



Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club

A Member Organization of The Canadian Federation of University Women since 1957

Annual Reports 2011 – 2012

The Executive

The President's Report

The year started with the annual MLUWC Program Committee meeting, followed closely by the 2011 CFUW Annual General Meeting held in Newfoundland in August. Connie Ellis, MLUWC Treasurer and Patricia DuVal, CFUW VP Membership also attended from our Club. Patricia organized a workshop to get ideas from members across the country about ways in which the Clubs could increase membership; the completely redrafted CFUW Constitution and By-laws was narrowly defeated; and CFUW gave us the good news that one million dollars in scholarships and bursaries given out annually across the country!

One of the wishes of members who participated in the October 2010 Strategic Planning Committee survey was to have workshops that would be interesting and informative to members. Connie Ellis arranged three successful workshops on *Financial Strategies for Women* which addressed financial strategies, investing 101 and wills and mandates.

Veronica Valentine stepped up to take the position of Recording Secretary in October 2011. However, the position of Vice-President & CFUW remained open all year and once again, I performed the duties of this position, including the resolutions.

This year we tried a different approach for consideration of the six proposed CFUW resolutions rather than the usual one of assignment to Interest Group leaders. I handed out resolutions to members who showed an interest in a particular topic and let them form their own group for the study of each resolution and the process worked well. The membership approved the resolutions on *Retention of Women In Skilled Trades and Non-Traditional Occupations*, *The Inclusion of Women and Gender Sensitive Approaches in Efforts to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change*, *Toward a Mental Health Strategy for Canada*, *Full Accessibility and Barrier-Free Environments for Persons with Disabilities*, and *Ensuring Food Security In Canada* but rejected *Moratorium on the Construction of Industrial Wind Turbine Developments*. These resolutions will be voted on at the AGM in June. Two MLUWC members will attend the 2012 AGM in Victoria, BC including incoming president Gilda Martinello, and Patricia DuVal.

MLUWC has also submitted an *Intent to Submit a Resolution for 2013 on Bullying and Cyberbullying*.

MLUWC continued to increase its visibility by announcements on radio and by the submission of articles in West Island newspapers by the joint efforts of Eva Weiss and Janet Ankcorn. Renate Sutherland produced an excellent history of MLUWC for the 120th anniversary of the Montreal Council of Women. In May, Gilda Martinello and Connie Ellis will again organize a table showcasing what MLUWC offers at the *Savvy Seniors Fair*. MLUWC is open to any suggestions that could help further increase the Club`s visibility.

Fundraising this year included the participation of Marilyn Flaherty who organized the sale of Laura Calder books and Janet Ankcorn who organized a pre-Christmas sale with Dix Mille Villages. A portion of the sales from both events was given to the Scholarship Fund. Ginger Brossard organized the regular successful fundraising events of Theatre Night and Games Day. Between the fundraising proceeds and donations, enough money was raised to be able to increase the amount of our twenty bursaries from \$100 to \$150 each, for a total of \$9,000 in scholarships and bursaries. The Christmas fundraiser for the benefit of the On Rock Community Diner raised \$1,493, the highest amount ever raised for this raffle.

On the advocacy front, I wrote a letter regarding the proposed dismantling of the long gun registry. The report of the Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care was released in the fall of 2011 and we were invited to the press conference since we had made a presentation to this committee the previous year.

The Quebec Provincial Council meeting was held on April 21, 2012 and hosted by South Shore UWC. Brenda Wallace, CFUW National President, attended and gave us some information regarding CFUW and the upcoming \$10 fee increase. Liette Michaud was the guest speaker and spoke about *Women's Rights in Quebec with a Focus on Educational Reform*.

This has again been a good year for MLUWC: attendance at both general and executive meetings was good, the twenty five interest groups have worked very well and there were a few successful fundraising events. Thank you to all the members, interest group leaders, committee chairs and executive for making this another successful year for MLUWC!

Respectfully submitted,
Chitra Chopra
President

Past President

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, I am pleased to present the following slate of officers and Committee chairs for the year 2012–2013:

Executive

President	Gilda Martinello
Vice-President & CFUW Liaison	
Vice-President & Membership	Connie Ellis
Treasurer	
Communications	Janet Ankcorn
Recording Secretary	Veronica Valentine
Past-President	Chitra Chopra

Standing Committee Chairs

New mandates for:

Fundraising	Nicole Awad
Interest Groups	Linda Sestock
Newsletter	Heather Hamilton
Programme	Nancy Doray
Webmaster	Chitra Chopra

Returning for the 2nd year of their term:

Archives	Renate Sutherland
Hospitality	Suzanne Dutoy-Dachy/Maria Kolodziej
Scholarships	Barbara Armbruster

Other committees

Returning for the 2nd year of their term:

Potluck Dinners	Bauni McFadyen and Sita Tadros
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Returning for a 3rd year:

Newsletter distribution	Janet Guay
Photographer	Judy Paquin

MLUWC Scholarship Fund

New Mandate for:

Chair	Kate Le Maistre
Treasurer	Helen Findlay (2nd term)

It has become increasingly difficult to find members of MLUWC willing to take on the responsibility of Executive and Committee chair positions. At the time of writing, we are still looking to fill two important Executive positions: VP/CFUW Liaison and Treasurer. Without people to fill these positions we cannot guarantee the future of MLUWC. In order to continue to offer program activities and interest groups, as well as social and fundraising events we need members to be willing to invest a little time and effort in the Club. Gilda Martinello deserves to have a full team to support her as she takes on the presidency, so I would ask you all to think about what contribution you could make to MLUWC.

My sincere thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee: Louise Dagenais, Gilda Martinello, Françoise Perreault and Renate Sutherland.

Respectfully submitted
Heather Hamilton
Past President

Vice-President Membership

Currently there are 203 members including fourteen life members, six associate members and two honorary members. Three members moved away and, sadly, three of our members passed away this past year.

Thirteen new members were welcomed to MLUWC this year, two of whom were returning members. The new members` reception was held on October 27 at which time information on the operation of our club was provided by several members of the executive. Thanks to Patricia Khal for arranging for the reception to be held at the Cambridge. We are pleased with the strong involvement of our new members in the club activities during the year.

The directories were available for distribution at the monthly meetings as of November. Changes occurring during the year were listed in the newsletters and an updated list of changes was available at the April and May 2012 meetings.

Membership fees remained at \$95 for the year 2011-2012.

Respectfully submitted
Gilda Martinello
Vice-President and Membership Chair

Treasurer

**Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club
Interim Statement of Revenues & Expenses
For the period June 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012**

	2012	2011
Opening Bank Balance June 1, 2011	8131	\$ 6,963
Revenues:		
Membership Fees Collected	17835	17,875
Other Revenue	674	236
Total Revenues	18509	18,111
Expenses:		
CFUW Fees Paid	12139	12,083
Other Association Fees Paid	0	40
Annual Meeting	500	(96)
Convivium	40	(301)
Administration	441	615
Communications	493	417
Membership	322	393
Newsletter	183	526
Program	734	650
Hospitality	194	166
CFUW Convention Delegate	1619	475
Rent	880	775
Donations	585	450
Total Expenses	18131	16,193
Excess of Revenues over Expenses	378	1,918
Transfer of funds to Scholarship Fund:		750
Closing Bank Balance April 30, 2012	\$8,509	\$ 8,131

NOTES:

Another successful year. In addition to our usual donations to the CFUW Charitable Trust and to the Victoria Gildersleeve International Fund, club members contributed \$55 plus grocery items to the food bank at John Abbott College and \$45 to the Care Canada International Women's day project. The total donation from the club for this project was \$80.

Respectfully submitted
Constance Ellis

Communications

Between May 2011 and April 2012, the following cards were mailed: Get well—4; Condolences—7; Congratulations re retirement —1. Notices of General Meetings, including the names of guest speakers, were sent out on a regular basis, in English, French, or both, to various media. Louise Dagenais was responsible for the French translations, for which I thank her profusely.

Respectfully submitted,
Eva Weiss
Co-chair, Communications

Publicity

No report submitted

Standing Committees

Archives

In November 2011, I submitted a report of our MLUWC history and its activities to the Montreal Council of Women (MCW). This submission (MLUWC Newsletter, April 2012) will be published in the Anniversary Book to commemorate MCW'S 120th Anniversary in November 2013.

Thanks to Judy Cardwell, our archivist from 1995–2008, a system of keeping our annual records has been set up. This system includes 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); Program (Program Chair); two Membership Booklets (Membership Chair); 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
Archivist

Fundraising

Our first Fundraising activity was Theatre Night. The Lakeshore Players Inc. provided us with a Benefit Performance on Tuesday November 8th, 2011 at 8:00 pm. The play was *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brönte, adapted by Willis Hall, directed by Kevin John Saylor and produced by Joseph B. Dineen. The ticket price was \$25.00. The gross proceeds collected were \$5,520.05. Ticket revenue: 155 at \$25.00 = \$3,875.00. Donations and raffle: \$1,645.05. TOTAL: \$5,520.05

I wish to thank you all for your participation in the success of this Soirée, and particularly, the ladies that distributed the Program and collected the tickets at the door.

The Second Fundraiser of the year, was the Games Day Luncheon . It was held at the Lawn Bowling Annex in Beaconsfield, between noon and 4:00 pm on Thursday, May3, 2012. The ticket price was \$15.00 each. We had a lovely turnout and many players had a chance to play their favorite game, whether bridge, mahjong or scrabble, with friends after a nice luncheon prepared by the ladies. Door prizes were raffled, a tombola and a half and half draw was held. Donations in the amount of \$120.00 were received. The net profit for this activity came to \$1,531.00. I wish to thank all the ladies who participated in the organization of the Games Day. It was a success thanks to them.

Thank you again to all who participated in the success of this activity. The Grand Total for the two fundraisers was \$7,051.05.

Respectively submitted
Anne (Ginger) Brossard
Fundraising Chair

Hospitality

2011: The Convivium Dinner was held at the Beaconsfield Golf Club in Pointe-Claire on September 13. The ticket price was \$35.00 for a three-course meal and guests were able to buy cocktails and wine from the cash bar.

The attendance was good, with 103 people versus 114 last year.

The Christmas Party was held at Cedar Park United Church in Pointe-Claire on December 14. A warm witches brew was served and delicious savoury and sweet confections were supplied by more than 16 members (many thanks). The attendance was excellent, approximately 100 members.

2011–2012: Monthly Meetings at the Karnak Shriners Temple, coffee, tea and bought cookies were offered.

2012: The AGM and Dinner will held at St Raphael Golf Club, 1111 Montée de l'Église, Ile Bizard, on May 14. The ticket price for the event will be \$38.00 for a three-course meal and again a cash bar will be available.

It was a pleasure to organize these events.

Respectfully submitted
Suzanne Dutoy and Maria Kolodziej
Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs

Interest Groups

This year the club has 25 groups. All seem to be functioning very well. The Jaunters have reappeared under the able leadership of Pat Jones. The Environmental group was to be folded into Issues and Resolutions Group, which unfortunately did not happen as I was unable to lead it and a new leader could not be found. So two groups have disappeared. I have enjoyed being the Interest Groups Chair for two years. Linda Sestock, a new member will be taking over in September 2012.

Respectfully submitted
Marjorie Hamilton Harding,
Chair, Interest Groups

Newsletter

It has been a pleasure to produce the monthly Newsletters and publish our Annual Reports. Throughout the year we publish monthly Newsletters from September through May. The majority are published electronically in PDF format. A copy of each month's Newsletter is e-mailed to our printer, who prepares up to 32 hard copies for mailing to members who ask for them in this format and who pay the cost of printing and mailing.

In mid-year, we changed the header of the Newsletter by importing the MLUWC trade-marked heading from our Web Page. Thus our logo is now consistent in both our printed and on-line publications. To conclude the year, we published the Annual Reports electronically. Several printed copies were made available at the May AGM and Dinner and one copy was added to our archive.

I wish to extend special appreciation and thanks to Joan Dyer, our meticulous and prompt proofreader. Hers is an essential task and a most welcome contribution.

Respectfully submitted
Johannah Lloyd
Newsletter Editor

Program Committee

The Program Committee comprised the Chair and nine members: Janet Ankcorn, Ginger Brossard, Marilyn Flaherty, Marjorie Hamilton Harding, Nancy Lloyd, Gail O'Reilly, Judy Paquin, Heather Robertson and Hille Viires. An initial planning meeting was held on May 11, 2011, at which discussion and decisions centred around categories of subjects and ideas for speakers during the coming year. Thanks to committee members' ideas, initiatives and efforts, we were successful in landing several excellent speakers for our monthly meetings.

Our general monthly meetings were held at the Karnak Shriners' Temple in D.D.O. and Mr. William Pitts provided assistance in the logistics of arranging our meeting space. General meetings commenced with refreshments at 7:15 pm, with the official meeting starting at 7:45 pm. Guest speakers began their presentations at approximately 8:15 pm. The Autumn Convivium Dinner was held at the Beaconsfield Golf Club, while the AGM this year was held at the St. Raphael Golf Club in Ile Bizard. For the first time the Christmas Concert and Raffle in December was held at Cedar Park United Church in Pointe Claire.

Monthly Speakers

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| October | Journalist Sheila McLeod Arnopoulos talked about how microcredit is changing womens' lives in villages in India. |
| November | Chef and author Laura Calder shared with us the evolution of her unconventional career. |
| December | The Stewart Hall Singers provided Christmas music, and the proceeds from the annual Christmas raffle, in the record amount of \$1493.00, was given to Mr. Kim Reid, President of On Rock Ministries, for its family support and food bank program. |
| January | Potluck Dinner Parties. |
| February | Ginette Sheehy, Director General of John Abbott CEGEP, talked about the role of CEGEPs in Quebec, today and tomorrow. |
| March | Rosalind Pepall, Senior Curator of Decorative Arts, shared her knowledge of many treasures at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. |

April Members' Night, where 11 members showcased their hobbies and community involvement. Member Janet Ankcorn talked about her experience obtaining her university degree as a mature student, Hille Viires shared her long involvement in rhythmic gymnastics, and Ginger Brossard told us about living in Benin, West Africa.

Six resolutions were presented by various members, with the spokesperson of each study group explaining her rationale for accepting or rejecting the recommendation.

May Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held at the St. Raphael Golf Club in Ile Bizard. Dr. Joe Schwarcz, Director of McGill University's Office for Science & Society, was the keynote speaker and spoke about "The Wonderful World of Chemistry"

Respectfully submitted
Linda Ricketts,
Chair, Program Committee

Scholarship Committee

This year's Scholarship Committee consists of the following members: Nancy Doray, Franca Ferrara, Frances Lortie, Eibhlin McHale, Diana Nevins, Brenda Plescia and Corinne Thompson.

We have had a very busy year. In the fall we met to discuss how to handle the music scholarship for which friends of Joanne Brais donated money to the Scholarship Fund. After receiving the approval of the Executive Committee and the Scholarship Fund Committee, I contacted the Schulich School of Music of McGill University. The Scholarship Committee felt it best that the professors of the Schulich School of Music select the winner of this scholarship in accordance with our eligibility criteria. This committee will meet in June to select the winner and inform me of the decision.

Also in the fall, our Scholarship Committee met to update our posters and application form for the Margaret Manson Scholarships. We received a total of 24 applications and since there was an equal number of graduate and undergraduate applicants, we divided the committee in half, each group responsible for one category. At the time of writing this report, the graduate group has met to shortlist their applicants for interviewing. The undergraduate group will meet in early May to do the same.

At the March General Meeting, the members of MLUWC voted to increase the value of the bursaries which we offer to Place Cartier and Centre Jeanne Sauvé from \$100 to \$150. Both schools are very grateful for this increase. The applications from the students of both schools will be coming in at the end of April, when our Committee will choose 10 recipients from each school.

I have also been in touch with Mrs. Annie Proulx, the Financial 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 at 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,
Barbara Armbruster
MLUWC Scholarship Committee Chair

MLUWC Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Fund Committee is pleased to report that our investments have remained stable during a year of turbulence in the capital markets (see the Financial Report after May 31, 2012 for details). Our monies continue to be invested in a low-risk fund with a financial manager specializing in not-for-profit organizations.

The Fund has profited not only from our regular fundraising events such as Theatre Night and Games Day but also from special events such as the sale of the Laura Calder cookbooks and the evening at Dix Mille Villages.

The Scholarship Committee presented a motion at the March General Meeting to increase the bursaries to the recipients at Place Cartier and Centre Jeanne Sauvé from \$100.00 to \$150.00. The motion was carried.

I would like to thank Carol Ohlin for her timely and accurate minutes, treasurer Helen Findlay for the accounting and receipting, Cathy Maxwell for handling the acknowledgements and miscellaneous details and Barbara Armbruster for her efforts as Vice-chair and Scholarship Chair. It has been a pleasure to serve as the Chair of a committee that runs so smoothly.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of MLUWC for their donations and support of the fundraising activities. Their support allows us to continue to provide young women with scholarships without depleting our capital assets.

Respectfully Submitted
Sandra Smith,
Chair

Other

Pot Luck Dinners

No report submitted

Representatives- The Montreal Council of Women

Founded in November 1893, the Montreal Council of Women, directly affiliated with the National Council of Women in Canada, is a non-partisan, non-denominational federation that brings together 70 voluntary organizations and 80 individual members from Montreal and the 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 Luncheons (\$8.00), usually hosted by a federated member organization, are held at 12:00 noon, followed by an afternoon program of interesting and inspiring guest speakers.

As well, each hostess group has an opportunity to present and introduce their organization to those in attendance. We hope that MLUWC can host a luncheon next year.

SPECIAL EVENT: On March 8, 2012, International Women’s Day, Montreal Council of Women celebrated the donation of MCW’S CENTENNIAL TAPESTRY to Concordia University, where it now hangs proudly in the entrance of the Samuel Bronfman Building. The Tapestry is a living memorial to the cause of equality and the cause of women. This Centennial Tapestry commemorates the Montreal Council of Women’s 100th Anniversary and was spearheaded by Past President, Amy Williams, MLUWC President, 1968–1970.

The program themes presented this past year were as follows:

September 2011 – In her presentation, “**The Magic of Volunteerism**”, Marjorie Northrup, a passionate advocate for the voluntary sector, highlighted the importance and rewards of volunteerism in all sectors of society from high school to seniors.

October 2011 – celebrated “**Women’s History Month**”, so named in honour of the FIVE Alberta Women who in the 1920’s fought a legal and political battle to have women recognized as persons under the British North America Act. The speaker, Elizabeth Kirkland, enlightened us on the founding of MCW and its role in Montreal society in the early part of the 20th century, especially regarding MCW’S initiative in the establishment of Montreal baths at a time when most dwellings had neither showers nor bathtubs.

November 2011 – presentations by Joel Yanofsky, author of “**Bad Animals. A Father’s Accidental Education in Autism**”, and Marielle Patry, Executive Director of ‘Fondation Autisme de Montréal’, informed us about the many challenges faced by families with autistic children.

December 2011 – the **25th “Woman of the Year Gala” Luncheon**, held at the Mount Stephen Club, awarded the Women of the Year Awards to two of their own MCW members, the Honorable Lucie Pépin, retired Canadian Senator and MCW Honorary President and Dr. Mildred L. Burns, retired McGill Professor of Education and long-time MCW member. Their presentations reflected their own respective life-paths, women in politics and the passion for learning—the search for truth, growth, and opening windows into wider worlds. Both women have worked hard to educate and encourage all women to reach up and be the best they can be. MLUWC was well represented by eight of its members—Chitra Chopra, Connie Ellis, Sachi Williams, Joan Dyer, Marjorie Hamilton-Harding, Elizabeth Semmelhaak, Nancy Doray and Renate Sutherland.

January 2012 - Alex K. Paterson, QC, Chair, Foundation for Greater Montreal and Honorary Chair, The Best Care for Life Campaign gave an excellent talk discussing the latest news about **the McGill University Health Center Project**, including the first ideas for a new hospital, the

long discussions about how, where and when it should be built, right up to now. It is currently under construction on the Glen Site. We took a group of 16 people from the Club to tour the site and all were very impressed.

February 2012 – **Mme Marguerite Blais, Quebec Minister responsible for Seniors** informed us of the current Quebec policy developments affecting seniors. She reminded us though, that seniors have contributed much to society and many of us still do, that we can help our communities as well as be helped.

March 2012 - The General Council meeting discussed and voted on the seventeen **2012 National Council Resolutions** and heard from two speakers who addressed the issues of homeless women and elder abuse in the Montreal area.

April 2012 – **McGill Researcher Mr Jose Otero** spoke about the challenges that communities face in responding to climate change.

The MCW Annual General Meeting takes place on May 3, 2012.

MCW will be celebrating its 120th **ANNIVERSARY on November 30, 2013** with the publication of the MCW Anniversary Book, to which MLUWC has submitted an article.

The Montreal Council of Women publishes a monthly BULLETIN and its website: www.mcw-cfm.org plays an important role as a voice for women in Montreal and surrounding areas through a forum of more than seventy member organizations and more than seventy individuals.

It is a very good idea to have two representatives from our Club attending and we have enjoyed going to the meetings. There is lots of food for thought to be gleaned from all the many different groups that are members of MCW.

Respectfully sub mitted
MCW Representatives,
Renate Sutherland and Marjorie H. Harding

Community Resource Centre No report submitted

Interest Group Leaders

Afternoon Bridge Group

Our Afternoon Bridge Group numbers 13 players and met every second Wednesday afternoon. The members all took a turn in hosting the group. Delicious refreshments were served. We all enjoy the game of bridge and try to improve our game while still having fun.

Respectfully submitted
Eleanor Shaver
Leader

Art Appreciation

Here is a summary of the principal activities that were carried out by our Group this year:

In September we had a tour of the new 4th Pavilion of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts with Celine Dupuis, member of the MLUWC but also a certified guide with the MMFA. This new addition called Pavillion Bourgie houses Canadian and Quebec arts.

In October, we went to Quebec City to view the exhibition “**Up close and Personal with the Caillebotte Brothers, Painter and Photographer**,” at Musée National du Québec. Nearly 150 previously unexhibited photographs taken by Martial Caillebotte in the 19th century, and, along with them, some 40 paintings by Gustave Caillebotte, his brother, a patron and fast friend of Impressionists were there for us to discover and appreciate.

In December, the National Gallery of Ottawa was presenting an exhibition entitled “**Drawn to Art: French Artists and Art Lovers in 18th-Century Rome**”. In the 18th century, Rome was the principal crossroads for the European community, and an important source of influence for French artists who rose to prominence in the Eternal City. This exhibition highlighted the flowering of French art in 18th-century Rome, focusing on works by French artists of the period, including Hubert Robert, Jean-Honoré Fragonard and Jacques-Louis David..

February saw us going to the movies to see **Leonardo Live: Leonardo da Vinci - Painter at the Court of Milan** presented by CINEPLEX Odeon. This film was a preview of the UK's National Gallery landmark exhibition "Leonardo da Vinci: Painter at the Court of Milan", captured live and broadcast on a delayed basis to movie screens around the world. This never-before-seen exhibition brought together the largest number of Leonardo's rare surviving paintings ever assembled in one collection. The program was presented by internationally acclaimed art historians and broadcasters Tim Marlow and Mariella Frostrup.

In March, we had the great pleasure to be guided once more by Celine Dupuis through the **Old Masters of the MMFA**, redeployed since the opening of the fourth Pavillion.

April will take us back to the MMFA for the **Feininger, The Great Carnival** exhibition. The first posthumous retrospective in North America on Lyonel Feininger (1871- 1956). This American artist has been strangely forgotten, since he spent most of his life in Germany.

Feininger was a celebrated cartoonist, a leading figure of Expressionism and one of the most famous modern artists in Germany, where he was condemned as a “degenerate” artist by the Third Reich. He returned to New York after a fifty-year absence.

May at The National Gallery in Ottawa, will bring us to view the **Van Gogh: Up Close exhibition**. This will be the first major project devoted to the Dutch artist by a Canadian institution in over two decades. Presented in Canada exclusivity in Ottawa, it will break new ground in exploring the artist’s representation of nature, in particular his innovative use of the close-up view. This exhibition will feature approximately 50 paintings, including works that have rarely been shown publicly, as well as a selection of Japanese prints.

Respectfully submitted
Louise Dagenais
Leader

Book Club 1

Our present membership stands at 17, but with vacations, and family duties, the average meeting afternoon discussion group, numbers around 12 participants. The books discussed this year were *The Future of Freedom*, by Fareed Zakari; *The Love Queen of Malabar*, by Merrily Wiesbord; *Niko*, by Dimitri Nasrallah; *Mistress of Nothing*, by Kate Pullinger; *All Passion Spent*, by Vita Sackville, with *To the Light House*, by Virginia Wolfe; *Into the Heart of the Country*, by Pauline Holdstock, with *Bride of New France*, by Suzanne Desrochers; *Wilfred Laurier*, by Andre Pratte; and *The Red Queen*, by Margaret Drabble.

The books produced many interesting discussions as the presenters raised issues surrounding the period and politics of the times. We now are in the process of book selection for next year, with many suggestions from which to choose. We would welcome new members when we know our numbers are down, but unfortunately our living rooms do not allow for large gatherings. We wish you all a happy summer with shady nook, a comfy chair, and a good book.

Respectfully submitted
Margaret Nicoll-Griffith
Leader

Book Club II

Book Club II maintained a membership of 13 very dynamic ladies, an ideal number for stimulating animated discussions, taking into consideration that there is always someone absent. Based on the quality of exchanges and the size of our living-rooms, it was decided this year, that we would add new members only in the case of withdrawals by existing members.

Program covered this year:

Girl in a Blue Dress by Gaynor Arnold. It is the story of Charles Dickens's relationship with his wife Catherine, disguised by names changed. A moving story about the special burden of loving a universally adored man.... It portrays the intermingling of love and resentment, affection and pettiness, that renders any marriage mysterious to outsiders.

A Mountain of Crumbs by Elena Gorokhova. The panic of growing up inside the secrecy of Brezhnev's Soviet Union.

Little Princes by Conor Grennan. " Funny, touching, tragic. Conor Grennan's Little Princes is a remarkable tale of corruption, child trafficking and civil war in a faraway land - and one man's extraordinary quest to reunite lost Nepalese children with their parents."

I Shall Not Hate by Izzeldin Abuelaish. A remarkable commitment to forgiveness and reconciliation that describes the foundation for a permanent peace in the Holy Land.

The Amber Room by Steve Berry. A highly entertaining page turner in which history plays an important role, focusing on a lost treasure known as the "Amber Room".

The Hare With Amber Eyes by Edmund de Waal. We had in our hands a masterpiece as described by Frances Wilson from the London *Sunday Times*. " To be handed a story as durable and exquisitely crafted as this is a rare pleasure . . . Like the netsuke themselves, this book was impossible to put down."

Bel Canto by Ann Patchett. This is a story about terrorists and an opera singer, based on the Japanese Embassy 1996 hostage crisis in Lima, Peru, when fourteen members of the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) took hostage hundreds of high-level diplomats, government and military officials and business executives who were attending a party at the official residence of Japan's ambassador to Peru, Morihisa Aoki, in celebration of Emperor Akihito's 63rd birthday.

Midwife of Venice by Roberta Rich. A story involving love, blackmail, family, murder, plague, intercultural compassion involving the strength of women and the precariousness of their lives, regardless of status or religion.

Annabel, by Kathleen Winter. This book is about an intersex child born in a remote coastal Labrador village in 1968. Intersex births are considerably more common in real life than in fiction, and Montreal-based Winter has followed up her Metcalf-Rooke Award–winning short story collection, *BOYS*, with a thoughtful treatment of this rarely discussed topic.

N.B. The resumes are excerpts taken from reviews by Amazon.

Most of us appreciated the variety of themes and literary styles of the books chosen for discussion this year and hope for just such a rich and captivating selection next year, which will be voted on in the coming weeks.

Respectfully submitted
Louse Dagenais
Leader

Conversation en français

Tête-à-tête a connu une excellente année, nous en sommes ravies. Nous nous réunissions 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 tant au point de vue culturel, panoramique, gastronomique, etc. Le film classique « La grande séduction », après avoir été visionné chez-soi, a suscité une discussion intéressante et, même, très amusante. Nous pouvions toujours compter sur l'assistance de Gisèle Aubin pour peaufiner nos phrases. À l'an prochain et bienvenue aux nouvelles adhérentes.

Amicalement
Dianne Robinson
Animatrice

Cross country ski

Despite the on again off again winter our intrepid cross country ski group met throughout the season all over the island of Montreal. We started at Morgan Arboretum sans skis and went just for a walk! In the following weeks we went to 'Ile Bizard, Parc Angrignon (a new location for the group – beautiful!) and finished back at Morgan Arboretum, this time with enough snow and we even saw maple syrup pails on the largest maple trees.

Respectfully submitted
Janet Anderson
Leader

Duplicate Bridge

We had a good season, having four to six tables every second and fourth Thursday from September to April, with our last meeting at the lovely Beaconsfield Golf Club. Our regular meetings are Thursday mornings at the Beaconsfield City Hall Lawn Bowling Annex. New members are welcome. Call Marg Burwash or Emma Lou Walter.

Respectfully submitted
Emma Lou Walter
Co-ordinator

Gourmet I

The group met each month at a different member's house. As usual, we cooked in groups of three, leaving the rest of us to just enjoy. Our evenings featured a Girl's Night Out, Italian, Montréal en Lumière, and Vegetarian and Seafood evenings among others. This year's menus included some imaginative beet recipes, a shrimp & tomato bisque, Pollo al Chianti, a favorite chicken recipe from Elizabeth Taylor, an Apple Cream Cheese Torte, a Chestnut Mousse, and a spectacular Strawberry Lemon Meringue Torte.

Respectfully submitted
Patricia DuVal
Leader

Gourmet Group II

Two of our members of long standing left this year Bev: Fiddian Green moved to the Toronto area and Helen Martin, to Hudson. We welcomed a new member, Margaret Vost. We had many delicious, creative meals at members' homes. Our group dates back to the 70's so one evening was recipes from those times.

Respectfully submitted,
Sydney Ball.
Leader

Gourmet III

The ladies of Gourmet III had another successful year filled with good eating, great wine, lots of laughter and interesting conversation. The dinners are held on the third Wednesday of each month from September to May. Have a great summer everyone!

Respectfully submitted
Sita Tadros
Leader

Gourmet IV

There are ten members of Gourmet IV and we cook in groups of four. We had another great year of friendship and fine dining, with nine dinners in each other's homes, welcoming spouses in December and for the up-coming end of year dinner in June. We were happy to have Joan Dyer join us for our April dinner, as the winner of our Christmas raffle prize. In early May, most of the group will be going on an outing to "Le Saucier", part of the PACC Vocational Centre in La Salle, our second outing to this restaurant which serves as a training ground for future chefs.

Respectfully submitted
Valerie Fortin
Leader

Healthy Living

Our "Healthy Living" group, formerly known as "Complementary Approaches to Wellness" has had a successful year and welcomed an average of 10-12 members. Our monthly meetings were held at members' homes on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Following each session, we would enjoy refreshments and fellowship. My sincere appreciation to Margaret Vost who has assisted in the presentation of topics explored.

Topics addressed were as follows:

September 2011	Healthy Living – planning the year's program
October	"Autumn Tips for a healthy you....."
November	"Building Stronger Bones" Margaret Vost
January 2012	"Harmful chemicals in our homes" – what can we do? with guest speaker, Shelagh Webster
February	"Eat Smart - which foods are good for what"
March	"Healthful Meals – eat like it matters"
April	"....even little bits of physical activity improve health."
May	Luncheon at La Cooperative des Bons Voisins

Thank you to all the participants for your support and valuable contributions in making this a very special group experience.

Respectfully submitted
Renate Sutherland
Co-ordinator

Intermediate Bridge.

This group, comprised of eight regular members and two spares, meets every second Wednesday evening in a relaxed atmosphere, to hone our skills. Each member plays host, generally twice, during the months we play. Our season ends in May.

Respectfully submitted
Eibhlin McHale and Shirley Wick
Co-ordinators

Jaunters

This year we were able to resurrect the Jaunters Interest group, which has been popular in the past. Thanks to most of the group members serving in one of the groups as either a coordinator or helper, we have had wonderful jaunts. But a special thanks to those women who single-handedly organized their month by choosing a destination, organizing carpooling, communication, and the lunch spot.

October 2011 we visited the old Simon Fraser House, now called Musée Ste Anne in Ste Anne de Bellevue, and received two interesting historic presentations and a lovely lunch.

November Jaunt was an informative tour of some of the John Abbott College facilities and lunch at the Tadjia Hall faculty club.

December we were introduced to the New Art Collection at Stewart Hall Art gallery and we lunched at Piazza Romana in Pointe Claire village.

January took us to the Beaconsfield Library for a presentation of “digital everything” and supper before hand was at the Homestyle Restaurant.

February we visited the beautiful “Colors of India” exhibition at Point a Calliere and divinely lunched up stairs.

March we brunched in Pointe Claire, followed by a most informative tour of the green houses at the Botanical Gardens, plus dancing with the butterflies.

April 25 heard to the Avmor Gallery in old Montreal, followed by lunch nearby. Contact Nancy Lloyd

May 16 at 11:am will be a private concert in St Andrew and St Paul church to hear the wonderful organ and organist Jonathan Oldengarm as well as the beautiful voice of Stephanie Manias.

Lunch after is around the corner at Nococho. Contact Kerstin Birch.

June 6, we are attending the National Circus school graduation performance at La Tohu. Supper will be beforehand in the West Island. Contact Louise Dagenais.

So, ladies, we hope we can have more wonderful excursions next year. We count on you to suggest places and offer your assistance to be **part** of the organizing of one of the months. Sign up in Sept with your ideas in tow.

Respectfully submitted
Pat Jones
Co-ordinator

Kaffeeklatsch

The German Conversation Group comprises ten members who meet the second Tuesday afternoon of every month. Topics discussed were Heidelberg and the Canadian Connection, the German Beer Purity Law, Ancient Ireland, the composer Gustav Mahler, poet Heinrich Kleist, Useful German Sayings and Travels in Argentina.

Respectfully submitted
Christine Hamilton,
Leader

Marathon Mixed Bridge

We are a group of seven couples who meet to play twenty hands of bridge against each other couple during the course of the season (Sept.-May). We alternate hosting the games and provide light refreshments. As we are a sociable group, we have a final potluck dinner, bridge and prize giving at the end of May. We have lost a few members and would welcome some new couples in Sept One game a month is optimal.

Respectfully submitted
Eileen Ross
Leader

Morning Bridge

Formerly known as Beginners, The Morning Bridge Group met nine times between Nov.2011 and May 2012. There are eight regular members and one full time spare. Each meeting consists of a brief lesson and discussion, followed by a regular game. The game is supervised and each hand is studied and discussed. All the members are making excellent progress. This has been great fun for me.

Respectfully submitted
Doris Leckie
Co-ordinator

Music Appreciation

This season our Music Appreciation Group enjoyed six Montreal Symphony Friday morning concerts in the new hall. We began the year with the hall barely finished, the floor varnish dry but fragrant. Many of us felt like we were in a giant ship in the wooden interior and without drapes and rugs the sound is now clearer and enhanced. We were 23 members, 13 with subscriptions. Several bought tickets on availability. We enjoyed 18 compositions which we studied beforehand at our prep. meetings. Thanks to everyone for their participation in hosting, driving, making presentations and sharing the joy of music. We will end the year with a potluck luncheon at Dianne Robinson`s home.

Respectfully submitted
Maria Cranker
Leader

Music History

The Music History group continues after the death last year of founder and leader Joanne Brais under the co-ordination of Joan Dyer with assistance from Louise Dagenais. Membership this year stood at 18, with 14 regular members and four others joining us for concert outings.

This year's program was built around a series of three extraordinary afternoon concerts of Baroque music given by Les Violons du Roi under the baton of Bernard Labadie, allowing a deeper exploration of this long, rich period in musical history and an opportunity to become familiar with the works of some lesser known composers and the artistry of some world-class performers. Virtuoso recorder player Maurice Steger was a revelation!

But first we started out in September and October acknowledging the centenary of the death in 1911 of the monumental Austrian composer Gustave Mahler. We screened fascinating, informative DVDs about Mahler and performances of some of his works produced by the San Francisco Orchestra under Michael Tilson Thomas in his *Keeping Score* series.

Then we turned to concert preparation, using non-concert months to study the repertoire for our chosen concert series.

Following the group's tradition of dedicating one session to listening to opera, we headed to the Kirkland Colisée in March to see *The Enchanted Island*, the brilliant and highly entertaining new Baroque pastiche opera, Live in HD, courtesy of the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

The year will close in June with a potluck hosted by Nicole Awad to evaluate the year just ended and begin planning the program for the next year.

All in all, a very promising beginning to a new era in the life of the Music History Group.
Thanks to all for their participation and assistance.

Respectfully submitted
Joan Dyer
Leader

Out-to-Dinner

We had about 30 members this year and many new restaurants to try: an average of 12 attended each venue. The November outing at Kanda had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. In general, we were pleased with our choices. It's always pleasant to enjoy a nice meal with interesting friends. As always, we welcome any member who wishes to join us for dinner.

Restaurants we have still to visit this year include: on April 26th Mezzamis; on May 24th, La Verita; on June 22nd, Le Surcouf.

Thank you to the organizers for each dinner. We're looking forward to bigger and better ideas for next year.

Respectfully submitted
Carol Kelly
Co-ordinator

Travel

We enjoyed a varied program during the 2011 - 2012 season. The group appreciates meeting at the Sunrise Senior Living Residence on the first Monday of the month.

Victor Breedon took us on a tour of India and its peoples. With Joyce Schaaf we experienced a Mediterranean Cruise, tying up at several well known ports. Dianne Robinson, having travelled with interested railway buffs, opened our eyes to Myanmar. Ian MacDonald presented Patagonia and Iguazu Falls titled " Autumn Leaves, Icebergs and Butterflies". It was necessary to reschedule one meeting which will be added to our program in the fall. As our season comes to a close we look forward to hearing from Veronica Valentine who will present the United Arab Emirates and the surrounding area.

We acknowledge the effort and interest which all of our participants have made to share their experiences with us in the Travel Group.

Respectfully submitted
Barbara Sauv e and Mary Wells
Co-ordinators

Tutto Italiano

We had a very successful season in our Tutto Italiano group. Art, Travel, Film, Food —we touched those topics, learned a lot, discussed and shared our experiences during meetings.

In **October**, following the Carravagio exhibition in Ottawa we had an extension of it, with a presentation on Carravagio, his life and his paintings.

In **November** one of our members gave a very interesting travel presentation to sunny Sardinia.

In **December**, in the spirit of Christmas and appreciation of Italian food and wine, we dined at the Italian restaurant La Verita.

In **February** we all attended the Leonardo da Vinci direct transmission from London in the cinema. It gave us the unique opportunity to see the great works of art on display at the National Gallery in London.

In **March** we got back to art— and had an extensive presentation on the life and paintings of Leonardo da Vinci. A very interesting book was suggested: 'Sprezzatura': 50 Ways Italian Genius Shaped the world '

In **April** we got back to past history; we watched the Italian film 'Tea with Mussolini '.

Our last meeting will be in **May** and we are planning a visit to the Leonardo da Vinci Centre in Montreal.

In the spirit of Italian food appreciation we gathered our favourite recipes and decided to print a small booklet as a fundraiser for the MLUWC Scholarship Fund. The cost of the booklet is \$5, and should any member want to get one, please call Mary or Renata.

Respectfully submitted
Renata Bagga
Leader

Wine Appreciation I

Our group consisted of ten members and eight spares who were frequently called upon to join our monthly meetings. Our activities for 2011-2012 consisted of one field trip and seven wine tasting meetings hosted by individual members. Each hostess provided information about the featured wines. The cost of the food and wine was shared by attending members. The meeting format this year was changed to limit the number of participants to ten. We look forward to another year of sharing wine discoveries, great food, stimulating conversation and much laughter.

Respectfully submitted
Marie-Belle Cunningham
Leader

Wine Appreciation II

By the end of the year, we will have had eight meetings. Our year started with a visit to the Pointe-à-Callière museum to see their "*To Your Health, Caesar! Wine and the Gauls*" exhibition. At our monthly meetings we sampled wines from Greece, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany and the United States. We've sampled wines that can be served with different meats, poultry, fish, and cheeses. We've covered all aspects of a meal: from appetizers to desserts. As there are many more wines to enjoy and learn about, we will continue again next year to imbibe our way through even more vintages.

Respectfully submitted
Gilda Martinello
Leader