

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN – LE CONSEIL DES FEMMES DE MONTRÉAL

In this issue

President's Message
AGM - Howard Shapiro
Page 1

Namuwongo Literacy
Project
Page 2

Elizabeth Monk
Maylissa Luby
Page 3

Adverts
Page 4 - 6
Bulletin Editor and Layout
S. Gyles

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May, our last official meeting of the year, we will close this session with our AGM which will be held on May 16th at 1:00 PM at 2700 Rufus Rockhead. Our speaker will Howard Shapiro, who is co-founder and co-director of the Namuwongo Literacy Project. And next month the National Council of Women AGM will be held in Winnipeg from June 16 to June 19, 2019.

I would like to thank you all for the privilege of allowing me to serve MCW for the past three years. It has been a pleasure to help plan and to host MCW's various activities. I thank the board of outstanding women for all their help and contribution towards the cause, and also thank the committee chairs and our members without whom MCW would not be the organisation that it is today.

As we come to the end of another year, the board is already gearing up plans for meetings and events for our next session commencing in September. This will happen during the summer.

I take this time to extend congratulations and wish much success to the incoming president and new board. I also wish each and everyone of you a fun and relaxing summer. Hope to see you all in the fall! - Shirley Gyles, President

MCW AGM MEETING. Lunch will be served at noon on May 16, 2019 at the cost of \$10.00 per person. The AGM will be at 1:00 PM followed by guest speaker: Howard Shapiro - The Namuwongo Literacy Project. The address: 2700 Rufus Rockhead, Montreal. Everyone is welcome.



AGM MEETING – May 16, 2019

HOWARD SHAPIRO

Guest Speaker
The Namuwongo Literacy Project

The guest speaker for our May 16th AGM is retired teacher and administrator, Mr. Howard Shapiro who is also the co-founder and a co-director of The Namuwongo Literacy Project, an initiative designed to promote the development of a literate, secure and peaceful community of children and youth who come from diverse tribal backgrounds and lost children. The goal is to bring literacy and numeracy to 20 children per year in the shantytown of Nanuwongo.

Shapiro's expertise is helping children with behavioural problems. The father of two and the grandfather of two; Howard is also director of secular studies at the Belz Chassidic Community's Boys' High School. In the summer, he was a consultant to "In Real Life", a new reality TV show for early teens made by Apartment 11 Productions, for YTV.

In 2006, Shapiro and fellow educator, Judy Labow, with whom he has had a long professional association, created the program. Mr. Shapiro will be speaking about the 12-year-old project and its many challenges and successes. We look forward to his enlightening talk of compassion and perseverance. - S. Gyles


 MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN / LE CONSEIL DES FEMMES DE MONTRÉAL
 SINCE 1893 / DEPUIS 1893

CHANTAL HÉBERT
 Author, Journalist,
 Political Commentator

WOMAN OF THE YEAR
 Sunday, May 5, 2019
 12 noon

Mount Stephen Hotel
 1440 Drummond St., Montreal, QC

Join us in celebrating this extraordinary woman.
 Tickets: \$75.00 • Information: 450-672-7081 • Joan Macklin
 514-516-9023 • Email: mcwinformation@gmail.com

THE NAMUWONGO LITERACY PROJECT

In 2006, seasoned traveler, Howard Shapiro was on the verge of retirement when fellow veteran educator, Judy Labow convinced him that their skills were desperately needed in Africa, especially in impoverished Uganda. Labow who had travelled to Africa as a tourist and then as a volunteer, persuaded Shapiro that something more needed to be done in the countries that they had visited. Struck by the poverty and desperation when he first visited Uganda and Africa, Howard conceded and together they created a literacy program for children in the squalid settlement of Namwonga, outside the Ugandan capital of Kampala. They did this without the assistance of any non-governmental organization or government body.

Namwonga, home to many thousands, is a shantytown that sprang up during the years of bloody conflict in northern Uganda, between the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and government forces. More than a million people were displaced during that time. Mostly farmers and herders, they lost the skills to rebuild their lives elsewhere.

Shapiro and Labow started their project through a contact they had with a former Ugandan student at Concordia University, who is now a deputy minister in his country.

The school's first classroom was held outdoors. The two Montrealers began by choosing 30 "true" orphans (those without mother or father) aged five to seven, who are numerous. They taught half-day classes in basic English, the official language along with Swahili, and some numeracy. In time, a local full-time teacher was hired and the half days became full ones; a Ugandan curriculum is followed.

While public schooling is free and compulsory, these children could not pay for the mandatory supplies and uniforms, including shoes. It's a pittance by Canadian standards, but a fortune for them. The program is completely self-financed through Shapiro and Labow's efforts. Shapiro knew he would do what he could there for as long as possible.

Speaking emphatically, about the resilience of the Ugandan people, who inhabit a breathtakingly beautiful but troubled land, this soft-hearted man gets emotional, "It's changed my life, it's become a passion."

The program has now graduated its first elementary school class, and a few children who have sponsors have gone onto high school. These graduates were kids growing up in shacks made of salvaged material, with no electricity, no running water, no sanitation, and often in poor health. "We are changing lives, however few," Shapiro said.

The program is in its third home, a private school called Queen Anne's, which provides a classroom and some administration, but is otherwise separate. Children line up for a chance to get into the program; only a few are added each year.

They have proven to be good students; attendance is high, behaviour good, and the dropout rate almost nil. Their grades have been at or above the national average. About 80 children have been in the program over its history, an equal number of boys and girls, which was important to the Montrealers. Although the program has grown, the goal is not to create another school, but rather to provide individualized attention to those in most need.

"This is a place", Shapiro said, "where children, especially the rootless, often fall prey to those who would exploit them for labour, sexual abuse and, as happened at the height of the conflict when Shapiro first arrived, to serve as "soldiers" in the LRA. "The program gives these sometimes homeless children a safe place during the day, and probably their only real meal of the day. "Children in school uniforms also tend to be left alone, a deterrent to abductors," Shapiro explained. "It's thought somebody must be expecting them."

Shapiro spends about a month a year in Uganda, separately from Labow, in order to extend the time that they are there. More than 30 volunteers, mostly educators from Montreal, have worked on the program for periods of from two weeks to four months. The annual budget is modest, about \$7,000 to \$8,000, Shapiro said, and that includes the \$1,200 competitive salary, paid to the teacher. Besides Shapiro and Labow's personal networks, most of the funds have been raised by students in his old school board. Shapiro and Labow speak in the schools, and the children create projects inspired by the program.

Contributions in kind, like supplies from the board or shipping from a parent in that business, help. Shapiro and Labow also buy paper-bead jewelry made by Ugandan women, and sell them here for a little extra cash. "Every penny raised goes directly to the program. More money would enable them to reach more kids, but Shapiro is content to make a small contribution.

The program is not a registered charity, but tax receipts are issued through LOVE (Leave Out Violence Everywhere), the national community organization helping at-risk kids that was founded 20 years ago by Montrealer Twinkle Rudberg. Any volunteers from here pay their own travel and accommodation expenses, but are issued a tax receipt,

While donations are always welcome, Shapiro is looking for people with skills that he and Labow lack. He would like the program to have a website and would appreciate finding someone who can design and maintain it. He would also like help, perhaps from a retired lawyer, in obtaining charitable status. Someone who could organize a fundraiser or help sell the paper beads would also be welcome. Shapiro and Labow are also trying to match prospective sponsors with the Ugandan children.

You can contact Shapiro at oppih@bell.net, or Labow at JudyLabow@gmail.com.



UWCM MEMBER DESIGNATED HISTORIC PERSONAGE



Elizabeth Monk (1888-1980), founding member of the University Women's Club of Montreal (UWCM), graduated in Civil Law at the Faculty of Law, McGill University.

Her pioneering work for the advancement of women was recognized on March 8, 2019, when she was designated a historic personage by Ms. Nathalie Roy, Quebec's Minister of Culture and Communications and Minister Responsible for the French Language.

All UWCM members salute this designation and reiterate their commitment to continue the work of their founding sisters in promoting education for girls and women.

ELIZABETH MONK

Elizabeth Monk was the first woman to win McGill's Faculty of Law gold medal for academic excellence; and because of gender-based discrimination in law at that time, she had to fight for 20 years before becoming one of the first two women officially admitted to the Quebec Bar in 1942.

Over her illustrious career as a corporate lawyer, Monk advocated for the advancement of women within the legal community and in Quebec society. She was the first Quebec woman to receive a Queen's Counsel designation. Her pioneering work for the advancement of women was recognized on March 8, 2019, when she was designated a historic personage by Nathalie Roy, Quebec's Minister of Culture and Communications and Minister Responsible for the French Language.

More information about this designation can be found at: <http://www.patrimoineculturel.gouv.qc.ca>

MAYLISSA LUBY – SOCIAL WORKER

During the April 4 lunch, MCW had the privilege to welcome Maylissa Luby, who worked with La Sortie as a full-time social worker. She grew up in Quebec City and started in the sex trade as a teenager. In the presence of her grandmother for the first time, Maylissa spoke to us from the heart while also generously sharing her lived experience and that of other women she works with to give us a better picture of this issue and its prevalence in Montreal specifically.

La Sortie is the first safehouse in Quebec dedicated to the survivors of sexual exploitation.

During her thought provoking presentation, Maylissa shared statistics on the magnitude of the issue. This is the second fastest growing industry in the world, and contrary to what some believe, the sex trade is prevalent in Montreal, that is known to many as the "Bangkok of the North", and an international destination for sex tourism.

Through sharing stories of women's experiences, Maylissa highlighted that a trafficked person is often coerced by subtle manipulation rather than overt physical force, and painted the picture of a long process, and why many women have major challenges in getting out. As she noted "pimps sell you a dream". She shared a story of a teenager, for example, who was bought a ticket to Toronto by a pimp to live with him. Coercion started with him noting how expensive it is in Toronto and that exotic dancing would be the way for her to pay her way. This woman had prior experience of domestic violence, and started to recognize the signs of coercion and abuse when he threw a pizza box in her face, and Maylissa powerfully shared that this woman, in her bathrobe, ran

outside to a police station to get out. Unlike this woman, many do not have the lived experience to recognize the signs of coercion and for some, also equate touching and sex with love. As noted, 40% of survivors of sexual exploitation, according to Maylissa, have experienced incest or a form of sexual abuse in their lives and may have cognitive distortion from past unhealed trauma and/or a lack of boundaries given family experiences. Some women enter the industry, as did Maylissa with a mindset of "I have been abused, why not get paid for it."

Other alarming statistics shared gave a picture of particular risk factors, for example, Indigenous women make up 1% of our population but account for 50% of the women in the sex industry. 78% of women who leave the sex industry say they have experienced mental health problems. According to Maylissa, 90% of survivors want to leave. Many may experience a type of "dissociation" to sustain themselves.

When asked about sex worker's rights groups and the debates within feminist circles on this issues, Maylissa raised the point that when this issue becomes too politically polarized, the unfortunate side effect is that the lived experience and empathy for suffering is lost. She noted that La Sortie is not a political advocacy organization.

MCW thanks Maylissa for her courage to share her story, her passion and purpose with us, which raised much discussion. For more information on La Sortie's work or to see how you can support them further, here is their website:

<https://www.lasortie.org/en/what-is-the-way-out/>

- Adriana Greenblatt

ZONTA CLUB OF MONTREAL WORKSHOP

Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Time: 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

ZONTA CLUB OF MONTREAL

**cordially invites you to
A NEW WORKSHOP**

Entrepreneurship—How to get to the next business level



Ken Ingram
International
Business Coach



Diane Gibb
Business Strategist
Professional
Fundraising Coach

Are you an entrepreneur or are you starting up your own business and wondering how to get to the next business level? Zonta has listened to you and is sponsoring this Spring interactive workshop to help you answer this question and many more.

Ken Ingram, International Business Coach ([The Achievement Center](#)) and Diane Gibb, Business Strategist and Professional Fundraising Coach, ([Marketing à la Carte](#)) will help you find your personal GPS to guide you to your next business move.

Location: On the West Island

[1675 Trans-Canada Hwy, Dorval H9P 1J1](#)

Check the map link above. **Lots of free parking**

Tickets: \$30.00 - cheque or cash at door; *bring a friend for \$20.00*
Light refreshments and networking

Proceeds: All proceeds to benefit local Zonta projects and scholarships

RSVP: Please reserve online ASAP by May 4 latest

[Online Reservation](#) is necessary to guarantee your seats

Contact: Jeanie Trubiano 514-696-1175

Mickey Weirnecke hwirnecke@aol.com

SPONSORS



**SENIORS
ACTION
QUEBEC**

SENIORS ACTION QUEBEC ANNOUNCES THREE(3) UPCOMING CONFERENCES THAT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO SENIORS, FAMILY MEMBERS, CAREGIVERS, HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS, STUDENT NURSES AND DOCTORS, URBAN PLANNERS, ARCHITECTS ETC

April 9th

**Responding Positively to Life's Changes:
Caregivers Finding Balance.**

Deadline: Registration and payment must be received by March 27th

May 3rd

Housing: What's Next?

Deadline: Registration and payment must be received by April 25th

June 13th

**Geriatric Healthcare Professionals and
Seniors Talking Together About Senior's Needs.**

Deadline: Registration and payment must be received by May 30th

**Registration Fees: Includes Coffee & Muffin on arrival,
breaks and lunches and any printed materials.**

General Admission: Cost is \$60.00 per conference

Seniors 65+ & Students: Cost is \$35.00 per conference.

To Register contact: Ruth Pelletier

ruthkathleenpelletier@gmail.com

www.seniorsactionquebec.ca

**You are cordially invited to the annual
exhibition of**

THE WOMEN'S ART STUDIO

4710 rue Saint Ambroise

Complexe du Canal Lachine

Montreal, H4C 3R4

from May 2 to May 6, 11 AM to 4 PM

Vernissage Saturday May 4, 2 PM to 4 PM



**The Women's Art Society of
Montreal presents:**

April 30, 2019: Artist/educator, Deena
Dlusy-Apel will speak about her work
and the importance of social
consciousness

From 1:30 to 2:30pm at the Unitarian
Church of Montreal, 5035 de
Maisonneuve West. Nonmembers \$10.
New members welcome - men also.
www.womensartsociety.com or
514-495-3701

The Big Deal

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The Stephen Lewis Foundation
DO GOOD, LOOK GOOD

Help us help others!

Great bargains on new & gently used women's clothing, jewellery, accessories, handbags and more!



Aidez-nous à aider les autres!

Super rabais sur les vêtements neufs et portés mais en très bon état, bijoux, accessoires, sacs à main et quelques surprises!

Westmount Park United Church / Église Westmount Park United
4695 boul. de Maisonneuve (corner, au coin de Lansdowne)

Saturday April 27, 2019 (10 to 4)

samedi 27 avril 2019 (10 à 16)

Cash only / Comptant seulement

<https://www.facebook.com/granniesforgood>



All proceeds go to support African grandmothers and their orphaned grandchildren
Tous les fonds serviront à soutenir des grands-mères africaines et leurs petits-enfants orphelins



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please note that MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL is due in May and we thank you if you have already completed and submitted your renewal information. If you haven't yet renewed, please send completed form and cheque to:

Montreal Council of Women
P.O. Box 72117, 151 Atwater Ave.,
Montreal, QC H3J 2Z6
VP Membership - Joan Macklin
mcwmembers@gmail.com



Talk to us
CTRC Public Consultation



How can CBC best serve the English-speaking communities of Quebec?

Join us for a public roundtable discussion

May 2nd, 2019 10am-12pm

at

Maison Radio-Canada

1400 René-Lévesque E, Montreal
or on Facebook Live

To register,
go to: cbc.ca/montreal/community



MLUWC AGM

May 13, 2019 - 6:15pm



Guest Speaker : Anja Geitmann
Olympia Hall
3855 Boul Saint-Jean DDO,

RSVP by May 9
Online: www.mluwc.com/events

la Commission de la présidence du Conseil
mène une consultation publique itinérante

4 Rencontres informelles & interactives

au sujet de la période de questions du public au conseil municipal

Mercredi 24 avril de 14h à 16h30
ALPA (Accueil Liaison pour Arrivants)
2030, Boul. Pie-IX, bureau 309, 3e étage
Métro Pie-IX

Mardi 30 avril de 14h à 16h30
Cégep de Saint-Laurent
625, Avenue Sainte-Croix, Salle du personnel (près de la cafétéria)
Métro Du Collège

Mercredi 1er mai de 14h à 16h30
Bibliothèque Interculturelle de Côte-des-Neiges
6767, Chomin de la Côte-des-Neiges, 3e étage
Métro Côte-des-Neiges

Mercredi 22 mai de 18h30 à 21h
Y des femmes de Montréal
1355, Boulevard René-Lévesque Ouest, Salle Holden-Fisher
Métro Lucien-L'Allier

Inscriptions par téléphone au 514 872-3000
et sur internet : commissions@ville.montreal.qc.ca

The Montreal Council of Women

**120 years
and counting**

A retrospective

MCW 120TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

The MCW book, “**The Montreal Council of Women, 120 Years and Counting... A Retrospective**”, is a kaleidoscope of the various women’s organizations that have been formed in Montreal over the past 120 years. The cover, beautifully designed by the late **Cheryl Braganza** offers a panoramic view of some of the city’s oldest groups, a treasure trove of information relating to these women. Copies are \$20 each. This treasure chest of information can be purchased by sending an email to info@montrealcouncilwomen.ca, or contacting B. Destounis email: bdestounis@videotron.ca or S. Gyles, email: sagyles@sympatico.ca.

Adoption des recommandations lors d'une dernière séance de la Commission
le Mercredi 19 juin 2019 à 17 h dans la Salle du conseil
Édifice Lucien-Saulnier 155, rue Notre-Dame Est, Métro Champ-de-Mars



MCW AGM MEETING

Thursday - May 16, 2019

1:00 PM

Guest Speaker

HOWARD SHAPIRO

The Namuwongo Literacy Project

ÉCHANGE AVEC DENIS CODERRE

UNE FORCE DE LA NATURE!

9 MAI 18H

LIEU : **CLUB ST-JAMES**
1145 AVENUE UNION, MONTRÉAL

BILLETTS SUR EVENBRITE

PRÉ-VENTE (AVANT LE 15 AVRIL)
40\$ (RÉG. 50\$) MEMBRES
50\$ (RÉG. 60\$) NON-MEMBRES

ANIMÉ PAR **JANIE DUQUETTE**