



UWCM

University Women's Club of Montreal Inc.

Club des Femmes Universitaires de Montréal Inc.

3529 Atwater Avenue
Montreal, QC H3H 1Y2

Email: uwcm@uwcm.com

Web: www.uwcm.com



FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

DINNER MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, from 6 pm

Professor Adelle Blackett *A Labour of Love? How domestic workers fought historical invisibility to achieve international recognition in a new human rights treaty.*



On Valentine's Day and in the middle of Black History Month, McGill University's distinguished law professor will share the inspiring story of how an international labour treaty for domestic workers came into being in 2011.

Professor Blackett will talk about her book, *Everyday Transgressions*, which tells how domestic workers won an historic international treaty in 2011. It tells how the everyday understanding of domestic work was challenged, to bring visibility to the historical forms of invisibility that domestic workers face. With sources from colonial cookbooks to contemporary ethnographies, it describes how domestic workers have insisted on being seen and heard. It looks at international, national and regional law reform and concludes that this victory is also one for all those who fight for an inclusive, transnational vision of labour law, rooted in social justice.

Professor Blackett teaches labour law and trade law, and has developed innovative seminars in critical race theory and slavery, and worked with the African Development Bank. She received the Research Council's Bora Laskin National Fellowship in Human Rights Research and the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Fellowship. She was appointed by Quebec's National Assembly to the Human Rights and Youth Rights Commission and the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers recognized her significant contributions to the legal community and the community at large.



Before February 8

Reserve with Club Atwater

Mention any food allergies or dietary restrictions.

reception@clubatwater.ca or
514-935-2431

FEBRUARY 14 DINNER MENU

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

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.



DINNER MEETING NEXT MONTH:

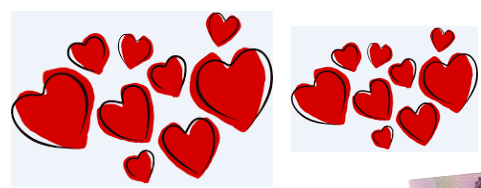
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, from 6 pm

Julia Gersovitz, architect: *My Montreal Experiences*

Prof. Gersovitz has worked at McGill University since 1980 and has been a visiting professor abroad. She has also served on numerous design-review commissions and on boards of various non-profits, including Heritage Montreal. Her award-winning design for the Alcan Building helped her become a national leader in the conservation of historic buildings.

Among the many important heritage projects that she has worked on are the West Block of Parliament, Rideau Hall, the McGill Arts Building, St. Patrick's Basilica, and many more.

Don't forget your name tag!



President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Let us welcome the new year in the spirit of collaboration, peace and solidarity. We ended last year celebrating our 90th anniversary and the achievement of important milestones in our history. Let us get ready to recalibrate our energy toward setting new trajectories to assure the sustainability of our club by endeavouring to spread our initiative and progression to new and uncharted horizons.

Our recent Facebook post read: "2018: We are ready!" Indeed, we are ready: for success and challenges, knowing that the number 18 is a lucky one, associated with life and renaissance. And 2018 should bring us more success than challenges.

The Olympes de la Parole launched and an FNTV video posted on Facebook has had 1,726 viewers! We are completing the evaluation with our review panellists while planning the Winners' Gala on April 6.

The bilingual website has launched aiming to increase visibility and attracting new members. Results of an internal audit carried out by a third party from the period of September 2017 to January 14, 2018, shows over a hundred-percent increase in (i) pages viewed (among these, the Olympes de la Parole page ranked first, followed by the "Who we are" page; (ii) new users originating from Canada, the United States and China (with a threefold increase in new users who are French speaking); (iii) a major upsurge in users visiting via their cellphone and tablets (suggesting we are attracting a new demographics that is more tech-savvy). This makes me trust we are on track!

During the last couple of months,

- I participated in the 16 Days of Activism campaign by taking a free online course offered by the

University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, on Violence Against Women: Myths and Realities.

- On December 6, I defied the cold weather to join a collective event at *Place du 6 Décembre 1989* to commemorate the victims of the Montreal massacre.
- On December 8, I delivered 24 shoeboxes of gifts to Victoria Hall to support women in shelters.
- Our wine tasting interest group is coming back in full force after a six-month hiatus.
- After the post was vacant for three months, the UWCM Public Foundation now has a new president: Earlyn Sharpe has been unanimously appointed by the Board (as per article 4.2 (g) of the Foundation bylaws). Earlyn joined the UWCM in 2012 and served on the board as member-at-large. She is currently entering her second year as Social Media Chair, a position she will continue to hold while leading the Foundation. Earlyn holds an MEd from McGill University and brings with her several years of experience in the academic world along with a highly successful track record in fundraising.
- I met with Ms. Gyles, president of the Montreal Council of Women, and Ms. Musial, president of Stella Musica, to explore the possibility of collaboration between our organizations.

Following my call to members to help complete the missing pages on the history of the club, two members have agreed to write about their experiences during the club's evolution. More contributors are needed to complete this project.

Thanks to the power of women working together, we have transformed every challenge into opportunity. I wish to acknowledge all of those who have helped make this happen and am inviting other members to join our efforts.

CONDOLENCES

To friends and family of former member Donna Deakin, who died suddenly on December 18, 2017.



Sincerely,
Saôde Savary
President



Canada's next \$10 bill will feature civil-rights pioneer Viola Desmond. Its circulation will begin later this year.



INTEREST GROUPS

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Monday, February 26, at 7 pm (Coach House)

To discuss proposed resolutions of sister Canadian clubs. See next page for more information.

Convenor: Nadia Ramundo

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Wednesday, February 21, 12:30 pm

Restaurant Bar George (reserve by February 18)
 1440 Drummond St. (Peel metro)

Convenor: Laretta Alexander

DINING IN * OUTDOOR LADIES * TRAVEL CLUB

...are all on hiatus this month. Will return soon.

Want to start a new interest group? Would you be interested in leading — or attending — a financial literacy group, for example?

Contact Annette Rudy, Interest Group Coordinator

A FAVOURITE IS BACK!

Wine Tasting

Monday, February 12, 7 pm

(Coach House)

Test Your Tasting Technique

Sharpen your skills by identifying anonymous varietals in a blind tasting of some common and less-common wines.

Prizes will be awarded to those with the best palate!

Reservations are essential — **before February 8!** The cost of the wines will be shared and no-shows will be charged. Please join us! Encourage any fellow UWCM members to come along. Just let me know!

Convenor: Linda Snell

STAGE & SOIRÉE

Tuesday, February 13, 7:30 pm

McGill Symphony Orchestra

Guest conductor: Kent Nagano, tickets **\$15-\$30**

Reservations: OSM box office 514-842-9951

Maison Symphonique, Wagner/Bernstein/Schumann

For information: Convenor Elizabeth Wirth

BLACK HISTORY MONTH — FEBRUARY 2018

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Wine Tasting | 13 Stage & Soirée | 14 Dinner meeting | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Ladies Who Lunch | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 Women's Issues | 27 | 28 | | | |



RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

CFUW encourages its members to use their expertise to bring about change, with particular reference to women's issues (violence against women, early learning and child care, education, economic prosperity and the empowerment of women as leaders and decision-makers). CFUW also works on a global level for the adoption and implementation of international agreements that will protect and benefit all women and girls. It holds special consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and regularly sends a delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Over the years, CFUW has taken a stand on innumerable social issues based on our policies and adopted resolutions.



Join the UWCM Women's Issues interest group participants as we contribute to bringing about positive changes. We will discuss and review the resolutions proposed by our sister clubs across Canada. Our recommendations will add to the discussion and strengthen the proposed resolutions so CFUW can properly advocate for those issues.

We will receive the CFUW proposed resolutions package on February 15 and will meet at the Coach House on February 26. All UWCM members are welcome, so please contact me to participate in this important activity.

For more information check our website at: <https://uwcm.com/resolutions/>

At the December dinner...



Above from left: Carole LeDez, Anna Lewton-Brain, Alex Ross and John Giffen — part of the Montreal-based ensemble One Equall Musick — entertained diners wonderfully on December 6.



The Shoebox Project for Shelters collects and distributes these gifts for women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in communities across Canada. Each shoebox is filled with items that can enhance self-esteem and reduce feelings of isolation for women in crisis.

Above: The 24 shoeboxes donated by the UWCM and brought to Victoria Hall in Westmount on December 6 by Saïde Savary.

Board meeting highlights

- CFUW ethics policy adopted by UWCM
- Discussed Atwater Club billing problems
- Planned strategy meeting for future of club
- Approved nominating committee
- Approved motion to appoint Foundation President
- Discussed board positions
- Member invoices have been sent out
- Discussed strategy to inform members of voluntary payment of GWI fee increase



Foundation Annual Giving

The fiscal year for the UWCM Foundation began July 1, 2017, and ends June 30, 2018. The Foundation habitually launches its annual giving campaign each fall.

Our Annual Giving campaign started in early December, and so far donations from 22 members amounting to \$2,325 have been received. It is gratifying to receive this financial support from you and I eagerly await additional donations, the total of

which will then be disbursed to educational institutions and charitable organizations chosen each year. I wish to thank Donna Jensen for her assistance in the preparation of this campaign. Donna continues to be a very valuable member and I am most grateful for her support.

Liz Annesley
2017-2018 Annual Giving Co-ordinator

What's in your cup?

Imagine holding a cup of coffee when someone bumps into you, making you spill the coffee. It doesn't matter what was in the cup, it's going to spill out. When life shakes you up, whatever is inside will spill out. You can only keep things balanced until you get rattled. So ask yourself, when life gets you shaken, what will spill out? Will it be joy, gratitude, kindness and humility? Or anger, bitterness, cruelty and harsh words? You choose! Today, work toward filling your hearts(cups) with forgiveness, kindness, gentleness and love for others.

Happy Valentine's Day

UWCM Public Foundation

It is with great pleasure that I accept the unanimous appointment by the board as the UWCM Foundation President. I am looking forward to working collaboratively with the trustees and club members to raise funds that support women in need and scholarships to further women's education.

In my career as an educator, leader and motivational speaker, I have always tried to use my voice to empower young girls and women. As a collective, the club's voice and philanthropy can make the difference in the lives of women – one girl at a time.

I am looking forward to meeting members and planning for a brighter future.

Earlyn Sharpe
Foundation President



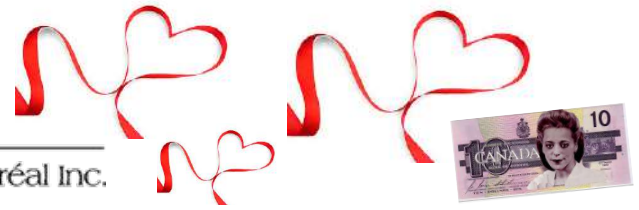
Voluntary Fee Increases to GWI

- The Graduate Women International dues are paid each year in two instalments by CFUW (January 1 and June 30). GWI dues have been increased by \$8.40 (CDN) per member. But CFUW has decided that the GWI increase this year should be voluntary.
- UWCM members opting to make this payment may include the \$8.40 (or more, if you wish) with their

regular UWCM membership fee sent to Nicki Ayoub, UWCM Treasurer. Nicki will then send one total payment to CFUW, which will forward it to GWI before the due date of April 30.

Our treasurer is required to record the names of members who pay this increase but will keep this information confidential.

For any other questions, please contact Nicki Ayoub.



Webinar, YWCA, and Fake News

On Wednesday, March 21, join us at the Atwater Club for an evening of *Fake News: Black, White, and Re(a)d: How to Tell Real News from Malarkey*. McGill University librarians Katherine Hanz and Emily Kingsland will lead the discussion. Free admittance for members, \$15 for non-members. More details in the next newsletter.

Thanks to a new agreement with the YWCA Montreal, all CFUW members will receive a 10-percent discount at Hotel Y and Auberge YWCA in Montreal. These accommodations are not only comfortable and affordable but are also a part of a social enterprise that supports the work of the YWCA Montreal, one of the oldest community groups with a mission to reduce gender and social inequalities and exclusion, and all forms of violence against women and girls. To access the discount, simply use promo code **UWCM** when making your reservation.

Since UWCM student intern Slavena Kiryakova and I gave the webinar on the Biteable video software last November, CFUW clubs across Canada have started to use Biteable.com to create videos used to promote their activities on Facebook. The number of videos created by CFUW clubs has risen to 11 in just two months. To learn more about how to create videos, please consult the CFUW site to access the webinar replay and reference sheets or contact me.

Nadia Ramundo
Vice-President



Musique au Féminin

Performances by soprano Natalie Choquette, aboriginal composer/musician Barbara Croall, dancers Jane Mappin and Daniel Firth, and concert pianist Katarzyna Musial.

March 22 (6 pm) and 23 (8 pm) Théâtre Outremont
 Tickets \$39, Students \$18, Seniors \$34, Festival \$30.
 UWCM discount tickets: promo code STELLA2018
 514-495-9944, ext.1 (<http://www.theatreoutremont.ca/en/event/festival-stella-musica-4th-edition-of-the-grand-concert-musique-au-feminin/>)

BY THE NUMBERS...

1,726 views of Les Olympes launch on First Nations TV Facebook page

24 wrapped shoeboxes donated at our December 6 dinner

16 CFUW members who participated in webinar conducted by Nadia Ramundo

11 videos created by CFUW clubs over last two months

Welcome New Members

Elizabeth Shin, Montreal B.A., UBC
 (Psychology)

Afra Saskia Tucker, Montreal, B.A., McGill

Maria Piazza, Saint Leonard, BSW, McGill

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY!



We want to highlight your achievements!
 Have you purchased a new condo? Accepted a new position? Been the recipient of an award? Adopted a rescue dog? Please share your news with other members. Contact Donna Jensen, Newsletter Editor.

HOME DINNERS COMING THIS APRIL



Do you want to host? Do you want to be a guest? Watch for details in next month's issue.