

# Women's Club

## NEWSLETTER



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA WOMEN'S CLUB Educational, cultural, recreational, and leadership opportunities for all ages

May-June 2020 · No. 291

### UMWC steps up to the challenge

True to its history, the University of Minnesota Women's Club is facing the challenge of coronavirus with characteristic resolve. We obviously are disappointed that in-person events are cancelled. But we aren't sitting still.

Committees, such as the Scholarship Fundraising Committee, have found a way to meet virtually. We also are conducting the club's business with this newsletter. We are asking you to record your preference for our slate of 2020–2021 officers on a ballot that we would like you to return by May 12.

Several members, such as Dorothy Waltz, have answered the call to sew face masks. She's seen here, along with her husband, Fred, modeling the "Covid Bandit" mask, as they call it. Club members made a similar effort during World War I, when they volunteered one day a week to Red Cross work. In World War II, they turned over space they had purchased in Coffman Union to the Red Cross for a production line to produce items needed for soldiers, furnishing 40 to 70 workers a month for that effort.

But nothing illustrates the impact and reach of the UMWC quite like the story of two-time scholarship recipient Rosa Ruiz Mendez, who in her very first year as a registered nurse is working on a floor of her hospital dedicated to coronavirus patients. She shared some heartfelt and touching thoughts we know you will appreciate.



### Staying Home Staying Safe

I've been listening to old records and updating my scrapbooks of trips I've taken in the past. Living through memories, I guess, and walking four to six miles a day.

*Barb Cady*



As many of us are doing, I'm spending a lot of my time in a virtual world. It has been calming to listen to the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Minnesota Orchestra performances and to watch highlights of the latest dance performances. How lucky we are to have this technology.

*Millie Woodbury*



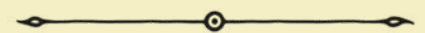
I welcomed my first grandchild. Although I haven't been able to hold her yet, I couldn't be more excited and can't wait for the stay-at-home recommendation to be lifted.

*Nancy Kluver*



As a morale booster, I make sure to put makeup on in the morning and, unfailingly, give myself a dash of perfume!

*Marian Champlin*



# President's Message: Promoting the greater good

The importance of staying connected to community in these challenging times matters for many reasons. It is imperative that we maintain our balance and find our voice amidst the challenge of Covid-19.

There is a sense of stress and concern that seems to be weighing on everyone. In spite of that, we are all working to establish, normalize and minimize the impact of the virus on our lives.

One can only imagine the toll it has taken on the lives of our Women's Club scholars. The University of Minnesota is conducting classes online with students participating remotely. The University has closed student dorms and put research on hold, but it is still adhering to its mission as it strives to find new and effective ways to educate tomorrow's leaders.



It is essential to continue to support the wider mission of the University and to continue to support undergraduate education through our scholarship fund.

It is my hope that in this time of great need and uncertainty we can come together and expand our financial support to undergraduate women at the University. We, as a group, can give a student a chance at a brighter future. Research shows that working more than 15 hours per week can become an impediment to a student's academic success. Minimum wage in the state of Minnesota is \$8.15 an hour if you are working for a small employer or \$10 if you are working for a large employer.

Stay healthy, stay safe and stay in touch. We need each other so that together we can maintain our balance and continue to be a force promoting the greater good.

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## Meet President-Elect Georgia Heisserer

The University of Minnesota Women's Club is the perfect place to take care of yourself and others. What would the founders think if they could see us now at 350 women strong, facing the challenges of today? Like our sisters before us, we are up to the challenge.

As your next UMWC president and representative, I can hardly wait to get started. For 38 years, I taught kindergarten through sixth grade with a passion. I had to deal with every kind of child and parent, coach them, encourage them and listen with my heart.

Team building is an attribute that helped me succeed both in and out of the classroom over the course of my career. I might add, a sense of humor goes a long way in a pinch. Life is short, and we need to lighten up a bit.

For centuries women have gathered together to support their sisters. There were quilting gatherings,



church socials, tea parties and Welcome Wagons for newcomers to the community. Now, suddenly, experts are telling us that having a circle of friends, or a "tribe," is good for our health. Who knew, as we approach 110 years, that the UMWC is the hottest club in town?

Over the course of time, I have served on many boards: private, spiritual, musical, educational or community based. Members were chosen for their financial acumen, sound judgement, fundraising skills and stamina. I feel confident that with your help I will be a good fit as your next president.

Please join me in generating ideas to improve our women's organization. Begin your journey with me, right now, to step it up. What actions can we take in the next several months to influence our 110-year history? Be intentional. Talk among yourselves. All of us have a stake in the stewardship of this time-tested University of Minnesota Women's Club. We are stronger together.

## We are grateful

Our sincere thanks go out to all of you who donated to the scholarship program for the 2019 – 2020 campaign. As I've said before, every scholarship gift, of whatever amount, is needed and will make such a difference in the lives of our women scholars. Scholarship donors who made gifts to the scholarship fund through mid-April are listed below.

— *Marian Champlin*, UMWC Vice President for Scholarship Fundraising

### **Fifteen one-year named scholarships and UMWC endowed scholarships held and managed by the U of M Foundation:**

The U of M Women's Club Scholarship(s)

UMWC Scholarly Pursuits Scholarship  
The U of M Medical Auxiliary Scholarship  
The Stephanie Boddy Scholarship Fund  
The Doris Doden Scholarship Fund  
The Frances Shepherd Memorial Scholarship Fund

## You still have time

What? You forgot to send your donation for the UMWC scholarship fund? There is still time to make a gift before the end of the fiscal year.

Donation deadline: June 30, 2020.

## UMWC donors to the 2019-2020 campaign

Abuan, Mary	Frank, Katherine	Kuo, Jocelyn	Rajput, Jenny
Adams, Judith	Simon	Lathrop, Peggy	Rathbun, Joan
Alper, Deborah	Frogner, Linda	Leibfried, Margaret	Reed, Maggie
Anderson, Rebecca	Fuller, Susan	Levitt, Rachel	Robb, Janet
Anderson, Janelle	Gale, Sandy	Linne, Jean	Roelofs, Patricia
Arneson, Martha	Gilbertson, Sue	Liu, Susan	Rowser, Margaret
Ball, Kathy	Gilmore, Barbara	Lorenz, Linda	Rybak-Mesken, Lorraine
Banks, Adrienne	Glaeser, Mary	Luhmann, Pat	Schlichting, Frankie
Beck, Paula	Gluth, Diane	Madison, Susan	Schweizer, Diane
Benz, Lynne	Glynn, Diane	Mahlum, Virginia	Scott, Rebecca
Berg, Greta	Graves, Janet	Marier, Abby	Senty, Carole
Bonin, Janet	Grimmer, Elizabeth	Marten, Bonnie	Staneslow, Olly
Boss, Linda	Hamilton, Cherie	Marten, Lynette	Steele, Carol
Brinkworth, Gail	Hansen, Jane	Martin, Holly	Stinson, Loree
Buggs, Karen,	Hansen, Jessie	Matlock, Jeanne	Sunderland, Mary Rae
Burleigh, Barbara	Hanson, Nancy	McKnight, Susan	Swadburg, Barbara
Busch, Angela	Hanson, Virginia	Meade, Eleanor	Tang, Peggy
Cady, Barbara	Heisserer, Georgia	Morin, Nancy	Treston, Kathi
Cantrell, Carol	Herrmann, Shirley	Myers, Nancy	Ungar, Shirley
Carlson, Helen	Hintze, Elfrieda	Nelson, Carol	VanDriel, Lynda
Champlin, Marian	Hoag, Trudy	Nelson, Louella	Vars, Cynthia
Chaput, Joy	Hoover, Maggie	Nelson, Susan	Veninga, Karen
Chase, Bonnie	Hopp, Susan	Neujahr, Jennifer	Wallace, Julia
Christensen, JoAnne	House, Janelle	Norenberg, Ardella	Wallace, Marcie
Christianson, Lola	Huttner, Carol	Nygaard, Georgia	Waller, Jessica
Cohen, Barbara	Jakel, Monell	O'Brien, Kathleen	Waltz, Dorothy & Fred
Cornish, Jeanne	Johnson, Veronica	Odland, Pearl	Ward, Dorothy
Delano, Gloria	Jones, Ruth	Olson, Marilyn	Wehner, Karen
DeLay, Liz	Juffer, Virginia	Oriani, Constance	Woodbury, Millie
Dickhausen, Maria	Kaler, Karen	Oskam, Marri	Wright, Rolaine
Dudley, Karen	Kalina, Barbara	Peters, Judith	Young, Diane
Edgar, Barbara	Kane, Patricia	Peterson, Dorothy	Zuriff, Sue
Ekern, Janet	Kirchner, Pat	Pogainis, Ginger	Anonymous
Ellison, Launa	Korlath, Sandra	Prawer, Bonnie	<b>Section Gifts</b>
Fields, Sharon	Krylov, Julia	Prayfrock, Julie	Bridge 1 & Art
Foley, Elizabeth	Kluver, Nancy	Quie, Elizabeth	

## Scholarship Fundraising Committee finds a way to meet

Are you chairing a committee or a section and finding yourselves frustrated by the coronavirus? Here is how one UMWC committee did business in early March.

On short notice, the only readily available option was by email. To make it efficient, we took a page from the UMWC recording secretary's book and asked that reports be mailed in before the meeting. Amazingly, it worked quite well. Everyone kept their responses short and we finished up the meeting in about one hour.

With a little ingenuity, you can meet safely and get the work done. If we are still sequestered when the next meeting comes along, we are all convinced that it will be more satisfying to see each other and would plan to use a video conference tool like Zoom!

— *Marian Champlin, UMWC Vice President for Scholarship Fundraising, and the rest of the committee: Ginny Hanson, Marcie Wallace, Pat Luhmann and Diane Young*

## Joint business meeting set for June 2

The joint business meeting, our final board meeting of the 2019-2020 year, is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2. We will be holding the meeting virtually and will send details via email at a later date.

## See you in September!

The deadline for the September-October 2020 newsletter is August 10, 2020. Please submit articles, information and photos to Nancy Kluver, newsletter editor, at [kluver.nancy@gmail.com](mailto:kluver.nancy@gmail.com).

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## Election of Officers for 2020-2021

For the safety of our members and in keeping with guidance from state officials, we have cancelled our annual meeting, originally scheduled for May 12. Election of officers will now take place by mail-in ballot.

Please fill out the ballot below and return to Maggie Hoover by May 12, 2020.

If you are reading the newsletter online, please print this page, mark your preference and return to Maggie Hoover.

**To ensure ballot security, your email includes a code number that you should also include on the ballot.**



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## BALLOT FOR UMWC ELECTIVE OFFICERS AND APPOINTIVE POSITIONS

The UMWC's Nominating Committee submits the following slate of elective officers and appointive positions for the 2020-2021 program year.

### ELECTIVE OFFICES:

President-Elect: Susan Hopp  
Vice President for Programs: Carol Cantrell  
Vice President for Scholarship Fundraising:  
Marian Champlin  
Recording Secretary: Lynne Benz  
Records and Dues Officer: Nancy Myers  
Scholarship Committee Chair: Georgia Nygaard  
Membership Committee Chair: Joy Chaput

### APPOINTIVE POSITIONS:

Auditor: Pat Luhmann  
Corresponding Secretary: Marian Champlin  
Historian: Bonnie Marten

**Please indicate your preference for this slate by checking one of the following.**

\_\_\_\_\_ In favor                      \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed

*For email recipients:*

Code number \_\_\_\_\_

## Be kind to one another

Two-time scholarship recipient Rosa Ruiz Mendez, who has been working as a registered nurse for only nine months, has been assigned to a floor dedicated to coronavirus patients. Although extremely busy, she was generous enough to share some of her experiences with us.

“It’s crazy to be in a pandemic my first year in nursing, but I think it is going well, or as well as it can, so far!” Ruiz Mendez wrote in an email.

Her patients have been exposed to the virus or have symptoms. They are tested and sent to her floor if they need hospitalization. “Otherwise they are sent home if they can manage symptoms at home,” she wrote. “They will remain here until they no longer need hospital resources.”

In reflecting on her new reality, she shared, “The coronavirus has affected my life quite a bit.” There are “the ever-changing guidelines as we try to stay ahead of the virus. I am practicing social distancing in my apartment and am avoiding going anywhere or visiting my family members since I could potentially transmit the virus if I become infected.

“What concerns me the most in connection with the virus are the lives that have and will be lost. There is no replacing people’s loved ones, and I am scared for the day when it will be one of my loved ones.”

Learning to cope is critical. “It can be difficult to remain calm or sane during this time, especially when listening to the media,” Ruiz Mendez wrote.



“My family and friends have helped me cope with their phone calls and FaceTime. Going outside for a run or opening the windows in my apartment for some fresh air has really helped too.” She also is cooking, baking, doing yoga and playing video games to reduce stress.

“I am concerned for my family members, particularly my grandparents and my parents, and worry if they will get affected,” Ruiz Mendez wrote. “I also worry about my baby nephew, who just turned one month...I hope hospitals will have enough supplies to keep them all safe.”

She ended the email exchange with some words of wisdom. “Finally, I just want to say that even though this is a stressful time, it is important to be kind to one another. Everyone is dealing with drastic life changes during these times and trying to cope.”

A quote from television’s Fred Rogers resonates with her. “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’”

Ruiz Mendez is indeed one of the helpers.

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## Welcome new members

We are delighted to announce that four women have joined the University of Minnesota Women’s Club since the last newsletter. Please welcome them and introduce yourselves when you see them at meetings. Yes! There will be meetings again.

New members are Avis Benson, Sherry Sheahan, Sheila Speedling and Vicki Thelen.

We also have had some directory changes. Linda Schloff has a new address. Arlene Welbes and Janet Robb have new phone numbers and addresses.

For a current list of new members and their contact information and/or a list of directory changes, please contact Nancy Myers.

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## Memorial gifts

The following contributed memorial gifts to the UMWC scholarship fund from January 30 to April 10, 2020:

For Leonard Schloff by UMWC, Marian Champlin  
For Joanne Westly by UMWC

## UMWC Online Extra Feature Story

### All we have is each other

Ruth Jones was very clear when asked if she would agree to be profiled in this newsletter. “I don’t want this to be about me,” she said. “I want this to be about us.”

And by “us” she means the Women’s Club, the University, the larger community and, in fact, the entire world.

Because that’s how Jones approaches life. She sees connectivity everywhere.

Born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, a town famous for an 1889 flood that killed more than 2,200 people, Jones grew up as one of four children.

Survivors of the flood still lived in Johnstown in her youth, along with history buffs and storytellers, so she was steeped in the town’s saga. Her father’s best friend, chief engineer for the Johnstown Water Company, taught her how a watershed worked to keep water clean. That early learning experience was pivotal.

“I grew up with a water preservation mentality,” she said. “It was part of my DNA.” And recognizing the environmental, societal and human components of the flood story helped to shape her outlook on life.

After receiving her undergraduate degree from Bucknell University and doing graduate work at Penn State, Jones went to work for the Agency for International Development in Washington, D.C., mostly on foreign aid development projects in Pakistan. Although the work was rewarding, it was “too impersonal,” she said. Her greater joy was the volunteer work she did with children. She loved kids and had friends in Minnesota so she packed her bags, did extra coursework at the University of Minnesota and ended up teaching third, fourth and fifth graders in Hopkins and Golden Valley for more than 30 years.



“I had a very rich and challenging teaching life,” she said. “I woke up every morning wondering how I could help.” And teaching, of course, left time in the summer to travel, another chance to make connections.

As a student at Bucknell, Jones spent her junior year abroad in Scotland and first discovered how international experiences greatly enhance academic education. She’s carried that lesson forward, particularly in her support of Engineers Without Borders, whose University of Minnesota chapter involves students in engineering projects in developing countries. Her support led to endowing the Ruth V. Jones Fund for Global Engagement that

supports University programs that engage students to create a better world through engineering projects that help communities improve access to clean water.

Although she doesn’t count the number of countries, Jones has traveled extensively. Her “one big trip a year” has taken her to many parts of Europe, the old Soviet Union, Africa, central Asia, China, Japan, Egypt, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand.

When she retired, Jones had even more time to devote to environmental causes and the University of Minnesota Women’s Club. “A guest at one of our gatherings said to make sure to join a women’s club when I retired,” she said, “And that resonated with me.” Initially a member of the Hikers and Music groups, she eventually “took her turn” as President in 2016. “The more you are willing to do, the richer your experiences,” she said. She also marvels at the work and reach of the University around the world. A large network of people doing good things brings her joy.

Because in the end, as she said, “All we have is each other.”

# Women's Club

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### Don't miss UMWC Online Extra

Please go to our website to read about Ruth Jones, a long-time member who has served as UMWC president and in other club positions. Jones is widely traveled and has a unique approach to life, finding great joy in making connections with people worldwide. The article is an added feature in the online version of our newsletter.



### Annual reports due May 28

All officers, committee chairs and section chairs should submit their annual reports electronically to Peggy Tang, historian, and Bonnie Marten, recording secretary, by May 28, 2020. Also, all job descriptions should be updated as appropriate and sent to Georgia Heisserer and Peggy Tang electronically before the joint business meeting on June 2.

### Section News

In their second-to-last hike before staying at home, the Hikers spent a delightful morning walking the exhibit halls of the Minneapolis Institute of Art, with lunch afterwards. Pictured here from left are Jocelyn Kuo, Nancy Wright, Judy McConnell, Catherine Holtzclaw, Pat Kirchner, Liz Grimmer and Barbara Swadburg.

