



# UWCM

University Women's Club of Montreal Inc.

Club des Femmes Universitaires de Montréal Inc.

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## DECEMBER 2015 / JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER



### DINNER MEETING: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9

Michaela di Cesare, writer-performer

*The Mad Wife: Why Erasure Still Matters*

Michaela di Cesare, playwright and performer, will talk to us about her research and resulting play about Pirandello's mad wife, who has hitherto been reduced to a mere footnote to her husband's career. ("Her name was Maria Antonietta Portulano.") In December 2013, that was all Michaela had to go on as she began a year as playwright-in-residence at Imago Theatre, under the mentorship of Micheline Chevrier. Over the course of that year, Michaela peeled away the layers that kept this mysterious woman under wraps, further obscured by Pirandello's legendary status as a beloved figure who brought Italian theatre out of the dark ages.

Michaela's research culminated in a trip to Sicily and a (literal) watershed moment at the site of the Nobel Prize-winning playwright's tombstone. Michaela di Cesare completed her Master's Degree at the University of Toronto's Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies and is a recipient of a MECCA award for Best Text (along with a Best Actress and Revelation nomination) and the Launchpad Award for Emerging Artists. She recently appeared in Rahul Varma's *State of Denial* at the Segal Centre Studio and has been performing her one-woman show *8 Ways My Mother Was Conceived* in Toronto, New York City, Hudson, Ottawa and Montreal. Feature film credits include *Blame It on Obama* (2012) and *Too Tall* (2013). TV credits include *Psych Out*, *Fatal Vows* and *A Stranger in my Home*.

**Reserve with Club Atwater**  
Avoid any last-minute disappointment.  
Reserve by Thursday, December 3.  
Email [reception@clubatwater.ca](mailto:reception@clubatwater.ca) or  
call 514-935-2431.

### DECEMBER 9 DINNER MENU

- French onion soup
- Lac-St-Jean tourtière, homemade ketchup, potatoes, peas, carrots
- Steamed Christmas pudding with lemon sauce
- Coffee and tea

### JANUARY 20 DINNER MENU

- Mulligatawny soup
- Duck confit
- Warm pecan pie with ice cream
- Coffee and tea

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

**Member and her guest(s):** \$31.04 each, including tax (wine extra), charged on the member's account, plus \$5 cover charge per guest, payable in cash at the door.

**Unaccompanied non-members:** \$50 (for meal and a glass of wine) by cheque payable to UWCM, at the door.

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

Cancellations made to Club Atwater any later than 5 pm on the Monday before a dinner meeting will result in a 50-percent charge of the cost of the meal.

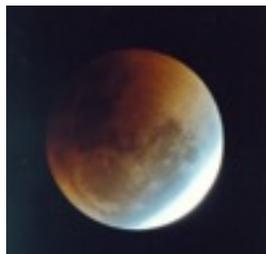
Mention any food allergies or dietary restrictions when you make your reservation.

### DINNER MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

Richard Shoemaker: *Viewing Eclipses*

What are solar and lunar eclipses, and how are they caused? Why are some types of eclipse common, while the most spectacular eclipses are quite rare?

Richard Shoemaker taught physics and astrophysics at Dawson College for over 40 years. He has been an amateur astronomer and "eclipse buff" since age 9, and has traveled the world to see eight total solar eclipses. He will tell us how to view a solar eclipse safely, and will speak of the great American eclipse of 2017 — how and where to see it. Richard will also reveal a treat for Montreal in 2024. Don't miss what promises to be a fascinating evening extensively illustrated with the speaker's own diagrams and photographs.



Don't forget your name tag!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Dearest members,

It is so thrilling to see our club grow in so many ways. Lately, we have had the opportunity to welcome new members and new interest groups and to expand the marketing approach of our club. The current board is actively seeking ideas to keep the club fresh and exciting and is also looking to increase its visibility through various promotional ideas. Anelia Wright has enhanced the welcome packages with some new promotional items, and Donna Jensen has ordered a club banner that will be very useful at many different events. Such active participation gives me hope for what more we can achieve.

At the Provincial Council meeting in Sherbrooke last month, I reconnected with other Quebec clubs and continued to exchange ideas to strengthen our individual and collective missions. Our club received positive recognition regarding our social media initiatives, and I encouraged other clubs to step into the digital era for their benefit as well as for that of the whole group, a great follow-up to my previous discussion with the CFUW National Office. I look

forward to welcoming our provincial sister clubs when we host the Council's AGM next April.

The Sherbrooke discussion was focused on education, and we heard from a group of young Indigenous people about the difficulty of furthering their education when coming out of life on a reserve. Their emotional recognition of our clubs' support reminded me what it is that we do and how important our continued support is. I hope all members can appreciate the efforts and results of our various fundraising campaigns, in particular, and our community outreach in general.

During this holiday season and beyond, we see more and more requests for people in need. I would encourage everyone to reflect on how our club would be able to best contribute locally to make the season a better one. The board is open to ideas and any suggested initiatives. I welcome everyone to reach out and I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours truly,

*Maya Bergeron-Métivier*  
**President**

## From the Vice President...

- Four CFUW members were elected to Parliament in October's federal election: Elizabeth May, BC-Saanich; **Brenda Shanahan**, CFUW Vice-President (Quebec); Karen McCrimmon, Kanata-Carleton; and Karina Gould, Burlington. The UWCM board sent a letter of congratulations to Brenda Shanahan.
- At the June 2015 CFUW Annual General Meeting in Quebec City, CFUW members voted in favour of a resolution pursuing further research into the damages caused by neonicotinoid pesticides. These pesticides are heavily used in the farming industry, and it is widely believed that they have **disastrous effects on pollinators, namely bees**. Last week an Ontario Superior Court upheld a ruling to dramatically reduce the use of these pesticides by farmers.
- After 96 years, the IFUW name has changed to **GWI — Graduate Women International** (new website at [www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org)). All members of CFUW are invited to share their thoughts about the relationship between CFUW and GWI/IFUW on its newly opened discussion forum.
- Early registration is open for the GWI 32nd Triennial Conference, **August 21-26, 2016, in Cape Town, South Africa**. This is a leading conference focusing on the confluence of education, gender and human rights. For more information, contact me.

*Zoya Duba*  
**Vice President**



# INTEREST GROUPS

**TEA AND POETRY**  
**Tuesday, December 1, 3:30 pm**

Dear Poetry Friends: This will be our last get-together for this year. Kindly let me know by November 25 if you plan to attend this lively discussion group.  
 Convenor: Karin Doer

**ARTS & ETC.**  
**Thursday, December 10, 2:00 pm**

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts  
*The Beaver Hall Group: Colours of Jazz*  
 Discover artistic life in Montreal during the 1920s. This exhibition is truly unique and the first to highlight the Beaver Hall Group's extraordinary contribution to Canadian modern art. Following our private guided tour, we will gather at a local café for a critique of the exhibit. Please register with me by December 3. Convenor: Dominique Racanelli

**WINE TASTING**  
**Monday, December 14, 7:00 pm (Coach House)**

What "bubbly" will you drink this holiday season? We will explore (non-Champagne) sparkling wines from around the world.

**Monday, January 11, 7:00 pm (Coach House)**

Test your tasting technique and sharpen your skills by identifying anonymous varietals in a blind tasting of some common and less common wines.  
 Reservations accepted only by email.

**SUPPER CLUB**  
**Tuesday, January 26, 7:00 pm (we meet at 6:45 pm)**

L'Atelier d'Argentine (dining for carnivores)  
 1458 Crescent Street

Join us for an evening of conversation and camaraderie. Call Gloria Ménard before 6:00 pm, January 19. **Reservations a must!!** One place reserved for a new member until reservation deadline.

**TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT**  
**Wednesday, January 27, 7:00 pm (Coach House)**

Topic to be determined — any suggestions are welcome.  
 Convenor: Valerie Markham

**STAGE & SOIRÉE**  
**January 28-31, 7:30 pm**

Opera McGill – Pollack Hall  
*L'elisir d'amore* by Donizetti

Tickets: mcgill.ca/music or 514-3984547  
 Convenor: Elizabeth Wirth

## Board Meeting Highlights

- Meeting scheduled in November with Club Atwater re Coach House maintenance
- Website update discussed
- Promotional material approved
- Social media visibility recognized at Sherbrooke Provincial Council meeting
- Discussed possible speakers for the Provincial Council AGM

## Directory Update

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER:**  
**Dr. Sandra Gottlieb**  
 (MSc McGill; PhD Université de Montréal)



## EVENTS CALENDAR – DECEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Tea and Poetry	2	3	4 MCW lunch	5
6 Day of Action on Violence Women	7	8	9 Dinner meeting	10 Arts & Etc. Human Rights Day	11	12
13	14 Wine Tasting	15	16 BOD meeting	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

## EVENTS CALENDAR – JANUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Wine Tasting	12	13 BOD meeting	14	15 Newsletter deadline	16
17	18	19	20 Dinner meeting	21	22	23
24	25	26 Supper Club	27 Travels With my Aunt	28 Stage & Soirée	29 Stage & Soirée	30 Stage & Soirée
31 Stage & Soirée						



## UWCM December Charity

This year, the board's chosen charity is our very own UWCM Foundation, which will, at the December dinner meeting, accept donations by cheque for a tax receipt. The Foundation will also be holding a special draw that night. Wonderful prizes to be won! Be sure to bring cash — tickets are \$10 for one, \$20 for three. Please be generous... and *bonne chance!*

## The Fun in Fundraising

The UWCM Public Foundation, established in 1985, has raised over \$250,000 for scholarships to female students and to support local women's shelters.

Members recently received a letter outlining the annual appeal for donations, which runs from November 1 to June 21, 2016.

### SAVE THE DATE! Thursday, June 2, 2016



Buy your tickets to attend a performance by the graduating class of the National Circus School of Canada, at Montreal's TOHU Arts Theatre. Bring your friends, family, and neighbours to attend this event. Tickets (with tax receipt) are \$65 (\$35 for children 12 and under).

Order them today! A great holiday gift idea! Happy Holidays!

*Dominique Racanelli*  
**Foundation President**



### MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

2015 Woman of the Year Award Luncheon

Honouring an outstanding contribution toward the prevention of violence against women

Friday, December 4, 2015, 11:30 am  
 Hilton Garden Inn, 380 Sherbrooke Street West

Tickets: \$50

Contact: S. Gyles

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS



### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Dolores Meade, M.Ed, psychotherapist

*Stephen Lewis Foundation campaign:  
 Grandmothers helping African grandmothers to raise their AIDS-orphaned grandchildren*

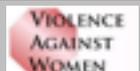
### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

Dr. Joe Schwarcz, McGill science professor, author, radio-show host



*Celebrity Science:  
 From Suzanne Somers to Dr. Oz*

## DATES TO REMEMBER



**November 25** — UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

**December 6** — National Day of Action and Remembrance on Violence Against Women and the day in 1989 when 14 young women were killed at Montreal's École Polytechnique

**December 10** — United Nations universally declared (since 1948) Human Rights Day



### Have a handbag you don't want?

Fill it with soap, sanitary napkins, toothpaste, shampoo... and give it to a homeless woman. This is an idea by a young American woman, Adrienne Langley, in a recent Facebook posting that went viral. Yes, social media helps...



## CFUW Reflects on Women and the Federal Election

### Gender Parity in Trudeau Cabinet

November 4, 2015, OTTAWA - CFUW congratulates Prime Minister Trudeau on the appointment of 15 women to the federal Cabinet. With 50 women elected...to the House of Commons, a record in Canada's history, Mr. Trudeau had an exceptionally talented pool of women from which to choose.

We fully supported Mr. Trudeau's promise to appoint a gender-equal cabinet. The current female caucus of the Liberal Party includes prominent businesswomen, UN diplomats, leaders of major national and international NGOs, doctors and lawyers. The new female ministers bring with them a wealth of experience and, importantly, a different perspective on issues facing Canadians.

"Gender balance at the decision-making table has a significant impact. Women's voices influence ... the content and direction of decisions. Today Canada got the bold change we needed," says Doris Mae Oulton, President of CFUW.

Mr. Trudeau, in keeping with [his] campaign promise, clearly demonstrated that he and his government is ready to move forward. We agree with the answer Mr. Trudeau gave...when asked why gender parity is important: "Because it's 2015."

We are confident that Mr. Trudeau will also follow through on his promises to ensure gender-based analysis in federal departments, create a national action plan on violence against women, establish an inquiry into our missing and murdered aboriginal sisters and create a national framework on child care. We look forward to working with him and the new Minister of Status of Women, Patty Hajdu, in the reinstated Ministry of Status of Women.

Doris Mae Oulton, **CFUW President**

Robin Jackson, **CFUW Executive Director**

### Post-Election Statement

More than 17 million Canadians cast their ballots, in the highest voter turnout since 1993... Many new faces [several of them women] will be filling the seats in the House of Commons.

Women saw a rise in representation...moving from 24.6% of elected representatives to 26%. The number of seats increased...from 76 women out of 308 in 2011 to 88 out of 338 in 2015. This election also saw an increase in the number of female candidates, with 472 women out of 1,428 candidates, or 33.1%. This is an increase from 452 female candidates [in] 2011.

While it is encouraging to see these increases, on a global scale Canada's representation of women remains low. Countries like Rwanda, Nicaragua, Mexico, Ecuador, Slovenia, Ethiopia, and the Nordic countries out-perform Canada for gender equality in political representation.

While...we are disappointed that a full leaders' debate on women's issues did not take place, we are confident that the new government and opposition parties will make plans for advancing women's equality. We are very pleased to acknowledge Mr. Trudeau's commitment to addressing gender issues, highlighting the fact that public policies affect men and women differently, and committing to taking those differences into account when making decisions in Cabinet. We are pleased that the Liberal Party will ensure that federal departments are conducting the gender-based impact analyses required of them.

We look forward to working with Mr. Trudeau and his Cabinet to advocate for equality for all women.