



**cfuw fcfd**  
UWC MONTREAL INC

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

# AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER



Photo courtesy of Barbara Lewis.

## MONTREAL HOSTS CFUW AT ITS AGM and CONFERENCE

With 88 clubs across Canada and more than 6,700 members, CFUW continues to work to support education for — and empowerment of — women and girls near and far. Every year, CFUW raises over \$1-million in scholarships for post-secondary education and other local causes. (Source: CFUW website)

Approximately 175 participants of this weeklong July event were entertained by the Lakeshore Community Choir. Pictured here, from left, pianist Gaétan Daigneault, singers Julie Leblanc and Kerry-Anne Kutz.

Photo courtesy of Barbara Lewis.



**Hardworking, accommodating, friendly CFUW National Office staff.** From left: Mabinty Touré, Camila Time, Jaime Began, Elizabeth Malcolm. (Photo from CFUW Facebook Page)

**Wearing CFUW AGM scarves while waiting for election results** (see who won on page 9): Donna Jensen (left) and Lorraine O'Donnell.

PHOTO BY GWI PRESIDENT PAT PATON.





# President's Message

Dear Members,

## Summer Reflections and Looking Ahead

As Montreal settles into another hot summer, here are some things to think about as you sip a cool drink.

At our June 17 dinner at Geso, the Board invited members to participate in a simple exercise to help inform our strategic planning discussions and preparations for UWCM's 2027 centenary. Members wrote down up to three words describing the Club today or looking forward. Together, members contributed 76 responses.

The results were reassuring and thought-provoking. Above all, UWCM was described as a place of connection and community. This was followed by contributing to women and society, learning and intellectual engagement. Friendship was mentioned most frequently. Taken together, the responses suggest that members experience UWCM as a place to connect, learn, and contribute.

The evening offered an additional perspective. Elise Monaghan Joubert spoke about the work of [Chez Doris](#), which supports vulnerable women in Montreal through housing and related services. Members asked thoughtful questions and showed strong interest in the organization and its impact.

The combination of the three-word exercise and the Chez Doris discussion highlighted something important. Members clearly value contributing to the lives of women and girls. More broadly, I have noticed that when UWCM members encounter a clearly defined need or a tangible opportunity to help, you/we respond with enthusiasm and generosity.

This seems to be in contrast with a difficulty the Board experienced last year. We created a new advocacy committee but failed to recruit and sustain membership for it. Now I wonder: was the challenge due less to members' interest in current issues, and more to how we structured the opportunity for engagement? Does the notion of an "advocacy committee" seem too abstract or heavy? How can the Board encourage social action that aligns more with ways you/we want to engage?

As the Club begins its strategic planning process under the leadership of UWCM member and Past President Maya Bergeron-Métivier, these are among the questions we will explore.

This is an exciting moment for our Club. Few organizations can reflect on a century of history while imagining the next one. The thoughtful responses from members suggest that UWCM is well positioned to continue evolving while remaining true to its core values.

I wish everyone a wonderful August, and I look forward to continuing the conversation in September.

Warm regards,

*Lorraine O'Donnell*

President



**Photo credit:** ©

Concordia University by Lisa Graves



# Events Calendar - August 2026

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                                      | THURSDAY             | FRIDAY               | SATURDAY             |
|--------|--------|---------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|        |        |         |                                                |                      |                      | 1                    |
| 2      | 3      | 4       | 5<br>WOMEN'S ISSUES<br>(potluck in Île Bizard) | 6                    | 7<br>CHITTER CHATTER | 8                    |
| 9      | 10     | 11      | 12<br>MUSEUM JAUNTERS                          | 13                   | 14<br>COFFEE KLATCH  | 15                   |
| 16     | 17     | 18      | 19                                             | 20                   | 21                   | 22<br>OUTDOOR LADIES |
| 23/30  | 24/31  | 25      | 26<br>BOARD MEETING                            | 27<br>WOMEN'S ISSUES | 28                   | 29                   |

**CLARIFICATION:** There is an incorrect sentence on financial statements in the AGM article I wrote last month (page 1, July 2026). It should have read "Outgoing Treasurer Adèle Hébert read the financial statements that had been compiled by public accountant Lynn De Grace." My apologies go to Lynn and my thanks go to Club member Rhonda Schanfield for alerting me to this.

- Donna Jensen

**Newsletter Editor:** Donna Jensen

**Copy Editor, Proofreader:** Lauren Rudy

## 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](#).





**MARK YOUR  
2027  
CALENDAR!**

# Centenary Committee

**Wednesday, March 17, 2027**

**Centenary Tea (no charge)**

#7, 1200 Atwater Avenue  
Drop in from 3 to 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 20, 2027**

**Gala Dinner (\$150/member)**

McGill University Faculty Club  
Keynote speaker: Concordia Chancellor Dr. Gina Cody

## Committee Members

Elaine Bander, Susan Button, Andrea de Gosztanyi, Donna Jensen, Yvonne Mass, Dominique Racanelli

## TOTE BAG PHOTO CHALLENGE



Submit a picture of your bag taken in front of or near an iconic Montreal site, statue, monument or sign. Include your name, the date the photo was taken, and a short description of the site.

Your photographs will be published in our newsletter throughout the centenary year.



Twenty-four bags sold at July's CFUW AGM! Photo of Donna Jensen courtesy of Barbara Lewis.



## CFUW AGM 2026 Club Success Showcase

### Membership Cocktail

Friendship First, Membership Follows

Our Club was selected to present Olga's project during the Wednesday member-led sessions of the recent CFUW AGM. With Sylvia's, Colleen's and Barbara's help, Membership Chair Olga Shevchenko put together this beautiful display to inspire visiting clubs.

From left: Sylvia Rudy, Colleen Cattiny, Barbara Lewis, Olga Shevchenko.

Photo courtesy of Colleen Cattiny.



# Interest Groups

## BOOK CLUB BUDDIES

**Back in September, 4:00 to 5:30 pm**

**UWCM Club Room, 1200 Atwater Avenue**

The “Buddies” are taking their month off. Usually, 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.

Convenor: Tanya Fitzpatrick

## CHITTER-CHATTER

***Beginning a Conversation***

**Friday, August 7, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Café Mouton Noir, 4675 Ste-Catherine St. West**

We meet the first Friday afternoon of the month inside Westmount Recreation Centre. A relaxing environment to connect with other members enjoy an ice cream, coffee, or cold drink. Access by bus #90 and free parking. Call me if you plan to be there. Convenor: Valerie Aiken

## COFFEE KLATCH

**Friday, August 14, 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

## GOURMET GROUP

**Starts in September!**

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

Convenor: Joan Shideler

## LIBRARY LECTURES & LUNCH

**Back in September**

After the 12:30 in-person lectures, Carly serves a light lunch for \$5 in our Club Room. Convenor: Carly Pepler

## OUTDOOR LADIES

**Saturday, August 22, 11:00 am**

The Outdoor Ladies will visit Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery. The meeting point will be outside the Côte-des-Neiges metro station. All details will be confirmed the week prior to the event. Contact Karen to express interest in participating.

Convenor: Karen Staudinger

## STAGE AND SOIRÉE

**In parks around town:** Until August 17, Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest* by [Persephone Productions](#) and until August 15, William Shakespeare’s *The Winter’s Tale* by [Repercussion Theatre](#).

Convenor: Christine Gilsenan

## TRAVEL GROUP

**Starts in September**

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

## 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 (2287 Chemin du Bord du Lac, Île Bizard, H9C 1A7) on August 5. As there is already a waiting list, please confirm your attendance. Menu choices and carpooling to be arranged. Convenor: Olga Shevchenko



## Interest Groups (cont'd)

### LADIES WHO LUNCH

#### Date and time TBD

It is the plan to have lunch on a terrace depending on the weather. Look for an email coming soon. Convenor: Adèle Hébert

### MUSEUM JAUNTERS - Wed., August 12

**Pointe à Callière Museum** The group will visit the exhibit *Heroes of Greece: The Age of Troy*. There will be an English guide. Adèle has 10 tickets (complementary) for those who wish to join. Convenor: Adèle Hébert

## Foundation Facts

The Trustees will be meeting on the morning of August 1st to decide on the disbursement of funds raised during the July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, fiscal year. Details will be disclosed in next month's issue.

Women and girls  
belong in S.T.E.M.

**HOUSING IS A  
HUMAN RIGHT!**

## Picnicking Women's Issues



Clockwise from left: Carly Peplar, Lynn Travers, Jane Reichman Van Toch, Joan McCrimmon, Olga Shevchenko, Colleen Cattiny, Karen E Staudinger, Sharon Brissette.

Above photo clockwise from left: Rhonda Schanfield, Tanya Fitzpatrick, Linda Edgar, Karen Doerr, Pilar Shephard-Cumming.

(PHOTOS COURTESY OF OLGA SHEVCHENKO)





# Fireside Gardeners visit Le Jardin



By Elaine Bander

On a hot sunny July 11th, four of us took a gentle stroll through the shady walks at the Jardin Botanique. The roses were finishing, but just look at this spectacular dahlia!

From left: Jean Bethel,  
Wendy Telfer,  
Gertrud Antoine-Barwick.

(PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
ELAINE BANDER)



## 2026-27 Meeting, Dinner and Other Dates

**CORRECTED**

| Board meetings | Dinner meetings | Other                                  |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| August 26      | —               | —                                      |
| September 2    | September 16    | <b>Cocktail (Wednesday, Sept. 23)*</b> |
| October 7      | October 21      | —                                      |
| 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         | —                                      |

\* This rectifies the incorrect date shown in the July issue.



## CFUW News

By Alaka McConnell, M.A.L. and CFUW Liaison

### HISTORICAL RECOGNITION

July 11th marked the beginning of the [Kanesatake Resistance](#), also known as the Oka Crisis, a 78-day standoff (July 11 to September 26, 1990) between Kanyen'kehà:ka protesters, Quebec police, the RCMP, and the Canadian Army.

A two-hour National Film Board documentary entitled [Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance](#), directed by [Alanis Obomsawin](#), highlights the events of the 1990 Oka Crisis through the Indigenous perspective, giving agency to a group that was often misrepresented in mass media.

(SOURCE: CFUW NATIONAL CLUB ACTION NEWSLETTER, JULY 10, 2026)

## GWJ News

By Lynn Travers, M.A.L. and GWJ Liaison

The following provides a brief summary of GWJ's strategic plans, advocacy efforts, UN engagements, and support programs for women and girls, all of which reflect its broader mission.

The GWJ Board adopted a **strategic plan** with six goals focused on education, leadership, credibility, member engagement, collaboration, and financial sustainability. The plan emphasizes digital education, AI ethics, and impact measurement.

### Support for Displaced Women Graduates

Highlighting barriers (like interrupted education and credential loss) faced by refugee women, the GWJ Hegg-Hoffet Fund offers short-term financial aid to help displaced women rebuild careers.

### GWJ's Advocacy on Child Labour and Education

GWJ marked World Day Against Child Labour, emphasizing policies to end child exploitation and

promote inclusive education. Its programs help keep children in school and prevent child labour.

### U.N. Engagement and Global Initiatives

- The UN80 Initiative aims to reform the UN to achieve greater impact through structural changes and new mandates.
- GWJ participated in the Alliance of NGOs General Assembly, strengthening civil society's role in crime prevention.
- The GWJ UN representatives reported on UNICEF's efforts to expand education and address global challenges such as AI and debt.

### Support Programs for Girls' Education

Funds from the GWJ "Girls Education for Brighter Futures" projects improve health, income, and school retention for girls.

END PERIOD  
POVERTY

Rights. justice, action  
for all women and girls!





## Dinner at Brasserie Milton

On Friday, July 24,  
Linda Sestock was elected  
to a second term as  
National President.



On Monday, July 20th, some Board members took the CFUW Executive and staff out for dinner at Brasserie Milton.

Above photo, from left: Veronica Noble, Linda Sestock (National President), Sheila Service (VP BC), Karen Dunnett (VP Atlantic), Colleen Cattiny, Elizabeth Malcom, Mabinty Touré and Camila Toupe (National staff).



Left photo, from left: Jaime Beagan (National ED), Audrey Hobbs Johnson (VP Education), Anne Cordon (VP Membership), Lorraine O'Donnell, Donna Jensen, Grace Hollett (VP International), Heather Oxman (VP Advocacy), Lynn Travers.



## Dinner at Brasserie Milton



From left: Colleen Cattiny, Lynn Travers, Olga Shevchenko, Leah Trineer, Lorraine O'Donnell. (Photo taken by Veronica Noble)

## Directory Updates

### Welcome new members:

Anne Jalbert

Jean Bacon

A new edition of the **Membership Directory** was emailed to members at the end of June.

Keep your directory handy to contact fellow members. Mark all changes shared in future newsletters on your copy.

If you notice anything that needs correction, contact Membership Chair Olga Shevchenko.

Many thanks to Holly Haimerl, Carly Pepler, Judith Ritchie, and Sylvia Ruby for volunteering their time during the CFUW 2026 AGM.