



Founded in 1911, we are a strong and vibrant community, dedicated to helping U of M women students achieve their academic goals. We forge lasting friendships by welcoming everyone, caring about each other, and exploring new ideas and places together.

November-December 2021 ~ No. 298

Conversation with a Woman Leader ~

Bringing Racist Housing Policies in the Twin Cities to Light

Although long known as among the best places to live in the country, the Twin Cities also has a history of housing discrimination against people of color. Our speaker, Dr. Kirsten Delegard, is co-founder of the Mapping Prejudice Project, an effort that includes a team of experts from various fields working to expose housing policies—both past and present—that support structural racism in the Twin Cities.



People of color see how discriminatory practices, including covenants and red lining, cascade through their lives, erecting barriers that limit access to housing, credit, education and wealth. But the resulting physical,

emotional and financial baggage has been harder to recognize for people who have not personally experienced racism. Mapping Prejudice seeks to make these burdens visible by locating them on a digital, interactive map of racial covenants in a city that was not always segregated.

Dr. Delegard has appeared on numerous television and radio programs, as well as in person with community leaders. She received her doctorate in history, specializing in women's history, and has written several books and articles on political, social and public history, particularly in Minneapolis. Dr. Delegard and Mapping Prejudice are located in the Borchert Map Library at the University of Minnesota.

Please come to the Conversations Luncheon on November 9 to meet Dr. Delegard and to learn about this important issue and how it concerns us all. You will want to get your reservation.

Meeting at a Glance

Conversation with a Woman Leader

Noon, Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Speaker

Dr. Kirsten Delegard

Co-founder of the Mapping Prejudice Project

Location

Midland Hills Country Club
2001 Fulham Street, Roseville

Free parking available in on-site lot

Menu

Minnesota Chicken

Chicken breast stuffed with wild rice, dried cranberries and apples with a morel mushroom cream sauce

Green beans almondine

Yukon Gold mashed potatoes

Midland Hills salad with peppercorn ranch dressing

Rolls and butter

Vegetarian option

Butternut squash ravioli

Served with cranberries and toasted pecans in a white wine cream sauce

Cost : \$27

Reservation deadline: Monday, November 1

Please send in the reservation form you will find in your 2021-2022 directory or on the UMWC website.

Make your check payable to UMWC and send to Jane LaFroth.

Opportunities abound in an all-volunteer organization

When I joined in 2018, I had no intention of getting involved in any volunteer or leadership capacity. I anticipated going to some luncheons, mostly for the speakers. I was semi-retired with a busy life and felt no need for new friends or yet another “commitment.” I didn’t even understand the mission.

Obviously, things changed.

Having been an art major at the U of M, I discovered the Art section. I even got out my old college paints and entered the member art show. Hmmm, that felt unexpectedly good. The next year, I fearfully co-chaired, mostly to feel more confident when meeting other members.



With a bit of exposure to boards I found myself curious, so came to a UMWC board meeting and quietly sat in the back row. Was I impressed! What did I find? Intelligent, active, strong, professional, independent, savvy women — the kind I’d like to rub shoulders with! And a club that seemed to run along pretty smoothly. What I also surprisingly found was a longing in myself to feel needed and to use some of my business skills.

I just know that there are many members with wonderful skills who are as reluctant as I was to envision themselves in a volunteer or leadership role. But what an opportunity to stretch your skills, fill a gap in your personal life and reap the rewards of giving back and feeling useful! You will be pleasantly surprised at how good you are at doing something new. Volunteering is truly a win-win. You are helped along the way and greatly appreciated.

For our club to survive and thrive, there needs to be an ongoing movement of new volunteers who take on responsibilities of any size. Out of our 300 members we have quite a pool! Our organization continues to evolve, with some activities allowed to die out and new activities taking their places. Therein lies great opportunity for members to help fine tune the club during these changing times. Talk about change — look at how the pandemic affected us! There were so many totally unexpected problems to solve, and we came through stronger than ever. But it didn’t just happen on its own — a big thank you to the leadership and all the volunteers who stepped up to the plate.

And there’s always more to do! As we’re getting up and running again, we have the chance to incorporate some new along with the old. So, this is a call to action for more of you to seriously think about getting involved with the running of the club. Start small. Offer to help within an interest section or committee. Establish simple and clear expectations. Do you have a passion to start a new interest section? Have a few hours to help with a special project? Please note that we have started to list some of the “jobs” on our website’s Connecting page.

Here are a few questions you could ask yourself:

- Do you have a special interest in some specific area of our three-part mission?
- Do you have a special expertise UMWC could use?
- Are you hoping to develop a certain skill or talent?
- What kind of experience would you like?

I think you’ll find participation satisfying and rewarding, and not regret it. I certainly haven’t! Every one of us is supported by like-minded women working together. We “own” this club so please help make it the best it can be.

I invite you to call or email me personally and chat about opportunities. I’m listed in the directory and welcome your email or call.

Gratefully yours,

Susan Hopp, President

Board of Directors Meets November 9

The UMWC board of directors will meet Tuesday, November 9, at Midland Hills Country Club, 2001 Fulham Street, Roseville. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. All club members are welcome to attend.

UMWC coronavirus policy note

I’ve heard concerns about us not officially checking proof of vaccinations or negative tests. We continue to discuss this. At this writing we feel that it would add more work for our valued volunteers, and we sincerely hope that our members are trustworthy enough to follow the honor system. Our self-monitoring interest sections, however, can decide to check for proof, which could provide greater confidence and participation.

— Susan Hopp

Angela Busch is one of ours

Angela Busch is executive vice president of Corporate Strategy and Business Development at Ecolab, Inc. Six years ago we featured Angela in our 2015–2016 Scholarship Fund Appeal letter. She had received our Francis Shephard Scholarship in 1987 when she was a Mechanical Engineering student at the University of Minnesota. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the U of M. To this she added degrees in business management and law from Northwestern University. She and her husband returned in 1996 to Minnesota, where she has worked at some of our great hometown companies such as Land O’Lakes, Honeywell and now Ecolab.

Early on, Angela was impressed with the UMWC’s mission to supply scholarships to University of Minnesota undergraduate women in need of financial help to realize their educational dreams. In 2015, she contributed to the program and then again in 2016, when we initiated the One-Year Named Scholarship. Ever since, she has been sponsoring a scholarship annually, and this year she paid us the highest of compliments.



Angela Busch, seated, is pictured at an earlier Scholarship Day Luncheon surrounded by scholarship recipients.

“The UMWC really outdid themselves this year with all of the scholarships!” Angela said. “The scholarships make a difference financially, but I am also coming to appreciate how much the award can also contribute both as a vote of confidence in the student’s capabilities and a statement of ‘we are glad you are here, you belong.’ I think the fact that the program is administered by the UMWC adds this last piece in particular. And at the U, a little confidence and comradeship go a long way to help you find success in such a big pond.”

Angela’s support of education and the University doesn’t stop there. She has also recently joined the Carlson School of Management Board of Advisors.

This busy mother of two children, with one of her own in college now, still manages to find time to enjoy the great outdoors of Minnesota while giving back to the community. She and her mother continued their Covid-inspired Giving Garden again this year, delivering more than 600 pounds of produce to Brainerd area food shelves. Not to be outdone, their flower garden is a finalist in this summer’s Star Tribune “Beautiful Garden contest” and will be featured one weekend in October or November 2021. Angela has also shared her love of nature’s beauty and sustainability with her rain garden design at the Northland Arboretum in Brainerd.

One of her tenets is that one should always be learning and growing, as a person and professionally.

— Marian Champlin, Chair,
One-Year Named Scholarships

Don’t miss this opportunity to spread holiday cheer



Despite Covid continuing to disrupt our lives, we once again are determined to keep up the UMWC tradition of sharing our holiday spirit with families who have children hospitalized at the University Medical Center.

As we did so successfully last year, we have arranged with two of our members to accept gifts at their homes on Wednesday, December 1, and Thursday, December 2, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Marian Champlin will accept gifts at her home at 5437 Elliot Avenue, Minneapolis, and Dorothy and Fred Waltz will accept gifts at their condo at 1666 Coffman Street, Falcon Heights, entrance on Larpen-teur Avenue. (See maps in the online newsletter)

If you are unable to deliver gifts on those dates but still wish to donate, please contact Dorothy Waltz at 651–917–0930 or waltz.ds@yahoo.com, and she will try to arrange for your gifts to be picked up.

Please note that financial gifts are extremely welcome to support patient and family programming at the hospital, providing gifts and supplies for their Holiday Family Gift Giving.

Make checks out to the University of Minnesota Foundation. (Checks made out to the UMWC will be returned. IRS regulations prohibit the UMWC from collecting money for any charity other than our scholarship fund.) Mail your check to Dorothy Waltz, 1666 Coffman Street #313, Falcon Heights, MN 55108–1340.

We can’t think of a better way to brighten the lives of children and families struggling at this time of year. Please join us in bringing joy.

Fall Welcome and Scholarship Luncheon is a big success

“A winner all around” is how Scholarship Committee Chair Georgia Nygaard characterized this year’s Fall Welcome and Scholarship Luncheon. Some 133 members and guests, along with 20 of our 59 scholarship recipients, attended the event on October 5 in Roseville.



Twenty of our 59 scholarship recipients attended this year’s luncheon. Scholarship Chair Georgia Nygaard is top left.

“The students were charming, energetic and very responsive to the audience,” Georgia said. Vivian Pham, a UMWc endowed scholarship recipient who attended the event, was equally enthusiastic.

“I met some fabulous women today who have inspired me greatly even in the short period of time I spent with

them,” Vivian wrote in a thank you note to the club.

President Susan Hopp welcomed the group and Georgia made brief remarks, along with scholarship recip-



Scholarship recipient Vivian Pham is joined by (from left) members Dorothy Peterson, Sue Gilbertson and Diane Schweizer.

ients Kendra Egwim, Hannah Bui, Aubrey Clark and Greta Fischer. The program also included individual videos of the recipients, which are posted on the UMWc website.

In addition to meeting scholarship recipients, members had an opportunity to visit booths featuring our special interest sections and to sign up for activities.

“What a roomful of energy and friendship and simple joy—and, yes, gratitude,” Susan said of the event. “We all were just so happy to be there.”

Membership is you!

Thank you for sharing UMWc section events with your friends. Our Nature wine tour and presentation, along with the Around the Campus Ted Mann Concert Hall guided tour, blasted some of the Covid blues from our midst. The Mississippi bridges hike kept us on our toes. The book clubs are keeping us grounded. The internationally known fiber artist, Tim Harding, gave us technique and inspiration at his local Como Avenue studio. There are lunches and movies and Vagabond trips to be found.

These past weeks, our sections have garnered hundreds of experiences for our members, opportunities to meet, socialize, learn and give shape to our lives in a positive way. We are so glad to be back, safely and soundly, but back. There is a place for each of us as we reconnect, on your terms. And we’re just getting started. Check your directory and make a plan. Come alone or bring a friend. Just show up. You’ll be glad you did, and so will the rest of us.

— Georgia Heisserer, Chair, Membership

Welcome new and returning members

We are happy to announce that eight 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. New members are Sumitra Wanduragala, Janet Lageson, Penny Bidne, Kathy Ammann, Nancy Cook, Judy Cox, Shirley Erstad and Mary Kay Hicks.

We also had seven former members who renewed their membership. Welcome back to Mary Fresonke, Bonnie Lewis, Mavis McKeever, Barbara Metz, Judie Ann Prayfrock, Kersten Beckstrom and Janelle Wegner.

There have also been some directory changes. Marcia Bradley and Kathy Callinan and Joann Youngstrom have new email addresses. Barbara Edgar and Amy Hargens have new phone numbers. Leslie Anfinson has a new address.

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

SECTION NEWS

Hikers hit the trail at Kathio State Park

After a two-year hiatus, the Hikers once again were able to enjoy an overnight trip, this time to Lake Mille Lacs. Members took two hikes at Kathio State Park, one with a park guide, and did a little birdwatching and a lot of socializing in that lovely part of the state. A big thanks goes to Carol Lowe and Abby Marier for organizing the trip.



The Hikers gathered for a group photo before heading out on the trails at Kathio State Park.

Vagabonds are off to Mexico

The Vagabonds program on November 19 has been changed to feature Mexico's Magnificent Copper Canyon by Train with Fred and Dorothy Waltz. The Zoom presentation begins at 1:30 p.m., followed by a discussion at 2:30 p.m. Contact Dorothy Waltz at waltz.ds@yahoo.com to be put on the invitation list and link, which will be sent out at the appropriate time.

Here is a photo to whet your appetite.



Nature group has busy fall

The Nature section enjoyed a beautiful fall day at the Nine Mile Creek Watershed area. Members learned how watersheds throughout the state manage and protect our water supply and the lakes, rivers and creeks so important

to us. They saw demonstrations on natural plantings, permeable pavers and rain gardens, followed by a lovely walk and picnic at Purgatory Park.

In October, the group participated in a wine tour and saw a demonstration on grape development for wine production at the University of Minnesota.



The Nature group at Nine Mile Creek Watershed

Art members visit Museum of Russian Art

Fifteen members of the Art group gathered at the Museum of Russian Art in south Minneapolis in September for a docent-led tour of the fascinating work of Alexey Brodovitch, a commercial artist and Russian emigré. Brodovitch's work appeared in Harpers Bazaar and many other venues during the 1920s-1930s.

Memorial gifts

For Lindsay Buhl by Nancy Hanson
For Robert Christensen by JoAnne Dee Christensen
For Carolyn Easter by Susan Gilbertson, Peggy Lathrop
For Cate Edlund by UMW
For Deon Gleneart by Marian Champlin
For Ruth Jones by Connie Cundy
For Nita Lussenhop by Virginia Mahlum
For Bill Rathbun by Joan Rathbun
For Dr Robert I Roelofs by Patricia Roelofs
For Dr. Hugo Wolf by UMW

Honoring gifts

For Marian Champlin by Anonymous
For Sara Spilseth by Richard Mahr

Newsletter Deadline is December 13

The deadline for the January-February 2022 newsletter is Monday, December 13. Please submit articles, information and photos to Nancy Kluver, newsletter editor, at Kluver.nancy@gmail.com

CLUB NEWS

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1. Cut out or copy this form along with the accompanying address label.
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Falcon Heights, MN 55108

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Zip: _____ Phone: _____

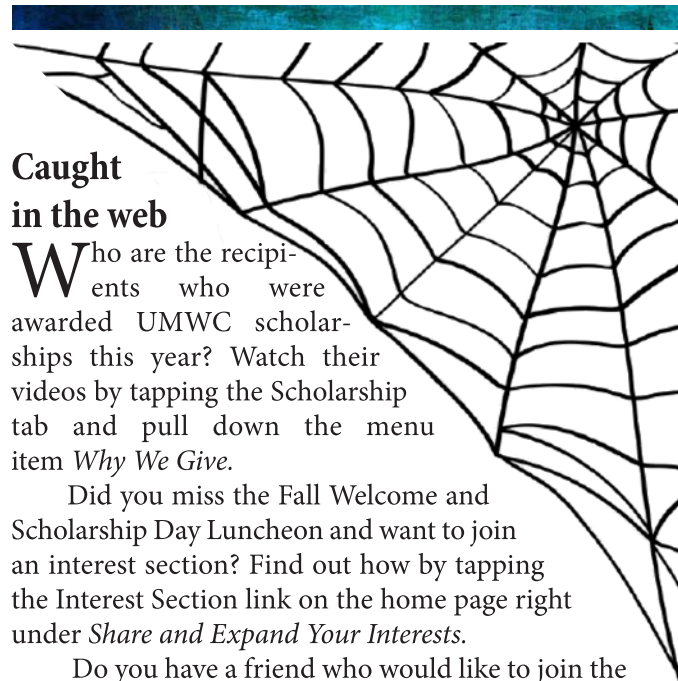
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In this issue of Online Extra

Scholarship recipient Melanie Lor has a powerful story to tell of her parents' journey to the United States following two wars: the Vietnam War and, more important to Melanie's story, the Secret War in Laos.

With a deep understanding of her culture, Melanie wants to be a bridge between the old and new generations as she pursues her goal of becoming a physician's assistant.

You will find the story as an added feature to the online version of our newsletter.



Caught in the web

Who are the recipients who were awarded UMWC scholarships this year? Watch their videos by tapping the Scholarship tab and pull down the menu item *Why We Give*.

Did you miss the Fall Welcome and Scholarship Day Luncheon and want to join an interest section? Find out how by tapping the Interest Section link on the home page right under *Share and Expand Your Interests*.

Do you have a friend who would like to join the UMWC? Go to our website at www.umwc.umn.edu and click the maroon box labeled JOIN NOW!

Current information such as schedule changes, cancellations or details about a UMWC event can be found in Quick Updates. And don't forget to tap the Refresh button to ensure you have the most recent version.

In Remembrance

We were saddened to belatedly learn of the death of UMWC member Marlys Giesecke, who died in January. Marlys taught lower elementary grades for nearly 30 years in the St. Anthony School District, with a special gift for teaching reading.

Understanding a painful past helps shape a hopeful future

“I want to be the bridge between the old and new generations,” said Melanie Lor, this year’s winner of the Doris Doeden Scholarship, in talking about her plans to become a physician’s assistant. And her understanding of that older generation is deep, as she illustrated in a powerful thank you note to the UMWC that told her family’s story.



Melanie with her parents

“I want to tell you all a little bit about myself in order for you all to understand the depths of gratitude, not only from me but my family and people who look like me,” she wrote in the note. “My name is Melanie Ka Lia Lor. I was born in 2002 to my father, a proud man who spoke little to no English, and my mother, a young, hardworking woman with little education. Both parents have experienced the disaster of a country and an ethnic group before, during and after war. The Vietnam War that lasted from 1955 to 1975 was one of the darkest and most recent events that happened to the Hmong people. But this story, MY story, takes place behind the Vietnam War, the Secret War.”

Melanie explains the Secret War based, as she said, “on the perspective of Hmong people instead of the perspective of Americans, Laotians or Vietnamese.” The Secret War, which took place from 1959 to 1978, “was a war against the growing Communist party in North Vietnam that was spreading to Southeast Asia. Because it happened behind the scenes during the Vietnam War, few knew what was happening in Laos between the Communist Pathet Lao and the United States, especially since Laos was a neutral country.

“The United States, through the CIA, recruited the Hmong people to assist them as guerrilla soldiers to keep the Pathet Lao from helping their allies in North Vietnam,” Melanie explained. “This recruitment included more than 19,000 Hmong men and young boys between the ages of 12 and 40 who were well, healthy and able-bodied. It meant that for them their independence, freedom and the little land they had would remain autonomous, free from the claws of the Laotian government.”



Melanie as a child

Melanie’s father, grandfather and many uncles fought in the Secret War—and, in fact, many Hmong men died early in the war, prompting their young sons to fight in their stead. After the Secret War was lost to the Communists, “there was a mass genocide of Hmong people who were hunted down by the Pathet Lao and Northern Vietnamese,” she said. “Hmong men, women and children were slaughtered in large numbers, forcing many to migrate to the west toward Thailand, where many more Hmong men, women and children were swept by the dangerous currents of the Mekong River.”

“My mother was just a year old when she and countless members of my maternal family had to run in the jungle, dodge bullets, eat roots and run from the Pathet Lao, who shot any and every Hmong person in sight,” Melanie continued in her note. “At the end of their journey, they had to swim across the raging waters of the Mekong River under the night sky. A lot of my family members died and the ones still alive don’t speak about their memories of such a catastrophic period in their lives.

“When I ask my father about this period in his life, he tears up and reminisces about his lost brothers and his parents who passed away from a bombing. My parents came to America with nothing but the clothes on their backs and hope in their hearts for the children they will raise here.”



Arriving separately, Melanie’s father, sponsored by his sister, and Melanie’s mother, sponsored with her family by a church group, eventually moved to and met in Michigan. They had five children, with Melanie in the middle of two older brothers and two younger brothers.

“I grew up seeing my parents struggle with raising five children, struggle with how to navigate the American schooling system, and most important, struggle with money.” Both parents initially had factory jobs, but don’t see those jobs—or that time in their lives—as sad, according to Melanie. That’s because many Hmong people had similar jobs and they looked at those jobs as a community, she said.

“There is something about beauty in the oppression,” Melanie says in explaining the power of that camaraderie.

“They had each other’s backs, they protected each other.” But they also believed that education was key to a brighter future.

Melanie’s mother in fact went back to school to become certified as a medical assistant. “I watched as my mother got up at 5 in the morning to go to school, work a factory job, come home during the late hours of the night to cook dinner, be a wife and a mother—all at the same time,” she said. “Looking back, I realized that the struggles of hard work or academic success couldn’t compare with what my parents had experienced and had to go through during their childhoods.”

Seeing her mother in the medical field partially inspired her to pursue her physician’s assistant career but what really sticks in her mind is the fact that she used to translate for her grandparents at their medical appointments.

In Hmong culture, if someone is sick, “they look at the spiritual side,” Melanie said. “They go to the family shaman. They don’t go to the hospital. They might take their children to a medical doctor but don’t go themselves.” And that cultural touchstone is powerful, according to Melanie, when comparing the old generation to the new.

“All the older generation had to hold onto was themselves and their culture,” she said, in explaining the practice. With shamans, or spiritual healers, in her own family, she appreciates their value and the wisdom of considering spiritual health while believing wholeheartedly in science herself.

As she works toward her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences at the University of Minnesota Rochester, Melanie wants to consider “whole health,” both the physical and spiritual. She chose the University of Minnesota to be close to her family, and she appreciates being on the Rochester campus because of the proximity of the Mayo Clinic and its networking possibilities.

“I aspire to be like the medical professionals I see as I work at the Mayo Clinic,” she said. “Professional with empathy and compassion.”

The UMWC scholarship couldn’t have come at a better time, according to Melanie.

“You see, within the last year, my maternal grandparents have passed away, my father has had two strokes, and my mother has been barely keeping us afloat financially,” she wrote in the note. “So, more than ever, I contemplated taking a break from college.”

When she received the scholarship, “my parents and I were filled with so many emotions of happiness and relief... This scholarship is not just a win for me, but my family, my parents and all of my relatives who have sacrificed everything for me to get where I am today.”

Map to the home of Dorothy & Fred Waltz

1666 Coffman Street, Falcon Heights

Across Larpenteur Avenue from the University Golf Course

FOR HOLIDAY GIFT DROP-OFF

Wednesday, December 1 • Thursday, December 2

10:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.



Map to the home of Marian Champlin

5437 Elliot Avenue

FOR HOLIDAY GIFT DROP-OFF

Wednesday, December 1 • Thursday, December 2

10:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

