



AUBERGE MADELEINE

A shelter for homeless women



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*All stories have an end
But in life each ending
Signals a new beginning*

—Christian Bobin

Good-bye

I have made the decision to take my retirement this Fall; and it has been one of the hardest choices I've ever made. For me, during these last 31 years, Auberge Madeleine has been much more than a job.

I regret leaving behind many exceptional people with whom I crossed paths during my journey: an impressive team of workers with the courage of their convictions to share community values and in the practicing of feminist intervention, participants who never cease to amaze me. I was also very fortunate to have the support, as the managing director, of a Board of Directors who had the mission of Auberge Madeleine at heart. And this includes thousands of volunteers who improved the mission of the Auberge by their own significant contribution.

I rest assured in my departure from the Auberge as everything is going for the better. I leave my duties with pride when thinking of the projects completed over the years for and with the women.

I know the Auberge will be in good hands with the new director, Mélanie Walsh.

Finally, I will always be a friend of Auberge Madeleine.

Micheline Cyr



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AGM 2018

The Annual General Meeting of Auberge Madeleine was held on June 20. The 31 people in attendance appreciated the presentation of the financial report by the auditor, Karine Labelle, as well as the annual report given by several team members.



Significant Statistics for the Year 2017 – 2018

Within the realm of lodging, 264 women were welcomed within 358 stays this year (101% occupation rate). 106 more vulnerable women benefitted from 202 accompaniments by a counsellor.

We noted that half the residents were over 50 years old, a tendency continuing to endure in recent years; and knowing that homelessness accelerates at least ten years prior to the appearance of illnesses related to old age, this portrait is worrisome.

The problems of mental health and violence endured ravage most of the residents. More than 20% of the women welcomed at the shelter are refugees or immigrants coming from 30 different countries.

271 ex-residents can count on Auberge Madeleine for post-lodging help. 479 participants, of which 143 were residents or ex-residents, partook in 118 artistic and theme workshops

Unfortunately more than 6,500 refusals for help were registered—a sad record we share with other women's shelters.

Board of Directors 2018 – 2019

The majority of Board members have continued or renewed their mandate with the exception of Mrs. Adélie Bellemarre. The Board of Directors welcomes Valérie Métivier who was elected to the Board at the AGM in the role of staff representative.

I am pleased to advise below the members of the Board of Directors of Auberge Madeleine who are all good-hearted, excellent people

Ana Maria Seifert, President; Diane Buteau, Vice-president; Hugo St-Laurent, Treasurer to replace Robert Goyer; Patricia Middleton, Secretary; Johanne Belle-Isle, Marie Jacob, Sophie Bisson and Valérie Métivier, Directors.



Farewell Robert



It is with a great deal of sadness that I advise you of the death of Robert Goyer on June 28th. Volunteer, member of the Board of Directors and Treasurer of Auberge Madeleine, Robert was much appreciated for his involvement and his capabilities.

Right from the very start at my first encounter with Robert 22 years ago, I was immediately impressed with his charisma and his kindness. At that time, he was head of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Montreal since 1994 and was seeking a new commitment in light of his pending retirement. What good fortune for Auberge Madeleine that Robert's choice landed with our organization. Throughout the years, he gave heart and soul to the feminist cause; he immersed himself in support of some of our major projects with contagious enthusiasm and no bounds.

For Robert, nothing was impossible! One of his favourite quotes shows this so vividly: "Some people see things as they are and say why? I dream things that never were and say, why not?" (George Bernard Shaw)

It was an immense pleasure to work with Robert, a man who was receptive, generous, passionate, courageous, rigorous, cheerful, with a mischievous smile, and irresistible.

He was of great support to me during all these years, at each challenge that I had to face and above all, for each dream that I wished to accomplish for the Auberge. Robert was always there for us. I am going to miss him terribly as, I would guess, will so many with whom he crossed paths. He was a true force of nature that marks your entire life.

—Micheline



Thanks to you, our faithful donors

At these difficult times when female homelessness is becoming more extensive in Montreal, when demands for service at Auberge Madeleine do not cease to grow, we wish to thank you, our faithful donors, for your continued support of our mission. This crucial support allows us to lodge more than 250 women every year and offer support to almost 300 women to help maintain their stability in lodgings and to face up to obligations they meet along the way towards their well being.

Your gift
makes a
difference

\$50

A woman is fed for a month.

\$75

Public transportation is offered to residents without income for one week.

\$125

Thirty women have access to hygiene and pharmacy products for a week.

\$300

Thirty women are fed for a week.

Once again, on behalf of the women you have helped during the year, thank you very much for your faith in Auberge Madeleine.

Movement Workshops: Corps-refuge (bodies as safe havens)



A workshop

With much happiness, a profound knowledge, sincere curiosity and benevolence I lead workshops in movement for the residents and ex-residents of Auberge Madeleine, accompanied by my colleague, Miori.

As a contemporary dance artist, I am interested by the body's memory, the state of physical sensations, the overall body being. I want dance and intervention to meet up. The workshops started in 2016 and have carried on regularly through to this summer.

The proposed exploration and improvisation of movement calmly allows the discovery of one's body, to give confidence and redirect it towards softness and pleasure. The workshops can accommodate twenty different women.



Laurence et Miori

They told me they had discovered the tools and exercises with which to practice at home themselves by recalling my instructions. They also mentioned appreciating the power to express themselves other than by speech.

In the space of a few hours, they touched the breathtaking force of creation by movement, by dance as an instrument of change.

Together, we are beginning to mold bodies as *corps-refuges*.

—Laurence

About this publication

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Our needs

Slippers, pyjama bottoms and underwear (sizes L – XL)

Deodorant and razors

Bedding for single and double