



Greetings from your President

Hello everyone,

If I had written this letter a couple of weeks ago, I would have said something about how gently winter is treating us this year. Clearly, winters, like lives, should only be judged once they are over, and this one isn't over yet! But winter brings good things along with bad.

I hope that you will make it out to the Spring Talk which has been rescheduled for March 25th, after having been postponed due to the weather. It will take place in the Earth Sciences Building, Room 4065 at 7:30 pm. The AGM will take place on April 25th, and tickets for the luncheon are already available. We are holding the AGM in the Junior Common Room at R. Gushue Hall again this year. Be sure to come out and have your say on the way things are going. We are looking for new members for the executive. A few brave souls have already volunteered to stand for office, but we would love to see even more new faces. Contact a member of the current executive if you are interested in serving.

Many thanks to all those who have made donations to the WAMUN scholarship fund this year. It was lovely to see three of our four graduate scholarship winners at the New Year's Coffee Morning in January. Such an amazing (and brave!) group of young women who came out in spite of the snow and storm to meet us and receive their certificates.

On a sad note, this newsletter marks the passing of two long-time and well-loved WAMUN members, Leila Clase and Doreen Ross. We will miss them at our gatherings. I know that our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends as they are grieving their losses.

Sincerely,

Kathy Simonsen,
President



Art Happenings

The Art Happenings group has enjoyed visits to three galleries and one museum so far this fall and winter. The conveners, Tonya Bassler and Olga Broomfield-Richards, choose one visit a month and follow it with a convivial afternoon refreshment at the nearest suitable place.

Our visits have included:

Inuit Ullumi: Inuit Today - Contemporary Art at The Rooms in October

Impressions of St. John's by Brenda McClellan at The Red Ochre Gallery and Ground Burst by Nicola Hawkins at Craft Council Gallery both in November

The Collection of International Creche at the Basilica Museum in December; A collection of various artists' works at The Christina Parker Gallery in January



Each visit has provided not only interesting information but joyous experience of the many facets of artistic creation.

The Group also visited The Emma Butler Gallery in February. Our goal for our first year is to introduce our group to as many of the established galleries as possible. We are happy to welcome new members and invite them to view our doings on our webpage so professionally organized by Dorothy Milne.

Tonya Bassler,
Olga Broomfield-Richards,
Conveners

WAMUN Book Club - Nonfiction Group



Since September 2014, we have read a variety of books, always followed by lively discussions: *Prague in Winter*, by Madeleine Albright; *Philomena* by Martin Sixsmith; *Boomerang*, by Michael Lewis; *The Inconvenient Indian*, by Thomas King; *Dear Everybody*, by Anne Budgell; *Orange is the New Black*, by Piper Kerman. We have wandered from Europe to Labrador, from the period between the wars to the 21st Century, reading about history,

about individual lives and the problems of the present. We joined the Mostly Fiction group and met with author Anne Budgell. In March, we will turn to St. John's, reading *Occupied St. John's*, Steven High (editor) and will meet with one of the authors, Jo Sawyer. In April, May and June, we will travel through Europe with Patrick Leigh Fermor, *A Time of Gifts*, and visit historic Egypt, reading *Tutankhamen*, by Joyce Tyldesley. We meet the first Tuesday of each month in the Marjorie Mews Library from 2 to 3:30. Please join us!



Deborah Rehner,
Convener

WAMUN Book Club - Mostly Fiction Group



L-R Anne Budgell, Tonya Bassler, Elke Molgaard

The ever popular Mostly Fiction interest group continues to meet in two sections, as in previous years. Members opt for one particular section, but since both sections read the same selection every month, a member may from time to time attend the other section if her own personal schedule is in conflict.

We read *The Orenda* by Joseph Boyden in September followed by *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin in October. Our selection for November was *Maxine* by local author Claire Wilkshire. Although we eagerly awaited her for our discussion, at the last moment she was unable to come. However, she sent her equally talented author friend Lisa Moore to contribute to our discussion. Lisa, by the way, had been an invited author in an earlier year. In December we abandoned our book selection discussions for our annual Christmas afternoon party. With food and coffee or tea, we exchanged our holiday wishes with each other. Not surprisingly, one of the lively conversation topics was book titles for Christmas gifts.

January was another highly anticipated month because local author Anne Budgell joined us for a discussion of her book, *Dear Everybody*. We were all delighted that Anne was able to linger over coffee/tea and goodies to continue the discussion in smaller groups.

The rest of our 2014-2015 books are *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed out the Window and Disappeared* (February), *Dear Life* (March), *However Long the Night* (April), And *the Mountains Echoed* (May).

Our beloved evening for a potluck dinner with the selection of next year's book list will be held on June 9th. We combine our two sections whenever authors join us. In January the Nonfiction book group joined us as well because their members had also read *Dear Everybody*. We also combine our sections for the Christmas party and the June potluck/book selection meeting.

The sections usually meet afternoons at 2:00 p.m. in the Marjorie Mews Library—one on the second Tuesday of the month and the other on the fourth Tuesday. For space reasons, our three combined meetings took place at The Tiffany. New members are always welcome.

Tonya Bassler, (second Tuesday) Convener

Mary Chalker, (fourth Tuesday) Convener

Coffee Morning



Coffee Morning continues on a bi-weekly basis where we share our news and interests over a cup of coffee or tea, and a little something to eat. Friendship is the order of the day.

Contact Ruth Noel at johnandruthnoel@gmail.com if you wish to be put on our mailing list.

Ruth Noel, Convener

ET or Our Electronic Toys



Many of us find our Electronic Toys overwhelming! So, we meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at the Children's Library (A.C. Hunter Library, Arts & Culture Centre) to share information and ideas. We meet early, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., to accommodate the Library's schedule. Many of us have iPads, others have Android tablets and yet others have smart phones and other electronic toys. There is usually a group of a dozen or so – give or take half a dozen! Of course, weather takes its toll, but slowly but surely we are taming those electronic beasts! Come, join us if you like!

Deborah Rehner,
Convener

Hiking

WAMUN's two walking groups continue to be active in and about St. John's. Both groups meet at 1:30 p.m. on their respective days.

The 'Saturday Walking' contingent of Hiking, etc. is noted for several things:

- we walk almost every Saturday, no matter the weather;
- we walk in small groups, to accommodate each person's speed and special needs;
- we walk and talk!
- we stop at Tim's for coffee afterwards.



Jan 3 – Quidi Vidi

This year we have been having about a dozen walkers every Saturday. We start at 1:30 from a location that is announced by an e-mail (or phone call, if needed) that is sent out by our Convener, Deborah Rehner, dbrehner@gmail.com, each Friday.



The Monday walking group managed to walk regularly before Christmas, though the weather often made it difficult to plan ahead. We have had as many as eleven WAMUN members on some occasions and as few as three on others, but whatever the number and conditions, we have enjoyed being outdoors.

Since Christmas conditions have been a little more difficult. We did manage one outing on snowshoes and we hope to do it again before the winter is over. We have also been enjoying regular walks, including the

Bowring Park loop and duck pond.

We are looking forward to the coming spring and plan to continue to get out and about and enjoy our walks through the summer.

If anyone is interested in joining us, we meet at 1:30 p.m. and walk for an hour or two depending on the trail and conditions. For information contact Marjorie Evans at 722-1925 or Ingrid Pardoe at 364-9305.

Come join us!

Music Interest Group



Traditional Gaelic Song

The Music Interest Group, in its second year, has, since September, considered the music of Brahms, music from the movies, the music of Benjamin Britten, Gaelic Song Tradition, and musical theatre. We plan a month or two in advance and share knowledge and interests. Who knows what the rest of the year will bring!

We meet the third Thursday of each month at Marjorie Mews Library at 2:00 p.m.

Come join us!

Scrabble Group

A friendly group of us meet at Starbucks at Chapters on Kenmount Rd. every Wednesday morning from 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon. The aim of the game is to have fun and try out our word knowledge (cheat sheets are allowed). You will never be without people to play with as there are no set partnerships. We mix and match quite freely. We look forward to seeing you all there on Wednesdays.

Janet Fairley and Joan Fuller, Conveners



Spring Talk

This year's WAMUN Spring Talk will feature Dr. Cynthia Boyd. Her talk is entitled "Ellen Carbery: Entering Milliner of Newfoundland". This is sure to be interesting so don't miss it.

When: March 25th, 2015 at 7:30 pm

Where: Earth Sciences Building, Room 4065 .

Parking will be available in Lot 61. Tea and coffee will be available. Please come and bring a friend!

An Award Long Overdue



At the Fall Talk and Pot-luck Supper in November, Linda Hensman finally received the WAMUN Distinguished Service Pin. Linda was nominated in 2013, and the award was announced back at the AGM in April 2013. We were not able to make the award in 2013 as Linda was away running in the Boston Marathon at the time. She was also away from the AGM in 2014, but we caught up with her at last in November.

Linda, who has recently completed her term as Dean of the School of Pharmacy, is a truly loyal member of WAMUN and joined not long after she arrived in the province. She has been Chair of the Scholarship Committee for several years and has worked very hard to raise awareness of the scholarships and to keep our donations rolling in every year. Her dedication to WAMUN and, in particular, to helping Memorial's students through our scholarships makes her a most worthy recipient of this award.

Graduate Scholarship Winners



L-R Linda Hensman, Melissa Power, Emma Lang, Camilla Parzanini, Kathy Simonsen

At Coffee Morning in January we had the pleasure of meeting and congratulating three of our four graduate scholarship recipients. It is always fascinating to hear about the research in which students are engaged and it is a delight to meet them and to learn of the journeys they have taken before arriving at Memorial. For those members who were not able to attend a brief background on our recipients and research focus is presented below.

Emma Lang received one of two Doctoral Scholarships. She has a BA from the University of Massachusetts, a Graduate Certificate in Labor Studies from City University of New York and a MA from George Washington University. She is currently studying in the Department of History and the tentative title of Emma's research is "Currents of Solidarity: The Transnational Nature of North Atlantic Fishers Organizations in the Early 20th Century".

Emma's project is investigating the simultaneous development of unions and worker-oriented mutual aid societies in rural North Atlantic maritime communities between the end of the nineteenth century and the Second World War. It explores the Fisherman's Protective Union in Newfoundland and Labrador and its relationship with parallel movements in five other fishing communities: Cape Breton, Nova Scotia; Vinalhaven, Maine; Lerwick, Shetland; Southwestern Iceland and Western Norway. This research will examine if interactions between communities through direct contact, newspapers and family ties fed a simultaneous shift in thinking about class and worker-autonomy. While a body of work has begun to emerge regarding the appearance of worker organizations and class understanding in the rural fishing communities in question, limited attention has been paid to how the simultaneity of these developments is indicative of transatlantic contact between these groups. TheHerHef project will explore this interaction and work with community members to develop projects that will help preserve and share this history with others. In the end, this work will provide a model for future studies in the transnational development of ideas in rural communities in the North Atlantic region.

Camilla Parzanini also received a Doctoral Scholarship. She has a Bachelors and Masters degree in Marine Biology at the Università degli Studi of Padova, Italy. Her research will be conducted in the Department of Ocean Sciences.

She described her work as follows. Environmental changes such as global warming and ocean acidification, are affecting our planet. Moreover, human impact on marine ecosystems has been increasing rapidly over the last decades. Over-exploitation of coastal fisheries, for instance, has lead commercial fishing fleets to move further offshore and into deeper waters to be able to support the growing demand for fish. Consequently, a better understanding of ecosystems functioning is needed for management and conservation purposes.

The main goal of Camilla's research is to provide new insights into a deep-sea food web, sampled in the north-west Atlantic, off Newfoundland. A food-web represents all the feeding connections that exist among different species or group of them: who eats whom. Nutrients, energy, i.e. organic carbon, and also contaminants flow through marine food-webs and their comprehension is crucial for a deeper knowledge of the whole ecosystem. The deep sea is classified as all the habitats below 200 m depth and Camilla will be collecting samples between 900 and 1450 m depth, using a trawl net.

As an innovative strategy in the ecology field, she is combining three different analytical methods. Lipids and stable isotope analyses are biochemical techniques that will provide long-term dietary data. They will give valuable indications of the source of energy and of the possible prey items of the samples. Both

analyses will be performed on muscle tissues where living organisms usually store dietary lipids and where stable isotopes are accumulated. All the biochemical data will be integrated and compared with the direct observation of gut contents that consists in dissecting animals and looking at their stomach material under a stereomicroscope.

Melissa Power was the recipient of the Masters Course Route Scholarship. She has a BSc from Dalhousie University and is pursuing a Master of Public Health in the Population/Public Health stream in the Faculty of Medicine. She gained experience in Public Health as a team member of the Canadian North *Helicobacter pylori* Working group in Edmonton during which she focused on aboriginal health issues. She had the opportunity to live and work in a rural aboriginal community in the NWT for three weeks and this strengthened her passion for public health as a future profession.

Laura Vokey was selected for the Masters Thesis Route Scholarship. She holds a BA from MUN with a major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Sociology/Anthropology and a minor in Psychology. Laura is interested in investigating the factors which influence the significant differences in maternal and infant health outcomes between the Inuit and the Sami, the indigenous people of Norway. Differences in health care practices and policies which may exist between these two populations have the potential to provide significant insight in ways to improve the health outcomes of Canadian remote and northern populations.

Our very best wishes and congratulations are extended to all our scholarship winners. We hope their time spent with us at Memorial and living in St. John's will contribute significantly to their personal and professional development.

Notice of Motion

The following change to the WAMUN constitution will be proposed for consideration and voting at the next Annual General Meeting. This change (if adopted) would align the fiscal year more closely with the fiscal activity of the Association. Revenue is received in September and final expenditures are usually in July.

Article 5.2 Treasurer

The fiscal year of the Association shall be September 1 to August 31.

WAMUN AGM Reminder

- WHEN: Saturday, April 25h
- WHERE: Junior Common Room, R. Gushue Hall
- TIME: 11:30 am for lunch at Noon
- If you plan to only attend the business meeting you should plan to be there about 1:00 pm.

We hope to see you all there!

Support Food Bank

Items such as sugar, flour, cooking oil, canned vegetables and fruits, juices, tinned milk, tins of tuna, chicken or ham, plain macaroni and rice, and spaghetti sauce 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.



Recycling for WAMUN Scholarships

Please don't forget to contribute to WAMUN scholarships by donating your recycling items. Ever Green Recycling accepts our bags and credits them to our account only if we attach a label that identifies our account exactly as it has been set up:

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF MUN



Be sure to tape the label securely. For more information, please refer to our website: www.mun.ca/wamun.