



McGill

School of
Continuing Studies
McGill Community
for Lifelong
Learning

The Courier

www.mcgill.ca/mccl

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AGM under the baton of Denis Brott



Maestro Denis Brott

The Annual General Meeting was held on March 18 at Le Nouvel Hôtel, and was well attended. President Ruth Allen Rigby presented her report and invited Dean Judith Potter to say a few words before she welcomed guest speaker Denis Brott, Founder, Executive and Artistic Director of the Montreal Chamber Music Festival. Mr. Brott took us back with him into his own childhood and through his fascinating years of musical education and experience illustrated with anecdotes recounted with a convincing Russian accent. An admitted high-school dropout, he was advised by one teacher to seek another profession, which naturally served to goad him further into the world of Bach and Schubert with his cello tucked under his arm, or rather tucked between his knees! He had no option but to go into music as his parents and brother were already musicians and took it for granted that Denis would do the same. Asked if his own four children were musicians, he said that none of the four was musically inclined and he had never tried to influence them in that direction. He has no regrets about his own career and took delight in sharing stories about his teachers and colleagues including such virtuosos as Pablo Casals, Jascha Heifetz, Piatigorski... The latter became Denis' model for life and his truisms became part of Denis' credo. Thus the cello became our maestro's body, his voice. He is very aware of aging and the ways one can continue to learn at any stage in life. He illustrated this with a crescendo of quotations, each more stimulating than the last, and came to a finale with his favorite, by Mother Theresa (see below).

Lesley Régnier



John Hobday



Juliet, Dean Potter, Ruth



Frederic, Rigues

*"Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.
Life is beauty, admire it.
Life is a dream, realize it.
Life is a challenge, meet it.
Life is a duty, complete it.
Life is a game, play it.
Life is a promise, fulfill it.
Life is sorrow, overcome it.
Life is a song, sing it.
Life is a struggle, accept it.
Life is a tragedy, confront it.
Life is an adventure, dare it.
Life is luck, make it.
Life is too precious, do not destroy it.
Life is life, fight for it."*

Mother Theresa



Fiona, Sally, Carolynn



Marjorie, Helga, Marton

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As President, my intention has been to expand this definition of community within MCLL and, if possible, encourage the process. In this spirit, I endeavored to maintain an open voice for all by sending emails directly to the members every term.

At that same 2015 Biennial Workshop, a request was made for a bulletin board to keep members aware of interesting events within our community. This proposal was approved by Council and the Communication Committee have since worked hard to establish an electronic monthly bulletin. The first edition appeared recently but its success requires input from members. So if you are speaking, performing or demonstrating at a public venue and would like to share this information with your colleagues, let the bulletin editors know.

Recently, a unique vision for our community was initiated after a call for proposals by Principal and Vice-Chancellor Suzanne Gauthier for ideas about the future of the old Royal Victoria Hospital site. As the inspiration for MCLL's proposal came from a 2016 study group, "21st Century Age-Friendly Habitat", moderated by Marlene Chan, the latter has described this vision in a separate article, which can be found at: <https://www.mcgill.ca/principal/rvh-task-force>.

Our intergeneration program SPEAK/En français for weekly conversation with members of the Intensive Language Program (IELC) has mutual advantages. In return, the Brainy Bar has allowed us to take advantage of the young techies' knowledge and expertise. Great idea, Chantal (Head, Curriculum Committee)!

You will have received the new Spring Program by now. It marks a very special edition in our history as it showcases our own models on the cover page, promoting a more personal connection to our community. I would like to extend many thanks to our models, our photographer *par excellence* Gordon Campey and Juliet Wait, Head, Communication Committee, and soon to be President.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all the Council members for their hard work during the year. Thanks to their efforts, our membership numbers have held steady. Please assist by inviting friends to join; word of mouth by individual members remains key to maintaining or even increasing our numbers.

For me personally, this year as President has been a unique experience which could not have been fulfilled without the help of Council members, the moderators and lecturers who keep the community operating and improving. Also, a very special word of praise, as always, to Sally Cooper and the helpful volunteers in the office, whose continued effort to make registration more transparent and fairer is highly appreciated.

In conclusion, many thanks to you all for your cooperation, support and ideas.

Ruth Allen Rigby

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE Holiday Party December 3, 2015



On December 3, 72 members attended the Holiday Luncheon at Le Nouvel Hôtel. The celebration began with opening remarks from our guests, Dean Judith Potter and Dr. Guy Mineau. It was especially pleasing to hear them speak about McGill's pride in and appreciation of our MCLL community and its enrichment of the Continuing Education programs at McGill. After the meal, Andrew McDougall acted as emcee for the informal MCLL singers. Our thanks to these members who, by practicing a few carols, Hanukkah songs and winter ballads ahead of time, greatly helped the success of the sing-along with all in attendance. Charlotte French graciously lent us her electronic keyboard and Marie Bolduc provided the accompaniment. Andrew also introduced Barrie Baldaro who entertained us with an excellent rendition of two short stories appropriate for the season. Thanks also go to Ross Lee for his usual delightful table decorations. These and a sprinkling of chocolates from Costco added visual treats to our holiday meal. Much appreciated was the help from my committee member, Thelma Thibodeau, and the office volunteers who signed in members as they arrived. The event closed with the awarding of door prizes, one for each table for MCLL lectures and a term's membership for one lucky recipient.

These social gatherings are important for the forging of friendships in our MCLL community, providing us with an opportunity for informal interaction over a meal, with a glass of wine and lively conversation.

Ann Pearson

Welcome to the New PACE/MCLL Coordinator.



Marisa Gelfusa has accepted the position of PACE/MCLL Coordinator. Marisa has had many years of experience as a bilingual trainer, consultant and program manager with the Volunteer Bureau of both

Montréal and Toronto.

She worked as the Volunteer Relations Officer at the Ontario Trillium Foundation developing learning activities and maintaining engagement for their volunteers and developing creative and productive partnerships with all their stakeholders. Marisa has volunteered in the areas of human rights, palliative care, community development and literacy. For me, she was the outstanding candidate and will have some great ideas for MCLL but will also be a great listener.

Ruth Allan Rigby

MODERATOR PROFILES



Malcolm Goldstein

Malcolm came to MCLL in the fall of 2015. Recently retired from a 40-year career in music that included touring, composing, playing and

teaching, he wanted to meet new people with different interests. He says the community of musicians is very small here, so MCLL offers him the opportunity to expand his network. He is thoroughly enjoying the experience.

If you Google Malcolm Goldstein, a Wikipedia website comes up telling us that he is from Brooklyn, New York. A composer, violinist and improviser, he has reinvented violin playing. Since graduating from Columbia University he has been active in the presentation of new music and dance since the early 1960s. He has toured extensively throughout North America and Europe with solo concerts as well as with new music and dance ensembles. A devotee of

improvisation, he published a book on the subject entitled *Sounding the Full Circle* (1988). His complete discography, which includes *The Seasons: Vermont*, Experimental Intermedia, 1982, *John Cage: Music for Violin and Percussion* with Matthias Kaul, 1999 and *Along the Way* with Liu Fang, 2010, can be found on the website. At MCLL he is moderating a study group called "Aspects of New Music".

Eleanor Hynes

Irwin Kuzmùrov



Burly, friendly Dr. Irwin Kuzmùrov seems to enjoy life to the fullest, whether moderating his study group on "The Québec Health Care System and the Aging Population," or rocking up a storm

to benefit refugees.

The focus of the health care group, Irwin explains, is "learning about how the system works so you can navigate through it". Patients' rights, the role of hospital nurses, the mandate of the Québec Medical Association, public versus private clinics. "The aim is to understand the system's strong and weak points."

A musician and singer, Irwin has been part of a folk and rock group, Musical Chairs, for about 35 years. Along with his wife, he performs in venues around town, including a synagogue where the group recently held a hootenanny (a rockabilly music festival) to raise funds for Syrian refugees. He also plays tennis and enjoys his six grandchildren.

The retired doctor, a urologic surgeon, spent most of his career in the West Island, where he established the Lakeshore Hospital's Urology Department and for a time headed the Québec Urologic Association. In recent years he was Director of Professional Services at Santa Cabrini Hospital, where his focus gradually shifted to the elderly. He recently retired to work part-time as a consultant with a private health care company.

He attributes his fluent bilingualism to his years working in his father's east-end store while attending Outremont High School, before entering medicine at McGill.

His MCLL group this winter semester had 25 lively and inquisitive members keen to present on a variety of issues. "To my delightful surprise they're exceptionally well informed. The level of discussion is stimulating," says the doctor. "They keep me on my toes."

Sue Purcell



Don Donderi

Don Donderi is no stranger to the educational milieu and has been in the mainstream of science and engineering his entire professional life. While doing his graduate studies at Cornell University, he worked for IBM, helping to develop navigation displays for the B-52 bomber. Don arrived on Canada's shores from the USA in September 1962 to work at McGill's Department of Psychology, where his area of research was cognition and cognitive neuroscience. During that time, Don spent a term as Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. He is now retired, having worked at McGill for 47 years.

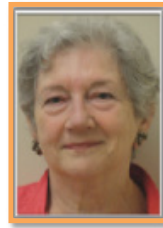
In 1982 he co-founded an applied psychology consulting company and has carried out research and development projects for private and government clients on topics including flight instrumentation, flight simulation, marine navigation in ocean and arctic environments, nuclear power plant safety and chemical process engineering. Don has spent the last 50 years studying evidence for Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), Extra Terrestrials (ETs) and abductions, which he believes should not be dismissed by mainstream science yet typically is.

In 2013, he published a book called *UFOs, ETs, and Alien Abductions: A Scientist looks at the Evidence* (in paper version and on your Kindle!) His Amazon blurb says: "Don Donderi examines the evidence and research from the past several decades on the changing nature of UFOs. He looks at why the scientific establishment takes a dim view of UFOs and abduction evidence and examines how the US government has collected and suppressed UFO evidence."

Don has an active presence on the internet: after retiring in 2010 he gave a four-part presentation about UFOs at McGill (now available on line: <http://podcasts.mcgill.ca/?s=Donderi>.) in which he looks at the public and scientific reaction to the UFO phenomenon from the perspectives of personality, psychology and the philosophy of science. Furthermore, the National Post published an interview with him in 2013, also available on the internet (just Google his name!) and much, much more.

Don and his wife love to garden and he has recently learned to play the banjo. His MCLL study group (winter 2016) is entitled "UFOs: History and Reality".

Sandra Duchow



Juliet Wait

Born in Budapest, Juliet and her parents moved to Switzerland when she was still a young child. They stayed eight years in Basel, where she started school. However, in 1951, her parents decided to uproot again, this time to Montréal where Juliet attended Trafalgar School then McGill University to study Biology and Genetics. Asked to replace her former biology teacher at Trafalgar, she taught there for two years.

She met her future husband, Tony, through the Montréal Symphony Orchestra's Junior Committee and spent many years volunteering for the volunteer committees of both the MSO and the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts before being asked to become the Director of Development at the Douglas Hospital. After seven years there, she became an associate of Art Focus organizing lectures, tours, and longer trips on art, decorative art and architecture.

She joined MCLL five years ago and has been enjoying the stimulation she gets from it ever since. In between classes and various committee activities, she and Tony travel to London, England, and beyond to see their two daughters and five grandchildren. She also squeezes in theatre, concerts and exhibitions.

Despite this busy lifestyle, Juliet has taken on her first role of co-moderator. Why now? And why the world of Stefan Zweig? "I'm very excited to have this opportunity to work with Pamela Sachs to try to interpret to our participants the fascinating period portrayed in Zweig's autobiographical *World of Yesterday*, his world and his many friends lost due to war and exile."

Lesley Régnier

MCLL photographer and models thanked

Juliet Wait and Ann Pearson hosted a reception with light lunch in

March to thank photographer Gordon Campey and the MCLL participants whose photographs are now appearing on the covers of MCLL documents.



A LIFELONG, LIFE-WIDE VISION FOR MCGILL



The Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill, Suzanne Fortier, has formed a Task Force on the Academic Vision and Mission of the Royal Victoria Hospital Site.

MCLL President Ruth Rigby discussed the submission of a proposal to the Task Force with Dean Potter.

The proposal from MCLL was written in collaboration with Ruth Rigby, Marlene Chan and Judith Schurman and forwarded for consideration by the Task Force under the signature of the Dean as required by the Request for Expressions of Interest. It includes the possibility of setting up a **University-Based Retirement Community Residence** with its transformative potential for innovation in the repurposing of the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) site that will be both accessible and affordable.

At the MCLL Council Meeting of March 1, 2016, Ruth suggested a subcommittee be set up in the fall to advance this idea. On March 18 at the AGM, Ruth provided a one-page summary of the proposal and asked interested MCLL members to contact her if they were interested in volunteering for a subcommittee of Council on the subject.

MCLL proposes that in developing the RVH site, McGill embrace lifelong learning as a university-wide concept and guiding principle enabling it to face its multiple current and emerging challenges. The global significance of expanding McGill's educational mission to address an unprecedented demographic shift would enhance its reputation and that of the City of Montréal on the world stage. The active participation and collaboration of MCLL in all stages (envisioning, planning, decision-making and implementation) will ensure a user-centred design dovetailed with the public transportation system to ensure the feasibility of repurposing the site for senior citizens.

Marlene Chan and Judith Schurman

LE COIN FRANÇAIS

Voltaire à McGill



Plusieurs membres de MCLL ont assisté à la Journée organisée par la Bibliothèque et Archives de l'Université McGill en mars dernier pour marquer l'acquisition de la Collection J. Patrick Lee sur Voltaire. McGill a désormais le potentiel de devenir le plus important centre d'études sur la littérature du 18^e siècle et de figurer parmi les principaux centres de recherche sur le siècle des Lumières en Amérique du Nord. Outre les nombreuses éditions anciennes et récentes d'oeuvres de Voltaire en plusieurs langues, la collection inclut

des manuscrits et des lettres que Voltaire a écrites ou reçues, de même qu'au-delà de 1,000 livres publiés au cours du 18^e siècle.

Des savants canadiens et internationaux ont parlé, entre autres, de la lutte que Voltaire a menée contre le fanatisme religieux à partir de sa pièce *Mohammed*, de certains visiteurs anglais et leur impression de Voltaire, notamment Gibbon, Boswell, Burney et Hume, et de la panthéonisation d'un Père de la Révolution française. Suite à une discussion en panel des raisons pour lesquelles Voltaire est toujours important au 21^{ème} siècle ont conclu que, célèbre par son esprit et par sa lutte pour les libertés civiles, il reste l'objet de multiples débats et discussions aujourd'hui. Une journée fort intéressante et un véritable privilège pour nous, étudiants de McGill.

Newsletter Committee

Co-chairs: Charlotte French, Lesley Régnier
Ruth Allan-Rigby ex-officio,
Roch DesRochers, Sandra Duchow, Paula Friedlander,
Eleanor Hynes,
Sue Purcell, Pamela Sachs



Ellie receiving the Charter in Chicago



Montréal contingent in Chicago. Lucinda Dickens Hawksley wearing sunglasses

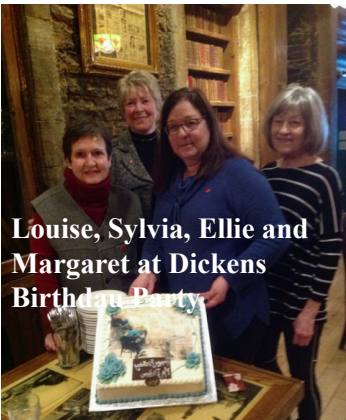


Victorian Tea Party at Westmount Library

MCLL Dickens study group participants have "The Best of Times"

Dr. Ellie Clavier-Rothstein, a Montréal psychiatrist, has had a passion for the works of Charles Dickens (and everything Dickensian) since she was fourteen, when she discovered an antique copy of "The Old Curiosity Shop" and embarked upon a lifetime of reading enjoyment. A member of the MCLL family since 2007, she decided in 2011 to "give back", becoming a moderator and sharing her considerable knowledge about and enthusiasm for her favorite author. Since then she has led eleven study groups based on the works of Charles Dickens. Here she met many kindred spirits who inspired her, in 2012 (the year of Dickens' bicentenary), to reinstitute Montreal's long-defunct branch of the International Dickens Fellowship (very active from 1909-1963). Since then, Ellie has encouraged many MCLL participants to become members of the Montréal Dickens Fellowship (also known as "Our Montréal Friend"). Aside from holding monthly meetings at the Westmount library comprised of book reviews, interesting presentations and lively discussion, the fellowship has organized many exciting events, including guest lecturers, Christmas and Dickens birthday parties, Victorian afternoon teas and English country dance lessons. In July 2014, eleven members did Montreal proud at the International Fellowship's Annual Conference in Chicago. Another group attended the 1st Bi-annual North American Dickens Conference in Salem, Mass. At these meetings, members got to interact with several of Dickens' descendants! Ellie's classes at MCLL continue to attract lovers of Dickens and Victoriana and, for those who wish to participate, the Montréal Dickens Fellowship allows the fun and camaraderie to continue. For info, check their web site: www.dickensmontreal.ca

Charlotte French



Louise, Sylvia, Ellie and Margaret at Dickens Birthday Party



Charlotte, Lise, Louise with Gerald Dickens in Salem



Anna, Judith, Barry, Andrew



Timmy and Sylvia with Chicago's Giordano pizza



Ellie and Lorne with Chateau Ramezay archivist



Margaret, at Victorian Tea Party



Lise, Andrew, Judith



Victorian Tea and Dance in period costumes at Victoria Hall, Westmount.



Home-making luncheon



Bloomin' marvelous! Bloomsday's five already!

Braving the intense cold but cheered by the warmth of the March sun and the thought of a reinvigorating Irish coffee awaiting them at the finish, a handful of stalwart Bloomsday faithful marched behind the Black Watch Band's swaying kilts and shining instruments in the St. Patrick's Day parade through downtown Montréal on March 20 to tell the crowd we'd be back again in June.

This year's events will start on the Sunday preceding June 16, Bloomsday itself, with walking tours of Irish Montréal in English and in French. One of the most popular elements every year has been the reading of the Penelope episode of *Ulysses* by Kathleen Fee at the Irish Embassy Pub on the Sunday evening and Kathleen will be there again this June. The week continues with a panoply of activities focusing on Irish women, from films and storytelling to lectures and explanations as to how to read Joyce's books. The popular session of readings from *Ulysses* at Westmount Library will take place on the morning of June 16 itself, to feel part of Joycean celebrations across the world that special day. This year's closing lecture will be given at the Jewish Public Library by Abby Bender of New York University who will talk about her new book: *Israelites in Erin: Exodus, Revolution, and the Irish Revival*. See Bloomsday's web/blog <http://bloomsdaymontreal.com/> for information about the times and venues of all these events.

For those who want to get to know about James Joyce and his writing a little better, Judith Schurman (who with her husband David founded the Montréal Bloomsday Festival in 2012) and Maggie Benfield-Doubt are moderating a study group this spring on Joyce and Samuel Beckett.

Lesley Régnier

Food for Thought

Two specialists are giving a lecture at MCLL on May 27 at 10 a.m. on estate planning. Stay after the lecture for a light lunch to ask any personal questions you may have.



Book Suggestions

Non-Fiction

Penelope Fitzgerald by Hermione Lee (2015) hardback. A perfect match between author and subject matter. Critically acclaimed as the

literary biography of the year.

The Story of the Human Body: Evolution, Health, and Disease by Daniel E. Lieberman (2014) paperback. We survive in cultural conditions for which we did not evolve, resulting in the paradox of greater longevity and increased chronic diseases. Informative, helpful and compulsively readable.

Gratitude by Oliver Sacks (2015) hardback. A slim, elegant volume beautifully produced. Four essays written during the last two years of his life—Oliver Sacks's last gift to his readers.

Stalin's Daughter by Rosemary Sullivan. An award-winning important biography of the Soviet Union's most famous defector. Meticulously researched, nuanced and compassionate.

Fiction

My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante (2012) paperback. The first of the four Neapolitan novels that have been the literary sensation of the past few years. Don't miss out on Elena Ferrante.

Conversations with Beethoven by Sanford Friedman (2015) paperback. A wonderfully ingenious retelling of the story of the final months of Beethoven's life focusing particularly on his relationship with his nephew Karl. A tour de force—not to be missed.

My Name is Lucy Barton by Elizabeth Strout (2015) hardback. A many-layered first-person narrative about a mother-daughter relationship. Very different from *Olive Kitteridge* but equally addictive. I finished it in one sitting.

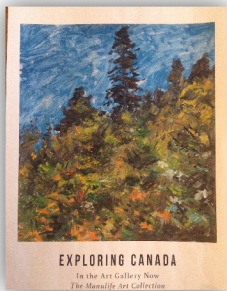
The Best Place on Earth by Ayelet Tsabari (2015) hardback. Drawing on her Yemini background, Ayelet Tsabari's debut collection of short stories shows what it's like to be both Jewish and Arab in Israel. Ayelet Tsabari now lives in Toronto. A fresh and engaging new voice in Canadian fiction.

Daddy Lenin by Guy Vanderhaeghe (2015) paperback. Winner of the Governor General's Award, a powerful and brilliant collection of short stories about the traumas of masculinity by a master Canadian story teller.

Pamela Sachs

Visit to the MMFA

Last November, in conjunction with Sandra Frisby's study group dealing with the influence of Marcel Duchamp on conceptual art, the members paid a visit to the contemporary art collection of the MMFA. We were introduced to wonderful works that many of us never knew to be in the museum's collection. The guide who accompanied us had done her research well and was able to help us understand some of the artistic concerns that each piece dealt with. It was very useful to see examples of conceptual art in the collection after having learned about various conceptual artists during the study group, and we were able to view the artworks we saw with a newly critical and informed eye.



Exploring Canada exhibit at the Canadian Embassy in Washington D.C.

Joan Roberts and daughter Glennis have been invited to the Canadian embassy in Washington, where they will see the exhibition "Exploring Canada". A large banner (see left) on the outside wall of the embassy announces the exhibit with Goodridge Robert's painting *Trees and Blue Sky*. In the gallery are ten other Canadian paintings loaned from the Manulife collection for the next three years. For a show that urges visitors to explore Canada, Goodridge Roberts' landscape is surely most appropriate.

Terraced Rice Fields in Yunnan (upper), Water Impression in Québec (lower) by Jianchun Zhang

Jianchun Zhang was a head and neck surgeon in China. Following her move to North America in 1993, she has worked as a researcher at several bio-medical research institutions including Harvard University and the National Research Council of Canada. While pursuing her professional career in her second homeland, Jianchun became a self-taught photographer. Travelling around the world she especially enjoys creating impressionistic and abstract images from nature.



Jeux en vélos recyclés by Giuseppina Franzo



A graduate from Concordia University in Child Studies, Giuseppina Franzo's career was in teaching. Since her retirement, she feels privileged to be volunteering at a nearby school, teaching and sharing her craft with children, showing them the wonders of nature and how to be creative. Originally from Murano (Venice) she has glass beads in her blood and arts and crafts have always been her passion. An avid cyclist, Giuseppina collects discarded bicycle wheels, uses coloured twine, cord and beads to weave magic into them, thus bringing new life and art into discarded objects.