



UWCM

University Women's Club of Montreal Inc.

Club des Femmes Universitaires de Montréal Inc.

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DECEMBER 2017 / JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



DINNER MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, from 6 pm

This month, we will enjoy *Noël Renaissance*, an after-dinner concert of French Christmas carols arranged by Ross Duffin (born in London, Ontario, presently a Distinguished Professor of Early Music at Case Western Reserve). There may

Reserve before
November 30!

possibly be some motets as well. The four singers who will be performing for us are Carole LeDez, Anna Lewton-Brain, Alex Ross and John Giffen. They are part of a larger ensemble, Montreal-based One Equall Musick, a collaborative chamber vocal ensemble dedicated to the programming and interpretation of high-quality repertoire from the fifteenth century to the present day. Founded in 2011, the ensemble has presented many concerts in the Montreal area. *The regular December charity this year is Free The Girls. Your cash donations will cover the cost of shipping the bras that have been collected. Please be generous.*

Reserve TODAY with Club Atwater
Mention any food allergies or dietary restrictions.
Email reception@clubatwater.ca
or call 514-935-2431

DECEMBER 6 DINNER MENU

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

JANUARY 17 DINNER MENU

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

DINNER MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

Club Presidents' Forum: *The Future of the UWCM*

Reserve before
January 11

At the October and November dinners, the club celebrated its origins, its heritage, and those who founded, guided, and developed our club. For the January dinner, as befits the beginning of a new year (the club's 91st), all available past and present club presidents have been invited to share their visions for the club's future. Each president will speak briefly and then together they will discuss their visions for the future in a round-table format. A ten-minute question-and-answer period will be open to the audience.

Guided by their past experiences and their outlook on where the club can go, we may all begin to envision the future in a world so very different from 1927 – a world in which the task of educating girls and women remains a formidable challenge. Participants (below, left to right): Elizabeth Wirth (1998-2000), Pam Georges (2000-2002), Roxane Stanners (2006-2008), Johanne Desrochers (2008-2010), Dominique Racanelli (2012-2015), and Saôde Savary (2017 to present).

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

Member and her guest(s):

\$34.50 each, including tax (wine extra), charged on the member's account.

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.

Don't forget your name tag!





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

As we celebrated the 90th anniversary of our club last month, we honoured the memory of all those who helped build it and are now watching over us. The following is an excerpt from my "letter" to the first club president, Mrs. A.F. Byers, who passed away in 1954.

Ninety years ago, when you accepted the club presidency, you adopted the goal to improve access to education for women and passed this vision on to your successors... I want to reassure you that your work continues in a transformed world where globalization is redefining people's lives and amplifying social inequities. Meanwhile, women around the world have combined their efforts to shift political discourse by imposing a focus on intersectionality, solidarity, fairness and humanity. Women are still midwifing to stand up fearlessly to claim their identity and rights.

Montreal has entered modernity as a "woman" whose strength is now interwoven with freedom, equality and social justice. Her roads are open to welcome diversity without discrimination. Her bridges are linked to works of innovation, knowledge and savoir-faire that legitimize her new status of a métropole. From the height of her observatory in Place Ville Marie, she is still searching for those girls and women who never made it back to their homes and families.

The challenges faced by women are complex and systemic. We believe that education remains the best instrument to overcome these challenges. One of the greatest people of the 20th century, Nelson Mandela, wrote: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." We could not agree more — UWCM continues to promote education for girls and women by extending collaboration locally, nationally and internationally.

- *The successful November press conference to launch the first North American Les Olympes de la Parole competition hosted 72 participants including 10 speakers, delegations from four schools and representatives from government and community organizations.*
- *The website is now available in both official languages.*
- *We have welcomed seven new members since September.*
- *Our collaboration with Free The Girls (<https://freethegirls.org/>) supports financial empowerment of women rescued from human trafficking. Last month, thanks to the YWCA-Montreal and The Study, we collected \$225 and 630 used bras to provide inventory for women entrepreneurs in Mozambique.*

We will continue to add new chapters to the history of the UWCM. But as you know, the roads of memory can be very convoluted and, when the time comes to remember precious moments and put them to paper, these roads may be out of reach. For this reason, I am calling on all members, the main witnesses of its history to submit in written form their own vision of and experience with the club. These will be compiled into a book to serve as a legacy to future generations. Rest assured, the first copy will be kept for you, Mrs. Byers. In the meantime, keep watch over us.

May I wish you and your loved ones a joyous and peaceful holiday season. I look forward to connecting with you again in the new year.

Best regards,
Saïde Savary
President

Sincere condolences are extended to our treasurer, Nicki Ayoub, on the recent passing of her mother.

COMING SOON!

Check your mailboxes!

Annual Giving Campaign - Watch for your letter to come in the mail. Please be generous!





INTEREST GROUPS

DINING IN

Wednesday, January 31, 7:30 pm

Elaine Bander (hostess)

Please contact Elaine to reserve your spot. Limited space available, so first come, first served. Elaine will inform you of the theme and you'll decide together what you will bring. The theme for the next dinner will be decided at the January dinner.
 Convenor: Elizabeth Wirth

ESSETRICS CLASS

Saturday, January 13, 11 am (Club Atwater)

Saturday, January 27, 11 am (Club Atwater)

A head-to-toe, dynamic stretching workout that safely shapes and rebalances the body, conditioning muscles, bones and joints with immediate changes to posture. Contact Nadia to register for these two free trial sessions.

Burns Night



Wednesday, January 24, 2018

It's the birthday of Scotland's national poet Robert (Robbie) Burns (1759 to 1796). Did you know Robbie Burns wrote *Auld Lang Syne* (times long past)? Join us to celebrate with a wee dram of single-malt Scotch, nibbles and homemade shortbread. Listen to Burns songs and recite your favourite Burns

poem (find them at robertburns.org). To pay for the Scotch, a \$10 charge will be applied. Space is limited, so reserve early. Contact Elaine Bander by January 20.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Wednesday, December 13, 12:15 pm

Restaurant Europea **(RSVP by Dec. 10)**
 1227 de la Montagne (metro Peel)

Wednesday, January 10, 12:15 pm (RSVP by Jan. 7)

Restaurant Zante
 1112 Sherbrooke St. West (metro Peel)

Convenor: Laretta Alexander (514-933-5570, griffin7@sympatico.ca)

STAGE & SOIRÉE

January 26, 7:30 pm (with reception)

January 27, 7:30 pm; January 28, matinée

Opera McGill – *Lucia di Lammermoor*
 Reservations 514-398-4547

Monument National, 1182 St Laurent mcgill.ca/music

For information: Convenor Elizabeth Wirth
 (514-484-4545, 514-242-0709, wirth@videotron.ca)

Vice-President's Notes...

- The Women's Issues participants are invited to join this year's resolution review process. This will be done at the February Women's Issues meeting. Details in the next newsletter.
- Slavena Kiryakova and I recently gave a webinar to all CFUW members on Biteable video-making software. More details will be in the next newsletter.
- The CFUW initiative to eliminate violence against women — "16 Days, 16 Actions" (see their recent newsletter) — is the subject of a video that I posted on November 25.

Nadia Ramundo
Vice-President





DECEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	Commemorate 1989 attack at École Polytechnique / Dinner meeting	6	7	8
10 International Human Rights Day	11	12	BOD meeting / Ladies Who Lunch	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JANUARY 2018

31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	BOD meeting / Ladies Who Lunch	10	11	12
14	15	16	Dinner meeting	17	18	19
21	22	23	Robbie Burns Night	24	25	26
28	29	30	Dining In	31	Stage & Soirée	Essentrics / Stage & Soirée

ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR

CFUW has just adopted a Code of Ethical Behaviour and a policy to support its implementation. This code is embedded in our common values including human rights; empowerment; respect and caring; trust and cooperation; equality; and integrity. The first guiding principle is to “treat everyone with fairness, dignity and respect.”

Thus, unethical behaviour is defined through several dimensions including:

- bullying and offensive or inappropriate remarks, gestures, or behaviour toward another member;
- writing or sharing material that is obscene, defamatory, profane, libellous, threatening, harassing, abusive, hateful or embarrassing to another member.

This Code of Ethics is applicable to members of all 101 clubs nationally, which are required to implement it. Non-compliance with this code is addressed through a multilevel process.

As we stand for fighting violence against women, let us make sure that we treat our members with respect, fairness and dignity.



Olympes de la Parole - A Successful Launch



Pictured above, from left: Anne-Marie Trahan (UWCM member and retired judge), Maria Di Scala (Villa Maria), Erica Rath (Sacred Heart), Wahiakatste Diome-Deer (Quebec Native Women), Deirdre Kahwinetha Diome (Chair of Kahnawake Combined Schools Committee), Saôde Savary (UWCM President), Brenda Shanahan (UWCM member and MP Châteauguay-Lacolle), Delila Farias and Mia Strack Van Schyndel (students from The Study), Robin Delaronde (Kahnawake Combined Schools Committee Director of Education).



Our club celebrated on November 15 with a well-attended gala dinner. Dr. Richard Fraser gave a fascinating talk on a founding member, Maude Abbott who, after being refused admission to McGill School of Medicine, became a world-renowned doctor.

Joining us were invited guests Nicole Wilson (VP, McGill University Alumnae Association), Sandra Cohen-Rose (President, National Council of Women) and Shirley Gyles (President, Montreal Council of Women). As a tribute to the memory of our UWCM founders and departed friends, the floral table centrepieces were donated by Elspeth Angus and Lesley Forrester. Best wishes were extended by Dominique Racanelli on behalf of the Quebec Council and the CFUW. Toasts were offered to the club by long-time member Ausma Tane and to the Queen (because of our Royal Charter) by hardworking and loyal member Anelia Wright.

This demonstrates how we work to foster the development of friendships among women who are eager to share experiences and interests.

Here's to the next ninety!

PRAISE FOR OLYMPES DE LA PAROLE

We have worked with UWCM since its formation in 1927 and are happy to be involved with them in promoting this initiative.

- Grace Hollett, CFUW National President

With such a significant investment in education from the UWCM, this generation of students will be prepared to influence their world for change.

- Cheryl Hayles, CFUW VP International

Many thanks to you and to the Montreal club members for your leadership. You have exemplified the mission of Graduate Women International to encourage the ranks of educated women and girls who will work for gender equality and development of leadership skills that women and girls can apply in all areas of life, in the private and public sectors.

- Geeta Desai, President, Graduate Women International

I applaud your team's efforts to empower young women to discuss gender equality. Championing innovative and inspiring ideas is an important way of making a difference.

- Gina Wilson, Deputy Minister, Status of Women, Canada





Free The Girls bra drive

Collecting gently used and new bras will provide resources for women rescued from sex trafficking to become empowered through entrepreneurship. This causes their families and communities to flourish for generations to come.



By becoming entrepreneurs, the women finish school, purchase land, become homeowners, and their children can attend school. The bras are shipped to the United States and, from there, to Mozambique. A \$2-per-bra donation — that's \$1 per cup! — will help with the shipping costs.

FreeTheGirls.com offers a way to connect people with survivors of sex trafficking in under-developed countries. These empowered women follow a path toward an more optimistic future. The 408 bras donated so far represent six weeks' inventory for one woman entrepreneur in Mozambique.

Welcome New Members

Susan Heseltine (BA, Queen's; MBA, Western)

Frida Grunbaum (BEd, McGill)

Rahila Bootwala (BCom)

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY!

Coming This February



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Professor Adelle Blackett

Employment standards for domestic workers

Professor Blackett is currently writing a book on the regulation of domestic work (Cornell University

Press) and is pleased to speak with us during Black History Month. Come enjoy being our Valentine!

Linda Snell: Award Recipient

Member and wine-tasting convener Dr. Linda Snell (on right) was the recent winner of the McGill University Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Education.



A medical doctor in the Department of General Internal Medicine at the MUHC, Linda is internationally recognized for advancing the field of medical education. "I want the [initiatives] I'm involved in to be the best – so that they can be models for others, in Canada and around the world," she said.

UWCM at TEDxMTL



UWCM members at the November 5 TEDxMtlWOMEN event. Pictured above, from left: Judith McTavish, Saôde Savary, Nadia Ramundo, Donna Jensen. Not in photo: Judith Mowat, Alaka McConnell.

A Day of Remembrance

December 6 is the **National Day of Action and Remembrance on Violence Against Women.**

This date commemorates the 1989 mass shooting that killed 14 women and injured 10 more people at École Polytechnique.