



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.

March-April 2022 ~ No. 300

Conversation with a Woman Leader ~

Art Museums: Who Are We Now?

With many years of experience in the arts, Lyndel King has much to share about the current status of art museums



when she joins us at our next Conversation with a Woman Leader luncheon, Tuesday, April 5. Lyndel was director and chief curator at the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota from 1981 to 2021. She also was an adjunct professor in art history and professor of museum studies. Prior to the Weisman, Lyndel worked for Control Data Corporation and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C., and held several jobs in an earlier career as a chemist and virologist.

Lyndel grew up in rural western Kansas and earned a B.A. in microbiology from the University of Kansas and a Ph.D. in art history from the University of Minnesota.

She led fundraising and implemented the design and construction of a new art museum building and oversaw the selection of Frank O. Gehry as the architect. The new facility opened in 1993. Lyndel led successful fundraising to work again with Gehry on an expansion of the museum that opened in 2011.

With many board positions and service awards to her credit, Lyndel, now retired, is working on a book on the history and development of academic museums in the United States and Europe, cooking and attempting to train her unruly beagle.

Please join us April 5 for what promises to be an interesting and delightful presentation. We encourage you to send your reservation to Maggie Hoover well before the March 28 deadline.

Meeting at a Glance

**Conversation
with a Woman Leader**
Noon, Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Speaker
Lyndel King
*Director and Chief Curator Emerita,
Weisman Art Museum*

Location
Midland Hills Country Club
2001 Fulham Street, Roseville
Free parking available in on-site lot

Menu
Bourbon Street Penne Pasta
Broccoli, sun-dried tomatoes, mushrooms and
penne pasta tossed in Cajun cream sauce topped
with slices of chicken.

Vegetarian option
Buddha Bowl — Spinach and romaine with
quinoa, kamut, apples, cucumbers and roasted
butternut squash, artichokes and avocados with
curried lemon dressing. (Also gluten free)

Cost : \$27

Reservation deadline: Monday, March 28

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 Maggie Hoover.

There's always something to learn

I took the StrengthsFinder personality test a while back and found “learner” in my top five strengths. That might be why I was so attracted to the part of our mission that states, “provide educational, cultural, recreation and leadership opportunities for women of all ages.” To me that means lifelong learning.



Here's a definition: Lifelong learning is a form of self-initiated education that is focused on achieving personal fulfillment.

That sounds good. We get to learn for ourselves, not for anyone else. So I did a bit of research on personal benefits of lifelong (continuous) learning.

Studies show that continuous learning helps people to feel happier on average, and more fulfilled in their lives and careers. They improve skills and self-confidence, and maintain stronger cognitive functioning as they age. Engaging in continuous learning means becoming accustomed to incorporating new knowledge all the time, and to keep adapting to the changes ahead of us and making the most of our futures.

And the personal benefits ripple outwards! Learning is important to society as a whole because it helps different groups of people to share knowledge, agree on mutual values, and understand one another better. By transmitting these values, attitudes, and behaviors we decide to share, we make our societies better for ourselves, those around us, and those who come after us.

UMWC holds itself to high standards. We nurture and encourage lifelong learning through our 16 interest sections, thought-stimulating “Conversation with a Woman Leader” programs and the multi-layers of opportunities to participate and engage. We explore and grow, learn new skills and embrace new ideas.

Our members have positive, curious mindsets and the connection to a respected institute of higher learning, our beloved University of Minnesota, keeps learning always on our radars. Hopefully UMWC inspires you to learn. Think about how you learn best, and please use not only what our club has to offer you, but also seek out the abundant adult educational opportunities in your community.

Here are a couple other ideas to check out:

The Senior Citizen Education Program (SCEP) is part of a Minnesota state statute that applies to all state-

supported institutions of higher education. If you are a Minnesota resident aged 62 or older, you may audit courses free of charge, or take classes for credit at \$10 per credit. For complete information on the program, go to onestop.umn.edu/academics/senior-citizen-education-program.

“OLLI at the UMN,” part of the U's College of Continuing and Professional Studies, provides its membership of dedicated lifelong learners with noncredit courses, as well as intellectually stimulating social, cultural, and volunteer opportunities. For more information, go to ccaps.umn.edu/olli.

*The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.
— Dr. Seuss*

On a side note, I also just learned that the U of M is a member of the Age-Friendly University (AFU) global network, committed to becoming more age-friendly in its programs and policies. Changing age demographics are challenging our colleges and universities to consider how they can respond to aging populations through new approaches to teaching, research, and community engagement. These are exciting times, and I'm sure you will be hearing more about this pioneering initiative.

That's it! Please embrace lifelong learning, and remember to have fun, share what you learn and take time to celebrate your achievements!

Susan Hopp, President

Don't miss a thing

Groundhog or no groundhog, UMWC has badgered me with action these past months. Still, there is much to look forward to as spring arrives. There are Movie Rendezvous plans and a Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Zoom on March 17. Around the Campus legs it to Alternative Futures for Minnesota Forests on April 19. On March 28, Nature presents Douglas Tallamy, an entomology and wildlife ecology professor talking about Restoring Nature's Relationships.

“Those were the days my friend. We thought they'd never end,” goes the song. Luckily, we have the UMWC. Reach out. Don't miss a thing.

Georgia Heisserer, Membership

Did you know?

For many of us, college and its associated costs are a distant memory. The reality is that current expenses exceed \$29,000 for an in-state undergraduate to attend the University of Minnesota. That number includes tuition and fees (\$15,400), room and board (\$10,900) and books, supplies and transportation (\$3,400). While many of us worked part-time jobs during college, a student today would have to work, on average, 51 hours a week to pay the full cost.

Because the students supported by UMWC scholarships qualify as need-based, most of these costs are covered by grants, UM support and work study. The Women's Club scholarships "cover the gap"—providing the final funding needed to complete students' aid packages. This academic year, that "gap" amount totaled \$3,800. UMWC scholarships make a critical difference in helping students obtain their degree and graduate on time.



It is sometimes hard to grasp what all these numbers mean, so here is a real-life example. Kendra Egwim, one of this year's recipients, is the youngest child in a family that emigrated from Ghana and Nigeria in Africa to Minnesota. She is studying biology, society and the environment and minoring in chemistry. Her plans include medical school to become an OB/GYN and an advocate for women's health.

Here is what Kendra had to say about receiving this scholarship:

"This scholarship truly means a great deal to me. This past summer I have been working two full-time jobs and taking a summer class to reduce expenses that feel to be drowning me. This money is a blessing... and will go towards textbooks, school supplies and other necessities. It means even more coming from an organization that supports women. I cannot say thank you enough!"

Lynn Slifer, Scholarship Fundraising Committee

Members gather to consider solutions to homelessness

More than 70 members and guests attended February's Conversation with a Woman Leader meeting to hear Gabrielle Clowdus, CEO and co-founder of Settled, which works to find sustainable housing, purposeful work and a supportive community for the homeless.

Gabrielle explained the challenges presented by homelessness in the Twin Cities and Settled's original and innovative approach to the problem, which includes developing tiny houses and microenterprises.

"As always, it was so good to get together, especially since the pandemic kept us apart for so long," said Membership Chair Georgia Heisserer. "We were really happy to see that many members invited guests to the meeting. That's such a good way to introduce other women to the club and to grow our membership numbers."



Once again, we recognized that effort through our Guest Quest program. When you bring a guest to one of our luncheons, your name is entered into a drawing that day to receive a complimentary lunch for one of our yearly events. This time the winner was new member Susan Travis (center), who is shown in the photo with her guest, Lisa Larson (left), and Georgia Heisserer.

For more information about Settled, please go to their website at settled.org. Gabrielle also mentioned a similar effort in Austin, Texas. Information about the Austin community can be found at mlf.org/community-first.

Scholarship applications open in early April

The Scholarship Committee is gearing up for a big year as applications open in early April. Potential recipients can find information and application forms on the UMWC website when the application period opens by clicking scholarships and scrolling down to scholarship applications.

Newsletter celebrates three hundredth issue

Although you might not realize it, you are reading the 300th issue of the UMWC newsletter. Take a look at the small print below our masthead on page 1 and you'll see that this is No. 300.



The UMWC has always looked forward.

We are proud to reach that milestone because it reflects the strength and glorious history of this organization. Now called Club News, the newsletter has had several iterations and editors over the years—including club presidents—but it always focused on keeping members connected.

Former club historian Bonnie Marten, who now serves as recording secretary, compiled a history of the club several years ago based on historic documents in our archives. Here is part of that history:

On March 18, 1911, 142 women met in Shevlin Hall to organize the Faculty Women's Club (FWC) for faculty wives and female instructors on the Minneapolis campus. The dues were 50 cents. Miss Ada Comstock, after whom Comstock Hall on the University of Minnesota campus was named, became the first presiding officer. The FWC was so successful that in 1913 St. Paul faculty wives started their own "Get Together Club," which later combined with the one in Minneapolis.

The first interest section was the Mother Section, organized in 1914 to support the war effort, even adopting two orphans. That was followed by the Student Section and

the Social Service Section. In 1930, six new sections were created, including U Hospital Auxiliary, Modern Literature, International Affairs, Child Care, Crafts and Music. During the Depression, 642 books were donated to the University Hospital by the Auxiliary. The annual Christmas Tea began at that time, and members continue to collect toys for hospitalized children.

In 1916, the club gave \$30 to pay the tuition of a worthy girl student. From 1921 to 1923, 320 students received loans averaging \$15 to \$200. In 1944, the FWC decided to begin granting scholarships and sponsored concerts at Northrop Auditorium and exhibitions to raise money. In 1946, the women's club offered its first two scholarships of \$100 each—and we've awarded scholarships annually ever since.

So as you read about today's learning, socializing and scholarship activities in this 300th issue, please remember that in many ways it's nothing new. We go way back!

Welcome new members

New members bring welcome change and growth to the Women's Club. Reach out to welcome and to get to know our new members! Women who have joined since the last newsletter are Sandy Swanson, Lori Cheney and Adele Greenlee.

There have also been some directory changes. Nancy Bennett has a new address and Judith Peters has a new email. Also, Mary Fresonke, a new member this year, has a new phone number and address.

For a current list of new members and their contact information and/or a list of directory changes, please contact Nancy Myers at nmyers13@hotmail.com.

Memorial gifts

For Ella Goehring by Janet Graves
For Harold Haugen by Patricia Kirchner
For Harold Haugen by Nancy Haugen
For Jessica Jackson by Patricia Kirchner
For Mary Ellen Johnson by Anonymous

Honoring gifts

For Kelly Buhl by Nancy Hanson
For Marian Champlin by Pat Luhmann
For Ginny Hanson by Anonymous
For Barb Lindholm by Pat Luhmann
For Pat Luhmann by Anonymous
For Georgia Nygaard by Anonymous
For Carole Senty by Anonymous
For Lynn Slifer by Anonymous
For Marcie Wallace by Anonymous
For Diane Young by Anonymous

SECTION NEWS

Mark your calendars for the Art Show

The Art Section is pleased to announce that the 30th Annual Art Show will take place May 3 – 31 at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in the St. Anthony Park area of Saint Paul. Members of the Women's Club will exhibit their creations during the month of May.



Member Lola Christianson talked about her painting at an earlier Art Show.

Plan to attend the UMWC opening reception on Tuesday, May 3, beginning at 3 p.m. In addition, members can join the artists and meet the congregation at 11:30 after church services on Sunday, May 8. St. Matthews is located at 2136 Carter Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108.

How about a lunch date and art show with a friend? Four restaurants with outdoor seating are within two to three blocks of the church: Nico's, The Finnish Bistro, Karta Thai and the Colossal Café. Additional viewing times (when the church is open) will be announced.

All UMWC members are encouraged to participate and submit their artistic work for display in the Art Show. Registration forms will be emailed to all Art Section members and will also be available on UMWC website.

If you have any questions, or would like to participate, please call Jane LaFroth, 651-636-9218 or Carol Lowe, 612-869-7949.

We're rendezvousing on Zoom again

The March 10 Movie Rendezvous will be on Zoom at 12:30 p.m. We will discuss each member's choice of Oscar winning/nominated movies in honor of the Academy Awards later in March.

An email with the Zoom information will go out to group members the weekend before we meet. Please contact Elaine Savick if you'd like to be added to the list.

Get ready to travel with the Vagabonds

Award-winning photographer Deanna Probst's stunning photographs of Death Valley will be the program

for Vagabonds on March 18. Deanne visited Death Valley in December 2020, and the national park's beauty and unique landscapes were unlike anything she'd seen before.



Pipe Band drummer in Cape Breton

The Vagabonds April 15 program has been changed to feature "From Cape Breton to Bretagne," with Fred and Dorothy Waltz. They hope you will join them to share their visit to Celtic homelands on both sides of the Atlantic.

Vagabond members will receive Zoom invitations and Zoom links for both presentations, which begin at 1:30 p.m. Others interested in the presentations should email Dorothy Waltz at waltz.ds@yahoo.com to be put on the list for an invitation and link.



Death Valley

Women's Health Issues upcoming session cancelled

Please note that the speaker for the March Women's Health Issues presentation on kidney health has had to cancel her appearance. In April, Women's Health Issues will hear from Dr. Judith Sperling, a clinical assistant professor at the University's Medical School, on "Feet, don't fail me now!"

CLUB NEWS

University of Minnesota • McNamara Alumni Center
200 Oak Street SE, Suite 250
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2002
www.umwc.umn.edu

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email to nmyers13@hotmail.com

Or **Print** new information below.

1. Cut out or copy this form along with the accompanying address label.
2. Mail to Nancy Myers, 1578 Burton St.,
Falcon Heights, MN 55108

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Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

In this issue of Online Extra

Nancy Myers loves numbers, it's as simple as that. And UMWC is lucky she does because it guides her work as records and dues officer, a position she's held for a number of years.



Read about Nancy's life, career, community work and travel in this edition of Online Extra. You will find the story as an added feature to the online version of our newsletter.

Board of Directors Meets April 5

The UMWC board of directors will meet Tuesday, April 5, at Midland Hills Country Club, 2001 Fulham Street Roseville. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. All club members are welcome to attend.

Caught in the web

Have you misplaced the current issue of Club News or want to find a past issue of one of the newsletters? You can find it on our website (umwc.umn.edu). Open the Newsletter tab on the home page.

Are you back in the 50s seeing everything in black and white? Why not enjoy reading Club News in color! Again, just go to our website. It will brighten your day.

Newsletter Deadline is April 11

The deadline for the May-June 2022 newsletter is Monday, April 11. Please submit articles, information and photos to Nancy Kluver, newsletter editor, at Kluver.nancy@gmail.com.

Listening to the numbers

“Nothing is as pretty as a page full of numbers,” said UMWC Record and Dues Officer Nancy Myers. “Further, the numbers have something to tell you, if you give them a chance to speak up and don’t try to tell them what to say.”

It’s an opinion she’s expressed to friends, and it goes a long way toward explaining why she enjoyed her long career as an actuary and is happy with her current work for UMWC.

Born in Kansas City, Kansas, Nancy grew up in Smithville and Saint Joseph, Missouri.

“My dad was a Southern Baptist preacher, although he started out as a credit manager for Folgers Coffee Company,” she said. He was “religiously conservative, but Southern Baptists were a little more normal then. He actually had friends who were liberal.”

Her mother “was the housewife who held the family together,” Nancy said. “After the kids were gone, she was the secretary at an elementary school, a job she enjoyed and which gave her some great stories.” In addition to Nancy, the kids included her brother, who had a career as an oil engineer, and a sister, who taught business computer classes in high school. “The math gene runs in the family,” she said.

Nancy attended a Baptist Junior College in Missouri for two years, which she admits might not have been the best choice academically but fit with both her and her family’s religious values at the time.

“I transferred to the University of Missouri and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a double major in math and English,” Nancy said. She went on to graduate school in math for two reasons. “First, the math department offered me a teaching assistantship and this made it clear that math had some real financial advantages over English. Second, I really enjoyed solving those math problems.”

A career as an actuary followed and was the perfect fit. “I’ve worked as an actuary for five insurance companies—mergers were popular during those years—and the state of Minnesota.

“The state job was really interesting,” Nancy said. “I was hired because there were some very real financial problems with the workers’ compensation insurance system. I could talk about how and why the money problems developed—but the political issues were way

outside of my expertise.” That said, “... watching this from a close seat on the sidelines was fascinating.”

And she adds with a smile, “I should also mention that a side benefit of being an actuary is being a *fellow* of the Casualty-Actuarial Society. Just what every woman wants.”

Nancy joined UMWC in 2010 when Khin Khin Jensen and Harriet Johnson invited her to a meeting of the Vagabonds, but she “wasn’t really involved until after I retired in 2012,” she said. In addition to Vagabonds, Nancy has been a member of the Hikers and Nature interest



Nancy (far right) catches the Hogwarts Express with her sister, Carol, and granddaughters Katherine and Anna.

groups. “Some of the other sections look really interesting and I’m going to try some of those.”

Her job as records and dues officer began in 2016 after she’d sat next to former UMWC Treasurer Pat Luhmann at a section lunch. “Pat asked me what I had done professionally,” Nancy said. “I replied ‘actuary,’ little knowing what the consequences of that innocent statement would be.”

But volunteering was nothing new. “I’ve enjoyed it over the years—PTA, Music in the Park, the Block Nurse Program,” Nancy said. “I’ve always been the treasurer or involved in some way with keeping track of the money. For many years, I was the financial secretary for my church, where I kept track of the income. I also did taxes with AARP for a few years. So doing records and dues for UMWC fits right in, and I enjoy it.”

Nancy also is a traveler. “I’ve enjoyed traveling to



Nancy on the Potemkin Stairs in Odessa, Ukraine

different parts of the world,” she said. These days, she’s thinking in particular about a trip she took to Ukraine.

“Those people are just like us,” Nancy said. “I think what it would be like to have an army gathering on our border.”

Most important to her life, of course, is her family. “I have one daughter, Sara, who is married to Matt. They are both social workers in the Saint Paul school system.” Sara and Matt have two daughters. “Anna is a sophomore in high school and Katherine is a 7th grader in middle school.”

And in a circumstance guaranteed to delight UMWC members, “Anna really, really likes to read,” Nancy said. “She also enjoys science fiction and has now become a member of my science fiction book group where her comments can enliven the group. She gets the books read before I do.”

Her granddaughter Katherine enjoys school and dance. “One of the benefits of Covid, from my point of view, is the shortage of bus drivers,” Nancy said. “So, I’ve been transporting Katherine to the cross-country ski team practice. Being in middle school, she’s had some helpful comments on my driving.”

For Nancy, the best part of being a UMWC member are the other members. “I enjoy being with a group of capable, interesting women,” she said. And as the club has dealt with the pandemic, what do the numbers tell us about the strength of our organization?

“We have to think about membership,” Nancy said. “We all need to invite other women to join.”