



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

November-December 2022 ~ No. 303

Celebrate the holidays with

You won't want to miss our Holiday Champagne and Art Celebration on Tuesday, December 13, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Weisman Art Museum in Minneapolis. Meredith McQuaid, Associate Vice President and Dean of International Programs for the University of Minnesota system, is our host for this event, which was made possible in part through the generous sponsorship of anonymous donors.



Meredith McQuaid

During the celebration, we will hear from Nisha Botchwey, the new dean of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, who will speak about her background and goals in her new position. Nisha is the first Black woman and immigrant to serve as the school's dean and comes to the Twin Cities from Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

The holiday party also is your chance to support our annual gift drive for families with children hospitalized at the Masonic Children's Hospital of the University of Minnesota. At the event, we will be accepting checks only, made out to the **University of Minnesota Foundation**. If you would rather donate a gift, see the story on page 4 for further information.

Please join us in this wonderful space for a celebration that promises good conversation, interesting presentations and a chance to brighten the season for so many families.

Let's get the party started

Holiday Champagne and Art Celebration
Tuesday, December 13
2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Location

Weisman Art Museum
333 E. River Road
Minneapolis

Parking is available for \$3 an hour in a ramp adjacent to the museum. The entrance to the parking ramp is off of East River Road.

Menu

Holiday treats, fruit, wine, coffee and sparkling water

Cost

Our celebration is free but we ask that you register by sending in the reservation form found in your directory or on the website.

Mail the registration to:
Barbara Cady,
3339 Jansen Way,
Vadnais Heights, MN
55127.



Nisha Botchwey



President's Message ~

Cherishing our stalwarts and building our bench

What a busy couple of months we've had! I'm still on a high following our wonderful Fall Welcome and Scholarship Day in October. It was great to see so many of you and delightful, of course, to talk with our scholarship recipients. Few things make me prouder of UMWC than our scholarship effort.



And few people illustrate the strength of that effort better than Marian Champlin. We honored her at the luncheon for her work in establishing our One-Year Named Scholarship program. Marian would want me to emphasize that the program is the result of a dedicated team but she is really the heart and soul of the endeavour, which she will continue to lead. (Don't think for a moment that she's stepping back!) Women such as Marian are the backbone of the club. They have outstanding skills, which they employ quietly for years, and UMWC is so much the better for it. I'm happy we took a moment to thank and recognize Marian.

The club, of course, is about more than scholarship. That was clear to me at the annual Hikers overnight trip in September. This year we went to Bayfield, Wisconsin, for two energetic days. We hiked, we shopped, we explored Madeline Island, we took a tour of the Apostle Islands. In short, we had a lot of fun.



Aija Ronis was among the Hikers enjoying the Bayfield area.

And the thing is, we didn't do all of these things as a group. We branched out, did our own thing and then came back together in the evening to eat snacks, drink wine and talk about our day. It was a wonderful mosaic of people and interests with friendship as the glue. I know our other interest groups operate the same way.

The Hikers take an overnight trip every year. It's a tradition. The club has many traditions, but we are never afraid to try something new. One of our tried and true efforts is the holiday gift drive for families with children hospitalized at the Masonic Children's Hospital. We're doing the gift drive again, of course, but this year, in connection with it, we are gathering for a holiday

champagne and art celebration at the Weisman Art Museum, with Meredith McQuiad, Associate Vice President and Dean of International Programs for the University of Minnesota system, as our host. A hearty thank you to some anonymous donors who made this event possible. And speaking of gratitude—and dedicated club members—Fred and Dorothy Waltz have led the gift drive for years. Honestly, what would we do without Fred and Dorothy?



The happy Hikers pictured here are (from left) Tatiana Nawrocki, Barb Swadburg, Shirley Erstad, Kathleen Lafferty, Catherine Holtzclaw and Judy McConnell.

UMWC has been so lucky with its stalwarts but we also have to build our bench as they say in the sports pages. One of my goals is to find willing new volunteers so we can relieve some long-timers but also provide opportunities for other members, particularly those new to the club. I firmly believe the more involved you get, the more you appreciate UMWC. We have a lot of fun ahead and many opportunities for you to get involved. Don't wait for someone to recruit you. Some of you are recent retirees who have a lot of talent and perhaps a little time on your hands. Give it a try!

Catherine Holtzclaw
President

Board of Directors Meets November 1

The UMWC board of directors will meet Tuesday, November 1, at Midland Hills Country Club, 2001 Fulham Street in Roseville. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. All club members are welcome to attend.

Gratitude and recognition highlight successful Fall Welcome and Scholarship Day

An enthusiastic crowd of 170 members, guests, scholars and family members gathered in October for our annual Fall Welcome and Scholarship Day luncheon. Members had an opportunity to sign up for interest groups, welcome newcomers and chat with scholarship recipients at this popular event.



A group of 25 scholarship recipients attended the Fall Welcome and Scholarship Day event. They are shown here with Scholarships Chair Georgia Nygaard.

At the luncheon, President Catherine Holtzclaw welcomed the group and Scholarships Chair Georgia Nygaard introduced scholarship recipients, who briefly told the crowd about themselves. We also heard from students Jenny Tran, Calyssa Eskeli and Madeleine Hallberg and watched video segments featuring more recipients, who mentioned their future plans and their gratitude to UMWc members.

In a surprise presentation, we honored Marian Champlin for her work with the scholarship program.

“For the past 11 years, Marian has been a driving force in our efforts to raise funding for our club’s scholarship mission,” said Past President Millie Woodbury, who made the presentation. “She first served as Chair and then as Vice President for the scholarship fundraising,” Millie said. “Today, she continues to serve as Chair of the



Poetry Lovers Co-Chair Lynn Slifer was on hand to promote this new special interest group.

program she created—the One-Year Named Scholarship. I remember Marian talking to me seven years ago and saying, ‘I have an idea. What if one of our members would like to fund a scholarship for someone they wish to honor?’

That idea became a reality. In 2016, the program’s first year, the effort yielded seven scholarships. Since then, 84 scholarships have been awarded. “This innovation has put to work \$277,000 assisting young women to achieve their educational goals,” Millie said, concluding with the thought that Marian’s service and dedication “epitomizes volunteerism of the highest order.”

Mindy Greiling speaks at first Conversation luncheon



Our November 1 Conversation with a Woman Leader features former state representative Mindy Greiling, who served in the Minnesota House of Representatives for 20 years and helped establish the country’s first state mental health caucus, resulting in a significant increase in Minnesota’s mental health funding.

Greiling’s son Jim was diagnosed with schizo-affective disorder, which inspired her to advocate for those with mental illness. She is the author of *Fix What You Can: Schizophrenia and a Lawmaker’s Fight for her Son*, a frank and illuminating account of caring for a person with a mental illness.

Help us brighten the holidays for children and their families

Let's continue our loving UMWC tradition of sharing our holiday spirit with families who have children hospitalized at the Masonic Children's Hospital of the University of Minnesota.

Just as we did so successfully last year, we have arranged with two of our members to accept gifts at their homes. On Thursday, December 8, Marian Champlin will accept gifts at her home at 5437 Elliot Avenue, Minneapolis, between 10 a.m. and 1p.m.

From Wednesday, December 7, to Friday, December 9, Dorothy and Fred Waltz will accept gifts between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Coffman Condominiums, located next to the Bell Museum. The address is 1666 Coffman Street, but the parking lot and entrance are actually located on Larpenteur Avenue, just west of Cleveland Avenue.

If you are unable to deliver gifts during those times but still wish to



A young patient at Masonic Children's Hospital surrounded by her care team

donate, please contact Dorothy Waltz at 651-917-0930 or waltz.ds@yahoo.com. She will try to arrange for your gifts to be picked up.

Please note that financial gifts are *extremely* welcome. These gifts support patient and family programming by providing gifts and supplies for their Holiday Family Gift Giving. Make checks out to the **University of Minnesota Foundation**. (Checks made out to the UMWC will be returned. IRS regulations prohibit the UMWC from collecting money for any charity other than our scholarship fund.) Mail your check to Dorothy Waltz, 1666 Coffman Street #313, Falcon Heights, MN 55108-1340.

Also, as you can see on the front page, we will be accepting checks (no toys) at the Champagne and Art Celebration at the Weisman Museum. Again, make your check payable to the University of Minnesota Foundation.

Former President Jane Starr dies at 93

Jane Starr, a UMWC member since the 1960s and President in 2007-2008, died in August. A memorial service honoring her life will be held on Sunday, November 6, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the University of Minnesota Campus Club.

Jane enjoyed an active life devoted to community service. In addition to her work with UMWC, she served on the Minneapolis School Board for eight years as well as the Minneapolis City Planning Commission. She was a 50-year member of the League of Women Voters and was active in the WCA Foundation. She also was a dedicated member of the Prospect Park Study Club and a generous donor to many nonprofits.

"Jane very generously supported the scholarship program," said Marian Champlin, who remembers Jane as "a very bright, vivacious woman who often acted as parliamentarian." Member Cherie Hamilton remembers Jane as a good friend since she joined the club and a neighbor for 20 years.



Remembering Connie Van Valkenburg

We were saddened to learn of the death of long-time member Connie Van Valkenburg, whose celebration of life service was held at the Como Conservatory in October.

Connie served as the UMWC photographer for many years and helped establish the Vagabonds interest group, along with Flossie Caldwell. Connie's life was full of adventure and travel, including kayaking on local lakes and solo to Isle Royale, driving herself to Maine and Florida well into her 80s and taking worldwide trips to snorkel and photograph birds.

"She will be missed," said friend and UMWC member Barb Burleigh. "She leaves us with an inspiring example to keep moving and live life to the fullest."



SECTION NEWS

Women's Health has a new Chair and new programs

New member Nancy Schuster has taken on the role of Women's Health Section Chair, to carry on the excellent work of keeping us informed about constantly-evolving developments in women's health. Nancy has been a registered nurse in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Idaho and Illinois.



Nancy Schuster (left) welcomed members to the Women's Health booth at the Fall Welcome and Scholarship Day event.

In addition to her extensive medical-related professional and volunteer work, and her professional work with the education of gifted children, she also has been deeply involved in many aspects of environmental protection. For example, she's been an active member of the Chippewa Moraine Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) since 2002. She's worked on trail maintenance, lead hikes and planned and implemented many presentations. She was Treasurer from 2010–2020, and served for six years as a member of the State Board of Directors of IATA. In addition, she has hiked and biked the entire trail.

Women's Health will continue to meet on the first Friday of the month, tentatively at 11 a.m., unless changed by the presenter. Nancy has already scheduled a program entitled *Movement and Motion = Better Life + Health* with Margaret Cummings, an exercise and dance instructor. The instructor had to limit the class to 20 participants due to limited space. Nancy hopes to convince Margaret Cummings to repeat the program for us next year.

Nancy Bennett has arranged *Kidney Health: We Can Do This!* to be presented by Donna E. Gjesvold, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, LD, who currently sees kidney transplant patients, living donors and kidney stone patients for assessment, education, and counseling. Her program has already been scheduled for Friday, March 3 at 10 a.m., but

someone needs to provide a location for the presentation. Can you help?

And, remember, our Women's Health presenters have always been organized by our own section members. Perhaps *you* have a program you'd like to organize. If so, just contact Nancy Schuster at 1-715-559-1873 or nancy-beth.s67@gmail.com.



A little bog walking

The Nature group enjoyed beautiful fall weather for a bog walk in September at the Harriet Alexander nature center in Roseville.

Please note

The coordinator for the November 9 Around the Campus event is Liz Brady, not Fran Holmsten.

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! We have 15 women who have joined since the last newsletter: Anita Frost, Kathleen Lafferty, Maureen Lundquist, Joy Ballou, Karin Bauer, Ginni Hughes, Isabel Karon, Mary Nosek, Lois Ann Helgeson, Karen Palm, Mary Drew, Loree Stinson, Eileen Casey, Nancy Fox and Lynne Sparks.

There have been several directory changes: Liz Grimmer has a new email, Linda Poissant has a different phone number and address, Nancy Wright has a new address and Jean Linne, Kathy Ball and Sharon Prebonich have new phone numbers.

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.

CLUB NEWS

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Have you changed your address, email or phone?

Send correction or new contact information by
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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

In this issue of Online Extra

UMWC members will no doubt recognize Sumitra Wanduraga if they've ever had the pleasure of taking in the club art show. Sumitra has been interested in art since she was a child growing up in Sri Lanka but her passion really took hold once she moved to the United States with her family in 1980. A world traveler, Sumitra has captured the beauty of the places she visits in her art, which is the heart of a life filled with travel, friends and family.



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

Newsletter deadline is December 12

The deadline for the January-February newsletter is Monday, December 12. Please submit articles, information and photos to Nancy Kluver, newsletter editor, at Kluver.nancy@gmail.com.

Memorial gifts

- ☛ For Jane Starr by Kathleen O'Brien, University of Minnesota Retirees Association (UMRA) and UMWC
- ☛ For Dr. Robert I. Roelofs by Patricia Roelofs
- ☛ For Tracy Moos by Kathleen Reston
- ☛ For Connie Van Valkenburg by UMWC
- ☛ For Gil Eian by Karen Eian and UMWC
- ☛ For Helen Carlson by Amy Carlson and UMWC
- ☛ For Bill Rathbun by Joan Rathbun
- ☛ For George and Drusilla Koerner by Judy Prayfrock
- ☛ For Mike Olson by Patricia Kirchner
- ☛ For Bud Neuman by Patricia Kirchner



Honoring gifts

- ☛ For Lindsay Buhl by Nancy Hanson
- ☛ For Irene Khin Khin Jensen by Marcia Thoen
- ☛ For Kathy Moore by Kathleen Cleary
- ☛ For Carole Senty by Diane Schweizer

Sumitra Wanduragala:

A life filled with art, travel, friends and family

Paging through a coffee table book of Sumitra Wanduragala's paintings is a bit like taking a world tour. There's the oil painting she did in her native Sri Lanka, a watercolor from Ireland, another from France, others from Australia, Africa and Italy, with plenty of stops in the United States. The oil paintings are rich and detailed, the watercolors lovely and ethereal and the pastel oils an evocative mix of both.



Sumitra at the latest UMWC Art Show

To say Sumitra is well traveled is an understatement. To say she is talented is even more obvious.

Born in Sri Lanka, where she grew up with a pet elephant, Sumitra moved to Illinois in 1980 when her husband enrolled in the veterinary science program at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. She was focused on raising three young children but also did some painting and took summer art courses at the University. In 1989, she sold her first watercolor. In 1990, the family moved to the Twin Cities.

"I really liked the art scene here," Sumitra said, referring to the opportunities a promising painter could find

but also to the museums and other art spaces. She was a member of the Women's Art Registry in Minnesota for about eight years and won a scholarship in their mentor-protégé program, working with a mentor for 18 months. She also took continuing education classes at the University of Minnesota.

In 1996, the Minnesota State Fair accepted Sumitra's painting as well as a piece by her daughter, Chamindika, for its art exhibit.

But hard times lie ahead. In 1998, Sumitra suffered a bout of colon cancer. In 1999, her husband, Dr. Lionel Wanduragala, died.

"I went through a lot," Sumitra said of those years. With the help of family and friends, she carried on. "The children helped a lot but it wasn't easy."

Painting proved healing as well. Sumitra kept working on her art, moving from oils to watercolors to pastel oils and traveling to locations far and wide, where she frequently painted what she saw.



Sumitra with several of her paintings

About 20 years ago, Sumitra met UMWC member Carol Lowe, who was part of a group calling themselves Attic Artists because they painted together in the attic of a friend. The two artists became fast friends.

Carol, another world traveler, marvels at the places Sumitra, whom Carol calls Sumi, has been and the people she's met.

"Anywhere in the world where I want to go, Sumi knows someone," Carol said. It was a given that Carol would invite Sumitra to join the University of Minnesota Women's Club and exhibit her work in the annual art show. Sumitra has had several exhibitions of her own and sold many pieces of art. She also gets, in her words, "occasional

commissions.” And she keeps traveling, with all of its adventures. In fact, she was in Sri Lanka when the pandemic unfolded and wasn’t able to return to Minnesota for a year and a half.

Today, Sumitra lives with her daughter and her daughter’s family in south Minneapolis. Her children are as diverse and interesting as Sumitra’s art and travel. Older son, Sanjaya, owns and operates Tracy’s Saloon & Eatery, a restaurant in south Minneapolis. Chamindika is a puppet artist, stop motion filmmaker, DJ and founder and director of Monkeybear’s Harmolodic Works, which supports Native, Black



and IPOC—or indigenous and people of color—groups in developing creative and technical skills in contemporary puppetry. Younger son, Danushka, works for the state on global health initiatives. Add five grandchildren to the mix and it’s clear that Sumitra has a full life.

The Attic Artists get together to paint once a week, and Carol and Sumi are looking forward to visiting the Cafesjian Art Trust Museum, a new space in Shoreview focused on glass art, and the Minneapolis Institute of Art for the new Botticelli exhibit.

New places and new art. Pretty much summarizes Sumitra’s approach to living.

Map to the home of Dorothy & Fred Waltz

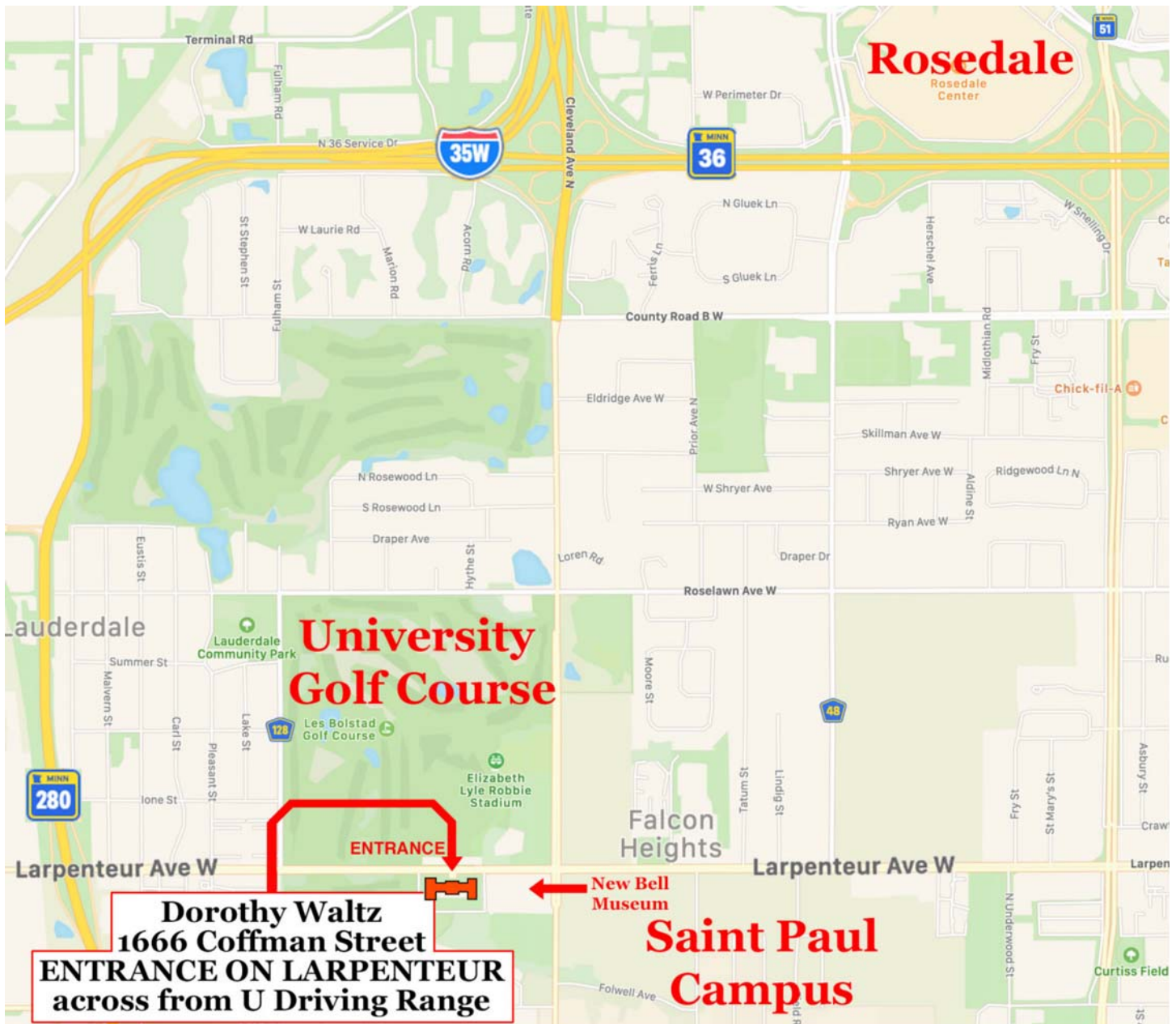
1666 Coffman Street, Falcon Heights

Across Larpenteur Avenue from the University Golf Course

FOR HOLIDAY GIFT DROP-OFF

Wednesday, December 7 to Friday, December 9

10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.



Map to the home of Marian Champlin

5437 Elliot Avenue

FOR HOLIDAY GIFT DROP-OFF

Thursday, December 8

10:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

