



JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

May 27 Annual General Meeting

By Donna Jensen

Held again at Maison Forget, the evening began over a delicious spread of bread, grapes, cheese, and wine set out by some helping hands and organized by Membership Chair Olga Shevchenko.

President Lorraine O'Donnell opened the meeting sharply at 7:00 pm. After calling for the appointment of Veronica Noble as Recording Secretary and confirming quorum, she read her report. Outgoing Treasurer Adèle Hébert read the the year-end financial statements that had been reviewed by CPA Lynn de Grace. Reports were presented by Nominating Committee Chair Leah Trineer, Foundation Trustee Zofia Laubitz, and Centenary Committee member Elaine Bander.

Lorraine read the two resolutions on which she must vote at the CFUW July AGM, After discussion, members voted in favour of them. She also asked for a show of hands on which candidate for CFUW National President she should support. The meeting ended in time to get home to watch the hockey game.



From left: Mica Faciu, Lynn Travers, Olga Shevchenko, Lorraine O'Donnell, Sheila Mohammed, Barbara Lewis, Karen Doerr, Veronica Noble, Sharon Brissette.



LEFT PHOTO. From left: Linda Edgar, Tanya Fitzpatrick, Barbara Lewis, Lorraine O'Donnell, Judith Ritchie.



President's Message

OUR VALUABLE NETWORKS

Beyond our local activities, UWCM is connected to a vibrant network of organizations at the local, provincial, national, and international levels. Each offers opportunities to learn, engage, and make a meaningful impact.

At the local level, we are affiliated with the [Montreal Council of Women \(MCW\)](#), which “reflect[s] the diversity of society, encouraging informed political decision making and public attitudes for the well-being of society, through education, consultation and cooperation” (source: website).

Our provincial network is the [Quebec Council of CFUW](#). It connects the six provincial CFUW clubs. Our Club's own Barbara Lewis is its Regional Director—English.

Nationally, we belong to the **Canadian Federation of University Women**, which now goes by its initials of [CFUW](#). Founded in 1919, it connects 6,700 women and 90 Clubs across the country. Members “work to improve the status of women in all their diversity by promoting public education, human rights, social justice, and peace in Canada and abroad” (source: website).

We are also part of **Graduate Women International (GWI)**, which works globally to advance the status of women and girls. Click [here](#) to see its members around the world, including CFUW.

These four levels of affiliation provide UWCM members remarkable opportunities to connect with others and learn of issues and initiatives around the world. This is all more accessible than ever thanks to the wonders of the internet. I encourage you, especially our newer members, to explore the websites of these organizations and discover the wealth of information and activities they offer.

I hope you agree that these networks add great value to your UWCM membership!

Looking ahead, I am delighted to remind you that the [CFUW Annual General Meeting and Conference](#) takes place July 21 to 24 in Montreal. Will you join me there?

On a personal note, my sincere thanks to our members for your continued confidence in re-electing me to the Club's Board. I am also deeply grateful to my fellow Board members for placing their trust in me by selecting me as President for a second year. It is an honour to serve in this role.

Warm regards,

Lorraine O'Donnell
President




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](#).



EVENTS CALENDAR — JULY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 	2	3 CHITTER-CHATTER	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 COFFEE KLATCH	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 OUTDOOR LADIES	20 BOOK CLUB BUDDIES	21 CFUW AGM	22 CFUW AGM	23 CFUW AGM	24 CFUW AGM	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #0070c0; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">WOMEN'S ISSUES on August 5 in Île Bizard</div>	

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Elected officers, confirmed job descriptions,
- Finalized 2026-27 meeting and dinner dates.
- Agreed to new signing officers with the bank.
- Established roles for members-at-large.
- Agreed to clarify our code of ethics and its application for members.
- Learned of Geso dinner price increase to \$65.
- Organized Membership/Wine & Cheese Project for display at CFUW AGM.
- Set strategic planning sessions in late August.
- Passed motion to transfer donation of \$4,500 to Foundation.

Newsletter Editor: Donna Jensen

Copy Editor, Proofreader:
Lauren Rudy



INTEREST GROUPS

BOOK CLUB BUDDIES

Monday, July 20, 4:00 to 5:30 pm

UWCM Club Room, 1200 Atwater Avenue

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 Grey Wolf* by Louise Penny will be presented by Rhonda Schanfield.

Convenor: Tanya Fitzpatrick

CHITTER-CHATTER - *Beginning a Conversation*

Friday, July 3, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Café Mouton Noir, 4675 Ste Catherine St. West

We meet the first Friday afternoon of the month inside the Westmount Recreation Centre. A relaxing environment to connect with other members. Access by bus #90 and free parking. All club members are welcome. No registration required. Call or text Valerie. Convenor: Valerie Aiken

COFFEE KLATCH

Friday, July 10, 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

FIRESIDE GARDENING

Returns in September

Convenor: Elaine Bander

GOURMET GROUP

This group will meet in someone's home to discuss and prepare a dish or meal together.

Convenor: Joan Shideler

Starts next month!

LIBRARY LECTURES & LUNCH

Adair Auditorium & our Club Room

Back in September. 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. **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.**

Convenor: Carly Pepler

OUTDOOR LADIES

Sunday, July 19, 11:00 am - Mile End

The group will visit Mile End, exploring the area's history and its murals. The meeting point will be confirmed the week prior to the event. Contact Karen to express interest in participating.

Convenor: Karen Staudinger

STAGE AND SOIRÉE

During the summer in parks around town

- Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* by [Persephone Productions](#).
- William Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* by [Repercussion Theatre](#).

Is there any type of music or play you particularly enjoy? Contact me with ideas or if you would like to connect before a show.

Convenor: Christine Gilsean

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

Coming this September!



OBITUARY & CONDOLENCES

Former long-time member Lorraine Gosselin died peacefully on June 6 at Chateau Westmount. "A pioneer in information technology [... Lorraine] was an avid supporter of aspiring students and funded a number of scholarships, especially in engineering, at Montreal universities [...] and an avid amateur genealogist and advocate for the conservation of Québec heritage.

Former UWCM member and retired Member of Parliament Brenda Shanahan writes "[Lorraine] was in the Dining and Theatre interest groups and had always enjoyed the monthly dinners and sharing her knowledge about genealogy."

(SOURCE: MONTREAL GAZETTE, JUNE 13, 2026)

INTEREST GROUPS (cont'd)

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Wednesday, August 5, 1:00 pm - Île Bizard

Thursday, August 27 (details to be determined)

The McGill Faculty Club is closed during July and August. The next meeting will be a potluck lunch at Barbara Lewis's house on August 5. As there is already a waiting list, please confirm your attendance. Carpooling to be arranged.

Convenor: Olga Shevchenko

INTEREST GROUPS DIRECTOR
Colleen Cattiny

AFTERNOON TEA with Lady Eaton



Hosted by Yvonne Mass, the afternoon began with cordials and canapés and led into a discussion on Lady Eaton's life, her contribution to the Eaton Store empire and her role in providing work opportunities and training for Canadian woman. It was followed by an English tea with treats made by Yvonne using Lady Eaton recipes.

Clockwise from left, Sylvia Ruby, Rhonda Shanfield, Joan Shidler, Olga Shevchenko, Sandra Brodsky, Susan Button, Yvonne Mass (standing). Photo by seventh guest Sheila Mohammed.

Directory Updates

Keep your recently received Membership Directory handy to contact fellow members whenever you wish. Any new information will be shared in future newsletters.

If you notice anything that needs correction, contact Donna Jensen or Membership Director Olga Shevchenko.

Welcome, new members:

Jean Bethel

Stephanie Boyd



SAVE THE DATES!

CENTENARY COMMITTEE

A CENTURY OF EMPOWERMENT

By Donna Jensen

As announced at the May 27 AGM by Committee member Elaine Bander, some events during 2027 are planned.

The Club will host a 1927-style Tea Party to celebrate its unofficial birth date in Club Room #7 on **March 17**. All members are welcome to drop in anytime that day from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

There will also be a **Gala Dinner on Wednesday, October 20, 2027**, at the McGill Faculty Club. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Tickets will be \$150 per person with a few invited guests. The keynote speaker will be Concordia University Chancellor Gina Cody, a prominent Concordia graduate and the first woman in Canada to earn a PhD in building engineering.

Chancellor Cody immigrated to Canada in 1973, Following her historic \$15-million gift, Concordia University renamed its Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science to the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science. It was the first engineering and computer science faculty in Canada—and one of the first globally—to be named after a woman.



(SOURCE: CONCORDIA)

The Centenary Committee (Elaine Bander, Susan Button, Andrea de Gosztonyi, Dona Jensen, Yvonne Mass, and Dominique Racanelli) have other events in the works. Stay tuned for details!

CENTENARY TOTE BAGS


Get yours today!!

We continue to sell sturdy cotton tote bags to help raise funds for celebrating our centenary next year.

They are priced at \$30 each.

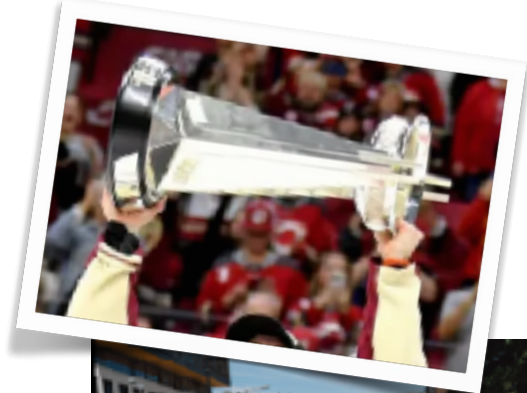
Payable in cash or e-transfer to Donna Jensen.



 We are planning a photo challenge for members during 2027. Submit a picture of the bag taken in front of an iconic Montreal site or statue with your name, the date and description. Your photographs will be published in our newsletter throughout the centenary year.



CELEBRATING “LES VICTOIRES”



Walter Cup Championship Parade

Club members Judi Ritchie and Carly Pepler were only two of the estimated 15,000 to 20,000 fans who turned out to cheer the PWHL champion Victories at Quartier des Spectacles on Saturday, May 30.

Judi writes, “the number of families and the size of the peaceful extremely happy crowd made watching them hoist the huge trophy a joyful experience.”

(PHOTOS FROM VICTOIRE DE MONTRÉAL FACEBOOK PAGE)

FIRESIDE GARDENING - MAY 30

By Elaine Bander

Five of us enjoyed a windy Saturday, May 30, at the Montreal Botanical Gardens. This visit we admired the flowering trees. We hope to go back soon for the roses.

From left: Wendy Telfer, Barbara Kerr, Renée Charron, and Elaine Bander.

Photo courtesy of Sylvia Ruby.





TOPICAL TIDBITS

If you don't know someone's gender, or when talking about a group, use gender-neutral language.

mankind	humankind
chairman	chair
congressman	legislator
businessman	representative
policeman	police officer
landlord	owner
boyfriend/girlfriend	partner
salesman	salesperson
manpower	workforce
maiden name	family name
fireman	firefighter
husband/wife	spouse



LEFT:
From "UN Women Guidelines on gender-inclusive language."
(unwomen.org)

BELOW LEFT:
Courtesy of Susan Button in a May 7, 2026, email to Donna Jensen.



UWCM article in *Westmount Independent*

Check out **Page 18** [HERE](#) to see the familiar faces of Lorraine O'Donnell and Olga Shevchenko.

Read about the Club, what it supports, its upcoming 100th anniversary, and how the semi-annual Wine & Cheese brings in many new members.



2026-27 MEETING DATES

Board meetings	Dinner meetings	Other
August 26	—	—
September 2	September 16	Cocktail (Sept. 21)
October 7	October 24	—
November 4	November 18	—
December 2	December 16	—
January 6	January 20	—
February 3	February 8-12	Home dinners
March 3	March 24	Centenary Tea (March 17)
April 7	April 14	—
May 5	May 19 (AGM)	Cocktail (May 12)
June 2	June 16	—

2026-27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- PRESIDENT:** Lorraine O'Donnell
- VICE-PRESIDENT:** to be determined
- SECRETARY:** Veronica Noble (new)
- TREASURER:** Elizabeth (Liz) McCallum (new)
- MEMBERSHIP:** Olga Shevchenko
- INTEREST GROUPS:** Colleen Cattiny (new)
- PROGRAM:** Leah Trineer
- DINNER COORDINATOR:** Ana-Mihaela (Mica) Faciu
- COMMUNICATIONS:** Nataliia Rossikhata (new)
- NEWSLETTER:** Donna Jensen
- SOCIAL MEDIA:** Lauren Rudy
- GWI LIAISON (new): Lynn Travers (**Member at Large**)
- Communications (new): Sharon Brissette (new, **Member at Large**)
- Social Media, CFUW Liaise: Alaka McConnell (new, **Member at Large**)



CFUW NEWS

By Alaka McConnell, Board Member-at-Large

CFUW (formerly the Canadian Federation of University Women) will hold its AGM and Conference in Montreal from July 21 to 24. Key features include a call for board committee applications, the unveiling of new CFUW National Scarves available for order, and the announcement of Charitable Trust Keynote speaker Ella Walsh, PhD student in robotics research.

Full details on nominations, revised resolutions, and event schedules are available in the June 5 Club Action Newsletter [HERE](#).

On June 11, a virtual community conversation entitled "**Understanding the Current War in Sudan**" took place. Hosted by the Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW) it focussed

on the history and global impact of the war that started on April 15, 2023, highlighting what has become the world's largest displacement crisis with storytelling and discussion to connect participants with the lived human experiences of the conflict. The event was coordinated by Duha Elmardi, a Sudanese organizer based in Montreal and the Education Coordinator for the [Canadian Council of Muslim Women \(CCMW\)](#).

Webinar Recordings on YouTube:

1. [CFUW Education Committee Pre AGM Workshop Intro to AI Basics with Carla Fehr](#)
2. [CFUW 2026 Elder Action Day: The Condition of Home Care in Canada](#)

REGISTER FOR THE July 21-24 CFUW AGM

Members of clubs within the Montreal region can purchase a **Local Pass**. Your options are:

- The AGM takes place on Wednesday, July 22, and Friday, July 24, until after lunch. To attend both Wednesday and Friday sessions, the cost is \$229.90 including taxes. Register via Event Brite [HERE](#).
- To attend the all-day member-led Conference on Thursday, July 23, the cost is \$57.48 (including taxes) for a Day Pass. Send an e-transfer to Jaime Beagan at execdir@cfuw-fcfdu.ca (password CFUW2026).

- Attending only the Wednesday, July 22, session costs \$172.43 including taxes, lunch, member-led session, Charitable Trust dinner.

Companion Passes are available for friends/family/partners of a CFUW member attending the AGM and Conference but only for Tuesday or Wednesday dinners.

Payment can be made by:

1. **E-transfer** to: execdir@cfuw-fcfdu.ca - If a password is required for the e-transfer, please make the password **CFUW2026**
2. **Cheque** made payable to CaFUW and mailed to 230-815 St. Laurent Boulevard, Ottawa, Ontario K1K 3A7



GWI NEWS

By Veronica Noble
(on behalf of Lynn Travers, new GWI Liaison)

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

Education and Diversity:

Meet GWI Education Committee (EduCom)

On 22 June, the GWI EduCom hosted this webinar by GWI VP of Education Dr. Shirley Gillett. It will feature presentations by Dr. Geneviève Etonam Adukpo (Ghana Association of University Women — AUW) on learning with a disability in STEM; Kei Foran (Japanese AUW) on education and diversity in Japan; Anne Headley (Irish FUW) on ethnic diversity in Irish education; Dr. Annie Musonda-Mubanga (Graduate Women Zambia) on inclusive education and school leadership in rural and remote settings; Nahide Nesrin Koç (Turkish AUW) on diversity and inclusive learning in the Montessori classroom; Gail Neff (CFUW) on the education of girls in conflict zones; and Tzazil Valencia Oseguera (Mexican FUW) on educational inequality in Latin America.

The webinar offered an opportunity to explore current education issues, while engaging with EduCom members and their areas of expertise.

Eight emerging trends in a Menstrual Hygiene Day (MH Day) social media campaign

On 28 May, GWI marked MH Day with a social media campaign highlighting eight emerging trends associated with the 2026 theme, “Together for a Period Friendly World.” Observed annually on this day, MH Day aims to raise awareness and advance progress in menstrual health and hygiene. The eight trends reflect developments across advocacy, policy, infrastructure, and services, including increased global visibility of menstrual health, greater government investment, expanded education initiatives, and growing attention to menstrual health services. Additional trends address affordability and access to menstrual products, improvements in infrastructure in schools and communities, and the increasing use of data and economic evidence to inform policy decisions. For GWI, this year’s social media campaign builds on its longstanding partnership with MH Day and years of engagement that have consistently linked menstrual health to education, rights, and gender.

Access the full GWI MH Day 2026 social media campaign and the eight emerging trends [HERE](#).

(SOURCE: GWI UPDATE, JUNE 3, 2026)

2025-26 Dinner Speakers’ Chosen Charities

In lieu of a fee, UWCM contributes to these groups chosen by our dinner speakers:

- **October:** Kate Arthur , A.I. Books
- **November:** Nathalie Cooke, McGill University Rare Books
- **December:** Valérie Bélisle, UWCM Foundation
- **January:** Rosalind Pepall, Parkinson Quebec
- **March:** Elaine Bander, UWCM Foundation
- **April:** Matt Aronson, YMCA Foundation
- **June:** Elise Monaghan Joubert, Chez Doris



SMOOTH SAILING: FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER



ABOVE: From left Veronica Noble, Leah Trineer, Lorraine O'Donnell, Carly Pepler, Barbara Kerr, Judith Ritchie, Zofia Laubitz, and her guest Susan Mott.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREA DE GOSZTONYI.

Bu Susan Button

The grey weather did not dim the enthusiasm of our members on Sunday, June 14, as we sailed on the AML Cavalier Maxim.

We enjoyed a relaxing cruise on the St. Lawrence River while having a delicious brunch with various choices served by an attentive crew. We sat sipping mimosas as we admired the breathtaking views of Montreal.

A good time was had by all!



ABOVE: Maria Masi, Sheila Mohammed and their husbands Tony and George enjoying the view.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LEAH TRINEER.



SMOOTH SAILING (cont'd)



LEFT PHOTO:
Joan Hagerman
(left) and Andrea
de Gosztanyi.
(COURTESY OF
SUSAN BUTTON)



RIGHT PHOTO:
Elisabeth
Emond-Boelen.
(COURTESY OF
ZOFIA LAUBITZ)



LEFT PHOTO: A
view from the deck.
(COURTESY OF ANDREA
DE GOSZTONYI)



RIGHT PHOTO:
Main brunch course
is served!
(COURTESY OF
JOAN HAGERMAN)



RIGHT PHOTO :

From left,
Zofia Laubitz,
Carly Pepler,
Jennifer Kambhampati
(guest), Susan Button

(COURTESY OF
ANDREA DE GOSZTONYI)



SMOOTH SAILING (cont'd)



ABOVE PHOTO (courtesy of Zofia Laubitz): From left, Veronica Noble, Syeda Bukhari (Rahila Bootwala’s guest), Susan Mott (Zofia’s guest) and Lorraine O’Donnell with the Port of Montreal Tower in the background.

- Appreciation goes to our voucher/ticket person Veronica Noble for getting there in plenty of time to greet one and all.
 - You were missed, Sylvia Ruby. Wishing you a speedy recovery.
 - Kudos to Leah Trineer for attending with her husband Rod and Banque National clients.
- **The Foundation Trustees want to thank everyone who participated. ****

CLUB DINNER AT RISTORANTE GESO



There were 35 members who attended dinner on June 17 where Chez Doris Director of Philanthropy Elise Monaghan Joubert spoke. This local non-profit has been the recipient of funds from the UWCM Foundation regularly over the past several years.

From left, member Marie-Chantal Hamel (Business and Professional Women Montreal), UWCM President Lorraine O’Donnell, Chez Doris’s Elise Monaghan Joubert and Program Director Leah Trineer.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LEAH TRINEER.