



University Women's Club of Montreal Inc.

Club des Femmes Universitaires de Montréal Inc.

UWCM PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT MAY 18, 2011

Good evening!

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the University Women's Club of Montreal, Inc. Our mission: *social interaction, social responsibility and growth of women in all areas of life* was certainly met again this year.

We have continued to offer a wide range of activities through the Interest Groups and were very successful in introducing a popular new group this year, Botanical Perfumery, led by one of our new members, Kathleen Hamilton. I would like to thank all the Interest Group Convenors for giving their time and sharing their various passions with us. We are very privileged to be able to benefit from such a wealth of knowledge.

The Resolutions Committee continued to pursue its advocacy role, offering two sets of workshops on Financial Literacy – one at the CFUW Quebec Provincial Council meeting last fall in North Hatley and the second one, more recently, at the Coach House, to members of our own club. Both were met with most favorable receptions. We shall be going to St John's, Newfoundland, this August to present two more workshops at the CFUW national conference. Needless to say, we are very excited to have been asked to participate and are proud that we shall be able to reach women from every province and share our experiences with them. We were also very fortunate to have been successful in our pursuit of a grant for \$35,000 from the *Autorité des Marchés Financiers* that will enable us to carry out our Financial Literacy project and to have our official launch this coming fall. We owe a special vote of thanks to Judith Kashul for her dedicated leadership in this group and for her professional skills in assisting us in obtaining this important financial grant.

Once again, UWCM organized monthly dinners here at the Atwater Club, which included speakers addressing topics such as: Life-Long Learning, Philanthropy, Sustainability of the Canadian health system, Micro-credit for women in India, An indigenous perspective on global health nutrition and, tonight, a presentation about the work of Auberge Shalom. I wish to acknowledge Sheila Horn Bisailon for the thoughtful preparation of the program that she put together for us over this past year. Thank you, Sheila. Our Home Dinners in April were a great success due to the generous hospitality of our hostesses. We offer our sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness in opening your homes to us.

Last November, the Board was very pleased to have presented the UWCM Foundation with a cheque for \$25,000 which will enable the Foundation to set up a permanent endowment fund for future scholarships and bursaries. This gift was offered to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Foundation.

The two permanent committees of the Board, Governance and Membership, met several times over the year and made recommendations to the Board, which allowed us to continue toward our goal of streamlining internal procedures. All of this work makes the Board more efficient in how it operates, ever mindful of serving you to the best of our ability.

I should like to thank the Board members for all their support and conscientious efforts over the past year. Tonight, we bid farewell to Brenda Shanahan who will be leaving us. Brenda has done a marvellous job of handling publicity over the past four years in a most professional and efficient manner. Her goal of raising the public profile of UWCM is well under way now. Thank you, Brenda. Other members of the

Board whose mandate is over have agreed to stay on in different roles: Margaret Jackson moves from Secretary to take over Publicity; Bev Rowat will move from Member-at-Large to become Secretary, and Maria Masi leaves as Interest Group Coordinator to become Member-at-Large. That leaves a vacancy for Interest Group Coordinator which will be filled, later this evening, by Zofia Laubitz. I am very pleased that we shall have continuity, while at the same time welcoming a new member with fresh ideas.

I should now like to acknowledge the contribution made to UWCM by the following members who passed away during this year: Eva Prager, Dr. Virginia Barber and Wendy Dayton. Let us honor them with a moment of silence.

I respectfully submit my report,

Elizabeth Annesley