

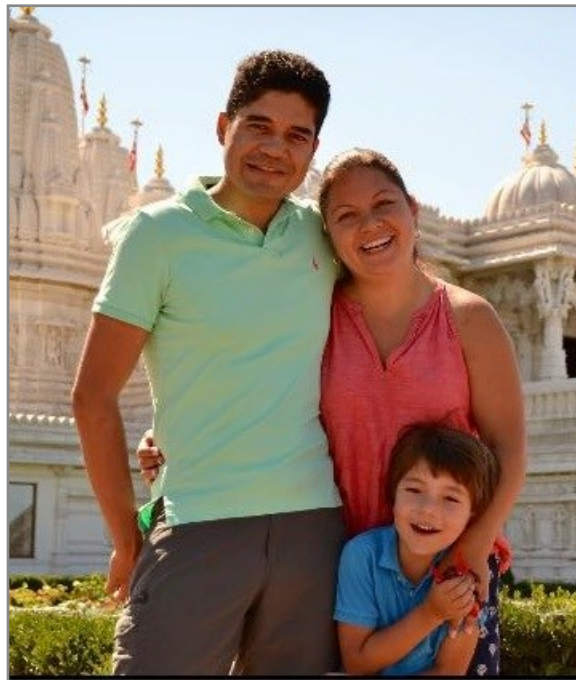
## A NEW CANADIAN FAMILY

As this is Canada's 150th anniversary, we thought you'd be interested in this story about a new Canadian family who is also part of our McGill family. I first met Edwin when he was enrolled in the IELC\* program, at which time he requested a SPEAK\* conversation partner.

Edwin has now finished that program, although he and his partner, John Lauder, have become friends and still meet every Friday. Edwin also continues as the volunteer leader for the Brainy Bar\*.

Edwin Loaiza grew up in Manizales, Columbia, from where, he wants you to know, comes the best coffee in the world. After completing his BA in Marketing and a certificate in International Business, he moved to Bogota and worked in the sales department of Johnson and Johnson for 11 years, at the same time completing his MBA at the *Universidad de los Andes*. By this time, he had risen to the position of Key Accounts Manager and had a secure job. However, while at university he met his future wife, Carolina, who had already decided that Canada was the place she wanted to be and had passed her oral and written exams in French. It wasn't difficult to convince Edwin to join her in this new life. They both knew that they could provide a better future for themselves and their son, Nicolas in Canada. As Carolina had already been accepted, Edwin came with her as her spouse and so, in 2014, the family arrived in Montreal.

Carolina is an industrial engineer and now works for an NGO that provides help for women in distress. Edwin has finished his English Certificate at McGill and is doing a certificate in Marketing mainly to learn English terms and expressions. He has asked permission to do a certificate in Internet Business Technology at the same time. So, at the moment, he is a full-time student but he wants to find a job for about two hours a day that would help in his field. (Can anyone help?) Although Edwin had studied English in Bath (England) and at the YMCA



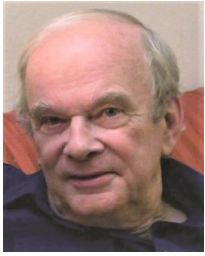
in Montreal, he is confident that the McGill program is the best. Not only are the teachers excellent, but the SPEAK program puts it over the top.

Edwin told me that he and Carolina feel that moving to Canada was the best decision they have ever made. Seeing their son grow up mixing with children of all nationalities, learning French and English in the way young people do, has made them so happy. He calls Canada "this amazing coun-

try." He knows also that Canada offers opportunities to create one's own business in a way he could never have hoped for in Columbia. In June 2018 Edwin and Carolina will become Canadian citizens, and we are very lucky to have them!

*Sandra Frisby*

## President's welcome to the 2017 Fall Term at MCLL



September is great in Québec, warm but not hot. Trees are changing colour, fruits and vegetable are ready to harvest. It's a great time for outdoor activities, rock climbing, sailing, kayaking, golf, tennis, cycling... and still great for BBQ'ing. September is also Montreal's exciting major cultural seasons getting into gear. We have a choice of theatre

programs in English and French, plays, opera, ballet, films... And schools, which slowed down for the summer, are about to reopen. This includes MCLL.

Our Curriculum Committee, chaired by Tony Frayne, has put together a very appealing calendar of study groups, lectures, workshops and outings for this fall. As you probably know, the effort involved in creating this course schedule involves many of you, long-established moderators, new moderators and the volunteers who do the work from reviewing proposals to developing ideas for study groups to writing descriptions, scheduling, assigning classroom, proofreading, printing and distributing, loading everything onto the MCLL web site and more.

Two key words for the MCLL program are: variety and development. The process which the monitors proposing study group topics each term yields a collection of topics each term. There's not much duplication. If you don't see a study group that interests you, propose one for the next term that does. Sometimes moderators propose study groups on topics where they are already experts. Other times they will embark with you on discovering new territory. During the five or 10 weeks of study, you have an opportunity to modify/improve the study. Participants finish a study group transformed but the moderators too finish the term transformed.

September is a month of visible transformation.

Welcome back, you members who make the MCLL community attract new members, and welcome new members. All of us together make MCLL work for us.

*Paul Howell*

*Continued from page 1*

\***IELC:** Intensive English Language and Culture

\***SPEAK** is a program in which volunteers from MCLL meet with foreign students for one hour a week for conversation. To learn more about this program, contact Sandra at: [sandrafrisby@gmail.com](mailto:sandrafrisby@gmail.com)

\***BRAINY Bar** is a program in which volunteer from IELC help MCLL members with technology on a one-on-one basis. Please see page 31 of the Fall Program for details.

## The Annual General Meeting

MCLL's Annual General Meeting was held at the Nouvel Hotel on March 24. A large audience welcomed the guest speaker, Dr. Annmarie Adams from McGill's School of Architecture and the Faculty of Medicine, who gave a fascinating talk about architecture and, in particular, Cormier House, home to the Pierre Elliot Trudeau family. This familiar Montréal landmark was built by architect **Ernest Cormier** as his own residence in 1930-31 and was proclaimed a historical monument in Québec in 1974. In 1979 the



**Annmarie Adams**

property was bought by the 15th Canadian Prime Minister for \$230,000 and served as his home following his retirement from politics in the summer of 1984 until his death in 2000. It has been owned since then by Trudeau's son **Sasha**, younger brother of our current prime minister.

The focus of the talk, which was drawn from a recent article published in

*Winterthur Portfolio*, which Ms. Adams co-authored with architectural historian Cameron Macdonell, was an exploration of the relationship between diverse expressions of masculinity, architectural space, and the display of *objets d'art*. She showed how the design of one environment can extend from one inhabitant of a house to another, in this case two famous and famously stylish Montrealers. She herself had managed to obtain permission to visit the house a few times for her research and she noted the ways the architect and the politician made themselves at home in this very unusual architecture. We were indeed privileged to learn more about the private life of Ernest Cormier and the Trudeaus and about the interior of a house we all know so well from the outside.



**President Juliet Wait** welcomed Paul Howell as incoming President and thanked all Council members and volunteers who contribute to the running of MCLL.

**Photo #1: Ernest Cormier**

**Photo #2: La Maison Cormier**





## MCLL Symposium on Age-Friendly Universities

You must be wondering what all the recent talk about age-friendly cities, communities and universities is all about. The concept has been around for a while, since 2006 in fact when the World Health Organization (WHO) developed the Global Age-Friendly Cities Project. This project brought together cities from around the world that were interested in supporting healthy aging by becoming more age-friendly. These cities gathered information from seniors, senior-care providers and other groups and individuals with an interest in age-friendly communities. The information they gathered touched upon transportation, social participation, learning, housing, etc., in other words, domains that affect the quality of our daily lives as senior citizens and adult learners.

The MCLL symposium will go further than that. It will look at the far-reaching implications of our world's rapidly changing technology, increased life expectancy and rising proportion of older age groups not only for teaching and learning but also for living and the transfer of knowledge in the 21st century.

Anticipating that the universities of the future, even the entire domain of education will become more inter-generational and more multicultural, the

**RESERVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 3**

**REGISTRATION BEGINS OCTOBER 1**

**PLEASE SEE MCLL WEB SITE FOR MORE DETAILS**

symposium organizers have a good 20 students registered who in one way or another are already active on campus creating the network.

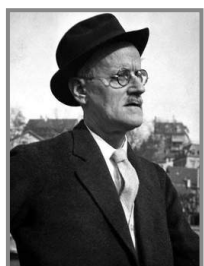
Excited by the possibilities these ideas could lead to for our own community as well as for McGill, a group of MCLL members contacted speakers and panelists who could explore different aspects and perhaps draw a few conclusions. The day-long symposium hosted by MCLL will be held on November 3 at the Faculty Club on McTavish. It will be just one of many events & activities leading up to the celebration of McGill's 200 years.

Speakers include Christine O'Kelly from the University of Dublin City in Ireland, where the movement was born. William (Bill) Kops from the University of Manitoba, the first Canadian university to put the Dublin principles into practice, and Dr. Lesley Fellows, a neurologist/neurosurgeon at McGill. Registration for MCLL members who are interested in attending begins on October 1. The cost includes breakfast and lunch. For more detailed information see the MCLL website. The Symposium will be live-streamed so that those who cannot register or who register late can assemble in a room to be announced at MCLL to watch it there or watch it in their own home. The link for the live-streaming is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56qFDqYNn08>

*Lesley Régnier*

### Bloomsday in Montréal



2017 marked the sixth anniversary of Festival Bloomsday Montréal, a remarkable achievement for the small group of devoted organizers, as recognized by no other than Margret Hayes, Dublin City Librarian on behalf of the Lord Mayor of Dublin and Mark Traynor, Director of the James Joyce Centre, who sent a 3 minute video greeting "With Love from Dublin" wishing the group all the best for a successful Bloomsday Festival. See it on You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9-f5XPQU>



### A snippet of McGill History

The Faculty club at 3450 McTavish was built in 1886 for Baron Alfred Baumgarten. Bought by the University in 1919, it became the Faculty Club in 1935.

It would be easy to think that everything that could be said about James Joyce and Ulysses has been said, but as pointed out by Professor Michael Keneally, Principal and Chair of Irish Studies, Concordia University, who was the keynote speaker at the lecture given at the Jewish Public Library, even the most ardent Joycean reader can still benefit from another introduction to Ulysses. And this was borne out in particular at the readings at Westmount Library on June 16, when chosen passages of the book came to life in the hands of enthusiastic interpreters. The six days of events included a tour of Irish Montréal with Donovan King, pub meals with a quiz or Irish music, a dramatic reading by actress Kathleen Fee from the very last chapter the book, Molly's famous soliloquy, story-telling and more. What with the Festival Bloomsday Montréal and the St. Patrick's Day Parade, those of Scottish decent in the city are beginning to feel their input to the city is being neglected! Watch out for Festival Haggis Day one of these days.

# The Principle of Charity:

## On Understanding Well

Partaking in a discussion, no sooner have you made a reasoned argument on the subject than the participant sitting across from you tells you with feigned apologetic equanimity: "Excuse me, but everything you've just said is total malarkey. You're just so narrow-minded." He or she then goes on to refute or argue with a point that you never actually made. We can safely infer that your interlocutor was not listening to understand your point, but agog to respond to something he or she imagined you were saying.

In defense of this volubly inattentive person, we must remember that we all share this flaw: when our opinions are challenged or when we are confronted with statements that contradict our worldview, we bristle. When we read something that collides with our universally acknowledged truths we dismiss it as mere moonshine.

The ancient rabbinical compilation *Wisdom of the Fathers* instructs us to "always be judging every person on the side of the good." This is the short version of what later philosophers termed "the Principle of Charity." Any discussion can benefit from the application of the Principle of Charity to improve the quality of our direct interaction with each other and to properly interpret soundly the content under discussion.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote that "inevitably does the universe wear our color.... As I am, so I see." In fact all that makes me who I am bears upon my understanding of things. It is hard to overemphasize the importance of our emotional attachment to our opinions. Whatever patchy knowledge we possess on a subject impacts the way we weigh a thesis, an argument or an opinion. This is where the Principal of Charity becomes instrumental. To understand and learn, we must presume, at least temporarily, that our assumptions and views may be inadequate or insufficiently informed.

The Principal of Charity is a methodological tool. Ideas, opinions and positions may and should be reviewed and, when necessary, opposed or rebutted. However, the key to sound argument is a thorough understanding of that which we dispute.

Criticism requires that first, we temporarily set aside our own opinions and inclinations and, second, we begin by assuming that the argument, no matter how irksome, is made in good faith. Although we experience a strong urge to disagree before leaping to contradict, we must make the effort to fully understand the ideas presented to us. The desire for and acquisition of knowledge thrive on being tested by different approaches and interpretations.

Physicist Nobel Laureate Richard Feynman once described his reaction when a colleague offered a different way to solve the problem he was occupied with: "*I was enough of a physicist at that time not to say, 'Oh, no, how could that be?'* For today all physicists know from studying Einstein and Bohr, that sometimes an idea which looks completely paradoxical at first, if analyzed to completion in all detail and in experimental situations, may, in fact, not be paradoxical." (Emphasis added) To Feynman's disciplined scientific mind, knowledge and truth were values he put above his bruised ego.

Similarly, Spinoza wrote: "I have striven not to laugh at human actions, not to weep at them, nor to hate them, but to understand..."

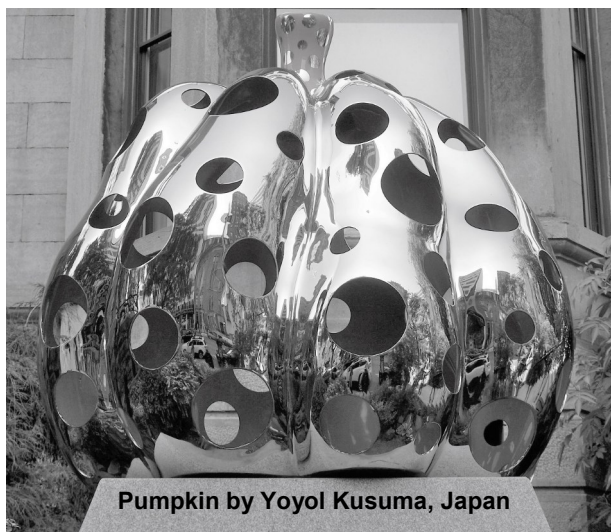
Before we mock, weep, reject or hate what we read, hear or see, we need to understand the substance and import of the opinions or texts under critique. It is possible that in pursuing proper analysis, we may, like Feynman, realize that what seemed paradoxical would no longer be so.

### Easy does it....

The Principal of Charity does not tell us to accept the other's opinion as valid. It does not tell us to convert to another's point of view without contesting it. It is methodological principal. Its aim is twofold:

1. To cultivate genuine attentiveness and
2. To improve the quality of criticism we propose on opinions or texts with which we disagree. Ideas can be critiqued, alternative interpretations can be proposed, and opinions can be and must be challenged, but only after we have put them through the wringer of the Principal of Charity.

*Noga Emanuel*



### Committee Chairs

Curriculum Committee: Tony Frayne

Special Events Committee: Susan Biggs

Development Committee: Tony Wait

Volunteers Committee: Astri Thorvic

Planning Committee: Lorne Huston

Communications Committee: Susan Baines

IT Committee: Martin Coles

Nominating Committee: Juliet Wait

Newsletter Committee: Lesley Regnier



## NEW MODERATOR & LECTURER PROFILES

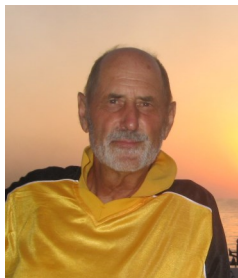
### Claire Booth

Claire is a relative newcomer to MCLL and to the city, moving as she did to Canada from France on her retirement last year. She is born of a British father and a French mother, and spent the first third of her life in England and the next two-thirds in Paris, where she taught English. She was sponsored by her Canadian daughter and is now enjoying the company of her two granddaughters as well. Claire has two other daughters, one in Paris and one in Martinique. In other words, she has positioned her daughters strategically around the world for her optimum of travel pleasure! She is delighted with her life in Canada and finds life here to be less stressful and the people to be kinder. It might be stretching it to say that she has embraced our Canadian winters, but she met her first winter head-on and took up cross-country skiing!

She has, however, embraced life at MCLL. Always a learner and excited to explore new ideas, she discovered MCLL online and has already made some new friends. She finds that MCLL, apart from the social aspect, has given her the balance she likes to keep between exercising the brain and exercising the body, which she does with yoga and hiking. She has also joined an organization where she can communicate in French and is looking for opportunities for volunteering.

*Claire will be co-moderating with Marjorie Northrup, and you will see an interview with Marjorie in the next edition of the newsletter.*

### 'Victor Breedon'



Born in Glasgow, raised in London, England, Vic Breedon emigrated to Canada in 1970. A metallurgical engineer by training, Vic had a successful career working in various heavy-engineering environments including nuclear power, mining equipment and pulp and paper. He has made consulting assignments worldwide specializing in foundry and welding metallurgy and techniques.

Vic Breedon enjoys composing and has written many short stories and published two nonfiction books, one on the history of an English manor house and the other about the First World War. He is also interested in photography and is Past Vice President of the Lakeshore Camera Club. He has

held exhibits of his work in Montreal.

An inveterate traveler, Vic has roamed many parts of the world and enjoyed their cultural variety. He prefers to travel alone or with a small group, getting close to the people and using conveyances that allow this. He has walked much of England and Scotland as well as parts of Canada and the USA, including the West Coast Trail and most of the canyons of the US Southwest.

And he doesn't just walk: he built his own kayak and took it to explore the Sea of Cortez in Mexico and both the East and West coasts of North America. And since retiring in 2001, he cycles, some memorable trips including Vienna to Istanbul, Bangkok to Ho Chi Minh City, Istanbul to Samarkand (Uzbekistan) and the Taj Mahal to the tip of the Indian sub-continent. Back home, he presents digital (slide) shows of his trips to libraries, travel organizations and, in particular, schools and universities. He treated members to some of these presentations this summer.

### François Labonté

François Labonté is one of our newer members, having joined MCLL two years ago, on the recommendation of a friend. With a background in banking and finance, he worked for the RBC in Montreal, London and Toronto and for the Union Bank of Switzerland. After an exciting banking career, he embraced different entrepreneurial challenges including consulting work in finance and banking, mainly in Eastern Europe, but with mandates in Africa, the Philippines and around the world. When he talks about his career, it is with enthusiasm, and he welcomes new projects as part of his lifelong learning experiences.



He is an avid skier and manages to find ski hills almost everywhere he goes, including in Dubai, with its 100-meter mountain inside a shopping centre!

(Continued on next page)





## Robert (Bob) White

Have you ever thought of a local gas station as sublime architecture? When you consider Webster's definition of 'sublime': lofty, grand or exalted in thought, expression or manner, and reflect on the ideas that co-moderators Bob White and Wendela Stier are offering in their study group this fall (Sublime

Architecture: Montreal and Beyond). You will

be amazed at the correspondences between familiar modern and venerated monuments such as the Parthenon.

As it happens, Bob White has never been to the Parthenon, although he studied architecture at Yale and learned from some of the **best** teachers of his day. **But he knows it well from many books and lectures and can find commonalities with other landmarks**, including our own mountain.

## Marie-Claire Zirpdji



C'est en octobre 1962 que Marie-Claire Zirpdji, alors âgée de huit ans, arrive à Montréal avec ses parents et ses trois sœurs. La langue parlée à la maison à Alexandrie en Égypte était le français. Soucieux d'inscrire leurs quatre filles à l'école immédiatement, les nouveaux arrivants se sont vus refuser l'accès à l'école française par la CECM\* à cause de leur inscription tardive.

Face à cet échec, les parents firent appel à la communauté anglophone, soit la CEPGM\*\* qui, plus souple, a accepté les quatre jeunes filles dans ses rangs. C'est suivant ces circonstances que chacune a poursuivi ses études et sa formation professionnelle en anglais. Mais la langue française s'est démontrée résiliente ! Deux sœurs ont épousé des Québécois francophones et Marie-Claire s'est mariée avec un Écossais qui ne parlait pas français mais leur fille est parfaitement bilingue.

Détentrice d'un baccalauréat en Administration des Affaires de l'université Concordia, Marie-Claire a travaillé dans le domaine informatique chez Bell Canada pendant 30 ans. Depuis sa retraite, peu d'accalmie s'en est suivi car elle affirme avoir poursuivi plusieurs activités qui lui tenaient à cœur. Un engagement significatif demeure son bénévolat assidu à l'hôpital St. Mary's. De plus, voulant développer sa créativité et ses habiletés manuelles, Marie-Claire a suivi une formation en haute couture, au grand plaisir de sa famille, la seule "clientèle" à qui elle se dévoue.

Questionnée sur son intérêt pour la politique internationale, Marie-Claire raconte quelques anecdotes sur ses parents âgés. Elle compare la politique actuelle au feuilleton addictif, *Another World*, que suivait religieusement sa maman, les personnages fictifs vacillaient de crise

en crise sauf que maintenant, dit-elle, les personnages sont réels. Et plus récemment, alors que la tempête a dévasté le secteur du quartier Notre-Dame-de-Grâce où elle habite, son père de 94 ans dit n'avoir rien su car, accroc à l'information politique de CNN tel qu'il est depuis longtemps, son attention ne pouvait porter sur autre chose !

Passionnée de lecture, Marie-Claire continue à se rattraper avec les grands auteurs et adore lire des romans historiques. La communauté d'apprentissage continu de McGill lui est d'un grand intérêt. C'est d'ailleurs lorsqu'elle participait à un groupe d'étude avec Thérèse Costopoulos que celle-ci lui a proposé la co-animation éventuelle d'un groupe sur *Les Inconnu(e)s et mal-connu(e)s de l'histoire*. Son projet favori dans un avenir rapproché est de tenter l'expérience d'animatrice d'un groupe d'étude se déroulant soit en français ou dans les deux langues officielles si nécessaire, et nous lui souhaitons la réalisation de ce projet cet hiver.

\*CECM: Commission des écoles catholiques de Montréal

\*\*CEPGM: Commission des écoles protestantes du Grand Montréal

## Rory O'Sullivan's opera and music DVDs are now available for borrowing

MCLL is now in possession of a unique collection of opera and music DVDs. The family of the late Rory O'Sullivan has generously donated his personal collection for the pleasure and enjoyment of our members.

Rory always played a very active role at MCLL. As well as moderating two study groups every term, he chaired the Curriculum Committee for four years and was President in 2005-2006. Through his very popular and legendary opera study groups, he inspired many with his knowledge, love and passion for opera. But his love of good music extended beyond opera. He was most knowledgeable about orchestra and their conductors and loved attending orchestral and chamber music concerts. Selecting DVDs of the best new opera productions to purchase for his collection, and then playing them for the members of his study groups was his great pleasure.

We at McGill are indeed fortunate to have this collection in our possession. Through it, Rory will continue to pass on his passion for opera, as he always wished to do. We owe him many thanks.

### BORROWING PROCEDURE

A catalogue of the 363 items in the collection is available for consultation in the MCLL office or on the MCLL web site: [mcgill.ca/mcll\\_joy](http://mcgill.ca/mcll_joy)

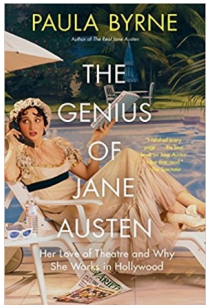
To borrow from this DVD collection you must be a FULL member of MCLL at the time of borrowing. Copies of The BORROWING REQUEST FORM are available in the office.

- ◆ A maximum of 2 items may be borrowed at one time.
- ◆ DVDs that are part of a box set will NOT be lent out individually.
- ◆ The borrowing period is limited to 2 weeks
- ◆ Loans may only be renewed once for a period of 2 weeks.



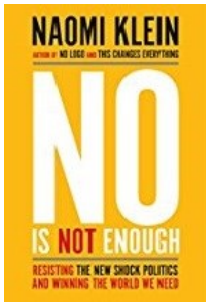
## Pamela's Book Shelf

### Non-Fiction

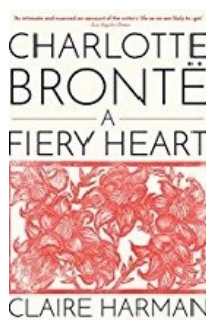


*The Genius of Jane Austen: Her Love of Theatre and Why She Works in Hollywood*, by Paula Byrne (2017).

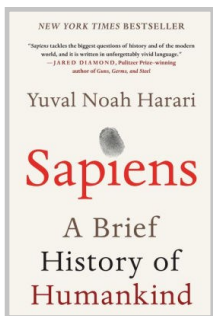
Brought out to celebrate the bicentennial of Austen's death. Refutes the misconception that Jane Austen morally disapproves of theatre. A must for all fans. Paperback.



*No is Not Enough*, by Naomi Klein (2017). A coherent and layered analysis of how our world has succumbed to Trumpism. Also a road map for a better, saner and safer world. Brilliantly concise yet conversational in tone. A must read. Paperback.



*Charlotte Brontë: A Fiery Heart*, by Claire Harman (2017). An exemplary biography. Written for the bicentenary of Brontë's birth. An experienced biographer, Harman writes with warmth, insight and humour. I particularly enjoyed her perspective on Mrs. Gaskell. Paperback.

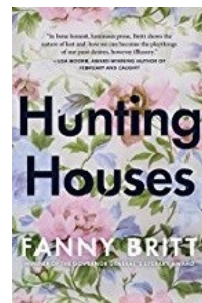


*Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* (2014), paperback. *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow* (2017), hardback, by Yuval Noah Harari. *Sapiens* was endorsed by Obama as "interesting" and "provocative ... essential reading", giving a perspective about how briefly we've been around and how we must not take our civilization for granted. *Homo Deus* is equally interesting and provocative. The new world of artificial intelligence is changing what it means to be human. We may be heading to our own demise. Brilliant, witty and lively, these books make thinking fun.

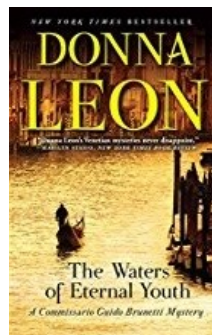
### Fiction



*Hag-Seed*, by Margaret Atwood (2017). The fourth novel in the Hogarth Press Shakespeare series. Dizzying layers - a play within a novel. Setting the play on a prison stage works brilliantly. Hilarious and humane. Paperback.



*Hunting Houses*, by Fanny Britt (2017). Award-winning Francophone playwright is a luminous new voice. Montreal is the fore-ground setting for this novel about a woman ready to abandon husband and children at the intrusion of a former love. Witty, moving and astonishingly honest. A riveting read. Brilliantly translated. Paperback.



*The Waters of Eternal Youth*, by Donna Leon (2016). The 25th Brunetti mystery is total irresistible. An ironically ambiguous title for a peculiarly poignant mystery. An armchair trip to Donna Leon's Venice is more than ever worthwhile. Paperback.



*The Gustav Sonata*, by Rose Tremain (2017). Master story teller Tremain's profoundly beautiful new novel. Admonished by his unloving mother to "master himself" and be like Switzerland, Gustav tries hard to live up to her expectations. An unequal friendship between Gustav and Anton, a musical prodigy, is at the heart of this layered and nuanced novel. Pitch perfect and compulsively readable. Don't miss it. Paperback.



Irv Ellenbogen is a long-time member of MCLL and has moderated on several occasions. An engineer by profession, Irv is quite a musician as well as a serious artist. Not for him the label *peintre de dimanche*, but as a dedicated student at some of Montreal's finest institutions for the study of the visual arts. He attended Concordia University to learn painting and drawing, the Visual Arts Centre in Westmount for printmaking, watercolour and mixed media and The Saidye Bronfman Centre for the Arts (now called the Segal Centre) for Chinese ink drawing

The retrospective of Irv's work exhibited in the lounge indicates his light touch with a brush and his love of nature. He employs a variety of mediums for his modest creative expressions, namely

photography, linogravure, watercolour and collage. He renews his love of nature regularly through travel, for many years alone, on foot, through mountains and remote tourist-free stretches of sheer countryside, the dedicated long-distant backpacker.



By 1980 the rails and rods were installed but the next term was approaching and no one was ready. A Sunday photographer myself, I decided to hang some of my own photo efforts and soon the real talent came out of the woodwork.

There are too many names to list here but they include professionals known in the city's art community. Over the years, with two exhibitions per term – about 90 show – we have seen some stunning work, both in photography and paint. Several artists came back with encores of their work. A number are sadly, no longer with us.

I have had great pleasure and fun being “curator” and working with our artists to show their work to the best advantage. This required being a nimble-footed mountain goat over the lounge sofas, something which I cannot pretend to be any longer! My contribution in this activity is over. Four photographer colleagues, all professionals themselves: Jackie Cytrynbaum, Ann Pearson, Michelle Echenberg and Gordon Campy are taking over. I hope that they will have as much pleasure with our talented artists as I had.

*Thea Pawlikowska*



The original MILR lounge was a scruffy-looking place. A more –than-naïf acrylic effort of a hippie guitarist decorated one wall. Then Pamela Sachs and Pearl Aronof pinned up their very interesting photographs. Thinking there must be other talent among the membership, I proposed to Council that we should mine for that talent. “You do it!” ordered the Council. Thus started Art-in-the Lounge. With no selection process involved, anyone who wished to share their art could do so.

**The Canadian Railway History** study group celebrated ten years of learning about Canada's history through its railways by taking the train to Québec City in June. Three hours after leaving Central Station, we were in beautiful Palais Station being greeted by our chauffeur/guides Marc-André and Maurice from the local model railway club. The first stop was the funicular, which we took up to Château Frontenac. From there, over we went to Lévis' 1884 Intercolonial Station, a national historic site.

A quick stop at another national historic site, the Joffre Roundhouse at Charny, was followed by a close look at the Quebec Bridge, the longest cantilevered bridge in the world. A tour of Wolfe's Cove proved that there really is a railway tunnel under the Plains of Abraham. The final grand site was the Cap Rouge Trestle, a spectacular structure 1,000 metres long and 50 metres high.

Our hosts then took us to their clubhouse in Ste-Foy to marvel at their model layout, followed by a ride on their garden train, after which they dropped us at the Ste-Foy station for the train back to Montreal.

