

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was delighted to see that so many of you came to the special coffee morning to celebrate our 40th anniversary. We put a lot of work into planning the morning. It was a great relief that everything went so well.

Many of our members, as well as the executive, were a great help. It was definitely a team effort. I would especially like to thank Julia Mathieson and Mary Chalker, who constructed two interesting archival displays of WAMUN events over the years, Brenda Burness and Margaret Michalak, who took care of the catering and decorating; and Sue Michalski, who made us a delicious and impressive cake. As you will see, the contributions of many other people are recognized in the following pages.

We were pleased to meet two of our doctoral scholarship winners, Connie Morrison and Robert Dykstra, who seemed to enjoy themselves.

It was really interesting to meet members who had been active in the past. In particular, it was a pleasure to visit with our first and third presidents, Joan Scott and Mary Summers. We were sorry that our second president, Margaret Panting, was not able to join us. Sonya May, one of our honorary members, was pleased we had invited her but she and Art were on a cruise January 14. Dr. Axel Meisen and Barbara Girard had planned to be with us, but unfortunately had to change their plans at the last minute. All sorts of people, including both past and potential members were part of the celebration. You can see many of them in Karen Herzberg's and Margaret Michalak's photos elsewhere in this newsletter.

A nominating committee, chaired by Elke Molgaard, has begun contacting people who might be interested in serving on the executive for 2006 - 2007. If you, or someone you know in WAMUN, would be interested, please feel free to volunteer, or recommend a friend. A new executive will be elected at the Annual General Meeting which will take place on April 8 in the Junior Common Room of R. Gushue Hall. See the Program section of the newsletter for more information about the AGM.

Eleanor Nesbitt, President
(754-0355; enesbitt@mun.ca)

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

Article IX 1. b. Standing Committees, Other Offices and Interest Groups

Change the last sentence from:

The duties of the Scholarship Committee shall be to consult with the University, to publicize the scholarships, to review the scholarship program regularly, to report regularly to the Executive, to report annually to the members of the Association on the financial status of the scholarship fund, and to make annual recommendations on the scholarship program.

to:

- The duties of the Scholarship Committee shall be:
- (i) to consult with the University
 - (ii) to monitor the administration of the scholarship program and ensure adherence to established criteria
 - (iii) to publicize the scholarships
 - (iv) to review the scholarship program regularly
 - (v) to report regularly to the Executive
 - (vi) to report annually to the members of the Association on the financial status of the scholarship fund and
 - (vii) to make annual recommendations on the scholarship program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Saturday, April 8, noon
Junior Common Room
R. Gushue Hall (Prince Phillip Parkway)

The doors will open at 12 p.m. and lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m., followed by the AGM. The R. Gushue Hall is on Prince Phillip Parkway.

Parking:

- We may park in front of the building along Irwin's Road.
- Parking areas 11 and 12 are for the Paton College tenants only.

Remember a food item for the Campus Food Bank.

Brenda Burness
(895-2712; bburness@nl.rogers.com)
Margaret Michalak
(579-5847; michalak@mun.ca)

CELEBRATING THE 40th

WAMUN has reached its 40th year and instead of bemoaning the loss of our youth, we are actually celebrating!

In the Dec. 15 issue of the *Gazette*, Jeff Green wrote about this milestone. In his the article, he describes the services that WAMUN has provided over the years: support for women in the university community; the several interest groups; and the eight scholarships we fund. In addition, he listed the original charter members who still live in St. John's: Valerie Bullock, Tonya Bassler, Joyce Cho, Gladys Deutsch, Elinor Eaton, Susan Jackson, Joan Scott and Margrete Smith.



On Jan. 14 over 50 people filled the Genesis Room for a birthday celebration. We enjoyed a yummy birthday cake, balloons and an amazing archival display. We visited with old friends and met new ones. Two of our graduate scholarship winners were able to share the experience with us.

And, since it was a lovely day, we all enjoyed the view over Long Pond.



WAMUN presidents

More pictures are on display at the WAMUN website:

(www.mun.ca/wamun/Anniversary_Coffee_2006_01_14.html)

[Due to the vagaries of websites and such, there is no link from the main page yet, so you need to enter the entire URL. Sorry!]

The website contains more than 30 images. You can click on an image if you want to see it enlarged.

There will also be more images in the electronic version of the newsletter:

(www.mi.mun.ca/~drehner/NL_FEB_06)

SCHOLARSHIPS

WAMUN congratulates the following winners of its four 2005-2006 undergraduate scholarships:

- **Sandra Badcock** Entrance Scholarship*
Bay Roberts
- **Elizabeth Mason** Faculty/Staff Scholarship
Conception Bay South
- **Name Withheld by Request**** Undergraduate Scholarship***
St. John's
- **Mary Newton** Single Parent
Wareham
- **Heather Chafe** Mature Student
St. John's

Each undergraduate scholarship is valued at \$900.

*This is the last year WAMUN is awarding the Entrance Scholarship. The university generously funded it this year. In other words, WAMUN awarded five undergraduate scholarships this year, but funded only four of them.

**The student requested that his/her name be withheld from publication for personal reasons.

***The Undergraduate Scholarship is a new one and replaces the Entrance Scholarship as per the 2005 AGM vote.

The winners of WAMUN's four graduate scholarships were announced in the previous newsletter. Unfortunately, Collette Moores was subsequently unable to accept the Master's All-Course Route Scholarship. Her replacement is Nancie Rideout, Department of History.

The doctoral winners, Connie Morrison and Robert Dykstra, attended the Anniversary Coffee on Jan. 14. While she was there, Connie handed me a handwritten note addressed to WAMUN thanking us for the scholarship. It was so lovely that I would like to share it with you.

To the Women's Association of MUN--

I would like to say a sincere thank you for the doctoral scholarship I have received from WAMUN. The money is greatly appreciated and will enable me to continue my research into the impact that media has on the youth of our province.

I look forward to a long association with WAMUN--

Connie Morrison

Tonya Bassler, Chair
Scholarship Committee

MEMBERSHIP

It's been a year of "win some/lose some" for membership. So far we have "won" 12 new members but "lost" seven who have either moved away or decided not to renew. There are four names outstanding, two of which I expect will rejoin. With them we will be 95, up two from last year.

Since the last newsletter the following new members have joined. Expect to see them in the interest groups indicated.

- Shelley Bauer (international food)
- Debby Brown (nonfiction book and hiking)
- Patricia Collins (fiction and non fiction book, coffee break, international food and hiking)
- Anna Consoli (international food)
- Kay Matthews (investment)

The number of new members is especially heartening--a warm welcome to you all, and thanks to those of you who introduced them to the group.

Mary Chalker (753-4262; maryc@mun.ca)

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Each year, at the AGM, WAMUN honours one of its members who has served the organization well over the years. The people here,

who were at the 40th Anniversary Coffee, are among those who have received the award in the past. We recognize them as members who have said, "Yes", when asked to participate in fundraising, as members of the executive and in other capacities. Who would you like to nominate to this august group? Write a brief letter to Eleanor Nesbitt describing your nominee and the ways in which she has served WAMUN. The executive will consider your recommendation seriously.

RECYCLING FOR THE WAMUN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Please consider donating your recycling revenue to WAMUN scholarship fund. This is an easy way of raising money for our scholarship fund!

WAMUN members who recycle items at any of the following Evergreen Recycling locations can have their refund credited to the WAMUN account:

Mill Lane Enterprises, 807 Water Street
(777-3400)
Cowan Avenue at Waterford Bridge Road
(777-3832)
Regatta Plaza Building, 92 Elizabeth Avenue
(777-3382)

Ask the depot employee counting your items to complete a blue credit slip for your signature; a receipt may be obtained at the refund desk if desired. All proceeds donated by WAMUN members will be directed into the WAMUN Scholarship Fund. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail me.

Marilyn Macdonald
(726-3134; m_macdonald17@hotmail.com)

Peru on a Paycheque



From all accounts Sue Scott's report on her adventures in Peru was a major success. Those in the audience commented about how interesting and enjoyable the presentation was and Sue says she had a great time. Thank you, Sue!

CAMPUS FOOD BANK

Many interest groups have been collecting items for the Campus Food Bank and this has been truly appreciated by the co-ordinator Noel Veitch, as well as by the recipients. Mr. Veitch clarified recently that in addition to the usual non-perishable items we are used to donating, he is pleased to pass on "sturdy" fruits and vegetables, e.g. oranges, potatoes, etc. Thank you to all those members who have been so generous in the past.

INTEREST GROUPS
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

Book Discussion Groups (fiction)

Evening Fiction Book Group

This group meets at 8 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month in the Common Room at Tiffany Towers.

Julia Mathieson
(gmathieson@nl.rogers.com)

Afternoon Fiction Book Group

This group meets at 2 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Common Room at Tiffany Towers.

Karen Herzberg
(753-6568; karen_herzberg@hotmail.com)

Having two fiction book groups seems to be working out beautifully. Of course, some of us miss having the large group in which to share ideas, but others enjoy the intimacy of the smaller groups.

In November, both groups discussed *Deafening* by Frances Itani. During the month of January all sorts of people were drawn into the discussion surrounding *An Equal Music* by Vikram Seth. Since the protagonist of that book is the second violinist in a string quartet, members of the Atlantic String Quartet and people associated with the School of Music were constantly being accosted with questions about how string quartets actually behave. Indeed, there was a lively discussion in the kitchen during the 40th anniversary coffee morning when Mary O'Keeffe was asked for her opinion.

In February, *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell will take the stage as the groups' "classic" for the year. The groups have decided that, for the present, they will read the same book(s) each month. This means that if a member must miss her own group, she can always join the other group for their discussion. The schedule for the next few months is below.

Both groups meet monthly, except December, July and August. In June we meet to choose the books for the coming year. New readers are always welcome!

Here is the schedule for the next few months:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Evening</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>	<u>Title/Author</u>
February	21	28	<i>My Family and Other Animals</i> by Gerald Durrell
March	21	28	<i>The Flame Trees of Thika</i> by Elspeth Huxley
April	18	25	<i>Bel Canto</i> by Ann Patchett
May	16	23	<i>The Known World</i> by Edward P. Jones

Book Discussion Group (non-fiction – afternoon)

The non-fiction book club has been busily reading about the condition of women in various parts of the world. In December, we had a lively discussion after reading *The Bookseller of Kabul* and in January, we had an equally lively discussion about Gertrude Bell, as she is described in *The Dessert Queen*. On Feb. 9, we will be discussing *Leap of Faith* by Queen Noor, which gives yet another perspective on the Middle East. The remaining books/activities for the year are:

February	9	<i>Leap of Faith</i> by Queen Noor
March	9	<i>Future: Tense: The Coming World Order</i> by Gwynne Dyer
April	13	Presentation of book choices for 2006 – 2007
May	11	<i>The Opposite of Fate</i> by Amy Tan
June	8	<i>Karmic Traces</i> and <i>9/12 New York After</i> by Eliot Weinberger

Note: When two books are listed, members may read either one or both.

We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. at the home of Eleanor Nesbitt. We welcome new members and we guarantee a lively discussion. If you want to join us, send an e-mail to the address below and I will provide you with more information about the books that have been suggested for the group to read.

AnnMari Tougui (amtougui@nl.rogers.com)

INTEREST GROUPS

Coffee Break

This very informal group meets in members' homes every two weeks throughout the year for coffee (or tea) and a chat. The location is sometimes changed at short notice, so for the time and place of the next meeting either call Susan Murdey or check for an e-mail from Karen Herzberg. This group is very lively at present with 18 to 20 people coming regularly. Both new and old members seem to enjoy sharing interests and information about life in St. John's.

Susan Murdey (726-0428)

Discovery Investment Club

The Investment Club elected a new executive in January. They are:

Deborah Rehner, president
Louise Dawe, vice-president
Diane Hogan, secretary
Elfi Boehm, treasurer

We want to express our appreciation to the outgoing executive, especially Mona Gillespie, who served as president for two years.

We are looking forward to having a speaker in February and continue to follow the stock market with interest.

Deborah Rehner
(739-5046; Deborah.Rehner@mi.mun.ca)

Hiking, Etc.

Weekday Walkers

The weekday walkers have continued to meet "every other Tuesday morning" since the fall. We've been to the Botanical Gardens, Kent's and Kenny's Ponds, the Waterford River Valley's T'Railway, and the Virginia River Trail from Quidi Vidi as well as from the Hindu Temple. A hearty group including family members made their way around Quidi Vidi on Jan. 3 to celebrate the New Year. Now that winter has arrived with its even more unpredictable weather, we'll carry on when we can find non-slippery trails. We're planning to walk on Feb. 14, weather permitting. We would welcome new faces, so please e-mail or call me.

Karen Herzberg
(753-6568; karen_herzberg@hotmail.com)

Saturday Walkers

We continue to walk every Saturday at 1:30 p.m., with a few variations. On Jan. 7, we took advantage of the free admission to The Rooms and visited there before taking our walk. We were able to view the Quilt of Belonging on its last day there as well as the paintings of Helen Parsons Sheppard and Reginald Sheppard. On the 14th, we did our "second annual" walk around the MUN campus after WAMUN January coffee morning and on Feb. 18 we will walk early, so that we can attend the WAMUN visit of Ilse Hughes' exhibit. As you can tell, we are experts at multi-tasking.

We enjoy having new people walk with us. If you think you might like to join us some Saturday, let Deborah know and she will put your name on our mailing list.

Please contact:

Deborah Rehner re: Saturdays:
(739-5046; Deborah.Rehner@mi.mun.ca)
Karen Herzberg re: Tuesdays/weekdays:
(753-6568; karen_herzberg@hotmail.com)



Members prepare to walk after the Birthday Party!

International Food Group

The International Food Group just had a very successful delicious Tuscany Dinner with five groups of eight people participating.

We look forward to a Czech Republic dinner on Feb. 25 and anticipate another enjoyable evening. For our last meal we shall have an April Fool's Dinner and would appreciate if anyone has any suggestions for this meal. Please contact either Susan Jackson at 726-3808 or Brenda Burness at 895-2712.

Susan Jackson (726-3808)

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Tonya Bassler



Tonya (on the right) with doctoral student, Connie Morrison, at the anniversary coffee.

A charter member of WAMUN, Tonya was one of the earliest presidents and is one of our repeat presidents. She is still very active in WAMUN and currently participates in all of the interest groups. For the past two years, she has been chair of the scholarship committee.

Some years ago, Tonya's husband, Gerhard, had more houseplants than he could accommodate. When he asked her if she had any friends who might like to have them, she suggested WAMUN sell them to raise money for scholarships. That was nine years ago and the sale is still going strong every fall!

We sat down for coffee one day and discussed Tonya's experiences with WAMUN. She remembers that when she and Gerhard came to St. John's in 1965, there were few outside diversions. Since most new faculty couples were starting families and did not have very much money, they looked to each other for friendship and support. WAMUN met monthly for meetings that were both social and informative. As one early member recently recalled for Tonya, "WAMUN was very relaxing and not at all demanding of us."

Over the years WAMUN has evolved to meet the changing needs of its members. For example, in early years women brought their little children with them to coffee mornings. Later they discussed their teenage children. Now, they are likely to be showing pictures of their grandchildren. The organization has gradually become a federation of thriving, lively interest groups with only a few general meetings a year. One of the reasons for its dynamic growth is that any member may propose a new interest group. In the last several years, the major organizational stumbling block has been finding members able on the executive. Among the factors responsible are one-term sabbaticals away from Newfoundland and more frequent travels out of the province. Nonetheless, Tonya is confident WAMUN will be around for a long time to come as long as it continues to meet its members' changing needs and interests. She has enjoyed being part of WAMUN's evolution and is very grateful for the friendships she has found in WAMUN.

Lynda Younghusband

This year, WAMUN has the rare honor of having a member who has just obtained her PhD and whose dissertation, "High School Teachers' Perceptions of Their Working Environment in Newfoundland: A Grounded Theory Study" has been discussed on several radio shows. Lynda says, "I said I wanted to write a dissertation that would not just gather dust. I guess I got my wish!" If you want to know more, Lynda will give the Harris Centre lecture, Monday, Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Inco Innovation Centre.

Asked how it feels to be in the centre of such controversy, Lynda replies,

I really don't feel the centre of attention. I think that teachers have, finally, come to the attention of the public and that they are at the centre. Perhaps now we will not think of teachers as having a cushy nine to three job with long holidays. If only you knew!

About starting doctoral studies at 50+, Lynda says,

Last May I presented, "So You Always Wanted to do a PhD: Trust me. It's never too late.", at the Canadian Counselling Association conference. My abstract shared the information that I was 58 years old when I started my doctoral studies. We booked a small room to hold about 10 persons and about 30 came, spilling out into the corridor. Clearly, many like me, have a dream of pursuing further education to the point of a doctorate, but hesitate to take that step and need some encouragement. My message is, "Go for it! Just make sure you have a partner who can cook." ☺

How was it? Taking on this level of study at any age is not easy but at my age it was daunting: a huge learning curve, worrisome, frustrating, stressful, fearful of failing. On the other hand, exhilarating and rewarding. Would I recommend it? Most definitely. I learned so much, not just about the subject at hand but about research and about myself.

I was fortunate and I'm thankful. I had the full support of my husband, children, family and friends. I also had a terrific supervisor and thesis committee. Without that support and direction I would not have achieved my goal.



Asked if he knew who this was, Cameron Morris (Lynda's great nephew), age 3, said, "Yes, I know. That's Lynda. But why is she dressed like a pirate

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

ARTISTS GALORE!

Ilse Hughes



Ilse Hughes' show, **City on the Edge**, will be at the Red Ochre Gallery (96 Duckworth Street) from Feb. 10 to March 8. Ilse would love to see many of us at the opening from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the 10th. In addition, she has invited us for a WAMUN visit for Saturday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m.

Ilse says:

My last show was an exhibition of portraiture at the Hall (RCAGallery) in 2000. This is a new direction for me as it is the first time that I have an exhibition of landscapes. I have always felt an affinity with intimate spaces, portraiture, interiors, flowers and that has been my focus in the past. This may be related to being a woman, this desire to be close to the subject.

It is only in the last few years that I have explored the landscape seriously and in depth. I am now totally engrossed by the new subject matter but I feel there is still a kind of intimacy in my approach. Perhaps that is why I chose this city as the subject. Everywhere I look the city is up close, challenging the horizon. It literally stretches from sea to sky with a strength that emanates from the naked rock on which it is moulded. It is a city that challenges the eye and I can only meet this challenge on large canvases. I have used strong brushstroke and colour to express the strength, the age and the permanence of this place and my attachment to it.

I enjoyed the challenge of thinking about this body of work and my approach to it and in a way that is what an exhibition is all about. It is a way of seeing for yourself what has been accomplished and measuring its artistic success. It gives one time to step back from the work and reflect.

Debbie Collingwood

Debbie's show, **Patterns of Thought**, opened at Devon House Craft Centre (59 Duckworth Street) on Jan. 22. It is there until Feb. 17.

Patterns of Thought presents a collection of quilt-like objects made from paper and photographs with two hooked rungs thrown on the floor for added interest underfoot.

The work was completed over a 10 year period. It explores issues of change between oral and written traditions by using a wide variety of skills learned within a culture.

The viewer may find traces of embroidery, hand and machine sewing, smocking, basket weaving, book binding, type setting, stream of conscious hand writing, poetry, as well as use of pastel, acrylic and water colour in this zany look at quilts and other arts and crafts.

Debbie invites us to come and see the show and sign the visitors' book.

FROM THE EDITOR

It is very exciting to be preparing the newsletter right after our 40th Anniversary Celebration. As one who has only been a member for a few years, it is interesting to learn more about what WAMUN was like in its early years.

Thank you to all the people who have contributed to the newsletter. As usual, thanks go to the Division of Marketing and Communications and Shannon Crotty in particular. In addition an unusually large number of members of WAMUN contributed to this newsletter. Tonya Bassler, Lynda Younghusband, Ilse Hughes and Debbie Collingwood gave of their time to provide information about themselves and their projects. The executive and conveners all helped by providing information about our activities and by helping with proofreading. Thank you all for being such good friends and please accept my apologies for any errors that remain.

"No news is good news" does not apply to the WAMUN newsletter. We only print the good stuff! Please help me find it. You provide the suggestions; I'll try to follow up on them for the next newsletter.

Remember, the electronic version of this newsletter is available to all WAMUN members at www.mi.mun.ca/~drehner/NL_FEB_06. It has color and more pictures!

Deborah Rehner, Editor
(739-5046; Deborah.Rehner@mi.mun.ca)

BITS AND PIECES

MEMORY STUDY: Women Participants Needed

A doctoral student at the University of Victoria is currently conducting a study that looks at the relationship between hormones and memory in women. She is looking for healthy women between the ages of 65-74 to participate in this study. Participation involves a brief interview, the completion of brief questionnaires that ask for a self-rating of memory, health and mood, as well as several memory-based tasks. Height and weight will also be requested. Total time involvement will be approximately 1 to 1 and 1/2 hours. The interview and testing will be scheduled at your convenience and can be conducted in your home.

All information collected is completely confidential. Participation in the study is voluntary. However, \$10

will be given to all women who participate as a small token of appreciation. Ethics approval for this study has been granted by the University of Victoria and Memorial University. If you are interested in learning more about this study, or think you may like to participate, please do not hesitate to contact Jackie Hesson at 754-2945 (jbhesson@uvic.ca).

CFUW Book Sale

Once again CFUW is organizing its giant book sale to be held April 28 -29 to raise money for their scholarships. As a member of both groups, Karen Herzberg will be happy to collect books, etc. from any WAMUN member if this is convenient for you. You can call or e-mail her at 753-6568 or (karen_herzberg@hotmail.com.)

FUNDRAISING

Soap Stone Sculpture

Has your interest group seen the soap stone sculpture? Have you bought a ticket on it? A member donated this beautiful soap stone sculpture to WAMUN anonymously with the understanding that tickets will be sold to members at every WAMUN event this year. The sculpture, which was done by Michelle Rice (a student of Nathaniel Noel) depicts a group of puffins sitting on a rocky ledge. The tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5. Members are encouraged to purchase tickets for family and friends. The draw will be made at the AGM on April 8. All proceeds will be directed to the WAMUN Scholarship Fund. If you would like to purchase some tickets and are unable to attend meetings, please contact Marilyn Macdonald (726-3134).

