

In Tiohtià:ke (Montreal) on unceded Kanien'kehá:ka [Mohawk] territory

**Le Centre communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques**



**OCTOBER IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

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**Qu'en pensez-vous? What do you think?**

- Let us know your thoughts about the bulletin.
- Que pensez-vous de notre journal?
- We encourage you to send in your stories and articles for upcoming newsletters in any language by the 25th of every month to:

• sawccbulletin@gmail.com  
 • Écrivez - nous à  
 sawccbulletin@gmail.com



**ARETHA FRANKLIN, American Singer**  
 "Queen of Soul" (1942-2018)

Aretha Franklin

## CENTRE Hours and Accessibility:



### Centre Hours/heure d'ouverture

Our centre is open 9-5 every weekdays. (Mon-Fri)

But there is a possibility of taking an appointment (at least a week in advance) in the evening from 6-8 pm on a Thursday

The Centre is wheelchair accessible

Le centre est accessible aux fauteuils roulants.

**Volunteers —** If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Juvaria (Ext. 104 or juvaria@bellnet.ca) to coordinate a meeting!

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

**Next Executive Council Meeting: Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 6pm.**

**All are welcome.**

**SAWCC STAFF (Ghazala, Ambika, and Juvaria) at a demonstration for the provincial elections, in front of Radio Canada building before the candidates' speech in French on the 13<sup>th</sup> of Sep.**



### **SAWCC Bulletin -- submission guidelines:**

SAWCC members are encouraged to send submissions to the Bulletin, to share items of interest with other members. Send submissions to: sawccbulletin@gmail.com

If using the post send to: SAWCC Bulletin, 1035 Rachel est, Montreal, Quebec, H2J 2J3

Submissions should reach by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Submissions may be original work or reprints (with permission) and can include -- art, reports, photos, information, opinion pieces, short fiction, poetry, announcements, recipes, etc.

Publication criteria are guided by SAWCC's commitment to not negatively discriminate on the basis of physical and mental ability, religion, colour, nationality, age, sexual orientation and identity, caste, and class. Publication is further guided by the feminist ethos of sisterhood, and principles of intersectionality\*, equality, equity, and transparency. As well, material that may compromise confidentiality of individuals without their consent will not be published.

SAWCC reserves the right to select, reject or edit submissions. When authorship identified, items reflect the views of the authors.

\*Intersectionality -- the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, that create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.



**CENTRE NEWS: Juvaria Yasser, Gestionnaire du centre/ Centre Manager**

Unlike many women's centres, SAWCC was opened throughout the summer. We hosted two summer camps this year; one was our regular camp for children aged 5-14 years and the second was our new initiative for young girls aged 12-17 years. Both camps ran successfully and were enjoyed by the campers.

The centre's French and English language classes started (For Oct's bulletin) on the 24<sup>th</sup> of Sep. We are offering level 109-1 which is the first level for beginners. The centre also thanked our volunteers of the years 2017-2018 officially during our volunteer appreciation lunch where volunteers played a few ice breakers and had a chance to meet each other in a relaxed atmosphere.

The centre and its workers were very involved with the other centres' campaign for the provincial elections and participated in demonstrations around the city and in front of the Radio Canada building protesting against funding cuts, health system and increasing transport costs.

October is the month for our Open House and we are opening our doors on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October to meet and greet people and tell about us and services given by other women centres like us. At this open house occasion, we are sharing our new logo with our service users, partners and allies. We would be celebrating Diwali by having our monthly potluck for women on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October. We look forward to seeing more of our members, friends, allies and partners at the centre this fall.

***We thank the keepers of this land.***

***We recognize that this place that we are using as a meeting place tonight, was also a meeting place for many Indigenous peoples during and long before colonization.***

***We acknowledge the violence that has taken place on this land and to the people of this land who were its caretakers long before colonizers arrived here.***

***We recognize the huge injustices, violence, and pain that Indigenous peoples of this land have suffered and continue to suffer as a consequence of ongoing settler-colonialism.***

***We recognize that we need to show our support and solidarity with Indigenous peoples in defense of their lives, their lands, and their struggles to live in dignity, and justice.***

***We are thank the keepers of this land, and search for blessings tonight as we explore an issue that touches so many marginalized people that are living here today.***

***We acknowledge that we are exploring the topic of mental health on lands that belong to people who are struggling mentally, physically and spiritually as a result of colonialism, white supremacy and cultural genocide.***

***We acknowledge that our well-being is tied to the well-being of all peoples, but also of our planet, and the health of our air, waters, soil and all living things.***

***About three weeks ago, a mother orca whale carried her dead calf for almost 17 days, before finally letting it go. This mother shows us the death of her baby, perhaps to make us face what we have done to the oceans, to its home, to this earth, and to all children of this earth.***

***While scientists marvel at this mother's ability to grieve, this society continues to shame deep feelings of pain, grief and rage. Continues to shame those who stand up for the land, human beings and living things that we are connected to. Ignores the real messages behind these expressions.***

***So let us feel tonight, in resistance to systemic oppression. Let us understand, instead of marvel, diagnose, label, or silence. Let us stand stronger, more whole, more tall. And when we doubt our capabilities, only hold each other's hands tighter.***

***Let us understand the raw truths we share, how they are all connected, and ultimately point to how we are not alone. We belong to this earth. We belong to each other. And we must fight for each other.***



## **SAY (South Asian Youth) Collective NEWS: Harleen, SAY Co-ordinator**

### **Funding:** *CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SAY Collective!*

The SAWCC youth program received \$21, 000 from the Canadian Women's Foundation through their Annual Violence Prevention Grants 2018-2019. With this new grant funding, we will be able to run our proposed program called: "The IMPACT Program: Our Stories Our Way".

Description of the project: The IMPACT Program: "Our Stories Our Way" project will provide high school girls with a safe haven in order to share and listen to each other's experiences of gender-based violence, racism, and mental health. This bilingual program will create a support network for the girls to seek encouragement, gain education on violence and oppression, and develop the tools they need to become allies and amplify each other's voices. The project will provide an outlet for what is learned and shared through the facilitation of a digital storytelling and zine project, which will touch on the issues discussed using oral storytelling, spoken word and other creative storytelling methods (such as music and songwriting). The participants will release a short film and share their zine publication with the larger community at the end of the project.

As funding has always been a need for our youth programming, we are grateful for the Canadian Women's Foundation, and all the help that went into preparing for this grant application. We look forward to running an exciting year of girls programming!

### **Events and Activities:**

In October 2018, our youth programming is officially in full swing! Here is a list of what we are offering this Fall, with the possibility for new events and projects to arise throughout the semester!

- **IMPACT Program at Laurenhill Academy:** A safe space for dialogue, artistic expression and skill-sharing among young girls. This program consists of monthly educational workshops, on topics like mental health, racism, gender stereotypes, sexuality, and media representation. It is a space for learning the skills to support each other, and create safe and enriching spaces for ourselves. This will also be the base camp for the project, "Our Stories Our Way", funded through the Canadian Women's Foundation
- **Dîner des Filles (Robeval):** The Dîner des Filles started in 2015 and continues to offer a space where the girls build confidence and express issues that affect them through the filmmaking and art.
- **Club de Filles (Lavoie):** The Club de Filles has been a space for engaging in art and discussion in a nurturing environment.
- **Uncensored Chai:** A weekly support space for young South Asian women ages 17-30 years old. This space has become a place where young women come together to share their struggles and life experiences, and connect with each other to provide emotional and moral support and a space for venting. It is also a space where members share their plans for projects, and find others who want to collaborate. Time: Every Thursday at 6:00 – 7:30 PM Location: 2110 Mackay Details: An informal, drop-in, peer-based support group, facilitated by our Youth Programs Coordinator. Chai and snacks always provided. New members always welcome, no registration required.
- **Film screenings:** The South Asian Youth (SAY) Collective organizes semi-regular film screenings that touch on subjects relevant to the struggles and issues that face South Asian youth and people of colour. The SAY Collective celebrates Women's History Month: October 27th 2:00 - 4:00 PM. Open discussion and sharing on the topic: Women's Courage and Survival during Global Crises. This is an INTERGENERATION event: For all **PEOPLE OF COLOUR!** ! Participants are encouraged to bring stories, poetry or photographs of women who have fought/endured/survived during any moment of history. For more information, please contact [sawccyouth@gmail.com](mailto:sawccyouth@gmail.com).
- **The Poetry Harvest:** A public event to celebrate harvest season, that will also be a fundraiser for a poetry series for women and non-binary people of colour called Unravelling in Rhymes re-starting in January. Event will take place on November 3, 8 PM at Le Cagibi (6596 St Laurent Blvd)

20 October is the 20th death anniversary of MILIA ABRAR.

Milia, a young Montreal student was brutally murdered in the washroom of the chalet of Angrignon Park, in October 1998.

To date her murderer walks free. At SAWCC we have worked to get justice for Milia. The revelations that have come out as a result of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, confirm what we believe in terms of systemic marginalization, including with state justice systems. Apart from this, our concern is with certain sections of the community that underplayed her murder, and implied by their public pronouncements that she was responsible for her fate; a young woman who did not stay within the confines of respectability as defined by them. For us, the "Justice for Milia" campaign is a reminder of the dangers faced by young women in the community; it also represents an on-going commitment to end all patriarchal violence, even when masked by the veneer of 'culture'.

[Pictures attached are from the vigil on the 10th anniversary of Milia's murder, organized by SAWCC at Angrignon]



## Condolences



It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of **Sivaruby Shanmugathan**, sister of our dear team member (also SAWCC member), Sivambikai Sivamoorthy (Ambika). Sivaruby died on the 20th of October 2017 in Australia, leaving behind two daughters. She was 56 years old when she passed away peacefully with her daughters, her only brother, her sister, and her family who had been there for her throughout her illness, her friends and well wishers beside her hospital bed. Her first death anniversary is being commemorated on 8<sup>th</sup> November (according to the Hindu calendar). We at SAWCC extend our deepest sympathies and support to Ambika and her family at this time. *[Dear members, we regret not sharing this with you last year, but our Bulletin has been in hiatus till now. Ed.]*

It is also with deep regret that we inform you that our dear member, Maria Brown, lost her husband, Dr. John Frederick Chrome, on Saturday, August 25, 2018. He was 64 years old. Our heartfelt condolences, Maria and to Ryan and Meera (who you brought to SAWCC since toddlerhood) and your extended family.

### VISITATION AND RECEPTION

DATE: Friday, October 5, 2018

TIME: 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. including reception

WHERE : Collins Clarke MacGillivray White Funeral Home

ADDRESS: 5610 Sherbrooke Street W., Montreal

TELEPHONE: 514-483-1870 (for the funeral home)





## REMEMBERING Madeleine Parent (1918-2012): Canadian union activist



Madeleine Parent was born in Montreal in 1918. While boarding at the Villa-Maria Convent, she could not help but notice the enormous difference between the treatment of the girls employed as servants, and that of the boarders, such as herself. Later, she was known to say: "I simply could not accept that". The young girl thus prepared to face the challenge of her life; the battle against social injustice.

Her life of militancy began at McGill University, where she studied sociology. At the time, social classes were divided into two groups: "Fraternities" and "Sororities", which were reserved for the sons and daughters of well-to-do families; and the "others". Madeleine Parent became involved as a militant within the "Canadian Students Assembly", in an effort to make study bursaries available to the children of low-income families.

After completing her studies, the quest to improve the living conditions of workers - and especially female workers - became the focal point of her life. Union activism was the primary tool she used to bolster her efforts in this regard.

In 1942, she headed the unionization movement for Dominion Textile plants in Valleyfield and Montreal. A few years later, a strike broke out and entire families became involved in the union rights movement. On many occasions, Madeleine Parent displayed courage, leadership and determination. She faced daunting adversaries and fought a constant battle, often against the unions themselves. In fact, the textile industry employed mostly women, and international unions tended to frown on the unionization of such "disorganized groups". Her worst enemies remained the clergy and the government. She became the sworn enemy of Maurice Duplessis, who publicly accused her of being a communist. In the years that followed, threats towards her increased, and she was arrested on five occasions. In 1948, Duplessis even managed to have her convicted for seditious conspiracy. Throughout these battles, Madeleine Parent and the striking workers stood their ground. Their efforts were rewarded in 1946 when more than 6 000 cotton workers succeeded in forming a union.

In 1952, however, Quebec workers were betrayed by their international union, which signed an agreement with Dominion Textile reflecting only the requirements stipulated by Duplessis. This betrayal made the need for local unions clear. Madeleine Parent was one of the founding members of the Canadian Council of Unions, dedicated to repatriating unions having American allegiances. Her determination and patience paid off. In 1968, 70 percent of union workers in Canada contributed to American unions, whereas in 1998, that rate had fallen to 30 percent. Madeleine Parent retired from the union movement in 1983, although she did not give up the quest that guided her throughout her career, and in particular she maintained her commitment to women. She was a founding member of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, where she represented Quebec for eight years. She actively participated in various committees and several activities, for example, committees for the defence of the rights of Aboriginal women, and the Women's March Against Poverty organized by the Fédération des femmes du Québec (FFQ) in 1995. In the FFQ, Madeleine worked actively to open it up to women belonging to minority communities. And it is thanks to her efforts that SAWCC became a member of the FFQ, as a result of which, over the years 3 SAWCC members (Mela Sarkar, Samantha Chew-Quinn, Dolores Chew) have served on the Board of the FFQ and have worked to make it more inclusive and intersectional.



## October Events at SAWCC and in Montreal

*October is WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH at SAWCC*

This year, the **CENTENARY of MADELEINE PARENT**  
we remember Madeleine and her many contributions.

**Panel presentation:  
Friday 26th October  
6pm  
at SAWCC**



parrainée par le Fonds Hélène Rumak

### Objectifs de la Conference:

Donner de la formation et de l'information aux résidents, à leurs représentants, à leurs familles, aux bénévoles ou leurs proches aidants — avec la participation des milieux des soins et de la communauté – avec des approches innovatrices et pratico-pratiques pour les aider à :

Promouvoir l'amélioration de la qualité de vie des résidents et promouvoir leur bien-être

Promouvoir une meilleure compréhension des besoins des résidents

Permettre une meilleure navigation dans les instances du réseau public des centres d'hébergement

Promouvoir le respect des droits des résidents et les moyens de les faire valoir dans le quotidien

## SAWCC ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER 2018

DATE & DAY	NAME OF ACTIVITY
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	<i>Open House- Introducing SAWCC &amp; other Women's centres</i>
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<i>Info session: Tennants' Rights Confirmed</i>
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<i>Info session &amp; discussion: Winter preparation</i>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	<i>Droit des locataire, Augmentation de loyer Info Session: Housing- Low Income, Increase in rents</i>
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<i>Info Session: Family Budget, banking &amp; Saving</i>
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<i>Diwali Potluck</i>



**Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques**

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37 years of sisterhood, strength, struggle and success 1981-2018

[www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca](http://www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca)



## October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Open House	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Tenant's Rights	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Winter Preparation	17	18	19 EC meeting	20
21	22	23 Housing	24	25	26 Diwali Potluck	27
28	29	30 Budgeting	31			

### Membership Renewal

You may renew your SAWCC membership to ensure you get all the mailings and can participate fully in the organization.

Changes to your information (address, phone number, etc. email, etc.)? Download the membership form from our website, insert the correct information and send it along with your membership dues.

<http://www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca/EN/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Membership-form.pdf>

Please mail cheque to: SAWCC, 1035 Rachel est, Montréal, Qc., H2J 2J5.

Make cheque payable to: "South Asian Women's Community Centre".

Indicate in the note section: "membership".

Making a donation to SAWCC at the same time? Donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax-deductible receipt (for 2018 tax year). If including a donation indicate as well the amount towards "donation".

#### Membership dues:

\$15.00 (for salaried)

\$7.00 (for non-salaried)