



UWCM

University Women's Club of Montreal DECEMBER 2024



Image by [Alain Audet](#) from [Pixabay](#)

In this issue

LIBBY EMOND-BOELEN TO SPEAK AT CLUB DINNER ON DECEMBER 4	2
GREETINGS FROM ACTING PRESIDENT	3
BARBARA LEWIS CONCERT DECEMBER 5.....	4
VISIT TO PAPETERIE SAINT-ARMAND DECEMBER 13.....	5
VISIT TO THE FALAISE DECEMBER 15	6
FOUNDATION NEWS: BANKSY ON JANUARY 11	8
MONTHLY DINNER	9
CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS.....	10
CONCERT NEWS.....	11
INTEREST GROUPS.....	12
FROM OUR NETWORK OF WOMEN'S CLUBS	14
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS	20
BIRTHDAYS	20
CLUB CALENDAR	21

LIBBY EMOND-BOELEN TO SPEAK AT CLUB DINNER ON DECEMBER 4

**** Doors open at 6:30 p.m. ****

Libby has been a member of both UWCM and UWC Sherbrooke & District for about 30 years.

Having emigrated from Europe in August 1948, Libby settled with her family in rural Ontario. Her career was in nursing, graduating first from the M.G.H. in 1957, getting her Bachelor of Nursing from the University of Toronto then completing a Master's at McGill University. She worked at hospitals in both Montreal and Toronto, as well as overseas.

She is married with four children and has travelled the world widely with her husband, accompanying him on work-related contracts and conferences. She retired in 2000.

At the Club dinner of **December 4**, Libby will provide an insight into war-ravaged Holland, not from the eyes of a soldier or even an adult but through the eyes of a young girl who was chosen by her family to be evacuated for the chance to survive.



Photo by Leah Trineer



*Image by
[Rudy and Peter Skitterians](#)
from [Pixabay](#)*

GREETINGS FROM ACTING PRESIDENT

By Leah Trineer

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

How lovely it was to see so many of you out at our last dinner meeting!! There was such a "buzz" in the air created by the conversations of new and old friends. We welcomed a few guests, prospective members and even our newest member. Once again, I would like to remind everyone to make your reservation with our Dinner Coordinator by the posted deadline so that no one is disappointed. We want to accommodate everyone but we also want to give La Classe the correct numbers so that they can properly plan for the evening.

Let me take this opportunity to ask you to put January 15th on your calendars for the first meeting of the new year. February will be our "Home Dinners" month, a great opportunity to get to know one another in smaller and quieter venues. The sign-up sheets will be available at both the December and January dinners as well as via an e-mail option through the Newsletter. We encourage the dinners to happen during the week of our normal meeting date, the week of February 17th. Other than that, we are open to helping you get together at times that are convenient to you; lunchtime is also an option, assuming that there are sufficient hosts and guests to create an event.

We have a special treat planned for our December meeting. In recent years, we have made it a once-in-a-while habit to have one of our members speak to us on a topic of their choice. Given the season and the fact that this is the 80th anniversary since Libby Emond-Boelen had to evacuate her native Holland due to World War II, we have asked her to speak to us. On December 6th, two nights after our dinner, is *Sinterklaas* – a holiday widely celebrated in Holland – and it seemed most appropriate to take this opportunity to learn, firsthand, of this experience from one of our members. So many of our veterans, parents, and grandparents that survived the war are no longer around to speak of life during the war but on this evening, we will hear the remembrances of a young child who had to leave her home on Christmas Eve in 1944. The presentation will not be too long, leaving us extra time to chat and enjoy the festiveness of the upcoming season.

Let me take this opportunity to wish each of you, the happiest of holidays and the very best for the year to come!

Image by Almeida from Pixabay

BARBARA LEWIS CONCERT DECEMBER 5

Enjoy hearing talented songstress Barbara Lewis, a Club member, in concert at the Atwater Library. Barbara wrote this welcoming invitation:



Wonderful pianist/singer, Doug Balfour will join me on Thurs., **December 5** at 12:30 EST for our annual Christmas concert at the Atwater Library in Montreal.

You can register [here](#) on Zoom or join us in the warm ambience of the Adair Auditorium in the Atwater Library located at: 1200 Atwater Ave, Westmount, Quebec H3Z 1T4. There is an elevator to float you up to the second floor.

We'll sing many of the songs that people have requested over the years. And we have a few new songs too. So, it's a mix of audience favourites, spiced up with some lesser-known songs. The concert is about one hour long.

The feeling in the hall (and on Zoom, I hope) will be warm, fun and emotional. These holiday songs evoke not only precious memories of past Christmases but also our hopes for the current and future seasons as well. It's our once-a-year dip into the holiday ups and downs, joys and sorrows. But mostly it's a fun and upbeat concert. Join us if you are free!

Bring your heart and your voice. As always, there will be a singalong...

*Love to all,
Barbara*

VISIT TO PAPETERIE SAINT-ARMAND DECEMBER 13



Date: Wednesday, **December 13**, 11 a.m.
Where: 700, rue Saint-Patrick, #01, Montréal,
H4E 1A2

*Or be at the Atwater Library at 10:30 a.m. if you need a lift. Please communicate with Leah Trineer to guarantee a spot.

At our October Club dinner, we heard guest speakers David and Denise Carruthers present their company, [Papeterie Saint-Armand](http://st-armand.com/). Along with their staff, they produce fine hand- and machine-made art and archival paper products.

From the company website:

David Carruthers opened the Saint-Armand paper-mill in January 1979. He just had left his job at the Pulp & Paper Association of Canada because he had enough of office work. His knowledge of the paper trade told him that there was room for hand-made paper mills, with a dash of technology. His background was in History of Economics and he loves 19th century technology.



Read more of this great story [here](#).

Acting President Leah Trineer is organizing a visit to the paper mill on **December 11**. You can see the mill and how it works, and maybe pick up a gift or two in time for the holidays.



Interested? Contact Leah.

Images from the Papeterie's website, <http://st-armand.com/>

VISIT TO THE FALAISE DECEMBER 15

Message from Urbanature on behalf of Club member Lisa Mintz. See also the poster on the following page.

Hello!

Winter Bird Count



Join us for a fun and meaningful day of citizen science at the Winter Bird Count on December 15th! Help wildlife researchers track local bird populations while enjoying the beauty of winter wildlife in the Falaise St Jacques.



We will meet at 10am in the Falaise to start our survey. We will have experts and bird count sheets on hand, so all you need to bring is your enthusiasm (and binoculars, and field guides, if you have)! We should be done around noon.

What day: **December 15**

What time: 10a a.m. to noon

Where: Falaise St Jacques (6510 Rue St Jacques Ouest)

Who: Nature and bird enthusiasts of all ages!

For more info on Winter Bird Counts and finding the Falaise, get a (free) ticket from the link below.

You can find more details on our [Facebook event](#) page and the [zefy link for tickets](#).

We would be grateful if you could share this with your networks.


urbanature
éducation
Urbanature Education
Comms Team
urbanature.org

Family Fun in the Falaise **DECEMBER 15**

Winter Bird Count with Bird Protection Quebec!

Join us in counting resident birds to help inform wildlife researchers and policymakers!

10 am - Noon



FOUNDATION NEWS: BANKSY ON JANUARY 11

Join us at our upcoming fundraiser. Group tickets are running out

By Donna Jensen

The Art of Banksy Without Limits Exhibition ([info](#))
When: Saturday, **January 11**, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.
Where: La Maison du Festival
305 Ste-Catherine St. West, Montreal H2X 2A3
Tickets: \$45 (with a charitable tax receipt of \$24)
(Pay by cheque made out to UWCM Foundation)

A well-known but secretive graffiti artist, Banksy is England-based and has been politically active since the 1990s. View and immerse yourself in over 170 of his works, from a simulation of his largest piece (Dismaland) to a replica of his work protesting the crisis in the Mediterranean.

Due to the ongoing postal disruption, Donna Jensen will be at the venue from 10:30 am to exchange your cheque for your ticket. Don't wait! Almost all the 20 tickets have been sold.



Image by [Zorro4](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Annual Giving Campaign

Reminder that the 2024-25 Annual Giving Campaign runs until June 30, 2025. You already should have received a detailed letter in the mail.

Foundation Chair Donna Jensen writes that she and the other Trustees greatly appreciate the generous financial support of members and their families and friends.



Please Donate

Click the button to donate! The Foundation accepts donations all year long.

A charitable tax receipt is provided for all monetary donations of \$20 or more.

MONTHLY DINNER

CHANGES :

Exceptionally this month, **December 4**, doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Lauren Rudy is Dinner Coordinator as of January 2025.

Speaker

Libby Emond-Boelen is our guest speaker. See page 2 for details.

About Club Dinners

Our dinners generally take place at [La Classe](#) restaurant, 2000 St-Catherine Street West. Doors usually open around 6 p.m. but **exceptionally on Dec. 4th they open at 6:30 p.m.** Each dinner features a special guest who gives a talk on a subject of interest to members. Price: \$30 each – CASH ONLY. Wine and liquor are available at the bar and can be paid by cash, debit or credit.



Image by [Terri Cnudde](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Free underground parking

The entrance is on Fort Street, south of Ste-Catherine. (Park on level P3 and take the elevator to sous-sol. At evening's end, push the tollbooth button marked "assistance" and mention "La Classe.")

Menu selections, RSVP info, and new Dinner Coordinator in 2025

Each month, you will receive an email with menu selections and a deadline to RSVP.

For December, the Dinner Coordinator is Sheila Mohammed. As of January 2025, our Dinner Coordinator will be Lauren Rudy.

Much thanks to Sheila for all her hard work organizing dinners since 2019. And we greatly appreciate Lauren for taking on this role moving forward!

CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS

We need YOU!

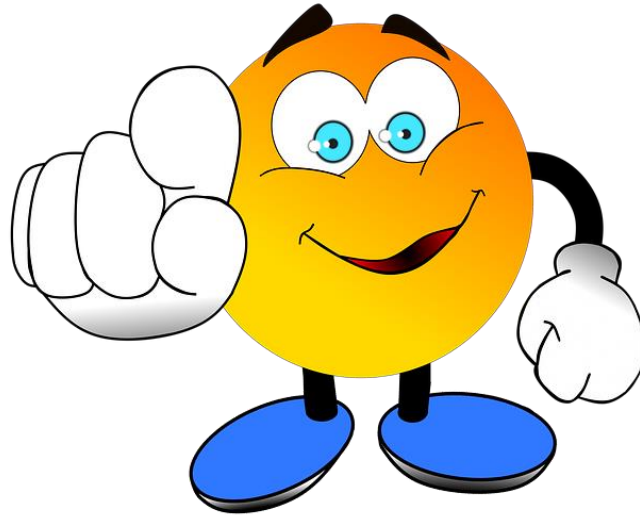


Image by [Christian Dorn](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Club Communications Director

Dianne Theoret-Major has stepped down as Communications Director while remaining as a Board member.

Will YOU be willing to take on this role in coming months? Please contact Board member Barbara Lewis or Acting President Leah Trineer.

Provincial Council Advocacy Committee

Johanne Gaudreau (South Shore University Women's Club) has let us know that the Provincial Advocacy Committee, which she heads, seeks new members. Interested in contributing? Contact Johanne.



CONCERT NEWS



Photo by [Arindam Mahanta](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Liz Wirth and Leah Trineer tell us about these upcoming musical events (we're listing just a few of many):

[Orchestre classique de Montréal](#) (OCM)

- [Handel's Messiah](#), **December 12**

[Orchestre de l'Agora](#)

- [Fiddlers and Northern Folklore](#), **December 13**

Christ Church Cathedral

- [Sing-along Messiah](#), December 14

[Schulich School of Music](#) (McGill)

- [Chorale de Gesù](#), **December 22**

[Opéra de Montréal](#)

- Next opera takes place in February.

INTEREST GROUPS

Book Club Buddies: Space for A New Member

- Each member selects a book to recommend to the group. The group meets on the third Monday of the month from 4:00 to 5:30 in the Club Room at the Atwater Library.
- Next meeting: **January 20**. No meeting in December.
- **There is one vacancy for anyone who would like to join.** Interested? Contact Tanya Fitzpatrick.

Coffee Klatch (Note new start time)

- This group meets on the second Friday morning of each month, starting around 7:15 a.m. at Avenue G coffee shop on Greene Avenue (just south of Sherbrooke). Next get-together: **December 13**.
- For information: Leah Trineer.

Library Lectures & Lunch:

(NOTE: No lunches in January)

- This is different from other interest groups in that convenor Carly Pepler has no list of participants, but she keeps our members aware of upcoming Atwater Library lectures. For info and see the full series, click [here](#).
- After the in-person lectures, Carly serves a light lunch for \$5 in Room 7 of the library. Let her know if you are going.
- Upcoming lectures and events:
 - **December 5**: Christmas concert with UWCM member Barbara Lewis accompanied by Doug Balfour. Attend in person to enjoy the lunch; you can also enjoy the concert over Zoom.
 - **January 9, 16, 23 and 30**: Zoom-only events. **No lunch in Club Room.**
 - In-person lectures resume in February. Stay tuned for details.

INTEREST GROUPS (cont'd)

Museum & Art Gallery Jaunters: Witchcraft exhibit in January

- This group has guided tours with local museums.
- You are welcome to join the group. For information, contact co-convenors Adèle Hébert and Pilar Shephard-Cumming.
- **Our next visit:** Pointe-à-Callière Museum of Archaeology and History
 - **Address:** 350 Place Royale, Vieux Montreal
 - **NOTE:** There is a limit of 15 people. Please reserve your place **before December 20.**
 - **EXHIBITION:** [Witches- Out of The Shadows](#)
 - **DATE:** Wednesday, **January 8, 2025**
 - **TIME:** 1:10 p.m. (guided tour to start at 1:30 p.m.)
 - **COST:** \$20 seniors (65+), \$27 adults (31-64), \$18 young adults (18-30), FREE kids (0-4)
 - This fascinating exhibition takes us into the history of witches and their world. There are 400 pieces from North American and European collections, including ethnographic objects, manuscripts, paintings, letters, symbols and practises of witchcraft from long ago to today. Of note is that mainly during the 17th and 18th centuries, women were often persecuted, discriminated against and killed – and it still goes on today!
 - **If you are interested** in coming, email Pilar Shephard or Maria Masi.
 - After our tour, we could gather together at the museum coffee shop to discuss the exhibition!

INTEREST GROUPS (cont' d)

Outdoor Ladies

- This group enjoys a variety of fun activities around town. There are none scheduled for the colder months of December through February or March.
- To join, if you want to lead an activity of your own, or for information, contact convenor Zofia Laubitz.

Women's Issues

- This group meets to discuss women's issues over dinner, generally on the last Thursday of the month. This season's discussions focus on **aging**.
- Next meeting: **January 30**.
- The group meets at the [McGill Faculty Club](#), 3450 McTavish. Olga writes: "We meet at 6:00 pm for a cocktail, and around 6:45, we will go upstairs to the dining room. So, you may join us at any time convenient for you. Please don't forget that you may park at the back of the Faculty Club building for \$15. If you need more information about the parking, please let me know."
- For more information, contact convenor Olga Shevchenko.

The plan for the November dinner had been to discuss dementia further to our aging theme. However, the dining room was busy and loud. We put aside our plans and simply enjoyed conversing with those seated close by. A good time was had by all.

FROM OUR NETWORK OF WOMEN'S CLUBS



Montreal Council of Women
(MCW)

Holiday Luncheon, December 12

From the MCW November Newsletter:

MCW President Linda Bell Serpone writes,

As we approach the festive season, I am delighted to invite you to our upcoming Holiday Luncheon on December 12th. This year's event promises to be particularly special as we gather to celebrate the spirit of community and service that defines our organization.

To register, go to this [link](#).



FROM OUR NETWORK, cont'd



Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)

Brief on Gender-Based Violence

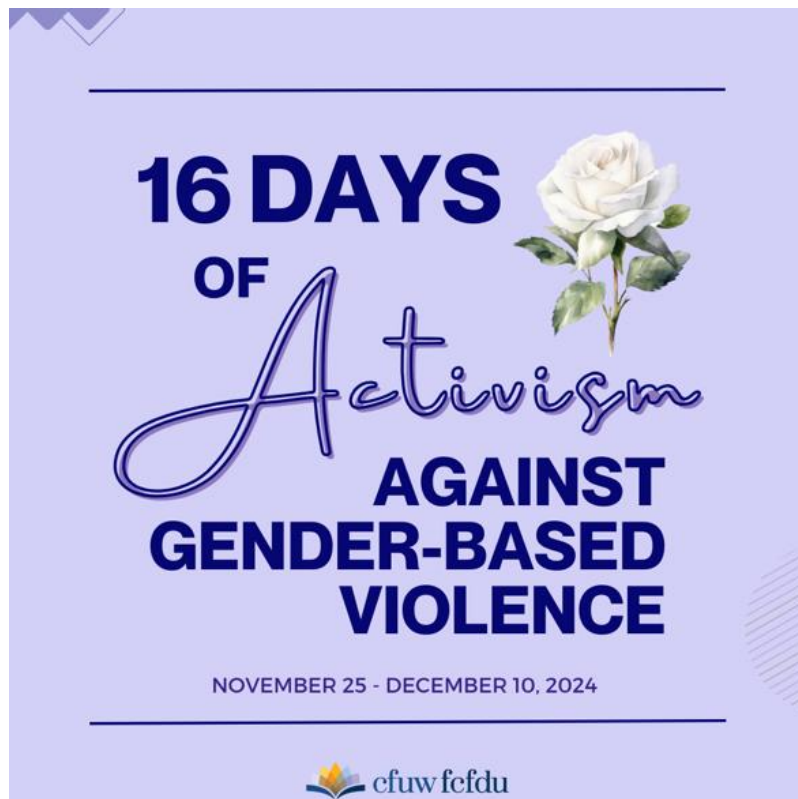
In previous newsletters, we reported that CFUW launched a campaign of "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" running from **November 25 to December 10**. The information package is [here](#).

Its November 15th newsletter includes this report:

CFUW recently submitted a brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women for its study on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. Our brief focused on the importance of gun control measures as a critical way to prevent femicide.

CFUW has a long history of advocating for stricter gun control, following the 1989 École Polytechnique massacre. Access to firearms is one of the highest risk indicators for intimate partner violence resulting in death. The danger is particularly high in rural areas, where both the risk of gender-based violence and access to guns are higher. In fact, firearms are the most common method used to kill an intimate partner or child in rural areas. Guns are also used as tools to intimidate, control, and coerce, with their presence in the home often making it too dangerous for women to leave abusive situations.

Read CFUW's full parliamentary brief [here](#).



FROM OUR NETWORK, cont'd



GWI International Fellowships

From the GWI November 20th Newsletter:

Applications now open for 2025 GWI international fellowships

These esteemed fellowships are designed to support women scholars worldwide as they advance their postgraduate studies and research. This year, GWI welcomes applications from women currently enrolled in PhD programs and encourages all eligible readers to apply. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your studies with GWI's support!

*Please note that the application deadline is **15 January** 2025. To review the 2025 Fellowship Guidelines and Instructions, click [here](#). Download the 2025 Fellowship Application [here](#).*

GWI Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

From the GWI email of November 22:

GWI will run its annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign from 25 November to 10 December. We are excited about this campaign and the relevant and critical information it shares.

This year's campaign features 47 tailored posts, each spotlighting one of GWI's affiliates, to providing resources and vital information on how women can report gender-based and domestic violence in their country, including contact details for national and local hotlines. Our campaign tagline, "Breaking the Silence, Reclaiming Our Power," calls on individuals and communities to stand up against violence and embrace empowerment in the face of adversity. Together, we aim to amplify voices, support survivors, and work toward a world free from gender-based violence.

For our cover page (see next page), we chose the gladiolus flower, a symbol of strength, courage and integrity, reflecting the resilience of many women overcoming the challenges of domestic violence



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

GLADIOLUS THE FLOWER
OF STRENGTH, COURAGE
AND INTEGRITY

**BREAKING THE SILENCE,
RECLAIMING OUR POWER**



Graduate Women International (GWI)

FROM OUR NETWORK, cont'd



The National Council of Women of Canada & Every Woman Treaty
Celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the CEDAW Convention
WELCOMING OUR ESTEEMED PRESENTERS
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN -
His Excellency Bob Rae
REEM ALSALEM - UN Special Rapporteur
SUSAN MARX - Director of Human Rights Program at The Carter Center

**FRIDAY
DECEMBER
6TH
@ 11 AM EST**

REGISTER TODAY

An illustration at the bottom of the banner shows a line of diverse women of various ethnicities and ages, all holding hands. They are wearing colorful clothing, including headscarves and traditional dresses. The background is a dark purple.

From the NCWC November Newsletter: Join "The NCWC and Every Woman Treaty" on Friday, **December 6** virtually at 11 am EST.

Celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the CEDAW Convention and the need for a New Optional Protocol to CEDAW to End Violence against Women and Girls.

Register [here](#).

TO CATCH UP ON MORE NETWORK NEWS

Subscribe to the *CFUW Club Action* newsletter [here](#).

Subscribe to the *GWI Update Newsletter* [here](#).

Sign up for the NCWC newsletter [here](#).

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The UWCM is pleased to announce the following returning and new members. Welcome, Yvonne and Sylvia.

~ ~ ~

BIRTHDAYS



The birthday list is a work in progress. Let us know if we missed yours.

Image by [Sukumar Roy](#) from [Pixabay](#)

CLUB CALENDAR

Club activities in **yellow**; external ones mentioned in newsletter in **blue**.

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
01	02	03	04 Club Dinner	05 Barbara Lewis concert/ Library Lectures & Lunch	06 35th anniv. École Poly. shooting NCWC Celebration of CEDAW Convention	07
08	09	10 End of campaign vs. Gender-Based Violence	11 Board Meeting	12 MCW Holiday Lunch Handel's Messiah, OCM	13 Coffee Klatch Visit to Papeterie Saint-Armand Fiddlers & Northern Folklore, Orchestre de l'Agora	14 Sing-along Messiah, Christ Church Cathedral
15 Falaise Bird Count	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Chorale de Gesù at McGill	23	24	25 Merry Christmas Happy Hanukkah	26	27	28
29	30	30				

CLUB CALENDAR (cont' d)

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			01 Happy New Year! 	02	03	04
05	06	07	08 Jaunters: Witches exhibit Board Meeting	09 Library Lecture – Zoom only	10 Coffee Klatch	11 Foundation fundraiser: Banksy
12	13	14	15 Club Dinner GWI Fellowship Application Deadline	16 Library Lecture – Zoom only	17	18
19	20 Book Club	21	22	23 Library Lecture – Zoom only	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Library Lecture – Zoom only Women's Issues	30	

Image: [Gerd Altmann](#) from [Pixabay](#)

The UWCM meeting room

Atwater Library
Club Room #7
1200 Atwater Avenue
Westmount, QC
H3Z 1X4

Click on these icons to
stay in touch



*Mauricie
Photo by Lorraine O'Donnell*

Newsletter Production

Editor: Lorraine O'Donnell
Copy editor: Donna Jensen

Happy Holidays!