

NEWSLETTER

LEA ROBACK FOUNDATION



No.1, October 2008

Lea Roback lived her life inspired by great ideals centering on women's rights, social justice and world peace. She always believed in education as an instrument of emancipation and freedom. On November 3, 1993, for her 90th birthday, Lea's friends and fellow activists gave her a birthday gift: a foundation dedicated to helping economically disadvantaged women pursue their studies.



Partners of the Lea Roback Foundation: Centrale des Syndicats du Québec (CSQ), Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN), Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec (FIQ), Fédération nationale des enseignants et des enseignantes du Québec (FNEEQ-CSN), Fondation Solstice, Productions Virage, and Les Sœurs de Saint-Joseph de Saint-Vallier, as well as a foundation and a religious congregation that wish to remain anonymous.

Foundation Newsflashes

Website upgrade www.fondationlearoback.org

Great news for all of you who visit our website regularly: you will soon be able to access the French and English versions of our site separately. This will make it easier to go directly to the information you are looking for, and as a bonus, the website will be getting a brand new look!

Our classic fundraising activity



Concert bénéfique
au profit de la Fondation Léa-Roback



JESSICA VIGNEAULT
chanteuse, auteur-compositeur et interprète
et Fraser Hollins à la contrebasse

Le mardi 28 août à 20 heures
THÉÂTRE DE L'ESQUISSE
1650, rue Marie-Anne Est (métro Mont-Royal)

Prix d'entrée - Contribution volontaire
Les profits serviront à constituer une bourse d'étude
pour une femme qui désire améliorer sa vie et celle de
son entourage.

Svp confirmer votre présence à
ghislaine.patrybuisson@videotron.ca

Présenté grâce à l'appui des Productions Virage Inc.

The Foundation's traditional benefit concert, which took place on August 28, 2008, was a resounding success. The evening raised a sum of \$2,000, enabling us to award an additional scholarship for 2008.

The faithful followers who attend our intimate concerts were delighted with our guest singer/songwriter and composer, Jessica Vigneault, and her accompanist, Fraser Collins, on double bass. Jessica's lovely original compositions and interpretations of jazz classics, mixed with mellow conversation over wine and cheese, made the evening a pleasant, enjoyable and effective fundraiser. The donations made by the 75 people who attended were used exclusively for the scholarship awards, as the evening's expenses (artists' fee, hall rental, etc.) were covered by two of our generous sponsors, Productions Virages and the CSQ. Once again, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks for their contribution. Next spring, we look forward to inviting you to a reading of feminist works in French and English, accompanied by music of all kinds. And we haven't excluded the idea of a slam...

More to come!

Scholarships for 2008

This year, we sent out 850 letters to various organizations and received 85 scholarship applications.

Our fundraising activities alone enabled us to offer ten scholarships. Our partners contributed the equivalent of one additional scholarship, and the Friends of the Foundation gave us a twelfth! This fall, we will not be holding our usual scholarship awards ceremony. This is the price we have to pay for our success in other regions: only two scholarship recipients were from the Greater Montreal region, and it wasn't possible to have all the others travel to Montreal.

Fresh faces on the Board

The Lea Roback Foundation's Board of Directors is pleased to welcome three new members who are well-known in community and union circles: Rivka Augenfeld, Danielle Casavant and Frances Ravensbergen.

Rivka Augenfeld, a former President of the TCRI (Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes), is also active in the Jewish community.

Danielle Casavant is a legal consultant in the Labour Relations Department of the CSQ (Centrale des syndicats du Québec).

Frances Ravensbergen is a founding member and sits on the coordination committee of COCo (Centre for Community Organizations), an organization that works primarily with English-speaking, bilingual and ethno-cultural community organizations.

The 2009 Campaign will be a big one

As of November of this year, our appeals to individuals will be reaching their peak. At the start of 2009, we'll begin our campaign with unions, various organizations and religious communities involved in education. We hope to top last year's success.

We are immensely pleased to announce that Clémence Desrochers has agreed to be our spokesperson for the 2008-2009 fundraising campaign.

Lea Roback news

Three organizations have requested permission to reproduce photographs of Lea.

La constante progression des femmes, a brochure published by the Conseil du statut de la femme, republished in honour of the Conseil's 35th anniversary, soon to be available through the publications section of their website (<http://www.csf.gouv.qc.ca/>)

D'hier à demain manuel B, published by Chenelière Éducation

The Bibliothèque nationale du Québec included a photograph of Lea Roback in its exhibit entitled *Ils ont dit... Moments choisis des archives de Radio-Canada, in 2008.*



And let's not forget the inauguration of the Lea Roback Pavilion at Cégep Marie-Victorin in Montreal in 2006. The Pavilion was named after Lea, thanks to the efforts of Charles Lemieux, a friend of the Lea Roback Foundation.

(Charles Lemieux and Madeleine Parent, the day of the pavilion's inauguration.)

Death of a Friend of the Foundation

It was with great sadness that we learned this summer of the death of Vittorio Fiorucci, who, with his usual generosity, created the fabulous poster for the commemoration of Lea's 100th birthday, in 2003.



2008 Scholarship Recipients

We would like to reiterate our congratulations to:

Bénigne Kaniambo, 32, of Sherbrooke

Originally from Burundi, Bénigne had to leave her country after losing her husband during the war. She was pregnant at the time, traveling first to China where she had her baby and then on to Japan, before arriving in Canada as a refugee.

She is one of the founders of Femmes Solidarité de Sherbrooke, an organization that works to facilitate immigrant women's integration in the community.

Bénigne is studying to obtain her high school diploma.

Mélissa Masson, 26, of Saint-Jean-de-Matha, in the Lanaudière region

Mother of a five-year-old, Mélissa is active at the Centre Au Coeur des femmes, where she has held various positions since 2006. She also takes part in concerted actions organized with a number of local community organizations.

Hoping to acquire a trade and provide a better life for her child, Mélissa plans to finish her secondary studies and develop her skills in secretarial work.

Geneviève Nadeau, 27, of Saint-Nicolas, Lévis, in the Chaudière-Appalaches region

Geneviève has participated in a number of initiatives to encourage women to take up non-traditional work and to fight prejudice in this sphere.

After working for several years in pig production, Geneviève went back to school in 2006 to study construction equipment mechanics. She is continuing her studies at the Centre de formation de Saint-Romuald to obtain an Attestation of Vocation Specialization (AVS) in diesel engine mechanics. This is a leading sector where she should be able to find steady employment and better working conditions.

Clémentine Uwineza, 48, of Sherbrooke

Prior to arriving in Sherbrooke as a refugee in 2006, Clémentine lived first in Rwanda where she worked as a nursing assistant and then in Cameroon, before being forced to leave in 1994. She is a member of Femmes Solidarité de Sherbrooke, an organization that facilitates immigrant women's integration.

Clémentine is studying to become a beneficiary attendant, thereby updating her skills as a nursing assistant and paving the way to quickly receive the qualifications she needs to help her earn a living.

Josiane Dugas, 32, of Nicolet

Josiane is the mother of a seven-year-old child, and has been on the Board of Directors of the Collective des femmes de Nicolet since 2003. Before that, she was a member of a popular education organization, the CFA, in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu.

She is studying social work at Cégep de Trois-Rivières to earn her college diploma (DEC). She thus hopes to redirect her career, thanks to her involvement in community work for a number of years, and to readily find work.

Priscilla Gilpin, 31, of Chisasibi, Cree Community, in Abitibi

A member of her community's group of First Nations women and mother of a 13-year old boy, Priscilla is deeply committed and works to raise awareness on the topic of sex education in schools and the problems of drug and alcohol addiction.

She is studying social science at Cégep Vanier to earn her college diploma (DEC) and subsequently go on to study psychology at McGill University.

Priscilla would like to work as a professional psychologist with Aboriginal victims of sexual assault, to design appropriate treatment programs and offer young people a positive role model.

Roseline Cishesa Manta, 29, of Sherbrooke

Originally from Congo, Roseline was a nurse-midwife in Bukavu in 2003. The mother of four children (the father of whom is also a student), Roseline is involved in an organization offering support to immigrant refugee families in Estrie (SAFRIE - Soutien aux familles réfugiées immigrantes en Estrie).

She is pursuing her nursing studies at Cégep de Sherbrooke to earn her college diploma (DEC) so that she can practise her profession as a registered nurse here in Québec. Last year, Roseline received an initial scholarship from the Lea Roback Foundation in order to begin her studies.

Sylvie Roy, 45, of Saint-Rémi, Montérégie region

Sylvie's social commitment particularly involves young people, and she has coached soccer for more than ten years.

In spite of a visual impairment, she attended regular high school classes and went as far as Secondary IV. When her children (who are now 22 and 23 years old) started school, Sylvie began to think about fulfilling her own dreams of going back to school. She received her high school diploma in 2003 and began to earn her college diploma (DEC) in social work at Cégep Marie-Victorin, in Montreal. She plans to continue her studies in social work at the university level.

Roan Attasha Higgins, 29, of Montreal

Active in organizations in the Black community in Lasalle and Côte-des-Neiges, Roan has worked with children and teens in the neighbourhood and with individuals who have physical handicaps. After serving as a youth worker in the schools, Roan realized that she wanted to help young people discover and give greater expression to their creativity. To this end, she enrolled in a B.A. programme in psychology and human relations (with a minor in psychology) at Concordia University. She plans afterward to complete her Master's degree in psychology at McGill. Roan would eventually like to open a centre focused on youth creativity.

Caroline Lafrance, 32, of Rimouski

The mother of a seven-year-old child, Caroline is active in her university's and her department's student association. Earlier on, she sat on the Board of Directors of various community organizations in Quebec City and worked as a volunteer for some (re. information on breastfeeding, resources for parents).

She is studying to earn her B.A. in social psychology at Université du Québec à Rimouski, and plans to do a Master's degree in ethics, as well as a short programme in management of community organizations, also at UQAR. She loves working in the community sector and feels useful there, and she is studying so as to be better prepared to deal with the issues and challenges facing community organizations today.

Roxanne Mailloux, 23, of Québec City

Roxanne's social involvement is in the sphere of literature (as head of a literary review) and the theatre (as a Board member).

She was raised by her mother, who had to rely on social assistance. Roxanne is the first one in her family to further her schooling, which she has managed to do while working part-time. Through literature and theatre, she hopes to get people thinking and develop greater awareness, and "silence those who believe that children on welfare aren't worth anything". She is doing her B.A. in literature at Université Laval.

Valérie Villeneuve, 34, of La Baie, in Saguenay

Valérie is active at the Maison des familles de La Baie, and has facilitated family communication workshops. A mother of four, Valérie shares custody of her children with their father. She formerly studied circus arts, and plans to use the circus as a tool for working with young people in distress. To that end, she first completed a certificate in youth intervention. She is currently working towards a B.A. in social work at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi.

A Review of the 2007 Scholarship Recipients

Soumia Bellali, of Montréal

Wafaa Bennane, of Montréal

Roseline Manta Cishesa, of Sherbrooke

Émilie Décosse, of Saint-Hubert

Véronique Dumoulin, of Saint-Alexandre

Émilie Forand St-Arnault, of Saint-Hyacinthe

Sabrina Fowlkes, of Montréal

Mélissa Lizotte, of Québec

Diane Ouellet, of Rivière-du-Loup

Valéry Potvin Lessard, of Sainte-Adèle

Paula Roque, of Montréal

Stéphanie Sylvain, of Montréal

Sandra Trudel, of Ville-Marie



Scholarship awards ceremony in November 2007, recipients and board members



Véronique Dumoulin, student in Recreational Therapy - Intervention Techniques, at Cégep de Rivière-du-Loup, recipient of a Lea Roback Foundation scholarship. (Cégep de Rivière-du-Loup website, November 21, 2007)

Newsletter, Lea Roback Foundation

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