



cfuw fcfd
UWC MONTREAL INC

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

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Catherine Bradley, costume designer, will take us for a peek backstage at the process of designing costumes for the theatre.

A Senior Academic Associate, Resident Costume Designer, Catherine is also Head of Wardrobe for the Drama and Theatre Program at McGill University. In her capacity, she has designed the costume shop into what it is today and ran the costume section. During this time, she has also served as a course lecturer for courses in Costuming for the Theatre (a two-part course)



and The History of Costume. She has been at McGill for 38 years and has never stopped loving it!

Catherine started her costume career sewing at the Stratford Festival, followed by the Shaw Festival, Banff Centre, The National Ballet, L'Opéra de Montréal, Centaur Theatre, and many others.

She has made hats for film and theatre and has acted as wardrobe manager for multiple theatre companies.

Please join us in what promises to be a fun and informative evening behind the scenes!

- Leah Trineer

Wednesday, October 21

Starting at 6:00 p.m.

Geso Ristorante

1800 Sherbrooke St. W, H3H 1E5

To reserve your spot,
contact Mica Faciu
before 11 a.m.
on October 19.

Cost: \$65 (cash)
includes service, taxes

Glass of wine (red or white): \$16
Bottle of house wine: \$40 plus taxes
(credit or debit)

**Don't forget your
name tag!**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Charting the Next Century

As Quebec moves toward the provincial election, conversations about leadership, participation, and the future are everywhere. At UWCM, we have begun a similar conversation of our own.

The seeds were planted over the summer. In June, members were asked to describe UWCM in three words. The most common responses were connection, friendship, learning, and contributing to women and society. As reported in our August newsletter, the exercise offered a revealing snapshot of what our members value most about the Club.

In July, we reflected on the wider networks to which UWCM belongs, including the Montreal Council of Women, CFUW, and Graduate Women International. Those connections remind us that while UWCM has a unique history and character, we are also part of a larger movement supporting education, opportunity, and the advancement of women.

July also brought the CFUW AGM & Conference to Montreal. Participants left inspired by seeing leadership, learning, democratic participation, and member engagement in action across clubs from coast to coast.

All these experiences have progressed naturally into a strategic planning process now underway under the leadership of Maya Bergeron-Métivier,

Past President and experienced organizational strategist. As we prepare for our centenary and beyond, discussions are focusing on three connected themes of **governance**, **membership**, and **activities**. These are not ends in themselves. They are the tools that help us fulfill the purposes set out in our bylaws: promoting lifelong learning, encouraging women's participation in public affairs, advancing the status of women, and contributing to the broader work of CFUW.

The questions are straightforward: How do we develop leadership for the future? How do we attract and engage members in a city full of opportunities? How do our activities best express our mission and values?

As we approach our second century, how can we remain true to our history while staying fresh, relevant, and distinctly Montreal? We would love to hear your thoughts. Please share your ideas with me or any Board member.

The best strategic plans are shaped by the members they serve.

On the upcoming election and per our [bylaws](#), our Club aims "to arouse and sustain among its members an intelligent interest in public affairs" and "to bring about understanding and cooperation among university women, irrespective of ... political opinions." In that spirit, I am comfortable encouraging you to vote on October 5, no matter your political leanings."

DO YOU HAVE TECHNOLOGY ISSUES?

[Connecting Canadians](#) is a great resource. It's a charity that provides direct assistance to "older adults with technology training and support."



Lorraine O'Donnell
President

PHOTO CREDIT: © CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
BY LISA GRAVES



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Confirmed date of Dec. 4 for Christmas concert at Maison Forget and cancellation of December 16 dinner at University Club.
- Scheduled first strategic planning session for September 9.
- Confirmed board policy regarding hospitalized members.
- Agreed to hiring of French copy-editor to assist with updating translated French portions of website.
- Formed sub-committee to finalize consistent Club public French name.
- Approved cost of cleaning Club Room carpet.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Victoria Percival
Westmount, QC,

Linda Sestock (dual member)
Beaconsfield, QC

Atwater Library Benefit Cocktail

Wednesday, October 28 , 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$175 (tax receipt for \$125) Click [CanadaHelps](#) for tickets and/or to donate online.

Online Auction opens for bids on October 17 and closes just before the end of the benefit.

For more information, contact Manager of Administration and Development Lavina Alonzo (lavina@atwaterlibrary.ca, 514-935-7344) during regular library opening hours.

Contact Lavina if you have an item to contribute to the auction.

THE 2026 POPPY CAMPAIGN



The Royal Canadian Legion
starts selling poppies this year on
October 24.



EVENTS CALENDAR - OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 LIBRARY LECTURES & LUNCH ++++++ WOMEN'S ISSUES	2 CHITTER CHATTER	3
4	5 ELECTION DAY ++++++ STRATEGIC PLANNING	6	7 BOARD MEETING	8 LIBRARY LECTURES & LUNCH ++++++ LADIES WHO LUNCH	9 COFFEE KLATCH	10
11	12 	13	14 DINNER MEETING	15 LIBRARY LECTURES & LUNCH	16	17
18 OUTDOOR LADIES	19 BOOK CLUB	20	21	22 LIBRARY LECTURES & LUNCH	23	24 Provincial Council in St. Lambert ++++++ Poppies sale starts.
25	26 STRATEGIC PLANNING	27	28 ATWATER LIBRARY BENEFIT COCKTAIL	29 LIBRARY LECTURES & LUNCH ++++++ WOMEN'S ISSUES	30	31 

OFFICIAL CLUB NAMES AND ACRONYMS

English

Formal (contracts, government, cheques)

University Women's Club of Montreal Inc.

Public*

- **University Women's Club of Montreal**
- Long acronym (public): **UWC Montreal**
- Short acronym (informal): **UWCM**
-

French

Formal (contracts, government, cheques)

**Club des femmes universitaires
de Montréal Inc.**

Public*

- **Club des femmes universitaires de Montréal**
- Long acronym (public): **CFU Montréal**
- Short acronym (informal): **CFUM**

* Informal usage in media, social media, letters to officials, etc.)



AWARD-WINNING MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF
"CÉRÉMONIE D'ELIZABETH WIRTH - MÉDAILLE
DE L'ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE DE LA DÉPUTÉE
JENNIFER MACCARONNE"

In 2015, long-time UWCM member and McGill alumna Elizabeth Wirth made a very generous gift to enhance student-related programs at the Schulich School of Music. In recognition of her transformative support, McGill University named its new Music Building on Sherbrooke Street in her honour. The Wirth Vocal Prize is awarded annually to an outstanding voice student at the Schulich School of Music who demonstrates exceptional talent and significant promise for an international career.

- Susan Button





AWARD-WINNING MEMBERS (cont'd)

On the evening of August 20, UWCM Past President Elizabeth Wirth was presented with the Member of The National Assembly Medal by Chief Official Opposition Whip and MNA for Westmount–Saint-Louis Jennifer Maccarone. The ceremony (that current Club President Lorraine O'Donnell attended) was held at the Elizabeth Wirth Music Building of McGill University in front of family, friends, colleagues and representatives from the many organizations she supports.

- Donna Jensen



The James McGill Society closed out a most successful 50th year with the presentation of special recognition awards to Executive Secretary Prof. Peter McNally (right) and Membership Secretary **Susan Button** (left) for their service and support over the course of its history.

- Donna Jensen

(Source: James McGill Society Facebook Post, 08-27-2026)

TAKE NOTE

ONLY this November, our dinner is on a Thursday.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEKER



By Leah Trineer

Currently Adjunct Professor at University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs, **Sir Graham Watson** teaches a post-graduate course on the European Union.

Prior to his academic career, Sir Watson served as Member of the European Parliament, chaired the Committee on Citizens Rights, Justice and Home Affairs, led the Liberal Group in the European Parliament,

chaired the network of legislators committed to climate action, among many other distinguished positions.

Knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2011, Sir Watson currently serves on the board of the European Cyclists' Federation and as Chairman of the World Cycling Alliance.

Amidst global trade wars, new alliances, and the U.S. mid-terms, Sir Graham Watson will be able to shed an international perspective on the politically changing times we inhabit.



INTEREST GROUPS

BOOK CLUB BUDDIES

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

The group of 12 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 Searcher* by Tana French will be presented by Joan Mccrimmon.

Convenor: Tanya Fitzpatrick

LIBRARY LECTURES & LUNCH

Thursdays, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - 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. Convenor: Carly Pepler

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Thursdays, October 1 & 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

TRAVEL GROUP

Club Room, 1200 Atwater Avenue

This group will meet in the Club Room once a month to talk of all things travel.

Convenor: Valerie Markham

COFFEE KLATCH

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

1386 Greene Ave., Westmount, H3Z 2N1

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

MUSEUM JAUNTERS

Convenor: Adèle Hebert

OUTDOOR LADIES

Saturday, Oct. 24, 10:00 am - Art Deco Tour

Our planned September visit to Little Italy to view art deco buildings and visit the market was cancelled due to a poor weather forecast. We will make another attempt this month, leaving from the Jean Talon metro. Further details will be confirmed the week prior to the event. Contact me to express your interest in participating.

Convenor: Karen Staudinger

CHITTER-CHATTER

Friday, October 2, 2-4 p.m.

Avenue G, 1386 Greene Ave.

The group meets the first Friday afternoon of the month. All club members are more than welcome but please RSVP the night before. Convenor: Rhonda Schanfield

New location!!

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Thursday, October 8 - 12:15 p.m.

Restaurant LE 1881, 2070 Peel (at Peel metro)

Enjoy refined cuisine and an extensive wine list. After lunch, we can visit the MAA Club Sportif for those who wish. Convenor: Adèle Hebert

Returns in
November



INTEREST GROUPS (cont'd)

STAGE AND SOIRÉE

In September, I attended the *Intro to Baroque Instruments Show and Tell* at St. Thomas Church. It was interesting and fun, and the concert the next evening was excellent. Contact me with ideas or if you would like to connect before a show. Convenor: Christine Gilsenan

*Bonjour/Hello
How Are You/Comment-
ça va Committee*

By Barbara Lewis

With plans to call our members to find out how they are doing, we have been quiet over the summer when so many people were traveling. Our group will start up again now that fall is upon us. It will be a quick and friendly call to let our valued members know that we are here if you need us. Anything we speak about will be held confidential.

At this point, there are two of us — Sheila Mohammed and me — and we are looking for a French-speaking person to become the third or fourth. Stand by for our calls!

GOURMET GROUP

Thursday, September 30, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

UWCM Club Room, 1200 Atwater Avenue

This initial meeting date was changed. We will discuss format, and in October, we will meet in someone's home to prepare a dish or meal together. The hostess will be on a rotating basis, probably every two or three months. Works best with at least six or eight participants. Contact me if you're interested. Convenor: Joan Shideler

**If you have an idea to run
an interest group,
contact Colleen Cattiny,**

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](#).

Monday, October 5

*** **

**ADVANCE POLLS
September 27, 28**

ÉLECTIONS

Québec 2026





CFUW NEWS

By Alaka McConnell

The two resolutions adopted at the 2026 Policy Session establish explicit advocacy mandates for CFUW:

Resolution #1: Canadian Response to the Education Crisis for Women and Girls in Afghanistan

Core Mandate: Reflects CFUW's foundational commitment to gender equality, human rights, and global education infrastructure.

Key Strategic Directives: Demands robust Canadian government intervention on the international stage. It specifically mobilizes resources for higher international advocacy, creates alternative safe educational pathways for affected Afghan women, and builds rigorous oversight networks to demand accountability for human rights violations.

Resolution #2: Countering Disinformation in Canada

Core Mandate: Targets false or misleading narratives that compromise domestic elections, erode public trust in peer-reviewed science, and actively block legislative progress on climate change.

Key Strategic Directives: Outlines an actionable multi-tier framework targeting four segments:

1. Education: Creating media literacy tools to help Canadians identify online manipulation
2. Public Awareness: Launching regional informational community campaigns.
3. Journalism: Lobbying for sustainable financial and structural support for verified local journalism.
4. Accountability: Demanding legal and regulatory transparency from major digital platforms and social media networks.

(source: CFUW CLUB ACTION Newsletter , August 26 2026 Special Edition)

CAN YOU SPOT THE UWCM MEMBERS?



More than 175 ladies from across Canada gathered in Montreal last July at the week-long CFUW AGM & Conference. There are at least five of our members in the photo including our President.



CENTENARY COMMITTEE

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. Submit your photo to Newsletter Editor Donna Jensen.

All photographs will be published throughout the centenary year — just a few months away!

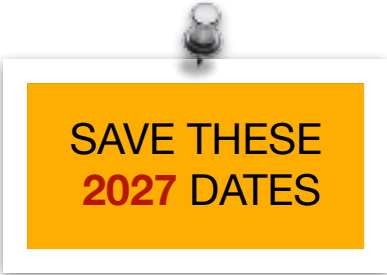
ONLY 33 BAGS LEFT!

We are still selling sturdy cotton tote bags (at \$30 each) to help raise funds for celebrating our centenary next year. Payable in cash or e-transfer to Donna Jensen.



Wed. March 17, 2027
Centenary Tea
(no charge)
#7 (Club Room)
1200 Atwater Avenue

Tea sandwiches, homemade goodies, and pleasant company. In the spirit of 1927, appropriate attire welcome. Drop in anytime from 3:00 p.m. and stay for a bit or the whole time until 6:00 p.m.



SAVE THESE
2027 DATES

Wed, October 20, 2027

As reported at the June 18 AGM, a gala dinner will take place on this date. Along with invited guests, come enjoy a three-course meal at the McGill University Faculty Club main lounge

and ballroom. After dinner, enjoy a tap from keynote speaker Concordia University Chancellor Dr. Gina Cody. More details to come.

Gala Dinner tickets: \$150 each

FOUNDATION FACTS

By Donna Jensen, Trustee

The Foundation Trustees met on Saturday, September 12 and set a total fundraising goal of \$17,000 for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

The Annual Giving Campaign will begin November 15. Our letters to all members will be mailed at the end of this month. We ask you to be generous in donating and encourage you

to ask a friend, family member, neighbour or colleague to donate as well. Any donations will allow us to continue the Club's mission of promoting post-secondary education and the empowerment of women.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I'd like to extend a sincere thank you for your continued consideration and support.



YOUR 2026-27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



From left: Leah Trineer (Program), Mica Faciu (Dinner Coordinator), Olga Shevchenko (Membership), Veronica Noble (Secretary), Donna Jensen (Newsletter), Lorraine O'Donnell (President), Colleen Cattiny (Interest Groups), Alaka McConnell (MAL), Lynn Travers (MAL), Sharon Brissette (MAL), Liz McCallum (Treasurer), Lauren Rudy (Social Media).
(PHOTO CREDIT: DOMINIC VARVARO)



Member **Barbara Lewis** has written and beautifully sings the song entitled "Before We Called It Canada." Lorraine O'Donnell writes "it's a lovely—and real—achievement." To listen and enjoy, click [VIMEO](#) or [FACEBOOK](#).



(SOURCE: BARBARA LEWIS FACEBOOK POST, SEPT. 10, 2026)

Record turnout at COFFEE KLATCH



Clockwise, from left: Alice Holman, Lesley Forrester, Linda Edgar, Carmelita Rasquinha, Nathalie Cooke, Mica Faciu, Andrea Bobkowicz, Maurene White (standing), Anne Jalbert, Joan Shideler, Tanya Fitzpatrick, Valerie Markham. Photo taken by Leah Trineer.



WOMEN'S ISSUES at Restaurant Ermitage

On Thursday, August 27, the group met at Restaurant Ermitage.

Pictured here, clockwise from left: Christine Gilsenan, Karen Staudinger, Stephanie Boyd, Alaka McConnell, Sheila Mohammed, Maria Szego, Olga Shevchenko, Judy Mowat, Carol Cohen, Gordana Mijovic, Marsha Sklar, Lynn Travers, Renée Charron.



Newsletter Editor: Donna Jensen

Copy Editor, Proofreader: Lauren Rudy

OUTDOOR LADIES Tour a Cemetery

By Karen Staudinger

In August, we enjoyed a visit to Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery, exploring the history, architecture, and personalities that helped to shape our country, province, and city. On our tour we learned that (a) the former charnel house (now a mausoleum) was designed by John Ostell who was also responsible for the

McGill Arts Building and the Old Courthouse, (b) Br. Marie-Victorin discovered botany while convalescing from TB and, after years of self-study, defended his PhD thesis to fulfill his role as professor at Université de Montréal, (c) Idola St-Jean organized Quebec women in 1927 to fight for the right to vote, working until it was finally granted in 1940.



Pictured here, from left: Karen Staudinger, Marianna Frank, Wendy Telfer, Carly Pepler, and Judith Ritchie.

Photo taken by Lynn Travers.

