

MCCLL

McGill
Community
for Lifelong
Learning

Annual Report
2020-2021



McGill

School of
Continuing Studies



MCLL is for people who want to continue learning for the joy of it, in an informal setting, and who wish to share their knowledge, ideas, experience and interests with others. Based on a peer-learning concept, our small study groups are led by our volunteer moderators.





Message from The Dean

These are exciting, if uncertain, times for all of us, as we look forward to a “post-pandemic” future. But this does not mean that we have been sitting around just waiting for the pandemic to end. Quite to the contrary, over the course of the last year we, the *School of Continuing Studies* – including MCLL- have not only persisted, but risen to new heights of creativity and resourcefulness. Whether it was the pivot to remote learning, which so many of you embraced, or to reach out to residents of senior living communities such as Habitation Durocher to join the MCLL Lecture Series remotely. Not surprisingly, MCLL continues to inspire fellow members, the SCS staff and students, and the larger community. We congratulated our very own *Ana Milic* on being recognized as a “*Montrealer of the Month*” by CBC’s Let’s Go program, and celebrated at least one 100th birthday – a century of life, learning and teaching. I congratulate you on your resilience, persistence and ambitions shown in so many ways throughout the past year!

Carola Weil, PHD

Dean of Continuing Studies, McGill University



Mission Statement

Peer learning and active participation are two cornerstones of **MCLL**'s curriculum; these principles differentiate its programs from traditional university courses and classes. The form of participation varies according to the subject matter and the approach chosen by the moderator. The level of involvement can range from mere presence, to advance preparation/research, participation in group discussions and presentations to the class. Members assume collective responsibility for sharing their knowledge and experience with others. The result is a rich and dynamic learning environment.

MCLL History

The **McGill Institute for Learning in Retirement (MILR)** was founded in 1989. The name was changed in 2011 to the **McGill Community for Lifelong Learning (MCLL)** but the basic goals and objectives have remained the same. Led by volunteers and managed by a council elected from among its members, **MCLL** is a unique, dynamic, self-financing organization within the **McGill School of Continuing Studies**.





Message from *The Program Administrator*

I will look back at the past year, MCLL's second year of remote participation, as a year that brought us closer together and demonstrated what a dedicated and resilient community we are. Even though we were hoping for more in-person interaction, we were able to continue and expand our digital learning initiatives and community outreach. MCLL is ready for whatever future brings our way. Our hybrid learning model is well in place offering our members accessibility and flexibility, our moderators and members are supported by an incredible team of hosts whose creativity and resourcefulness continues to amaze us. We have reached out to our community members and other organizations whose mission and vision are in line with ours and we continue to be involved in our SCS and McGill at large community through numerous projects and collaborations. We have not forgotten our members who do not have access to technology by reaching out through a tablet lending program, phone chains and reassurances that our door will gradually reopen and that we will embrace the new normal together. MCLL continues to be my community and I am so grateful to my colleagues for their caring, their invested presence and support throughout these unprecedented times.

Ana Milic

MCLL Program Administrator



Message from *The President*

When I agreed to serve as president of MCLL, it will be no surprise to anyone that I did not anticipate a year when I would carry out all of my responsibilities online! But as all of us discovered, we were able to carry on, demonstrating our resiliency, and adapting to the technology that allowed our programs to continue and flourish. We are hopeful that we will be able to gather together in person for the AGM of 2022. However, this remains an uncertainty.

The year was not without its challenges. A hiring freeze imposed by the university made it impossible for MCLL to fill the administrative assistant position vacated in November. Work-Study students stepped up to help, but the extra workload became primarily the responsibility of our Executive Officer, Ana Milic. Finally we were allowed to hire Sally Cooper on a casual basis to work with Ana as Administrative Coordinator. Sally's employment became permanent when the hiring freeze was lifted in May. For me personally, as your president, I have benefited from their guidance and support throughout the year.

Thank you to all who contribute in so many ways to the life and well-being of MCLL. Moderators, hosts, office volunteers, committee and council members have made it possible for our learning together to continue for 'the joy of it'.

Sandra Bines

President



Making the Miracle Happen

Four times a year, our curriculum committee solicits proposals from members who wish to moderate a study group, run a workshop or give a lecture.

The proposals are then worked up and fit into a schedule which is published as our calendar for each semester.

A survey is conducted at the end of each semester which helps moderators adapt their future proposals.

Every semester our volunteer moderators come up with between 30 and 50 new proposals for study groups and lectures.



96
Study Groups



103
Lectures



755
Members



Arts, Literature, Music

- Magic Realism in Gabriel Garcia Marquez's Literature
- The Prairies and Quebec Through Their Literature
- Shakespeare at the Globe
- A History of Music through Female Composers
- The Varied Compositions of Dmitri Shostakovich
- Variety of Visual Creative Activities
- History of Western Architecture
- Etc.



History

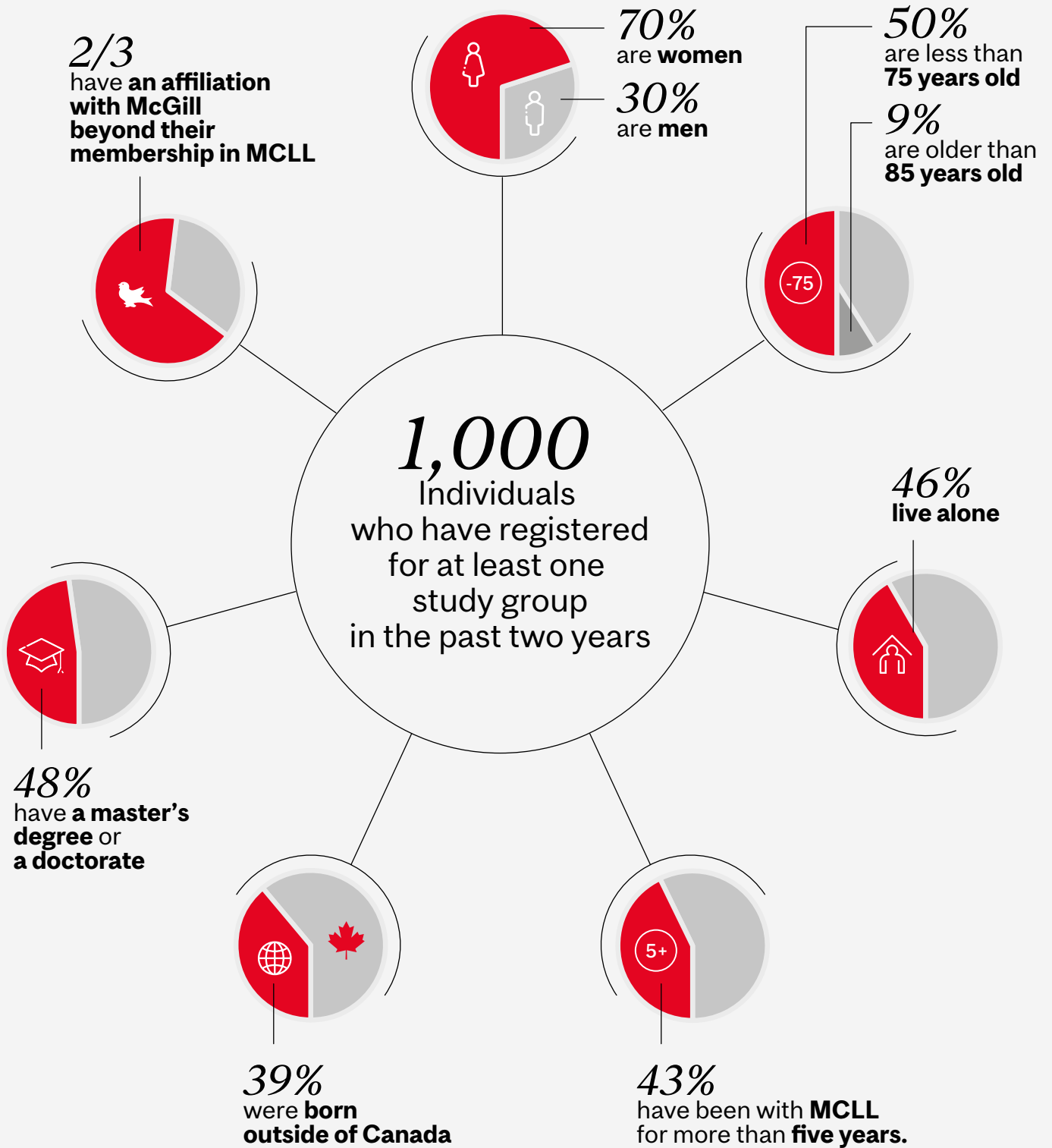
- Society, Arts and Culture of the Enlightenment
- Montreal History: The Americans among us
- Ancient Worlds: Four Cultures in Five Weeks
- The Migrant Experience
- China Then & Now
- Spain 1492
- New Evidence: The Great Viking Army Invasion
- Prelude to Downton Abbey: A History of the English Stately House
- Etc.



Current Issues

- Current Affairs Through the Eyes of the Quebec Media
- Donald J. Trump - The Home Stretch
- Global Crises
- Alberta and Québec: Similarities and Differences
- Understanding Modern Iran
- Intergenerational Learning Initiative on Africa's Development

MCLL Demographics





MCLL Office Volunteers: top left *Anne Tittler*, *Ana Milic* (Program Administrator), *Sally Cooper* (Administrative Coordinator), *Astri Thorvik*, *Mary Bialek*, *Mary Corner*, *Susan Biggs*, *Helen Forsyth*, *Nola Brunelle*, *Carole Wares*, *Averill Craig*, *Susan Purcell*, *Thea Pawlikowska*.

Volunteers Galore!

A team of office volunteers continued to answer voicemail and email messages from their own homes. Another group of tech-savvy volunteers were available to help members register for study groups and lectures each term—credit card payment only and no paper registration. The phone chain, established at the beginning of the shutdown, continued calls throughout the year—a welcome call to new members, and a check-in call to those who had not registered.



Sally Cooper: Volunteer of the year

Sally Cooper, the recipient of the *2021 Volunteer of the Year Award*, has been extremely generous about dedicating her time and efforts to **MCLL**, both as an office volunteer and as Administrative Coordinator. She was also the hostess with the mostest this past year in her role as Special Events Chair, arranging many Zoom hangouts and events for significant occasions so that members could socialize and keep in touch while they were unable to get together. To say that she has gone above and beyond for **MCLL** over six years would be an understatement. 🍷

Follow Up to *The Judith Potter Report*

Dr. Potter's report is a rich summary of the thoughts and hopes of **MCLL** members. Due to the pandemic and the resulting confinement that followed, it was challenging to establish concrete follow up to many of the recommendations.

Among the recommendations that were addressed were the following:

- Knowing that as well as the importance of learning experiences, members identified the value of social interaction and support among members, hangouts on Zoom were held monthly, organized by Special Events Coordinator, *Sally Cooper*. Break-out rooms were established for discussion on topics of interest. A holiday event was set up on Zoom in December with readings and musical performances by some of our talented members. A virtual 'Spring Fling' followed with more and more talented individuals volunteering to perform. These social online events were well enjoyed by many.
- The research data also showed that there is a need to establish a culture of giving among **MCLL** members. Gifts to the university were more likely the choice of our members, rather than gifts specific to **MCLL**. However, when members became aware of **MCLL's** needs, they responded generously. The Development Committee worked closely and collaboratively with the Advancement team at SCS throughout the year, to raise \$37,000 for **MCLL's** programs.



Dr. Judith Potter Associate Professor and Former Dean,
School of Continuing Studies McGill University

Fiona Clark *Bursary*

In order to honour the vision of *Fiona Clark*, principal founder of the **McGill Community of Lifelong Learning**, a bursary was created to provide support and encouragement to a mature learner who decides to pursue studies at the **School of Continuing Studies**.

The Second Bursary Recipient

Sara Karara was named as the second recipient of the *Fiona Clark Bursary*. A student of English language studies at the **School of Continuing Studies**, *Sara* emigrated from Egypt with her husband and two children. A teacher by training, her goal is to develop her English language skills to meet the requirements for a teaching position in Canada. Congratulations to *Sara*.



Sara Karara,
second recipient of the *Fiona Clark Bursary*.

Ana Milic *Montrealer of The Month*

Ana was named *Montrealer of the month of January* by CBC Radio 1's afternoon program, *Let's Go*. The candidates for this honour are chosen based on the positive force they represent in the community, making a difference large or small. Ana's exceptional work and dedication to the promotion of senior-led learning were highlighted in the broadcast. Bravo Ana!



Ana & Anouk

Moderators' Survey and Annual Membership report

The Planning and Membership Committee created and administered a survey of moderators with a focus on their response to the pandemic and the limitations placed on them related to online learning. Although only about one quarter of the moderators who received the questionnaire answered, the responses offered valuable information for future planning. Recruiting new moderators from our membership base is vital to **MCLL**'s peer-learning model. Co-moderating and offering technical support and training, for online study groups are among the recommendations.

https://www.mcgill.ca/mcll/files/mcll/moderator_survey_report_jan2020_v2.pdf

The committee also tabled a report on membership, highlighting trends about membership numbers, demographics and participation in study groups and lectures prior to and during the pandemic. Although there was a drop in registration early in the pandemic, membership recovered to a robust level by the winter term, very close to the numbers we enjoyed prior to the COVID shut-down.

[Download The Report](#)



Planning Ahead – *Hybrid Learning Model*

In the fall of 2020 MCLL's executive committee struck a committee to plan for a model of learning that would include both remote and in class learning. Although returning to the McGill campus was eagerly anticipated by many members, there are those who welcomed the opportunity to continue learning from the comfort of their own homes, particularly during the winter months when cold weather and icy conditions make getting around the city challenging, and risky. Others who may travel to a warmer climate look forward to continuing their learning online from afar.

The Hybrid Strategy Task Force under the leadership of *Jeff Sidel* set to work. After surveying the membership and with guidance from experts at the university, the committee's recommendation to equip all four classrooms with audiovisual equipment to allow for a combination of remote and in class learning was accepted by a special meeting of Council in March. Installation of the required equipment is to be completed in time for the winter semester (Jan 2022).

Financing this project was made possible by the generous support of the *Zellers Family Foundation* and the *Lindsay Foundation* whose gifts were earmarked for digital learning. In addition, funds from the existing *Kassie Family Endowment Fund* as well as the generous response from individual members in response to the fundraising efforts of the Development Committee, made it possible for MCLL to finance this hybrid model in its entirety.

The report of the Hybrid Strategy Task Force is posted on the website for your reference.



- 1 *Jeff Sidel* headed up the hybrid task force together with *Tim Skene*, *Martin Coles* and *Ana Milic* who played a crucial role in establishing and implementing hybrid learning strategy
- 2 MCLL classrooms will be equipped with sophisticated, echo-cancelling microphones, wall mounted cameras and lecterns with a monitor and webcam
- 3 New lectern

Hosts

MCLL was able to offer online learning throughout the year due to the introduction of ‘hosts’ to the peer-learning model, a plan put in place under the leadership of *Martin Coles*. Individuals were recruited to support lecturers, moderators and participants with technical problems, allowing those leaders to concentrate on the content of their presentations and lectures. Each moderator and lecturer was assigned a host, whose work included weekly reminders of the scheduled offering, sending the Zoom link, and most time consuming of all, helping everyone get connected in the best way possible. There is no doubt that the remote learning that was embraced by so many **MCLL** members would not have been possible without these amazing volunteers.



Susan Van Gelder set up regular meetings with the hosts, allowing for an open exchange of ideas and support for one another

Community Outreach

MCLL's community outreach efforts have resulted in several partnerships and impactful initiatives. In the past year, we have partnered up with McGill University Retiree Association (MURA), Seniors Action Quebec (SAQ), Project Changement and Yellow Door. These partnerships have resulted in joint study groups, exchange of best practices and resources and promotion of programs and activities. Plans are in place for **MCLL** and Yellow Door to collaborate on a community engagement project that will enable the residents of Habitation Durocher to join the **MCLL** Fall Lecture Series remotely. **MCLL** will livestream weekly lectures over ten weeks starting September 17, provide AV and IT equipment and volunteer staff who will help the residents join the session. **MCLL** lecturers will welcome the participants and make sure they feel part of the community. **MCLL** has also joined One Voice Coalition - an association of community organizations that serve and advocate for the English-speaking senior population of the Greater Montreal region, South Shore and Laval. We are honored to have a seat at the table and contribute to the mandate of the association.

Our community engagement efforts went beyond local initiatives. Frank Nicholson, a Toronto resident has become an active **MCLL** member, serving as a moderator and host. But more importantly he has worked closely with Martin Coles and Tim Skene in order to introduce **MCLL** members to the network of later-life learning groups (60 in all) across Canada. He has organized many online sessions for people to share their experiences, with an emphasis on learning during the pandemic.

MCLL takes special pride and joy in participating in intergenerational initiatives. As an integral part of the School of Continuing Studies, **MCLL** continues to collaborate with our favorite unit - Career Advising and Transition Services (CATS). Together, we participated in several panels and events in the past year including a celebratory National Volunteer Week. Our two units have organized a well-attended panel and produced a wonderful video in honor of our volunteers.

In these exceptional times, the need to connect with others is greater than ever. We can say with great pride, that our community outreach efforts have been fruitful, and we are looking forward to exploring new partnerships in the years to come.



Financial Report

Financial Year: 1 May 2020 - 30 April 2021

	Budget 2020-21	2020-21	2019-2020
Revenue			
Study Groups			
Spring 2020	40,800	0	40,370
Fall 2020	60,500	35,860	58,740
Winter 2021	40,700	42,350	40,370
Total Study Groups	142,000	78,210	139,480
Lectures (2020-2021)	25,500	18,600	24,090
Total Revenue	167,500	96,810	163,570
Expenses			
Salaries & Benefits	76,484	73,396	74,413
Office expenses	39,100	11,494	31,462
Overhead	33,250	15,172	44,973
Total Expenses	148,834	100,062	150,848
Fund Balance:Profit/(Loss)	18,666	-3,252	12,722

Treasurer's Report

MCLL is a volunteer based organization. Its operations are financed by way of membership fees and by charging a flat fee per lecture attended. The revenues shown are for a complete COVID year. Although some study groups and lectures were given in the Spring term, no fees were charged as the pandemic had just started and everyone was struggling to learn how to work online with Zoom. During the fall a lot of people were still hesitant to use Zoom and this was reflected in the revenues which were 58% of what was budgeted for. The winter term however saw a slight increase from the fall as well as from the budgeted number. Because everything was online during the whole year, the expenses have also been reduced by 67% with **MCLL** suffering a slight loss for the year.

Conditions should become more normal as people start attending study groups and lectures in person, beginning with the winter term of 2021-22.



Volunteers on Committees

Council: Sandra Baines (president); Jeff Sidel (vice-president), Lorne Huston (past-president); Alice Sidorow (treasurer); Susan Biggs, (Volunteer Coordinator), Nola Brunelle, (recording secretary), Martin Coles (IT); Sally Cooper (Special Events); Nina Maksymiw (Curriculum); Leslie Paris (Planning & Membership), Lesley Regnier (Newsletter); Astri Thorvik (Communications); Juliet Wait (Development).

Communications: Astri Thorvik (chair). Ros Acutt, Sandra Baines, Robert Foster, Marie Gravelle, Susan Purcell, Juliet Wait.

Curriculum committee: Nina Maksymiw (chair). Sandra Baines (ex officio), Martin Coles, Tony Frayne, Paula Friedlander, Louise Fullerton, Roger Humphrey, Denise Lord, Catherine Main-Oster, Sheila Mason, Katherine Moore, Juliet Wait, Brian Webber, Joanna White.

Development committee: Juliet Wait (chair). Richard Ruel, with the support and collaboration of Ana Milic, Jeff Sidel and the School of Continuing Studies Advancement and Community Engagement program.

IT Committee: Martin Coles (chair). Rick Jones, Frank Nicholson, Tim Skene, Susan Van Gelder.

Newsletter Committee: Lesley Regnier (chair). Noga Emanuel, Charlotte French, Sandra Frisby, Roger Humphrey, Pamela Sachs.

Office volunteers: Susan Biggs (coordinator). Mary Bialek, Susan Biggs, Sally Cooper, Mary Corner, Helen Forsyth, Anne Tittler, Astri Thorvik, Carol Wares.

Planning and Membership Committee: Leslie Paris (chair). Claire Booth, Loretta Del Bosco, Janet Hale, Peter Roberts, Elizabeth Robinson, Alice Sidorow.

Special Events committee: Sally Cooper (chair) with the support of Tim Skene.

MCLL photographer: Gordon Campey.



Hosts

Claire Booth
Cynthia Bowllan
David Rostenne
Frank Nicholson
Gordon Campey

Howard King
Jackie Cytrynbaum
Rick Jones
Kay Palkhivala
Krystyna Stewart

Martin Coles
Mary Bialek
Norm Haslam
Peter Roberts
Philip Harrison

Rick Jones
Romano DeSantis
Ronald Weinberg
Susan van Gelder
Tim Skene



Volunteers *Moderators and Lecturers*

Nii Addy	Ana Maria Klein	Nadine Salam
Nadia Alexan	Donna Kuzmarov	Freda Segal
Ruth Allan-Rigby	Irwin Kuzmarov	David Shacter
Ginette Bazergui	Constance Lavallee-Keane	Jeff Sidel
Belinda Beaton	Beverly Ann Lee	Ian Stewart Smith
Herve Benoit	Kuai Yu Leong	Raymond Stern
Peter Berry	Lanny Levine	Wendela Stier
Mary Bialek	Bernadine Mary Lewis	Peter Strobach
Leora Birnbaum	Peter Lontos	Miriam Tees
Rachel Black	Richard Lock	Denis Thompson
Marie Blydt-Hansen	Andrew Macdougall	Susan Van Gelder
Gordon Burr	Catherine Main-Oster	Juliet Wait
Jean Carriere	Michael McCusker	Philip Wait
Rameshwar Choubey	Clare McFarlane	David Webber
Martin Coles	Deborah Mercier	William Wees
Mireille Coulourides	Michael Moore	Ya-Shiung Wei
Averill Craig	Charles Munn	Robert White
Dennis Creamer	Mariana Navarro-Grau	Robert Winters
Giovanna DeSantis	Frank Nicholson	John Wolforth
Romano DeSantis	Marjorie Northrup	Alexa Ruel
Don Donderi	Gyu Oh	Angella Nabru
Michèle Dupont	John Oster	Arturo Esquivel
Philip Ehrensaft	Joyce Ostroff	Ben Eppinger
Ibtissam El Assaad	Katherine Palkhivala	Ben Sperer
Judith Ann Elson	Rosalind Paris	Beverley Ann Lee
Noga Emanuel	Elizabeth Ann Parish	Brian Webber
John Felvinci	Clifford Parr	Catherine Watson
Anthony Frayne	Badriya Raihani	Dale Bonnycastle
Malcolm Goldstein	Naomi Rankin	Debra Fisher
Colin Hudson	Horst Richter	Deena Diusy-Apel
Roger Humphrey	Peter Roberts	Dr. Therese Bouchez
Lorne Huston	Elizabeth Robinson	Eduardo Cabrera
Richard Jones	Robert Robinson	Fatima-Zahra Kerdoum
Howard King	Sidney Rosen	Frederic Wagniere



Volunteers *Moderators and Lecturers*

Frédéric Wagnière

Frederick (Rick) Staphenurst

George Lapa

Gerry Roy

Harald von Cramon

Howard Robert King

Jerry Roy

John Hobbins

John Potvin

Kay Palkhivala

Kym Taylor

Lorna Roth

Marjolaine Lalonde

Marna Murray

Mary Ann Lichacz-Karwatsky

Max Beer

Michel L. Tremblay

Morty Ellis

Muriel Herrington

Nadia Alexa

Nancy Barr

Nicole de Rochemont

Paul Leong

Pauline Bentham

Robert McDonald

Ruth Allan Rigby

Tim Ewbank

Uri Shalev

Wolfgang Schneider



List of Donors

Foundations:

S M Blair Family Foundation

Lindsay Memorial Foundation

Zeller Family Foundation

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Frank Hoffer

Gwendolyn Owens

Stephen Adams

Betty Howell

Anh Quang Nguyen

Ruth Allan-Rigby

Lorne Huston

Naomi Rankin

Sandra Baines

Louise Jolicoeur

Maria Rivas Rivero

Barrie Baldaro

Robin Joy Moszkowski

Peter Roberts

Nancy Barr

Thomas Kahn

Elizabeth Robinson

Ginette Bazergui

Carole Kapelus

Greg Rogol

Harold Bergman

Nancy Kastner

Sidney Rosensweig

Susan Biggs

Nadia Khawandanah

Anthony Rustin

Claire Booth

Adam Klein

Pamela Sachs

Thérèse Bouchez

Paul Kuai Yu Leong

Dave Schurman

Nicole Carlo

George Lapa

Annette Segal

Vanda Catalano

Paul LeBlanc

Jane Seymour Edwards

Thelma Cohen

Barbara Leiter

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Sally Cooper

Alain Lessard

Margo Sly

Evelyn Daly

Elana Levy

Raymond Stern

Romano De Santis

Rachel Levy

Greta Stethem

Loretta Del Bosco

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Sandra Duchow

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Juliet Wait

Louise Fullerton

Maura McKeon

Anthony Wait

Mark Galler

Carolyn Meleras

Doug Ward

Margaret Graham-Woloshyn

Judith Mendelsohn

Carola Weil

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Carol Miyamoto

Randi Weitzner

Nancy Grayson

Carole Molson

Stephen Whitzman

Muriel Herrington

Andre Monette

David William Sanders



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