



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.

September-October 2020 ~ No. 292

## UMWC looks forward to a busy 2020–2021 season

It's full speed ahead for the University of Minnesota Women's Club despite the challenges of the pandemic. As members noticed in their recently arrived directories, the club and its special interest sections are making adjustments but working hard to stay connected and on schedule. We are not going to lose touch with each other.

First up is the Fall Welcome and Scholarship Day Meeting, which will happen virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, Oct. 6. All members will receive an email notice to join the Zoom meeting, where you will hear from President Georgia Heisserer and other club leaders, meet some of our scholarship recipients virtually and enjoy a video that illustrates why the club is so important to all of us. Our special interest groups, which normally sponsor booths at the meeting, also will appear in the video.

UMWC's scholarship and fundraising efforts haven't missed a beat, which is clear when you read the articles in this issue about the variety of scholarships UMWC has been able to award. We are staying true to our mission.

Finally, your favorite special interest sections are also going strong, as you will see in Section News and is evident in the accompanying photo.



Members of the Hikers, including (from left) Pat Kirchner, Sue Gilbertson and Jocelyn Kuo, got together over the summer for safe treks in small groups — in this case from Swede Hollow Park to the Landmark Center in St. Paul.

### Meeting

### at a Glance

### Annual Fall Welcome and Scholarship Day

Tuesday, October 6 • Noon

Look for an email from Connie Cundy inviting you to the Zoom meeting. The email invitation will include a link to the meeting as well as a meeting ID and a passcode allowing you to enter the meeting.

For more information about using Zoom, go to the Zoom website at [zoom.us](https://zoom.us).

### A new look for our new year

“We hope you are as pleased as we are with the new look of UMWC communication pieces,” said President Georgia Heisserer. “After working over the summer on the new design, we couldn’t be happier with this fresh new take.”

In addition to Heisserer, a small group of members with responsibility for the club’s communication vehicles worked with designer Karl Schweikart, husband of President-Elect Susan Hopp, who volunteered his time to create the design. Members got their first glimpse of it when the directory arrived in their mailboxes. They also will see it on the newsletter, website and club stationery.

“Although we’ve made some changes, we’ve kept our lovely lady slipper, which has been a symbol of the club for many years,” Heisserer said. “Some things change and some things remain the same. All of it illustrates that UMWC is strong and looking to the future.”

## President's Message:

# What I learned from my bees

A few years ago, I started an apiary, or bee yard, with four hives. I realized immediately that I had so much to learn, and so I turned to *The Beekeepers Bible*, a very handy guidebook that provided many interesting facts about the bees themselves. In the process, though, I discovered all sorts of life lessons.

Bees have a close kinship among the workers. About 50,000 of them construct, maintain and protect an elaborate nest to ensure offspring colonies. They have a division of labor among the numerous workers, scouting for new forage sources, collecting nectar, pollen and water and, back at the hive, receiving food from returning workers, feeding some to the queen, the brood and other workers, and storing some in the honey cells.

Bees of all ages can perform any task, and they perform them as needed in the hive. Their longevity is linked to nutritional intake, and they've been thriving since long before Plato and Socrates praised their industriousness.

With the honey harvest soon upon us, it's prudent to maintain a store of honey for future hive activity. If conditions are not maintained, some hives swarm and abandon the hive completely. Fortunately, this has never happened at my apiary.

Being vigilant helps, but some things cannot be easily foreseen. I'm thinking, of course, about foreseeing a pandemic. Whether in a bee yard or a women's club, we need to maintain longevity. Who would have thought that we would be hunkered down in our elaborate little nests, performing our UMWC tasks from a virtual Zoom meeting? Can any of us believe how much we have learned this past year, how much we have adapted to these volatile times that none of us could have predicted? I am astonished.

Lately, I have been inspired by our friends here at UMWC. The tenacity of Marian Champlin as she learned to host a Zoom meeting for her Modern Literature group. The perseverance of Janet Graber, Modern Literature chair,

who published her book during a pandemic. The hard work of Nancy Klüber, who edits our copy and gives witness to our stories. The determination of Connie Cundy, who boosts our confidence as we wobble on our newly tested technology legs. The stamina of Georgia Nygaard and the Scholarship Committee members, who spent a long, hot summer reading scholarship applications. And the energy of Maggie Hoover, Ingrid Lund, Marion Kershner and the Conversations Committee members, who are finding dynamic speakers for our conversation meetings.



*President Georgia Heisserer at her apiary*

There are unsung heroes at every turn. You are the future of our club. And when I envision the women who began this quest in 1911, when I think about women getting the vote in 1920, or that our sisters realized how important it was to keep a store of honey for that next season of women to come, it gives me pause. Like the bees, we have a structure in place, we adapt and perform as needed, we scout new sources as we forage for the future. The closer you look, the bigger the miracle. We toil, we work together, we live on in harmony. Sweet but not sappy. What or who inspires you?

## ***Board of Directors Meets September 15***

The UMWC board of directors will meet Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 10 a.m. The board will conduct its meeting virtually via Zoom. If you would like to attend the meeting, please contact Connie Cundy to obtain the meeting ID and passcode necessary to get access to the meeting.

## ***Newsletter Deadline is October 12***

The deadline for the November-December newsletter is Oct. 12, 2020. Please submit articles, information and photos to Nancy Klüber, newsletter editor, at [kluber.nancy@gmail.com](mailto:kluber.nancy@gmail.com).

## Members invest in the future of our students

We are happy to report an uptick in the number of members who have decided to fund endowed scholarships through their estates. Maggie Hoover and Karen Wehner are two of the latest members to make that commitment, and both worked with the University of Minnesota Foundation.

“We have always known that quality education is the key to a better life, and we are truly grateful to those who helped us with our educational expenses,” Hoover said. “So, when my husband and I found ourselves in a position to invest, we couldn’t think of a better way. It’s simply the right thing to do.”



*Maggie Hoover*

Hoover and her husband, Charles Maron, created The Margaret Mary Hoover UMWC Scholarship. A member for nine years, Hoover served as president in 2018–2019 and has since served on the programs committee and nominating committee. Her latest efforts focus on expanding the club’s multi-cultural awareness.

Karen Wehner is similarly motivated by gratitude. “I feel blessed by my time at and education from the University and love the idea of sharing the gift of education to help others enjoy the benefits of self-esteem and learning,”

Wehner said. A two-year member of the club, Wehner made a provision through her estate for The Karen S. Wehner UMWC Scholarship. She is president of her own estate planning company and regularly sees her clients making similar plans. “It’s a thoughtful way to ensure our passion for education endures,” she said.



*Karen Wehner*

If you are interested in learning more about funding a scholarship through a gift in your will or other estate plan, please contact Michelle Lian-Anderson, Chief Development Officer, University-Wide Scholarships, at [liana001@umn.edu](mailto:liana001@umn.edu)/612-626-9672 or Helene Benitez, Senior Planned Giving Officer, at [hbenitez@umn.edu](mailto:hbenitez@umn.edu)/612-626-0510.

Other fully funded endowed scholarships held and managed by the U of M Foundation for the UMWC are:

- ☛ Frances Shepherd Memorial Scholarship
- ☛ U of M Women’s Club – Doris Doeden Scholarship Fund
- ☛ U of M Women’s Club Scholarship Fund
- ☛ Stephanie R. Boddy Scholarship Fund
- ☛ University Medical Auxiliary Scholarship
- ☛ Ruth Vickroy Jones UMWC Educational Pursuits Scholarship

## A legacy of giving

Club members were deeply saddened to learn of the unexpected death April 21 of long-time member Ruth Jones. A profile of Jones, written before her death, appeared in our May-June newsletter and focused on her life, career and many interests. But Jones was characteristically modest about her own contributions to the club and her philanthropy efforts.

“Ruth was truly one of a kind,” said Marian Champlin, UMWC vice president for scholarship fundraising. “She was always willing to take a leadership role in the club, and she was very generous financially.”

In 2016–2017, when Jones served as club president, “fundraising for the UMWC made a giant leap forward,” Champlin said. “With Ruth’s blessing, the club began its one-year named scholarship effort.” That first year, seven members funded scholarships. Last year the number was 15, and this year the club will award 16 one-year named scholarships.

“That means that this year we had an extra \$56,000 going to scholarships,” Champlin said.

As president, Jones also worked hard to update the club’s bylaws. “But Ruth didn’t stop when her presidency ended,” Champlin said. “She went on to find great speakers for our conversation lunches, and she chaired our Nominating Committee for three years in a row. Meanwhile, she was

spending lots of time with her U of M projects — from the Foundation to Engineers Without Borders. And she did it all with so much modesty that only a couple of us were allowed to know the extent of her philanthropy.”

In honor of Jones, UMWC has funded the Ruth Vickroy Jones Education Scholarship, a one-year-named scholarship, with memorial gifts and a gift from the club. That scholarship is in addition to two other endowed scholarships made possible by Jones’ generosity.

“She loved to see students doing great things,” Champlin said. “Ruth left the UMWC and the University of Minnesota well remembered in her estate.”



## Congratulations and thank you!

Few examples illustrate the strength, resilience and value of the University of Minnesota Women's Club better than the fact that more than a dozen women have been members for more than 50 years. The Membership Committee, which includes Chair Joy Chaput, Shirley Herrmann, Lou Nelson, Diane Schweizer, Carole Senty and Rolaine Wright, has been working for more than a year on identifying those women and giving them the thanks and credit they deserve.

"As a committee, we believe that women who have contributed to our long-term success, by prioritizing their support for the club for decades, deserve recognition," Wright said. "We are here because of their vision and ongoing efforts."

Wright had the pleasure of speaking with several of those members over the last few months and was touched by their appreciation for the role UMWC played in their lives.

"One member told her daughter that the club and the newsletter were lifelines in keeping engaged with the world and with friends," Wright said. "In fact, she said it was as important to her as her subscription to the *StarTribune*."

Most of the longtime members also mentioned that they'd made many friends through the years by attending luncheons and joining the club's special interest sections, according to Wright. "The luncheons also helped them keep in touch with what's going on in the community," she said. "They're really missing that lately."

Most important, all of the women being recognized said that they are proud to help young women achieve their educational goals.

Our thanks and congratulations go to the following women, who have been members for more than 50 years:

Jane Bardon	Kay Blair
Dorothy Boen	Kathryn Harper
Harriet Johnson	Rachel Levitt
Marri Oskam	Olly Staneslow
Jane Starr	Sylvia Storvick
Shirley Ungar	Dorothy Waltz
Roberta Williams	Agnes Wolf

We also remember Fran Paulu and Gladys Turnquist, who recently passed away.

## Section News

### Special interest sections rise to the occasion

As President Georgia Heisserer wrote in her August email to all of you, our special interest sections are going strong despite the challenges of a pandemic.

Nonfiction, for example, is planning a catered, socially distanced garden party at the home of Joy Chaput to discuss a book about Winston Churchill. With safety in mind, Joy is spacing everyone out at tables and plans to

have participants stand when they speak so they can hear each other from table to table.

The Art section is planning a trip to the wide open spaces of Franconia Sculpture Park in Shafer, Minn. With 43 acres, the outdoor park is the perfect venue to safely appreciate a veritable wonderland of large and unusual pieces of art. Art members, in fact, have an entire season planned with Covid safety in mind.

The women of Modern Literature are practicing their Zoom skills to be ready to kick off their virtual gatherings in September. Modern Fiction has been meeting by Zoom regularly, with Mystery Lovers to follow.

The Nature group has two activities on its calendar. On Monday, Nov. 23, at 10:15 a.m., naturalist Holly Einess will give a presentation via Zoom entitled "A Tale of the Minnesota Moose." If you are interested in the November program, send an email to Margie Daniels or Diane Schweizer. If you need information regarding Zoom meetings, contact Schweizer.

On Monday, Feb. 22, at 10:15 a.m., the Nature group will hear via Zoom from speaker Marcie O'Connor on "Prairie and Savanna Restoration on an Old Farm."

## UMWC awards 41 scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of members and the hard work of our scholarship and fundraising teams, UMWC is awarding 41 scholarships to University of Minnesota women students for the 2020–2021 academic year, totaling \$139,100.

As always, the Scholarship Committee worked for several months seeking, reading and evaluating student applications. The application process itself, which opened April 1 and closed June 1, resulted in 129 applications.

"We were impressed with the quality of the applications and with the amount of diversity we saw — both ethnically and academically," said Georgia Nygaard, who chairs the committee.

For this fiscal year, the value of the individual scholarships increased from \$3,000 to \$3,500 to reflect an increase in the price of tuition, books, housing and food.

Several sources of income contribute to the UMWC scholarship fund, including endowed gifts through the University of Minnesota Foundation, donations from individual UMWC members and donations from one-year named scholarship donors. UMWC members contributed to a special scholarship in honor of long-time member Ruth Jones, who held several leadership positions in the club and was an anonymous donor for many years. In addition, Marian Champlin, vice president for fundraising, secured 14 one-year named scholarships.

In addition to Nygaard, members of the Scholarship Committee are Elizabeth Foley, Sue Gilbertson, Mary Johnson, Sue Nelson, Marilyn Olson and Margaret Rowser.

# Scholarships 2020-2021

The following students received scholarships from the University of Minnesota Women's Club for the 2020-2021 academic year.

## One-year Named Scholarships

### Shirley and Robert Hermann Scholarship

*Paige Simmons* .....Nursing

### The Kristine Anderson Scholarship

*Erika Schultz*  
.....Integrative Neuroscience, Psychology

### The Katherine Kilbourne Scholarship

*Nayelli Guerrero* .....American Studies

### The Dale Andrick Hoover and Sam Maron Scholarship

*Yaren Euceda Mejia*  
.....Mathematics, Computer Engineering

### The Marri M. Oskam Scholarship

*Brianna Buffington*.....Kinesiology

### The Lasell Mechanical Engineering Scholarship

*Jacynda Alatoma*.....Statistics, Computer Science

### In Honor of Geraldine M. Jackson

*Trinity Ek*.....Urban Studies,  
Environmental Sciences Policy & Mgmt

### In Honor of Doreen Knopik

*Socheata Cheat* .....Accounting, Finance

### The Frances Brown Paulu Memorial Scholarship

*Jaycie Thomsen*.....Food Systems,  
Environmental Sciences Policy & Mgmt

### The Archie Animal Science Scholarship

*Jessica Kitching* .....Animal Science

### The Delores and Cecilia Scholarship

*Alyssa White* .....Elementary Education

### The Robin Cantrell Dance Scholarship

*Aubrey Clark*.....Dance, Microbiology

### The Jonathan F. Cohen Science and Engineering Scholarship

*Kiana Davis*.....Biology

### The Peter Reed Scholarship

*Emma Faeflen* .....Developmental Psychology

### Memorial in Honor of Ruth Jones

*Tiffany Li* .....Biology, Psychology

## University of Minnesota Women's Club Scholarship

*Anna Shumann* \* Nursing . . . *Hannah Kraling* \* Nursing . . . *Brittany Noble* \* Nutrition . . .  
*Pasawpaw Kasuh* \* Gender, Women & Sexuality, Youth Studies . . . *Thida Philavanh* \* Nursing . . .  
*Calley Ann Clobes* \* Nursing . . . *Olivia King* \* Business, Law . . . *Maddie Woodman* \* Dance . . .  
*Corinne Pease* \* Biology . . . *Lauryn Greenfield* \* Kinesiology

## Ruth Vickroy Jones Education Scholarship

*Mariah Banas* .....Elementary Education

## University of Minnesota Medical Auxiliary Scholarship

*Leann Luong*.....Biology

## The Frances Shepherd Scholarship

*Sheng Thao*.....Interior Design

## University of Minnesota Women's Club #7530 Endowed Scholarship

*Karli Beaumont* \* Environmental Science . . . *Imani Jackson* \* Global Studies . . .  
*Eliza Warneke* \* Nursing . . . *Gwen Vu* \* Nursing . . .  
*Ajanice Knox* \* Political Science, Sociology

## The Stephanie Boddy Scholarship

*Denisse Ojeda Santiago* \* Business . . . *Katie DeWitt* \* Neuroscience, Psychology . . .  
*Brianna Clifton* \* Biology, Public Health . . . *Mackenzie Turner* \* History . . .  
*Taylor Nuss* \* Accounting, Finance . . . *Odell Sackie* \* Undeclared . . .  
*Keeley Zirkler* \* Health & Well Being

## The Doris Doeden Scholarship

*Peyton Nelson*.....Biology, Spanish Studies

# CLUB NEWS

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2. Mail to Nancy Myers, 1578 Burton St.,  
Falcon Heights, MN 55108

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

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

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

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

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

### Dues more important than ever

To keep UMWC strong during these challenging times, it's more important than ever to pay your membership dues. Please fill out the yellow dues form, found in your directory, and return it with your check to Nancy Myers at 1578 Burton St., Falcon Heights, MN 55108.

The due date for renewing your membership is Oct. 15, 2020, but we encourage you to renew today.

You also will find the form on our website at [umwc.edu](http://umwc.edu).



**2020-2021**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
*Women's Club*



[www.umwc.umn.edu](http://www.umwc.umn.edu)

### Don't miss UMWC Online Extra

Please go to our website to meet Janet Graber, a UMWC member whose first adult novel was recently published. Graber, whose other published works include children's books and young adult novels, is truly living the writer's life. The article is an added feature in the online version of our newsletter.



### Membership staying strong

At the end of June, the University of Minnesota Women's Club had 353 members. Of that total, 34 were new this year.

Since the last newsletter, we have had a few directory changes. Mary Abuan has a new phone number. Lucy Sameluk, Julia Wallace and Elfrieda Hintze have new addresses. All of the phone numbers and addresses were updated for the new directory.

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

# A writer's life

“If you’re going to be a writer, you really have to mean it,” said Janet Graber, a member of UMWC and its Modern Literature interest group for the past seven years. With magazine articles, two children’s books, two young adult novels and one adult novel published, Graber certainly means it. And that’s not counting the two books pending.

Born in the Northern England seaside town of Whitley Bay, Graber is a lifelong lover of books. She remembers, as she writes on her website, “A particular thrill that has stayed with me was being handed my first library card by a rather fearsome Miss Mary Bell, head librarian, which granted me admittance into the utterly silent and hallowed children’s room. What a world opened up.”



*Janet Graber as a child in England*

A school assignment to write and illustrate a 25-page story provided her first taste of rejection. “I labored long and hard over an historical bodice ripper about a Scottish lassie named Alison,” she said. “Her true love joined Bonnie Prince Charlie’s army to defeat the English, and he

died tragically on the battle field in her arms.” Her teacher’s response? “I hope you don’t intend to write for a living.”

Graber came to San Francisco in 1965 on “an adventure with a girlfriend,” she said. “We had no intention of staying.” But she met her first husband in California and raised a family, moving often because he was a naval officer. She didn’t start writing until age 50, when her children were grown and she thought, “Perhaps I can do this.” With the encouragement of her second husband, a writing instructor, she absolutely did it, beginning with picture books and then branching out.

Her writing process is disciplined and includes setting deadlines for herself and spending three hours every day writing and revising. Her latest book, *The Sting of Love*, took “at least five years” to write, including constant revision. “I prefer to live inside the book with my characters,” she said of the effort involved.

Graber didn’t meet her father until after the war, when she was almost four years old. His wartime experiences “form the bones” of *The Sting of Love*, which is partly set in Italy, where he was stationed. Three years ago, she traveled with her daughter to Trieste to get a feel for what her father had experienced.

“It was astonishing,” she said. “Not much had changed.” The hotel where she stayed had served as the British Officers Club in 1945. The Castello di Miramare, where her father was billeted, remained pristine, despite having been requisitioned, first by the Germans and then by Allied forces. Most important, she was able to walk through her novel, scene by scene, to “get it right.”

Next up, she plans to go back to her picture books. “Not a lot of writers try different genres,” she said. “But that’s why I branched out to adult novels—to see if I could do it.”

Graber also reads widely. “If you don’t read, you can’t write,” she said. Some of that reading, of course, is with the Modern Literature group. “I love the club,” she said of UMWC. And she appreciates the fact that Modern Literature meets in the morning. “There’s more good discussion because there’s less wine.”

That quick wit is surely one more secret to her success. But Graber will insist that it’s the daily grind, the “meaning it,” that truly makes the difference.

To learn more about Graber’s work, go to her website [janetgraber.com](http://janetgraber.com).

