



McGill

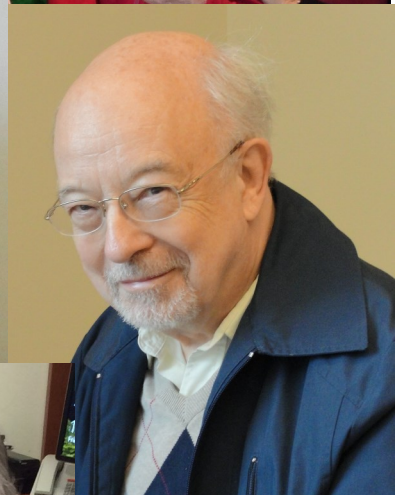
School of
Continuing Studies

McGill Community
for Lifelong
Learning

The Newsletter

Winter 2019 Volume 30, No. 1

www.mcgill.ca/mccl



Please see
text on
page 2

President's Message

Winter 2019



As I leave the presidency, I believe our strength, both politically and functionally, continues to grow. We are entering the age of on-line web broadcasting, and we broadcast our first Council meeting on Tuesday, February 12 last. We have expressed our desire to have a greater voice in MCLL-related affairs, and the Dean has responded in a very positive way. Discussions have touched on many common areas, from models of management and executive action to the kind of support that would most benefit MCLL.

I want to publicly acknowledge the efforts made by Dean Weil to work with MCLL and to support our needs. I want to thank Council and the members for their support throughout my mandate. I also want to thank Lorne Huston for covering for me during my absence and for being my close confidant throughout our time together. I wish him well as he becomes our next President. To the various committees and their chairpersons, I thank you for your efforts and, of course, our office volunteers and Ana Milic, who brings everything together.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Irwin Kuzmarov, President



TEXT For Page 1

Since its inception, a major reason for MCLL's success is the hard work of our volunteers. We see them every day, different faces, different backgrounds, different skills but all so helpful, so pleasant to deal with, so dedicated. MCLL has a fleet of them working in the office with Ana Milic, Monday through Friday. The Newsletter pays homage to the team and to the Volunteer Coordinator, Susan Biggs. The team this academic year comprises Mary Bialek, Nola Brunelle, Sally Cooper, Mary Corner, Averill Craig, Gail Ewan, Helen Forsyth, Margaret Linklater, Thea Pawlikowska, Sue Purcell, Anne Tittler and Carol Wares. Our sincere thanks to them all for their tireless efforts in making MCLL running smoothly.

Message from Dean Carola Weil and MCLL President Irwin Kuzmarov



As we are well into the Winter semester of 2019, we felt it was important that we focus on the place of MCLL within the School of Continuing Studies. The collaboration with the Dean's office and the Council of MCLL has, over the last 30 years, led to many interesting and beneficial projects. Our close relationship allows for a collegial process of information-sharing and negotiations, and to integrated staff support and a re-evaluation of our needs and how we can best meet them collectively, thus allowing MCLL to thrive.

As McGill University embraces lifelong learning more explicitly, there will be growing opportunities for engagement between MCLL and the wider McGill community. This engagement can range from personal friendships and ties created through MCLL's study groups, or projects like SPEAK and the Brainy Bar to public presentations to educate our colleagues about the value of peer learning throughout life.

The School of Continuing Studies is celebrating 50 years of lifelong learning this year, and MCLL has been a vital part of that history. As we all prepare for a potential 100+ years of life and learning, we have an opportunity to further strengthen our common bonds, and to continue to learn from our community within the generations of learners that call SCS their home. As the university embarks on a capital campaign for the third century of McGill and as the School of Continuing Studies shapes its new strategic plan for the next several years, MCLL stands to benefit from more institutional support and to be an active participant in shaping the future.



Editorial Team

Lesley Régnier — Editor

Charlotte French

Noga Emanuelle

Sandra Frisby

Pamela Sachs

Roger Humphrey — Layout

MCLL celebrates another anniversary

It seems like it was only a year or two ago that we celebrated MCLL's anniversary in the form of a day-long forum which was attended by representatives from different organizations involved in lifelong learning in and around Montreal and from outside. That was for our quarter-century, of course, and it was quite an event. A thirtieth anniversary is always more subdued but nonetheless important and a sub-committee is already at work on preparing a celebration for mid November.

The highlight of this special occasion will be the launch of the Fiona Clark Award, which every year will grant a bursary to a worthy student at McGill. Just to remind newer members of our community, Fiona is the one who planted the seeds for MCLL. The peer learning concept that underlies our lifelong learning here at McGill began in Boston, which Fiona and other pioneers visited before setting about the required administrative work. Fiona modestly heaps the thanks and congratulations on her colleagues such as Anita Heller, Saretta Levitan and then Dean of Continuing Education, Pamela Stewart, but without Fiona we would not exist. Fiona has moderated or co-moderated many a study group, usually on the environment, has been part of Council and organizing committees and she still comes to classes and participates in social events. You will see her around.

Juliet Wait and her committee are planning to announce this award at a luncheon at the McGill Faculty Club, a very fitting place for such an occasion. So keep an eye out for further announcements and make a note of the date in your



MCLL's ambassadors to the Montreal community



Did you know that MCLL moderators and lecturers visit some of Montreal's residences for senior citizens where the activities coordinators are only too happy to offer an interesting afternoon to the residents?

Fiona Clark ran the Outreach Program for several years before bequeathing it to me. I start contacting residences early in September to see if they would be interested in having our people give a lecture there occasionally (none have refused so far!). Meanwhile I email all the Fall term moderators and lecturers to ask for volunteers together with their proposed topics. I then forward to the activities coordinators a detailed list of potential lecturers and the subject of their talks and, from there on, they are on their own: the coordinators contact the lecturers

who are offering talks they think suitable for their audiences (not too scientific or intellectual or they fall asleep!) and discuss times, availabilities, material requirements, etc.

MCLL does not charge the residences for this service. I suggest in my initial email to the residences that a monetary contribution would be welcome to help MCLL to upgrade or buy new equipment for our classrooms and, admittedly, the first year I was running this program, one residence did send a case of wine at Christmas but, since then, we have rarely seen a donation. However, the relations are good and it is good publicity. Visiting family members or friends hear about us and discover the wide array of knowledge and interests our small MCLL community offers the much larger community of senior citizens in Montreal. Outreach is never wasted.

If you are interested in joining this Outreach Program, please contact Lesley Régnier via the office.



Assumptions, Paradigm Shift and Kafka

I.

When people talk of “an assumption” they mean a thing that is accepted as true or as certain to happen, without proof. A secondary meaning of the term is an action of taking on power or responsibility. Assumptions emerge from the play among perception, memory, emotion, intuition, cogitation, well-being, identity, and predictability. When an assumption is proven to be consistently and repetitively wrong, we can continue to hold it despite the incoherence; we can discard it altogether; we incorporate the new facts and understanding into the reality, thus producing a new reality that is both a continuation of and a departure from the previous reality. This is called “a paradigm shift”.

II.

Franz Kafka’s parable “Leopards in the Temple” is a nice exemplification of a paradigm shift:

“Leopards break into the temple and drink to the dregs what is in the sacrificial pitchers; this is repeated over and over again; finally it can be calculated in advance, and it becomes a part of the ceremony.”



III.

A ritual is taking place regularly in the temple. Then something new and strange happens: Leopards break into the temple and disrupt this ritual. The priests scatter away in fear while the feral creatures drink all the wine. Result? The ritual cannot continue to be performed in its known and familiar mode.

After the terrifying interruption has been repeated a few times, observant priests realize there is a pattern to the invasion. A pattern implies predictability and therefore, a way out of an impossible impasse. Eventually they learn enough of the leopards’ behaviour to come up with a matrix that redefines reality and restores order, albeit it is a new type of harmony.

IV.

The parable illustrates how a paradigm shift occurs. Something that is strange, wild and out-of-context, once inserted into a stable routine, sooner or later becomes part of the routine and loses its strangeness in the sense that it becomes recognisable and knowable.

Human beings and leopards cannot dwell in the same space at the same time and emerge unscathed. Since the leopards’ appearance in the temple cannot be stopped and the rituals have to go on, a new matrix is developed.

V.

If the leopards are **X** {Raw nature, mortal threat, anarchy, danger}
and the priests are **Y** {Discipline, order, predictability, civilization}
and if we seek to cause no harm to either X or Y,
what kind of matrix can define their relationship?

A relation works **if and only if** one or the other is absent. When X is in the temple, Y cannot be present. When Y is in the temple, X cannot be present. So the only relation between human beings and leopards can be a well-managed and carefully regulated non-relation.

VI.

According to the British philosopher Roger Scruton, “There is little freedom in the physical world ... and an effect follows from its cause with the rigid necessity of a mathematical proof.” Paradigm shift is the effect that follows from the need to curb, tame necessity by tweaking our assumptions and actions. It is an attribute of human freedom.

2019 Annual General Meeting

Mark your busy agendas: the AGM will take place on March 22 at 1:30 at Le Nouvel Hôtel, Boul. René-Lévesque. The keynote speaker this year will be McGill professor Henry Mintzberg, one of the top management thinkers in the world, author of such jolts to many a student's mindset as *Managers Not MBAs* and *Strategy Bites Back*, has made the business world sit up and see how their way of thinking might be faulty. His talk at the AGM is entitled *Radical Renewal beyond Left, Right and Centre*.



Le Nouvel Hôtel,
1740, boul René-Lévesque Ouest
Guy-Concordia metro



The Greening of MCLL

A proposal will be tabled to Council at its next meeting in March: to reduce our footprint as a community at McGill. The project put together by Catherine Main-Oster, Sandra Baines and Ana Milic comprises two phases.

Beginning with the Spring session 2019, the kitchen at MCLL will aim to reduce coffee cup waste. The ambitious but achievable goal: 100%! No more Styrofoam! To that end, 40 stacking ceramic mugs from IKEA will be purchased along with 40 metal spoons, as well as utensil containers and a dish rack. Members will be asked to donate additional dishcloths and tea towels. Signs instructing members to wash and replace used cups and spoons will be created and hints about helping keep the kitchen tidy in general will be posted in strategic locations. The IKEA cups

are ideal as they fit under the machine with the correct volume. They are stackable and durable, and cost -friendly. They are also open stock so replacements are easy.

The second phase will start in the Fall at the Moderators' Workshop when moderators will be briefed about committing to a "greening" of their programs. Two particular concerns are end-of-term party waste and the amount of printing. For example, stackable wine glasses and reusable plates for parties could be purchased (or donated) and more recycling bins could be placed in the MCLL area.

Let us hope that Council approves this proposal but we do not need to wait. We could all start now. With spring around the corner and the greening of the outdoors begins, we can be already greening our indoor environment.

SECOND-GENERATION MCLLers



In this year of MCLL's thirtieth anniversary it is not surprising that we have second-generation MCLLers in our midst. It says a lot about our organization that this second generation finds us relevant and inspiring. Lorne Huston's mother was a member, Tony Sachs' mother is still a member and a fine moderator, Erika Sebaldt's daughter has joined our ranks, and Ana Maria Klein's mother inspired her to become a member. There may be more of you out there. If so, please contact sandrafrisby@gmail.com to identify yourselves and share your stories. Here is Ana Maria's story.

Her mother, Clara Klein, was of Hungarian-Czech descent and a Holocaust survivor. She fled to Venezuela in 1947 and moved to Canada in 1970. She had educational aspirations and nearly finished her medical studies, so she was delighted to find a place among her peers who were – and are – bright and interested in educating themselves. She was impressed by their level of intellectuality and their seriousness of purpose. Ana Maria says that between 2002 and 2006 MCLL was a lifeline for her mother. Clara felt appreciated, elevated, connected and respected. She particularly enjoyed classes with John Felvinci and classes in film studies. Whenever she was in town, Clara would bring Ana Maria to class with her and, now retired, Ana Maria finds that being a member of MCLL makes her retirement easier. Clara died in 2008, but Ana Maria feels that that her mother has left her this legacy. She enjoys meeting people with foresight, people who are eager to learn from each other and people who are potential friends.

May MCLL continue to be the dynamic, stimulating organization it is for another thirty years, when Clara's grandchildren will take up the torch!

Remembering

Paul Terney

It was a shock to hear of the death last October of Paul Terni, less than a year after some of us were in a study group he moderated with François Labonté. As participant or moderator of many study groups, he always shone by his involvement, knowledge and warm, unassuming personality. His enthusiasm and curiosity were contagious and he loved embracing new subjects enlisting the support of new moderators and members.

One of the pillars of MCLL for many years, he was President in 2015-2016 and on two occasions Chair of the Curriculum Committee. In both these functions he could draw on a wealth of experience of MCLL, an immense patience and the great respect of his colleagues.

He will be remembered for his competence, patience and dedication.

New Moderator and Lecturer Profiles



Nancy Barr

Nancy was born in Providence, USA and studied at Rhode Island College and Columbia University in New York City. She landed in Montreal in 1973 and has called this city her home ever since. She has had several careers, centred on teaching English as a second language and publishing. Her last

position, before retiring, was as an editor at the National Film Board, where she learned almost everything she knows about Canada. Her discovery of MCLL some six years ago changed her retirement, “offering friendships while keeping my brain alive” she declares. She made her debut in lecturing quite recently with a talk about the Shakers, a topic she has been passionate about after she visited Hancock Quaker Village in Massachusetts. This lecture was indeed a first but, she and we hope, not the last.

Gaston Lafontaine

This semester, Gaston is co-moderating a study group on happiness, a good subject for someone with such an active life style. He goes to the gym every day and asked to be interviewed at 9 a.m. When asked if he was on his way to the gym after the interview, he said that he was already back! Besides his time at the gym, Gaston also does cross-country skiing, motorcycling, walking, cycling and traveling. A mechanical engineer by profession, Gaston worked for 28 years for Shell, Canada, followed by some consulting, and teaching at



the Université de Sherbrooke. He has two children and a grandchild. Gaston mentioned that he and his co-moderator have been accessing MOOCs, and using short videos from various sites that touch on different aspects of their subject. Sounds like a great approach.

Robert McDonald



Robert McDonald grew up on a farm which had been in the family for over 100 years. His primary and secondary education was obtained in rural schools, and he pursued his studies at Carleton University, Ottawa, earning an Honours BA in geography. He continued at the Master's level in geography and urban planning at University of Alberta, Edmonton, and at Queen's in Kingston. Professionally, Robert has done many things. He taught high school in Mali with CUSO for two years. Back in Canada in the 1970s, he was a lecturer in geography and did sociolinguistic research on Franco-Albertans at University of Alberta. Following this, Robert became a reporter and news editor for the CBC in Edmonton. In the 1980s and 1990s, Robert relocated his family to Kingston, where he became a community volunteer, mainly in the area of advocacy for children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities. Robert's other accomplishments include working as translator and teacher of English and French as a second language, working as a cartographer, air photo interpreter and landscaper. In the 2000s, Robert worked for the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing until his retirement.



Joining MCLL in 2016, and after attending a few study groups, Robert became a moderator and has led three study groups so far: *The Search for a New Economic Order*, which proved so popular that he had to split it into two groups. This was followed by *Loss and Legacy: Gaelic in Canada* and *What on Earth is a Sustainable Community?* (With Brian Webber). Lately he has given a lecture on *Electoral Reform: an Environmental Issue*. Robert loves the MCLL model, plans to continue moderating and already has a subject in mind, so stay tuned!

Mariana Navarro-Grau



Mariana is moderating a study group on the Nazca lines, a group of pre-Columbian geoglyphs etched into the desert sands of southern Peru. Originally from Peru, she worked there for an agency that investigated this phenomenon, so she comes highly qualified to discuss them. Since arriving in Montreal 18 years ago, she has not let any moss grow under her feet. She obtained a Master’s degree in Hispanic Literature from McGill as well as a certificate in translation. Earlier, she obtained a Master’s degree in photography from the New York School of Visual Arts with a minor in Art History. She has also studied at the

Corcoran School of Art.

As well as being the busy mother of three young children, she translates, mostly from Spanish to English, here and all over South America. She jogs and swims, reads and takes classes, first at Thomas More and now here at MCLL. She is one of our youngest members and injects into our organization a real dose of dynamism.

Mona Rizk



Mona moderated a five-week course on happiness and her group was disappointed when it ended. After ending a busy career as Director of Marketing for Future Electronics, Mona decided in 2002 to change the pace and the course of her life and became interested in mindfulness before it was a household word. She took mindfulness-based courses at McGill and got her yoga teaching certification.

She loves to exercise both mind and body, with her love of learning and her involvement in water aerobics, yoga and Pilates, which she practices on a daily basis. She has just taken up bridge, which is certainly good exercise for the mind!

In addition to all her other activities, she was involved in the design aspect of several residential construction projects from 2005-2014.

She has two daughters. We hope she’ll be back in the spring to offer another exciting study group!

Charlotte (Rosenstein)

Philcordan



Née et élevée en France, à Mulhouse en Alsace, Charlotte a passé toute sa vie d’adulte au Canada. À part les huit ans vécus à Toronto, elle vit à Montréal et fait partie de MCLL depuis sept ans déjà. Elle a fait ses études à Concordia où elle s’est spécialisée en littérature française, en linguistique et en gestion. Ensuite, elle y a enseigné le français pendant 32 ans. Pour ses études au deuxième cycle, afin de perfectionner ses connaissances techniques, elle a choisi les Hautes Études Commerciales (H.E.C) de Montréal. Elle y a obtenu un M.B.A en gestion internationale et en Ressources humaines. Cela lui a permis de créer du matériel pédagogique en français pour ses cours à Concordia dans les domaines de la gestion, des ressources humaines, du marketing et de la finance.

Si tout cela vous semble bien sérieux, sachez que Charlotte a une toute autre facette. Elle écrit. En fait, le groupe d’études qu’elle cogère avec Fiorina Sammartino s’appelle AIGLE S 087 “L’histoire positive d’une adolescence difficile”. C’est un scénario éducatif qu’elle a créé avec l’aide de son fils, formé à l’Université Ryerson à Toronto dans les arts appliqués à la radio et à la télévision (« mes idées », dit-elle, « et ses connaissances techniques »). C’est une auteure indépendante qui a été accréditée au Festival international des scénaristes de Bourges (France) en 2011, accréditée aussi en 2011 et 2012 à l’AOF (Associations des auteurs canadiens de l’Ontario français) d’Ottawa et, en 2012, elle a postulé au Forum des auteurs de fiction à Valence (France) en tant qu’auteure-scénariste indépendante. Ajoutons donc le nom de Charlotte à notre liste d’auteurs à MCLL !

Nadine Salam



MCLL has among its many members an experienced journalist who admits that her success stems from a “dogged determination to find the story and deliver it to the public”. That was back in the days before fake news. Nadine Salam was born in Lebanon where you have no need to invent or play around with facts to make a story. The stories are there as the turbulent history of that country unfolds day by day.

With a degree in political science from American University of Beirut, Nadine learned the languages, technical skills and computer software that she would require for a career in journalism. She participated in numerous workshops on women’s empowerment, the importance of community service (a pan-Arab workshop) and the primordial role of the media as an active partner with civil institutions in order to relieve the pressure during crises such as the Syrian refugee issue in Lebanon.



Her interests have taken her to many international conferences but, when she is home and not engrossed in some recent fascinating news story, she is practicing yoga or swimming or hiking. Welcome to MCLL, busy lady!

Jeff Sidel



Jeff is leading a study group on the Trump Presidency, concentrating on facts rather than opinions.

After 27 years with a global pharmaceutical company, he decided to retire at age 55 and return to school. In the space of three years he obtained three graduate certificates from the School of Continuing Studies at McGill and went on to create his own business. While

studying at the SCS he learned about MCLL and has been a participant in eight study groups. Then, in the summer of 2018, he decided to try his hand at moderating, and has discovered that he loves it – so we'll be seeing more of Jeff in the future!

His wife is an accomplished artist and they travel the world together, stopping often in Brussels where their eldest son and daughter-in-law live and work, and by whom they have their first grandson. Two other children live in Toronto and Montreal respectively. Jeff shared how impressed he is with the quality of the members at MCLL, how bright, well-traveled and knowledgeable they are and how they share with him a passion for learning.

Tim Skene



Tim is presently moderating a study group entitled "In Search of Truth." An industrial designer by profession, Tim has also been a teacher for the past 20 years, teaching first at Vanier College then at a vocational training centre, in mechanical design technology. He is knowledgeable about Artificial Intelligence and may repeat a lecture he gave on AI, so watch for that.

He first came to MCLL in the fall of 2017 with particular interests in current society and in technology.

Besides skiing in winter and bicycling in summer, he plays tennis once a week. Welcome on board, Tim!

Happy Birthday Jim!

February 2 is James Joyce's birthday which he celebrated religiously every year, wherever he was and in whatever circumstances. And we celebrated it too, here in Montreal, at Westmount Library. There were readings from some of his less well-known, humorous works, many about cats, and several, more somber, about Joyce's life and relationship with his beloved Nora Barnacle. Then came coffee and cake, including a huge football



field of a chocolate cake with candles, offered by Bloomsday, Joycean fans, many from MCLL, raised their voices to sing "Happy Birthday to you" and made their plans to take part in the St. Patrick's Day parade on Sunday, March 17.

MCLL Curriculum Committee

As a follow-up to the Members' Forum held last October, the Curriculum Committee organized a survey of participants' reactions to Study Groups held in the Winter term.

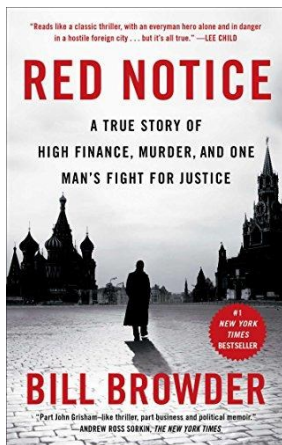


The process, using LIME software, was very satisfactory. The response rate was almost 40%, considered high for this kind of exercise. Similarly, the results obtained were encouraging. For example, of responses to the question "Did this study group meet your expectations?", 68% replied "Agree" or "Very strongly agree", while only 3.5% replied "Disagree" or "Strongly disagree". Comments were also invited from respondents. These included some of high praise, others were generally constructive comments on how study groups might be improved. There were many valuable suggestions for increasing the degree of participation, and for coaching participants as to how to improve their presentation.

Many comments will be very useful to the Curriculum Committee in briefing moderators, refining the Moderators' Handbook and organizing workshops later in this year on key aspects of moderating or making presentations. This may be the first time that the Curriculum Committee has a quantified, comprehensive portrait of participant opinions about study groups. Our thanks go to survey participants and to implementation by Ana and office volunteers

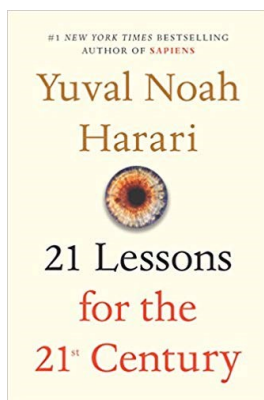
Pamela's Bookshelf

Non – Fiction



Red Notice by Bill Browder (2015) Paperback. This autobiography is both a political thriller and an argument for morality in foreign policy. It is Bill Browder's own account of how the tragic death of a Russian colleague, Sergei Magnitsky, transformed him from a hedge-fund manager to an unlikely international human rights leader and Vladimir Putin's number-one enemy. Magnitsky was a 37-year-old tax lawyer and auditor, an upright,

strong-willed family man, whose treatment in a Moscow prison was Browder's last straw. A must-read, if only to learn how to fight back against corruption and impunity.



21 Lessons for the 21st Century * by Yuval Noah Harari. Paperback.

Third in a series of books examining man and his place in the world, this volume explores the present and how we are dealing with the rapidly-changing world, and our need to adapt to the new realities. In twenty-one accessible chapters, Harari builds on the ideas explored in his previous

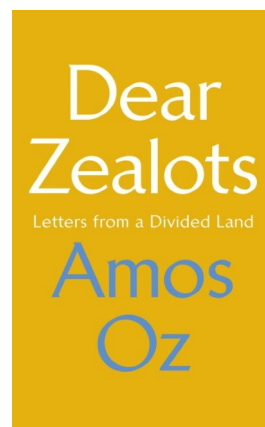
books, untangling political, technological, social and existential issues. He invites us to consider values, meaning and personal engagement in a world full of uncertainty. A thought-provoking read and an ideal vehicle for meaningful discussion.

* This book will be the basis of a discussion study group to be offered in the spring.

Non – Fiction cont'd

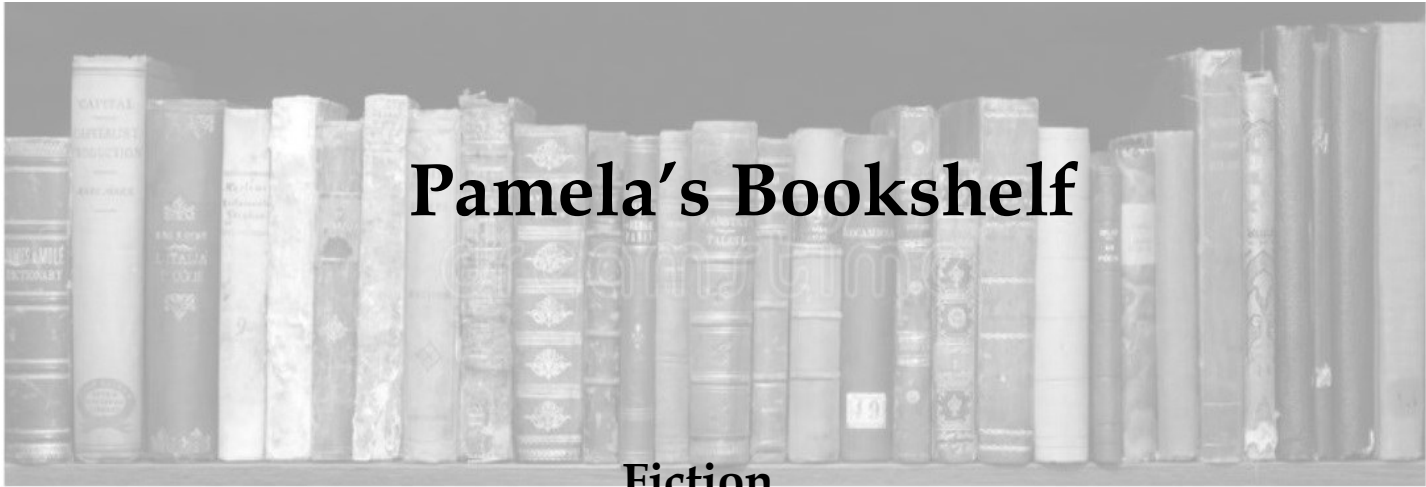


Becoming by Michelle Obama (2018) Hardcover. Beginning with her childhood and ending with life after the White House, an honest and inspirational memoir. Records her struggles in learning how to balance her own work and family with her husband's political victories – she names him a “unicorn” he seems so unlikely. Also available as an audio book where the warmth of Michelle's own voice makes for an intimate listening experience.



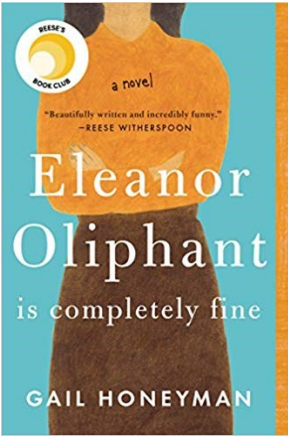
Dear Zealots by Amos Oz (2018). Paperback. The incomparable Israeli humanist's last published work – a trilogy of essays. All the more urgent in view of his recent death. The first essay explores the history of zealotry and fanaticism, the second meditates on the core values of Jewish humanism, while the third prescribes and insists on two separate states – “we must divide this land and turn it into a

duplex.” Despite the serious concerns, the tone is often disarmingly humorous, as in his concluding confession - “I love Israel even when I cannot stand it”.

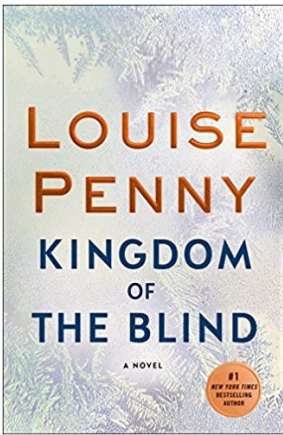


Pamela's Bookshelf

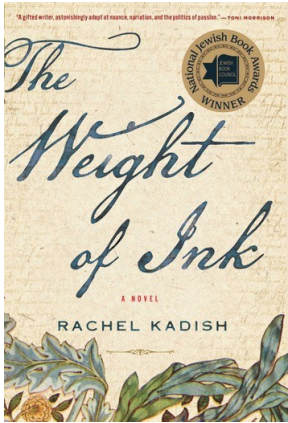
Fiction



Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman (2017). Hardback. Heartbreaking and hilarious – a novel about loneliness that has become an international runaway bestseller. The reclusive and nerdily articulate first-person narrator has arranged her life so that she works all week and can pass out on vodka over the weekend. But she finds a friend and evolves. With human kindness it's never too late. A captivating, "feel good" story.

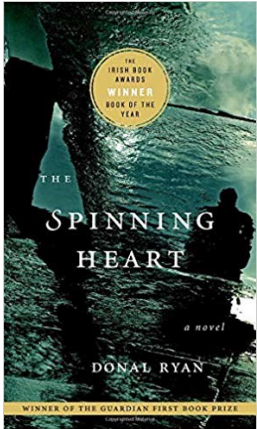


Kingdom of the Blind by Louise Penny (2018). Hardback. Phenomenal reviews for the 14th Gamache novel. Intricate, suspenseful and many-layered. Penny's love of her setting in idyllic Three Pines and of her fascinating range of characters has never been more apparent. A new vulnerability in Gamache who is still on suspension by the Sureté du Québec. In some ways this might read like the last Gamache novel – don't worry, Penny is already at work on her next.



The Weight of Ink by Rachel Kadish (2017). Hardback. Past and present intersect when elderly and ailing British scholar Helen Watts and graduate student Aaron Levy discover a hidden cache of documents written in the 17th century by a Jewish scribe who turns out to have been a woman. The book's exploration of her

intellectual and emotional struggles fascinatingly brings to life London at the time of the plague and fire and also of the Restoration. Don't be put off by the book's length – beautifully written, it's compulsively readable.



The Spinning Heart by Donal Ryan (2012). Paperback. Twenty-one chapters – 21 narrators. Rave reviews for a brilliantly written debut novel when it was first published in 2012 in the aftermath of Ireland's financial collapse. Taking place in a small town in the west of Ireland, the same story is told from instantly recognizable multiple perspectives transcending time and place. Witty, tragic, and poignant.



Art in the lounge

Nola Brunelle

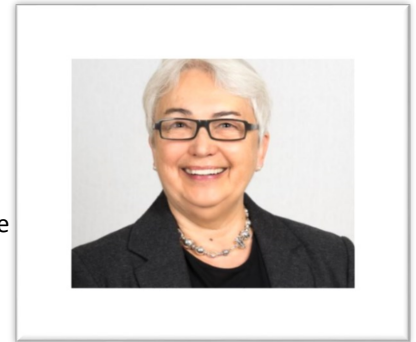
With her small hand-held Nikon Coolpix, Nola captures and records moments of her travels – for herself but also, luckily for MCLL, to share. The photographs here are some of her memories of a trip to Iran in April 2018. They visited many beautiful mosques with exquisite tile work but they found art everywhere: murals on buildings, reproductions and literary quotations in bus shelters, whimsical sculptures in public gardens, traffic circles.

But it is people that Nola finds so interesting – they, after all, are the creators of the culture behind the art. She often takes pictures from inside a bus or a train to avoid being obtrusive and in this way she is able to discretely capture a scene worth remembering without being disrespectful of certain cultures.

(Special thanks to Gordon Campey and Ann Pearson for their invaluable aid)

Some of Nola's photographs are currently on exhibit in our Lounge.

Images 1—4 are Nola's



Nola Brunelle Photographer

LANDSCAPES BY AUDREY SPECK

Audrey Speck. She has traveled extensively to numerous countries including many wilderness areas, especially the Canadian North.

Photography and painting have enabled her to better appreciate the amazing light, patterns, colors and forms found in the natural world around us and she strives to convey this passion in her artwork. Each painting represents for her a special moment in a special place.

For over 20 years, she concentrated on photography and was a member of the Montreal Camera Club, participating in their competitions and group exhibitions. Some of you might remember her solo show at MCLL in 2005.

Upon retirement, she turned to watercolor painting, taking courses at the Visual Arts Center but it was when she switched again, this time to acrylics that she has found it easier to develop her own personal style.

Working now with the artists in the Women's Art Studio of Montreal, she says she benefits from the regular workshops and critiques there as well as from the strong support from other members.

Audrey has participated in group painting exhibitions at the Galerie McClure, Tudor Hall (Ogilvy's), Centre culturel Georges Vanier, Club Sportif MAA, Visual Arts Gallery, RCA building gallery and at Galerie E.K. Volland in Saint-Henri.



Audrey Speck artist

The paintings shown here were done from photographs or on-site sketches, using acrylic paints on canvas or board.

For information please contact Audrey Speck at 514-487-0432 or a.speck@videotron.ca

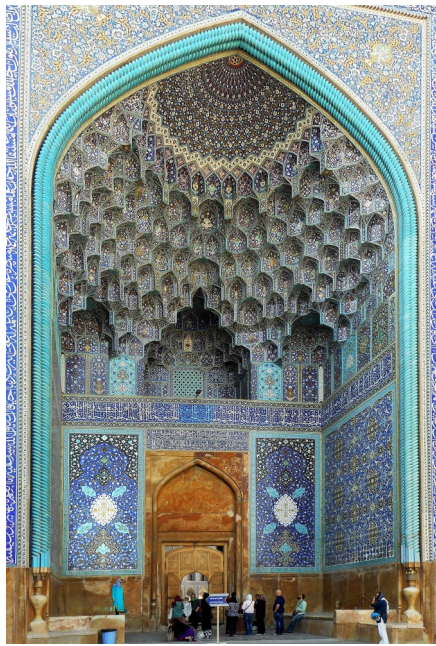
Images 5 & 6 are Audrey's



1



2



3



4



5



6

Please see page 11 for accompanying text for items 1–6

Mea culpa! The Fall Newsletter described a very successful outing by members of MCLL’s railway buffs to Kingston, Ontario, to tour that city’s railway memorabilia. BUT we illustrated it with the wrong photograph. Sorry about that, folks. Here is the happy group in mid tour.

