

WAMUN Newsletter



Women's Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland

February 2009

Volume 36, No. 2

Greetings from your President

We have 88 members in WAMUN this year, and each of you contributes in your own way to our vibrant association. Some of you join interest groups; some work on fund-raisers, special committees, or the executive; others add to the dialogue at general meetings; and some of you manage to do all of the above. A heartwarming number of you also donate regularly all year through WAMUN to the Campus Food Bank as well as annually to the WAMUN Scholarship Fund. At this time of year, the executive would welcome any suggestions from you for the recipient of this year's WAMUN service pin, which will be awarded as usual at our Annual General Meeting in April.



Over the years, various interest groups have come and gone depending on the requests and schedules of our members. Although two groups (Discovery Investment Club and International Food Group) disbanded during the past fall, the other groups have enthusiastic attendance. As a reminder to you, any member is welcome to initiate an interest group--the executive would be delighted for you to test your idea on us.

Our January 2009 Coffee Morning was a welcome opportunity for many members to relax and chat after the hectic holidays. Two highlights were in store for us that morning. First was the draw for the exquisite china generously donated by Eleanor Nesbitt to benefit our Scholarship Fund. Lucky winner was Gladys Deutsch. Next was the presentation of our four graduate scholarship winners. When Scholarship Chair Linda Hensman introduced them, she also presented each one with a certificate honoring her achievement. (See Linda's introductions later in this newsletter.)

Our annual luncheon and meeting on Saturday, 25 April, will be our next and last general meeting for the 2008-2009 year. On the last page of this newsletter are two constitutional amendment proposals for your consideration at the meeting. One concerns the number of newsletters per year (our constitution now requires four), and the other one simplifies our membership requirement to reflect our equality in this association.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at various upcoming interest group events and the AGM.

Tonya Bassler

January Coffee Morning Well Attended

The annual New Year's Coffee Morning was held on Jan. 10 in Spencer Hall and was attended by approximately 40 members and friends. Besides providing an opportunity to exchange news of holiday activities and travels, the event provided an opportunity to have the draw for the china and silver collection offered this year in a special raffle draw to raise funds for our scholarships. Photo at right shows Eleanor Nesbitt (prize donor) drawing the lucky winner - Gladys Deutsch - with Mary Chalker assisting.

In addition, members present had an opportunity to meet the four graduate scholarship winners for 2009 and talk with them about their research. (See page 2 for details.)



Graduate Scholarship Winners

At the coffee morning on January 10, 2009 we had the pleasure of meeting all four of our Graduate Scholarship recipients. Linda Hensman, chair of the scholarship committee introduced each of the winners and provided a brief overview of their background and proposed research work. Each was presented with a certificate and members of the WAMUN community had a chance to chat with each of them and learn more about the exciting research they will be doing.

Lina Stolze is a recipient of one of the doctoral scholarships. Lina comes to Memorial from Germany where she completed undergraduate studies in marine environmental sciences. She is currently a Doctoral student in the Department of Earth Sciences where her research will be one component of a large marine biology biodiversity study which is seeking to understand the geological, biological and other influences on marine benthic (below the seabed) biodiversity.

Echo Pittman is our other doctoral scholarship recipient who is pursuing a PhD in the Faculty of Education. She completed a BA at Soochow University in Taiwan and a master of arts from the University of Victoria. Echo will be conducting research amongst the ESL students regarding revising strategies utilized by ESL learners and she wants to refine/design a writing curriculum to address their unique needs. She also intends to explore the types of feedback which are most effective for ESL learners to help them improve their writing skills.

Helen Woodrow is our masters all course route scholarship winner. She is studying in the Department of History. Her research will contribute to the knowledge of adult education in Northern Newfoundland and Labrador in the early 20th century. Specifically the research will focus on the support given to adult men and women in the north to attend education programs throughout North America and Britain from about 1910 to 1935, and the philosophy that inspired these efforts.

Annemarie Christie's interests lie in the study of material culture. She is particularly fascinated by the stories learned when researching the history of old buildings. This past summer she was in Twillingate and the Notre Dame Bay area where she took numerous pictures of a number of buildings, among them old churches which are no longer in use. Her intent is to research their stories in order to preserve their history, and document the changes that occur in a community when a building is closed down. She hopes that her work may influence to some extent the decision to save rather than destroy these buildings.

Linda Hensman, chair of the Scholarship Committee



(L-R) Linda Hensman, WAMUN Scholarship Committee chair, graduate scholarship winners Annemarie Christie, Echo Pittman, Lina Stolze and Helen Woodrow. Tonya Bassler, WAMUN president on the right.

MUNBG and Bowring Park Join Forces for Winter Fun



MUN Botanical Garden education staff invite everyone to visit the “tropics” at the Bowring Park Conservatory this winter. A tropical paradise awaits to chase away the winter blues. Open to the public Tuesdays to Sundays, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The popular **Parents & Tots** program has also moved to Bowring Park for the winter. Enjoy our Newfoundland winter with friends through nature exploration, hiking, storytelling, songs and of course, duck feeding. This is an outdoor program. Please dress appropriately. Dates: Every Friday, Jan. 30 – April 3, 2009. Times: 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m. (4 sessions)

Other special programs will be offered on a weekly basis at the conservatory including: **Tropical Topics for Seniors** on Wednesdays and **Conservatively Wild** on Saturdays.

Admission Fees: Adults: \$4, Seniors (60+): \$3, Students and children (4 – 17): \$2 (infants free) For more information call the Botanical Garden at 737-8590 or go to www.mun.ca/botgarden.

News From and About Our Members

Dec. 11, 2008

Hello friends of Karin,

Karin remains at Escasoni and those of us who are able to visit, do so regularly. She always has a wonderful smile when anyone arrives. When asked familiar things, she'll respond with a simple answer, but only in the faintest of whispers. She seems to be unable to make any sounds. She joins in the chorus of favorite songs, will name the days of the week, will read large print words, name animals and colours, always without sound. Visits with Karin are as productive as we, her visitors, are able to make them.

I know most of Karin's friends are unable to visit, either because of distance or for other good reasons. I would like to ask any/all of you to include Karin on your Christmas or Holiday Card list. I'm sure she would enjoy receiving your card, and there are many of us visitors who will read them with her. If you write a message to her, large writing or printing (about 1/2") would be better. I think it would really cheer her up to receive cards and messages from any of you, either far away or local. I've listed her mailing address below.

The photo attached was taken Dec. 10, 2008 by Nadia Fam. Those in the photo with Karin include Marjorie Evans, Mary Niefer, Sue Murdey, and me. We had made a quick visit after the WAMUN Coffee group which Karin always attended.

I wish you all healthy, happy holidays.

Karen Herzberg

Karin's address: Karin Khan, Escasoni 3 West, Room 31210 Escasoni Place, St. John's, NL A1A 3R6

Editor's Note: *This news was missed in the previous issues - apologies to K. Herzberg for the oversight. Contact information for Karin Khan remains the same and Karen Herzberg and friends continue their visits. Carolyn Hodych, Newsletter Editor, chodych@nf.sympatico.ca*



WAMUN Plant Sale 2009 - Planning Underway



The WAMUN plant sale annually raises funds for our scholarships. It depends on help from many volunteers on the committee and WAMUN members and friends contributing the plants to be sold. This year there will be two plant sales, one in the spring for outdoor plants (annual bedding plants, vegetables, and perennials) and one in the fall for houseplants only. The decision to do this was based on many considerations including the fact that outdoor plants look more attractive in the spring and students arriving in the fall are likely only interested in house plants.

The spring sale will only be possible if a couple more people step forward to be on the committee, especially to handle media publicity. We also need someone to volunteer their driveway as the venue, and enough people offering to bring plants. Please contact Marjorie Evans 722-1925 or marjjevans@nl.rogers.com if you can contribute in any of these ways. We need to know soon if there will be enough support to make a spring sale work. All comments and suggestions welcome. Thank you.

Please Join Us!

While WAMUN Special Interest Groups are in mid-cycle, newcomers are always welcome. For more information contact:

COFFEE MORNING ▶ Pat Collins, 754-0507, patriciacollins@nl.rogers.com,

FICTION BOOK GROUPS ▶ Evening group - Julia Mathieson, 722-3249, gmathieson@nl.rogers.com, or

▶ Afternoon group - Karen Herzberg, 753-6568, karen_herzberg@hotmail.com,

NON-FICTION BOOK GROUP ▶ Annmari Tougui, 726-5567 or amtougui@nl.rogers.com

SATURDAY WALKING GROUP ▶ Deborah Rehner, 739-5046, dbrehner@gmail.com

SCRABBLE GROUP ▶ Joan Fuller, 726-0896.



Call for Nominations - Distinguished Service Award

Initiated in 1988, the Distinguished Service Award is presented by WAMUN to recognize members who have made outstanding contributions to the organization and its goals. Each year, members are asked to nominate candidates they feel meet this criterion, outlining what the person's contribution has been and why she particularly deserves to be recognized.

In the past, the woman who received the most support was presented with the Distinguished Service Award at the AGM. Occasionally, when multiple well-supported nominations are received, more than one award is presented. The same selection process will be followed in 2009.

Please send your suggestions by 31 Mar. 2009 to WAMUN, Arts and Administration Building, Mail Room Box 130, Memorial University, P.O. Box 4200, St. John's, A1C 5S7 or e-mail wamun@mun.ca

Distinguished Service Award Recipients

1988	Marjorie Cooper, Olive Mews, and Grace Morgan	1998	Robin Moore-Orr
1989	Susan Jackson	1999	Lynda Younghusband
1990	Joyce Cho	2000	Shirley Cooper
1991	Brenda Burness	2001	Jane Foltz
1992	Marg Kozma	2002	Susan Scott
1993	Elizabeth Rich	2003	Elfie Boehm
1994	Sylvia Hartmann	2004	Marilyn Tuck-Lewis
1995	Elinor Eaton	2005	Elke Molgaard
1996	Eleanor Nesbitt and Ingrid Pardoe	2006	Tonya Bassler
1997	Gladys Deutsch	2007	Karen Herzberg
		2008	Julia Mathieson and Miriam Simpson

Notice - Proposed Changes to the Constitution

The following changes to the WAMUN constitution have been proposed for consideration and voting at the next Annual General Meeting.

1. **Article II - Membership** - all conditions of membership be replaced with the following, "**Membership shall be open to any woman who supports the aims of the association.**"
2. **Article V - Executive Officers and Duties, 2., Newsletter Editor** be changed to read "... **for compiling and distributing at least 2 newsletters per year.**"

Proposed amendments to the constitution must be circulated one month before the AGM.

Please submit any additional proposals to WAMUN by Mar. 10, 2008 for circulation to members.

2009 Spring Luncheon and Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 25, 2009
Junior Common Room, R. Gushue Hall
Luncheon 12 for 12:30 p.m.
AGM 1:30 p.m.

Please mark your calendars.
Come celebrate! Bring a friend!
Tickets will soon be available.



Recycling for WAMUN Scholarships

Until municipal curbside recycling is in place, Evergreen Recycling (807 Water Street, Cowan Avenue at Waterford Bridge Road and Regatta Plaza Building, 92 Elizabeth Avenue) continues to donate your recycling proceeds to our Scholarship Fund. Just ask the depot employee counting your items to complete a blue credit slip for your signature.

Support the Campus Food Bank

Items such as peanut butter, chicken noodle soup, vegetable soup, canned milk, canned fruit, and Kraft Dinner (or similar macaroni and cheese dinners) are always in demand at the MUN Campus Food Bank in Corte Real near Burton's Pond. Donations of non-perishable items continue to be collected at WAMUN events throughout the year. Keep our students in mind during these difficult times!