



**THE UWCM MEETING ROOM**  
 Atwater Library  
 Club Room #7  
 1200 Atwater Ave.,  
 Westmount,  
 Québec



**WHY EARTH DAY? - April 22**

Earth Day was established in 1970 to draw attention to the effects of climate change and to alert citizens, communities, industries and countries to our world’s environmental situation.

Rachel Carson’s book, *Silent Spring* (published 1963), was probably one of the first to alert the public to the environmental dangers of DDT and pesticides. There were anti-littering TV ads in the sixties, oil spills became prevalent, and global

warming concerns accompanied anti-war demonstrations.

Formed the year after a 1969 oil spill off the coast of California, Earth Day compelled us to include environmental concerns with those of women’s rights, anti-war sentiments, and civil rights. Now almost 60 years later, climate change is a dominant part of the public consciousness.

Canada is one of 189 countries and the European Union (representing 79 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions) that signed the Paris Climate Agreement. This group includes China (the country with the most CO<sub>2</sub> emissions), the USA (the second most) and India (third most). Russia, which is the fourth largest CO<sub>2</sub> emissions producer, has not signed the Accord.

At Greta Thunberg’s 2019 Climate Change Strike, over 500,000 Montrealers gathered on Mt. Royal to unite behind the science. We are now facing a world pandemic, but we cannot ignore climate change. We can do more than one thing at a time, can’t we? Consult <https://www.earthday.ca> for ideas on how to help future generations.



**IMPORTANT NOTICE**



**La Classe Restaurant set to open APRIL 11.**

**Awaiting news from authorities. STAY TUNED!**

## A Message from Our Co-Presidents



Donna Jensen



Wanda Leah Trineer

### Greetings from the Co-Presidents:

The days are getting longer. Birds are chirping. Tree buds are sprouting. The sun is warming faces. It is time, once again, to celebrate spring!!

Members enjoyed gathering virtually last month to hear Chez Doris Executive Director Marina Boulos-Winton talk of how the organization has had to pivot from a women’s day centre into a 24-hour-a-day shelter

for women in need. Its capital campaign, led by Club member Liz Wirth, has a goal of \$7.5-million for five years of operating expenses. If not money, you can offer services in your profession, donate snacks for the staff, volunteer to serve meals, or bake cakes for birthday celebrations.



Don’t forget to send Donna your weekly kilometres walked for CFUW’s “Walk to Kabul” initiative with GWI-Netherlands. Every step counts in showing support for Afghan women during their country’s peace negotiations – until April 24.

We must forgo Home Dinners again this year, but we will offer a virtual online event on April 21 - TBA. Later in April, we will send you more news about our May 19 AGM. And watch for our list of outdoor warm-weather events - coming soon!

Reminder: Donations to the Annual Giving Campaign are appreciated! You have until June 30! Support women students and local women’s groups with the money you’ve not spent eating out!

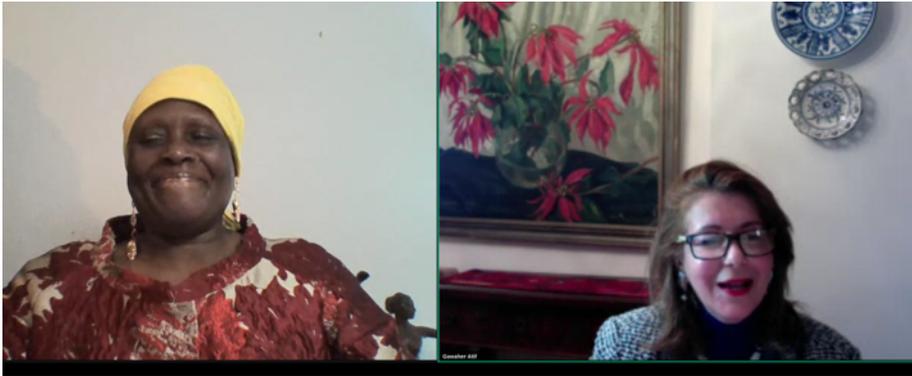
Finally, we offer our sincerest condolences to Past President Liz Wirth on the recent passing of her husband. Extending our sympathies to you and your family, Liz, during this difficult time.

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“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” – Helen Keller

## The Muriel V. Roscoe Lecture March 8 was International Womens' Day

On March 8, International Women's Day, UWCM members attended the Muriel V. Roscoe Lecture entitled "Gender, Food Security and Peace." The event was organized by the McGill Women's Alumnae Association and moderated by Gawaher Atif (Gawa), VP of the UWCM and former UNWFP Director.

The featured guest speaker was Ms. Kawinzi Muiu, Director of the Gender Office at the UN World Food Programme.



UNWFP was awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize. The presenter outlined the highlights of the UNWFP

mission to save lives and livelihoods and to improve the nutrition, food security and self-reliance of the poorest and most vulnerable people, with an ultimate goal to achieve Zero Hunger.

Ms. Muiu underscored that women and girls are essential agents in ensuring household food, security and nutrition. However, they face discrimination regarding access to, control over, and the consumption of food.

Ms. Muiu talked about the "three Cs" most affecting women today: *conflict, climate change and COVID*. When women and girls have better access to information and resources, participate in decision-making and have economic opportunities, this results in increased food security and nutrition for the whole family, the community and the country.

The UNWFP works in 88 countries across the globe: it deals with the most desperate war and natural disaster emergencies in Yemen, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan. Canada is among the top donors to the UNWFP, a voluntarily funded organization. For more information, see these varied resources:

[www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)

- <https://www.wfp.org/gender-equality>
- Medium channel: [medium.com/@WFP](https://medium.com/@WFP)
- Twitter: @WFP
- Facebook: [facebook.com/WorldFoodProgramme](https://facebook.com/WorldFoodProgramme)
- Instagram: [worldfoodprogramme\\_official](https://instagram.com/worldfoodprogramme_official)
- Youtube: [worldfoodprogram](https://youtube.com/worldfoodprogram)

**Letters Can Have An Impact!**



**Government Long-Term Care - Update**

by Linda Edgar

In September 2020, the UWCM held a writing campaign to advocate for better care for patients in long-term care. We sent our letters to the Hon. Patty Hajdu, who is the Minister of Health.



We received a detailed response thanking us for our concern and telling us what the government is doing in this regard. The federal government is working collaboratively with the provinces and territories in this area. In 2020, the Fall Economic Statement established a new Safe Long-Term Care Fund that will provide up to \$ 1 billion to protect people living and working in long-term care. To support training for personal support workers, the government has allocated \$38.5 million over the next 2 years.

The letter also mentioned the work currently being carried out because of the pandemic. COVID-19 exposed many issues in how we care for seniors which must be resolved. To that end, the government has set aside \$6 billion over 10 years to improve long-term and home care services, including palliative care.



The speech from the Throne emphasized that the government wants to set new standards for long-term care, to work with the provinces and territories to do so, and to find ways to keep people in their homes, as they age.

The letter reminded us that the Canada Health Act was set up to establish broad, national principles for the country as a whole, but it doesn't set standards for the delivery of services by the provinces or territories.

The letter we received was informative and comprehensive and helps us understand where our efforts should lie. This is a brief overview, but we would be pleased to send you the link to the full reply. Finally, the letter was sent to us by Sharon Harper who works for the Strategic Policy Branch of Health Canada.

Latest Study: [New Study In Quebec](#)

**Women In The News**



**Jeong Eun-kyeong**

*Photo credit: Photographer: Abn Young-joon/AP Photo*

• Appointed on September 12, 2020, to be the first Commissioner of Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA), previously known as Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC).



- In 2017, Jeong was promoted to lead KCDC and was the first woman to occupy that post.
- Born July 9, 1965, the degrees she holds are MD., a Master's in public health, and a PhD in preventive medicine. All are from Seoul National University.
- In 2015, during the outbreak of MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome), she held the title of head of the Center for Disease Prevention of KCDC and field investigation team of central task force. Before that, and during the Swine flu in 2009, she was leader of the Division of Disease Policy at the Ministry of Health and Welfare.
- She was listed as one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2020, BBC's 100 women of 2020, and The Bloomberg 50.

**April 30 begins Arbor Week**

Arbor Week (plant a tree week) runs from the last Friday in April to the first Sunday in May.

*“I’m like a tree. My leaves might change color, but my roots are the same.” — Rose Namajunas*



**Events - Upcoming and Recent**



The Quebec Provincial Council of University Women’s Clubs will be holding its Annual General Meeting via Zoom on Saturday, April 24, 1 pm - 4 pm. The meeting will be hosted by the Montreal Lakeshore Club. All members of the UWCM are welcome.

Contact Donna at [uwcm1@gmail.com](mailto:uwcm1@gmail.com) if you would like to receive the link to register.



On March 17, **Chez Doris** Executive Director Marina Boulos-Winton talked to participants about how the organization has changed into a 24-hour-a-day shelter for women in need during the last year. It is now running a capital campaign, headed by UWCM member Liz Wirth, to raise \$7.5-million for the next five years of operating expenses.

Read more [here](#).



[Women who made a difference in music.](#)

From the 12th through to the 21st century, let us celebrate these 10 extraordinary women

who broke new ground and left an indelible mark on the classical music world!

We recently marked International Women’s Day on March 8, 2021. Now here is a look at the achievements of 10 incredible women in classical music.



*From left: Dorothy Vaughan, Katherine Johnson, and Mary Winston Jackson. (NASA)*

[Hidden Figures: The Unsung Heroes Behind NASA’s Breakthroughs](#)

*Hidden Figures*, is a movie that tells the true story of a team of African-American women whose work led to several breakthroughs in space travel. Have a look!

**Women in the News**

**Samia Suluhu Hassan**



•First woman to become vice-president in Tanzania in 2015 under the late president John Magufuli. Both were elected for a second term in 2020.

•Born on January 27, 1960, she is a native of Zanzibar.

•Hassan holds an advanced diploma in public administration from Mzumbe University, and a postgraduate diploma in economics from Manchester University.

- In 2015 she gained an MSc in Community Economic Development via a joint program between the Open University of Tanzania and the Southern New Hampshire University.
- She was elected as a member to the Zanzibar House of Representatives in 2000 and was appointed to be the only high-ranking woman minister in the cabinet.
- In 2005, Hassan was re-elected and also re-appointed as a minister.
- She took office as president on March 29, 2021 after the death of president Maguful.



**Friendly Gossip! Updates on Members**  
What have you been doing lately?



Our Friendly Gossip! update-on-members section has become very popular.

We started the section when several members told us that they would like to read about fellow UWCM

members. One person said: *“I’d love to know what other members are doing and how they are feeling. We can’t see many of them. Let’s at least hear about them!”*

We are expanding the section a little to include other aspects of member news including

member well-being. If there are any members who need some cheering up or who have not been well during the past month, we will let you know about them here, so that you will have the opportunity to make a phone call or send a get-well card.

## Friendly Gossip!

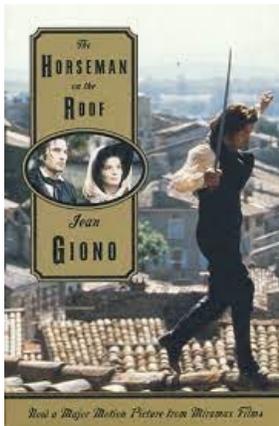
### Updates, News and Suggestions from Members

**Jana Bara** is one of our newer members. Since late December, 2020, her life has been a bit of a roller-coaster ride.



On Dec. 31, she fell on the ice and broke both the tibia and fibula bones in her leg.

She had surgery on January 3, 2021. While she was recovering in the hospital, she was told that she had contracted COVID-19, while there. She went through 10 very difficult days of the deepest fatigue. She said that she had never experienced that kind of tiredness in her life. One night, she felt herself sliding away... But then she woke up and continued her recovery.



She is at home now after spending two months in rehab. She looks forward to getting out of town to some natural place where she can sit peacefully and look out at a lake.

She is now reading *The Horseman on the Roof* by Jean Giono. It is set in the time of a cholera epidemic. So it is somewhat dark. But Jana claims that “the love story is perfect.”

**Ausma Tane** says that this year of the pandemic has been harder for her than when she lived through WW2 in Latvia!



What has made it so hard? Isolation. She loves to talk with people and communicate. And that has not been

possible during most of these past months. But she claims she is not depressed. She has been through many difficult (and wonderful) experiences in her 97 years.



Her happiest times in these warmer Spring days, are when she can get outside to walk, to feel the sun on her face. She says that feeling of warmth is “glorious.” She talks to the dogs that walk by and therefore she also chats with their owners. And so she connects with life again. Where she lives, there are small-group exercise classes and a class in meditation, as well.

Ausma’s eyes are not working well, so she cannot read. But when I asked her to recall one of her favourite books, she said, “Victor Hugo’s *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.”

**Earth Day Ideas From Members!**

from **Carly Pepler** -



Does your neighbourhood have little houses like these where you can bring and take books for free?

I have been putting little piles of very yellowed paperbacks, 15 at a time, in three different “houses” in my vicinity - novels, history, philosophy, cat books, etc.

The first 45 disappeared within 24 hours, even on St. Hubert at Roy, a fairly Francophone area of the Plateau. It is a great way to declutter. And someone is reading those books!

Someone may also be taking them to sell, but that’s ok, too. Check out your neighbourhood or make one yourself. I think these devices are

provided by the city, but the end of a ruelle verte is a good place to put one of your own.

from **Sheila Mohammed** -



Earth Day is a very special day for me - the earth is so important. I have already started getting my balcony ready for flowers and vegetables. My basil seeds are planted and sprouting!

I have been nurturing my plants all winter inside our living room, waiting for the good weather so that I can put them out on the balcony. My flowers are tropical plants. The vegetables that I grow are tomatoes and hot peppers of the mother-in-law variety. I also grow cucumbers and, of course, basil.



According to my friend who takes care of our plants when we are away, people call my garden “Sheila’s Biodome!” Our flowers and plants attract beautiful birds, butterflies and sometimes bees.

Here is a news clipping from board member **Tanya Fitzpatrick**, who is now spending some time in Arizona!



**A pelican, a cormorant and an egret walk into a Country Club... No, it's not the start of a bad joke. These three showed up at a nearby pond recently...**

**Are you UP for making a phone call?**

Would you enjoy making a call or two to other members - both as a way of keeping in touch and as a get-to-know-you gesture?

The UWCM board members on the phone team make these calls about once a month. You can sign up to call just one member or several others - it's up to you. And sometimes, it's a simple antidote to another person's loneliness.

So if you would like to join our phone call team, please send us a message here: [uwcmtl@gmail.com](mailto:uwcmtl@gmail.com) It's a joy to hear what others are doing!



**April Song  
by Sara Teasdale**

Willow in your April gown  
Delicate and gleaming,  
Do you mind in years  
gone by  
All my dreaming?

Spring was like a call  
to me  
That I could not answer,  
I was chained to  
loneliness,  
I, the dancer.

Willow, twinkling in the  
sun,  
Still your leaves and  
hear me,  
I can answer spring at  
last,  
Love is near me!



## Atwater Library Services



Our UWCM clubroom remains closed to members for the time being. But the Atwater library provides the following services:

Members can reserve paper books and DVDs online through our catalogue, by email or phone:

Library catalogue:

<https://atwater.insignails.com/Library/Home>

Email: [kryan@atwaterlibrary.ca](mailto:kryan@atwaterlibrary.ca)

Phone: 514-935-7344

### COVID Library Service

Our takeout library service continues during the Winter of 2021.

One of our librarians will notify you of your pickup time – either a TUESDAY or FRIDAY between 3:00 and 6:00 pm.

### COVID-19

### COVID-19 UPDATE - AS OF MARCH 22, 2021

[Read the latest](#) on priority groups for vaccination in Montreal and area.

#### In the news:

Montreal pharmacies joined the vaccination campaign as of Monday,

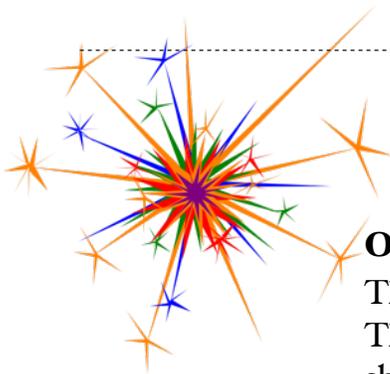
March 22 - the first in the province to do so.

Montrealers over the age of 60 can now register for COVID-19 vaccine appointments.

Right now, 355 pharmacies in Montreal are participating in the provincial vaccination campaign. Each location has

only received 100 doses of the Moderna vaccine to date.

- Montreal Gazette  
[\(click for more updates\)](#)



## COUNTDOWN TO CENTENARY!

### Only 6 years to our UWCM centenary!

The Letters Patent were signed on March 17, 1927.

The Club is now 94 years old and will be celebrating its 100th in only six short years! Watch for news on plans to memorialize the day!



**WE WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!**



So if you have:

- a favourite book to suggest
- a photo you would like to share
- a special birthday coming up
- an activity you think that others would enjoy
- another member's story you think we'd like to hear about

Please get in touch! We welcome your news, your dreams, your thoughts.

**Newsletter Team**



**Barbara Lewis - Editor**  
•  
**Zofia Laubitz - Proofreader**



**Our UWCM email address is: [uwcmtl@gmail.com](mailto:uwcmtl@gmail.com)**

**ADVERTISING**

If you would like to put your business card in our newsletter, please send an email to [uwcmtl@gmail.com](mailto:uwcmtl@gmail.com).

**SOCIAL MEDIA**



**Facebook**

Our **Facebook** page is updated daily by **Noran Ahmed** with links to local events, national advisories and international news of interest to UWCM members.

**Please Visit!**

We also have a presence on **Instagram** and **LinkedIn**

Please find our **UWCM** website **here.**

**BE INTOUCH!**

If there is an event that you would like us to post:  
**[uwcmtl@gmail.com](mailto:uwcmtl@gmail.com)**