



# McGill

School of  
**Continuing Studies**  
McGill Community  
for Lifelong  
Learning

# The Courier

[www.mcgill.ca/mccll](http://www.mcgill.ca/mccll)

Fall 2014 Volume 25, No. 2

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



## CELEBRATING LIFELONG LEARNING

Seniors Programs Exchange  
Experiences and Plan for  
the Next Generation

Wednesday, August 20, 2014  
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Leacock Building  
McGill campus, 855 Sherbrooke West

[www.mcgill.ca/mccll](http://www.mcgill.ca/mccll)

Special  Edition

*“ What I want to advocate is not to make education shorter, but to make it much longer-indeed to make it last as long as life itself. ”*

*Stephen Leacock, 1869-1944*

25th Anniversary celebration

**MCLL ARTISTS**

AUGUST 28 to 30, 2014

**Vernissage:**  
Thursday 28, 6 pm

**GALLERY HOURS**  
Thursday & Friday 10 to 6  
Saturday 10 to 5

**McClure Art Gallery**  
Visual Arts Centre  
350 Victoria, Westmount  
514-488-9558

MCGILL COMMUNITY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING  
COMMUNAUTÉ D'APPRENTISSAGE CONTINU DE MCGILL

Liliane Aberman	Ann Pearson
Richard Bock	Morrie Rothick
Gordon Campey	Pamela Sachs
Jackie Cyttrynbaum	Barbara Sala
Jane Desjardins	Helen
Pierre Desjardins	Tarshis-Shapiro
Gael Eakin	Nora Shanahan
Michelle Eohenberg	Bernice Shaposnick
Hannah Franklin	Audrey Speck
David Gates	Nina Soregal
Rusti Genest	Sally Spinaus
Sandra Goodwin	Robert Struthers
Mary Landry	Amita Virmani
Brenda Parsons	Katherine Waters
Kay Palkhiyala	Veneranda Wilson
Thea Pawlikowska	Robert Winters
Jianchun Zhang	

25e Anniversaire hommage aux

**ARTISTES de CACM**

du 28 au 30 août, 2014

**Vernissage:**  
jeudi le 28 août, 2014, à 18h

**Heures d'ouverture:**  
jeudi et vendredi 10h à 18h  
samedi 10h à 17h

**Galerie McClure**  
Centre des arts visuels  
350 Victoria, Westmount  
514-488-9558



## GREETINGS FROM THE DEAN



My heartfelt congratulations to the McGill Community for Lifelong Learning on this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary milestone!

MCLL is a unique and vibrant part of the McGill School of Continuing Studies (SCS) and we are very proud of your accomplishments. In addition to the usual rich array of learning opportunities that MCLL provides, this year you are raising the bar even higher with special activities, including the Bloomsday Festival (June), the highly successful Lifelong Learning Conference (August), the members' art exhibit at the Visual Arts Centre (September) and the launch of the inspiring Zest for Learning exhibit and book (September). Bravo to MCLL and to the individuals who have provided such amazing leadership and outstanding talents to these projects!

Now in the seventh year of my Deanship, I am extremely grateful for the work of MCLL and for the countless volunteer contributions of the membership, whether as Executive/Council members, course moderators, special event/project planners or office/activity support. Your commitment and sense of "community" are truly awesome.

Happy celebration!

Judith Potter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The academic year 2014 has been the year in which we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. MCLL has come a long way from its beginnings as the McGill Institute for Learning in Retirement. While our membership numbers have remained relatively stable over the years, our offerings have diversified widely, mainly as a result of the widening use of technology, and to a certain extent to the change in taste of our members. We have introduced the notion of study group styles, so as to accommodate members who are looking for a less active participation. As well, the Brainy Bars have allowed us to take advantage of the young McGill techies who share our building.

MCLL thrives on the contributions of our members. You will have seen the beautiful portraits of certain members in the MCLL. These were part of a project

called "Zest for Learning" with photographs by Gordon Campey and text by Nicole de Rochemont, the whole compiled in a book containing 30 portraits. It is a beautiful contribution to the collective memory of MCLL.

As you know, MCLL is almost exclusively run by our volunteers, and we need your continued participation in helping to run the organization. So, please let us hear from you in terms of what you can contribute. Thanks in advance.

In terms of celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we organized a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference on Lifelong Learning. This was a smashing sold-out success that allowed us to network with other organizations offering similar services. As well the Art Show, held in the Visual Arts Centre in Westmount, was very well attended. And it's not over yet. We plan to honour Past Presidents and long-time members at the Spring Fling in 2015.

So get your Lifelong Learning hats on, and join us in enjoying the learning experiences offered by our study groups and lectures.

Paul Terni

## McGill Community for Lifelong Learning Elected Council Members and Committee Chairs June 2014 – May 2015



## 25th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

In the words of Fiona Clark, who was the MCLL member behind the 25th Anniversary Conference, the main purpose was to network with other organizations rather than celebrate the anniversary. This objective was visibly achieved: in fact some 25% of the participants were neither MCLL nor McGill people. These 50 or so individuals represented organizations that also publicized our event and many thanks must be expressed to all concerned. The turnout was impressive and, if the day had not extended beyond the first keynote presentation, the conference would have been hailed a success: the hall was packed solid!

Dean Judith Potter, in her welcome speech, congratulated Fiona Clark and the organizing committee saying "the energy and the determination behind today's conference underline our activities, our courses and our outreach." Many organizations and groups were represented including the Thomas More Institute, Concordia University and Atwater Library, which made for interesting contributions in the various workshops.

### Thanks are due to so many!



There are many players who should take pride in the success of our conference. First, there are all who attended. They created the enthusiastic and friendly atmosphere which prevailed. There were 183 participants altogether, including more than 50 from organizations

other than McGill. This was in part thanks to the Community Learning Centre Initiative, the McGill Centre for Studies in Aging and the Québec Associations for Lifelong Learning, who circulated our publicity among their members, and members of the Québec Community Groups Network.

The keynote speakers and the broad range of topics on the program were also key to the success of the conference. We are grateful to the MCLL members and SCS staff who prepared and offered sessions related to our own programs, and especially to the many presenters from other organizations. They enabled us to achieve our primary goals of sharing experiences and profiling the broad range of lifelong learning opportunities available to seniors.

I also want to especially thank my colleagues on the conference committee: Lise Dubé, Sandra Frisby, Mary Ann Mongeau, Ana Milic, Alex Megelas, Ann Pearson, Paul Terni, Lorraine White and John Wolforth. In the months leading up to the conference each of them contributed significantly to recruiting presenters and planning the broad range of sessions we were able to offer. They also took on other responsibilities and we owe a special debt of gratitude to Lise Dubé and her team who took care of everyone on the day, missing out on some of the sessions to do so. Thank you all so much.

Fiona Clark

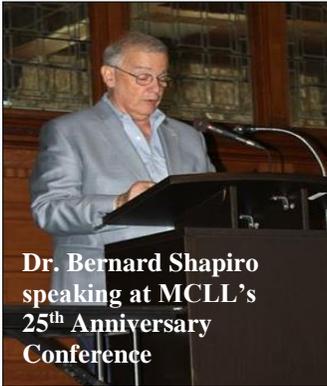
### Keynote Speaker



The first keynote speaker, Ms. Arpi Hamalian, a teacher in the Department of Education at Concordia University, had studied the program very carefully and prepared a speech that picked up the various themes proposed for the day's sessions. She set a light-hearted tone, using fables and stories to compare learning to going on a treasure hunt. Knowledge, she assured us, is the greatest treasure, one that is valued everywhere in the world. She recognizes several advantages of living longer, the main one being that we have more time to seek new projects and in so doing help to create community and escape loneliness and isolation. She has heard more than one person admit that MCLL helped save his or her life! For learning is never a purely individual experience, she said, but one that takes place in community. In the same vein, she congratulated the conference organizers for managing to bring together so many neighbours — her own institution, the Thomas More Institute, the Memphremagog Community Learning Center, and others. In closing, she pointed out that MCLL members are older than MCLL itself and know the best is yet to come! She is convinced that we will keep on with the good work we have done so far.



## Conference Highlights



As plates were cleared after lunch and people in the know bustled about to present the *pièce de résistance* (the 25th Anniversary cake), Sandra Frisby introduced Dr. Bernard Shapiro, Principal, Vice-Chancellor Emeritus and Professor of Education at McGill University, who rose to his feet to address the crowd gathered in Redpath Hall. He spoke of the example set by his parents, his mother who continued learning all her life (she was studying Japanese antiques at 98!) and his father, who never took a course but was curious about everything, always wanting to know why, all his life. One of the advantages of the continuing education offered by MCLL, Dr. Shapiro noted, is that it is free of all certification, without ladders to be climbed and therefore free to extend outwards in many directions. Also, interestingly, he pointed out that there is no pressure on participants. We are not forced into signing up or attending classes. We each do things for reasons known only to ourselves. And this voluntary, willing, oftentimes enthusiastic participation influences the courses that we take.

Congratulations are deserved, he said, but there are challenges to be faced. How to keep attracting new members? Has MCLL grown enough? Is it starting to gain too much weight? Is the advent of technology a good thing or not? How to use it to our advantage and avoid the risk of creating passivity? But he ended on a positive note. The desire to learn, he averred, will surely yield dividends in the future, enriching our own lives as well as those of all the people we come into contact with.



The cake was then brought triumphantly to the podium and candles lit before one of MCLL's oldest members and moderators, Al Toffi, and one of its newest, Lorraine White, cut it for serving along with coffee to complete the lunch.

The afternoon sessions were as varied as the morning ones, ranging from intergenerational learning, adult

learning and the use of social media to healthy aging tips, creativity, and learning through travel. The presenters, in the morning as well as in the afternoon, came from different backgrounds: not only MCLL but also Memphremagog, Concordia University, Atwater Library, the Laurentians' Caregivers Association, the Cummings Fine Arts & Crafts Centre, and others. Several sessions had more than one presenter, ensuring a variety of experiences and ideas that stimulated lively discussions at coffee breaks.

The Presenter's enthusiasm was palpable in the description of the programs offered at the Memphremagog Community Learning Centre in Magog. There is something for every member of the community, young or old, anglophone, francophone or allophone, high school dropouts and university graduates. They began with three participants and since, 2007, have seen the number swell to over 300. It's only for lack of physical space that the centre cannot take any more clients right now! Regular self evaluations force them to consider how have they demonstrated that the centre has contributed as a vital educator and community asset? How far have they attained their long-term aims? How has the Centre made an impact on the community? And how have they built up their numbers? The answers provide the basis for the next program as well as for the Centre's outreach to neighbouring communities. It is an interesting exercise.

Lesley Régnier

## Attendees' comments

Brian Webb, who hosted "Strategies for Healthy Aging: an Active Brain" session, wrote with enthusiasm: "First of all - BRAVO! - What a great day that was!! Thanks for all your hard work in making a dream a reality. The session given by Dr Dastoor of the McGill Centre for Studies in Aging, was an all-round success."

Judith Schurman, host of the "Stimulating Our Lives Through the Arts" session had this to say: "The Fine Art of Aging: Creativity, Community and Curriculum", session was a big hit. Patricia Kehler did a wonderful job talking about the arts and crafts programs at the Cummings Centre. Audrey-Kristel Barbeau's presentation on the New Horizons Music program (wind instruments) really was outstanding. She made me consider taking out that clarinet from my closet!

## Snippets of History



### Pamela Stewart

MCLL would never have been celebrating even its first year of existence, let alone its 25th, if the concept of peer learning had not been promoted and defended by one woman, Pamela Stewart, who was Dean of Continuing Education at the time. The new program proposed for seniors was pretty unorthodox, especially by McGill standards, and it took a brave person to champion the program through the web of academia in order to get it approved. It was Professor Stewart's interest and careful leadership that gained Principal Johnston's support and MILR took off in October 1989. It has never looked back.

Pamela Stewart grew up in Montréal in an artistic and literary milieu and was especially drawn to painting while she was still quite young. After finishing her high-school studies, she traveled to Europe with friends, touring France and Italy. Particularly impressed by the art, culture and language she discovered in Italy, she spent a year in Paris studying Italian with a private teacher and life drawing at the Académie Julian. Upon her return to Montreal, she discovered that neither Montreal nor New York galleries were interested in an artist unless she produced abstract art so she was unable to exhibit her work, never mind sell it and make a living from it. This forced her to relinquish art as a career choice so she returned to Italy where she attended the University for Foreigners in Perugia, obtaining a certificate for teaching Italian as a foreign language. Subsequently, she did an undergraduate degree at the Université de Montréal and graduate studies at McGill, following which she started her teaching career at McGill.

Professor Stewart is a distinguished McGill academic whose research and publications in Italian Studies earned her the highest distinction in this country, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1989. She chaired the Department of Italian from 1977 to 1987, a position she held concurrently with that of Director of the Department of Languages and Translation at the Centre for Continuing Education. She then became Dean at the Centre from 1987 to 1992.

This is how it came about that Pamela Stewart played a key role in the founding of MILR. We could not have been luckier for here was a person with a background in languages, literature and travel and a multifaceted artist to boot, promoting a learning centre

focused on the very same topics - as well as science and music.

After she retired, Ms. Stewart's artistic passion was rekindled and she returned to drawing, painting, sculpting and ceramics. She is particularly drawn to the human figure: "I am specially interested in faces that convey a quiet intensity," she confides, "faces of people who, engrossed in what they are doing - writing, thinking, reading, looking at others, or contemplating their surroundings - are unaware of being watched." In recent years, her paintings and sculptures have been shown in both solo and group exhibitions at such venues as Ogilvy's Tudor Hall, the Centre Culturel Georges-Vanier and the gallery at Victoria Hall, Westmount.



*Bird Man,*  
ceramic sculpture  
by Pamela Stewart

MCLL members who remember her were delighted to welcome her at the vernissage of our 25th Anniversary Art Exhibition and receive an invitation to view Ms. Stewart's exhibition at Victoria Hall at the end of September.

Charlotte French and Lesley Régnier

## Pioneers still participating



The MILR 15th Anniversary newsletter of September 2004 included an interview with Anita Heller, a retired research sociologist, who attended the founding workshop and became a Council member for the first year of MILR. Here, 10 years later, for those who are unaware of Anita's role in our institution, are a few excerpts from that interview and snippets of a recent conversation with her and with another person who attended the founding workshop, Saretta Levitan.



Saretta was not only at the founding workshop, she was a member of successive committees whose activities, starting in 1984, led to the development of a seniors' program and ultimately to the establishment of MILR. Wife of a cardiologist who was also on the faculty at McGill, Saretta had never been to college herself but was enrolled in McGill's

Continuing Education evening courses. Representing the senior students, she accompanied Fiona to many of the early consultations and later, in 1989, took the opportunity to visit and report back on the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement when this was being considered as a model for MILR.

The founding workshop advertised to McGill graduates and senior continuing-education students in 1989 brought together several hundred people, all keen to find out about a peer learning program at McGill. The very idea of peer learning at that time was new and had to be explained to the participants. And the founding committee was able to find out which subjects would be of interest and who would be willing to moderate. Seventeen moderators signed on for the first session!

Preparation for the first term included recruiting moderators among professionals and non-professionals eager to lead courses on topics not necessarily related to their own sphere of professional interest. For example, Anita's husband, a retired neurology and neurosurgery professor, took courses on antiquity, the Old Testament, tragic geniuses and others as well as moderating a number of different study groups on various topics. "As a university professor", he used to say, "it's a great act of humility to be asked something and have to admit you know nothing about it!" Anita herself would occasionally sign up for a course to make up the number but her administrative tasks kept her busy: she was not only involved in recruiting but was in charge of setting up a curriculum and she actually took on the task of president in 1993-94.

Another early challenge faced by the new program was to find classrooms! MILR life-long learners went to class wherever there was a vacant space on the campus. Not the best solution for winter classes but it was a start. The groups were smaller in those early days, with a minimum of seven and maximum of 15 per class. This was felt to be an appropriate number to foster the exchange of ideas and good discussions, which is the core of peer learning.

Anita and Saretta are both still taking courses at MCLL and happy to find several old familiar faces. Anita confesses that she has still a lot to learn, especially from literature, having spent her earlier years in more scientific fields, and has happily enrolled in the Dickens Study Group. Despite her impaired vision, Saretta is in two study groups focusing on music.

Classes still bring together a wide range of ages and experience, they say, but note that the population has changed: in earlier days, members were often newly retired immigrants who had fled their own country to start a new life in Canada and were often self-educated. Moreover many of the women who first registered had not held a job or attended college, whereas many of the female members of MCLL now have enjoyed years in the workforce, often in highly qualified positions. These are just two of the 15 or so currently registered members who have been studying here since the beginning. And despite all the changes, Anita and Saretta say they still feel the bonhomie and friendliness that have always been the trademark of our institution.

Other pioneers are still braving the weather and the traffic to wend their way to classes at MCLL: Pearl Aranoff, Marlene Bourke, Irving Ellenbogen, Norma Johnston, Muriel Kaplan, Eleanor Kogan, Betty Maldoff, Marjorie Matheson, Gerry Roy, Helen Shapiro, Graida Victor, Suzanne Warr and Ann Weinstein.

Lesley Régnier

## How Are Study Groups Changing?



I have been an MCLL (MILR) member for 20 years and a moderator for 19 years. Looking back, I notice great changes in the technology used in the study group although not so much in the basic principle of peer learning.

In the study groups of 1994, members presented papers which were culled from books in the library and, if they had pictures to show, they had to carry heavy art books to class and use an awkward contraption, the overhead projector. The slide projectors necessitated getting slides from the Art History departments of various universities. The presentations then, as they are today, were of varying quality: some people spent lots of time researching them, others just copied out parts of a book.

The introduction and general availability of the computer and the Internet have not changed this aspect of the presentations. Some participants do a great job of writing original papers using book references; others just copy out data from Wikipedia.

The really great changes have occurred in the use of PowerPoint and Google search. This has made it possible to do really professional presentations and, with the quasi infinite amount of pictures available on the Internet, it has broadened the scope of the presentations.

These tools have made it especially easy for elderly people, who now do not need to go to libraries in the middle of winter or lug heavy books to class. Today, nearly everybody can afford a computer and connection to the Internet. You prepare your presentation at home and bring it to class on a small memory stick.

MCLL has also facilitated presentations by installing up-to-date computers and projectors in several classrooms. For those who still believe in the old-fashioned presentations illustrated with pictures in books, there is also a more modern overhead projector which can be connected to the computer system in the room.

One of the disadvantages of all this modern technology is the dearth of printed presentations. Many of our members liked the printed papers because they could take it home and re-read it at leisure. Other members, who are hard of hearing or have difficulty understanding some of the heavy accents, were also happy with the printed presentation. On the other hand, many members who believe in saving trees were upset about the waste of paper.

Some of the moderators arrange for presentations to be sent to them by email and they distribute it to the participants by email. The onus of printing the presentation is thus transferred to each participant. Printed copies are made for those who do not have email. Some people with iPads do not print out the presentation but follow it on their device.

Other presentation materials have also changed. DVDs via our computers have replaced the TV screens and old-fashioned music disk. We can directly access the Internet and show material from YouTube or other available sites.

In spite of these technological improvements, some of our members still refuse to do presentations. The number of different excuses I have heard during my years of moderating is truly amazing. It is really unfortunate that many of our members just want to sit back and listen to others' presentations.

John Felvinci

## Retired. Now what?



I knew I wanted to break out of my comfort zone and look beyond my secure suburban lifestyle for opportunities to grow, to explore Montréal and experience something new and different (preferably in an English milieu).

I happened upon a book that mentioned life-long learning and McGill. When I Googled, I unearthed MCLL. I had studied at McGill, knew the environment and its high standards. I was drawn to the MCLL program's array of topics and sessions that allow for active participation, presentations and interaction. Et voila! In a very short time, attending MCLL became an integral part of my new lifestyle.

The people responsible for keeping MCLL current and vibrant are dedicated, hard-working volunteers. I felt that I wanted to give back in some small way, thus my first attempt at moderating a session. The session was short-lived and only a partial success, but a true learning experience. I got lucky when a "seasoned" moderator, whose sessions I had previously attended and greatly enjoyed, suggested we co-moderate. This allowed me to sit in the passenger seat and glean know-how and confidence from a pro without having the stress of complete responsibility for the group on my shoulders — a great *modus operandi* for newcomers. (Thanks, Clare!)

Through my experiences at MCLL I have become younger, stronger, a little wiser and learned "How to Retire Happy, Wild and Free" — the title of the book that pointed me in the right direction (by Ernie J. Zelinski).

Lorraine White

## 25th ANNIVERSARY ART EXHIBIT



The 25th Anniversary Art Exhibit held at the McClure Art Gallery of the Visual Arts Centre in Westmount, August 28-30, was a resounding success thanks to the thirty-two artists who graced the walls of the gallery with their work and to my fellow committee members, Nola Brunelle, Thèa Pawlikowska and Astri Thorvik, in making it all happen. Special mention must be made also of the help provided by Victoria Leblanc in hanging the show.

Almost all the works received votes from gallery visitors who indicated their first, second and third preferences. Robert Struthers' impressive photograph printed on canvas of the Waterboat in Antarctica was the clear winner. The gallery was so packed the night of the vernissage that some did not take part in the voting but over 60 people did indicate their choice.

There are probably many more members of the MCLL community who engage in creative activity. Numerous studies have shown that an engagement with any form of art, whether as creator or as an audience, increases a person's quality of life through an enhanced perception of and interaction with the world around us.

Ann Pearson

### 1st choice



**Robert Struthers**, *Waterboat Deception Island, Antarctica*, photograph on canvas. "My trademark style is street photography but I also like to travel and have had the

opportunity to visit many interesting countries. The preserved wreck of this boat in Antarctica caught my attention as representing the memory of human interaction with this challenging environment."

### 2nd choice



**Ann Pearson**, *The Magic of Light*, photograph. "With the advent of digital photography I felt I could really become the artist I always aspired to be. My creativity can expand, limited only by the scope of

my own imagination."

### 3rd choice



**Robert Winters**, *Street Ritual* Composite photograph.

Robert examines perceptions and ritual in modern society through drawing, photography and the juxtaposition of images and text in an exploration of our species-centric view of the world we live in.

### 4th choice (tied)



**Mary Landry**, *Netherlands Reflexion*, photograph.

Mary took pleasure in discovering the many marvellous sights and surprises that our world has to offer and

seized every opportunity to intercept them with her camera. The path she traveled is one we can still explore today.

### 4th choice (tied)



**Sally Spillhaus**, *Tropical Creatures*, fabric art.

"My tropical scenes were the result of a trip to Costa Rica. I never start out with a design, but I always end up with one. I let the fabric and other materials speak for themselves."

### 5th choice



**Gordon Campey**, *Waiting for Work*, photograph.

"Having been an amateur photographer for years, I have gone through different phases in my photography. For many years I was particularly interested in nature, landscapes and birds. I now concentrate more on travel photography, particularly on portraits."



**Liliane Aberman, *Untitled #1***, photograph. "Looking at the world through the lens of a camera is an experience I have always enjoyed. This slows down my perception so that I notice details in my environment I may not have paid attention to otherwise."



**Jackie Cytrynbaum, *Spaces in Between #3***, photograph. "I want to communicate what I feel, an emotion, a sense of joy, of sadness, of fear, etc. *Spaces in Between* is my interpretation of the confusion we feel from the moment we are faced with a problem until such time as we reach a solution."



**Jane Desjardins, *Fall Landscape #1***, acrylic. "Painting is a perpetual adventure and exploration for me. I love to see how paint and ink interact with water, paint thinner, medium and glue. Accidents happen, and they invariably speak to the creative ability. I play when I create."



**Pierre Desjardins, *Ceci n'est pas une pomme***, acrylic. "A couple of years ago, I borrowed my wife's paint brushes. That opened up a new world for me. I have always been fond of René Magritte and his amazing sense of deception; here was a chance for me to evolve."



**Gael Eakin, *Rowboats***, watercolour. "I have tried many different mediums and techniques, but watercolour is my favourite. I especially love painting on the spot *en plein air* and rarely work from photographs."



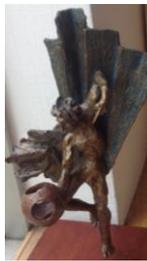
**Michelle Echenberg, *Water, Georgian Bay***. "Photography has been my passion for thirty years. Most of my photographs were taken during my extensive personal travels and at photo-workshops in New Mexico, New Brunswick, Ontario and Québec. At present, I continue my journey in the digital world."



**Hannah Franklin, *Fight #3***, acrylic. Best known as an artist, her life experience serves as a source of inspiration for both the written word and the visual arts. In her work, the two are often intertwined with words added to paintings or art references within poems.



**David Gates, *Fleur Jaune***, acrylic, "Retirement has allowed me to go back to a previous and less developed side of myself. This is a wonderful time. Paint, write a poem, have a cup of coffee, ride your bike, and go swimming. Do whatever you want."



**Rusdi Genest, *Icarus***, lost-wax cast bronze. Known for his symbolic surrealistic art bronzes and for his hand-pressed mural reliefs in fine-art papermaking, Rusdi was inducted into the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 2013. His prize-winning work has been exhibited world-wide and is in many museum collections.



**Sandra Goodwin, *Gaza***, mixed media. Sandra began painting when she was 10 and is still actively painting, often on site in a Monkland café. At 50, she returned to Fine Art classes at Concordia and obtained a degree in Art Education.



**Richard Lock, *Tiger's Nest Monastery, Bhutan***, photograph. "Further travel led to a shift in subject with more attention to the documentation of our planet and its fauna, which are under threat. I hope my work will, in a small way, encourage interest and concern about the environment that we share with many others."



**Kay Palkhivala,** *Miss Buffington and the Chickenfish.* “In 1997 I took a beginners’ pottery class and have been hooked ever since. My usual work is functional: bowls, mugs, plates, etc., but I’m experimenting with sculpture. These pieces are crossovers: sculpture made out of bottles, bowls and plates.”



**Brenda Parsons,** *Winter’s Coloratura,* acrylic. Brenda paints mainly within the enchanting world of watercolour, with occasional inspirations into mixed media, acrylics or oil...her *plein air* paintings express her lively interest in interpreting the wonders of nature in landscapes, flowers and trees.”



**Thèa Pawlikowska,** *Der Rosenkavalier, Skopelos, Greece,* photograph. “When the MCLL ‘Art in the Lounge’ was instituted in 2001, no-one was ready to show their work so I was encouraged to hang

my own photographs. I sold four and many photo-cards! I have no ambition to exhibit elsewhere.”



**Morrie Rohrliek,** *Flowers and Pears,* acrylic. Morrie used coloured pencil and acrylics on paper and the subjects of still life and deftly transformed them into realistic, magnificent celebrations of colour. His artwork reflects the joy he took in life and his intellectual curiosity.



**Pamela Sachs,** *Jewish Cemetery Prague,* photo composite. “It’s difficult for me to remember a time when photography has not been a part of my life — either as a way of living a more recorded life or as a

means of artistic self-expression.”



**Barbara Sala,** *Fun and Games,* acrylic. Her universe of animals and nature and community life talks of myths and tales in contemporary settings. The bright colours on her canvas allow us to enter into a time of innocence and childlike wonder about the world surrounding us.



**Bernice Shaposnick,** *Flower Interior #2,* acrylic. “My paintings are as a result of the teaching and encouragement I received from teachers such as Rita Briansky, who gave me the will and belief that I could learn to draw and paint.”



**Nora Shanahan,** *Athabaska River,* acrylic. Self-taught, using a trial-and-error method, Nora uses acrylics in painting scenes from Alberta, England, Scotland and Ireland. Her favourite subjects are mountains, water formations, walls and ancient structures.



**Audrey Speck,** *Maine,* acrylic. “I believe that photography and painting enable me to better discover the amazing beauty in the details, colours and forms found in the natural world around us and I strive to convey this passion in my artwork.”



**Nina Spiegel,** *Spanish Steps, Rome,* cast aluminum. “I was driven to do most of my sculpture with Italy in mind — the highlights of Rome, Florence, Venice, and the Vatican. Some had to do with music as well, and dogs. So now all my passions were taken care of.”



**Helen Tarshis-Shapiro**, *Echoes*, etching. “After seven years I returned to painting when I realized I missed the immediacy of working in oils, watercolour and multimedia. My images have been drawn from nature, the sea, imagination and the world around me.”



**Amita Virmani**, *Play of Sunlight*, photograph. Amita’s photographs are about subjects that go beyond culture and touch sensibilities at a visual and emotional level. Her

photos reflect a merging of art, nature and beauty and go beyond the expression of these in any one culture.



**Katherine Waters**, *Marshes, Biddeford Pool*, watercolour. “Drawn to watercolour as a medium, I loved its immediacy, its challenges, its surprises; the way that water is both

your greatest friend and greatest enemy; the effects of varying degrees of wetness, of hard edges to soft surfaces...”



**Veneranda Wilson**, *Blue Moon*, acrylic. “The imagery that she loved in poetry, she is now able to explore in painting, looking to nature for shapes, colour and form.”



**Jianchun Zhang**, *Moonlight*, “While traveling around the world, I captured countless wonders and precious moments. Nature and

pictorial subjects are my favourites, especially creating impressionistic and abstract images.”

Echoing McGill’s tradition of supporting the visual arts (it has its own prestigious art collection) as exemplified by our first Dean, Pamela Stewart, herself a dedicated artist, *The Courier* has committed itself to reserve a section for the visual arts at MCLL in each issue. In this special edition, we are proud to be instrumental in preserving the memory of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Art Exhibition, an important historical moment in our existence.

Photographs of one work of each MCLL artists who exhibited at the McClure Art Gallery were selected at random to appear here. They are accompanied by excerpts from texts submitted by the artists describing their artistic course. Congratulations to organizer Ann Pearson and her committee and to all the artists whose works are now immortalized in our archives.

Charlotte French

## Attendees’ comments

MCLL's 25th Anniversary events have underscored the fact that we are far more than a collection of moderators and learners. We are organizers, collaborators, networkers, "outreachers" and...artists! Congratulations to all involved.



Paul Terni sampling Sandra Morrison's creations

We already knew that MCLL members have many talents, literary, musical, artistic ... but the vernissage at the Visual Arts Centre showed us that we have culinary magicians too. In fact it was difficult to choose between the artwork on the walls and the feast of

colours and designs on the platters that floated through as we chatted with the artists and admired the art.

Lesley Régnier

## Newsletter Committee

**Co-chairs:** Charlotte French and Lesley Régnier

**ex-officio:** Paul Terni, Francine Adelson, Mebbie Aikens, Roch Desrochers, Sandra Duchow, Eleanor Hynes, Thèa Pawlikowska, Pamela Sachs

Special thanks to Sherry Steinberg



# ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE



# ANNIVERSARY ART EXHIBIT

