

NEWSLETTER

LEA ROBACK FOUNDATION

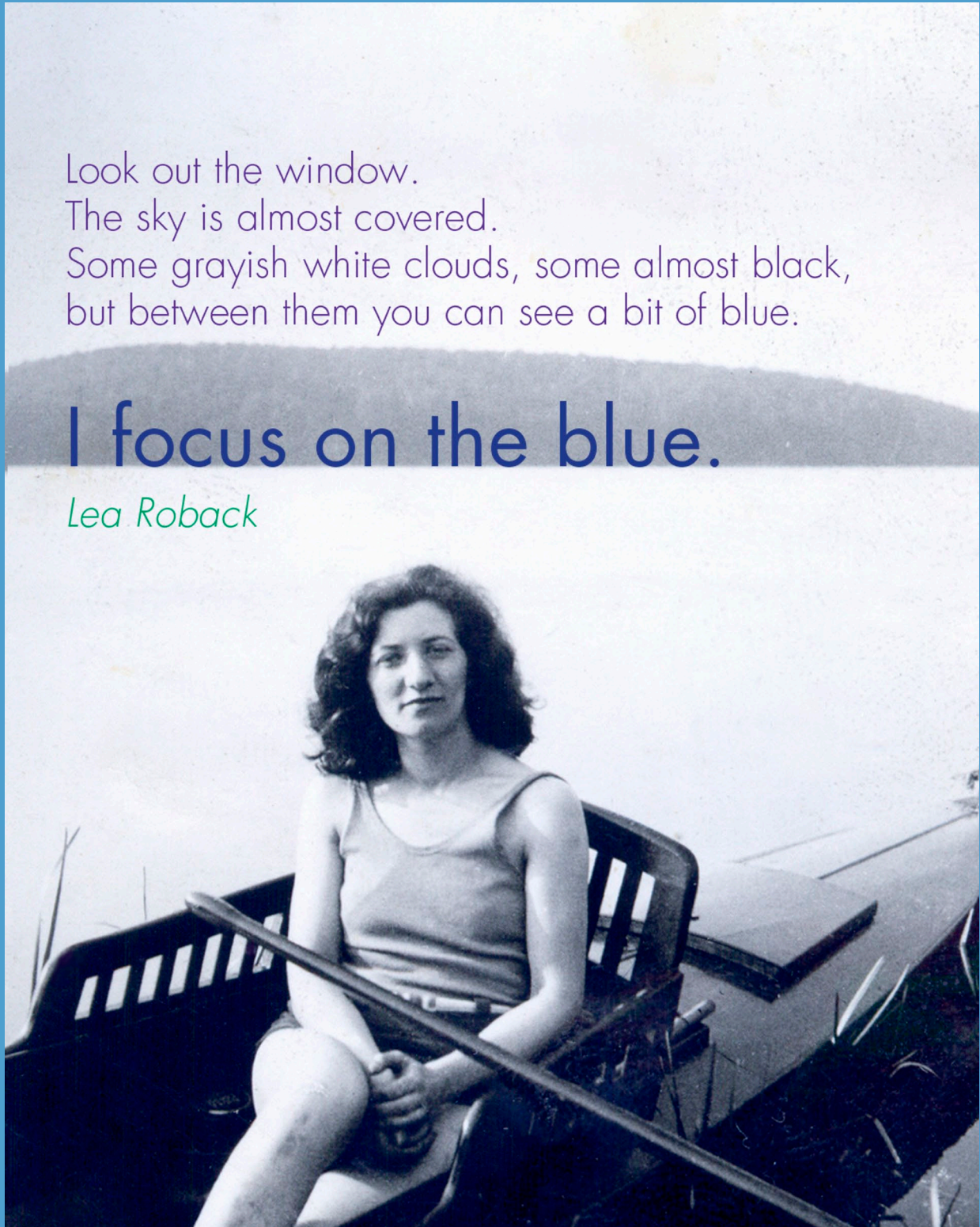


Number 19, April 2019

Look out the window.
The sky is almost covered.
Some grayish white clouds, some almost black,
but between them you can see a bit of blue.

I focus on the blue.

Lea Roback



A word from the President

“Spring is in the air” ...



Last year, the Foundation celebrated its 25th birthday. A birthday that we memorialised in a very special way with the *Viva Lea* exhibit!

Naturally, this event attracted a lot of people, which, in itself, was very heartening. In addition, the inauguration evening proved to us once again to what extent the Foundation is able to count upon many loyal and wonderful friends. Also, to realize the degree to which the work we do is appreciated by numerous organizations and individuals who support our project.

But there are many other situations that similarly testify to the vitality and reach of our organization.

For one, our annual fundraising campaign hums along, from year to year, and helps us raise the funds necessary to continue awarding our scholarships. Our Partners and our Great Partners have stepped up to the plate, trustworthy as always, notwithstanding the many other solicitations that are made to them for their help and support.

In addition, we continue to receive bequests and special donations that constitute another form of recognition of the value of our mission and that ensures our Foundation's sustainability over time. An article in this newsletter describes one of these initiatives that has filled our hearts with joy.

Likewise, our partnership with *Maman va à l'école* (*Mother goes to school*), is already 3 years old, and has just been renewed, which will provide us with the opportunity to support many more women who are particularly destitute and courageous, but will also enable us to make even more people aware about the Foundation and Lea Roback in several regions all across the Province of Quebec.

Finally, as we know only too well, finding successors always represents a watershed moment in the life of any organization. We can't help but observe that we've passed through this phase rather successfully. Our Board of Directors has been almost totally renewed over the past few years, and it remains dynamic, engaged and a guarantor of the continuity of our action.

So yes, 25 years, it's a very nice age to be! As we can simultaneously look back at what we've done and forward to all that we still want to do, like the spring that percolates with promise. It's easy to smile and hum along: "Spring is in the air...", and hence, to beam and look forward to the future with both determination and confidence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lorraine Pagé'.

Lorraine Pagé

More than 100 applications: a record

*“Several testimonies received from our scholarship recipients confirm, even though the amount may be modest, that the contributions from the Lea Roback Foundation to the education of women remains effective and motivating.”**

Our last newsletter took the time to trace the major principles underlying the Foundation's mission over the past 25 years. With the arrival of spring, the time comes to put our mission into action, as we get the campaign underway that will enable us to award scholarships later in the year.

From February 1 to April 1, women can submit their applications for one of our scholarships. The launch of this operation requires a number of things to be done: updates to the application form, promotional poster, sending the foregoing by e-mail to various people and groups, and much, much more. Every year we try to improve the process. Accordingly, this year, in addition to reminding community groups and adult education centres about our scholarships, we also contacted the CEGEPS who were not yet posting the availability of the Foundation's scholarships on their web sites.

However, perhaps our most important innovation was the creation of an online form that is more user-friendly than the WORD form, and that can be filled out more rapidly. However, it's still possible for those women who wish to send their documents by mail or by e-mail, and to use the old form.

There was a time when the Foundation sent out paper copies of our form to various community groups. Those days are long gone: the

two forms are available on the Foundation's Web site and the online form, since this year, is distributed and made available on Facebook.

Without affirming that these innovations explain everything, we can't help but make the connection with the fact that this year, we've received 116 applications, an unprecedented success; where a majority (71) of the candidates did indeed use the online form.

We're proud of this demonstration of interest, but the work isn't finished just because of the foregoing. To begin with, we'll have to summarize each of the dossiers for the pre selection committee to enable them to undertake an initial selection. Then, the selection committee will draw up a list of recipients that it will recommend to the Board of Directors. The latter will ultimately designate the scholarship recipients. In June, the candidates will be informed of the Foundation's decisions..

As you can see, there's a colossal amount of work for the volunteers that we are. But, we all know that this work is not in vain and that it will enable numerous women to make their future far more promising. This is our source of motivation.



Céline Lamontagne

*Newsletter Number 18, December 2018

The Lea Roback Foundation and Mother goes to School:

A winning partnership

In 2015, the Lea Roback Foundation and *Mother goes to school* (MVE) signed a partnership agreement to join forces in their support of women who want to go back to school.

Since its creation, *Mother goes to school* has more specifically provided assistance to single-parent mothers who have not earned an initial diploma. Meanwhile, the Foundation grants scholarships to women who are economically disadvantaged and socially committed to help them continue or resume their studies.



It was clear, for both our organizations, that there was a match in our respective goals and that collaboration between us could only be beneficial and increase our capacity to intervene and make a difference.

At the end of this first protocol, the evaluation of what has been accomplished was eloquent. The Foundation granted 27 school incentive scholarships worth \$500 each in several regions all across the Province of Quebec. In so doing, it provided help to underprivileged single-parent mothers, who showed courage and remarkable commitment,

to earn their high school diploma or Vocational Studies Diploma (DEP). We were thus able to help women who we've been less successful in reaching and we've managed to better raise awareness about the Foundation, its actions, but also Lea Roback and the values that she advocated: access to education, the equality of women and solidarity.

Based upon all these observations, the Board of Directors decided to renew the protocol for the next three years (2018-2021). In view of the foregoing, the Foundation will pay to MVE an amount of \$7,500 per year, in order to award \$500 scholarships in each of the regions where MVE is present. If in any given year the number of regions were to exceed 15, the two organizations would sit down together to determine, if the situation so justifies, to modify the Foundation's contribution.

This agreement was officially entered into last April 3 when Paula Duguay, the President of *Mother goes to school* and Lorraine Pagé, the President of the Lea Roback Foundation signed the protocol described above.



Lorraine Pagé

Staunch support

2018 has been a very nice year for the Lea Roback Foundation.

The Foundation's fundraising campaign that took place over the last three months of 2018 raised a little more than \$32,500. This remains the key time of the year for raising money for the scholarships awarded annually by the Foundation to women who are socially involved and want to continue their studies, regardless of their age.

Once again this year, the campaign gave rise to some very awesome surprises. In this regard, an individual, André Joffre, gave us a cheque for \$4,000. Meanwhile, the CSQ labour federation doubled its Great Partner contribution. And, once again, we were able to count upon the unwavering support of the Sœurs de Saint-Joseph de Saint-Hyacinthe, whose annual contribution is \$5,000.

The donations from our Partners and Great Partners to funding the Foundation's mission now totals \$23,000 out of the \$41,000 in donations we raised last year, without counting the contributions and donations that were made for the Viva Lea exhibit! that we'll describe a little bit later in the newsletter.

Year after year, a lot of women, as well as men, participate in funding our Foundation. Some are Great Partners, while others are Partners. And there are many of you who participate with modest donations of \$100 or less., Indeed, the foregoing represents more than one-third of the amounts we collect. Which just goes to show, that every donation counts!!

Viva Léa!, a wonderful opportunity to donate

The Foundation is also very happy to announce that the exhibit celebrating our 25th birthday ended up generating a net revenue of \$9,065, \$2,030 of which came from donations. Indeed, Viva Lea! spawned a number of donations in its wake. The most important one came from Montreal Explorations. This organization, that doesn't roll in money, had the generosity to donate its revenues of \$1,050 obtained during its "In Lea Roback's footsteps" tour, which they presented during the exhibit.

Viva Lea! itself was able to see the day, thanks to a \$8,000 donation from the Solstice Foundation, as well as sponsorships for a little more than \$5,000 from our Partners and Major Partners and certain public figures, and \$2,000 in revenue from the sale of a few promotional items. The volunteer work of all those people who participated in making the event happen should likewise not be neglected and played a key role in creating the surplus we reaped.



A special donation rounds out 2018

And... a somewhat unusual donation rounded out the year. Mr. Philippe Dubé handed over to the Foundation 27 works of art by the artist Jeannette Roback, Lea's sister-in-law, which were found in Beauport. Over the coming years, the Foundation will certainly be able to sell them in the course of an appropriate event.

A big thank you to all our donors, as well as to all the union and social organizations who sustain us.

Maroussia Kishka

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 Fondation Solstice;
Montréal Explorations;
the Soeurs de Saint-Joseph de Saint-Hyacinthe (comité solidarité SJSJH);
Mr Philippe Dubé;
Mr André Joffe;
Ms Pauline Lantz;
Ms Louse Potvin;
Ms Nicole Ranger;
Ms Arlene Zimmerman
and a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Partners of the Foundation

The Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux (APTS);
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 (FNEEQ-CSN);
the Maison générale des Ursulines de Québec;
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);
Ms Laura Alper;
Ms Jacqueline Bassini;
Ms Donna Mergler;
Ms Monique Simard;
Ms Lorraine Pagé;
Ms Lucille Panet-Raymond;
Ms Katherine Roback
and Ms Annalee Yassi

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