what dish she would like you to bring. For the sake of all concerned, changes must be kept to a minimum.

Reserve with Club Atwater

Avoid disappointment:
Reserve by
Thursday, March 9.

reception@clubatwater.ca
or call 514-935-2431.

MARCH 15 DINNER MENU

- Leek-and-pear soup
- Lamb shank, rice, vegetables
- Chocolate cake with a raspberry coulis
- 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**

Unaccompanied non-members:
\$50.00, including a glass of wine (by cheque payable to UWCM).

Buy cruise
tickets tonight —
bring your
chequebook!

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.
Don't forget your name tag.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good day, dear members,

I hope that you have been enjoying our activities and dinners so far this year – as well as each other’s company. I am pleased to see some newer members getting involved in various interest groups and coming up with ideas for both the club and the foundation.

As we enter the year’s final quarter, I would like to remind members about our last dinner speaker this year. At the Atwater Club on March 15, we are fortunate to have our very own Brenda Shanahan speak to us about her experiences in Ottawa’s House of Commons, surely a captivating topic for fellow members. Please come out to greet her and give her your support!

I would also like to encourage you to attend one of the home dinners in April. These are a great way to mingle with members, make new friends and get to know one another in a more intimate setting. There will be sign-up sheets again at the March dinner or feel free to contact me to register.

In an effort to further increase the club’s profile and to ensure its growth within the community, some

members of the board have registered for the GWI “Social Media as a Communication Tool” webinar. This will be a great way to learn how to promote our club locally and support women’s issues worldwide. Any ideas or further developments will be disclosed at a later date.

Our club is also participating in a Women’s University National Study in order to raise awareness of the inequalities facing women on campus and to identify creative solutions to problems. This was initially done in 1992 by the CFUW, and the National office has asked for our support. The intent is to share the solutions with various institutions and to support initiatives for reform. We hope that this exercise can help the progress of women in education across the country. We will be sure to share the results as they become available.

Kindest regards,

Maya Bergeron-Metivier
President



Board Meeting Highlights

- Learned of slow response to membership renewals.
- Discussed Coach House repair issues.
- Informed of GWI decision to halt fee increase.
- Board’s five-year strategic planning discussed.
- VP confirmed participation in CFUW delegation to UN Commission on Status of Women in New York City in March.
- Discussed nominating a member for the CFUW 100th Anniversary “Notable Woman” award.
- Formed a subcommittee to participate at 2018 Montreal National Women’s Show.
- Eliminated \$5 fee for dinner guests.
- Preliminary plans formed to celebrate club’s 90th anniversary.

The UWCM condemns
the recent attack on the Islamic
Cultural Centre in Quebec City.
We mourn the loss of life and offer our
deepest sympathies to the community.



International Women's Day

#BeBoldForChange
this #IWD2017

internationalwomensday.com



CRUISE INTO SUMMER



Enjoy a terrific one-and-a-half-hour brunch/cruise from the Old Port on **Saturday, June 3**, starting at 11:30 am. Spend time discovering a different view of Montreal with your friends, fellow members and family while raising money for local women's groups and education for women in need. Tickets are \$95 (adults), \$60 (17 and under) with a tax receipt for the donation portion. Contact a member of the fundraising committee to order your tickets!

Don't forget! The Foundation's Annual Giving campaign runs until June 30 of this year. So far, we have raised \$2,800 from only 32 members. If you haven't done so already, please be generous with a tax-deductible contribution today.

Liz Annesley and Donna Jensen

UWCM Foundation Co-Presidents



In memory of Leslie Brooks.

EVENTS CALENDAR – MARCH 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Ladies Who Lunch	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 International Women's Day BOD meeting	9	10	11 Stage & Soirée
12	13	14	15 Dinner meeting	16	17	18
19 Outdoor Ladies St. Patrick's Day Parade 	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Stitch-in' Time	28	29 Dining In	30	31	



INTEREST GROUPS

WINE TASTING

Temporary convenor needed!

This used to be our most popular interest group, and now we find ourselves without a pilot to steer this ship. Wouldn't you hate to lose this interest group? Perhaps members could pair up, or run this on a rotating basis. To help, please contact Maya Bergeron-Métivier today.

SAVE THE WINE GROUP!

STAGE & SOIRÉE

March 10 and 11 McGill Opera Binge Festival

Seven operas in two days at various times and venues (www.montrealenlumiere.com/en/Programmation/Activite/7305). I plan to attend on March 10 at 7:30 pm and March 11 at 11:00 am and 8:00 pm. The *Sid the Serpent Who Wanted to Sing* show (March 11, 1 pm, Pollack Hall) is great for grandchildren (family passes of four). Note the different venues and addresses.

Convenor: Liz Wirth

OUTDOOR LADIES

Sunday, March 19, we meet at 11:00 am

Montreal Underground City

We are going to be *indoor* ladies this time, meeting at the east end of Place des Arts metro under the mural. We will walk underground two or three kilometres (with a few staircases, since some escalators do not function on Sundays) to Palais de Congrès, across to Place Victoria, and back to Ste. Catherine ending at The Bay (about three blocks from where we began). We could walk outside if the weather is nice. Wear a light coat and walking shoes rather than boots, if possible. Let us know you are coming, so we will wait for you. Convenor: Carly Pepler

STITCH-IN' TIME

Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 pm (Coach House)

Bring your hand-sewing project to an evening of conversation and stitchery! Convenor: Donna Jensen

FOUR PLACES LEFT!

AFTERNOON LITERARY TEA

Date and time: To be determined (Coach House)

Join us for an intimate literary afternoon. For a tax-deductible donation of \$25 per person, this Quebec Writers' Federation (QWF) fundraiser will enable book lovers to enjoy the company of a local author. At least ten guests are required to express an interest, then we'll decide on an author and a date. Contact Zofia Laubitz.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Wednesday, February 22, 6:30 pm (Coach House)

Black Voices in Opera and Concerts

It's Black History Month, devoted to honouring people of African descent and their history, accomplishments, and challenges. Share views in a friendly and collegial atmosphere. Become empowered by enriched perspectives and the power of women thinking together! **There is no meeting in March, so please join us this week.** Convenor: Saôde Savary

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Thursday, March 2, 12:15 pm (RSVP by February 24)

Restaurant Molivos (Mediterranean, Greek, seafood)
2310 Guy Street (Guy-Concordia metro)

Convenor: Lauretta Alexander

DINING IN

Thursday, March 30, 7:00 pm

Liz Wirth (hostess - maximum is 8 guests)

Please reserve your spot, so first come, first served. You will be informed of any theme and will decide together what you will bring. Costs will be added up and divided evenly. Convenor: Elizabeth Wirth



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QUEBEC COUNCIL AGM

On Saturday, April 29, the Sherbrooke and District club will be hosting the annual general meeting of the Quebec Council of University Women's Clubs / Conseil québécois des associations des femmes diplômées. Details as to time, place and guest speaker will be in the April newsletter. Members of all five CFUW Quebec clubs are invited to attend — a great chance to meet members of our sister clubs.



Montreal Council of Women

Thursday, March 2

Lunch (\$10) noon, meeting at 1 pm

Les Jardins du Canal, 2700 Rufus-Rockhead
(opposite the Atwater Market)

Speaker: Anne Lagacé Dowson, Journalist
Why I Ran and Is There a Difference Between Male and Female Candidates

ADVOCACY / COMMUNITY

Wednesday, March 8 - A gathering to celebrate *International Women's Day* will take place at 6:00 pm at Cabot Square (corner of Atwater Avenue and Sainte-Catherine St. West).

Please join me and other club members to show your support. Contact me for further information.

Rhonda Schanfield
Advocacy and Community Affairs



Member Donna Jensen joined her adult daughters — and ran into fellow member Elaine Bander — at the Montreal January 21 “March on Washington” with other like-minded citizens.

CALCIUM STUDY

LAST CALL!

Monday, February 27, 4:00 to 5:30 pm
(Coach House)

*The Bare Bones on Skeletal Health
in Postmenopausal Women*

Angel Ong is a PhD candidate and research dietitian with the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC). She is conducting an ongoing study on calcium supplements and women's heart health led by Michelle Wall. Afternoon tea will be served. Please contact Elaine Bander.

Still want
electoral reform?

Sign now! Open until
March 2, 11:20 am.

If you, like many Canadians, are disappointed that the Federal Government is not pursuing electoral reform and would like to bring it back to the table, sign this online petition. Over 60,000 people have already signed it. You can sign it at <https://petitions.parl.gc.ca/en>. CFUW will continue advocating for a change to a more representative electoral system. Open for signatures until March 2, 2017, at 11:20 am.

**MANIF DES
FEMMES**
— À WASHINGTON —
MONTRÉAL
21.1.2017



Women's Canadian Club of Montreal

Tuesday, March 21. Lecture (\$10) at Victoria Hall at 12:30. Light lunch (\$5) at 11:15 am
Nathalie Bondil, Director and Chief Curator, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
Montreal's World Class Musée des beaux-arts



LONGEST MEMBER CONTRIBUTES TO WAR EXHIBIT

Montrealer Elspeth Angus (a UWCM member since 1951) had a collection of carefully preserved WWI flowers pressed between letters from her grandfather, Lieutenant-Colonel George Stephen Cantlie. (Among the faded, paper-thin flowers is one red poppy believed to have been picked from Flanders Fields.) Elspeth's collection is now part of a multimedia exposition called *War Flowers* that opens in Canada and France later this year. Its curator, documentary filmmaker Viveka Melki, says it will highlight the contributions that Canadians made during wartime. Bruce Bolton, executive director of the Macdonald Stewart Foundation, contacted Melki when Angus, now 87, left the letters in his care at the Stewart Museum. Melki is concerned that, as our veterans disappear, so will their memory. She wants to preserve their story, and she says "*War Flowers* is about life, about the reasons we go to war, and the reasons we come home." *War Flowers* will debut this year at Les Jardins de Métis in Grand-Métis (June to September), as well as at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa (October to December), at Vimy Ridge in France, and at Montreal's Château Ramezay.

Montreal Gazette, July 28, 2016



Photo: John Kenney/Montréal Gazette



DINING IN

Postponed to the next day, after a typical Montreal snowstorm, members gathered on Wednesday, January 25, at Pam George's *Downton Abbey*-themed (without the servants!) evening. Pictured from left: Potential member Sharyn Andrews, Marsha Sklar, Donna Jensen, Liz Wirth, Pam Georges, Dominique Racanelli, Elaine Bander.

Newsletter editor: Donna Jensen

Copy-editing and proofreading services:
Zofia Laubitz

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