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UWC MONTRÉAL INC

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

Published October 25, 2026

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



Dinner on Thursday this month only!

Geso Ristorante

1800 Sherbrooke St. W, H3H 1E5

THURSDAY, November 19

Starting at 6:00 pm

To RSVP, contact Mica Faciu **before 11:00 a.m. November 16**.

By Leah Trineer

For our November dinner, we are privileged to welcome **Sir Graham Watson** all the way from his home in Scotland. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy where he teaches a post-graduate course on the European Union.

Prior to his academic career, he served for 20 years as the Member of the European Parliament, representing the constituency of South West England, a position he held from 1994 to 2014. He was chairman of the Parliament's Committee on Citizens Rights, Justice and Home Affairs (1999-2002). He then served for seven and a half years as leader of the Liberal Group in the European Parliament, first as leader of the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party Group (2002-2004) and then as leader of the new Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group (2004-2009). From 2011 until 2015, he was the president of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party; then served for four years as member on the European Economic and Social Committee.

Sir Graham was a founding member and twice Chairman of the network of legislators committed to climate action called The Climate Parliament. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in the 2011 "Birthday Honours" for political and public service. He currently serves as a Board Member 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 live in.

CASH: $65 (meal)

including taxes and tip

Glass of wine (red or white): $16

Bottle of house wine: $40 plus taxes (credit or debit)



NAME TAGS!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I am pleased to report on our **Club Strategic Planning**, now well underway.*

Leadership: Maya Bergeron-Métivier, former Club President and an experienced organizational strategist, is leading this important undertaking.

Participants: Our Board of Directors

Liaison: Board member-at-large Sharon Brissette has kindly agreed to communicate between Maya and the Board about meeting times and documents.

Format: A series of evening meetings. Mica has supplied cookies!

Status: We have had two evening meetings of over two hours each.

Process: We identified three main themes (see below). Each meeting, we "brainstorm" using a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) chart per theme. This visual, iterative approach allows us to track, revisit, and refine our views as we go along. It is very helpful.

· Themes and some questions and issues we're addressing:

○ MEMBERSHIP

▪ **Number:** We currently have around 100 members. Do we want to cap the number? Would the Club function smoothly if it doubled in size? Practically speaking, for instance: where would meet for dinners?

▪ **Target**: What are barriers to younger women joining our Club? Should we adjust our offer of activities (type, timing) to attract them?

▪ **"Threats," which I prefer to think of as challenges, originating outside our Club:** There are now many more clubs for women than there were when ours was created. How can we make ours stand out?

○ GOVERNANCE

▪ **Leadership structure:** Successive nominating committees have been challenged to identify members wishing to lead the Club. Would creating co-vice-president and co-president positions encourage more members to step up? Sitting on a Board represents a career opportunity to young women. Should we advertise Board positions externally?

▪ **Corporate memory:** How do we preserve and effectively convey Club decisions, policies and procedures to new Boards?

○ ACTIVITIES

▪ **Strengths/Weaknesses:** Our Club offers a great variety of interest group activities, special events like cocktails, and dinner speakers. Many events are during the day. Is this a barrier to participation/recruitment?

▪ **Advocacy:** In which of the many external advocacy events should the Board encourage Club participation?

Next steps: We look forward to continue brainstorming, then we will come up with a timed plan for Board approval. Next meeting: October 19.**

It's a lively and engaging exercise. Sincere thanks to Maya for great guidance and moderating.

Thoughts? Feedback? Feel free to let your Board know!

Lorraine O'Donnell

President



PHOTO CREDIT: © CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
BY LISA GRAVES

* This report uses content and some wording from Maya's strategic-planning PowerPoint.

** Stay tuned for a report on the October 19 meeting.

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NEXT MONTH: HOLIDAY COCKTAIL & CONCERT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

5:00 to 7:30: Cocktails, canapés, live music
Holiday songs with vocalists Barbara Lewis and Thomas Leslie. Keyboard by Doug Balfour.

SILENT AUCTION (net proceeds to benefit UWCM Foundation)

MAISON LOUIS FORGET

1195 Sherbrooke St W. H3A 1H9

This celebration replaces the usual Christmas dinner.
Tickets **$60** (no tax receipt) in cash or by cheque (made payable to UWCM).

RSVP to Natalia Rossokhata by **November 20.**

For more information, contact Olga Shevchenko.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Final two strategic-planning sessions set for October 19 and November 9.
- Discussed managing Club Room bookings.
- Learned of date of Quebec Council autumn meeting in St. Lambert and who will attend.
- Discussed the Nominating Committee progress in finding Co-VPs.
- Learned of plans for Dec. 4 holiday cocktail and concert at Maison Forget.
- Will create “terms of engagement” for incoming directors.
- Learned that French section of website has been launched.
- Agree to the need of a central repository for passwords and procedures.
- Discussed inviting representative of Afghan Women’s Centre to a Club event.
- Agreed to create membership directory procedure.
- Was reminded that non-partisanship was a vital element of Club activities.
- Agreed to ask “How Are You” Committee Chair Barbara Lewis to become “goodwill ambassador” to send congratulatory, sympathy and get-well wishes to members.



FALL BACK

Sunday, November 1



CFUW NEWS

The 71st Commission on the Status of Women (CSW71) being held in New York City from March 8 - 19, 2027. CFUW has 20 delegate positions due to its special Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) status with the UN. Delegates self-fund their transportation, hotel and meals but there is no charge for the sessions themselves. **You are invited to apply for a delegate position.**

CFUW delegates usually fly into New York City on the previous Saturday (March 6) to register in person and pick up their Grounds Pass for entering the UN Building. Most CFUW delegates stay for the first week.

The main theme revolves around advancing gender equality. The outcome statement will be published as Agreed Conclusions.

If you are thinking of attending and want more information, feel free to contact Lorraine O'Donnell (lorraineinmontreal@gmail.com). who was a CFUW delegate and attended in 2025.

Access the APPLICTION FORM

Application Deadline:

Wednesday, November 25, 2026

(**SOURCE:** CFUW *CLUB ACTION NEWS*, OCTOBER 9, 2026)

MEET THE 2026-28 BOARD

CFUW WEBINAR

Wed., Nov. 18, 6 p.m. ET

Register here

By Alaka McConnell

CFUW offers a Fall Advocacy Package 2026 (LINK) to guide local Clubs to engage in voluntary advocacy work about the two specific policy resolutions adopted at last July's AGM.

- Clubs are encouraged to act on resolutions based on local relevance and capacity.
- CFUW National provides social media toolkits in English and French.

Resolution 1: *Demanding Canadian response to education crisis for females in Afghanistan with federal funding for virtual learning, digital literacy, and online teacher-training platforms.* Calls on Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to eliminate barriers like study permit denials for Afghan women seeking education in Canada. What to do? Pressure elected officials and post-secondary institutions to expand virtual programs, engage Afghan speakers at a Club event, support local refugee families, launch a letter-writing campaign.

Resolution 2: *Countering Disinformation in Canada threatening public health, climate action, and democratic integrity.* Calls for an independent federal regulatory board to monitor and sanction the spread of digital disinformation while respecting the right to freedom of expression. Demands mandatory K-12 media literacy courses focussing on critical thinking and spotting manipulation, and sustained public awareness campaigns on information accuracy. Calls for continued government financial support for legacy and mainstream print/broadcast media to preserve reliable news sources, lobbying local politicians, creating municipal election questionnaires for candidates, circulating a national petition, community workshops.

(NOTE: See links at bottom of next page.)*

(SOURCE: CFUW CLUB ACTION NEWS, OCT. 2, 2026)



GWI NEWS

By Lynn Travers

This update from **Graduate Women International (GWI)** highlights its ongoing work to advance girls' and women's education across all stages of life.

1. Education as a Lifelong Journey
GWI emphasizes that education extends beyond formal schooling. Through its *Girls Education for Brighter Futures* program, the organization supports girls in remaining in school while also creating opportunities for women to gain new knowledge and skills throughout adulthood. The initiative combines local educational projects with international advocacy to promote safe, equitable access to quality education.

2. Supporting Older Learners and Intergenerational Learning
In recognition of the **International Day of Older Persons**, GWI is participating in a United Nations-related event focused on the challenges and opportunities of longer lives. The organization advocates for continued learning opportunities for older women and highlights the value of sharing knowledge across generations.

3. Member Achievements and Leadership Development
The update celebrates achievements within GWI's global network, including:

- Scholarships awarded by the Asociación de Mujeres Universitarias de Marbella (AMUM) to 14 first-year university students.
- The election of new leaders in GWI-affiliated organizations in Bangladesh, Paraguay, and Scotland.
- Continued encouragement of mentorship and leadership development among women worldwide.

4. Mentorship and Women's Empowerment
GWI is promoting intergenerational mentorship through an upcoming webinar on how women can support one another across different career stages. The initiative aligns with GWI's strategic priorities for 2025-2028 and underscores the importance of professional networking, advocacy, and knowledge sharing.

5. Global Advocacy and the Future of Education
At the international level, GWI is actively participating in UNESCO discussions on the future of education beyond 2030. Major themes under consideration include:

- Climate change
- Artificial intelligence
- Social inequality
- Changing labour markets
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Sustainability and life skills

The GWI involvement helps ensure that the educational needs of women and girls remain part of global policy discussions

(SOURCE: GWI UPDATE, OCTOBER 2026)

* **Consult these links about how to counter dis- or misinformation (from p. 4)**

Government of Canada
United Nations
American Psychological Association
RAND research organization



INTEREST GROUPS

BOOK CLUB BUDDIES
Monday, November 16, 4:00 - 5:30 pm
UWCM Club Room, 1200 Atwater Avenue
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: *Lovers at the Museum* by Isabel Allende will be presented by Pilar Shephard-Cumming.
Convenor: Tanya Fitzpatrick

BOOK CLUB NO. 2
Wednesday, November 18, 10:30 an - 12 noon
UWCM Club Room, 1200 Atwater Avenue
We'll meet every two months usually on the third Wednesday of that month. Co-Convenors: Valerie Shannon and Victoria Hilton

CHITTER-CHATTER
Friday, November 6, 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

GOURMET GROUP
Tuesday, November. 3, 6:00 pm
Westmount
After the September information meeting, the group decided to meet every two months in someone's home. This month's hostess is Joan Shideler. Convenor: Joan Shideler

LADIES WHO LUNCH
Convenor: Adèle Hebert

MUSEUM JAUNTERS
Convenor: Adèle Hebert

COFFEE KLATCH
Friday, November 13, 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 am at Avenue G .
Convenor: Leah Trineer

LIBRARY LECTURES & LUNCH
Thursdays, Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26 - 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. **You MUST let Carly know if you wish to stay for lunch**. Convenor: Carly Pepler

OUTDOOR LADIES
Saturday, November 14, 10:00 a.m.
Underground Public Art For the final event of the season, the Outdoor Ladies will stay indoors and visit the public art found in the Montreal Underground City starting at the Place des Arts metro. Further details will be confirmed the week prior to the event. Contact me to express your interest in participating.
Convenor: Karen Staudinger

TRAVEL GROUP
Monday, November 2, 2:00 p.m.
UWCM Club Room, 1200 Atwater Avenue
This group will meet once a month to talk travel. This month, I will give a presentation of my 2010 Tibet/ Nepal trip in the area of the recent Nepal disaster. Convenor: Valerie Markham

INTEREST GROUPS (cont'd)

STAGE AND SOIRÉE

Contact me with ideas or if you would like to connect before a show.
Convenor: Christine Gilsenan

If you have an idea to run an interest group, contact Interest Group Coordinator Colleen Cattiny.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Thursday, November 26, 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

GOLFING MEMBERS

On September 22, Beaconsfield Golf Club held its Ladies Year-End AGM. Five UWCM members attended and Leah took the opportunity to have them pose with her for a group shot.

Standing from left: Carol Cohen, Leah Trineer, Hannah Trineer-Roberts.
Seated: Maria Pogatsas (left), Margarita Schultz



MEET YOUR COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR



By Donna Jensen

Concordia University Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics **Nataliia Rossokhata** became a UWCM member in 2025 and accepted the time-consuming role of Communications Chair last summer.

Born and educated in Ukraine, Nataliia juggles her professional and personal lives with the demands of reporting to members all Club events, dinner menus, and newsletters.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

Pay tribute to veterans on Wednesday, November 11, at 11:00 a.m. at two locations.

1. Parc Place du Canada, corner of Peel Street and René-Lévesque Boulevard

2. National Field of Honour
703 Donegani Avenue, Pointe-Claire

Throughout Canada, November 11th is commemorated as a day of national reflection, where ceremonies honour military personnel who served and came home as well as those who lost their lives in service.

If you are unable to attend in person, at 11:00 a.m. take a moment for silent contemplation and appreciation. View a remembrance video produced by the Government of Canada HERE.

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae, 1915 (**LISTEN**)

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.



Canadian women in uniform

Women have served in Canada's military for more than a century. Watch this six-minute **video** to learn how their roles and opportunities have changed over time, from nursing sisters in muddy field tents, to serving as artillery gunners, flying fighter jets, and commanding warships.

Discover how women helped challenge stereotypes, overcome barriers and shape the Canadian Armed Forces we know today.



(Source: veterans affairs.ca)

SUBSCRIBE

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

CENTENARY COMMITTEE

A Century of Empowerment

Bu Susan Button

How many female trailblazers can you name? UWCM has been fortunate to have been the home of an amazing number of pioneering women, some of whom have been the subject of earlier Newsletter articles.

Octavia Grace Ritchie England, the first female doctor; Elizabeth Monk, the first lawyer; Carrie Derick, the first full professor at a Canadian university; and Maude Abbott, world-renowned cardiologist and first female member of the McGill University Faculty Club.

Many acts of empowerment happened not only here in Montreal but also around the world with women working to improve the acceptance of women against discriminatory rules and practices. The legal status of women throughout much of the 19th century was certainly not equal. Although not a UWCM member, Marie-Claire Kirkland-Casgrain was the first woman elected to the Legislative Assembly of Quebec (now Quebec National Assembly) and was instrumental in the 1964 *Married Woman's Legal Capacity Act* so that married women could exercise full legal rights.



There is no doubt that women pioneers in traditional male professions have encountered gender-role stereotyping – a hidden, or perhaps not so hidden, implication that there is an incompatibility between being female and being a professional person. Times changed slowly:

It was in March 1982 when Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau appointed Bertha Wilson to the Supreme Court of Canada, making her Canada's first female Supreme Court Justice. And in January 1992, Roberta Bondar became the first Canadian woman in space.



Many years of hard work can now be seen in the announcement that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2026 was awarded to Navanethem "Navi" Pillay, a South African-born former judge with the International Criminal Court, who went on to become the United Nations human rights chief and is still serving with the U.N.'s other judicial body, the International Court of Justice. She was recognized "for her efforts to promote peace and advance international law."

Since the UWCM founding in 1927 we have been a group of women supporting each other and also championing wider causes. Our pioneers and trailblazers have left their achievements to be our guideposts for the years to come. Boldly may we continue for another 100 years!



Navi Pillay in Nuremburg, Germany, Oct. 9, 2026, after being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. (Image from an online video posted by Amnesty International Secretary General Agnes Callamard).

(PHOTOS OF M.C. KIRKLAND-CASGRAIN AND R. BONDAR FROM WIKIPEDIA.ORG)

SINCERE CONDOLENCES





By Donna Jensen

I first got to know Barbara when she joined the UWCM Board as Secretary in May 2019, and she and I conferred about the wording of minutes. Earlier, we had spent time in the "Stitchin' Time" interest group in the Coach House, her knitting and me quilting.

She joined my Foundation fundraising committee in 2022 and helped organize interest-group gift baskets. Barbara was a faithful attendant at monthly dinners, often bringing with her Lauren Rudy, her granddaughter.

Since its inception in the fall of 2022, Barbara was an avid Book Buddy. In June, her book choice was the gripping yet moving novel by John Vaillant entitled *The Jaguar's Children.*

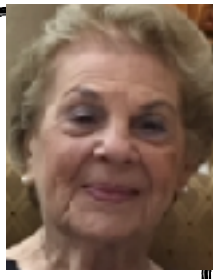
At the age of 88, Barbara passed away peacefully at home. A celebration of life will take place on Sunday, Nov. 8 at 2:00 p.m. at the Mount Royal Funeral Home and a memorial ceremony will follow at 4:00 p.m.

On behalf of all members, and especially members of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend heartfelt sympathies to Lauren and to all Barbara's family members.

I'll miss you, Barbara.

"Barbara Kerr lived life on her own terms, with an open heart and an insatiable curiosity." (The Gazette, *October 2, 2026).*

Read full obituary **HERE**.



Born in 1922, former member Mary Hazen (née Ginsberg) was the beloved sister and best friend of current member Sally Vineberg. Mary was a longtime Club member known for her handmade notecards she sold to support local causes.

Mary leaves behind her sister Sally, a son and daughter, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Donations in Mary's memory may be to the Jewish General Hospital Foundation https://www.jghfoundation.org/

Read the full obituary **HERE**.

Newsletter Editor Donna Jensen
Copy Editor, Proofreader: Lauren Rudy

We welcome submissions but you are asked to provide sources and the names of all those in any photos.

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EVENT CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDA	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 FALL BACK	2 2:00 p.m. TRAVEL GROUP	3	4 6::00-8:0.m. BOARD MEETING	5 12:30 - 3:00 LECTURES & LUNCH	6 2-4:00 p.m. CHITTER CHATTER	7
8 Memorial for Barbara Kerr	9 5:00 - 7:00 Strat Planning	10		12 12:30 - 3:00 LECTURES & LUNCH	13 7:45-9 a.m. COFFEE KLATCH	14 10:00 OUTDOOR LADIES
15	16 3:30 - 5:30 BOOK BUDDIES	17	18 10:30-12 :00 Bok Cub #2 6 pm CFUW WEBINAR	19 12:30 - 3:00 LECTURES & LUNCH 6 pm DINNER at GESO	20 HOLIDAY COCKTAIL RSVP DEADLINE	21 11:00 a.m. SANTA CLAUSE PARADE
22	23	24 10:30-12:30 CENTENARY COMMITTEE	25 **CSW 71** DEADLINE TO APPLIY TO REGISTER	26 12:30 - 3:00 LECTURES & LUNCH 6-10:00 p.m. WOMEN'S ISSUES	27	28
29	30					

Legend

Club events held in Club Room #7.
Interest Groups/events held offsite.
Events of possible interest.

Atwater Library hours of operation

Monday, Wednesday	10 am to 8 pm
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	10 am to 6 pm
Saturday	10 am to 5 pm

Note: Club Room events must be held during regular library hours.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Welcome, new member:

Maryanne Griss

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FOUNDATION FACTS

By Maya Bergeron-Métivier, Co-Chair

The season of giving is just around the corner already! Members can expect to receive their Annual Giving Campaign letter in the mail soon. As the Foundation's largest fundraising initiative, this campaign is an important opportunity to support the causes and initiatives that make a meaningful difference in our community.

And there's more to look forward to! On December 4th, members are encouraged to come enjoy a festive cocktail/concert at Maison Forget with a silent auction. Net proceeds will benefit the Foundation!

Two wonderful opportunities to give back, connect and make an impact. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

SANDA CLAUS PARADE

Saturday, November 21, 11:00 a.m.
Runs along Ste-Catherine from Drummond to St-Urbain.

QUIRKY COLLECTIVE NOUNS FOR ANIMALS

army of frogs
bask of crocodiles
congregation of eagles
drift of pigs
exaltation of larks
flock of sheep
gang of elk
hover of trout
kindle of kittens
mute of hounds
nest of vipers
obstinacy of buffalo
parliament of owls
rafter of turkeys
shrewdness of apes
tribe of goats
volary of birds
wedge of swans
yoke of oxen

(SOURCES: YOUTUBE VIDEO; SCRIBENDI.COM

SEPTEMBER 23 MEMBERS & FRIENDS COCKTAIL



From left: Guest Jeanne-Marie Lefebvre, Olga Shevchenko, Elizabeth Wirth, and Carmelita Rasquinha.