

MONTREAL LAKESHORE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB
ANNUAL REPORTS
2013-2014

PAST PRESIDENT

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, I am pleased to present the following slate of officers and Committee chairs for the year 2014 - 2015:

Executive

New mandates for:

President	Connie Ellis
Vice-President & CFUW Liaison	Suzanne Chaussé
Vice-President & Membership	Linda Sestock
Communications	Jeannie Hazel
Past President	Gilda Martinello

Returning officers for their 2nd year:

Treasurer	Paulette Cargill
Recording Secretary	Joyce Schaaf

Standing Committee Chairs

New mandates for:

Archives	Jane Cowell Poitras
Interest Groups	Linda Ricketts
Newsletter	Barbara Armbruster
Programme	Vacant

Returning chairs for the 2nd year of their term:

Fundraising	Mary Vlahos
Hospitality	Shirley Wick
Scholarships	Sandra Munro

Returning for an additional year:

Webmaster	Chitra Chopra
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Other committees

New mandate for:

Potluck Dinners	Gisele Lambert & Patricia DuVal
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Returning for an additional year:

Newsletter distribution	Janet Guay
Photographer	Judy Paquin & Janet Ankcorn

MLUWC Scholarship Fund

New mandates for:

Chair	Barbara Marcolin
Treasurer	Susan Keating

I greatly appreciate the efforts of the members of the Nominating Committee: Marie-Belle Cunningham, Patricia DuVal, Connie Ellis and Elizabeth Semmelhaack.

**Respectfully submitted,
Chitra Chopra
Past President & Chair, Nominating Committee**

PRESIDENT

The first executive meeting was held in May 2013 when the current and incoming executive members met and portfolios were officially transferred. The following were the new members of the executive: Linda Sestock as VP/CFUW Liaison (in addition to her duties as Interest Group Chair), Joyce Schaaf as Recording Secretary, Sandra Munro as Scholarship Chair, Mary Vlahos as Fundraising Chair, and Shirley Wick, Hospitality Chair. Our Treasurer for 2013-2015, Paulette Cargill, was acclaimed at the Convivium in September 2013.

Executive meetings were held monthly beginning in August and will continue until May 2014. During these meetings, we discussed items of interest or concern to the MLUWC, such as a members-only webpage, the Charter of Values, fundraising possibilities.

In July 2013, I attended the CFUW Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon. During that meeting, I met other Presidents from Clubs across Canada and was impressed by the caliber of the attendees. Various resolutions, including the one proposed by our Club on cyber-bullying, were presented and voted on. CFUW and IFUW initiatives were presented and discussed.

In October, several members of our Club attended the fall meeting of the Quebec Council of CFUW Clubs held in Quebec City. This group consists of the five CFUW Clubs in Quebec and we meet twice a year: once in the fall and again in the spring. The fall session dealt with issues that face all the Quebec Clubs including attracting new and younger members.

By the end of this year, eight general meetings will have been held, including the Convivium in September and the AGM on May 12, 2014. The Programme Committee did a great job in obtaining speakers who covered various subjects: organ donation, person-centered care for Alzheimer patients, restituting war-stolen art, and the current status of feminism in Canada. Our speaker for the AGM will be award-winning author Alix Ohlin. In addition to these general meetings, we had a comedy night starring Bowser and Blue and over \$6000 was raised for the Scholarship Fund. Other initiatives by the Fundraising Committee (such as book sales) raised over \$1000 and the Games Day on May 1 is expected to bring in about \$1000 to \$1500.

Each year, our December meeting allows us to collect and donate money to West Island charities. This year, \$1600 was given to the West Island Women's Shelter.

At the March meeting, members discussed and voted on the four resolutions proposed by various CFUW Clubs. All four resolutions were approved.

As always, our interest groups were very busy this year with various meetings and activities. The networking group led by Linda Sestock held several meetings and approximately 12-14 women attended these networking meetings. The group meets every two months and different presentations are given.

On April 26, I attended the Quebec Provincial Council AGM hosted by the Montreal Inc. Club. Presidents reported on their Clubs' past year's initiatives. There was also a presentation given by the Quebec Club on their plans for hosting the 2015 CFUW AGM.

As this is my last year as Club President, I would like to thank all those who helped me along the way – executive members, committee chairs, interest group leaders and members who came to the various meetings.

**Respectfully submitted,
Gilda Martinello
President**

VP/CFUW LIAISON

This year CFUW launched a national initiative on Preventing and Responding to Violence against Women and Girls. MLUWC assisted with the initiative by choosing the West Island Women's Shelter as the recipient of the \$1600 raised during our Christmas raffle (thank you to the Interest Groups for providing the prizes). Hopefully, we will be able to support the West Island Women's Shelter for years to come.

Generous donations of toiletries and Christmas gifts were collected at this event and we continue to collect toiletries during our monthly meetings. Victoria Pinnell added to the collection with the help of the students from Lakeside Academy.

The Film group hosted National Film Board documentaries supporting women's rights including the film **Status quo? The Unfinished Business of Feminism in Canada**.

CFUW Resolutions:

Pauline van Nieuwburg led a discussion group on Resolution 1 - An Enhanced Canada Pension Plan.

Linda Sestock led Resolution 2 - A Culture of Peace.

Patricia DuVal led Resolution 3 - Preservation of Democracy: Increasing Voter Participation in Canada

Nancy Doray led Resolution 4 - Promoting Plain Language.

Our Facebook page shares links from CFUW and IFUW - I realize that not everyone is a fan of Facebook but CFUW uses it as a means to spread their message and we hope to do the same for MLUWC.

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Sestock
Vice President & CFUW Liaison**

VP/MEMBERSHIP

A new Membership Application form was introduced this year. It elicits more information from prospective members than before and will assist the Membership and Standing Committee Chairs to help new members to settle into the Club. Patricia DuVal, CFUW VP Membership, and Communications Chair, Janet Ankcorn helped with the design.

The initiatives which were introduced during the past few years have begun to pay off. It seems that more of our members introduced their friends to the Club. Some new members came via the recently formed Networking group and several discovered us on the internet. We welcomed new members all through the year.

Our membership now stands at 216 including twelve life members and one dual member. We lost many members last year for the usual reasons; however the addition of thirty-three new members has kept our numbers growing. Their varying backgrounds will certainly help us to improve what we offer to our membership and the community at large.

We are grateful to Beate Cloetta who hosted the New Members` reception in late October. Several members of the executive were on hand to welcome them and answer their questions about the operation of our Club.

As usual the directories were available for distribution at monthly meetings as of November. Several members including Ann Merakian, Orian Leggett and Phyllis Havercroft assisted with this exercise.

Work continues on a secure section of our website for members only. Applications will be added gradually beginning with an online version of the Club directory and the facility to sign up for Interest Groups. It is expected that the membership will receive a full report on this project in September.

Membership fees were increased to \$110 for the year 2013–2014.

**Respectfully Submitted
Constance Ellis
Vice President & Membership Chair**

COMMUNICATIONS

This year I sent several sympathy and get well cards to members of the club.

I feel it is important to have more communication from club members when they know someone is in hospital or has lost a family member.

It takes a couple of minutes to write a card and I feel it is important to keep up with this custom to bring comfort and support to our club members.

I have updated the list of community advertising e-mails, so we can continue to advertise our meetings and be seen in the community section of the newspapers.

**Respectfully submitted,
Janet Ankcorn
Communications**

TREASURER

Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club	
Interim Statement of Revenues & Expenses	
For the period of June 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014	
Opening Bank Balance	\$ 4,776.06
Revenues:	
Membership Dues Collected	\$ 22,310.00
Convivium	2,220.00
Other Income	2,452.00
Advertising	295.00
Newsletter	107.50
Workshop	240.00
Total Revenues	\$ 27,624.50
Expenses:	
CFUW Fees Paid	\$ 14,280.00
Other Association Fees Paid	410.00
Annual Meeting	500.00
Convivium	2,202.75
Administration	
Admin	534.85
Bank Service Charges	11.00
Scholarship Ctte	41.45
Membership	1,270.98
Communications	
Publicity	135.00
Website	329.04
Newsletter	64.08
Program	901.74
Hospitality	371.16
CFUW convention delegate ¹	3,073.63
Rent	1,224.93
Donations ²	2,315.00
Total Expenses	\$ 28,567.35
Excess of revenues and expenses	\$ (942.85)
Transfers	\$ 2,500.00
Bank balance April 30, 2014	\$ 6,396.12
Investment	\$ 1,618.70
Note¹: Two people went to the national convention which explains the higher cost this year.	
Note²: Donations are higher since we took in the revenue from the sale of tickets at the Christmas party and made the donation to the women's shelter through our account rather than the Scholarship Fund.	
Respectfully submitted	
Paulette Cargill	

REPORTS FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEES

ARCHIVES

Thanks to Judy Cardwell, our archivist from 1995-2008, a system of keeping our annual records has been set up.

This system includes maintaining the following on-going binders – “The President’s Binder” for the two-year term; Annual report (Newsletter Editor); Financial report (Treasurer); signed Minutes of the General and Executive meetings (Recording Secretary); Newsletters (Newsletter Editor); Programme (Programme Chair); 2 Membership Booklets (Membership Chair); Scholarship Fund Minutes and Financial report (Scholarship Fund Chair).

The archives will continue to receive all printed and properly identified photographs (date, names of individuals and activity), newspaper MLUWC articles and publicity/communications etc. in an annual binder/scrapbook. Digital pictures/photographs, submitted to the archivist, will be kept on properly identified CD’s.

All of our archival records are stored at the Community Resource Centre in Valois.

**Respectfully submitted,
Renate Sutherland**

FUNDRAISING

This year for our major fundraising event we tried something new. “An Evening with Bowser and Blue” took place on November 14, 2013 at the Dollard Civic Centre Reception Hall. The evening was a great success enjoyed by 240 guests. Raffle tickets were sold for some unique items that were donated by members and local merchants. The clear profit from this event was \$6150.75

At the April Members’ Night meeting we held a “nearly new” sale. This activity was very well received by the members who had fun mingling and shopping. The sale netted a profit of \$530.55 for the Scholarship Fund. In addition, throughout the year, we continued the used book sale and the 50/50, which brought in another \$417.00.

On May 1, 2014 we will be holding, once again, the popular Games Day at the Beaconsfield Lawn Bowling Club. We are aiming to sell over 80 tickets and are hopeful that the sale of the tickets combined with raffle sales and 50/50 will bring a profit of about \$1500.

All in all, the monies raised for the Scholarship Fund so far this year are \$7098.30. If we factor in the revenue from Games Day it should raise the amount to over \$8500.00, which will bring us very close to the \$9000.00 required for the scholarships.

I would like to thank the Committee members, Nicole Awad, Victoria Pinnell, Suzanne Taylor and Joanne Fraser, who worked so hard with much enthusiasm and commitment. We must also not forget the numerous volunteers who helped during these events. Last but not least, thank you to all the members who participated, in various ways, to make this a successful year.

**Respectfully submitted,
Mary Vlahos**

HOSPITALITY

2013 Convivium

The format for the Convivium was different this year. It was held at the Karnak in September. It was an hors d'oeuvres and dessert event with a cash wine bar. Attendance was about 112 people.

December 2013 Christmas Party

The event was once again held at Cedar Park United Church. Sweets and savoury foods were served along with a cranberry punch.

2013-2014 Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings were held at the Karnak with coffee, tea and cookies. We were sometimes treated to home baked goods by members.

2014 AGM

The AGM Dinner is being held at the Golf St-Raphael on May 12, 2014. There will be a 3 course meal with cash bar for \$45.00 per person.

I wish to thank my team and all others who helped out with the Convivium and meetings.

**Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Wick**

INTEREST GROUPS

It feels like just yesterday that I became Chair of Interest Groups, but two years have already passed by. What a wonderful group of ladies we have looking after all of our varied Interest Groups. Without their leadership and hard work our Club would not be as good as it is!

I would like to thank all of our Interest Group Leaders for making my job such a pleasure. This was a lovely way for me to get to know the club and to meet so many people. We had many new Leaders this year and new groups were added to the mix, making our experience at the Club better every year.

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Sestock**

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is published monthly from September to May. It is distributed to the membership via email. This year, we added our recent Scholarship recipients to our emailing list. A few members continue to receive a printed copy by regular mail. These members are asked to pay a fee to cover printing and mailing costs.

Three members opted to pay for business card advertising in the newsletter. We also permit members to submit short notices regarding community events that they wished to promote. We do not charge a fee for these announcements.

From time to time, the newsletter chair is asked to send out email reminders or other notices to the membership. The master email list is kept up to date with the help of the Membership Chair.

It has been a pleasure to produce the newsletter for the past two years. I wish to thank Janet Guay, Jeannie Hazel and Gilda Martinello for their eagle eyes (proof reading).

**Respectfully submitted,
Heather Hamilton**

PROGRAMME

Composition: The committee was composed of eight members: Janet Ankcorn, Beate Cloetta, Jane Edwards, Connie Ellis, Elizabeth Semmelhaack, Pauline van Nieuwburg, with myself as chairperson. Our president, Gilda Martinello is an *ex officio* member.

Activities: It was quite a year, with several of the original speakers chosen by the committee either bowing out or replying in time for the program booklet. Despite these setbacks, we had very interesting and challenging speakers.

Meetings: Regular meetings were held at the Karnak Shriners' Temple on Sources Blvd. in Dollard des Ormeaux. This year, the Autumn Convivium was also held at Karnak, which has the

advantage of being reasonably priced and very accessible. The 2013 Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held at the St. Raphael's Golf Club on Ile Bizard, with speaker Wanda Bedard, and will be held there again this year, when our speaker will be Alix Ohlin, successful author and professor.

Speakers:

Josée Maurice, Clinical Coordinator/Advisor, Transplant Québec, spoke about the necessity of organ transplantation.

Dr. Hildegard Brack, Psychologist, spoke on Person-Centered Care – A Balm for Alzheimer Patients.

In November, an evening with **Bowser and Blue** was fun and a very successful fund-raiser.

In December, the Christmas Raffle and Carols took place at the Cedar Park United Church, despite a last-minute change in choirs necessitated by the interdiction on using the piano. A capella group, the West Island Chorus filled in admirably.

Our February speaker was **Catherine MacKenzie**, PhD., Professor of Art History at Concordia University, delved into the exciting world of finding and attempting to restitute artworks stolen by the Nazis and during and after World War II.

In March, and to celebrate International Women's Day, Mair Verthuy, C.M.M., former principal of Simone Beauvoir Institute, Order of Canada and Diamond Jubilee Medal recipient, called for a whole new way of thinking equality of the sexes.

April was Members' Night and we were introduced to five new members with both current and past unusual careers. Besides the display of members' passions and interests, the fund-raising committee held a Nearly New sale of small items and books that added to the fun as well as the coffers of the Scholarship Fund.

In May, we are looking forward to hearing from author and teacher, Alix Ohlin, who will speak on: 'Unleashing the Author Within'.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Doray

SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee this year consisted of Ginger Brossard, Jane Edwards, Franca Ferrara, Frances Lortie, Jane Quail and Theresa Sliz. Barbara Armbruster also participated as a helpful resource and support.

The Committee met in early fall to get acquainted and to set our agenda for the year. At that time we also updated the posters and application form for the Margaret Manson and Alberta Shearer Scholarships, and planned our publicity procedures.

A highlight of the October monthly meeting was the attendance of the two Margaret Manson Scholarship recipients and the Amy Williams Scholarship recipient who each spoke to us about their studies and aspirations. All recipients were extremely appreciative of our support, and our members in turn were most impressed by their passion and dedication in their respective fields of study.

We received a total of 14 applications for the Margaret Manson and Alberta Shearer Scholarships and, of these; four were selected for interview, three undergraduates and one graduate. At the time of writing this report, the interviews have yet to take place.

The support the club extends to adults returning to complete their high school studies is continuing, through giving bursaries to le Centre d'éducation des adultes Jeanne Sauvé and to the Place Cartier Adult Education Centre. Up to \$1500 is given annually to each of these centres. The applications from the students of both schools will be coming in at the end of April, when our committee will choose ten recipients from each school.

We have also been in touch with Wendy Cloutier-Hearn, the Financial Aid Officer from John Abbott College, about the Amy Williams Scholarship. Some members of our Scholarship Committee will join me to go to John Abbott College toward the end of May to interview the candidates and select the recipient.

At this time, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the members of our Scholarship Committee for their time and dedication to this work.

**Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Munro**

POT LUCK DINNERS

The 22nd Annual Pot Luck Dinners for 2013-2014 were held January 13, 2014. Participants braved icy walking conditions to attend one lunch and eleven dinners. 106 participants signed up to attend; however, the attendance was closer to 100 due to cancellations for various reasons. Feedback suggested that those who attended enjoyed this unique opportunity to meet other club members, enjoy great food and wine and take part in interesting conversation.

The sign up format worked well again this year allowing participants to choose where they would like to attend and with whom; thus facilitating carpooling arrangements. Locations of the events included Beaconsfield (3), Pointe-Claire (4) and one each in Kirkland, Baie d'Urfé, Dorval, Dollard des Ormeaux and Vaudreuil.

A big thank you to all the Hostesses for welcoming members into their homes and the Assistant Hostesses for coordinating the menu!

Hostesses

B. J. Bell
Donna Bourne
Suzanne Dutoy
Connie Ellis
Jeannie Hazel
Marney MacDonald
Patricia Murray
Francoise Perreault
Lorraine Retfalvi
Leona Smart
Tina Tessari
Margaret Vost

Assistant Hostesses

Ginger Brossard
Maria Roussakis
Maria Kolodziej
Maureen Rowe
Marie-Belle Cunningham
Valerie Fortin
Sandra Munro
Nancy Lloyd
Eleanor Shaver
Eva Weiss
Bauni McFadyen
Beate Cloetta

Respectfully submitted

Jane Edwards
Linda Ricketts

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN (MCW/CFM)

Founded in November 1893, the Montreal Council of Women, directly affiliated with the National Council of Women in Canada, is a non-partisan, non-confessional federation that brings together *70 voluntary organizations and 80 individual members from Montreal and surrounding region*. The membership represents 30,000 women who work together to achieve the objectives of the Council which are the improvement of social conditions, particularly for women and children. It prides itself on the ability to bring together people of different cultures and backgrounds to work together for the betterment of society in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance.

General Council meetings of the Montreal Council of Women are held monthly on the second Thursday of every month at “Les Jardins du Canal”, 2700 Rufus Rockhead in Montreal. These monthly MCW meetings, including a luncheon (\$10.00), hosted by the Board and a designated federate, are held at 12:00 noon, followed by an afternoon program of interesting and inspiring guest speakers. **In April, our MLUWC hosted the luncheon and President, Gilda Martinello, introduced our Club to the 40 members who were in attendance.**

This past year, the Montreal Council of Women’s *120th Anniversary Celebration* included “*Cocktails at City Hall*”, “*A Golden Square Mile House Tour*” and the “*120th Anniversary Federates Tea*” in May 2013. The 120th souvenir book, “**The History of Members Book**”, which was planned to have been published for November 2013, will be completed in the near future and contains an article on the history of MLUWC.

In lieu of holding an evening Gala to celebrate MCW’s 120th Anniversary, the MCW decided to hold a cocktail party on November 29th at the Omni Hotel. This special event was attended by more than 80 guests, followed by a presentation that addressed the importance of *Bill 60, the Charter of Secular Values*. We heard from **Pearl Eliadis, an award winning human rights lawyer**, who has specialized in international human rights law and advises many NGOs and public interest groups on social justice issues. She was joined by **Maitre Shahad Salman**, a Muslim woman living and working in Quebec, who presented a personal viewpoint on Bill 60. Both agreed that Bill 60 is an “attack” on religious freedoms and violates minority rights, especially the rights and freedoms of Quebec’s Muslim citizens, primarily Muslim women. Maitre Salman stated: “**Bill 60 is the proof that women’s rights must be a continuous struggle as it highly hinders equality between women and men**”.

The program themes presented this past year were as follows:

September 2013 – The President, Vivianne Silver, and Board members led a *Town Hall Forum*, a lively discussion on issues of importance and concern to all Montrealers.

October 2013 – Women’s History Month – “*Montreal Women in Film*” heard from filmmaker, **Anne Kmetyko**, an up and coming **film director in Montreal**, who gave us a little background on how films get funded and how the internet is changing that process.

November 2013 – “*Mental Illness*”, an interesting and informative presentation by **Ella Amir**, Executive Director of AMI- Quebec and a member of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, who helps families cope with mental illness.

February 2014 – This was Heart Health Month and **Dr. Colin Rose**, Cardiologist and Associate Professor at McGill gave a most interesting and informative presentation on “*Cardiometabolic Disease and Lifestyle*”. His wife, Past President Sandra Cohen, a nutritionist and economist, was unable to attend.

March 2014 – The “*Five Resolutions (am) and International Women’s Day (pm)*” program was convened by Chitra Chopra. The guest speaker was **Ms Barbara Kay**, a National Post reporter and co-author of the book entitled: Unworthy Creature: A Punjabi Daughter’s Memoir

of Honour, Shame and Love, (untold stories of oppression, injustices and acts of violence against women).

April 2014 – “*Earth Day Celebration*” featured Nusrat Mirza, MCW Convenor for Environment, Land and Housing, introducing **Dr. Arshad-Ayaz**, Assistant Professor, Concordia University who addressed the topic “*Challenges and Opportunities in Teaching Environmental Sustainability in Quebec*”.

May 2014 The MCW Annual General Meeting will be held on May 15, 2014.

The Montreal Council of Women publishes *a monthly BULLETIN* and its website: www.mcw-cfm.org provides an important role as a voice for women in Montreal and surrounding areas.

Your representatives have enjoyed attending the meetings as did some of the MLUWC members who joined us from time to time. There is always lots of “food for thought” to be gleaned from the guest speakers’ presentations and the many different groups that are members of MCW.

Congratulations to our own Chitra Chopra, who became the MCW’s Executive Vice-President in January and will become the next MCW President!

Respectfully submitted,
Renate Sutherland and Frances Lortie
MCW Representatives

MLUWC SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Fund is about 11% richer than it was this time last year, thanks to a conservative portfolio, advised by our financial manager at CIBC-Wood-Gundy, a reasonable market and a small transfer of funds. As you will see from the Treasurer’s report, we are just over half way to the \$250,000 that would eventually make the fund self-sustaining.

As I finish my two-year term with this excellent committee, I sincerely thank them all for their work. Sandra Munro serves as Vice-Chair, as well as chairing the Scholarship Committee so well. Helen Findlay is the most skilful and conscientious treasurer anyone could want. Helena Scheffer writes concise and accurate minutes, and Cathy Maxwell writes and sends out thank you letters to donors. All of them do their jobs admirably and I have been grateful for their support.

The Scholarship Fund could not exist without two groups of people. Mary Vlahos and the Fundraising Committee have thought up innovative and attractive ways of generating funds. They are supported by the members of MLUWC, who also make generous individual donations to the Fund. Your support allows us to continue to honour our mandate to award scholarships to young women in the community without depleting our capital assets, and I thank you all.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Le Maistre, Chair

REPORTS FROM THE INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Our Afternoon Bridge group continued to meet every second Wednesday at the members' homes. We enjoy each other's company as well as the game of bridge. We will finish up in May and will go out together for lunch.

Eleanor Shaver

ART APPRECIATION

After a rather chaotic start to my taking over this group at the last minute, with numerous misunderstandings, Pat Jones saved the day and offered a joint expedition with the Jaunters to the Museum of Fine Arts to see the Italian exhibit. At this point I realized that many members assumed they were on the list from last year . . .

Pat continued to give me a lot of support and advice throughout the year which was greatly appreciated. I had envisaged a communal pool of ideas and heads-up for activities in the area. To some extent that worked, but not as well as I had hoped.

We followed up with good turnouts to the historical Vermeer film at the Kirkland Coliseum; a fascinating tour of a variety of modern art depictions at the Arsenal Gallery and Synthesis II in the Kirkland Library – an exhibit of textile art guided by MLUWC member and expert in this field Helena Schaeffer. More recently the group had a guided tour of the exciting Doig Exhibition at the MMFA. Many thanks to the great volunteers who put these visits together.

We experienced quite an overlap with the Jaunters group both in members and activities. I believe we have resolved this issue for next year (the Jaunters will avoid art exhibits and the Art Group will meet on the 4th or last Wednesday of the month whenever possible).

I hope to be able to give more guidance and order to the group next year, to make it more cohesive so that we may become more ambitious in our search for and appreciation of good art.

Jeannie Hazel

BEGINNERS MORNING BRIDGE

This past year, we met 9 times and enjoyed both play and instruction.

Doris Leckie

BOOK CLUB I

Over the past year we have read and discussed nine very interesting and diverse books, chosen by our members. These include the historical novel, Catherine the Great by Robert K. Massie, two afternoons with the "short story", Olive Kitteridge, by Elizabeth Strout, and an overview of the short stories written by our Nobel Prize winner Alice Munro. Our December biography reading featured Stephen Leacock, written by Margaret MacMillan as part of The Extraordinary Canadian Series. We were treated to a reading of one of Leacock's famous humorous short

stories, with sherry and Christmas treats. Four novels were reviewed, *Cat's Table* by Michael Ondaatje, *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, by Helen Simonson, *Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Verghese, and *The Light between Oceans*, by M.L.Stedman. In May we will review *Flying over 96th Street*, by Thomas Webber, a book suggested to the group by the late Jan Cushman. We will deeply miss her laugh and wonderful participation in the club.

At present we stand at thirteen members, with an average attendance of between eight and twelve people. While this is a good number for lively discussion and manageable for our living rooms, we would love to have a few new book lovers. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm, September through June.

We are presently choosing our books for next year and we will end the year, in June, with our annual pot luck luncheon.

Marg Nicoll-Griffith

BOOK CLUB II

Book Club II has 12 members in this season. Interest in the various topics was consistently high and the quality of the research achieved by the various reviewers remained outstanding. The lively discussions which followed the individual presentations were ample proof of our interest in the topics originally proposed by the membership. The list of books reviewed follows:

In September, *The Tigress of Forli*, by Elizabeth Lev, gave us a biography of Renaissance Italy's most courageous and notorious Countess, Caterina Riario Sforza de' Medici.

In October, *The Violinist's Thumb*, by Sam Kean, fascinated us with a combination of science, history and culture, as the author tries to untangle the secrets of our genetic code, explaining, for instance, what caused Paganini's extraordinary manual dexterity which made him such an outstanding violinist.

In November, *Passionate Minds*, by David Bodanis, used original research to evoke the social climate of the Age of Enlightenment, as well as introducing the reader to Emilie du Chatelet, a brilliant mathematician in her own right, and Voltaire's lover.

In December, *The Woefield Poultry Collective*, by Susan Juby, describes the adventures of Prudence Burns, an energetic, well-intentioned 20-something New Yorker, full of back-to-the-land ideals, who is unfortunately without either the skills or the experience to put an inherited farm back on its feet.

In January, *The Painted Girls*, by Cathy Marie Buchanan, gives life to the inside stories of Degas' ballerinas, and the hard realities behind the glamorous-looking life of the lesser stars of the Paris stage.

In February, *Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe, 1944-1956*, by Anne Applebaum, describes how the Communist regimes of Eastern Europe were created and what daily life was like, once they were formed.

In March, *The Judgement of Paris: The Revolutionary Decade That Gave the World Impressionism*, by award-winning Canadian author Ross King, illuminates in great detail the evolution of modern art in the 19th century, which led to Impressionism.

In April, *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*, by Jung Chang, is the story of three generations in 20th century China that blends the intimacy of a memoir and the panoramic sweep of eyewitness history.

In May, *When China Rules the World: the End of the Western World and the Birth of a new Global Order*, by the British journalist and scholar Marin Jacques, concludes that China's economic strength will heavily alter the political and cultural landscape of the future world.

In June, *The Duchess*, by Amanda Foreman, a biography of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, is a tale of decadence and excess, great houses and wild parties, casting an astonishing new light on the nobility of 18th c. England

Eva Weiss

CONFERENCE SERIES

The conference series was promoted via the MLUWC Newsletter, Facebook, Linked In, Comfort Keepers' newsletter, in the local libraries, posters, and local community calendars.

In September we offered 'What you should know about Buying or Selling a Condo' by member Suzanne Dutoy. Due to a lack of registrants, this event was cancelled.

Our November conference was the Importance of a Notarized Will with Notary Effie Kostakos. A small group of members and potential members attended and the session was fascinating and relevant to those who were there.

In January we offered 'Staying or Moving' on the topic of relocating or aging in place. Again, due to a lack of registrants, we cancelled this conference.

Our final session was 'Simple Tools for a Happier Life' with Holistic Life Coach and Medical Hypnotherapist, Maria Roussakis. This topic seemed to interest members as we had many who registered. Although not all who had registered were able to make it, it was well attended. The topic might be interesting as an ongoing workshop.

Nicole Thevenet

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

This year a half dozen members cross country skied at The Morgan Arboretum on Tuesday mornings in January, February and March. The trail conditions varied from perfect to far less than ideal but we could always count on lots of fresh air, camaraderie and the occasion to share a lovely hot drink at the conclusion of a morning spent together.

Janet Anderson

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

We had from 17 to 20 players during the year and usually had 3 or 4 tables each session. Unfortunately we lost some members due to mobility problems.

We are a friendly group and we're hoping some new members will decide to join us for the 2014 - 2015 year. We don't have a "Director" and we'd certainly welcome anyone interested in Bridge.

Our closing luncheon was held April 24 at the Forest and Stream Club. Please consider our Duplicate Bridge when planning for the fall!

Janet Broadbelt and Jane Quail

EMERGING ISSUES

The emergence of this group was inspired by a comment that our club was only a social club for many of our members. Co-chaired by Patricia DuVal and Nancy Doray, the members of the group identified the following issues as current and emergent at their first meeting:

- proposed Quebec Charter of Values
- elimination of violence against women and girls
- financial literacy for women
- the right to die
- refugee children's rights
- tax credit for seniors' fitness
- care of elderly and Alzheimer-affected seniors

With all the attention in the media and the provincial election, it is no surprise that the proposed Charter of Values occupied a lot of the committee's time. After some research and discussion, it was decided to oppose the proposed charter, and the President sent a letter to the provincial MNAs, and a model letter was proposed for members of the Club.

Patricia DuVal led the campaign on the elimination of violence against women, and this is an ongoing project for the Club, involving not only the symbolism of wearing orange on the 25th day of each month in support of the UN campaign against violence against women, but also the collection of donations and toiletries for the West Island Women's Shelter. A basket was prepared for the Christmas Raffle of candles from "Light a Dream" and wine from Elizabeth Semmelhaack.

Right to Die –The "Dying with Dignity" bill fell when the election was called, but apparently remains a priority for the new government.

Financial Literacy for Women – The CFUW has already done a lot of work on this issue, and materials are available on their website.

Tax Credit for Seniors' Fitness – The federal government has promised to implement a bill that would allow for a credit of up to \$500 for adults. To be followed.

Children's refugee rights – The main problem in this topic concerns detention of children refugee claimants, and is being followed.

CFUW Resolutions

Besides the above listed issues, we looked at the four proposed CFUW resolutions. Pauline van Nieuwburg headed her own discussion group on Resolution 1 - *An Enhanced Canada Pension Plan*, while Patricia DuVal and Nancy Doray were responsible for the other three:

Resolution 2 - *Culture of Peace*,

Resolution 3 - *Preservation of Democracy: Increasing Voter Participation in Canada*,

Resolution 4 - *Promoting Plain Language*.

The supporting materials were reviewed, and members of the committee were available for consultation before two general meetings prior to the vote. Pauline made a presentation on the first resolution. All resolutions were passed with only one small amendment to the last resolution.

Nancy Doray

EVENING BOOK CLUB

Our small, but engaging group has enjoyed another year of wine, books and lively discussions. We have grown from 4 to 5 members and, we even hosted a couple of members from the other book clubs throughout the year.

Our books this year were: *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison; *The Painted Girls* by Cathy Buchanan; *The Woefield Poultry Collective* by Susan Juby; *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini, *Bone & Bread* by Saleema Nawaz and *419* by Will Ferguson.

We meet the 4th Tuesday of every month and our latest book is the 2014 Canada Reads winner, *The Orenda* by Joseph Boyden.

Linda Sestock

FILM CLUB

The idea for this interest group came out of the discussions with the Pointe Claire Library for the screening of the film 'Status Quo' last year. They needed more viewers for the documentaries they get from the National Film Board and we needed an evening interest group which could accommodate more people than the average living room.

The films shown covered a variety of topics and the discussions which followed the films were sometimes very lively. In time, and with a few changes, this could become a very good addition to our programme.

Connie Ellis

GOURMET I

As usual, this year's menus were varied and delicious. We had a seafood evening with Lobster Thermador in Parmesan Phyllo Baskets and a Hint of Scotland evening featuring Leek and Mushroom Soup and Roast Leg of Lamb. We had a Pink evening and an evening featuring recipes from Downton Abbey. Our soups ranged from Roasted Tomato & Fennel to Chilled

Avocado with Coriander Salsa and Beet with Ginger. Appetizers included Veggie Mini Strudels and Caramelized Onion, and Cranberry & Brie Crostini. Salads included Spinach & Apple with Crispy Almonds and Fennel –Citrus. We had Slow-Roasted Filet of Beef with Basil Parmesan Mayonnaise and home-grown Jerusalem Artichokes, and Roasted Salmon with Chipotle Mayonnaise. Desserts included Vanilla Mousse with Berries and Pistachios, Bailey’s Irish Cream Mousse, Plum Tart and Raspberry Napoleons. And to help the conversation flow we had a variety of new kinds of wines and cocktails.

Patricia DuVal

GOURMET II

We are group of 11 ladies and we meet every month at various members’ homes. The hostess and 3 others are involved in planning and cooking a meal. A meal does not describe the evening very well, to start with we feast on hors d'oeuvres and sip wine or a fancy drink, then on to a 3 course meal. The always creative and delicious menu is planned by the cooks and hostess of the evening. We eat too much and stay too late – in other words, we have a fantastic time. At Christmas time husbands are invited, but we meet in a restaurant - clever, because they pay the bill! Our final dinner in early June also includes the men and a dinner in a garden (weather permitting) this year might be inside!

Sydney Ball

GOURMET III

It has been another year of fine dining, good wine, laughter and conversation for the seven ladies of Gourmet III. We meet the third Wednesday of each month to enjoy a meal planned by the hostess. We each bring a dish assigned to us from the menu. It has allowed us to sample some wonderful dishes and we get to keep the recipes for future use. Unfortunately, this year we have not met as frequently as some of our members have been dealing with health issues and were unable to participate. As a result we have decided to not hold any further get-togethers for this session. We are anticipating some openings in our group in the fall so are looking forward to adding some new faces to the group come September. We are looking forward to another year of sharing our cooking talents and are always on the lookout for recipes to use when it comes our turn to host!

Leona Smart and Bauni McFadyen

GOURMET IV

There are 10 members in our group and we have nine dinners from October to June in each other’s homes, welcoming spouses in December and June. We have enjoyed another great year of wonderful food and friendship. We cook in groups of four usually and serve a five or six course meal. In April Phyllis Havercroft joined us, as she was the winner of our Christmas raffle prize. We are at our maximum capacity.

Valerie Fortin

INTERMEDIATE BRIDGE

The Intermediate Bridge group has, over the years, met at a member's house every second Wednesday where we play from 7:30 to around 10:00pm. This year the weather often dictated whether we could follow our usual pattern or not. It was no surprise to us that we did not reach our usual goal of hostessing twice during the session.

The members of our group are: Diana Nevins, Barbara Armbruster, Shirley Wick, Kerstin Birch, Lillian Brown, Corinne Thompson, Marilyn Gollan and Eibhlin McHale. Our substitute players are Marilyn Flaherty and Donna Bourne.

Eibhlin McHale

JAUNTERS

The Jaunters group has seen another successful year in 2013-2014. The members have been enthusiastically involved in the planning of the various activities, and a big thank you to those who planned and participated in the events.

We started the season in September with an historic jaunt to Ile-St-Bernard in Chateauguay, touring the Grey Nuns convent, gardens and taking a boat ride on the river. In October we joined forces with the Art Appreciation group for a guided tour of MMFA's Splendore a Venezia exhibit. November was a most interesting visit to the museum of Costume and Textile of Quebec in Old Montreal. There was no jaunt in December. January was a most interesting visit to the Musée de Lachine....the Black Horse Company Dawes and Labor. February saw us enjoy the I Musici concert at Olgivys, Music from the Orient. March was a tour and lunch at the Maison Trestler in Dorion. The April outing was to the Centre d'histoire de Montréal in Old Montreal.

I hope next year will see all the members return and many new faces as well. This is a group effort and the rewards are enormous when the whole event falls into place. Bravo to all the jaunters who made this interest group a lot of fun.

Pat Jones

KAFFEEKLATSCH (GERMAN CONVERSATION)

We are a group of 9 stalwarts who usually meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 am., at each other's houses. We began our season in October 2013 by venturing to Venice with Adie Ciebien and then agreed to buckle down to "German Made Simple", by Arnold Leitner, Ph.D. The months of April and May will see us working on Chapters 9 and 10. We also practice our pronunciation with a charming, humorous little text by "Assimil – Europe's Top Language Learning Methods".

Christine Hamilton

MIXED MARATHON BRIDGE

We are a group of eight couples, not necessarily spouses, who meet to play twenty hands of bridge against each other couple over the course of the year. It is a sociable group with hosting and refreshments alternated; ie. with the total number of seven couples, each couple hosts three or four times.

Cumulative scores determine the winner and prizes are awarded at the final potluck dinner and bridge at the end of May

Eileen Ross

MSO MUSIC APPRECIATION

Eighteen women participated in this year's Music Appreciation Group 2013-2014. Eight subscribed to the Morning Montreal Symphony Orchestra series of six concerts. Others bought tickets when they were available to attend. Meetings were held a week before the concert to prepare for our listening experience. Over coffee and yummy treats, presentations made by group members on composers and their selections helped to enlighten us with biographical and musical information so that we could appreciate more fully the following week's concert. After concerts we enjoyed lunch at nearby restaurants. Composers studied included: Smetana, Bruch, Dvorak, Haydn, Prokofiev, Mussorgsky, Mozart, Grieg, Roussel, Britten, Rimsky-Korsakov, Shostakovich, Debussy, Martin, Chausson, Ravel, and Zemlinsky. Much appreciation to the meeting hostesses, bakers and presenters. And thanks to the drivers for getting us to the concerts. A good time was had by all!

Maria Cranker

MUSIC HISTORY

This year's program was built around the three-recital concert series, *Matinées Baroques*, hosted by harpsichordist Geneviève Soly at Bourgie Hall and the I Musici and Orchestre Métropolitain concerts offered locally at Église Saint-Joachim in Pointe-Claire. Group members thus had the opportunity to attend seven live performances in connection with the group's program throughout the year.

The recital series featured 18th-century German music by composers active at various German courts at the time and has introduced us to the music of Christof Graupner, Hofkapellmeister at the court of Hesse-Darmstadt for 50 years, a contemporary of Johann Sebastian Bach. Geneviève Soly is a leading authority on Christof Graupner, whose work is now being rescued from obscurity, and compositions by Graupner were featured in each recital.

Through the concerts offered at Saint-Joachim we have travelled from Naples, Rome and Venice in Italy to Vienna, Austria enjoying music from the Baroque era through the Classical and Romantic into the modern era. In preparation for the OMM concerts we spent two sessions focussing on Haydn and Beethoven, in particular the *Eroica* Symphony, and in another session we marked the centenary of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* in a very entertaining afternoon with the movie about the relationship between Coco Chanel and Igor Stravinsky, *Coco and Igor*, which re-creates the famous riot at the first performance in 1913. We devoted one session to the music

of Venice (Gabrieli, Monteverdi, Vivaldi) in view of the major exhibition on display at the Museum of Fine Arts.

In all, seven Thursday afternoon sessions were held (the December session had to be cancelled) and seven concerts attended by a variable number of the 19 members registered this year.

Joan Dyer

NETWORKING GROUP

Our 2nd year has included breakfasts hosted by Dix Milles Villages, Sunlife, Royal Lepage, a lunch in Ste-Anne de Bellevue. Our last breakfast will be hosted by a Church in Valois. Our motto is “Women helping Women” and we enjoy meeting other working women with whom we can network. Some of our group members are currently working and benefit from networking and some of our members have retired but assist us as mentors.

The networking group is also a wonderful opportunity to introduce new women to the MLUWC, several of whom have recently become members. Proceeds raised from our breakfasts are donated to the MLUWC Scholarship Fund.

Linda Sestock

NEW BOOK EXCHANGE

This group responds to members interest in hearing about the latest books from Judith at Clio Book store, then buying one book but reading eight or nine (depending on the size of the group) during the year.

Forty-two ladies joined us this year. On the first of each month (except December) each member delivers a book and the fun reading begins. Do consider joining us next fall as our group can continue to grow. Good reading to all

B. J. Bell

OUT TO DINNER

There were 31 members who signed up for our monthly outings this year. Nine restaurants were decided upon and although not everyone was able to attend each venue, there were about 5 to 15 women at each. The best part of our group is meeting new people and trying new places. We’re looking forward to next year’s program.

The restaurants we will be going to in the next two months are:

May 22: Il Bellissimo (Dorval) and June 26: The Keg (Pointe-Claire)

As always, any member who wishes to join us at any dinner is more than welcome. On a sad note, the leader of our group, Carol Kelly, passed away in April and we hope to continue the Out to Dinner tradition in her memory.

Gilda Martinello

TÊTE-À-TÊTE (FRENCH CONVERSATION)

Tête-à-tête a connu une excellente année, nous en sommes ravies. Nous nous réunissons le troisième vendredi de chaque mois, autour d'un thème que nous avons déterminé avec la bienveillante collaboration de l'hôtesse, lors de la rencontre précédente. Entre autres, nous avons abordé les voyages, les activités des participantes, leurs intérêts, les lieux qu'elles fréquentent dans l'ouest-de-l'île quant au point de vue culturel, panoramique, gastronomique, etc. Nous pouvions toujours compter sur l'assistance de Gisèle Aubin pour peaufiner nos phrases.

Dianne Robinson

TRAVEL

Our group of “armchair” travellers experienced beautiful photography and heard first-hand about several different countries and cultures.

October - Bruce Grainger presented Across Russia on Trans-Siberian Railway.

November - Renata Bagga assisted by husband Arum delighted us with Qatar to Goa.

February - Maria Korab-Laskowska increased our appreciation of Poland, cities, wooden architecture and people.

March - Maria Jakobiec Masluch provided a dream escape to Hawaii.

April - Joyce Schaaf's planned cruise around South America presentation was postponed, to be tentatively rescheduled in May.

We appreciate Le Vivalis for hosting our meetings the first Monday of the month and look forward to more TRAVELS with new leaders next session.

Barbara Sauv  and Mary Wells

TUTTO ITALIANO

October - We had an outing to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts to see the beautiful exhibition “Splendore a Venezia.” It was a very innovative exhibition, concentrating on the musical scene in Venice and rare musical instruments.

November - We discussed our impressions of “Splendore a Venezia” exhibition and of Venice during the time of the exhibition.

December - Christmas lunch meeting, tasting and discussing wines from the Veneto region.

January - Watching and discussing Italian movie “Mal’occhio”, is evil eye for real? A very interesting movie, made by a young Montreal woman film producer.

February – Our meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.

March - Our group met at a concert “Printemps à l’italienne” at Saint Joachim Church, Pointe-Claire. We had a great chance to hear a recomposed version of “Le Printemps” by Antonio Vivaldi.

April - Discussion of the winner of the 2014 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, “The Great Beauty” and watching a documentary film on Maria Callas’ life.

Renata Bragga

WINE APPRECIATION I

We expanded our group this year to 12 as we all are away at intervals and this seems to stabilize the group with less reliance on spares. A minimum of 8 participants is ideal for our wine tasting. We met monthly from September to May with great enjoyment and continue to learn more about wines. We are talking about an excursion to Ontario wine country as a precursor to other countries.

Eileen Ross

WINE APPRECIATION II

It has been another enjoyable year for the seven ladies of Wine Appreciation II. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month to taste three wines chosen by the hostess of the evening. Information about the particular wines chosen is shared with the group as we taste the wines and nibble on finger foods. The cost of the wine is divided up at the end of the evening among those in attendance. In December we attended an information session at the Kirkland Library about wine pairing for the holiday season. It was an informative and very enjoyable session. There will be some changes in our group at the end of this year so we have welcomed three new members to Wine Appreciation II.

We look forward to continuing next year to share many more wines, great food and much laughter and conversation.

Tina Tessari and Bauni McFadyen