



# UWCM NEWSLETTER

July | 2023



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these  
icons!*



## **THE UWCM MEETING ROOM**

Atwater Library  
Club Room #7  
1200 Atwater Ave.,  
Westmount,  
Québec H3Z 1X4

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## PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

Leah Trineer

Where have the first two weeks of July gone?

I do hope that things slow down a little before the summer is over; thus far it is passing by much too quickly. Even though it is summertime, many of your board have been busy behind the scenes. Last week, Emma Major and I attended the virtual CFUW AGM, on your behalf. One of the highlights of this year's events was the introduction of a new "brand" for CFUW. While the name will not change, the look and the logo of CFUW will. It was exciting to listen to the presentation on how the process had evolved and how national input resulted in the final selection. At the end of the summer, CFUW, will begin to roll out this new look to all clubs across the country and will be providing each club with the templates to help us incorporate this new look into each of our club's websites, etc. Watch out for more information in September when we are planning a short presentation at our meeting.

We also learned that UWCM Inc. is receiving, for the second year in a row, one of CFUW's two Membership Awards. Last year we received the award that recognizes all clubs that realize an overall increase in membership greater than 10%; we had a 15% increase. This year we have been recognized for their second award which is given to all clubs that realize an increase in new members greater than 10%; we had a 21% increase. Congratulations to all who helped to make this possible!!

Those of us who have been members for many years will remember that we used to have social privileges (dining only) at the Hillside Tennis Club during the time that they are open, May to November. I am happy to say that we are in the process of finalizing details with their administration to make this an option, once again. We will be sending out a special e-mail with all the information just as soon as it is final. Stay tuned!

There are a few dates to watch for, further in this Newsletter, about upcoming events. A picnic and a barbeque are being planned and some groups have their usual activities scheduled, as shown on the dates of the calendar. We are also encouraging you to organize some summer "one-off" events and let us know if you would like to have others join you. A small group went off to Knowlton last week to see the "Mannequin Exhibit" (there are photos of the group further in this Newsletter). Another example of this was the opening vernissage of the "Exposition", held last Wednesday, at The Gallery at Victoria Hall in Westmount. Our very own Valerie Aitken is one of the exhibitors; the exhibit will run until August 19<sup>th</sup> (see a photo and additional information below).



## ELIZABETH WIRTH



Elizabeth Wirth, Doctor of Music,  
honoris causa (D.Mus.)

Elizabeth Wirth, Doctor of Music, honoris causa  
(D.Mus.)

B.A. (McGill University)

A successful businessperson, committed volunteer, and generous philanthropist, Elizabeth Wirth is a respected and inspiring role model.

President and CEO of WirthBrand Inc., Ms. Wirth is also chairperson and founding director of M.F. Wirth Rail Corp. Ms. Wirth has been a member of the Schulich School of Music's Faculty Advisory Board for more than 20 years and its Chair since 2008.

On top of endowing the Students Initiatives Fund at the Schulich School of Music, Ms. Wirth established the Wirth Vocal Prize, which recognizes a voice student who demonstrates exceptional talent and significant promise for an international career. Along with her father, Ms. Wirth generously supported renovations to Schulich's opera-training facilities to create the Wirth Opera Studio.



To watch the McGill Convocation 2023 ceremony please follow the link [HERE](#).

Elizabeth is presented with an honorary degree at the time stamp of 54:26



## INTEREST GROUPS - ACTIVE AT THIS TIME



Each interest group that is active and would like to be included in the monthly newsletter must send their update to Emma by the last weekend of each month to be included in the proceeding month.

We encourage anyone interested in creating or inspiring an interest group to do so.

### COFFEE KLATCH



This group **meets on the second Friday morning of the month, anytime between 7:30 and 9:30 A.M. at the Avenue G coffee shop** on Greene Avenue (just south of Sherbrooke and Greene).



### BOOK CLUB BUDDIES

The group meets on **the third Monday of the month between 3:30 and 5:30 in the Club Room at the Atwater Library.**

The next meeting is  
**Monday, July 17**

Each member selects a book to recommend to the group on a rotational basis. Currently, the group is full. If this is of interest in a second Book Club please let us know.



## INTEREST GROUPS - OUTDOOR LADIES



On the right: Picnic lunch at Neuville-sur-Vanne park, Pointe-aux-Trembles: (l to r) Barbara , Ilea, Carmelita, Carly & Judi



The above photo was taken at the Lac-Brome Museum. The names follow:

(top, l to r) Valerie , Marie ; (middle, l to r) Adèle , Maria , Rahila , Zofia (yes, for once Zofia is in a picture, since a Museum staff member took it for them!) (bottom, l to r) Suneeti , Anna, Donna

On the left: Waiting to board the shuttle at Jacques-Cartier pier, Old Port: (l to r) Carly , Carmelita , Ilea , Barbara & Judi



A number of UWCM members were in Knowlton last week to view the mannequin exhibit. taken by Rahila of a mannequin with Valerie and Zofia hiding behind the wings!



Anna admiring the mannequin.



## INTEREST GROUPS

### WOMEN'S ISSUES GROUP

The next meeting of the Women's Issues interest group (dinner)

Location: Hillside Tennis Club  
4818 Chem. de la Côte des Neiges,  
Montréal, QC H3V 1G2

Date and time: July 27th @6pm

Please contact Olga to RSVP.



**OTHER INTEREST GROUPS THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST CAN BE FOUND BELOW.**

**YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP FOR THEM BY EMAILING VERONICA AT [UWCMTL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:UWCMTL@GMAIL.COM) WITH YOUR NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION. THE SUBJECT LINE IS THE CLUB YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN.**

### INTEREST GROUP CONVENER/ ORGANIZER

FIRESIDE GARDENING  
ELAINE BANDER

ARTS AND CRAFTS  
DIANNE THEORET-MAJOR

STAGE AND SOIREE  
LIZ WIRTH AND OLGA SHEVCHENKO

MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY - TBD

AFTERNOON TEA - TBD

LADIES WHO LUNCH  
LAURETTA ALEXANDER AND ADELE HEBERT

BRIDGE FOR ADVANCED PLAYERS  
SANDRA BRODSKY

BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS - TBD





## INTEREST GROUPS

### ATWATER LIBRARY LECTURES AND LUNCH

The Atwater Library Lunchtime Series features once-a-week presentations by leading writers, musicians, intellectuals, scientists, and many more people sharing their knowledge and experience with the Atwater Library community. **These events usually take place on Thursdays (but sometimes other days), from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. Located in room 7 after the lecture.**

Below is a list of Atwater Library events scheduled for the next month or so. Click [HERE](#) for the whole list of this season's upcoming events.

The next event is in September, please enjoy your summer breaks or activities.

**Thursday, September 21, 2023 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm**

IN PERSON AND BY ZOOM: Dr. Lawrence Rosenberg discusses his new book Patients Matter Most: How Healthcare Is Becoming Personal Again. Dr. Rosenberg is President and CEO of the CIUSSS West-Central Montreal healthcare network.

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

### NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Alice Holman

Suneeti Phadke

Kathryn McMorrow







# JULY PICNIC IN THE PARK



**5:30 pm Friday, July 21st**

**Westmont Park, we will be meeting at the star ★ on the map.**

**BYO food and beverage for the park, there are some picnic tables but we recommend bringing a folding chair if you can.**

**If you are coming from Sherbrooke Street, walk down the path on the east side of the library.**

**Contact Leah for any information regarding the Picnic.**

**If there is a rainy day the picnic will be rescheduled for the following Friday, July 28th.**

**We are still hoping to have a BBQ in the month of August.  
Stay tuned for more information.**



**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO REACH OUT TO OUR FELLOW UWCM MEMBERS THIS SUMMER IF YOU PLAN TO MEETING UP AROUND THE CITY AT VARIOUS EVENTS.**

**L'International des Feux Loto-Québec (June 29 to August 10, 2023)**

Lighting up the skies with eye-popping fireworks displays, Montréal's beloved International des Feux Loto-Québec guarantees an epic and finish to your summer city nights.

**MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE (July 6 to 16, 2023)**

The circus escapes from the Big Top and takes over the streets (and skies!) every July for Montréal complètement cirque. Be sure to do your neck stretches—expect 'did I just see that?' whiplash and constant looking up to catch the show!

**Festival International Nuits d'Afrique (July 11 to 23, 2023)**

Back for its 37th edition, the Festival International Nuits d'Afrique's packed programme of over 100 performances, activities and workshops celebrating Montréal's Caribbean, Latin American and African diaspora is guaranteed to keep you on your feet and dancing. This year's lineup features artists from more than 30 countries and includes a headline performance by the iconic Angélique Kidjo.

**Zoofest & OFF JFL (July 13 to 29, 2023)**

Cocky kid sibling to the Just for Laughs Festival, the envelope-pushing Zoofest and OFF JFL offers over 125 additional simultaneously programmed performances ranging from standup to burlesque—and the perfect opportunity to discover the next JFL headliners early on in their careers. Zoofest will feature shows by Ahmed Sparrow, Black Eye, Jay Laliberté, Katherine Levac, and many more! These shows take place at Café Cléopâtre, Le Balcon, Le Gesù, Théâtre Saint-Catherine, and Église Saint-James. Take a look at their website for more details.

**Just For Laughs (July 14 to 29, 2023)**

You've probably asked yourself, "Why is everyone laughing in Montréal every July?" The answer is simple: Just For Laughs is the world's top comedy festival, featuring the biggest names in standup and a packed schedule of up-and-comers. Prepare to bust several guts!

**Comiccon (July 14 to 16, 2023)**

Pop culture lovers gather at the annual Comiccon at the suitably colourful Palais des congrès de Montréal for a three-day convention bringing fans into direct contact with comic creators, sci-fi and fantasy authors and the creative teams behind beloved films and TV shows.

**Fantasia International Film Festival (July 20 to August 9, 2023)**

Celebrating genre cinema, the Fantasia International Film Festival offers spills, thrills and a hefty dose of chills across Montréal's biggest screens. Exciting premieres and filmmaker Q&As round out the program of the summer's most thrilling movie event.

**Mtl en Arts (Annually in July)**

Transforming Sainte-Catherine Street through Montréal's storied Gay Village into Eastern Canada's largest open-air arts gallery, Mtl en Arts gives platform to hundreds of artists to exhibit their unique wares and creations in the summer sun. As an added bonus, many works are for sale and will look great on your wall back home.

If you are interested in finding more events click the Link [HERE](#).



## CFUW NEWS

**Username:**

**Password:**

The link to the website for the members-only portal is [HERE](#).

As a member, you are welcome to access the exclusive side of the CFUW website. Please feel free to discover more information and details regarding international club news.

## GWJ NEWS

by Donna Jensen, UWCM-GWJ Liaison

**To read more on these topics follow the LINK provided [here](#).**

### **June 20 was World Refugee Day**

"A refugee is a person who has fled their own country because they are at risk of serious human rights violations and persecution there." (Amnesty International)

#### **HOW DOES A PERSON BECOME A REFUGEE?**

1. War (ex. 6.6 million from Ukraine, 13 million from Syria, 6 million from Afghanistan)
2. Persecution (ex. 53.2 million risked human-rights abuses in their own countries)
3. Economic hardship is usually an additional factor.

#### **RISKS REFUGEES FACE**

aggression, harassment and racism - often from some of the host countries - an increase in fascist and nationalist policies in recent years, particularly in developed, rich countries migration is often exhausting, complex and onerous with risks of theft, abuse and violence (like 20,000 drowned migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea in 2020) trauma and coping challenges: more than one in five refugees have mild to moderate forms of mental illness, including post-traumatic stress disorder.

#### **IMPACT ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

Women represent almost half of all refugees - 60 percent of preventable maternal deaths take place during humanitarian aid - gender violence is numerous - most vulnerable are those at least one in five displaced women has experienced sexual violence - alone, pregnant, disabled, elderly.

- Almost 14 million refugee children - almost 23 million internally displaced children - victims of smugglers, treated as slaves by traffickers - over 55 percent of refugee children (compared to 90 percent, have access to primary school - gap widens to 23% for secondary school.



## **GWJ NEWS - CONTINUED**

### **MANY MISCONCEPTIONS TO BE REFUTED**

1. Refugees come mainly to rich countries. In fact, 83 percent are welcomed in low- to middle-income countries. The six richest countries in the world only host 9 percent.
2. Refugees are only the impoverished. In fact, journeying to a secure location is very expensive. Often refugees have high qualifications and a fair economic situation in their country of origin.
3. Refugees receive more financial help than nationals. In fact, procedures are long, complex and precarious (often unable to work or study). When immigrant status is finally granted by the host country, financial aid does not represent more than the minimum necessary to live.
4. Welcoming refugees has a detrimental effect on the host country's economy. In fact, immigration tends to strengthen the economic growth of developed countries, notably by supporting the activity of key sectors and significantly increasing the level of employment. Following an increase in a given migration flow, GDP per capita will increase significantly while the unemployment rate falls. Immigrants also contribute to the economy by paying taxes.

### **GWJ POLICY RESOLUTIONS and REFUGEE PROGRAMS**

- 2019 Resolution 5: Human Rights for Refugee and Migrant Women and Children
- 2019 Resolution 6: Fair and Non-Discriminatory Mgmt of Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- 2010 Resolution 4: Abuse of Female Migrants
- 2001 Resolution 8: Human Rights of Women Refugees
- 1992 Resolution 20: Refugee Women Treatment
- 1936 Established "Hegg Hoffet programme for Refugee Women"

### **UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)**

- SDG 4: Quality education Refugee children suffer from major educational gaps, having only limited access to schools in their host country and facing a language barrier.
- SDG 5: Achieve gender equality Women refugees suffer even more discrimination and risk than men. They must not be forgotten in the struggle for gender equality.
- SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth Welcoming and integrating refugee populations has a positive impact on the economies of host countries, provided refugees receive the necessary assistance to obtain papers and find decent work.
- SDG 10: Reduced inequalities Welcoming refugees helps to reduce and even eliminate the many inequalities they face.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

- Financially support the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- Volunteer at local groups that offer help to refugees.
- Use social media to refute negative statements about refugees.
- Do the same when communicating with friends, family, colleagues.
- Offer temporary accommodation for refugees near you.
- Donate your unwanted clothing to suitable associations.
- Financially support local or international NGOs.

To read more on these topics follow the [LINK](#) provided here.



## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Valerie Aitken  
Lilija Gedvila  
Karen Sarah Ramirez  
Douglas Scott  
Normand Robert  
Geneviève Roy

**EXPOSITION  
EXHIBITION**

**13 JUILLET AU 19 AOÛT**  
La Galerie du Victoria Hall  
Vernissage : 12 juillet, 18 h à 20 h

La galerie du Victoria Hall a le plaisir d'exposer les œuvres de six artistes de Westmount dans le cadre de son exposition estivale de groupe.

**JULY 13 TO AUGUST 19**  
The Gallery at Victoria Hall  
Vernissage: July 12, 6 to 8 p.m.

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to exhibit the works of six Westmount artists as part of our summer group exhibition.

Bibliothèque et Archives communautaires  
Library and Community Centre



Leah Trineer, Valerie Aitken, Liz Wirth, Joan Hagerman, Andrea Bobkowicz, Olga Shevchenko,  
Zofia Laubitz, Maria Pogatsas, Maria Masi



## JULY

/ 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Coffee Klatch	15
16	17 Book Club Buddies	18 Gardening and Travel	19	20	21 Picnic 	22
23	24	25	26	27 Womans Issues	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	<b>BIRTHDAY'S THIS MONTH</b>  Zofia Laubitz - July 15 Miriam Roland - July 16	

If you have not given your birthday yet please email Emma Major at majoremma101@gmail.com

## AUGUST

/ 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 BBQ Date Pending	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Coffee Klatch	19
20	21 Book Club Buddies	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2