



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.

March-April 2025 ~ No. 315

Conversation with a Woman Leader ~

The ERA: Forward to fruition

Please join us Tuesday, April 8, for a conversation with the Honorable Betty Folliard, a nationally known thought leader, political strategist and founder of ERA Minnesota, an organization dedicated to passing the equal rights amendment (ERA) at the state and federal levels.

A former three-term Minnesota legislator, Betty served six years in the Minnesota House of Representatives. She also was Hopkins School Board Vice Chair and Community Representative in the Office of Congressman Keith Ellison.

Betty's first career was in the theater, singing, dancing, acting, directing and teaching. She earned a BA in Drama from Stanford University and an MFA from Wayne State University, then directed and performed both nationally and internationally. With a background in sales, marketing and market research, she later co-owned a business and political consulting firm called Strategy Partners.

In 2014, Betty founded ERA Minnesota. State and U.S. constitutional equal rights amendments have been proposed for more than a century, but



the changing political climate of both parties has prevented codifying gender equality in the Minnesota and U.S. constitutions to this day. Betty's mission advocating for the equal rights amendment is based on her values of freedom, justice and equality for all people. Her vision is to achieve the full emancipation of women worldwide.

We will be at Mendakota Country Club for this event. Please remember to register by Monday, March 31. We look forward to seeing you!



Meeting at a Glance

Conversation with a Woman Leader

Tuesday, April 8, 2025, Noon

Speaker

Betty Folliard

Founder of ERA Minnesota

Location

Mendakota Country Club

2075 Mendakota Drive

Mendota Heights

Free parking available in on-site lot

Menu

Chicken Roulade Florentine: Chicken breast stuffed with spinach, tomato and feta, risotto (GF) with lemon cream sauce, jasmine rice pilaf (GF/DF) and green beans with peppers and onions (GF/DF). The vegetarian option is a roasted vegetable pasta, including roasted vegetable medley, cavatappi noodles and choice of parmesan cream sauce or garlic olive oil with basil (DF). All luncheon entrees include warm rolls with butter, regular and decaf coffee, hot tea and assorted cookies, brownies and bars for dessert.

Cost: \$32

Reservation deadline:

Monday, March 31

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.

Tackling challenges while keeping traditions alive

This new year started with your Board of Directors holding a special meeting to discuss UMWc finances in the future. As we all are seeing costs rise — from the food we purchase to new household goods to entertainment and activities — so are the costs for our Women's Club. For the year 2024–2025, we have kept the costs for our Conversation Luncheons, the Scholarship Awards Luncheon and our Holiday Party the same as the previous year. Funds from our treasury are being used to subsidize any deficit for now. However, as is obvious, that cannot continue. Your board spent time and much discussion as to how to keep our costs reasonable yet still have the wonderful programs we are used to attending.

One thing was clear. The Conversation Lunches and the other total membership activities need to be self-sustaining. Therefore, you will by necessity see some price increases. If you have been to a restaurant recently, you



have probably been shocked, as I have, by the large increase in costs on the menu items. This is exactly what we are seeing as we are searching for places to hold our meetings. We must pay for room rental, food, gratuities, linens, tech equipment such as projectors and mics, and other miscellaneous items. It really adds up!

Linda Lorenz and Georgia Nygaard, our Event Coordinators, are working very hard as I write this to discover some special options for us for next year. Of course, we know that each of us has our priorities as to how we spend our money. We will look to provide opportunities for you to join that you just cannot miss!

Another area we will be changing is Club News, our UMWc newsletter. Beginning this fall, the newsletter will only be available on-line. Printing and mailing costs are high, and this option can keep our costs down. If any member needs the newsletter printed, we will accommodate any requests on an individual basis and send one out via U.S. mail. I like to print one out for myself at home, as you might want to do.

You may have noticed that our one-year-named scholarship also has risen from \$4,000 to \$5,000. Likewise, all our scholarships will now go as high as \$5,000, based on student need. Again, we see that our students are struggling to keep up. Some are working more than one job while carrying a full load of credits so they can graduate in a reasonable amount of time. And, yet we see that they are also keeping their grades up and trying to do good work in the community. So I will also put out a call to you to consider a donation to the scholarship fund — of any amount — so we can help as many students as possible.

Our diverse 18 special interest sections are going strong, offering members a wide variety of things to do. Costs in each section vary a lot, depending on the subject. But again, you can pick and choose as to your interests.

The good news is that the Board has decided to keep our dues the same. We want to move slowly and with caution into this new world of higher costs. Adopting what I've outlined above, we will see how it goes in the coming year. We certainly welcome input and feedback from all our members.

This is a very special community of women, as I have learned this past year. It is important that we keep traditions alive and work towards offering great speakers and fun and educational activities as well as providing environments for us to share with each other.

You are important. We are important. May we all continue to support each other, despite obstacles that occur, as we move on to another 100 years of existence!

With much appreciation to each of you,
Nancy Schuster, President



Our annual events are becoming more expensive.

Taking the UMWC mission to heart

One of Ginny Hanson's favorite moments at a UMWC scholarship luncheon occurred when Karen Kaler, wife of former University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler, addressed the scholarship recipients. "She asked them to stand and look around them at the audience," Ginny remembered. "And then she said, 'I want you to know, these women have your back.'"

To recognize the women who do indeed have the backs of those students, Ginny will be dedicating a one-year-named scholarship this year to *Steadfast Star Sustainers*, members who, year after year, have made a gift to the Scholarship Fund. "You know who you are," she said, with a wink. In addition, she will also salute *First Responders*, with another one-year named scholarship. "Both are so important for the scholarships we provide each year."

In keeping with this year's scholarship "lifeline" theme, *First Responders* are first-time donors "who have taken the UMWC mission to heart," Ginny explained. They may be new members or seasoned members, but something about helping University students touches them enough to *respond* to the committee's annual appeal letter, which is UMWC's major source of support for scholarships.



Ginny Hanson (left) presenting Dorothy Waltz with a certificate of a scholarship named in honor of Fred and Dorothy Waltz

Star Sustainers are women who have consistently supported the scholarship program, sometimes for decades. Each year they have given what was appropriate for them, but they have been devoted to the program and want to have a role in making a University education possible for young women.

"The UMWC scholarship effort stands on the shoulders of women who worked on this effort for years before

us," Ginny said. She's thinking in particular of members who organized the talent shows, department store holiday volunteering, cookbook sales and other activities that formerly funded the scholarships.

With IRA distributions, Ginny has been able to sponsor previous scholarships. In 2022, she honored Marian Champlin for "everything she'd done to enhance the scholarship program, leading it for more than a decade." In 2023, she paid tribute to Dorothy and Fred Waltz for their many efforts to support UMWC.

She understands that not everyone is in a position to fund a one-year-named scholarship nor establish an endowment. That's another reason why Ginny is keen to recognize long-term donors and new donors whose gifts, whatever the amount, continue to build a foundation for the scholarship effort. "Every dollar is important," Ginny said. "We need broad support."

When she thinks about her longstanding volunteering in support of UMWC scholarships, she remembers most hearing from our grateful scholarship recipients themselves at the luncheon. "Our scholarships lift a bit of their financial burden, giving them a chance to enjoy and learn from the breadth of their university experience," Ginny said. "It's powerful to think we are making an impact, lending a hand to students who will go on to make a difference in the world."

Giving credit where credit is due

As always, the May-June newsletter will list UMWC donors to the scholarship fund. To ensure that your name is listed, please make your donation before March 31.

Our Guest Quest winner



Marian Champlin (left) was our Guest Quest winner at the February Conversation with a Woman Leader luncheon. She is shown with her guest Elizabeth Odegard (right) and speaker AnnMarie Thomas.

Step up and get the most out of your membership

I've been a member of the Women's Club for six years and absolutely believe one thing to be true: the best way to really appreciate UMWC is to get involved.

When women first join, we invite them to informational small-group New Member Coffees. Without fail, we come away impressed with the fascinating women we've just met. How much we have to offer each other! We're all looking for engagement and enrichment.

We put a ribbon on the new members' name tags identifying them as new so others can greet them at our events. We encourage long-time members to invite newcomers to special interest group meetings. We send a new-member packet with overview club information, and list their names in the newsletter. It's important to keep reaching out to make them feel welcome. The Membership Committee gets that started—and then it's up to our members to keep it going.

And then — if we're lucky — the magic starts to happen. New members show up at one or more of our special interest groups, they come to the luncheons, and as they meet more women and enjoy more events, they gradually realize just how lucky we all are. There's something here for everyone.

They're having fun, and, even though they don't realize it, they're also taking personal responsibility for keeping the club strong. UMWC has existed for 114 years because members showed up and stepped up.

As a curious new member, I attended UMWC board meetings, and was impressed with what I saw. When I was asked to be President-Elect in 2020, followed by President in 2021–2022, I was gratified and terrified. I had a certain nostalgia for the job because my mother, Dorothy, had been President in 1973–1974. I really didn't know what was in store, but I said yes anyway. I'm glad I did. I met great



women, was supported by all, and together we accomplished a lot. That was the year we had to regroup after COVID.

To be perfectly honest, the best part of the job was how much I grew as a person! By volunteering and getting involved, I discovered talents and strengths I didn't know I had. Stepping out of one's comfort zone might not be everyone's goal, but this club offers connections, friendships and activities that keep us fully participating in life! Yes, and... ?

For those of you intrigued by the opportunity to influence the club's future, now is a good time to start volunteering your skills and knowledge. The Nominating Committee is meeting right now to identify and fill vacant positions on our Board of Directors for next season. They are looking for members to step up. If they call you, I hope you'll consider filling a position. It's very satisfying and you're surrounded by amazing and dedicated women leaders.

And the club committees listed in the directory are always looking to fill out their rosters! Please look the list over and contact a committee chair if you think this would be a good fit for you.

You might not know this, but the special interest sections are totally self-governed, independent from the club's leadership, so that's an easy way to dip your toe in. Chat with the chair of your "interest group of choice" if you'd like to help organize.

If you already know you'd like to do more, please contact our committee and/or section chairs to volunteer, or Nancy Kluver (our talented newsletter editor), who is heading this year's Nominating Committee. Whether you want to start small or really jump in, we welcome you and we will find a perfect spot for you!

You will be getting the most out of UMWC and you will be working to ensure it continues to thrive. Trust me, you won't regret it.

Susan Hopp, Membership Co-Chair



New Member Coffees are a great way to share information and get to know each other.

Join us — we mean it!

Every issue of Club News includes a notice of the upcoming UMWC board meeting, with an invitation for all members to attend the meeting.

This time we'd like to emphasize that our invitation to attend is sincere. We want you to know what's going on with the board and to ask questions. To encourage attendance, we will send our agenda to every member before the meeting, with the opportunity to receive other board materials and reports on request.

The next board meeting is Tuesday, April 8, at 10 a.m. at Mendakota Country Club, 2075 Mendakota Drive, Mendota Heights. Again, all members are welcome to attend.

SECTION NEWS

Hikers trek the MIA

Nancy Myers (left) and Elizabeth Weber enjoyed visiting the Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA) as part of the Hikers trip to MIA in January. The group stays indoors in January, gathers for lunches only in February and March but is back outdoors in April.



One of our favorite events is almost here

Please mark your calendars for the thirty-second annual UMWC Art Show featuring the works of our very talented Art section members and honoring former UMWC President Maggie Hoover as our guest artist.



Pat Kirchner, an Art Show participant for several years, works on one of her paintings.

This year's opening reception is Tuesday, April 1, at 3 p.m. at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Avenue, St. Paul. The reception offers a chance to not only view the art but hear the artists themselves talk about their work. In addition, the congregation of St. Matthews Church will honor exhibiting artists and UMWC members at their coffee hour on Sunday, April 6, at 11:30 a.m., following the church service. The show runs through May 25.

Art section members are invited to show one to three works of two or three-dimensional original drawings,

paintings, hand-pulled prints, glass/ceramic pieces, fabric art or photographs. These works may be shown only once at a UMWC art exhibit and must be original to the artist. Works produced through kits or molds, as well as copies of other artists' work will be disqualified.

For more information about the show, including the rules for submission, please contact Jane LaFroth or Carol Lowe, whose information is in the UMWC directory.

Discover the power of poetry

The Poetry Lovers special interest group would be delighted if you would join them at an upcoming monthly meeting.

"The purpose of our group is to share the poetry of others," said Elizabeth Weber, co-chair of Poetry Lovers. "Our focus is on the poems' impact on us and what emotions they evoke."

The group meets the first Thursday of every month at 10 a.m., with the next meeting March 6. Locations can be found in your directory.

As an example of the kind of work the group discusses, here is Elizabeth's poem Milkweed.

Milkweed

The silky husk broken open
by the cold Fall sun twitches
like the ear of a horse in the breeze.
Its seeds — small paratroopers —
scatter into the landscape.
This is my body blown open,
split apart. I lie in its dark
pod listening to wind and rain.
I am the seed of my grandmothers,
my mother. Their burst bodies
gave me, give me life.
What seeds lie in my body ripening
as I dry into old age
to burst forth into the earth
when I die to rise again,
tiny whirlwinds of light
against the great roll of the prairie?

By Elizabeth Weber

Published in *The Burning House*. Main Street Rag; Charlotte, NC: 2004.

Please note

The Vagabonds meeting topics for April and May will be reversed from those listed in your directory. On April 18, the group will enjoy "Having a Beary Good Time in Churchill" with Shirley Wright, and on May 16 Deanne Probst will present "Kenya Believe It? Landscape and Wildlife Beauty from East Africa."



Maggie Hoover

CLUB NEWS

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www.umwc.umn.edu

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In this issue of Online Extra

After more than two decades in the hospitality industry, scholarship recipient Genevieve Saldibar switched gears and went back to school to pursue her passion for urban farming. She'd always had an interest in gardening and was an active community volunteer but wanted to "know what I was talking about" when it came to the large topic of soil health and its wide ramifications.



Meanwhile, Genevieve and her husband are raising three active children, which means she's also taken on responsibilities such as wrestling club booster secretary. She was extremely grateful to know that UMWC had her back and believed that what she was doing was important.

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

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, including three since the last newsletter: Eve Bergmann, Kim Berns Melhus and Candessa Hadsall. We've had 22 new members this year; our current membership is 295.

There have been two directory changes since the last newsletter. Cecilia Boone and Lois Ann Helgeson both have new emails.

For a current list of new members and their contact information and/or a list of the directory changes, please contact Nancy Myers at nmyers13@hotmail.com. This list is also available at all board meetings.

Memorial gifts

Martha Arneson in memory of Joan Rathbun
Susan McKnight in memory of Joan Rathbun

Honoring gifts

Jane Glazebrook in honor of Audrey Glazebrook
Karen Eian in memory of Gilbert Eian

Finding the right time and place to pursue your passion

“I’ve always been a gardener,” said scholarship recipient Genevieve Saldibar in explaining her passion for urban farming and how she went from a career in the hospitality industry to working for a degree in Environmental Soil Science. In particular, Genevieve is interested in food security and justice as well as public and environmental health, which come together in urban farming.

“I’d like to see city services that help residents identify, set up and plant small starter gardens in their yards,” Genevieve said. “I see public education components in soil health, whole person health, food growing basics and cooking, food prep and food storage as a norm and not just specialty classes that one has to seek out.”



Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, Genevieve was more than familiar with food preparation because both parents were chefs. “I just started thinking about where food comes from and it clicked,” she said. Genevieve left a 24-year career with the Hyatt Corporation in 2022 and first enrolled at Minneapolis College and then the University of Minnesota in spring 2024.

Part of a team at Jellinski Lab, College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences, Genevieve is working on a major project with the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to sample and map soil in the Twin Cities metro area. Simply stated, “We want people to know about their own soil,” she said. The project is entering its second season of sampling soils in urban areas of the Twin Cities seven county metropolitan area. The first season concentrated mostly in South St. Paul parks, Three Rivers parks and the National Wildlife Refuge, along with some residential yards.



Genevieve with her husband, Kurt, and children

Genevieve is in her element. “It feels lucky to come into this huge campus to find the perfect fit for me,” she said of her team, the lab and its focus. This coming summer she will be a field manager for the project. Her ultimate goal is a job with NRCS. She pursued this particular academic track because “I wanted more technical knowledge. I wanted to know what I’m talking about” before questioning established ways of doing things in the industry.

But as passionate as she is about urban farming, Genevieve’s biggest responsibility and greatest love is her family. She and her husband are raising three children, ages 8, 17 and 19 and have been involved in all of their scholastic and athletic pursuits—from T-ball coach to

Roosevelt High School's Wrestling Booster Club Secretary.

Working with other people's kids is also a natural fit. Genevieve spent two years recently as a Canoemobile Outdoor Leader for Wilderness Inquiry, a program that allows diverse groups of participants to experience outdoor activities such as canoeing on the Mississippi River, building fires and shelters, water quality testing, orienteering and learning about animal ecology.

In many ways, her career at Hyatt contributed to her efforts today. While there she led a community service employee committee in both Denver and Minneapolis that focused on homelessness, children and teens and LGBTQ+ initiatives. "I led a group called Hyatt Thrive, focusing on the environment and youth," Genevieve said. Her husband, Kurt Wise, is also a former Hyatt employee who now is pursuing his own passion. He is back in school at Metropolitan State College pursuing a master's degree in cyber security—and working full time.

"We both did this change of life," Genevieve said. After many years at Hyatt, which gave them the opportunity to live in several different U.S. cities, they were able to resign and pursue another interest. It's a risk that includes plenty of financial challenge, which is one reason why Genevieve so appreciated receiving a Ruth Vickroy Jones scholarship.

"When I read the email (telling her she was a recipient), I started crying," Genevieve said. "It gives me extra breathing room." In addition, it "feels good to know that other people believe in what you're doing."

Genevieve has been particularly touched that her parents, who raised five children, are so proud of her efforts. "I'm a first-generation college student," she said. A college education wasn't necessarily the expected path and didn't have the necessary financial backing. "I was living on my own," she said. But she was fortunate to have good mentors.

And Genevieve tries to do that with the younger students she meets in her classes. "I try not to be 'Mom' but I want to be a positive influence," she said.



*With true community spirit,
Genevieve shares her garden produce.*

Her own children are certainly benefiting from the University focus. Her high school student son is earning credits through the University of Minnesota Advanced Mathematics Placement program, taking classes on campus—something he's been doing in one form or another for years. Her daughter is a freshman at the U in the College of Biological Science. She also has a minor in Chinese.

"She's thriving," Genevieve said, with a bright future.

And in the end, that's the point. "The (UMWC) scholarship program is so important because the recipients end up paying it forward," Genevieve said.