
WAMUN

Women's Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland

Volume 33, No.1

September 2005

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

September is here again and life within the University is gearing up for another academic year. Welcome back. I hope all of you had a good summer and are looking forward to a new year.

The executive has put together a program we hope you will enjoy. We start with our 9th Annual Plant Sale. This has been a great success and helps us raise money to support our scholarships. There will also be a raffle for prizes contributed by local businesses. Not only could you buy some beautiful plants, you might win something!

The Fall Reception and Membership Registration on September 28 is a great way to see old friends and meet new people. You can sign up for interest groups and if you haven't done so already, renew your membership. On November 16, Sue Scott will present a slide show of her fascinating trip to Peru. On January 14, 2006, we are planning a New Year's Coffee Morning. Come to see friends and celebrate WAMUN's 40th Anniversary. The Annual General Meeting will be held on April 8 with a luncheon at the rejuvenated Junior Common Room.

As you can see from the following pages our interest groups are thriving. The evening fiction book group has grown so much that we decided to split it into an evening and an afternoon group. The afternoon non-fiction group is also popular and growing. The morning coffee group meets every two weeks for pleasant morning gatherings. The International Food Group gives members and their spouses or guests a way to participate in really good dinner parties and to try all sorts of interesting recipes. Please read the following pages for information on the Discovery Investment Club and some new information on the hiking groups. There's something for everyone.

The current membership of WAMUN spans a very wide cross-section of the community. Our meetings and various interest groups provide an excellent way to meet all sorts of interesting women with many and varied talents. We are looking forward to seeing all of you again this year. We would like to extend a special invitation to any women new to the university

community to come and join us. If any of our current members know women who have just arrived or women who have been here for years and have never joined our group, please invite them to the Fall Reception. New members are always welcome.

Please phone me or send an e-mail any time you would like to talk to me about WAMUN business. I'd love to hear from you.

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

SOCIAL EVENTS Fall Program Highlights

Plant Sale: See below
Wednesday, Sept. 14 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Atrium, Arts and Administration Bldg. (MUN)

Fall Reception and Membership Registration
Wednesday, September 28, 8:00 p.m.
Genesis Boardroom, 4th Floor
Spencer Hall (MUN)
Parking is available in Lot 62, by Spencer Hall and Field Hall

The complete program is attached.

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

PLANT SALE

On Wednesday, September 14, WAMUN will again hold its annual plant sale to raise money for the Scholarship Fund. As you know, WAMUN offers a number of scholarships annually at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Like last year, we will be selling indoor houseplants that have been donated by members and friends of WAMUN. They will be on sale in the Atrium of the Arts and Administration Building from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

The Plant Sale Committee will be sending you an email shortly with final details about dropping off plants for the sale. Both annuals and perennials are welcome, as long as the plant is in a pot. We want

people to be able to take the plant from the sale and immediately put it in their house or room to enjoy it.

Thank you so much for your support of the WAMUN Scholarship Fund through participation in the plant sale!

Best wishes,

The Plant Sale Committee

Elfie Boehm

Margaret Dohan

Marjorie Evans

Karin Khan

Jaime Enachescu, Chair

(722-3947; enachescu@nl.rogers.com)

Plant Sale Raffle

Mary Niefer and Marilyn Macdonald are organizing a raffle to be held in conjunction with the Fall Plant Sale on September 14th, 2005. They are now busy collecting items from local businesses that will be of interest to both students and faculty/staff. If you have anything at home that you think is suitable and would like to donate it, please contact Mary at 753-9731 or Marilyn at 726-3134. Arrangements can be made to pick up items if necessary. The 2003 raffle raised over \$600.00 so it is a worthwhile fundraiser.

Marilyn Macdonald (726-3134)

MEMBERSHIP

To renew your membership, please complete the enclosed membership form before the Fall Reception and mail it together with a cheque payable to "WAMUN", to the address shown on the form. This will help to reduce the line-up at the reception, allowing us to partake of the refreshments sooner.

This year's changes to the membership form are minor. The charge for postage has been increased to reflect the real cost. Two boxes have replaced the Book Discussion Evening box: Book Discussion – Fiction (Afternoon) and Book Discussion – Fiction (Evening). Please see the item elsewhere in this Newsletter and indicate which one you wish to join.

If you wish to receive a paper copy of the Newsletter please tick the appropriate box. If you opt for home delivery please include \$5 for postage.

The Executive hopes that members will take the opportunity to contribute to the WAMUN Scholarship Fund as generously as they did last year. To do this, complete the appropriate section of the form, enclose a separate cheque payable to "Memorial University" and mail it to the (WAMUN) address on the form. Of course, you can include the second cheque with your membership form, if you

wish. Any such cheque will be sent by WAMUN to the University and the University will send you a receipt for taxation purposes.

In order to ensure that the WAMUN mailing list reflects its membership, the Executive has set Dec. 1, 2005 as the deadline for membership renewal for 2005/06. Until Dec. 1, newsletters and other information will be sent to those who were paid-up members of WAMUN as of April 2005, as well as those who have paid membership fees for the current year. As of Dec. 1, members who have not renewed for 2005/06 will be removed from the mailing list. Of course the names of people who renew their membership (or become new members) after the deadline will be added to the membership list.

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

SCHOLARSHIPS

Tonya Bassler, chair of our Scholarship Committee, represented WAMUN at the annual Graduate Awards Ceremony in the University Club on May 19. Three of our winners were present and she was able to speak to the two Master's recipients, Aaron O'Brien and Dianne LaBonte. Both intend to pursue doctoral degrees as well. They are immensely grateful for WAMUN's financial help in this first stage of their graduate studies

WEB SITE

We are very grateful to Alberta Wood for creating the Web site, www.mun.ca/wamun, and maintaining it for the past two years. Now that Alberta is leaving, Margaret Michalak is taking over that responsibility. Thanks to Alberta and Margaret, information about WAMUN is always 'only a click away' if you happen to be at your computer.

If you have information for the Web site or queries about it, you can contact Margaret at:

Margaret Michalak (michalak@mun.ca)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

Book Discussion Group (fiction – afternoon/evening)

At its June meeting the Evening Book Group voted to split. We agreed that the group had become too large for comfortable discussion and for everyone to hear. We also noted that some people would prefer to meet in the afternoon. However all were saddened by the realization that we will not be seeing some old friends as regularly.

One section of the group will continue to meet at 8 pm on the third Tuesday at Tiffany Towers. The other section will meet on an afternoon in the fourth week of the month. It is assumed that members of one section will be welcome as occasional visitors of the other and that some joint meetings, probably with authors, are possible.

WAMUN members can indicate which section they wish to join by ticking either Book Discussion – Fiction (Evening) or Book Discussion – Fiction (Afternoon) under SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS on the membership forms. The word “Fiction” is used as a temporary means of distinguishing these two groups from the Nonfiction Group. The new groups will, of course, be able to choose nonfiction titles if they wish.

All members of both sections will meet together at on 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at Tiffany Towers to discuss *The Kite Runner* by Khalid Hosseini.

For 2005/2006, at least, both sections will discuss the same books, which are:

<i>Bel Canto</i>	Ann Patchett
<i>Deafening</i>	Frances Itani
<i>An Equal Music</i>	Vikram Seth
<i>The Flame Trees of Thika</i>	Elspeth Huxley
<i>The Kite Runner</i>	Khalid Hosseini
<i>The Known World</i>	Edward P Jones
<i>My Family and Other Animals</i>	Lawrence Durrell
<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>	Sue Monk Kidd

Standby books

<i>River of the Brokenhearted</i>	David Adams Richards
<i>A Woman's Way Through Unknown Labrador</i>	Mina Hubbard

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

Book Discussion Group (non-fiction – afternoon)

We will continue to meet on the second Thursday afternoon of each month at 2:00 p.m. Eleanor Nesbitt has kindly offered to host all meetings. Our first selections for the year are:

September 8	<i>Samuel Pepys</i>	Claire Tomlin
October 13	<i>In the Wake of the Plague</i>	Norman Cantor
November 10	either/or <i>Notes from a Small Island</i> <i>Notes from a Big Country</i>	Bill Bryson
December 8	<i>The Bookseller of Kabul</i>	Åsne Seierstad

In the new year, one meeting will be given over to book selection for the 2006 – 07 and we will be reading:

The Dessert Queen by Janet Wallach;
Leap of Faith by Queen Noor;
either/or *Karmic Traces* or *9/12* by Eliot Weinberger (or both!);
The Opposite of Fate by Amy Tan;
Future, Tense: The Coming World Order by Gwynn Dwyer

If you decide to join us, send an e-mail to the address below and I will provide you with more information about the books above and other books that have been suggested for the group to read.

Annmari Tougui (amtougui@nl.rogers.com)

SPECIAL 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. We usually take a break in September when everyone seems especially busy. This fall we will restart on Wednesday, October 5th at my home (3 Jervis Place) any time after 10:30 a.m. For information, please call:

Susan Murdey (726-0428)

Discovery Investment Club

The Discovery Investment Club of WAMUN has been operating since late 1996. The club currently has its full constitutional complement of 16 members, but is expecting to have an opening for one new member in 2006. We learn about investing so we can benefit both individually and as a group. So far, we have limited our group investments of \$25 monthly per member to Canadian equities.

Members take turns hosting our meetings on the first Wednesday of every month (except August). We sometimes invite speakers from the financial community to enlighten us further. In addition, at each meeting individual members report on the particular portfolio assets they are responsible for tracking as well as on possible acquisitions. This is followed by discussion and voting on buying and selling. Afterwards, we relax over refreshments provided by the hostess.

Mona Gillespie (368-9623)

Hiking Etc.

This interest group has evolved into two sections. One group has traditionally walked every other Tuesday. As you see below, Karen is suggesting a new plan to walk when it's good to walk, instead of being committed to Tuesdays. The other group will continue walking 'every Saturday'.

If you are interested in joining either group, sign up on the membership form and/or at the Fall Reception. We will check with everyone who signs up to make sure she gets the right messages. We usually communicate by e-mail, but that doesn't mean that we can't use the telephone! If you prefer the phone to e-mail, just let us know.

Weekday Walkers

This year I would like to try a new format. Instead of every other Tuesday morning walks which we have been doing, I would like any one who is interested in setting up a walk/hike on a weekday to let me know by e-mail a couple of days in advance. I'll e-mail the

group the required information. We can organize a phone system for any of you without e-mail.

I'm thinking that we may have some challenging hikes, like parts of the East Coast Trail, and some that are more city trail oriented. Each of us can decide if we want to go or not. If you are the organizer, you should do your best to be at the starting point at the time you set.

By re-arranging ourselves this way, we can hike any day of the week (Monday to Friday), mornings or afternoons. When the weather is pleasant in the fall, I imagine we might have more than one walk per week, and in the icy months, we'll take a break. I will be pleased to get your opinions on how you think this will work. Since September is usually a great month, please e-mail me as soon as possible to be included in this new venture. Oh, and remember, there really is no obligation associated with having your name of the Weekday Walkers list, so if it sounds the least bit tempting to you, please let me know.

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

Saturday Walkers

Starting in October, the Saturday walkers will continue to walk (almost) every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. [In September, you are on your own!] An e-mail will go out sometime during the week about the walk planned for that week.

We have walked a lot of places in the St. John's area. We have 'done' the Trans Canada Trail as far as Paradise; we have viewed the Kenmount Road sprawl from every conceivable angle; we have viewed the Narrows from near and far. Even on rainy Saturdays, we usually go out, because what starts out as a nasty day often turns out to be fine for walking.

We are always looking for new walkers!

Please contact:
Deborah Rehner re Saturdays:
(Deborah.Rehner@mi.mun.ca)
Karen Herzberg re Tuesdays: (753-6568).

AND/OR
Sign up at the Fall Reception

AND/OR
Indicate your interest on your membership form.

Karen Herzberg (753-6568)
Deborah Rehner (Deborah.Rehner@mi.mun.ca)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

International Food Group

The International Food Group began as a Women's Association Special Interest Group in the fall of 1979. This group grew out of the interest generated by the cooking-oriented special interests groups of previous years, as well as the experiences of various members in similar groups elsewhere.

The group provides members with the opportunity to try new recipes and to enjoy inexpensive and delicious meals in congenial company without having to do all the cooking, serving and cleaning up themselves. The group is planned for couples, but singles also participate by bringing a guest each time. This year we plan to have four meals, one before Christmas and three after Christmas, as well as an International Hors d'oeuvres Party for all participants in mid-October to start off the year. We would love to have you join us as a new member if you are not already participating. If you have any questions, you may call Susan Jackson (726-3808) or Brenda Burness (895-2712).

Susan Jackson (726-3808)

RECYCLING FOR THE WAMUN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

I am very pleased to report that the revenue collected from our recycling efforts in the past two years is now approximately \$104.00. The Executive agreed initially that when the amount collected reached \$100.00 it would be deposited into the WAMUN Scholarship Fund. I will make these arrangements. This is an easy way of raising money for our scholarship fund! If more members were donating their recycling revenue to WAMUN, we would be able to increase the value of our scholarships. If you are already donating your revenues to another worthy cause, why not consider sharing them with WAMUN!

WAMUN members who currently 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)

All proceeds donated by WAMUN members will be directed into the WAMUN Scholarship Fund. 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. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail me.

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES

1975 – 1976 (30 Years Ago)

- Doreen Ross was president.
- WAMUN initiated the Scholarship Fund in 1975. There was one scholarship, called the "WAMUN Annual Scholarship", valued at \$300.
- The Association was surveyed by the Executive, with the following results:
 - o There was 'overwhelming support' for the Scholarship Fund, if funds permit. "This should present no problem for the next three or four years."
 - o The majority of the members did not want to participate in fundraising!
- Two interest groups from that time are still in existence!
 - o The Book Discussion Group, which met on the third Tuesday evening of the month, read two books by Alice Munro in September and *The Chosen*, by Chaim Potok, in October.
 - o Wednesdays were Coffee Mornings!

1980 – 1981 (25 Years Ago)

- Marilyn Tuck, in her president's message, commented, "Where was the summer this year?"
- WAMUN funded two scholarships, the one initiated in 1975 and another, started in 1978, and called "The WAMUN Outport Scholarship Both were increased to from \$300 to \$500 in 1980.
- WAMUN held its 3rd Annual Plant Sale in the Atrium.
- The Book Discussion Group's September selection was *The Mill on the Floss*.
- Eleanor Nesbitt was busy assembling the WAMUN cookbook.

2000 – 2001 (5 Years Ago)

- Renu Kashyap was president.
- The Book Discussion Group's September selection was *Charlotte Gray* by Sebastian Faulks and their October choice was *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

BITS AND PIECES

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE lessons will start on Monday 12th September at 7.45 p.m. at Gower St. United Church.

This is very good exercise for your body and mind. It is not highland dancing and there's no dancing over swords! There is a beginners' class and everyone over the age of 16 is welcome. You don't need a partner and it's for men and women.

Come and join us for an evening of fun and exercise.

For more information, please call:

Brenda Burness (895-2712) or
Ingrid Pardoe (364-9305).

SHOW AND TELL, ANYONE?

Would anyone like to form an interest group to show/discuss individual ongoing, future, or finished craft/sewing projects and exchange tips and ideas?

The group could meet informally one morning or afternoon a month. If you are interested, contact:

Tonya Bassler (753-3135; gbassler@mun.ca)

SELF-DEFENSE

(or who needs protection from whom!)

Some of us have been discussing the possibility of WAMUN presenting a self-defense course. Elfi Boehm has asked and has found out that we could probably have a trainer come for a nominal fee to give a course that could last as little as 2 hours. It would be longer if we chose that. If you are interested in participating in such a course, call:

Elfi Boehm (722-9623).

CAMPUS FOOD BANK

Don't forget the Campus Food Bank. Several of the Interest Groups take a collection when they meet. Items can always be dropped off at Corte Real.

FROM THE EDITOR

A new academic year is about to start. Many of us are getting into harness for another year; others are planning to rest after a very busy summer. I am looking forward to another year as newsletter editor.

First, I want to thank all of those who helped with ideas for this newsletter and for those to come during the year. I specifically want to thank the Division of University Relations for their help. I don't know where the newsletter would be without the editing

help of Shannon Crotty. She and Joyce MacKinnon are always very cordial when approached for help.

Have you included your e-mail address on your membership form so that you can get the electronic version of the newsletter? Last year, the executive decided to send the electronic newsletter link to everyone on the e-mail list. Most people succeeded in downloading the electronic version. We try to make the electronic version very interesting. For example, it is much easier to include pictures in that version. Of course, if it is important to you, the printed version can still be sent (for free) to a campus address, or mailed to you at home, as long as you pay the postage. Just check the right box on your membership form.

Several months ago, on one of our Tuesday walks, Elke Molgaard contributed a bright idea for the newsletter. She had been thinking about how many members of WAMUN have talents and interests of which others might not be aware. She suggested interviewing some of them for the newsletter. She suggested that WAMUN members might suggest people to 'feature' in one of the newsletters.

Elke recommended interviewing Leila Clase and Leila has graciously consented to be interviewed for the next newsletter. Since there are only four newsletters each year and since most members of WAMUN have interesting stories to tell, there is no need to limit this to one person per newsletter. Do you have anyone you would like to recommend? If so, perhaps you could check with that person to see if she is willing to have you submit her name to me. I will be in touch with her during the first week of October and will interview her shortly thereafter.

Several people have suggested having a column of 'what's happening in the lives of WAMUN members'. This could include announcements of children, grandchildren, weddings, etc. This was once an important feature of WAMUN newsletters. My only concern is that we are such a busy crowd that it might be a very long column. Also, people would have to send in their own items. I worry that someone's very important news will be missed. If you like this idea, please feel free to mail items to me. If you don't use e-mail, perhaps you could get a friend to do it; if you 'tell me', it is too likely to be forgotten. If several people send in items, we may begin this feature in the November newsletter.

Any other bright ideas? Enjoy September!

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