



cfuw fcfd
UWC MONTREAL INC

Club Room, Unit #7
Atwater Library
1200 ave. Atwater
Westmount, QC
H3Z 1X4

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Wednesday, January 21

Starting at 6:00 pm

Geso Ristorante

1800 Sherbrooke St. W, H3H 1E5

To reserve your spot, contact
Mica Faciu

before 11:00 a.m. January 19.

In our first dinner meeting of 2026, we welcome Rosalind Pepall, who for over thirty years worked at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) as Curator of Canadian Art as well as Senior Curator of Decorative Arts.

During the pandemic, Rosalind released a book, *Talking to a Portrait: Tales of an Art Curator*. In it we learn that the role of a curator extends to detective work in putting together a collection, researching the history of pieces to be exhibited, negotiating with the owners of private collections, and determining how the space will be designed for an exhibit, sometimes having to recreate the site to exact specifications.

Besides taking us behind the scenes of an art gallery, the book, while written as a series of short stories, also speaks to some lesser known facts about the local history of Montreal and Quebec over the past century, including the creation of the Stanley Cup, the inner workings of Tiffany, and stories of some of the Group of Seven.

Rosalind travelled extensively over her career, whether curating an exhibition for the MMFA or assisting in the transfer of art from the museum to special exhibits around the world.

Ms. Pepall has recently given a presentation to our sister club, CFUW Toronto, on a similar theme.



MEAL: \$62 (cash)

glass of wine: \$16 (cash or c.c.)

incl. taxes and tip

(Menu will be emailed before
January 15.)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, dear members. Let's celebrate what we accomplished together in 2025 and look forward to some key events in 2026.

The heart of UWCM, our monthly Club dinners are where member friendships can start and grow. Thanks to your survey input, we found venues reflecting members' preferences. We also invested in a portable amplifier to ensure everyone can enjoy the presentations. And we updated our land acknowledgment statement, reaffirming our commitment to inclusion. Thanks to Mica Faciu, Sheila Mohamed, Veronica Noble, and Leah Trineer for dinner organization and programming.

Behind the scenes, the Board strengthened our Club. We clarified Director job descriptions and our relationship with CFUW. Olga Shevchenko secured a CFUW grant for membership activities. Treasurer Adèle Hébert ensured careful management of Club funds and Margarita worked wonders with minutes of our complex meetings. We participated in the [Quebec Council of CFUW](#), maintaining provincial links, Leah liaised with CFUW to plan the 2026 AGM, and Veronica updated us on [Graduate Women International](#) activities.

For communications, our website is being migrated to Montreal providers, and Donna Jensen is working on content updates. Donna also produces this beautiful newsletter, and Barbara Lewis keeps us informed through Club emails. Thanks to Lauren Rudy, our social media presence is back. Check out our Facebook page [here](#).

Our active Interest Groups include Coffee Klatch (Leah), Library Lectures & Lunch (Carly Pepler), Book Club (Tanya Fitzpatrick), Women's Issues (Olga), and Museum Jaunters (Adèle). Warm thanks to the convenors and to

Pilar Shepherd-Cumming for running the Sunflowers Art Gallery group over the fall.

The "How Are You/Comment ça va?" committee makes friendly calls to members (thanks to Barbara and her team) and Lynn Travers is reviving our public voice through the Advocacy Committee. Donna and the Centenary Committee (Elaine Bander, Susan Button, Andrea de Gosztanyi) commissioned nice tote bags to raise funds for 2027. Also active in fundraising are Foundation Co-Chairs Maya Bergeron-Métivier and Leah to support initiatives that uplift women and improve our Montreal community. The Foundation Trustees met during the fall to plan a 2026 fundraiser, and kicked off the Annual Giving Campaign in November.

Looking ahead, here are some key events for women that our Club will be watching in the new year:

- **March 8** – International Women's Day
- **March 9–20** – UN Commission on the Status of Women ([CSW70](#)), New York City
- **July 20-24** – CFUW [Annual General Meeting](#) in Montreal (we're helping host!)

Beyond these, we'll continue building connections and supporting members throughout 2026.

UWCM offers a space for connection, support, and engagement. For those who want to get more involved, there are plenty of opportunities. Just let me or any Board member know: you are most welcome!



Lorraine O'Donnell

President

PHOTO CREDIT: © CONCORDIA
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BY LISA GRAVES



NEXT MONTH: HOME DINNERS

February is “Home Dinner” month at UWCM. For weather and travel considerations, we will attempt to keep you as close to home as conveniently possible.

While the organization of the evening will be left partially up to the host and her guests, we do suggest holding it during the week of February 16th. It is intended to create an opportunity for members to meet in a more intimate setting and to make newer members feel welcome. The evening will be potluck, so please coordinate with your host when she calls about bringing an appetizer, a casserole, vegetable(s), dessert, bread or wine. It is meant to be a no-fuss evening with lots of time to chat.



Answer the following questions to help match guests with hosts:

- 1) Would you like to host or be a guest?
- 2) If hosting, what is the maximum number of people you can accommodate? (For clarity, please include yourself in this number.)
- 3) What day of the week of February 16th do you prefer (first and/or second choice)?
- 4) Would a lunch option be preferable (this is also subject to sufficient interest)?
- 5) Do you have any dietary restrictions?

Before January 15, email Leah Trineer (**subject “Home Dinner”**) so that a schedule can be drafted for circulation and to allow time for the host to receive the guest list and to contact the guests.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved revised board job descriptions.
- Approved letter of congratulations to newly elected Montreal mayor and agreed it should also be bilingual.
- Discussed possible e-transfer payments.
- Discussed updated signing officers.
- Approved letter re Bill 2 to Westmount-Saint-Louis MNA and agreed it should be bilingual.
- Agreed that Board meetings will start at 6:00 pm.
- Discussed the Club’s relationship with CFUW and how clubs must abide by the bylaws, policies and procedures of CFUW.
- Accepted resignation from the Board of member-at-large Pilar Shepherd-Cumming.

Newsletter Editor Donna Jensen
Copy Editor, Proofreader Lauren Rudy



GWI NEWS

By Veronica Noble

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is an annual global campaign from Nov. 25 to Dec. 10 that unites individuals and organizations to challenge GBV.

Our umbrella organization, Graduate Women International (GWI) created a powerful campaign that put the spotlight each day on a different form of GBV and its impact on girls' and women's education.

The campaign explores how GBV restricts rights, safety, well-being, and learning opportunities. Each of the 16 posts addresses

a distinct form of GBV, falling in three categories:

(i) *Individual and Family Level Violence* (such as early and forced marriages or violence against older women)

(ii) *Structural and Institutional Violence* (such as unequal access to education or academic and professional harassment) and

(iii) *Systemic and Emerging Cultural Violence* (such as technology-facilitated violence or sexist hate speech).

To access the full GWI campaign click [HERE](#).

(Source: GWI International News- December 3, 2025, edition)

CFUW NEWS

CFUW-FCFDU President's Message

By Linda Sestock

Are you a leader? How do you know if you are a leader? Do you care for others, speak up when things are not right? Care about how your club and CFUW run and the world around you? Are you good with numbers, social media, parliamentary rules, good with running a meeting or just ready to learn?

Then CFUW needs you! This is the time to reach out to your local executive, Regional Director and Regional President to let them know you are ready to serve.

And if you are an RD, Regional President and Club executive - you need to be reaching out to the women around you who you think could be a great candidate for your executive or provincial or national level. Whether you are

new or are a seasoned CFUW member, we want to hear from you.

Elections for Board positions will take place at the July 2026 AGM. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted (details to come). On **January 29, 6pm ET** there will be a webinar that will give you an opportunity to get more details from Board members, and the nominations process will be reviewed, followed by a Q&A. Register [HERE](#)

Nominations Timeline

February 27: Call for Board nominations

April 13 5:00 pm ET: Deadline for submitting nomination forms

April 17 Candidate list distributed to clubs

April 27: "Meet the Candidates" Webinar



EVENTS CALENDAR - JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 BOARD MEETING	8	9 COFFEE KLATCH	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 BOOK CLUB BUDDIES	20	21 DINNER AT GESO RISTORANTE	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 WOMEN'S ISSUES	30	31

DIRECTORY UPDATE

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Holly Haimerl

Karen Brown

Gretchen Cheung

Haya Chetrit

Karen Staudinger

Mary Szego



CENTENARY COMMITTEE

Celebrate the Club's 100th year in style! Help us raise funds for our Centenary Gala scheduled for **Wednesday, October 20, 2027**.

Buy your centenary tote bag at the early-bird special price of \$25 each (two for \$45) payable in cash or by e-transfer to Donna Jensen.

After January 31, the price will be \$30 each.



SUBSCRIBE TO:

- CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women) *Club Action* newsletter [HERE](#).
- GWI (Global Women International) *The Update* newsletter [HERE](#).
- NCWC (National Council of Women of Canada) newsletter [HERE](#).

CORRECTION

In the "Timeline of Milestones" article (December 2025), it was stated that in 1982 Bertha Wilson became the first female justice in Canadian history when, in fact, she became the first female justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. Thank you to UWCM member Justice Carol Cohen for pointing out the error.

MEMBERSHIP

Invoices have been mailed to members. Payment is due, in full, by January 31, or by two cheques made payable to UWCM, dated January 1 and March 15.



FOUNDATION FACTS



To donate anytime, scan this QR code or click [HERE](#).

Details about our spring fundraiser coming soon!



MUSEUM JAUNTERS

The Jaunters met on November 21st at the brand new Design and Decorative Arts Pavilion (originally the Liliane and David M. Stewart Pavillion - 1976) of the Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal complex.

OlgaShevchenko left the group before they gathered for lunch at the newly redesigned museum restaurant.



Taken in front of Dale Chihuly's 2003 sculpture "The Sun" composed of hundreds of rays of blown glass.
(Photo courtesy of Adèle Hebert)

From left: Judith Ritchie, Anna di Turi, Diane Dunn, Adèle Hebert, Elaine Bander, Maria Ardito Masi, Alaka McConnell.



INTEREST GROUPS

BOOK CLUB BUDDIES

Monday, January 19, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

UWCM Club Room, 1200 Atwater Avenue

This group usually meets the third Monday of each month. Each member of the group chooses a book to discuss. The book presenter acts as host and brings snacks and beverages for participants. She also leads the discussion on her book of choice. This month: *The Cider House Rules* by John Irving will be presented by Donna Jensen. Convenor: Tanya Fitzpatrick

LIBRARY LECTURES & LUNCH

To resume in February. - 12:30 to 3:00 pm

Atwater Library Auditorium & our Club Room
After the 12:30 in-person lectures, Carly serves a light lunch for \$5 in our Club Room. Great chance to discuss the lecture and catch up with fellow members. Visit [Atwater Library](#) for the full schedule. ***NOTE: Let Carly know if you will attend her lunch.*** Convenor: Carly Pepler

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Thursday, January 29, 6:00 pm

Over drinks and dinner at the McGill Faculty Club, the group meets first for a cocktail and then moves to the dining room 45 minutes later. Parking for \$15 is available at the back of the Faculty Club building.
Convenor: Olga Shevchenko

COFFEE KLATCH

Friday, January 9, 7:45 - 9:00 am

Avenue G coffee shop, 1386 Greene Avenue

We meet on the second Friday of each month, starting around 7:45 a.m. at Avenue G.
Convenor: Leah Trineer

MUSEUM JAUNTERS

January date and time: TBD

View works of art and learn of various cultures from here and around the world. Enjoy visits to local museums like the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.
Convenor: Adèle Hebert

OUTDOOR LADIES

Outings will resume in the spring.

This group enjoys a variety of fun and interesting walks around town and on the outskirts of the city during spring, summer and fall.
Convenor: Rahila Bootwala

BIRTHDAYS

Carly Pepler - January 4
Anna di Turi - January 22
Linda Edgar - January 26
Andrea de Gosztanyi - January 29

