Dear Friends,

Yet another strange COVID-influenced year. I hope that you have been able to keep safe and well. It is sad that we haven’t been able to meet as often as we might have hoped back in the fall. We had planned to hold our annual spring talk in March, but the resurgence of COVID cases with the arrival of the omicron variant over Christmas made that impossible. That said, most of the interest groups have managed to keep going in person or online, while others have managed to start up again. In times of lockdown, our two walking groups have provided a great outdoor activity! And the Zoom Café has proved successful as a new, completely online venture. WAMUN members are clearly resilient and determined women.

The AGM is coming up very soon. I hope that you will be able to join us at the Lantern on April 23rd. More details are available inside this newsletter.

This will be my last newsletter message as president. I am so very happy to report that Ann Noseworthy has agreed to stand for election to the position of president at the AGM. Two members of the executive are stepping down this year, Julia Mathieson and Frankie O’Neill. They will be missed. We are very grateful for their contribution to running WAMUN smoothly over the last few years. If you have been thinking about joining the executive, now is your chance.

At the AGM we will also mark the passing of long-time WAMUN members Joyce Cho and Ursula Sampath. We know that they are greatly missed by their families and their friends in WAMUN. They and those who mourn them are in our thoughts and prayers.

… Kathryn Simonsen
The Spring Talk that had been tentatively scheduled for March just past was cancelled because of renewed concerns about COVID-19.

Frankie O’Neill and Julia Mathieson have stepped down from the executive. We owe them thanks for their efforts on our behalf.

A slate of officers for the 2022-23 year has been drawn up. Members who have agreed to stand for election at this point are: Ann Noseworthy for president, Dorothy Milne for vice-president and newsletter editor, Joan Hiller for treasurer, Kathryn Simonsen for membership secretary, and Ingrid Pardoe, Brenda Burness and Karen Lippold for social convenors. The position of secretary has no candidate as yet. As always, we welcome any member to put her name forward to serve on the executive. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the Annual General Meeting on April 23rd, prior to the election being held.

We hope to see as many members as possible attending the AGM.

A copy of the draft minutes from the October 30, 2021 AGM appear at the end of this newsletter.
The University has advised us that our webpage will soon have to be transferred to a new system. The new system will be more cybersecure. It is not yet clear how different our website may have to be in future. Also, it may not be available for consulting for a while during the transition period. We anticipate we may need to redesign or rework it to meet our needs.

If you would like to be involved in learning or designing this new site, please contact me at dorothymilne2@gmail.com . . . Dorothy Milne

New members are most welcome. If you know of women who might enjoy participating in one or more of our activities, why not invite them to come along to one of our meetings or events? If they have recently retired or moved to St. John’s, they might find some of our group activities a great way to occupy their time and make new friends. WAMUN dues are still only $15 a year – a bargain!

During the past two years of the pandemic, most of our interest group meetings have been either suspended or held by Zoom. Thus, the usual opportunities to pay the annual dues in person have been few and far between. Many members now find it more convenient to pay them by e-transfer. It is quick, easy and convenient. If you would like to do this, please start the process by sending an e-mail to Joan Hiller at jhiller8@yahoo.ca. She will e-mail you the details needed to carry out the transaction. . . . Kathryn Simonsen

Memorial’s Campus Food Bank still needs help to feed needy students. With recent increases in food prices and the marked increase in tuition fees for many students, the need continues to be great.

Until our groups are able to meet again in person, it won’t be possible to drop cash donations into the piggy bank that is brought to events. You can, however, continue to donate in several ways:

(i) mail a grocery gift card or a cheque made out to ‘Campus Food Bank’ to: Campus Food Bank, Memorial University, St. John’s, NL, A1C 5S7 Include your name and mailing address so the food bank can mail you a receipt. A receipt is sent for all donations over $5.

(2) e-transfer a cash donation, using foodbank@mun.ca as the designated recipient.

(3) go online to www.canadahelp.org and make a donation by credit card to Campus Food Bank, St. John’s, NL. Canada Helps will send you a receipt immediately by e-mail.

The recent donation by the Coffee Mornings Group was much appreciated. . . . Dorothy Milne
WAMUN has an account at Ever Green Recycling. The money raised by delivering containers to them goes to our Scholarship Fund. We are happy to report that since the recycling project was revived two years ago, this effort has raised $562.40.

Any container you have to pay a deposit on at the store can be taken to one of the Ever Green Recycling depots. They are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Making a delivery is quick and easy. You only have to type the WAMUN account number (# 864-4035) into the self-serve kiosk. The kiosk computer spits out a sticker with a bar code version of WAMUN’s account number. Just slap the sticker onto the bag and leave.

... Dorothy Milne and Karen Herzberg

Joyce was born in Richmond, British Columbia and grew up in Toronto. Shortly after getting married, she and her husband, Chung Won Cho, moved to St. John’s in 1958 for his new position as a professor in the Physics Department at Memorial University. She was dedicated to her family, having raised three children and enduring the loss of her son, Arnold.

Having been a member of Toronto Japanese United Church, Joyce joined the congregation of newly-founded St. James United Church in 1959 when it was still meeting in the MacPherson Junior High School. She and her husband were active members in the life of this church for over sixty years.

Joyce was an active volunteer in the community. She hosted many dinner parties and afternoon teas to welcome newcomers to St. John’s, volunteering as well with the Association of New Canadians, and the Welcome Wagon for new faculty arriving in St. John’s. She served as the provincial chair of Asia Pacific Cultural Events. She was an early board member of the MUN...
Botanical Gardens and one of their long-time volunteers. She was also a long-time member of the Wildflower Society of Newfoundland and Labrador and worked tirelessly to maintain the garden at her home.

She was an especially talented artist. She received her formal training at the Ontario College of Fine Art and at Pennsylvania State University. Working from her home, she expressed her love of art and design in quilting, embroidery, floral design, etchings, pottery and enamel ware, but in particular, she was nationally and internationally known for her magnificent, minutely detailed botanical watercolours. Her work was published in Wildflower magazine and other nature periodicals. She was invited to participate in art projects in Canada and Tasmania, and she served on the board of the American Society of Botanical Art.

Joyce shared her love of art by initiating and hosting the Tuesday Art sessions at the Botanical Gardens. There, in an encouraging informal environment, for 27 years she fostered both the artistic development and social enjoyment of the members. She is remembered as a welcoming, kind and patient teacher. She arranged for members of the group to exhibit their work in an annual summer exhibit at the Gardens, teaching them how to hang and present their work professionally. She also arranged for the paintings of group members to grace the covers of cookbooks for sale in the Botanical Garden gift shop. At Christmas, many of her friends received a card that featured a reproduction of one of her paintings.

Joyce was a member of WAMUN for many decades, attending some of our events are recently as 2019. She was president of WAMUN in 1979-1980. Joyce will be remembered as a talented, generous, and lovely woman.

adapted from the obituary and with help from Heather Saunders, Jo Shawer, and Hatty Shinkle

Four undergraduate and four graduate student scholarships, each worth $1,200, were awarded this year.

Donations received from WAMUN members in the fall of 2020 totaled $2,250. This is close to the average amount raised in recent years. The scholarship committee hopes and recommends that donations by members continue at this rate in order to secure the future of our scholarships.

We will not learn the closing balance of the WAMUN Scholarship Endowment Fund on March 31, 2022 for another six to eight weeks. The Scholarship Committee will be keeping a close watch on the size the endowment fund in the months ahead. We will present a full report to the membership in the fall.
We usually have a chance to meet and chat with the four graduate student scholarship winners at the January coffee morning reception. Again this year, however, the reception could not be held because of COVID restrictions. Here is a photo of each of the winners with a short description of her project.

Rachael Moran  Master’s Student in Biology (thesis route)

Rachael graduated in 2020 from the University of New Brunswick with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environment and Natural Resources, with a major in water management. She has work experience in water quality monitoring, snow and river watching as part of flood prediction, tree planting and the sampling on benthic invertebrates.

For her master’s degree, she will be studying carbon cycling in the boreal forest. She will be gathering data at twenty sites in Gros Morne National Park that vary in the degree to which the forest has been damaged by moose and by spruce budworm. The budworms kill trees by defoliating them and moose prevent the regrowth of trees by browsing new saplings. She will measure the carbon biomass both above and below ground, both in living components and in non-living components such as standing deadwood and leaf litter. Statistical models and remote sensing data will be used to scale the results up to a broader area, with the aim of predicting the effects of budworm and moose damage on the forest’s ability to sequester carbon under various circumstances. More information of this type is needed for the development of better forestry practices and policies to mitigate climate change.

Sara Ozbek  Master’s Student in Public Health (coursework route)

Sara graduated from St. Marys University, Halifax, in 2021 with an honours bachelor’s degree in biology and a minor in sociology. In 2021-2022 she worked as a research assistant in the Department of Epidemiology in MUN’s School of Medicine. This year she is enrolled in the one-year intensive master’s degree in public health program that requires, among other subjects, coursework in biostatistics, epidemiology, disease and injury prevention, environmental health, health promotion, and policy and decision making. Her stated aims are to play a role in health care education and advocacy and to help create stronger and healthier communities among various disadvantaged groups in Canada and beyond. Having come to Canada with her parents in 2007 as a government-sponsored refugee from Afghanistan, Sara has
a special interest in assisting with the medical problems of refugees as well as those of other marginalized groups. She also hopes eventually to pursue a medical degree.

Shenita Pramij    Ph.D. student in Statistics

Shenita earned her bachelor’s degree in mathematics and her master’s degree in statistics at Memorial University. Her field of study is biostatistical epidemiology. Since starting work for the master’s degree, she has been studying statistical models that can be used to identify and predict the spread of infectious diseases. Along with her thesis supervisors, she has been involved in modeling the spread of COVID-19 in Newfoundland. For the Ph.D., she will continue to develop models and methods used for the statistical analysis of epidemics with the aim of improving their accuracy, especially in identifying clusters and the early stages of an outbreak so that the spread of disease might be reduced.

Deanne Curnew    Ph. D. student in Nursing

Deanne graduated with a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Memorial in 2008. After working for a time as a nurse, she returned to St. John’s and in 2011 and began serving as a nursing instructor in the School of Nursing. She is still teaching some courses as she continues her education and raises three small children.

For her master’s degree in nursing she studied the role that registered nurses (RN’s) could play in primary care settings such as clinics and family practices. Some recent interest in health system reform has focused on creating teams of health care professionals in which registered nurses would work alongside doctors and other therapists in such settings. Successful teams would yield important practical benefits for everyone in the health care system, including patients.

For her Ph.D., Deanne will expand on the work of her master’s thesis by studying how well the present undergraduate education of nurses in Canada prepares newly graduated RN’s to practice in such interdisciplinary teams. By studying the curriculum of the nursing schools and surveying educators in the field, she aims to identify opportunities where this training might be improved.

... Dorothy Milne, Ann Noseworthy, Deborah Rehner

These photos were taken by members of Snap N Chat for the theme of 'trees'
ART HAPPENINGS

The Art Happenings group has not been active for the past two years. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020 and art galleries were closed, the group’s convenors have not felt comfortable enough to suggest an outing. With the recent surge of omicron cases, the situation is unlikely to change very soon. Going forward, members of this group may want to consider future plans for this group when life, hopefully, returns to normal. If you would like to volunteer to be a co-convenor for this group, or have suggestions for how the group might resume activities in the fall, please contact Olga at obrichards@bellaliant.net

. . . Mary Chalker

SCRABBLE GROUP

Over the last two years we have lost nearly half of our participants, as some left the province and others became physically unable to join us. Also, as a result of COVID, we lost our venue at Starbucks in Chapters, which closed permanently.

The good news, however, is that the Scrabble group has resumed playing. Through MUNPA we secured a space on Mt. Scio Road almost opposite the Botanical Garden in the MUN Research Facility. Starting again in the fall, we played until Christmas on alternate Wednesday mornings. In the New Year, everything came to a halt again. We were only allowed into the space to resume playing in mid-March. We are now playing every Wednesday and have a core of very enthusiastic players.

If any of you are interested in joining us or know of someone who would, we would love to see you. We are not overly competitive - we play for the fun of it. You do not need to bring your own board. For further information please contact me at ipardoe@mun.ca or phone 364-9305.

. . . Convenor: Ingrid Pardoe

ZOOM CAFÉ

Zoom Café is a forum for casual socializing and conversation by Zoom that is open to all WAMUN members. Since our first meeting in October 2021, it has provided an opportunity for members to drop in and chat with friends or new acquaintances about anything or everything from the comfort of our homes, with or without a cup of coffee or tea at hand. As with most conversations with friends,
it is an opportunity to share news of life events, discuss local events, and to ask for advice on practical matters. Everyone is welcome to come regularly or to drop in once in a while. We’re also delighted to reconnect and visit with members who now live out town.

We meet on a Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. about once every four weeks. The invitation for the Zoom Café is sent to all WAMUN members by email. Meetings are scheduled so they won’t conflict with the meetings of the Coffee Mornings Group. Karen Herzberg hosts the Zoom. If you need help using Zoom, Karen will be happy to coach you through the steps.

To be put on the list for this group, or to ask for help using Zoom, send an e-mail to Karen at karen_herzberg@hotmail.com

... Co-convenors: Karen Herzberg and Dorothy Milne

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**COFFEE MORNINGS**

For the second year in a row, COVID restrictions have made it difficult for members of this group to enjoy the in-person socializing they enjoy when meeting in each other’s homes. From March 2020 till the fall of 2021 no meetings were held in this way. In October 2021, when there was a lull in the number of cases, the group met for the first time in person at the Jag restaurant. This was a celebration of being together again and of visiting with our former convenor, Ruth Noel, who was visiting St. John’s for the first time since her move to Toronto. The following four meetings were also held in person, three in the homes of members. Hopes of renewing the meetings at homes in January were dashed by the arrival of the highly transmissible Omicron variant of the virus and a surge of cases in the province. In late April, as the latest wave appears to be waning, we hope to get in touch with members shortly and arrange a meeting on May 4th.

... Co-convenors (pro-tem): Donna Burden and Bev Gardner

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**E-TOYS**

Since resuming its meetings in the fall of 2021, the Electronic Toys group has met each month on the second Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. As thoughts of meeting in person again at the Marjorie Mews Library were dashed by the arrival of the Omicron variant and a surge in cases in the province, we have been meeting by Zoom. We will be meeting on May 12th and June 9th before breaking for the summer. All WAMUN members are welcome to join us. No question or problem is too basic for us to discuss or explore. We share our knowledge.
Fortunately we have all become more comfortable using Zoom. At recent meetings, we have discussed a wide variety of topics related to our electronic gadgets and services, including – in addition to more routine glitches – software updates, scams to avoid, and the MCP data leak. Particularly helpful was the session devoted to explaining what is meant by storing data to ‘the Cloud’, presented by Deborah Rehner.

The link for the Zoom meeting is sent by e-mail. To be added to the e-mail list, please contact Karen at karen_herzberg@hotmail.com

... Convenors:  Karen Herzberg, Dorothy Milne, Deborah Rehner

Snap & Chat group is now in its fourth year. In October, the group visited Petty Harbour and took photos in brilliant sunshine. In November we visited the O’Brien Farm and in December, attended the Mummer’s Parade in Bowring Park. With the onset of winter and the arrival of a wave of Omicron COVID cases in the province, we decided not to meet as a group, but instead to take photos individually on a theme chosen for the month. In January, February, and April, these were ‘windows’, ‘doors’, and ‘fences’. Deciding what things to photograph for a theme can feel a bit like a treasure hunt – looking for the old, the new, the unusual, the abstract, the picturesque. In March we visited the grounds of Government House for a ‘trees’ theme. Later each month, the group met by Zoom and viewed the photographs in a Power Point presentation. This has added a welcome social dimension to our activities. It has also allowed members who live at a distance to join in the fun. We now quite regularly receive photos from members in British Columbia, Portugal and Germany.

We also share some of our photos by posting them to a Google Photo Sharing Album.

On April 27th, weather permitting, we will be going as a group to Torbay Beach to take photos with a ‘water’ theme.

New members are welcome. No particular expertise or equipment is required – the camera in a cell phone will do. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list, contact Karen at karen_herzberg@hotmail.com

... Convenors:  Karen Herzberg and Dorothy Milne

Some photos taken at Petty Harbour and at the Mummer’s Parade:
WAMUN has two walking groups. One meets at 1:30 p.m. on Saturdays, the other at 1:30 p.m. on Mondays. They meet year round, weather permitting. Only the most severe weather deters these hardy walkers.

The Saturday Walking Group has been walking in and near St. John’s for about 15 years. We walk on trails around many ponds and rivers in and around St. John’s, such as the T’Railway, bits of the the East coast Trail, the Rennies River Trail, the Virginia River Trail, and around Signal Hill, among other locations. In the winter, we often walk on streets in quiet neighbourhoods to avoid ice and snow. In the summer, we often go a bit further afield, such as to Cape Spear or to the Manuals River. Almost always there are at least four or five women in the group; often there are a dozen people and a few dogs walking with us.
These walks are for people at all levels of ability. Among our regular walkers, some are younger, faster, and more robust, while some are older, slower, and wish to walk less far. People pair up with others who wish to walk at their speed, so no one has to walk alone. We all start at the same time and return at the same time, so no one is left behind.

In the good old days before COVID restrictions made socializing at a coffee shop off limits, we regularly went together for coffee after the walk, enjoying conversation and strengthening friendships. To capture some of that experience, during the past two summers, we have brought coffee and folding chairs to the walks and thus have enjoyed a social hour after the walk in the fresh air. Once the weather is warm enough again this year, we shall probably do this again, or – if coffee shops are allowing large groups to congregate inside again, we may actually go back to one of them for our post-walk coffee hours.

The Monday Walking Group has fewer members but they are just as keen. Their walks require at least a moderate level of fitness. This is the group for people who would prefer a brisk walk. We often choose to go on some of the more adventurous trails, such as nearby sections of the East Coast Trail or treks across the barrens. Hills may be involved. The walks are longer and cover greater distances than those of the Saturday group. In the winter, the group has on occasion gone snowshoeing on the trails in Pippy Park.

Fixing ice grippers  Meeting Charlie the RNC horse  On a riverside trail
Members and friends are invited to join any of our walks on a drop-in basis. Some WAMUN members walk with both groups. Come to some or many, as you wish. The location of the week’s walk is sent to group members by e-mail.

We’d love to have you join us. If you’re interested, send an email to wamun@mun.ca and ask to have your name put on the mailing list for either walking group or both, as you prefer.

… Convenors: Marjorie Evans (Mondays) and Deborah Rehner (Saturdays)

THE 2022 INUKSHUK PHOTO

On January 29th, members of the Saturday walking group honoured a WAMUN tradition by going to the campus of Memorial University and having the annual photo with the Inukshuk taken.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

MOSTLY FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The fiction titles we have read this year have covered a wide range of countries, time periods, and issues. They have been enjoyable to read and have sparked excellent discussion. The books we have read so far are: Hamnet and Judith, Ananias, The Pull of the Stars, Desert Flower, Indians on Vacation, and A Sudden Sun. Two books remain: Life After (April 28) and The Tower at the Edge of the World (May 26).

Two of the books were by Newfoundland authors. Both were able to join our discussion by Zoom: James Case for his novel, Ananias, and Trudy Morgan-Cole for hers, A Sudden Sun. Their contribution added greatly to our understanding and appreciation of their works.

Meeting by Zoom has allowed several of our members who live...
outside of St. John’s to participate. For the time being we will continue to do so. It may be possible in future to combine meetings in person with a Zoom link.

All WAMUN members are welcome to join us at any of our meetings for a lively and enjoyable discussion. To be put on the mailing list please contact me at miriamsimpson08@gmail.com

… Convenor: Miriam Simpson

NON-FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

We have been meeting on-line for the past two years, since COVID arrived in March 2020. During the past year, Kathy Simonsen has hosted most of the meetings using the GoToMeeting app, while recently we have begun to meet by Zoom. We hope to meet in person again when it is again safe to do so, or to hold meetings in some combination of in-person and Zoom. If you live out of province and would like to read the books and join our discussions, we welcome you to join our on-line meetings. Feel free to come for one book or for many.

Two meetings remain in this program year. On May 5th, members will present titles they recommend to the group for the 2022-23 reading list. At the June 2 meeting, members will vote to decide which books we will read, and discuss the last book in this year’s series: Four Seasons in Rome, by Anthony Doerr.

New members are most welcome. If you are not already on the list to receive our e-mails for announcements and links for Zoom, please feel free to e-mail Mary at maryc@mun.ca.

… Convenor: Mary Chalker

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN OCTOBER 2021

Women’s Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland
Annual General Meeting
Saturday, October 30th, 2021
(Postponed from Saturday, September 11th, 2021)
Fluvarium, Pippy Park, St. John’s
Minutes
0. The President called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. A list of attendees appears at the end of these minutes.

1. Approval of the Agenda – moved by K. Matthews; seconded by B. Gardner; all in favour.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM on October 22nd, 2020 – moved by J. Mathieson, seconded by O. Bloomfield-Richards with the addition of K. Herzberg’s name to the list of attendees; all in favour.


4. Reports
   a) President’s Report (K. Simonsen reporting): WAMUN held fewer activities this year because of COVID. Our scholarship fund as surpassed $200,000 and is now self-sustaining. WAMUN now needs to consider that action, if any, is to be taken to adjust the present terms of the scholarships. She thanked the Social Convenors and the rest of the Executive for their contributions and invited the membership to consider running for the Board.
   c) Treasurer’s Report (J. Hiller reporting): WAMUN had a balance of $3486 on August 31st, 2020. WAMUN donated $1500 to the Student Emergency Fund this year. The balance as of August 31st, 2021 was $3011. The treasurer will arrange for members to pay their dues by e-transfer for the 2021-2022 membership year.
   d) Newsletter Report (D. Milne, absent): The latest issue was published on October 29th with very positive feedback so far.
   e) Scholarship Committee Report (D. Rehner reporting): The Committee members are Dorothy Milne, Ann Noseworthy and Deborah Rehner. D. Rehner read out the report written by D. Milne (see attached).

   A broad discussion of possible changes ensued including the following points:
   - The present amounts of the scholarships
   - The amount by which the fund is depleted annually
   - Whether Grenfell students were eligible for both undergraduate and graduate awards
   - Increasing the value of each award
   - Setting up a bursary versus another scholarship
   - Developing and expanded ad hoc committee to review our scholarship mandate
   - Consulting the appropriate University staff for advice

   The Scholarship Committee agreed to explore all these issues and invited any interested members to join the process. A report should be available before the next AGM, scheduled for April 2022.
5. Reports from Interest Group Convenors
   a) Karen Herzberg reported on E-Toys and Snap and Chat.
   b) Zoom Café is a good medium for both local and “away” members to communicate.
   c) Beverly Gardner reported that the Coffee Group plans to meet the second Wednesday of each month until June 2022.
   d) Marjorie Evans and Deborah Rehner reported on the two Walking Groups.
   e) Mary Chalker reported that the Zoom Non-fiction Book Club has an international member; Miriam Simpson sent an email report on the Fiction Book Club.

6. Election of Officers for 2021-2022
   The chair of the meeting was assumed by Marjorie Evans. She presented a full slate of nominees (see attached). No further nominates were forthcoming. The slate was adopted. Dorothy Milne was commended by the membership for her extensive contributions to the association.

7. Other Business
   K. Matthews promoted the upcoming Scrabble event organized by the Terra Nova Grannies on Nov. 13th at the Lantern. She thanked WAMUN members for their support of the Grannies’ Walk in June 2021, which raised $5400.

   Members then sang “Happy Birthday” to Hatty Shinkle and G. Bahturina.


   The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm.

   Minutes respectfully submitted by F. O’Neill.