

WAMUN Newsletter

Women's Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland



Vol. 44 no. 1 September 2016



President's Report

I hope that you have all had a pleasant summer and are looking forward to this year's WAMUN activities.

By the time you read this, our Fall Reception will probably right around the corner (Sept. 28th) or have already happened. It should be a good evening: a chance to see old friends, make new ones and consider joining a new interest group. A little later in the fall our annual Fall Talk and Potluck will take place on November 9th. The speaker will be filmmaker Annette Clarke.



As you fill out this year's membership form, consider whether you can manage a donation towards our scholarship fund. WAMUN's eight scholarships help students to complete their studies and are a lasting legacy of the association.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you on September 28th or at other WAMUN events this year.



At the Annual General Meeting last April, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of WAMUN. It was a great occasion. You will find more details and photographs of this event in the pages of this Newsletter.

--- Kathy Simonsen

WAMUN PROGRAM OF SOCIAL EVENTS 2016-2017

- ☞ **SEPTEMBER 28** **FALL RECEPTION AND GENERAL MEETING**
7:30 p.m.
Member registration and program group sign-ups
A brief business meeting, followed by coffee,
conversation, and presentation by interest groups
- ☞ **NOVEMBER 9** **FALL POTLUCK AND TALK**
Doors open at 6:00 Food is served at 6:30
Talk begins at 7:30
Guest Speaker: Annette Clarke
Topic: Women's films: a showcase of her recent films
- ☞ **JANUARY 7** **NEW YEAR'S COFFEE MORNING**
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Coffee, pastries, and socializing.
Members and friends welcome!
- ☞ **MARCH 23** **SPRING TALK**
7:30
Guest Speaker: Dr. Christine Bassler
Topic: Refugee from all ills? Refugee Health
in Newfoundland.

LOCATION OF THESE EVENTS: ER 4065

Earth Sciences Department Lounge, MUN Campus.

Parking available in the ER building's parking garage.

APRIL 22 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

LOCATION: JUNIOR COMMON ROOM

Doors open 11:15 Lunch served at 12:00

Meeting begins at 1 p.m.

Members and Friends welcome

The Executive for 2016-2017



At the AGM in April 2016, the WAMUN executive for the 2016 – 2017 was elected by the members in attendance.

Marilyn Porter was elected the new Vice President and Lis Laverty was elected Secretary. Dorothy Milne stepped down from the VP position, taking on instead the roles of newsletter editor and website manager.

The board would love to receive comments and ideas from all members, at all times. We also want to encourage other members to consider serving on the board.

Front row, left to right: Ingrid Pardoe, Marilyn Porter, Brenda Burness, Dorothy Milne.
 Back row, left to right: Karen Lippold, Kathy Simonsen, Susan Goold, Lis Laverty.

President:	Kathy Simonsen	Membership:	Susan Goold
Vice President:	Marilyn Porter	Social Convenors:	Brenda Burness
Secretary:	Lis Laverty		Ingrid Pardoe
Treasurer:	Sue Murdey		Karen Lippold
		Newsletter & Website:	Dorothy Milne

CAMPUS FOOD BANK

The number of students who received food from the Campus Food Bank between January and August 2016 was up 30% over the comparable period in 2015. However, revenue from contributions in that year declined by 6%. As tuition increases and food costs rise, students' finances are under greater stress than ever.



Some members prefer to bring a food item to our social events and interest group meetings. The Food Bank, however, also welcomes cash donations because these allow them to buy fresh food such as milk, fruit and vegetables. Also, it allows them to buy items that are usually in short supply.

Collection jars will now be available at many of our meetings. Coins and cheques can be put into them. Cheques should be made out to the *Campus Food Bank* (not to WAMUN). We can arrange a tax receipt for you if you wish.

SCHOLARSHIPS

At the January 2016 Coffee Morning, Karen Lippold presented certificates to three of the four graduate students who were awarded WAMUN scholarships this year. Each of the students spoke briefly about their research projects. The students who received our scholarships are very worthy and very thankful for our support.



Karen Lippold with three of the graduate student scholarship winners in 2016-2017

With interest rates currently so low, we need your donations to fund the eight scholarships, since income on the endowment fund is still too low to fund them completely. Please give generously. Donations are tax deductible.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APRIL 23, 2016

At the business meeting, members of the executive presented oral reports. President Kathy Simonsen reported on the state of WAMUN as a whole, and also presented the information in Linda Hensman's report on the Scholarship Fund. This year, members contributed \$1765 to the endowment fund. This was a decline from previous years. However, additional contributions were made during the year, in the form of memoriam donations. Susan Murdey reported the state of WAMUN's finances and Susan Goold gave the latest membership figures. The convenors of interest groups spoke briefly about their groups' activities.

The new executive was elected. Marilyn Porter (Vice President) and Liz Laverty (Secretary) were welcomed aboard, and Kathy Simonsen agreed to serve as president for the fourth consecutive year.

Distinguished Service Award:



The distinguished service pin was awarded to Dr. Julita Muzychka. Trained as a physician, Julita worked at the fever hospital in St. John's and then at the Janeway Children's Hospital. In addition to many contributions to WAMUN in the past, she served as our president in 1997-98. Our recognition of her dedicated service was long overdue!

Celebrating WAMUN's 50th ANNIVERSARY

At the AGM, about 30 members gathered for lunch in the Junior Common Room in Gushue Hall. It was, as usual, a convivial occasion with good food and good company.

On this occasion, it was even more festive with gold colored balloons, floating above the tables to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our organization.



There was also an anniversary cake to commemorate the event.



The first president of WAMUN (right), **Joan Scott** (1965-66) and the fourth president (left), **Tonya Bassler** (1968-69) did the honours of cutting the ceremonial cake.



Those of us who attended this event:



50th ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS

Joan Scott was invited to celebrate our 50th anniversary with us as she was both founder and first president of WAMUN. After raising a toast in praise of the success of our first fifty years, she spoke to us about WAMUN's earliest purpose and activities.

Joan arrived in St. John's from the UK in 1962 with her husband and children. Her husband had been hired as a professor at Memorial. Though she had originally planned to be a teacher, circumstances altered her plans and she enrolled at Memorial to study for a new career.

In the mid-1960's, Memorial University was rapidly expanding. When the University moved to the Elizabeth Avenue campus in the fall of 1961, it was about the size of a large high school. In the next few years, it expanded greatly. Many new academic departments were established. During this period of rapid expansion, many new faculty members and their spouses and children arrived. Most of the new faculty were young men who concentrated their efforts on developing their careers. Given the gender roles of that era, the tasks of settling the family into the new community fell mostly on the wives.



A number of faculty wives who had already settled in helped to support the recently arrived women. Joan was one of these women who helped them find and furnish their new homes, arrange daycare or schooling for their children, and find doctors and dentists for their families. They also arranged a social life of sorts among the couples. such as evening gatherings and suppers.

A sudden burst of organization began on campus in 1965. Many faculty and students organized societies and associations for academic or social interests at that time. Observing this flurry of social growth, Joan thought that faculty wives should also have an organization. In 1966, she wrote to President Moses Morgan proposing the establishment of one. He gave his blessing, and thus the women's organization we now know as WAMUN was formally established.

No one now remembers what the official title of this organization was when it was first formed. Informally, people called it something like *the MUN Faculty Wives Association*, a fitting name since its members were all, or almost all, faculty wives. Most were CFA's. Thus, in the early days, their focus was on providing mutual support and social events. A small committee planned monthly talks including conversation and coffee with home-baked goodies. In later years, a much broader range of activities developed, along with the establishment in 1978 of a scholarship fund for Memorial students.

In time, all women who worked at Memorial (or were spouses of MUN employees) became eligible to join. In recognition of this fact, our name was officially changed to *The Women's Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland*.

Following the talk, the current President Kathryn Simonsen thanked Joan Scott and presented her with a President's pin honouring her contribution and service to WAMUN.



☞ COFFEE MORNINGS

Coffee Mornings has been popular with our members for decades. We meet every second week on Wednesday's mornings from a date in September through to early June, with a break of some sort around Christmas time. Each member of the group takes a turn in hosting the group.



Come and join our warm, supportive group for coffee, some light refreshments, and good conversation.

Convenor: Ruth Noel



INTEREST GROUPS news and plans for 2016-2017

☞ ART HAPPENINGS

The Art Happenings Group is beginning its third year of its visits to galleries and other sites of visual and creative interest. activities. New members are most welcome.

Plans for this year

Our group will visit the art galleries and perhaps some studios around town, and perhaps even one or two that are slightly out of town. We hope to get a feel for the flavour of the works and artists, some of whom produce renowned paintings and sculptures. Art should serve as an inspiration to our lives and can evoke a meaningful experience. To get the most out of our visits, we should ask questions of the gallery employees or the artists themselves, if they happen to be present. Those of us who can stay a bit longer can stop at a nearby café for a beverage and a chat.



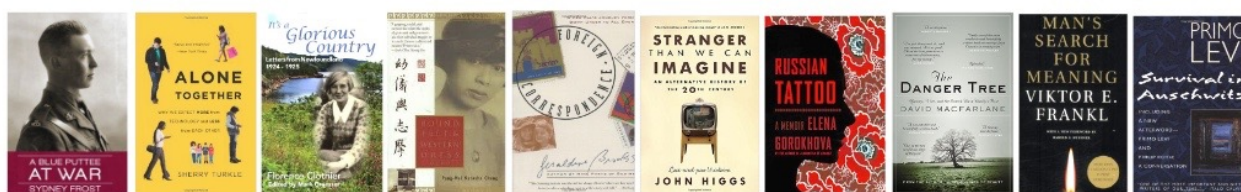
Convenors: Tonya Bassler & Olga Broomfield-Richards

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

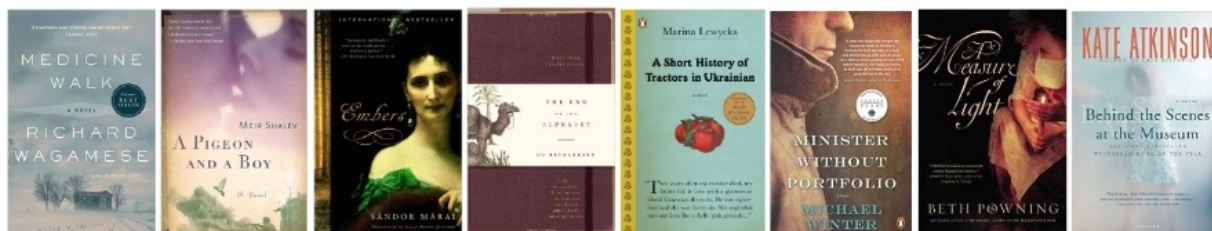
The book discussion groups for nonfiction and for fiction have planned their reading for the year. The nonfiction group meets on the last Tuesday of the month. The mostly fiction group has two subgroups - one that meets on the second Tuesday, the other on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Meetings are held at the Marjorie Mews Library and being at 2:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend any of these meetings.

The books chosen for this year are:

Nonfiction titles:



Mostly fiction titles:



The webpages for this group shows further details on the title and author of these books:

<http://www.mun.ca/wamun/BookGroups/nonfiction.php>
<http://www.mun.ca/wamun/BookGroups/fiction.php>

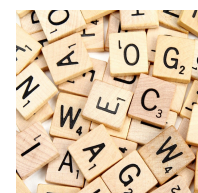
Convenors: Nonfiction: Deborah Rehner

Mostly Fiction: Pat Collins & Karen Lippold

SCRABBLE

The Scrabble group continues to meet, come rain or shine, at 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday morning, year long except for Christmas or New Years Day. Come join us at our tables at the Starbucks on Kenmount Road (in Chapters). All are welcome.

Convenor: Susan Gould



∞ E TOYS

The Electronic Toys Group is now in its fifth year. We meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Marjorie Mews Library on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. We help one another find solutions to questions concerning many types of electronic devices, with an emphasis on iPads, computers and cell phones. No question or problem is too basic. We are all still on the learning curve.



There are four co-convenors for this group: Deborah Rehner, Susan Goold, Dorothy Milne and Karen Herzberg.

-- *Karen Herzberg*

∞ WALKING GROUPS

One group walks on Saturdays, the other on Mondays. Each group meets at 1:30 p.m. at a location chosen by the convenor. Members of the group are notified of the location by e-mail.

Saturday walks are chosen to suit walkers at all levels of ability. We walk on well groomed trails, and in winter avoid ice. We start and return at the same time but decide for ourselves how far to walk. We partner with others who walk at the same speed and walk for the hour. Thus, some walk farther than others. After the walk, we head for a coffee shop for conversation and refreshments.





Monday walks can be more adventurous. They are suited for people of moderate to high levels of fitness and people who would prefer a brisk walk. We often walk on trails along the coast or up on the barrens, for example.

Everyone is welcome to join us on our walks. Come whenever you have the time free. Feel free to bring a friend.

Dogs are also welcome on most walks.

Monday walk convenor: Marjorie Evans

Saturday walk convenor: Deborah Rehner



➤ MUSIC INTEREST GROUP

Now in its fourth year, the Music Interest group continues to enjoy exploring various themes and styles of music. The range of topics that interest us is broad. Last year, among other topics, we explored the music and poetry of Sibelius. We also enjoyed listening to music composed by women, some of which had long been forgotten until recently revived by music scholars.



A highlight of the year came in March when we welcomed Krista Vincent to our meeting to tell us about her career as a woman composer. She played samples of the modern music she creates to accompany modern experimental theatre in Europe.

We choose a theme for each meeting and search the internet for music related to it. At the meetings we share our reactions to what we hear. Our meetings are very informal. You do not have to have had any musical training to participate and enjoy them. New members are welcome.

We meet at 2:00 pm at the Marjorie Mews Library on the third Tuesday of the month.

Convenor: Deborah Rehner



MEMBERSHIP

At the AGM in April, Susan Goold reported that WAMUN now has 90 members, an increase from 84 members in April 2015 even following the loss of four members to illness during the year. In recent years, our membership had levelled off in the mid-eighties.

Most new members join WAMUN after first trying out one of our thriving interest groups. We have the liveliness and friendliness of these groups to thank for our recent growth.

We welcome new members. If you know women who you think might enjoy our social events and activities, why not invite them to join us on a Saturday walk, a Wednesday morning coffee chat, or a visit to an art gallery, or to come to a knowledge sharing session with the E Toys group? Assure them that there won't be any pressure to join. They do not need to have a direct connection with Memorial. They need only be "in agreement with our charitable goals", - the scholarship fund and the campus food bank.

Membership Dues for 2016-2017 are still a bargain at only \$15.

Susan Goold, Membership Secretary



A NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

This issue of the WAMUN Newsletter (vol. 44 no.1) is dated September 2016 though it was not produced until November 2018. Though there was a two-year delay in bringing it to completion, it is based on notes that were written during the summer of 2016, and on items submitted by the president and interest group convenors at that time. The photographs were taken between April and September of that year. Thus, the contents of this issue portray WAMUN members and their activities as they were in the summer of 2016. I have assigned this issue the volume and issue number and date that it would have received had it been released on time. This ensures that it will file in its proper place in the time sequence when placed in the MUN archives and in other places where people may search for it, such as the Newsletter archive on the WAMUN website.

Dorothy Milne, Newsletter Editor

