

WAMUN Newsletter



Women's Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland Vol. 49 no.2 March 2023



After two years of meeting almost exclusively by Zoom, it has been wonderful for us to be meeting in person again at social events and at our activity group meetings. In this brief newsletter, you'll find details of two upcoming social events and brief news of some of our activities during the past six months.

... Ann Noseworthy, President

SOCIAL EVENTS

MARCH AFTERNOON TEA PARTY -- SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH at the LANTERN:

The party will begin at 2:30. There will be tea! There will be coffee! There will be sandwiches and treats! There will be tablecloths! Don't bring anything (except maybe a monetary donation for the MUN Campus food bank). Just come prepared to chat and munch. WAMUN has welcomed a number of new members this year. They would enjoy getting to know many of you longer-term members who have not made their acquaintance yet. We hope to see you there!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -- SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND at the LANTERN:

The event will be held from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. As always, there will be a short business meeting as well as time to socialize with friends and enjoy some refreshments.

◆ PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL WAMUN EVENTS THIS YEAR ARE BEING HELD AT THE LANTERN ON SATURDAYS DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS TO FACILITATE ATTENDANCE BY OUR MEMBERS.

THE LANTERN IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. PARKING IS AVAILABLE NEXT TO THE BUILDING AND IN THE ADJACENT BASILICA PARKING LOT. ◆

EXECUTIVE NEWS

Memberships:

WAMUN currently has 57 members. New members are always welcome, so if you know of other women who would enjoy our activities and fellowship, invite them to come and check us out ! Some women find us through coming along on a walk or to a game of Scrabble, for example. New long-lasting friendships are often made at these gatherings.



Campus Food Bank:



We are happy to report that members donated more than \$700 at WAMUN events before Christmas, and another \$70 was collected at the January Coffee Morning. Of the amounts gathered to the end of January, the Coffee Morning Group has donated \$351 – a large amount for such a small group. The amounts cited here are only the donations the executive has been informed about. Some of our members have also been making donations by taking cash, cheque, and grocery gift cards directly to the food bank on campus. Our thanks to all of you!

WAMUN Scholarships:

In the annual call for donations last fall, 28 of our members donated \$2,405 to the WAMUN scholarship endowment fund. This was the total for donations made through the Scholarship Committee; other members donated either by sending cheques directly to the university or by pension deduction. It was heartening to see this support from our members. A full report on the donations and the status of the endowment fund will not be available until June.

All eight scholarships (four undergraduate, four graduate) were awarded this year. Three of the four graduate scholarship winners attended and gave presentations on their work at the January Coffee Morning that was held at the Lantern on January 14th.

Adela Kabiri, a successful journalist from Afghanistan, is studying for a Ph.D. in sociology. She is studying the cultural adaptation of Afghani women immigrants to life in Canada.



From left to right: Adela Kabiri, Pratigya Regmi, Shazia Shaheen, Deborah Rehner

Pratigya Regmi, from Nepal, is working towards a Ph.D. in linguistics, focussing on methods of analysing languages. Her on-going research in Nepal has involved analysing the many yet-undescribed Tibetan-Burmese languages in that country.

Shazia Shaheen, from Pakistan, is working on a course-route Masters degree in gender studies. Her career to date in her home country has involved program development in a wide variety of social issues, many of which are focused on women's problems and education.

Laura Funke, from Germany, is working towards a thesis-route Masters degree in sociology. She is researching leadership networks in selected democratic and social movements in European countries. She was unable to attend our event because she was doing field work in Europe at the time.

WEBSITE WOES

WAMUN's current website at www.mun.ca/wamun/ will soon be gone. The University is shutting it down because it's based on old software that is not sufficiently secure against cyber-hackers. Memorial's IT staff will help to train a few of us in how to use the more advanced TerminalFour



system, and once we are trained, to assist in the design of a new website and the loading of our current material onto it. Deborah Rehner, Karen Herzberg and Dorothy Milne have signed up for the initial training which is expected to start in a few weeks. Deborah and Dorothy were both involved in the design of the current website nine years ago. We'd like to thank all of you who expressed an interest in helping us with this. It was only after asking for your assistance that we learned that the University would not allow you to participate. They only permit people who have mun.ca accounts and who have been vetted by IT to use the TerminalFour system.

There are over 80 pages of information, meeting schedules, archived documents and photographs on WAMUN's current website. We don't know how much of this material we will be able to store and display on the new site. We may have to reduce the amount of material on display.

It is far from clear how smoothly this project will go. Our webpages may have to be organized and displayed quite differently. It may be a few months before we have a functioning website again. If there are items of text or photographs on the *current* site that you would like to transfer to your own computer or cell phone, it would be best to do this in the next few weeks.

Newsletter:

The disruption in the website will also affect the newsletter. We have been sending it to you in the form of a link to a file on the website. This allowed us to send out a newsletter that was many pages long and full of news and photographs. Until a new website is established, we will have to send the newsletter out by e-mail, which will limit its size. We may decide to send out smaller newsletters at shorter intervals, with each newsletter having fewer photos and news items, rather like the one you are reading now.

... Dorothy Milne, website and newsletter editor

UPDATE ON SOCIAL EVENTS AND GROUP ACTIVITIES

Since the last newsletter three social events were held: the Fall Reception on September 17th, 2022, the Fall Potluck Lunch and talk on October 29th, 2022 and the January Coffee Morning on January 14th, 2023. All of these were held at the Lantern.

The Coffee Mornings group meets every second Wednesday morning for conversation and light refreshments. Following the hiatus caused by the pandemic, its members began to meet in person again last fall, at first gathering for coffee at the Rooms but they are now meeting in their preferred location - members' homes - again. Most meetings have 9 to 12 participants. Because our homes are limited in size, this group is not accepting new members at this time.



The Christmas potluck lunch

Walking Groups



The Monday walking group, fall 2022 and winter 2023



The Saturday and Monday walking groups have kept up the pace, walking and hiking paths and trails within and outside the city almost every week. The recent blustery winds, -25 wind chill, heavy snowfalls, and ice underfoot have resulted in walks being called off a few times in the past two months – the first cancellations in years. The snow has been deep

enough to offer a chance to use snowshoes, which was a new experience for some members. All levels of ability can walk with the Saturday group. The location of the walk is sent by e-mail by the convenor. Everyone is welcome to join a walk. Come yourself and bring a friend.



The Saturday walking group, fall 2022 and winter 2023



To learn the location of the next walk, send an e-mail to:

marjjevens@nl.rogers.com (Mondays)

dbrehner@gmail.com (Saturdays)

The Scrabble group has been meeting weekly on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at the Mount Scio facility. New members are welcome.



The Snap N Chat photography group has grown to twelve active members. Some of the themes for its recent monthly meetings were: Water Street, Winter, Cemeteries, Antiques. After meeting as a group to take photos, the group shares their photos in a PowerPoint presentation during a meeting by Zoom. This allows members to participate from overseas and in snowbird land in British Columbia. Now that the group members can meet in person again, after the photoshoot they often enjoy coffee and conversation at a nearby Tim's. New members are welcome. All you need is the camera in your cell phone!

The E-Toys group is meeting in person again in the community room at the Marjorie Mews Library, at 1:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. The remaining meetings for this year are scheduled for April 13, May 11, and June 8. There are always some new challenges to adapt to and new apps and software updates to learn about. We help each other solve our problems. After the meetings, there is usually a coffee and chat session at the nearby Tim's. All WAMUN members are welcome – feel free to drop-in whenever you wish.

Book Discussion Groups



The Mostly Fiction and Nonfiction book discussion groups have met regularly since September. Both groups have chosen to continue meeting by Zoom. There are only five books left to be discussed in this year's roster.

♦ *Mostly Fiction Book Discussion Group:*

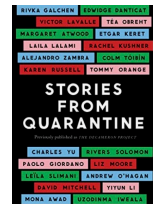
This group meets by Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the Month. Recommendations and voting to select the titles to be read next year will take place at the May 25th meeting. New members are welcome. To be added to the mailing list, e-mail the convenor, Miriam Simpson, at miriamsimpson08@gmail.com

Three books remain in this year's list:

March 23 *The Naked Sun* by Isaac Asimov

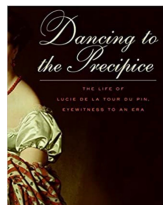
April 27 *The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel

May 25 *The Decameron Project*
(also published as *Stories from Quarantine: 29 New Stories from the Pandemic*) by editors of the New York Times Magazine



♦ *The Nonfiction Book Discussion Group*

This group meets by Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the Month. Recommendations and voting to select the titles to be read next year will take place at the May 4th meeting. New members are welcome. To be added to the mailing list, e-mail the convenor, Mary Chalker, at mchalker@mun.ca Only two books are still to be discussed:



April 6
Dancing to the Precipice:
Lucie de la Tour du Pin and
the French Revolution,
by Caroline Moorehead

June 1
The Real Doctor Will
See You Shortly: A
Physician's First Year, by
Matt Mc Carthy

