



# UWCM

University Women's Club of Montreal Inc.

Club des Femmes Universitaires de Montréal Inc.

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## June 2010 Newsletter



### JUNE 9: SUMMER SEND-OFF

Open House at the Coach House from 6 to 8 pm

*It's the last meeting of the season and time to gather over refreshments in the company of members and friends.*

We invite you to visit your Coach House and to mingle with members in a relaxed and informal setting. Take this opportunity to bring a friend or potential new member. No speakers or speeches this time, just simply food and good company. No need to confirm your attendance. See you there!

### JULY 15 - 18: CFUW AGM 2010 - OTTAWA

*This event is coming up sooner than you think. We encourage you to come to this outstanding event, support the CFUW and the UWCM and have fun.*

The 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), will be held at The Ottawa Marriott, 100 Kent Street, Ottawa. The theme is Value our Past, Shape the Future – Valoriser notre passé, Modeler l'avenir. See [www.cfuw.org](http://www.cfuw.org) for details.

**The Board has approved funding for a shared hotel room for members who would like to attend the AGM. Send your request by June 11 to Liz Annesley.**

Early Bird Registration has been extended to May 26. Register on-line by June 14, 2010 to get the hotel conference rate.

### Menu

- Finger food
- Sweets
- Wine

**Next Dinner Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15. Mark your calendars!**

### New Interest groups

Do you have ideas for a new Interest group? Would you like to start up a new group?

Send your suggestions and ideas to:  
**Interest Group Coordinator:  
Maria Ardito Masi**

**Deadline for the September Newsletter:  
Monday, August 16.**



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear UWCM Members,

That's it; this is my last message to you as Club President. Now what? The only words I can find are clichés ... So I'll let them roll!

During these past two years, I have had moments when I asked myself, "Why do I always find myself so much involved with this Club?" And always the simple answer was, "Because I like it, I've met fascinating women."

The involvement of all those members who took part in the strategic planning working committees; the perseverance of our Interest Group Convenors; the camaraderie and team work of the Resolution Committee; and the dedication of all the Board Members may all well answer my previous question.

Here, I must warn my friend and successor Liz Annesley and members of the new Board. Beware! From seeing how past board members are still caught up in this Club, I'm ready to bet this involvement is addictive!

Seriously, the presence of a good group of members (over 45) at the AGM on May 19th is evidence of a healthy Club. We all appreciated the simple but convincing presentation of Nakuset, Director General of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal and Kerry Tannahill, Program Coordinator. The extent of the support and services provided by this shelter is simply amazing. A short visit to their web site is convincing.

We also learned that in the 2010 federal budget, funding to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation of Canada was not renewed. A petition was circulated among us to reinstate support for the community-based projects addressing the legacy of residential schools. This petition should be presented in The



The Coach House by Lynda Nakashima

House of Commons in June. A copy of this petition will be available for signature at our June 9th summer send off.

In closing I would like to thank the members of this year's Board. It has been a pleasure and an honour to work with such a remarkable group of talented and dedicated people.

Thank you and congratulations to: Liz Annesley, Lilian Harper, Brenda Shanahan, Margaret Jackson, Liz Wirth, Judith Kashul, Lynn Verge, Adeline Beaulac, Gloria Kearns and Maria Massi for their good and important work.

*Johanne Desrochers*

President, UWCM Inc.

### Greetings from Marie-Berthe Dion

The Board received a touching hand written card from Marie-Berthe this week. She is not able to attend out dinners but sends her greetings. She reads our newsletter and thoroughly enjoys following our activities and events.

It's nice to hear from you, Mme Dion. Keep well.

### Ill or Shut-in Members

Are you or do you know of a member who is in need of a cheering visit or a friendly phone call? Let our new Board Member-at-large, Beverly Rowat know.

## CELEBRATING OUR INTEREST GROUPS

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### Carte Blanche - A Very Good Year

Carte Blanche organizes informal and relaxed small get-togethers at the Coach House. Members suggest the content of the meetings.

October: A pleasant afternoon of tea, cakes & conversation brought together those who wished a daytime event while planning for future sessions.

January: Our very own "Julia Child", Evelyn Horsky provided a bountiful and beautiful evening in her own home for all who wanted to attend.

March: Among other university educated Canadians, we too join in all types of volunteering. Gloria Kearns, chairperson, helped us to discuss similar issues encountered while volunteering, which seem to indicate an interest in planning further group meetings.

April: Relaxed yet informative and even entertaining, we became "noses" and breathed in all sorts of wonderful scents, all botanical naturals without anything harmful or offensive, as an international artisan perfumer, Kathleen Hamilton led the creation of personalized blends for everyone. As well, she offered her own scents attractively presented for \$25-\$35, according to ingredients.

*Jane Yaple*

### Art & Etc. - Behind the Altar – A Special Visit to St-Patrick's Basilica

The Art & Etc interest group led by Valerie Aitken visited St-Patrick's Basilica in April, a special activity organized by Connie Cloutier. The Basilica itself is both lovely and impressive, with its vast interior, lovely stained glass windows, and beautiful wood carving. However, a special aspect to our visit was when our guide led us behind the altar, where the sacristan showed us the many historical objects and settings in this remarkably large area. The furniture appears to be part of the original décor, and there are many quaint touches of earlier times. We were privileged to see the serving vessels and chalices

donated to the Basilica; there is a tradition of letting attendees at Sunday mass know which priest's memory is being honoured by the use of his chalice. The Basilica has been designated a Historical Monument by the Government of Quebec and named a National Historic Site of Canada.

If you wish to read about the Basilica, consult Alan Hustak's *Saint Patrick's of Montreal; The Biography of a Basilica*.

If this is typical of Art & Etc. activities, I'm certainly planning to attend the next one!

*Lorraine Gosselin*

### Wine Tasting – Italian Wines

I learned more than I expected at the wine tasting sessions, and they were always enjoyable. Our leader, Dr. Linda Snell, is highly knowledgeable and provides just enough information to frame our perceptions. The format is relaxed and friendly, and the cheese board is appreciated.

The session that focussed on Italy was a revelation for me. I hadn't realized how many different wines the country produces, and from how many different regions.

The reds included a robust Primitivo from Puglia (the "heel" of Italy), a Nero d'Avola from Sicily, a Montepulciano from Abruzzo (a "smooth and silky palate with sweet and elegant tannins"), and a blended red described as "a Valpolicella turned brawny by spending time on the lees of the previous autumn's Amarone."

The white wines of the evening included a Verdicchio from the Marches, which was my favourite. It was fruity without being sweet and would make a great summer aperitif.

The evening left me with a desire to sample more Italian wines, and some of them, notably the wines of Sicily, are very good value right now.

*Kathleen Hamilton*

## PUTTING A RESOLUTION TO WORK

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### A “behind the scenes” look at the day your Resolutions Committee presented to The National Task Force on Financial Literacy (TFFL)

After months of anticipation, we were finally scheduled to present our brief to the Task Force at 3:30pm Monday April 19<sup>th</sup> in Montreal. Our objectives were to do our best, follow the rules, advocate for financial literacy via our CFUW resolution, and most of all to have fun. With this in mind, four of us met at 10 am on April 19 to rehearse our presentation. Our first challenge: to trim a 12-minute document to become a 5-minute brief for the time allotted to us. Having already spent long hours over the last 18 months crafting the many drafts of our resolution documents, your team consisting of Anne Brohan, Liz Annesley, Brenda Shanahan and Judith Kashul lost no time in getting back into gear and rolling up our sleeves. Once the first carving happened, we had someone at the computer making the text adjustments, while others, with stop watch in hand, timed the slimmed text. After several innings, the bases were loaded, and the team said “let’s go with it” at a length of 5 minutes, 18 seconds.

Revived with our success in creating a near-to-5-minute brief, we arrived at the Hotel Intercontinental where Johanne Desrochers, who had been with us throughout the day in spirit and by cell phone arrived well in time.

The meeting room had space for public seating, an executive table for the TFFL and presenters of briefs. Instantaneous translation was evident too. We heard two presentations before us: a team from the l’Autorité des Marchés Financiers and a volunteer financial educator from Sherbrooke. Several members from our club were already seated in the room and we were thankful for their support.

Our brief was presented in three parts by Judith Kashul, Brenda Shanahan and Johanne Desrochers. When the members of the Task Force group complimented us on the preciseness, organization and length of our text, we knew that our work that day had paid off. For every one of our points, we offered solutions. The TFFL asked good questions and we had well thought-out responses and suggestions.

It was also heartening to hear from the UWCM members as well as some non-UWCM participants that our brief was clear, interesting and brought in new areas of discussion. In short, many thought our presentation was the best of the day.

On April 20, Brenda Shanahan was interviewed on CBC Radio Noon about our experience with the Task Force and the UWCM’s advocacy work for financial literacy. Many heard her. We are justifiably proud of Brenda.

Our advocacy work for financial literacy continues; we have lots of action plans. Please join us when we meet. Our committee is open to all members. Be fairly warned that we like to have lively discussions, to take action, to sometimes have pot luck meetings, to enjoy each other and to most of all have fun with our work on resolutions. We usually meet Mondays; check for meeting times and dates in the newsletter Calendar of Events.

Text of the brief is available on the AGMs and Events page of [www.uwcm.com](http://www.uwcm.com).

*Judith Kashul*

Chair, Resolutions Committee UWCM