



President's Report

Dear Friends,

Welcome, if somewhat belatedly, to 2019!



If we ignore the political and other crises around the world and focus on what matters, namely WAMUN events, I think that the year has started very well indeed.

The annual January Coffee morning at the beginning of the year was well attended. Aside from the excellent pastries on offer, it was truly wonderful to meet and chat with all four of our graduate student scholarship winners. (See more about them on page 3). They are talented and inspiring young women with exciting projects.

Our second event of 2019 was Suzanne Sexty's talk about the St. John's photographer, Elsie Holloway. I was very sorry to have missed it myself, but there was a good crowd in spite of inclement weather, so thanks to Suzanne for a great talk and to all those who braved the elements to attend.

I want to thank everyone who drops a bit of money into the Campus Food Bank Piggy every time they see it appearing at an event or interest group meeting. Every quarter and loonie adds up. We have managed to contribute \$1,100 so far this year. Thanks also to everyone who contributed to the WAMUN Scholarship Fund this year.

April is AGM month. Mark the date – April 27th – and plan to attend. The AGM will be at the Fluvarium again this year. The traditional pre-meeting luncheon will begin at noon, and the business meeting will start at 1pm. I hope that by the time we meet for the AGM in April we will be snow-free and enjoying a real spring. I look forward to seeing everyone at the AGM.

For our many interest group activities you can obtain an up to date schedule of their meetings at any time by checking the home page on the WAMUN website. <http://www.mun.ca/wamun/>

--- Kathy Simonsen

🦋 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & LUNCHEON 🦋

SATURDAY APRIL 27 2019
AT THE FLUVARIUM

Tickets \$25 available from convenors or by e-mailing wamun@mun.ca

Doors open 11:15 Lunch served at 12:00 Business Meeting begins at 1 p.m.

Members and Friends welcome

Some photos from the Fall Talk with speaker Diane Tye :



The 2019-2020 Executive

The 2019-2020 Executive will be elected at the AGM on April 27th. Most of the existing executive members have volunteered to serve another year, including our most competent and indefatigable President, Kathryn Simonsen. However, there will be a call for nominations from the floor and any WAMUN member is eligible and most welcome to put her name forward for election to the executive. If this interests you, there is a place for you at the table! Before April 27th, nominations can be sent to the President at <mailto:wamun@mun.ca>.

Membership

Currently WAMUN has 84 members. We welcome new members, so please consider inviting any friends of yours who you think might enjoy our group to come along to an interest group meeting or two or to the Spring or Fall talks. Many of our members participate in just one interest group (books, photography, music, art), while others attend several. If they enjoy the activity and the company, they might just join. And all this for just \$15 a year.

--- Susan Goold, *Membership Secretary*

Scholarships

This year, we awarded another eight scholarships - four to undergraduate students and four to graduate students. These eight awards brought the total to 250 scholarships since WAMUN awarded the first one in 1978! This is an impressive milestone.

The endowment fund is valued now at just over \$183,000. To fully fund our scholarships on a sustainable basis, we need \$200,000. We are slowly but surely reaching that goal.

The four graduate student award winners came to our January Coffee Morning. As we enjoyed coffee and holiday treats, we chatted with the students and got to know them. Two of the young women are engineering graduates. Two are from Iran, one is from India and one is from Newfoundland. Each gave a brief talk of their project. Each of them is a most promising young scholar. Each of them told us how much they appreciated our help.



From left to right: Forough Mohammadi, Kayla Hollett, Mahya Ghaffari, Keerthika Ashokkumar

To all of you who made a donation to our Scholarship Fund this year we offer our thanks. Your help is much appreciated by the students and by the University!

If you have not yet made a donation this year and would like to, please send a cheque made payable to *Memorial University* to: WAMUN, c/o Department of Classics, Memorial University, St. John's, NL, A1C 5S7

--- Dorothy Milne, Ann Noseworthy, Deborah Rehner

Campus Food Bank

In 2017- 2018, WAMUN members donated \$1,825 to the Campus Food Bank. It was our first year of collecting only monetary donations (no food items). Eleven members donated their Loblaw's 'bread cards' which helped us to reach this new record for donations. So far this year, our donations have amounted to just under \$1,100. We hope to raise another \$300 or \$400 by the time most WAMUN activities break off for the summer in June.



Piggy makes an appearance at most of our events. Piggy accepts bills, cheques, and coins. Grocery cards can be handed in to convenors. All donations are forwarded to Dorothy who does the accounting and sends the donations on to the Food Bank. Tax receipts are issued upon request.

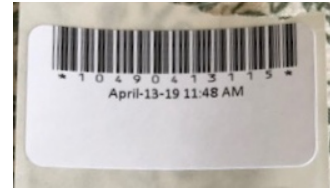
The CFB reports that the need for food continues to rise, so please be generous. They are very grateful for our help.

Ever Green Recycling

Did you know that WAMUN has an account at Ever Green Recycling, and that the money on containers we deliver to them goes to our Scholarship Fund?

A deposit fee is charged on many recyclable containers for food and drink. If we put the empty containers into bluebags and leave them at the curb for the City to pick up, we lose the deposit and no one else gets any benefit. However, if we take them to one of the four locations of Ever Green Recycling in town, a large portion of those deposit fees are deposited into the WAMUN account and that money goes into the Scholarship Fund.

Making a delivery is now quick and easy. There is no need to wait for service. We only need to type the WAMUN account number (# 864-4035) into the self-serve kiosk. When the computer spits out a sticker with the account number, slap the sticker onto the bag, and leave. And kind of bag will do.



The four locations are:

- Elizabeth Avenue at the Regatta Plaza
- 79 Blackmarsh Road (close to the Purity Factory)
- 858 Torbay Road (1.6 km north of Stavanger Drive)
- Waterford Bridge Road, at Cowan Avenue

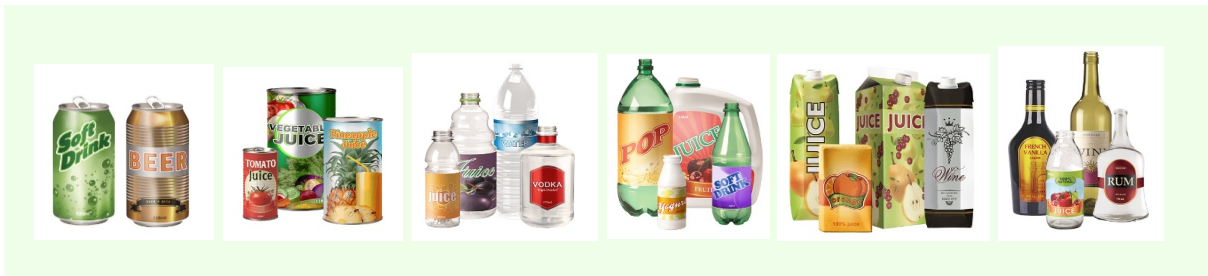
Here are the types of containers that can be recycled via the WAMUN account: clear, opaque, and coloured plastic bottles; glass beer and wine bottles, aluminum drink cans, tin cans for juices, tetra paks and juice boxes. The main exception are containers that held milk or dairy products, since no deposit is paid on them.

Caps need to be removed as well as any straws or other debris that may be in them. The containers should also be rinsed out if they contained fruit or vegetable juice.

If you are not sure which containers are eligible, check the sales slip to see if a deposit has been paid on them.

<https://www.greencan.ca/>

--- Karen Herzberg and Dorothy Milne



Coffee Mornings

Since last Fall, the Coffee Morning group has been meeting in the homes of its members on alternate Wednesday mornings to enjoy light refreshments and good conversation. These social events will continue till June.

A special Christmas lunch was also held. These photos are some that were taken at that event.



The next chance to join this group will come in September by signing up at the Fall Reception or by contacting one of the convenors.

*Convenors: Marilyn Beaton <marilynbeaton@gmail.com>
& Bev Gardner <gardners@nl.rogers.com>*

Scrabble

Calling all Scrabble players from beginners to experts. A very friendly group of us meets at Starbucks at Chapters on Kenmount Road every Wednesday morning of the year from 10:00 a.m. till noon. The aim of the game is to have fun and try out our word knowledge (cheat sheets are allowed). You will never be without people to play with as there are no set partnerships. You can join us on a drop-in basis on any Wednesday morning.

Convenor: Susan Goold



INTEREST GROUPS

ART HAPPENINGS

The Art Happenings Group has been enjoying its fifth year of activities since the group was revived by Tonya Bassler and Olga Broomfield-Richards in 2015. Since last fall, we visited the Red Ochre Gallery to see the *Intrigue and Clarity* exhibit by David Baltzer; the Eastern Edge Gallery to see the *Secret Knots* exhibit by Emily Jan; and the Christine Parker Gallery to see the exhibit of paintings by Clifford George. In addition, in February we enjoyed a guided tour of the Basilica, where John Fitzgerald explained the history and significance of the many stained glass windows.



We now meet at 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month, from September through to June. The location of the next visit is distributed to members by e-mail. It is also posted on the WAMUN website's home page as well as the Arts Visiting page on the website. New members are most welcome.

<http://www.mun.ca/wamun/arts.php>

Convenors: Donna Burden and Mary Chalker



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

In December, the two book discussion groups held their joint Christmas Party at The Tiffany.



More photos from the Christmas Party:



MOSTLY FICTION BOOK GROUP :



This group now meets at 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month.

At our January meeting, Newfoundland guest author Sharon Bala met with us as we discussed her novel, *The Boat People*.

Two more books will be discussed before we break for the summer: *First Snow, Last Light* by Newfoundland author, Wayne Johnston (on April 25th), and *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay (on May 30). On May 23rd, we shall be presenting our recommendations for the books we will read in 2019-2020. *Convenor: Karen Lippold*



NONFICTION BOOK GROUP :

This group now meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month.

After reading eight thought challenging and enjoyable books this year, we have only one book left this year: *Apron Strings* by Jan Wong. We will be discussing it at our June 6th meeting. Before then, at the May 2nd meeting, members of the group will be presenting their recommendations for books to be read next year. The vote on the recommended titles will be held at the June 6th meeting.



Pam Olson, the author, on the screen at the left.

On March 7th, our discussion of *Fast Times in Palestine* broke new ground both in content and technology. Thanks to Elke's initiatives, we were joined by two guests. We were able to speak directly to the author, Pamela Olson, who was beamed in on the library's smart television screen via Skype from her home in Oklahoma. The second guest was Pat Mercer, a member of Gower Street United Church. She has twice been asked to volunteer with the World Council of Churches by simply observing and recording daily life in the occupied territories. The program aims at a just peace in Israel and Palestine. Our discussion was much enriched by the contributions of these two guests.

Convenor: Deborah Rehner

E-TOYS

This group now meets on the second Thursday of every month, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., at the Marjorie Mews Library. Every



month, a new crop of puzzles and problems with our electronic gadgets appear, so we are kept busy trying to solve them. As always, we are a group of friends helping each other. We always learn something new and have fun doing so.

Recent questions we have encountered: editing photographs, connecting devices to speakers and Wi-Fi, updating software, improving resolution when using scanners, backing up data and photos, and getting cheap cell phone service when traveling abroad.



A month is a long time to wait to solve some problems with a phone, iPad or laptop. So, now that we meet less often, we are all the more willing to help solve problems by email, and at times, if e-mails are not enough, to meet in person at the library or at a coffee shop to help work out a solution. We are here to help.

New members are welcome at any time. Just drop in and see if you enjoy what we do.

Convenors: Karen Herzberg, Deborah Rehner & Dorothy Milne

MUSIC INTEREST GROUP

The music group now meets from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. the Marjorie Mews Library on the third Thursday of every month.

Since last November, we have been exploring the music of composers of classical music, moving forward in time through the centuries. We recently listened to the music of Mozart and Haydn, and will soon move on to Schumann and Schubert. A playlist of the music for a meeting is usually prepared and sent out by e-mail before the meeting.

At two of our meetings, special guests came to demonstrate and perform on their string instruments. The first of these visits was by the Gambade Viol Consort, a group of local musicians who perform on the viol de gamba, each playing a viol of a different size and pitch. Christine Smith explained the history and characteristics of these instruments and the group performed several pieces of that historical period. We enjoyed their visit very much.





The second delightful visit was by Carole Bestvater who came with her Hardanger fiddle. This unusual fiddle is a folk instrument that is found only in Norway. Carole showed us the many extra strings that it



has for resonance, the gut and wire strings, the carved dragon head at the end of the neck and its flatter bridge. She played some Norwegian folk melodies which, in their melodies, rhythms and harmony were quite different from the sort of fiddle music we usually hear. With this as background, we searched on YouTube for Norwegian

folk music and watched folk groups performing the dances that accompany this type of music. It was a most enjoyable and interesting session.

Convenor: Deborah Rehner

SNAP & CHAT

Our group now meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at various locations around town. We



choose an interesting subject or place to visit each month. Once there, the challenge is to find things that attract our interest and then photograph them in an appealing way.



Perhaps the most amusing session so far was at the Mad Catter Café on Duckworth Street where we had fun trying to get the cats to pose.



Photos taken in April at Murray's Garden Centre



More of our photos can be seen on the Snap & Chat webpage:

<http://www.mun.ca/wamun/snapnchat.php>

Now that the weather is getting warmer, we plan to hold more of our sessions outdoors, photographing landscapes, streetscapes, and nature. If you have a cell phone or camera of any type and wish to join us some month, just come along. The location will be posted on the webpage.

Convenors: Karen Herzberg & Dorothy Milne

WALKING GROUPS

Since the beginning of winter, the Monday and Saturday walking groups have been out



Monday group, Bowring Park, March 25

walking almost every week. This year it seemed we were a bit more challenged than usual because of severe weather - first by heavy snowfalls and later by high winds and severe cold. On a few occasions the walks were cancelled, or if they went ahead, were cut short and a quick retreat made to Tim's for coffee and conversation.

When the trails are too icy to walk on, we often walked on city streets or on the paved roads of Bowring Park.



Monday group, Quidi Vidi, April 15



Saturday group, Bowring Park, Dec. 6



Monday group, Signal Hill, Feb. 19



Saturday group annual Inukshuk photo, Jan.12



Saturday group, Welland Park, March 30



Saturday walk cancelled. Jan 19, because of snowstorm

Monday walks convenor: Marjorie Evans

Saturday walks convenor: Deborah Rehner