

# WAMUN Newsletter



Women's Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland  
Volume 36, No. 1

November 2008

## Greetings from your President

Although very late in arriving, this newsletter provides a “clew-up” for our 2007-2008 activities, as well as a look at activities since September and a reminder of upcoming activities.

With more than 30 in attendance, our luncheon on April 26 was a tasty, relaxing prelude to our AGM, which followed afterwards. Thanks to your generous contributions to our Scholarship Fund, we were able to vote a \$200 increase in the four undergraduate scholarships from \$1,000 to \$1,200, effective this fall. These undergraduate scholarships now join the 4 graduate scholarships to award \$1,200 per deserving student.

A very successful Fall Plant Sale was held on Sept. 10 followed by the Fall Reception on Sept. 17 in the Boardroom at Spencer Hall. Dates for the next three events are as follows:

**Fall Lecture**, Wed., Nov. 12, 2008, 7:30 p.m., Junior Common Room, R. Gushue Hall, Prince Philip Drive, (spouses/partners are welcome to attend), Topic: Campus Security, Speaker: T.B.A.; **New Year's Morning Coffee**, Sat., Jan. 10, 2009, 10:30 a.m., Fourth Floor Boardroom, Spencer Hall, Prince Philip Drive; and **Spring Luncheon and Annual General Meeting**, Sat., April 25, 2009, 12 for 12:30 p.m., Junior Common Room, R. Gushue Hall, Prince Philip Drive.

Your new Executive is very eager to promote the growth and goodwill of WAMUN as well as good friendships within WAMUN. We hope you'll share with us your ideas, suggestions, and concerns so we can consider acting on them.

Best wishes for the coming holiday season, Tonya Bassler



## WAMUN Plant Sale 2008



Our Plant Sale this year was a success, as usual, netting \$1671 from plants and \$426 from the raffle. Though we didn't make quite as much as during the storm last time, perhaps that was due to less walk-by traffic on a fine day. Thank you to everyone who donated so many beautiful plants and to all who helped selling them. There are several we really depend on for the success of these plant sales but I won't list names for fear of accidentally missing someone, except to credit Miriam Simpson and Anna Kralik with all the work on the raffle and Anna with designing the lovely poster. Again, our joint efforts will make a nice contribution of \$2097 to the scholarship fund.

Marjorie Evans, chair and committee of Margaret Dohan, Anna Kralik, Elke Molgaard, Pat Rivers and Miriam Simpson.

## Special Raffle for the Scholarship Fund

There is a special raffle of a set of Royal Crown Derby china donated by Eleanor Nesbitt, a past president of WAMUN and a long time active member. The set (shown far right) consists of two cups and saucers, two plates, a serving plate with stand, a silver pitcher and a vase. The set is both beautiful and valuable! Proceeds of the raffle will go into our scholarship fund. Tickets are \$2 or 3 for \$5.

Tickets will be available at WAMUN interest groups during the Fall. If a member wants to obtain tickets but doesn't find buying at an interest group easy, please contact Miriam at 754-6991 to arrange for obtaining tickets.



# Minutes of the WAMUN Annual General Meeting 2008

April 26, 2008, Junior Common Room, R. Gushue Hall

## 1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda

Kathy Simonsen welcomed all members in attendance and thanked them for attending (37 members were in attendance, 36 of whom attended lunch). Kathy moved that the agenda be approved as written; Brenda Burness seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

## 2. Approval of Minutes from 2007 AGM

The minutes of the 2007 AGM were distributed to the membership via bulk e-mail by Kathy prior to this year's AGM. Changes, which were read aloud by Margaret Dohan, secretary, were as follows (changes or additions are bolded):

5. d. Interest group reports were given by ...**Annmari Tougui** (afternoon non-fiction book groups)
7. line 4 Eleanor mentioned ... **names published in newsletter or will be listed as anonymous. No amounts will be given in either case. This choice will be offered on the membership form.**
8. after last line add: **Eleanor tried to do this but no one was willing to serve as chair. Since there is no indication of when the president should appoint the chair, the president can appoint the chair at any time.**
9. Eleanor Nesbitt asked ...**The slate of officers for 2007 – 2008 is as follows:**
  - Past president - Eleanor Nesbitt**
  - President – Kathy Simonsen**
  - Vice president – Tonya Bassler**
  - Treasurer – Sue Murdey**
  - Secretary – Margaret Dohan**
  - Newsletter – Carolyn Hodych**
  - Membership secretary – Annmari Tougui**

after third paragraph add: **Tonya Bassler moved that no plant sale be held in 2007; Julia Mathieson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

10. Deborah Rehner thanked ...Tonya Bassler ...**for her work on the Scholarship Committee.**

Linda Hensman moved that the minutes be accepted as amended; Sue Scott seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. Tonya thanked Margaret for taking the minutes at the 2007 AGM.

## 3. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

## 4. Reports of 2007 - 2008

### a) President's Report

Kathy thanked the outgoing executive for their work this year, with particular thanks to Eleanor for hosting the meetings over the summer and to Annmari for hosting the meetings during the year. Kathy briefly reviewed the year's events and thanked all who had helped with events, as there were no designated social convenors this year.

Kathy mentioned that the executive had sent messages of comfort and healing to those members and their families who have had personal challenges and tragedies.

Kathy stated that this was "the year without a plant sale", and added that a committee has already been struck for the 2008 plant sale. Kathy mentioned that a nominating committee had been struck during the past year well in advance of the AGM.

Kathy thanked members for their support throughout the year.

## WAMUN AGM Minutes continued

### b) Membership secretary's Report

Annmari Tougui stated that her report was in the recent newsletter. She added an update, that there are now 95 members.

### c) Treasurer's Report

In Sue Murdey's absence, Kathy stated that the treasurer's report was in the recent newsletter. She added an update, that \$50 had been spent on a new coffee percolator.

### d) Newsletter editor's Report

Carolyn Hodych stated that her report was in the recent newsletter. Margaret Michalak and Kathy thanked Carolyn for doing an excellent job as editor.

### e) Interest groups

Kathy thanked the interest group leaders, naming them individually: Julia Mathieson and Karen Herzberg (two Fiction Book Groups), Annmari Tougui (Non-fiction Book Group), Sue Murdey (Coffee Morning), Deborah Rehner (Discovery Investment and Saturday Walking Groups), Brenda Burness and Susan Jackson (International Food Group), Joan Fuller (Scrabble Group), and Pat Collins (Tuesday Walking Group).

Joan Fuller mentioned that the Scrabble and Coffee Morning Groups are not mutually exclusive despite the fact that there are sometimes time clashes. It is possible to belong to both.

Pat Collins stated that the annual report for the Tuesday Walking Group will appear in the next newsletter.

Members gave a round of applause in appreciation of the Interest Group leaders.

### f) Archive

Julia Mathieson, WAMUN Aachivist, stated that her report was in the recent newsletter. Kathy thanked Julia for her work on the archives and members gave Julia a round of applause.

### g) Scholarship committee

Linda Hensman, chair, distributed an update of her report in the recent newsletter to the membership. Referring to Item 1 of her report, "Undergraduate Scholarship Increase", Linda moved that the value of each undergraduate scholarship be increased by \$200 to \$1200 for the 2008 – 2009 academic year. Karen Lippold seconded the motion. Discussion followed and a key point made was that MUN matches WAMUN's contributions to the scholarships. Passed unanimously.

Karen Herzberg asked if WAMUN scholarships are also available to students at the Marine Institute (MI). Since there was no definitive answer, she requested that the scholarship committee investigate. Kathy moved that the scholarship committee look into whether MI students are eligible to receive WAMUN scholarships. Margaret Dohan seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Kathy thanked Linda and the members of the scholarship committee for their work.

### h) Plant sale committee

Marjorie Evans, chair, announced that this year's plant sale will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 10 (not Sept. 11, as mentioned in the recent newsletter). Marjorie mentioned that the committee has several members, and she asked for more volunteers to serve on the committee.

## 5. Distinguished Service Award Presentation

Kathy announced that this year there were two nominees for the award. Because the contributions of both individuals to WAMUN have been equally exceptional, the executive decided to award the honour to two individuals, who Kathy named in alphabetical order: Julia Mathieson and Miriam Simpson. Members gave a long round of applause to the honourees to show appreciation for all their work on behalf of the WAMUN membership over the years.

# WAMUN AGM Minutes continued

## 6. Election of Executive 2008 – 2009

Kathy asked Deborah Rehner, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to announce the new Executive, listed below:

- President – Tonya Bassler
- Vice-president – Betty Wong
- Past president – Kathy Simonsen
- Secretary – Karen Lippold
- Treasurer – Annie Antonenko
- Membership secretary – Annmari Tougui
- Social convenors – Mary Chalker and Patricia Whittle
- Newsletter editor – Carolyn Hodych

Deborah moved that the slate be accepted as read; Linda Hensman seconded the motion. Kathy called for further nominations from the floor and there were none. Passed unanimously.

Kathy thanked Deborah and the other members of the nominating committee for their work.

## 7. WAMUN and Campus Safety

Kathy stated that the executive was concerned regarding a recent event on campus, namely the sexual assault of a female student by a male student in a campus elevator. The executive had wondered whether it was appropriate to take a stand on this issue, as WAMUN is dedicated to, among other things, making women feel welcome on campus. It was decided at a special meeting of the executive that it would be appropriate to bring this topic of concern to the WAMUN membership for discussion.

Significant discussion ensued, with the following major points made:

- other campus groups are working toward ensuring WAMUN is a safe and welcoming environment for female students:
  - the Sexual Harassment Office, the Counseling Centre, the Walksafe Program, and a standing committee that inspects the campus and suggests changes (e.g., better lighting), to name a few
- security on campus is excellent (e.g., video cameras which can also record in the dark are present in dozens of locations, which is why we are now aware of more incidents)
- the perpetrator of the assault was convicted and MUN is now considering his future status at MUN (i.e., retention of student status or expulsion)
- it is not in our mandate to become involved in such incidents
- we do not know all the facts

The majority opinion was that WAMUN should not take a stand on the issue.

Kathy thanked all members who made a contribution to the discussion and who provided helpful factual information on the topic. She stated that the executive will investigate the suggestion made by Maire O'Dea that personnel in administration be invited to give a talk on what MUN does to secure the safety of faculty, staff and students.

## 8. Any Other Business

Linda Hensman reported that a WAMUN scholarship recipient from several years ago recently shared information on her work with immigrants during a CBC broadcast.

Tonya Bassler solicited members for next year's nominating committee. Kathy urged that the chair be appointed as soon as possible to allow maximum time to prepare next year's slate of officers.

Kathy drew for the prizes.

Sue Scott thanked the outgoing executive for their work during the past year.

# WAMUN AGM Minutes continued

## 9. Adjournment

Kathy moved that the meeting be adjourned; Annmari Tougui seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

### Editor's Note:

Thanks to Margaret Dohan for preparing the minutes of AGM 2008. Please take note of any corrections and omissions and be prepared to raise them at the next AGM, when these minutes will be presented for approval.

## Distinguished Service Awards



Two Distinguish Service Awards were presented at the April 2008 AGM to members who have given much to WAMUN over the years. In alphabetical order, the recipients were (L to R) Julia Mathieson and Miriam Simpson. Congratulations!

## Women's Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland Final Statement for the Year ending July 31, 2008

## Images from the AGM

### Women's Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland Final Statement for the Year ending July 31 2008

#### Revenue

Memberships (74 x \$15)	\$1,110.00
Memberships (17 x \$20)	\$340.00
Memberships (2 x \$25)	\$50.00
Personal scholarship donations (3) through WAMUN account	\$250.00
Annual luncheon (38 tickets x \$25)	\$950.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$2,700.00</u></b>

#### Expenses

Gift for Auditor (2 years)	\$40.00
Fall Reception	\$167.80
November talk (refreshments, gift)	\$99.05
January coffee morning	\$41.69
Annual luncheon	\$1,109.46
Postage, printing, stationary etc	\$97.10
Personal scholarship donations (3) through WAMUN account	\$250.00
Coffee urn	\$56.49
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$1,861.59</u></b>

Account balance July 31 2007	\$1,653.17
Interim increase in cash	\$838.41
<b>Account balance July 31 2008</b>	<b><u>\$2,491.58</u></b>

#### Scholarship Fund (straight to separate account)

Personal donations (30) including 3 through WAMUN account	\$1,430.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$1,430.00</u></b>

Note (1) Memorial Financial year ends March 31st. One donation of \$50 was received April 2007 and was included in the 2006/07 final WAMUN treasurers report. Alumni Affairs added it to the 2007/08 figures given to the Scholarship Committee

Note (2) MUN Conference Services no longer charges affiliated groups for the use of Gushue Hall. Despite this, the Annual luncheon had a loss of \$159.46.

Susan Murdey, Treasurer



Linda Hensman (L) and Margaret Dohan chat prior to the AGM.



(L to R) Mary Varghese, Betty Wong and Joan Fuller share a moment before lunch is served. One lucky person at each table won the flowers - a cheery harbinger of Spring.

## WAMUN 2008 Executive and Committee Chairs

President:	Tonya Bassler, 753-3135, <a href="mailto:gbassler@mun.ca">gbassler@mun.ca</a>
Vice president:	Betty Wong, 754-1470, <a href="mailto:bwong@mun.ca">bwong@mun.ca</a>
Past-president:	Kathy Simonsen, 722-6339/737-8531(w), <a href="mailto:kathryns@mun.ca">kathryns@mun.ca</a>
Secretary:	Karen Lippold, 753-6417, <a href="mailto:klippold@mun.ca">klippold@mun.ca</a>
Treasurer:	Mary Chalker, 753-4262, <a href="mailto:maryc@mun.ca">maryc@mun.ca</a>
Membership:	Annmari Tougui, 726-5567, <a href="mailto:amtougui@nl.rogers.com">amtougui@nl.rogers.com</a>
Newsletter editor:	Carolyn Hodych, 722-0795, <a href="mailto:chodych@nf.sympatico.ca">chodych@nf.sympatico.ca</a>
Nominations committee:	Deborah Rehner (Chair), 739-5046/746-7262, <a href="mailto:dbrehner@gmail.com">dbrehner@gmail.com</a>
Scholarship committee:	Linda Hensman (Chair), 726-0233/777-6571(w), <a href="mailto:lhensman@mun.ca">lhensman@mun.ca</a>
Social committee:	Shirley Cooper, 368-6180, <a href="mailto:g.cooper@nf.sympatico.ca">g.cooper@nf.sympatico.ca</a> and Patricia Whittle, 368-9821, <a href="mailto:Patricia.Whittle@mi.mun.ca">Patricia.Whittle@mi.mun.ca</a>
Archives:	Julia Mathieson, 722-3249, <a href="mailto:gmathieson@nl.rogers.com">gmathieson@nl.rogers.com</a>
Webmaster:	Margaret Michalak, 579-5847/737-4419 (w), <a href="mailto:michalak@mun.ca">michalak@mun.ca</a>

NOTE: The above list incorporates changes to the executive and committees made since the annual general meeting in April.

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[www.mun.ca/wamun](http://www.mun.ca/wamun) E-mail: [wamun@mun.ca](mailto:wamun@mun.ca)

## WAMUN Scholarship Committee Chair's Update

### Two Recipients Announced

We have been advised that the recipient of the Faculty/Staff Scholarship is Mohammed Dief (St. John's) and the Undergraduate Scholarship is Neil Kenny (Corner Brook).

I have been advised that the other two scholarships (mature student & single parent scholarships) are usually awarded in winter semester. We are still awaiting notification of the graduate student scholarships.

Linda R. Hensman

### Donations from Members Increase

For the past few years, WAMUN members have had the opportunity to make a donation to the Scholarship fund at the time of their membership renewal. Many have chosen to do so and this has helped to sustain and grow our fund and reduce considerably the pressure on the membership for annual fundraising initiatives.

In 2007-08 approximately 30 members contributed a total of \$1480. For the current 2008-09 year, 31 members have already contributed \$1,590. Thank you to each and every one of you for your support.

## Recycling for WAMUN Scholarships

St. John's City Council is planning to implement a new curbside recycling program next summer, but not much information is yet available on how the new program will unfold and how current recyclers will be affected. At present, you can still take your recycling to one of the Evergreen Recycling locations and ask that the proceeds go to the WAMUN Scholarship Fund. For more information on how to donate your recycling proceeds contact Marilyn Macdonald, 726-3134 or [m\\_macdonald17@hotmail.com](mailto:m_macdonald17@hotmail.com)

## Support the Campus Food Bank

During these tough economic times, donation of food items or cash are very welcome at the food bank in Corte Real, near Burton's Pond on the MUN campus. 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. Don't forget to bring something for the food bank hamper when you come to the talk on Nov. 12. WAMUN special interest groups regularly collect food items at their monthly meetings for the campus food bank.

## News From and About Our Members

From **Karen Herzberg**,

I know many of you are wondering how Karin Khan is doing, so I've prepared the following update:

Karin has been a resident at Escasoni, Room 312 on 3 west since May 2007 following her brain aneurysm that January. Her daughter Miriam is still working as an air traffic controller in Ontario and Sabrina, now that she has graduated, has taken a position in Alberta. Both girls try to visit, but the distance and expense are great.

Karin was hospitalized at HSC for about a week in August for a bowel infection, and did lose some abilities, but has improved communication -wise greatly in the past month. She is still confined to bed but occasionally can be moved to a geri-chair. Physically she's unable to move her limbs or take any food or liquid by mouth.

I find remarkable improvement in her **communication** skills. Although she still hasn't spoken aloud, she now whispers many things. When one points to a picture such as the Eiffel Tower or a horse, for example, she will mouth its name. She can also identify colours and count objects. She can name the current month, albeit sometimes with the help of a calendar. She can complete common sayings such as "Merry ... Christmas" and "Happy ... Birthday". She joins in the chorus of familiar songs and can do simple math e.g.  $4+4=?$  I am beginning to wonder if Karin can understand much more than we think she can. Perhaps she needs more challenges!

Karin is really benefiting from the stimulation her visitors provide. I think more visitors, old or new to her, would be very helpful. I would be happy to meet you in Karin's room and share with you simple ways in which I try to challenge her. Her smile will light up your day! Photo was taken by Nadia Fam on Sept. 22.

Please call (753-6568) or e-mail me ([karen\\_herzberg@hotmail.com](mailto:karen_herzberg@hotmail.com)) about Karin, if you wish. Cheers!



**Tonya Bassler writes:** I noticed in the paper that three of our members completed the Telegram sponsored "Tely 10" this summer. They are Margaret Dohan, Linda Hensman, and Jean Guthrie. Jean placed third in her age group.

Hello to WAMUN friends from **Karen Herzberg**,

I've been asked by Eleanor Nesbitt to let you know that she moved into Chancellor Park. Her telephone number is 754-0355 and she would welcome visitors. She's in room 203. It would be best to telephone first to be sure she's available for a visit, or just for a chat.

The photo attached was taken on her second day at Chancellor Park when her brother and sister-in-law arranged a small gathering to mark her new residence. Cheers!

See also article on Special Raffle (page 1) to raise money for the scholarship fund.



**Future WAMUN Members?** **Julia Mathieson** wishes to introduce her new St. John's granddaughter, Kathryn (Katie) Jane. **Tonya Bassler** has two new granddaughters as well. Julia Marie and Charlotte Marie both also live in St. John's and may grow up to be future members of WAMUN. Indeed, Charlotte already tags along with her mother to the Wednesday Scrabble Group!

## In Memoriam

Margaret Panting, a founding member of WAMUN, passed away in St. John's in August. She was the widow of Gerry Panting, a member and former head of the Department of History, and the mother of the well-known local musicians, the Panting brothers.

## From the Editor

Many apologies for the long delay in getting this newsletter out to you. Somehow, prior commitments involving work, house renovations, family obligations and travel made life very hectic over the past six months. Luckily the executive has been able to keep most WAMUN members informed of events by e-mail. (Only 11 of our members do not have e-mail accounts.) The next newsletter should be out in February. Please keep sending us your information and it will be circulated to other members.

Best wishes for now, Carolyn Hodych, 687-9488, [chodych@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:chodych@nf.sympatico.ca)

# Information from Special Interest Groups 2008-2009

## Afternoon Non-fiction Book Group

The non-fiction book group meets at 2 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at Tiffany Towers.

Note: Please park in the "V" (for Visitors) places at the Towers. Newcomers are welcome at any time.

For more information or if you have any questions please contact the convenor, Annmari Tougui, 726-5567 or [amtougui@nl.rogers.com](mailto:amtougui@nl.rogers.com)

### Non-fiction Book List for 2008/2009

<i>From the Holy Mountain</i>	William Dalrymple	11 Sept. 2008
<i>The Audacity of Hope</i>	Barak Obama	9 Oct. 2008
<i>The Brain That Changes Itself</i>	Norman Doidge	13 Nov. 2008
<i>The Film Club</i>	David Gilmore	11 Dec. 2008
<i>The Glass Castles</i>	Jeanette Walls	8 Jan. 2009
<i>Blink</i>	Malcolm Gladwell	12 Feb. 2009
<i>The Shadow of the Sun</i>	Ryszard Kapuscinski	12 Mar. 2009
<i>Book Presentation</i>		9 Apr. 2009
<i>The Peeling of the Onion</i>	Gunter Grass	14 May 2009
<i>This is Your Brain on Music</i>	Daniel J. Levitin	11 Jun. 2009

and voting for the next year

## Afternoon and Evening Fiction Book Group

To accommodate the wishes of members, the fiction book group consists of afternoon and evening sections. Every fourth Tuesday of the month, the evening group meets at 8 p.m. in Tiffany Towers and every third Tuesday the afternoon group meets at 2 p.m. in the same location.

Julia Mathieson, 722-3249, [gmathieson@nl.rogers.com](mailto:gmathieson@nl.rogers.com), convenes the evening group and Karen Herzberg, 753-6568, [karen\\_herzberg@hotmail.com](mailto:karen_herzberg@hotmail.com), convenes the afternoon group. Please contact either convenor for more information.

### Fiction Book List for 2008/2009

September:	<i>Late Nights on Air</i> by Elizabeth Hay
October:	<i>An Audience of Chairs</i> by Joan Clark
November:	<i>Love in the Time of Cholera</i> by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
January:	<i>Infidel</i> by Ayaan Hirsi Ali
To be scheduled:	<i>Water For Elephants</i> by Sara Gruen
	<i>Beatrice</i> by Monica Kidd
	<i>Snow Flower and the Secret Fan</i> by Lisa See
	<i>The Forest Lover</i> by Susan Vreeland

## Tuesday Hiking and Saturday Walking Groups

The **Tuesday Hiking Group** used to meet twice a month on Tuesday mornings for excursions in and around St. John's. However, in absence of a convenor most former participants are walking with the Saturday group.

The **Saturday Walking Group** meets on Saturdays for light exercise and good company. Please contact Deborah Rehner, 739-5046 or [dbrehner@gmail.com](mailto:dbrehner@gmail.com) for more information about upcoming walks.

## Coffee Morning Group

The Coffee Break Group meets once a month on Wednesday morning from 10:30 to noon. Coffee and snacks are served and members enjoy socializing with no set agenda. For further details please contact, Pat Collins at 754-0507 or [patriciacollins@nl.rogers.com](mailto:patriciacollins@nl.rogers.com)

## International Food Group

After almost 30 years (we had our first meal in Oct. 1979), the **International Food Group** has folded as we no longer have enough interested members to operate the group. Apart from the cooking experiences, it was a wonderful opportunity to meet interesting people from all faculties and university departments. Members who have already paid for home delivery of menus have had their money refunded. Susan Jackson

## Scrabble Group

Scrabble enthusiasts get together every Wednesday morning at Starbucks (Chapters) on Kenmount Road. For more information, contact Joan Fuller at 726-0896.