



Founded in 1911, we are a strong and vibrant community, dedicated to helping U of M 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 2024 ~ No. 313

## Conversation with a Woman Leader ~

### Building hope through education in Tanzania

We have a wonderful opportunity on November 12 to hear from one of Minnesota's most compassionate and innovative humanitarians. Bethany Husby, founder of the nonprofit, Heart to Care Tanzania, began raising funds in 2017 to build a school for underprivileged children in Kisongo, a village in Tanzania, Africa. In 2018, Bethany Pre and Primary School opened its doors to 32 children. To many that would seem an amazing accomplishment. However, Bethany didn't stop there.

As the student body expanded, she continued to raise funds to construct more classrooms, hire more teachers, create a computer lab, build a library, purchase school buses, set up playground equipment and provide two meals a day for the children. Today, the school provides education for more than 500 children from pre-school through 7th grade.

Bethany grew up in Minnesota, the youngest of four children. Her father was a Lutheran minister; her mother was a nurse. Bethany has served as a hospital oncology nurse for nearly 39 years and currently works 120 hours a month providing bedside care for pediatric cancer patients.

The seeds for building a school were sown in January 2017 while Bethany was on a safari with her family in Tanzania. Here she struck up a friendship with a young man, Emanuel Boaz. As their friendship grew, Emanuel told Bethany about his brother-in-law, Ojwang Samwel, who had a dream to build a school on land he inherited from his father. Ojwang and Emanuel's dream to help children get a head start in life triggered a passion in Bethany, and she decided she would go all out to support them.

Please join us to hear the rest of the story. Remember to register by Monday, November 4, either online or by sending in the form found in the directory.

In connection with registration, we recently have had problems with members registering twice online or once online and once through the mail. A similar issue has happened with dues. Please check your credit card or contact Joni Mitchell to verify whether you have already paid for an event if you are unsure.



### *Meeting at a Glance*

#### Conversation with a Woman Leader

Noon, Tuesday, November 12, 2024

#### Speaker

### Bethany Husby

Founder, Heart to Care Tanzania

#### Location

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

#### Menu

*Oven-broiled walleye (GF/DF) served with lemon and tartar sauce along with wild rice pilaf and green beans almondine. The vegetarian option is Caribbean Hippie Bowl (GF) Vegan or Not, which includes spinach, coconut rice, cucumber and grilled corn salad, roasted cipolini and butter bean salad, tropical fruit dressing. All luncheon entrees include warm rolls with butter, regular coffee, decaf and hot tea.*

**Cost: \$32**

#### Reservation deadline:

Monday, November 4

*Please register and pay online at the UMWC website or send in the reservation form you will find in your directory, along with your check.*

## President's Message ~

# Appreciating the power of Awesome!

**A**wesome. Remember when we used that word countless times per day? We don't hear it much anymore, but it's a word with power.

Some months ago, a popular magazine\* devoted an entire article to the words "awe" and "awesome." Jake Eagle, a licensed professional counselor, says, "Awe is calming, settling, and grounding, but it also awakens and activates us." We can personally feel awe looking at a rainbow, seeing a great three-pointer in a basketball game, or even savoring that new chocolate dessert. Awe is physical, psychological, and emotional, and comes in big, amazing experiences and also very small ones.



leaders of tomorrow. And, the generosity of our members in supporting these students is awesome. Then, learning that over the years we have donated more than \$1 million for scholarships! Now that's really awesome!

I especially want to give a big shout out to a special group of 27 women who certainly fall in the category of awesome. They are our section leaders. Some of these women have stepped up to lead a group for the first time this year, and there are others who have led a section for many years. They have been creative, organized, thoughtful, and leaders in the true sense of the word, volunteers who've given of their time and effort freely. In some ways, their strengths may have been taken for granted. Yet, they've provided opportunities for many of us to have awesome moments!

Now I want to suggest that some of you may want to try your skills at leading one of these sections. Go ahead and volunteer to help or say "yes" when asked to step up and lead. The word awesome will also apply to the feeling you will have when you do so. Our community depends on all of us working and playing, laughing and supporting each other. New ideas from members new and old invigorate all of us.

What do you think? Can we again start using that word Awesome and really feel it?

Nancy Shuster, *President*



*Special interest group leaders leaders such as Judie Prayfrock (left) and Eileen Casey (right) play important roles. They are joined by Sue Madison at the Fall Welcome Reception in September.*

Dr. Dacher Keltner, U of CA, Berkley, states, "Feeling awe promotes concentration and rigorous thinking, encourages community and connection, relieves depression and anxiety, and can reduce inflammation, aiding our cardiovascular health. It lifts us out of the daily race." Wow!

So, what does any of this have to do with the Women's Club? In short — what we do is *awesome!*

In September our community came together to sign up for interest sections. The amount of chatter was awesome. The choices of interest sections were awesome.

October brought our annual Scholarship Luncheon. After hearing them speak about their lives at the U, what they are doing, and where they hope to go, I know that those awesome scholarship recipients will be among our

## Let us know who you are

**W**e are grateful for the gifts made to the UMWC Scholarship Fund directly from Fidelity accounts. However, these gifts arrive without any indication of who they are from. We would like to send you a thank you note for your gift!

If you make such a gift, please email Jane Glazebrook, Co-Treasurer Scholarship, to let her know. Jane's email address is in the directory.

Another option is to ask Fidelity to make out a check payable to UMWC Scholarship Fund and send it to your home address. Then you can mail it to Jane using the donation form in your directory.

## Memorial gifts

In memory of Tom Gilbertson by Patricia Kirchner

In memory of George and Dru Koerner by Judie Prayfrock

In memory of Kenneth Prawer by Kathleen Cleary

## Honoring gift

In honor of Irene Khin Khin Jensen by Marcia Thoen

\* Eleni N. Gage, December, 2023, *Real Simple*





# Holiday Brunch and Gingerbread Wonderland Friday, December 13

Please join us for our annual UMWC holiday party. We will gather from 10 a.m. to noon at the Norway House, 913 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis. Free parking is available, but carpooling is strongly encouraged.

We will begin with a sumptuous holiday brunch followed by a tour of their Gingerbread Wonderland.

The cost is \$26, and the reservation deadline is Wednesday, December 4. You may register and pay online or mail your check and the reservation form below to Barbara Cady.



As always, the holiday party is your chance to support families with children hospitalized at the University Medical Center. At the event, we will accept checks only made 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.) You may either bring your check to the party or mail it to Georgia Heisserer by December 10.

If you would rather donate a gift, Georgia has volunteered to accept unwrapped toys, games and books at her home on the morning of Wednesday, December 4. If you are unable to deliver gifts on that date but still wish to donate, please contact Georgia, and she will try to arrange for your gifts to be picked up. You may also bring a gift to the party.

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

## UMWC RESERVATION FORM

### Holiday Brunch and Gingerbread Houses Exhibit

Friday, December 13, 2024 • Norway House, Minneapolis

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$26.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes brunch and gingerbread house exhibit)

**Make check payable to UMWC, and mail with this form to**  
Barbara Cady, whose address and phone number are in your directory.

*Reservation Deadline:*  
*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*



# A day of celebration and gratitude

Once again, UMWC members gathered in October to celebrate the club's support of University of Minnesota students at our scholarship luncheon. One of the most popular events on our calendar, the luncheon gives members an opportunity to meet scholarship recipients and hear about their lives and plans for the future.

That support was recently recognized in a letter from University of Minnesota Foundation Executive Vice President of Development Patricia Porter.



Members enjoyed meeting this group of scholarship recipients, pictured here with Scholarship Awards Committee Chair Marilyn Olson (back row, center).

"Thank you for the very generous gift from the University of Minnesota Women's Club to support the U of M Women's Club Scholarship!" Patricia wrote in part. "Because of the UMWC's enduring commitment, these students are receiving a generous financial boost as they juggle their coursework and the many other demands of undergraduate life. It is wonderful to envision the countless ways these scholars will go on to contribute meaningfully in their communities because of the UMWC's investment in their success. We are deeply grateful for your organiza-



Scholarship recipient Kayla McLevish joined members (from left) Jane Glazebrook, Marilyn DeLong and Diane Young, along with Hannah Baines and Erica Perrin from the University of Minnesota Foundation, at the luncheon table.

tion's enduring commitment to promising University students—you are helping to build a powerful legacy of achievement."

Another cause for celebration was the fact that UMWC members have contributed more than \$1 million since the club began its scholarship effort. That achievement was mentioned in brief remarks at the luncheon by Raj Singh, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education at the University of Minnesota, who also thanked the club for its support.

## How can we help you?

As I write this, we are in the midst of dues renewals and planning the November New Member Coffee – so the health of our club is on my mind.

We are doing great! Long-term members are much engaged in our activities, and we had 49 new members last year who have come to us seeking enrichment and friendships. And, wow, are they interesting women. Most new members are introduced to the club by friends who are already involved, but others have independently found us through our website and through the Age Friendly University Day in June.



Ann Soltis (left) and Susan Hopp welcomed guests to the Membership table at the scholarship luncheon.

Our Membership Committee tries to give them the tools and information to get started. And we say we are a welcoming group! But the socialization really happens at the interest sections meetings and when they go to lunches and events. This is where it makes or breaks, and cements the relationships.

So, knowing this, I encourage everyone – from Section Chairs and their members to those of us who just show up now and then – please put out the extra effort to include women you do not know! Live the promise we have made! It just takes one person to break through the ice by smiling, saying hello and asking a question. Everyone has a fascinating story. It'll be a win-win for all of us.

Wishing us all a fantastic UMWC year!  
Susan Hopp, Membership Co-Chair



## SECTION NEWS

### A wonderful day at William O'Brien

The Nature group took a trip to William O'Brien State Park in September for a Wildflower Stroll and picnic lunch. "It was a wonderful day," said Section Co-Chair Eileen Casey.



right are Karen Eian, Judy Silk, Nancy Haugen, Kathy Di Perna and Jill Griffin.



### Big Ole welcomes Hikers

The Hikers traveled to Alexandria, Minnesota, in September for their annual overnight trip. The group enjoyed hikes at Lake Carlos State Park and Lake Brophy County Park as well as museum visits, shopping, a stop at Alexandria's Big Ole statue and an evening at Carlos Creek Winery.



### Taking tea at the Chickadee

Our Out to Tea section enjoyed tea at the Chickadee Cottage Cafe in Lake City this September. Pictured left to

### New date for Modern Fiction

Members of the Modern Fiction book club will meet May 19—not May 26—to discuss *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver.

## Starting the season with fun and friendship

With a good-sized crowd, UMWC kicked off its 2024–2025 season at the Fall Welcome Reception in September. Members gathered at the Midland Hills Country Club to socialize over brunch and sign up for special interest sections. Each special interest group sponsored a table at the event, which was a delightful way to start the year.



Members (from left) Roz Anderson, Karen Sturm, Alexandra Lape and Tatiana Nawrocki enjoy the Fall Welcome Reception.

### *Board of Directors meeting is November 12*

The Board of Directors will meet Tuesday, November 12, at 10 a.m. at Midland Hills Country Club, 2001 Fulham Street, Roseville, in the Seth Raynor Room. All members are welcome to attend.

# CLUB NEWS

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

### Have you changed your address, email or phone?

Send correction or new contact information by  
email to [nmyers13@hotmail.com](mailto: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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### In this issue of Online Extra

As part of our recognition of special interest section chairs, we are featuring Abby Marier in this edition of Online Extra. Abby has chaired the Art special interest group for five years and especially likes the fact that the Art group is filled with women who appreciate art in all forms.



For many years Abby and her husband ran Marier Communications, which published *Independent Energy* magazine. The couple also organized global energy conferences. After selling the business, Abby taught English to immigrants and refugees for 10 years.

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

### Newsletter deadline is December 13

The deadline for the January-February 2025 newsletter is Friday, December 13. Please submit articles, information and photos to Nancy Kluver, newsletter editor, at [Kluver.nancy@gmail.com](mailto:Kluver.nancy@gmail.com).

### Welcome new members

New members bring welcome change and growth to NUMWC. Reach out to welcome and to get to know our new members, who include Joan Bulfer, Karen Pervo, Paula Lopuch, Valoree Dowell, Ann Duin, Sharon Coombs, Sue Webb, Katie Weiblen and Judy Calcote.

Please remember that if you joined in March-June of 2024, your membership is carried forward to 2024-2025. You don't need to pay again.

There have been several directory changes since the last newsletter, including new phone numbers for Sharon Fields, Hsiu-fang Susan Liu, Marcia L. Thoen, Jeanne Cornish, Shirley Erstad, Marri M. Oskam and Diane Young. Elizabeth Oelke has a new phone number and email address. Jean Olson has a new address. Ardella Norenberg, Sue Zuriff and Elsa Carpenter have new phone numbers and addresses. Several members have new email addresses: Julia Wallace, Shirley Herrmann, Randi Marie Lundell, Susan Ranney, Lynn Slifer and Joy Swanson.

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](mailto:nmyers13@hotmail.com). This list is also available at all board meetings.



## An opportunity to connect in unique ways

*As President Nancy Shuster mentioned in her column, we are shining a light and saying thank you to our special interest section leaders in this issue. Abby Marier is starting her fifth year as the leader of the Art group. A big round of applause goes to Abby and all of the other members who volunteer in various capacities to keep our special interest sections strong. Here's to you!*

“I’m interested in creative thinking and problem solving,” said Abby Marier in describing herself. It’s a thread that runs through her career and her involvement with UMWC.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Abby grew up in St. Paul and attended University High School, now Peik Hall on the University of Minnesota campus. She went on to attend the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1965 with an Education major and Social Science minor.



“I wanted a career,” Abby said, and with limited options for women at that time she settled on teaching, despite thinking she might hate it. “I loved it,” she said, and taught fifth grade for seven years in a Chicago suburb.

After that she and her husband, Donald, an electrical engineer, established Marier Communications and began publishing *Independent Energy* magazine. “It was during the Carter Administration,” Abby said, a time when the nation was particularly focused on energy supply and conservation. The magazine featured stories about privately owned and operated (non-nuclear) power plants worldwide, and readers included power plant developers, owners and operators, financiers, engineering firms and suppliers.

Abby headed up the magazine’s marketing department, where she used her design and writing skills to promote the magazine and sell advertising. The company also produced energy information booklets.

“For almost 10 years we had a skeleton staff,” Abby said. “We started from scratch” to build what became a well-respected publication in the energy industry. They also promoted independent power by organizing international power production conferences, including a gathering in New Delhi that featured the U.S. Ambassador to India and the country’s Minister of Energy. Their readers were a unique group who supplied third-world countries with infrastructure, including power facilities. The couple sold the business in 1996 to Penwell Publishing but stayed connected. For five years afterwards, Penwell sent them around the world as consultants, attending conferences on power.

In early retirement, Abby pursued her passion for immigrants, people and cultures. Returning to the classroom, she was the oldest person in her class at Hamline University to receive her Teacher of English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certification. For 10 years she directed English conversation classes and volunteered to teach English to immigrants and refugees.

Part of Abby’s creative and independent spirit was certainly influenced by her aunt Abby Grey, a prominent St. Paul art collector and patron. Grey was particularly interested in non-Western modern art.

“In many ways, she was my mentor — and I am her namesake,” Abby said. She was indeed an impressive influence, founding New York University’s Grey Art Gallery in 1975.



*Abby Weed Grey*

Abby “paints a bit” herself, and has exhibited in the club’s art show and chaired the Art special interest section for five years. The creative thinking and problem solving she admires is what appeals to her in connection with the art group, which is filled with women who are interested in “art in all forms,” Abby said. She’s especially grateful to Roz Anderson, who serves as the section’s secretary and membership liaison, and Janet Robb for program guidance. Janet is a former Art section chair.

Former UMWC President Marian Raup was responsible for connecting Abby with UMWC in the first place. “She took me under her wing and introduced me to the club,” Abby said. Over the years Abby also chaired the Hikers group and was responsible for the Hikers newsletter for 10 years.

“The club offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with other women with like interests,” Abby said. “We can connect in unique ways.”