



cfuw fcfdu
UWC MONTREAL INC

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

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Published April 25, 2026



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, May 27

Starts at 7:00 p.m.

La Maison Forget

1195 Sherbrooke St.W. H3A1H9
(between Stanley and Drummond)
Take Peel Metro Station.

**Wine and cheese will
be served when doors open
at 6:00 p.m.**

**RSVP Mica Faciu
before May 20.**

Apologies: Premises are
not wheelchair accessible.

**DON'T FORGET
YOUR NAME TAG.**

**NEXT SPEAKER AT THE
JUNE 17 DINNER: Chez Doris Representative**



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Year in Review: First Year Highlights

For 2025-2026, my first year as President, the UWCM Board focused on strengthening foundations, modernizing operations, and sustaining the strong sense of community that defines our Club.

Administration & Governance

- Clarified Board roles and task timelines through updated and approved documents
- Clarified our formal relationship with CFUW
- Held regular Board meetings to ensure accountability and continuity
- Managed a period of Board transition following two mid-term departures for personal reasons and welcomed a new Member at Large
- Ethics, Policy & Privacy
- Confirmed by Board vote that the CFUW Code of Ethical Behaviour serves as our Club's own
- Formalized membership recruitment procedures
- Adopted privacy and consent policies for newsletters and social media
- Considered Law 25 to support compliance with digital privacy requirements

Corporate & Digital Renewal

- Began comprehensive website renewal by rewriting and removing outdated content
- Transitioned platform and domain to Montreal and engaged a new local web developer
- Reviewed legacy emails
- Increased and diversified social media activity

Membership & Engagement

- Welcomed nearly two dozen new members
- Got a CFUW grant support membership actions
- Hosted informal cocktail events to welcome prospective members

Committees

- Established an ad hoc Dinner Venue Committee that surveyed members and selected Geso as our main monthly dinner venue

- Centenary Committee is actively preparing for the Club's anniversary in 2027
- Formed the How Are You / Comment ça va Committee to make personal calls to members of our bilingual Club

Club Life & Special Programming

- Sustained participation in 10+ Interest Groups
- Continued monthly Club dinners, now opening with a revised Land Acknowledgement
- Hosted an International Women's Day screening of the NFB film *The Nest*
- Attended an enjoyable pearl presentation, with members sharing their own collections
- Purchased and implemented a portable PA system to improve speaker accessibility
- Initiated a Francophone Québec Learning Circle (temporary group) of four dynamic sessions on Québec politics, history, and culture—a personal highlight.

External & CFUW Engagement

- Joined in the Coldest Night of the Year walk
- Sent advocacy letter on Bill 2 to MNA and welcome letter to Mayor Martinez Ferrada
- Remained active provincially and nationally within CFUW, ahead of its July AGM and Conference in Montreal
- Attended virtual CFUW 2025 AGM
- Kept ties with Graduate Women International
- I attended GWI Triennial in Zambia and served as a McGill Trailblazers Case Competition judge with other CFUW Quebec Club members

This year reinforced how deeply the Club depends on committed volunteers. As a social and intellectual home, the Club's vitality and resilience rest on shared participation and responsibility. My sincere thanks to the 2025-2026 Board. See you at the May 27th AGM!

Lorraine O'Donnell

President



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Decided AGM start time and date of notice.
- Discussed revitalizing social media presence, website and club image.
- Heard Interest Group coordinator report on five new convenors.
- Resolved old email issue.
- Website updating is progressing.
- Learned of Quebec Council of CFUW AGM on May 2 in Lennoxville.
- Discussed plan to revitalize Club image (website, business cards, welcome pamphlet)
- Considered assigning a mentor to each new member.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT

By Donna Jensen

Thirteen members and one guest attended our International Women's Day event in the Club Room on March 23rd. The film entitled *The Nest* is a documentary — provided to CFUW by the National Film Board— of a family home with 140 years of feminist, Indigenous, deaf, and Japanese history.

Co-hosted by me and Lynn Travers, the evening's light refreshments consisted of popcorn and Perrier, shrimp and cold pizza

bites. Bonus: the Foundation received \$40 in cash donations.

Maria Ardito Masi wrote that she “learned more about Canadian history and the diversity of people that live in this country.”

Zofia Laubitz wrote that the film was “full of interesting characters (women, in fact), living and dead! If you can get a chance to see it, I'd recommend it.”

Click [HERE](#) to view the 90-minute film.

CHEZ DORIS BENEFIT COCKTAIL



Thursday, May 28, 6:00 pm
Maison Principale Montréal
872, du Couvent street

chezdoris.org

For information:
Philanthropy Team:
don-donation@chezdoris.org
514-937-2341, ext 261



CFUW NEWS

Elder Action Day Webinar

The Condition of Home Care in Canada
Friday, May 1, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m EDT

Join via ZOOM in a panel discussion about the national conversation on aging in one's own home and the conditions needed to help aging Canadians live independently, safely, and with dignity. For more information, click [here](#). To receive you Zoom link, [REGISTER](#) today!

Featured Panel Speakers

André Picard: Award-winning Canadian journalist and author specializing in health care issues.

Anthony Quinn: CARP (Canadian Association of Retired Persons) President and advocate for policies that support aging in place.

Dr. Sharlene Webkamigad: Indigenous health researcher, educator, advocate, and assistant professor at Laurentian University.

Dr. Janice Keefe: Professor at Mount Saint Vincent University and Director of the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging.

Liv Mendelsohn: Executive Director of the Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence that strengthens support for caregivers and care providers.

CONCERT BENEFITTING FACE SCHOOL

Wednesday, May 6, 4:30pm
Senior & Junior Orchestra Concert

6:00pm FACE Symphony
Orchestra
7:30pm VIP Reception

Tickets: \$100

The FACE Strings department, in collaboration with Winds and Con Brio, invite you to an extraordinary celebration of FACE's 50th anniversary. For the occasion, they are organizing in parallel a VIP cocktail with Honorary President and philanthropist Dr. Elizabeth Wirth.



VIP tickets, along with the cocktail, will also give access to specially reserved seating - the best spots in the FACE auditorium! The cocktail will take place immediately after the concert, around 7.45PM.

All profits of this event will go towards the OSF/Strings fund at the FACE school Foundation to continue improving the Fine Arts program and offer scholarships.

Tickets [can be purchased here](#). VIP purchase includes cocktail/reception at - \$100.00



McGILL WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

TRAILBLAZERS COMPETITION

By Linda Sestock, CFUW President

CFUW recently participated in this event by contributing a case study on homelessness (thanks to Heather Oxman, VP Advocacy). Three local CFUW clubs provided five judges for the day's competition.

A heartfelt thank you to the organizers and participating students. I am always grateful for the opportunity to engage with such inspiring young women and witness their passion for leadership and social change.

Some very creative ideas were presented that could be shared with others and, perhaps, inspire other universities across Canada to participate in this type of competition.



Some judges representing CFUW Clubs, from left: Christina Miousse (CFUW South Shore), Lorraine O'Donnell (UWCM), Chitra Chopra and Linda Sestock (MLUWC), Catherine Gilbert (CFUW South Shore).

DIRECTORY UPDATES

New members

Wendy Telfer

Pamela Patchet

Marie-Chantal Hamel

SUBSCRIBE TO:

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

Newsletter Editor: Donna Jensen

Copy Editor, Proofreader: Lauren Rudy



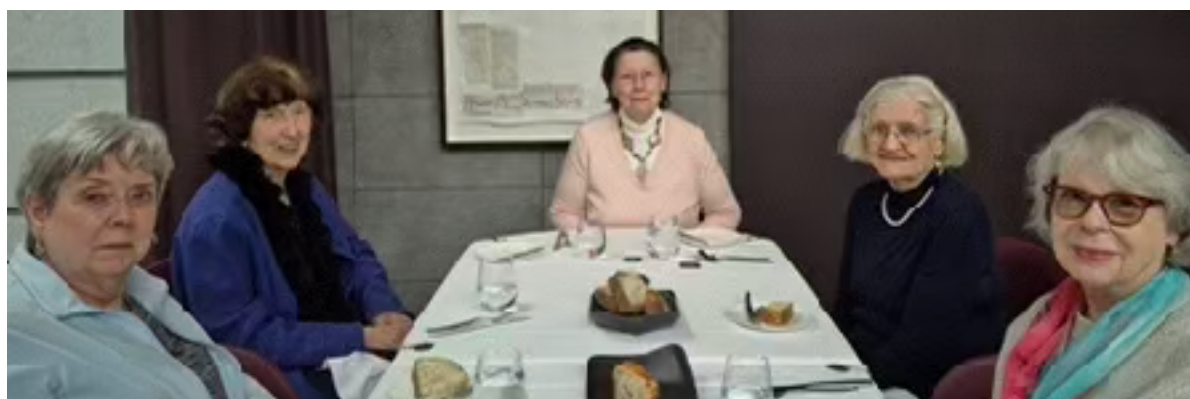
LADIES WHO LUNCH AT CHEZ TOQUÉ

By Adèle Hébert

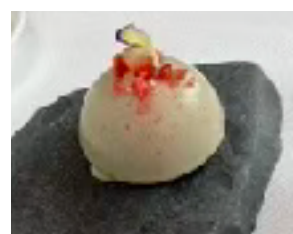
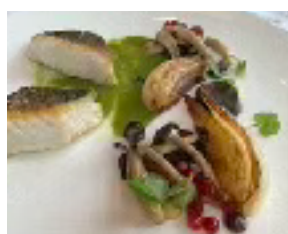
What a culinary experience. Appetizers as well as coffee and tea were included in the price of our lunch, but a delicious small chocolate dessert served on a rock was a complete surprise. We had a choice of entrées between fish, duck, lamb

or risotto. Sylvia and I had the savoury walleye fish plate.

I thought the foie gras was the best I had ever eaten. Both Barbara and Joan liked the flan au saké appetizer. Sylvia writes that portions were tiny but very delicious.



From left: Joan Hagerman, Sylvia Ruby, Adèle Hébert, Barbara Kerr, Lynn Travers. Above photo courtesy of Adèle Hébert. Food photos courtesy of Sylvia Ruby.



FRANCOPHONE QUEBEC LEARNING CIRCLE

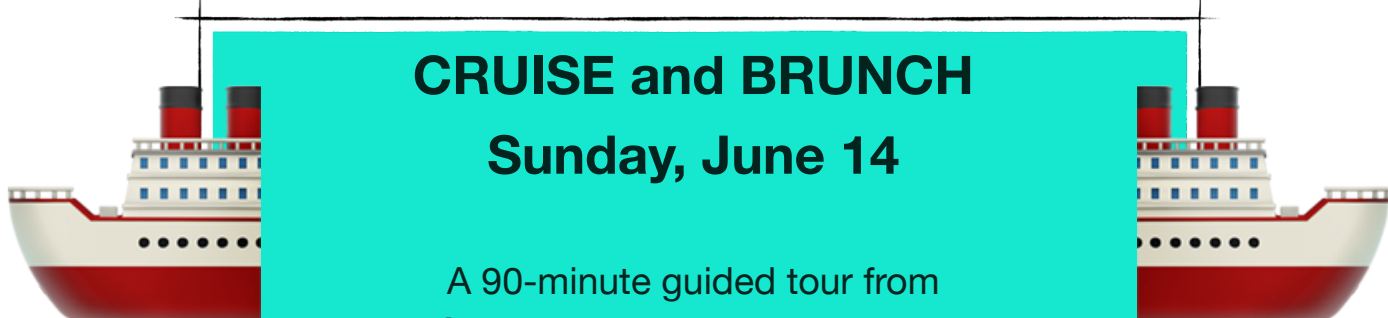
By Sylvia Ruby

The Circle met Saturday morning, April 11th, in the Club Room. We rapidly discovered our limited knowledge of French Quebec culture while discussing popular examples from music, theatre, film, dance, comedy, television and literature. We listened to favourite songs by

Jean Leloup and Harmonium. This was followed by a discussion about my discovery of the inspiring Quebec international artist Marcelle Ferron. Her stained glass art can be seen at the Champ-de-Mars metro station. It was indeed a pleasant relaxing learning experience for all.



FOUNDATION FACTS



CRUISE and BRUNCH Sunday, June 14

A 90-minute guided tour from the Old Port of the city from out on the St-Lawrence River while enjoying a delicious three-course meal.

Contact Zofia Laubitz .

\$125 per person

The **Annual Giving Campaign** runs until June 30.
Encourage your family, friends, colleagues,
or neighbours to donate.



Scan this QR code or click [HERE](#).

March 18th diner speaker Elaine Bander offered her *Reading with Jane Austen* book as a door prize. With her generosity and yours, \$235 was raised and donated to the Foundation.



CLUB CONNECTIONS

By Wendy Telfer

A sense of completeness and satisfaction can arise when something in our lives comes full circle. Last winter, my friend Maurene White invited me to attend the Francophone Québec Learning Circle. After the first two stimulating and enjoyable sessions, I decided to join UWCM. This triggered a memory from my youth when I was living in a Toronto suburb with my parents.

On August 20, 1979, I had received a hand written letter from the scholarship convener of the University Women's Club of Mississauga granting me an entrance scholarship of \$300, a considerable amount at that time, with a cheque enclosed.

Although I am certain that I sent a thank you letter, as my parents would have made sure of that, I cannot remember if I sent the writer an update on my studies. So using current technology, I sent an email to the scholarship fund of the Mississauga club. The current chair graced me with a lovely response that the member who wrote to me in 1979 is still active. At its May meeting, the club invites scholarship recipients from the prior year, to hear about their experiences in their first year of post-secondary education. She asked my permission to share a bit of my story with club members, to print the original letter and present it to the writer along with a copy of my story. I agreed, with great pleasure.

LIBRARY LECTURES & LUNCH



Above photo credit:
Andrea de
Gosztonyi.



It was a full house at Carly Pepler's lovely lunch in the Club Room after Elaine Bander's entertaining and informative lecture on her book. To support Elaine, many members of the Jane Austin Society attended the lecture and joined us for lunch afterward. Group photo courtesy of Veronica Noble.



INTEREST GROUPS

BOOK CLUB BUDDIES

Monday, May 25, 4:00 to 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: *Lincoln in Bardo* by Georges Sanders will be presented by Sandra Brodsky.

Convenor: Tanya Fitzpatrick

COFFEE KLATCH

Friday, May 8, 7:45 to 9:00 am

Avenue G, 1386 Greene Avenue

We meet on the second Friday of each month, starting around 7:45 am at this coffee shop.

Convenor: Leah Trineer

LIBRARY LECTURES & LUNCH

Thurs., May 7, 14, 21, 28 - 12:30 to 3 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. Convenor: Carly Pepler

To be sure of having enough to serve, Carly MUST BE CONTACTED before the day of the lecture if you plan to attend her lunch.

NEW!

CHITTER-CHATTER

Friday, May 1, 2:00 pm

Mouton Noir, 4675 Ste Catherine West

We'll meet the first Friday afternoon of the month. Bring a friend! The aim would be an informal gathering to chat. Hopefully outdoors.

Convenor: Valerie Aiken

STAGE AND SOIRÉE

Friday, May 1: ABBA Tribute

Theatre Paradoxe, 5959 boul. Monk H4E 3E8

Enjoy this multi-sensory musical experience of an ABBA tribute performance.

Monday, May 18: 6 pm. Piano recital

Salle Claude-Champagne, Université de Montréal

220 ave Vincent-d'Indy H2V 2T2

If you're in town over the long weekend and are open to hearing young up-and-coming musicians.

Convenor: Christine Gilsenan

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Thursday, May 21, 6:00 pm

3450 rue McTavish

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. Short walk from the Peel metro station. Parking (for \$15) is available at the back of the Faculty Club building. Convenor: Olga Shevchenko

GOURMET GROUP

This group will meet in someone's home to discuss and prepare a dish or meal together. This fairly new member will soon provide more details.

Convenor: Joan Shideler

NEW!

FIRESIDE GARDENING

Botanical Gardens.

Details to come.

Convenor: Elaine Bander

Coming soon!!



INTEREST GROUPS (cont'd)

COMING THIS SEPTEMBER!

TRAVEL GROUP

This group will meet in the Club Room once a month to talk of all things travel: the places you've been or the places you want to visit. For many years, Valerie had run this group and now she's back! Convenor: Valerie Markham

NEW CONVENOR!

OUTDOOR LADIES

Saturday, May 23, 11:00 am

We launch a new season of this group with a downtown public art walk. The meeting point will be outside a metro station and communicated the week prior to the event. Contact Karen to express interest in participating. Convenor: Karen Staudinger

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Outing details TBD
Convenor: Adèle Hébert

MUSEUM JAUNTERS

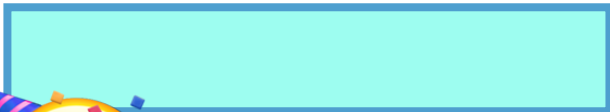
Outing details TBD
Convenor: Adèle Hébert

AFTERNOON TEA

Wednesday, May 20, 3:00 pm

619 Murray Hill, Westmount (Apologies, not wheelchair accessible. Only room for seven.)

Join a discussion about Lady Eaton, a home economist by profession, and her impact on developing job opportunities during the 1930s depression. Having come from humble beginnings, she married Timothy Eaton and continued to be interested in the culinary arts. Refreshments using her recipe will be served. Convenor: Yvonne Mass



Elizabeth Wirth - May 15
Adèle Hébert - May 21
Marsha Sklar - May 28

SEEKING

STRATEGIC PLANNER

Are you — or do you know — a professional strategic planner to help revitalize our Club's public image? Don't hesitate to contact Lorraine .

CORECTION

In the "Coldest Night of the Year" article (page 4, April issue), the member Michelle Shi's name was misspelled. We regret the error.



MONTREAL TO HOST CFUW AGM - JULY 20–24

To obtain a Local Pass (available for members of clubs within the Montreal region) to attend the Wednesday policy session, Charitable Trust Dinner and the Friday policy session, go to <https://forms.gle/sLringtqqzR7fbiT9>

If you **REGISTER** before May 31, you'll get a \$50 discount. On the form, enter Promo code **earlybird2026** prior to choosing your ticket type on the first page.

If you are interested in attending the Conference on Thursday, July 23, please purchase a Conference Day Pass (\$50) [HERE](#).

Companion Pass is available for friends/family/partners of a CFUW member attending the

AGM and Conference. This pass is for dinners ONLY. You can choose the options of either Tuesdays or Wednesdays dinner, or both.

Companion Pass: <https://forms.gle/Jmp46rej5VL3Hz3S7>

Payment can be made by:

1. **E-transfer** to: execdir@cfuw-fcfd.ca - If a password is required for the e-transfer, please make the password **CFUW2026**
2. **Cheque** made payable to Canadian Federation of University Women, 230-815 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa, Ontario. K1K 3A7



WINE & CHEESE: BRING A FRIEND

UWCM Club Room
Unit 7 - Atwater Library
1200 Atwater Avenue

RSVP by May 6
Sheila Mohammed



CENTENARY COMMITTEE

By Susan Button

Did you know that, in Canada, May is **LEAVE A LEGACY MONTH?**

(per: [Canadian Association of Gift Planners.](#))

As we look forward to celebrating 100 years of the University Women’s Club of Montreal, we also look back and see that over the years hundreds of women have worked to make our motto a true one – a desire to promote the growth of women in all walks of life.

Now the **UWCM Public Foundation** asks you to consider leaving a bequest in your will to continue its work for generations of women to come.

How would you like your life to touch others in future generations?



Leaving a legacy to the **UWCM Public Foundation** will allow the Club to have secure support for the future as we continue to work

on behalf of women everywhere. Legacy gifts ensure that the UWCM core values will be supported in the long term.

Our Club still benefits today from a generous bequest from founding member Elizabeth Monk, who passed away in 1980. Also, due to the thoughtful bequest of valued member Anne-Marie Trahan, Q.C., retired Judge of the Superior Court, who passed away in 2019, the **UWCM Public Foundation** was able to establish the Anne-Marie Trahan Memorial Fund that provides an annual bursary to a deserving female student at Polytechnique Montréal.

Perhaps you would like to leave a bequest honouring an important woman in your life – an enduring legacy and an enduring tribute. Including the **UWCM Public Foundation** in your will does not impact your finances today but will make a world of difference tomorrow.

*The **UWCM Public Foundation** issues the official income tax receipts for all charitable gifts. As there may be tax advantages to your estate from a charitable donation, please consult your legal or financial advisor for more information. Click [HERE](#) to visit the Canada Helps page .*

SAVE THE DATE!

GALA DINNER: OCTOBER 20, 2027

More details coming soon.



CENTENARY TOTE BAGS



EVENTS CALENDAR - MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 CHITTER-CHATTER — STAGE & SOIRÉE	2 PROVINCIAL COUNCIL AGM
3	4	5	6 BOARD MEETING — FACE SCHOOL FUNDRAISER	7 LECTURES & LUNCH	8 COFFEE KLATCH	9
10	11	12	13 WINE & CHEESE SOIRÉE	14 LECTURES & LUNCH	15	16 Francophone Quebec Learning Circle
17	18 National Patriots' Day (Victoria Day) STAGE & SOIRÉE	19	20 AFTERNOON TEA	21 LECTURES & LUNCH — WOMEN'S ISSUES	22	23 OUTDOOR LADIES
24 / 31	25 Book Buddies	26	27 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	28 LECTURES & LUNCH — CHEZ DORIS BENEFIT COCKTAIL	29	30



GWI NEWS

By Veronica Noble

Graduate Women International (GWI) brings together university women committed to international understanding and peace through education. GWI maintains National Federations and Associations in 48 countries. In Canada, GWI's affiliate is CFUW, of which our Club is a member.

GWI President addresses education at 61st session of the Human Rights Council

GWI President Pat Patton delivered a powerful statement to the 61st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, reaffirming education as a fundamental human right and a necessary condition for the realization of all other rights for women and girls. The statement

highlighted that persistent barriers to education, particularly in contexts of conflict, poverty, and discrimination, continue to limit women's access to justice, economic participation, and decision-making. Patton stressed that evidence shows that disruptions to education increase exposure to early and forced marriage, gender-based violence, and long-term exclusion from public life. In her statement, GWI called on States to prioritize sustained investment in education systems, with particular attention to secondary and tertiary education, and to integrate education into human rights, justice, and recovery frameworks. The intervention also underscored the importance of coordinated, long-term approaches that ensure inclusive access to lifelong learning.

(Source: GWI Update- 8 April 2026)



On April 23, a virtual conversation on "Climate Mitigation: Peatlands of the World" took place.

Co-hosted by three GWI National Federations and Associations of CFUW North Delta/Surrey, Graduate Women Scotland, and the Paraguay Federation of University Women,

explored the critical role of peatlands in global climate mitigation and the urgent need to protect these unique ecosystems. Participants had the opportunity to engage with the speakers and learned about international efforts to safeguard these vulnerable landscapes.

CFUW CHARITABLE TRUST BOUTIQUE

Cashier Needed July 21–23

The Boutique requires a cashier to work during the **CFUW AGM** this July. You must first be **REGISTERED** to attend the conference. Contact Provincial Council President Judy Hopps for information about training and schedules.

The Charitable Trust manages a substantial fund used for fellowships and awards to Canadian women pursuing graduate studies and research in science, math, engineering, education, visual arts, music, home economics, humanities, and social sciences.