

NEWSLETTER

LEA ROBACK FOUNDATION



Number 14, December 2016



Lea Roback (with the flowers), with members of the ILGWU (International Ladies Garment Workers Union), local 262, in 1937 or 1939
Photo: Courtesy of Jewish Public Library Archives, Montreal.

A Word from the President



*A FRESH
IMPETUS...
TO REACH
EVEN HIGHER*

For nearly a year now, the members of the Board of Directors have been busy trying to give the Foundation a fresh impetus.

With this in mind, we launched our annual fundraising campaign a few weeks ago. As you know, your donation is what enables us to provide support to women who are economically disadvantaged, but socially committed, and who want to go back to school or continue their educational pursuits. The scholarships awarded every year make it possible for many of these women to give shape to their goals.

You know all too well that the needs are great and our means are limited. So, why not consider, for example, making a monthly donation or perhaps even a bequest? All the amounts collected in this fashion or that are promised will stabilize and reinforce the Foundation's action and the continuation of Lea Roback's commitment to the right to an education as an instrument for achieving equality.

With this notion of expanding our activities still in mind, the agreement reached with *Maman va à l'école* opens up many new possibilities for us. You will see this for yourself when you read the article on our first scholarship recipients. To find out more about this organization, I invite you to visit its Web site at: (www.mamanvaalecole.lacsq.org). or its Facebook page at: (facebook.com/mamanvaalecole/).

Of course, we are also trying to diversify our funding sources. This is why we solicited a contribution from the Lise Watier Foundation, which offers financial assistance to organizations that help women go back to school or that supports young girls so that they can stay in school. Our request is currently being examined and we hope to receive a positive answer.

A fresh impetus also means thinking about the next generation. We thus welcomed, a short while ago, new members to our Board of Directors. Their participation, I am absolutely convinced, will be a source of renewed dynamism and I thank them for taking up the mantle beside us.

These arrivals also coincide, unfortunately, with some departures. Lucille Panet-Raymond, after a few years on the Board of Directors, has decided to step aside, while still continuing to participate in our fundraising committee. We thank her very warmly for all that she has done.

Ghislaine Patry-Buisson, our Vice-President of fundraising, also decided to leave the Board of Directors after a long collaboration. Profoundly attached to the Foundation, for which she has always been an exceptional ambassador, she is the one who set up our network of Partners and Great Partners. Thanks to this initiative, we have seen a significant increase in the funds that are now supporting our mission, as well as in awareness of the Foundation. Ghislaine also piloted the Foundation's 20th anniversary celebrations with determination and never counted the hours she devoted to the latter. We wish to express our friendship and sincere gratitude to her.

As you will see while reading this newsletter, which constitutes an indispensable bond with our donors, the Foundation is alive and kicking, dynamic and more active than ever. This fresh impetus is already driving us towards our 25th anniversary, which we hope will be a festive and memorable occasion. We will moreover have the opportunity to talk further about this milestone in the future.

In conclusion, on behalf of all the members of the Board of Directors, I'd like to offer my **very best wishes to you over the upcoming Holiday Season**. Here's hoping that they will be filled with joy and many moments that bring together all the friends and family who are dear to you.



Lorraine Pagé
Présidente



Let's meet the 2016 scholarship recipients

Thanks to the generosity of its Major Partners and Partners, and its many generous donors, the Lea Roback Foundation has bestowed \$33,500 in scholarship grants in 2016.

Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine

NOÉMIE BERNIER, from Gaspé, a 2014 Foundation scholarship recipient, is continuing her studies at UQÀM, in a multidisciplinary history, culture and society Bachelors degree program (HCS).

Very involved in her region fighting for women's causes and promoting the Gaspésie, she had done volunteer work at the L'Aid'Elle women's shelter and participated in the *En mémoire d'Elle* project, in co-operation with the Gaspésie Museum..

In addition, she is a member of the editorial collective that publishes the autonomous social and political magazine, *A Bâbord*, where she notably wrote an article on Marie-Thérèse Forest, a Gaspesian feminist activist. She was likewise part of the co-ordinating team that published a special issue on the Gaspésie.

She is presently thinking about doing a Masters degree in political science, once she completes her Bachelors program.



MOLLY CUMMINGS, from Fatima, on the Îles-de-la-Madeleine, is currently doing a Bachelors degree in social and academic adaptation at the UQÀR, in Lévis..

A feminist and an ecologist, she has been a regular participant in demonstrations against austerity and to promote inclusion, ever since her adolescence..

In college, she was a member of two important committees: The Green Brundtland committee and the committee on sexual consent, whose goal was "to educate the college community about this notion."

After completing her studies, she'd like to work with special needs youth..

This year, we announced the scholarship recipients on the Foundation's Facebook page. Molly's appearance was noticed on the Islands: on November 18, the local media Web site, ilesdelamadeleine.com, posted a communiqué regarding Molly, entitled "A Magdalen Island a Lea Roback Foundation recipient."



Laurentians

CÉLINE GUINDON, from Sainte-Thérèse, impressed us with her tenacity and perseverance. Since 2000, she has been taking courses at the *Maison des mots* in the Lower Laurentians, to “learn how to speak and write French.” Today, she is devoting some 20 hours per week to this endeavour.

A very committed woman, she also does volunteer work at the *Centre de bénévolat Solange-Beauchamp* and the *Maison des mots*. In addition, she acts as a companion to a woman who had a stroke and helps the latter with her shopping and medical appointments.

Céline Guidon proclaims: “I want to continue learning, because I still need to do lots more.” She’s very grateful towards the *Maison des mots*: *“The Maison des mots means a lot to me, without it, one just can't get by.”*



Lanaudière

FATIMA SARFRAZ is originally from Pakistan. She moved to Canada after getting married. She is now the mother of three young children. Notwithstanding her considerable family responsibilities, Fatima has been pursuing a Bachelors degree in psychology at Concordia University, since 2014.

In addition, she actively participates in the university's Association of Parent-Students, and does volunteer work for two organizations: The Access Centre for Students with Disabilities and Let's Talk Science (*Parlons Science*), whose mission is to educate and raise awareness about science.

During her last pregnancy, her financial situation was difficult; so she decided to take charge of her situation and go back to school: *“to get a better job, one needs a diploma that is recognized in Quebec and a good knowledge of the French language.”*

“Like all mothers, I dream about providing my children with a better life and having a respectable career”.



Eastern Townships

AKOUYO MANSANH BADOHOUN, a permanent resident, originally from Togo, now lives in the Eastern Townships with her three children, for whom she has sole custody.

With a Degree in mathematics from the University of Togo, she nonetheless had to give up teaching the subject in the Province of Quebec, as her diploma was not recognized here.

She thus reoriented herself towards nursing, and enrolled in the Cégep de Sherbrooke program, where her marks are good. The Foundation moreover granted her a scholarship last year.

“Indeed, human contact, working as a team, caregiving relationships, and the desire to serve others are values that one needs if one wishes to practise this profession.”



Even while pursuing her studies and taking care of her children, she is active in SAFRIE, an organization that provides support to refugee and immigrant families in the Eastern Townships: where she volunteers to help students with their homework, and helps young refugees and immigrants adapt to Quebec's school system..

MYRIAM LAPORTE, a Foundation scholarship recipient in 2015, is studying special education at Champlain College, in Lennoxville. She has two young children, whose custody she shares with their father. Before having children, she was involved in several organizations, including *Halte-Femmes de Montréal* and the *Fondation Samuel-Paquin*; she was notably a monitor in a French language assistance program.

“As an educational professional, she says, I will have the opportunity to make use of my colourful personality to build relationships with people and to help them improve their quality of life.”

Centre of Quebec

DEZY GUIMONT has gone through some tough times, but she's taken back control over things. Since this fall, she is doing a DCS in plastic arts and dance at the Cégep de Drummondville, a program that she began in 2012.

If arts and dance are her passions, her social commitment nonetheless takes up a lot of space in her life: besides doing volunteer work for the community kitchens in her region, she sits on the Board of Directors of the *Regroupement de défense des droits sociaux de Drummond* and doesn't hesitate to speak up at demonstrations or during press conferences. She also gives presentations on becoming and being autonomous. At the request of the Drummondville Centraide section, she delivered testimonials in several companies, , “a poignant testimonial of her life's journey to date” according to the Centraide representative..

“Community groups are like stars in our lives, until one day, we ourselves become the stars, ready to cope with life”, says the woman who would like to teach dance or perhaps even launch a youth residence.

Montérégie

A resident of Châteauguay, **ALLYAH-JADE HUNTE** is, again this year, a recipient of the Madeleine-Parent Scholarship. She is currently studying sociology and Spanish translation at Concordia University.

She has been a volunteer for Free the Children/We (Enfants Entraide). From 2007 to 2012, she volunteered to work with children at the Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre, in Little Burgundy. Today, she works there part time in a tutoring program..

Laval

MESHLEEN HANNOUN left Syria with her two children, about two years ago. She entered Canada as a refugee. Since her arrival, she has devoted a lot of energy to learning French. With a Computer Engineering Certificate from the University of Damas, she hopes to continue her

studies in this discipline. Admitted to the Université de Montréal in their Bachelors IT program, she was required however to take two preparatory sessions, which she is undertaking, as we write these lines.

“I want to build a better future for my children and I have to meet all the challenges that life presents to us.”

Montreal Area

AMINATA CAMARA has experienced some rather difficult moments in the past. However, since she has been living in subsidized housing, her marks have been improving.

She really wants to finish high school, so that she can go on to CEGEP and she would like to be able to support her mother and sister. She is currently pursuing her studies in an adult education centre that is part of the Montreal School Commission.

Aminata actively participates in the various community activities of her housing complex: helping organize events, intake, gardening workshops, and much more.

After her studies, she'd like to work with young people in a youth centre.

ALEXIS LAHORRA is enrolled in Concordia University, in communications and cultural studies, as well as Spanish; thus pursuing a double Bachelors Degree.

Very active in her milieu and in her community, she is particularly interested in raising awareness about mental health problems and in engaging in a dialogue with students regarding mental health. She has given presentations on the subject and spoken at different symposiums. Recently, she met with the Prince and Princess of Wales to exchange ideas about mental health.

A recipient of numerous awards of recognition, she is also an active participant in Latin American and Filipino student associations.

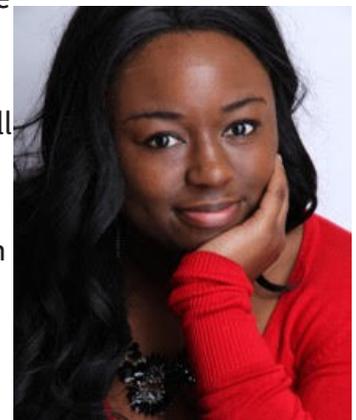
Alexis likes her university: *“Not only is the university devoted to education, but it encourages its students to become change agents, both locally and internationally.”*

KHAROLL-ANN SOUFFRANT has had an exceptional journey. A daughter of immigrants from Haiti who made huge sacrifices to enable her to go to university, she is the oldest of five children.

After earning high school and college diplomas in francophone establishments, she will be finishing her Bachelor of Social Work at McGill University, this year.

A volunteer since she was 12 years old, she has invested much time and energy into Tel-écoute/Tel-aînés, the Chaînon and the CALACS in the West Island. She was the co-host of the blog “I’m a feminist” and one of the instigators of a petition entitled “Alcohol doesn’t equal consent”..

Since 2013, she has been active in Academos Cybermentorat and responds online to young people who have questions about studies pertaining to certain



professions related to invention, amongst other things. Finally, she's one of the five finalists in the "Gens de Cœur 2016" contest". Minimally, writes Kharoll-Ann, I'm planning to complete a Master of Social Work at McGill, as of the fall 2017, on the problems of sexual assault in aboriginal communities in Canada."

Maman va à l'école

In our April newsletter, the President of the Foundation, Lorraine Pagé, announced a partnership agreement with *Maman va à l'école* (Mother goes to school).

As of last Spring, this agreement has given rise to some worthwhile results. The Foundation has awarded five \$500 scholarships to assist single-parent mothers in their endeavours to earn a first diploma. We'd like to present to you the recipients of these scholarships.

Chantal Binza, of African origin, lives in Victoriaville. The mother of a seven-year old son, she is currently enrolled in a French language course. She is very active with new arrivals, notably by collaborating with the *Solidarité Nord-Sud* group..

Marie-Soleil Gobeil, from St-Hyacinthe, is currently completing her high school education, because she'd like to become a fashion designer. She has a three-year old child, yet still manages to find the time to be involved in different school committees, including the Student Council.

The scholarship awarded to **Mérodie Charbonneau**, from Val-David, was given to her by Lorraine Pagé in person. Mérodie has a five-year old daughter. In the spring, she finished high school and

is currently enrolled in CEGEP, in a legal technician program. In high school, she was a member of the Student Council and the School Board. Her adult education endeavours, at the Centre des Cîmes, did not go by unnoticed.

Mélissa Bouchard-Parisé lives in Pabos, in the Gaspésie. A single-parent mother of a two-year old child, she also takes care of her father who is hard of hearing. She is currently completing her high school education and wants to work as an orderly afterwards. She's involved in the social committee at the La Ramille Adult Education Centre and helps run the library.



Julie Laflamme lives in Trois-Rivières. She is the mother of two daughters, an 18-year old and the other, a five-year old. She went back to school after a 10-year hiatus. She's determined to get her high school leaving diploma. While discharging her duties as a mother and as a student, she provides accommodations to her disabled aunt.

Thank you Gabriel Marchand, from *Maman va à l'école*, for providing us with the above information about these scholarship recipients.

Campagne annuelle de financement



La campagne est en cours depuis la mi-octobre. Nos plus vifs remerciements à celles et ceux qui ont déjà fait leur contribution et à celles et ceux qui le feront dans les prochains jours. Ces appuis à la mission de la Fondation permettent d'attribuer, chaque année, des bourses d'études à des femmes désireuses d'améliorer leur situation et celle de leur famille. Vous prenez ainsi le relais de Léa Roback, dont l'engagement visait l'amélioration des conditions de vie des femmes démunies économiquement.

DIFFÉRENTES FAÇONS DE SOUTENIR LA FONDATION

Par la poste ou par un don en ligne sur le site de CanaDon :

www.canadahelps.org/fr/dn/9310 ou <http://www.fondationlearoback.org/dons.htm>

Par des dons mensuels. Il suffit de joindre un chèque et autoriser la Fondation Léa-Roback à déduire le montant indiqué de votre compte bancaire. Il est aussi possible d'effectuer des dons mensuels par l'entremise de CanaDon.

En devenant Partenaire, une façon de contribuer substantiellement à la mission de la Fondation. Un don d'au moins 500 \$ correspond au titre de **PARTENAIRE**. Un don de 1000 \$ et plus correspond au titre de **GRAND PARTENAIRE**.

Par un **legs testamentaire** ou à l'occasion d'un décès, d'un anniversaire ou, par exemple, de la réception d'un prix.

*LA FONDATION APPRÉCIE
HAUTEMENT VOTRE SOLIDARITÉ.
AU NOM DES BOURSIÈRES DE LA
FONDATION, MERCI DE VOTRE
GÉNÉROSITÉ.*

Update from the Board of Directors

The Lea Roback Foundation is saying 'good bye' to two board members who have been active and important contributors to the memory of Lea.

GHISLAINE PATRY-BUISSON has been active on the board since 2001. As of 2002 she was on the Executive Committee. She has been an important contributor to the funding development of the Foundation as the lead person for the Annual Fundraising drive, the developer of our Partinariat program and an organizer of fundraising events. She will continue being an active member of the Fundraising Committee.

LUCILLE PANET-RAYMOND joined the board in 2012. She has been active on the Grants Allocation Committee and on the Fundraising Committee. She too will continue to be an active member of the Fundraising Committee..

Both Lucille and Ghislaine believe strongly in the importance of education as a key to women's ability to become independent. Their long-standing support of the Foundation, recent participation in the board, and commitment to staying engaged in the future are a testimony to their belief in the work of the Foundation. THANK YOU Ghislaine and Lucille. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

At the same time, we welcome two new members to the board.

MAROUSSIA KISHKA, joins the board as a recently retired journalist and union militant. She is inspired by Lea's profound confidence in humanity to overcome difficulties as well as the contributions of Madeline Parent and H el ene Pedneault to improve the life of women and all of humanity.

JENNIFER SPIEGEL is related to Lea Roback. Jennifer's great- grandmother (Lottie Roback) and Lea's father were siblings. Jennifer carries forward the work of Lea; with interests in creative art and media strategies in social movement and social outreach work.

It's a pleasure to welcome new skills, new ideas and new enthusiasm for the work of the Foundation to the Board. Welcome Maroussia and Jennifer.

Hundred times Lea Roback

In 2004, when we celebrated Lea Roback's centennial, the Foundation organized a day of commemoration. The program was ambitious: an exhibition of activist posters, a show with music and song, a visit by bus of Lea Roback's Montreal, an auction (that was postponed for a few weeks), the creation of a sculpture for Lea by Armand Vaillancourt, etc.

To publicize this event, Vittorio generously accepted to make a poster. In line with his usual way of doing things, he asked us to talk about Lea, above and beyond the official image: what did she like, how did she live, what characterized her action. He also asked to see photos of her, from different periods in her life.

A few days later, he showed us the poster he had created. As always, he hit the nail on the head: Lea, a woman of compassion, a woman of action, a woman alongside the rank and file, close to people.

The red background symbolizes Lea's commitment, the shoe represents the woman who was active in the trenches, who walked the picket lines with striking textile workers, the small heart symbolizes her love of people, of life and her humanity.

In 2015, this poster was chosen, along with several others, to represent Vittorio's social commitment, as part of a larger retrospective exhibition at the McCord Museum, *Montreal as seen through Vittorio's eyes*, which was presented from September 2015 to April 2016.

"Don't cover the walls with drab posters, he'd always say. Put up only one, and make it stand out!" (quoted in an article by Jocelyne Lepage, in *La Presse*, at the time of the artist's death in 2008).

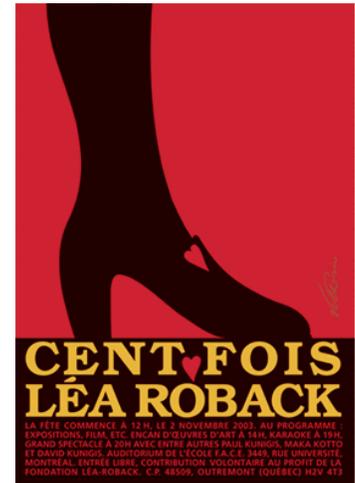
Born in Yugoslavia in 1932, of Italian parents, Vittorio Fiorucci moved to Montreal in 1951. He promptly made his home in Montreal's artistic milieu and built a reputation as a renowned poster artist and photographer. A bon vivant, generous, loyal to his friends, Vittorio passed away in 2008. Today, he is considered to be one of the most talented poster artists in the world.

News in brief

Inauguration of the Madeleine-Parent Parkrent

Le Last September 17, pursuant to an invitation from the South-West borough, the Foundation's Board of Directors attended the inauguration of the Madeleine-Parent Park.

The City of Montreal is seeking moreover to make more room for women, who are still substantially under represented in Montreal's toponymy. The Mayor of the borough, Benoit



Dorais, felt it was only normal to honour the memory of Madeleine Parent after, a few years earlier, doing so with regard to Lea Roback. In his eyes, the struggles fought by these two women are intimately tied to the industrial history of this Montreal district.

The inauguration ceremony included a presentation by the Théâtre Exaltemps, that engaged us in Madeleine's universe by reading excerpts from some of her writings and a few songs, including *La vie d'factrie* by Clémence Desrochers.

The President of the Foundation, Lorraine Pagé, drew attention, in a short speech, to Madeleine Parent's attachment to the values that she promoted all throughout her life, as much in her commitment to the trade union movement as in her personal life.

So, if you're ever in this part of Montreal, drop by Saint-Patrick Street, right next to the Atwater Market, and take a few minutes to recall the noteworthy influence that Madeleine Parent had on the evolution of Quebec society.

Josée Boileau honoured with the Hélène-Pedneault award

The Lea Roback Foundation would like to congratulate Ms. Josée Boileau, a journalist who was a Managing Editor at the *Le Devoir* newspaper. Last October 13, before a group of some 100 people, including representatives from the Foundation, Ms. Boileau received the Hélène-Pedneault award, bestowed by the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste. This prestigious award seeks to recognize the exceptional contribution of women to the advancement of Quebec society, through their commitment to the struggle to improve the situation of women.

Josée Boileau's work as a journalist, an editorialist and as a managing editor at the *Le Devoir* newspaper embodied a remarkable push in favour of greater social justice.

This Prize given to this great journalist is a richly deserved recognition of her work. In addition, it does honour to the memory of Hélène Pedneault, who was a great friend of the Foundation, and to all those very talented women that the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste strives to honour every year.

A A bountiful corn roast for the Foundation

For a second consecutive year now, the *ORCSN* has manifested its solidarity with the Lea Roback Foundation on the occasion of its annual corn roast.

This activity, organized by and for CSN retirees took place last September, in the magnificent de Lanaudière area. A random draw for the benefit of the Foundation was able to collect \$875.

Without a doubt, this was a very lovely and profitable initiative undertaken by the *ORCSN*.

The Lea Roback Foundation wishes to express its most sincere gratitude to the group.

Philanthropic Foundation Collective

The Philanthropic Foundation Collective will be holding a second public event next January 26, 2017, probably at the Grande Bibliothèque. The purpose of this meeting is to continue a reflection on the economic, social and educational inequalities that characterize our society.

Let us know if you are interested to attend this event. (info@fondationlearoback.org)

Great Partners of the Foundation

The Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ);
the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN);
the Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec (FIQ);
the Congrégation des Sœurs de Saint-Joseph de Saint-Hyacinthe;
the Syndicat des conseillères et conseillers de la CSQ, Fonds de solidarité;
Ms Micheline Dumont;
Ms Pauline Lantz;
Ms Nicole Ranger
and two donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Partners of the Foundation

The Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux (APTS);
the Association des retraitées et retraités de l'éducation et des autres services publics du Québec (AREQ-CSQ);
the Caisse d'économie solidaire Desjardins;
the Fédération autonome de l'enseignement (FAE);
the Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ);
the Fédération nationale des enseignantes et enseignants du Québec (FNÉE-Q-CSN);
the Fédération québécoise des professeures et professeurs d'université (FQPPU);
Gestion Jeannine Bouthillier inc.;
the Organisation des retraité-es de la CSN (ORCSN);
the Syndicat de l'enseignement de l'Ouest de Montréal;
the Syndicat des professionnelles et des professionnels du milieu de l'éducation de Montréal (CSQ);
Mr Martin Duckworth;
Ms Donna Mergler
and Ms Lucille Panet-Raymond

News bulletin, Lea Roback Foundation
1600 De Lorimier Street, Montreal (Québec), H2K 3W5

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Translation into English: Allen Gottheil

Co-ordination: Céline Lamontagne

Design: www.dizingdesign.com

Photos: Lea Roback Foundation, the Jewish Public Library Archives and
the scholarship recipients

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