



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 2023 ~ No. 305*

## Conversation with a Woman Leader: How the past informs the present with Indigenous learners and Tribal communities

Please join us Tuesday, April 11, at Midland Hills Country Club for our next Conversation with a Woman Leader luncheon featuring speaker Karen Diver. Karen currently serves as the Senior Advisor to the President for Native American Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

As a land grant institution, the University of Minnesota has a unique relationship and responsibility to the 11 Native American Tribes in the state. Beyond diversity and inclusion efforts, the University also is focusing on Tribal workforce development efforts for some of Minnesota's largest rural employers.



Karen will explain how the past continues to inform present day activities regarding Indigenous learners and Tribal communities at the University.

In previous roles, Karen was Director, Business Development, Native American Initiatives, at the University of Arizona and inaugural Faculty Fellow for Inclusive Excellence for Native American Affairs at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth.

She also was an appointee of President Obama as the Special Assistant to the President for Native American Affairs. As part of the Domestic Policy Council, Karen assisted with inter-agency efforts, policy and regulatory changes to benefit 567 Native American Tribes. She served in this position from November 2015 until the end of the Obama Administration.

This promises to be a very engaging conversation with our distinguished speaker. Please register well before the April 3 deadline. We look forward to seeing you there.

### *Meeting at a Glance*

**Conversation with a Woman Leader**  
Noon, Tuesday, April 11, 2023

**Speaker**  
**Karen Diver**

Senior Advisor to the President for Native American Affairs, University of Minnesota

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

**Menu**  
Minnesota Chicken: chicken breast stuffed with wild rice, dried cranberries and apples with morel-mushroom cream sauce. Served with a baked potato and roasted zucchini and yellow squash, warm rolls and butter

**Cost: \$32**

**Reservation deadline:**

**Monday, April 3**

*Please remember that this is the date for receiving the check, not mailing the check.* Please send in the reservation form you will find in your 2022-2023 directory or on the UMWC website. Make your check **payable to UMWC** and mail to Maggie Hoover.

## President's Message ~

### Making sure that life does not escape us

If you ran into me at the February luncheon you might have noticed a little extra color in my cheeks. That's because I had just returned from a four-week stay in Costa Rica, a country where I often spend time during the winter. This year my family joined me in two batches. First my daughter and family and then my son and family. What can I say? It was paradise.



For the most part the weather was glorious. The food was delicious, with fresh seafood and pastries that defy description. The birds were lively and colorful. And the sunsets — every single night — were incredible. A group of people would gather on the beachside terrace of our resort and have a little wine, chat with new friends and watch the sunset. Does it get any better than that?

I've often visited Costa Rica with friends, which is delightful. This year, in fact, a friend was vacationing nearby. But having my family with me added a new element. First I should let you know that I have grandchildren on both ends of the age spectrum, from daycare to college. The younger kids loved the pool, the sun and running on the beach. The older ones loved the same things but also appreciated the character of the place—and the tanning possibilities. All of us enjoyed being together.



If you're like me you've noticed that one of the best ways to get people to open up about themselves is to ask them if they've been on any interesting trips lately. Their faces will brighten and they will let you know about visiting Paris or Barcelona or the few months they've just spent in Tucson. Doesn't really matter where they've been. They're just grateful for the journey and to tell you about it. And

it's even better if you've been there, too. It's all about connecting.



*Catherine with her older grandchildren*

And that brings me to a new opportunity to connect this fall that's really exciting. We are taking our most popular event — the Fall Welcome and Scholarship Day — and making it even better by separating its parts. For the first time ever we are planning an event in September just for special interest sections. Many of you have said that you don't have enough time to really get to know the interest groups and decide which to join when you have to hurry through them before the scholarship luncheon. So we're giving the special interest groups their own afternoon at Midland Hills Country Club.

We've planned the event for September because most of our groups are already up and running by then after their summer hiatus. And we're giving you more time to chat with friends because UMWC with all of its intellectual and educational components is about fun and friendship at its core.

You'll be seeing much more about this event in the coming months. And we aren't forgetting the October scholarship gathering because there is nothing like meeting our impressive scholarship recipients. Another chance to connect.

One of my favorite travel quotes, among many, is, "We travel not to escape life, but for life not to escape us." I think we could say the same about making connections and getting involved with UMWC. It enhances our life experience.

*Catherine Holtzclaw, President*

## Board announces Executive Committee decisions

The UMWC Board of Directors in February announced several decisions made by the club's Executive Committee in December. The first was a decision to comply with a University of Minnesota directive stating that the club consider scholarship applicants without regard to gender. As a result, UMWC scholarship awards will be gender neutral, and the club will change references in its bylaws, website and publications from "women" to "students."

"Because contributions to our scholarship fund go through the University of Minnesota Foundation to the University, which awards the scholarships, we will of course follow University rules," said President Catherine Holtzclaw. "Our support of women students remains strong but we also are making clear that our scholarship programs are gender neutral."

The board also announced a separate September meeting to celebrate and support our special interest groups. In addition, the board announced the adoption of Stripe as our online payment processing system for reservations and dues payments. The system should be available by April 30.

Finally, the board announced title and name changes, which included changing the title Vice President for Programs to Event Coordinator and changing the name Scholarship Committee to Scholarship Awards Committee. The changes were made to provide greater clarity at the request of the position holders and committees affected.

"The Executive Committee discussed these issues at length and made solid decisions," Catherine said. "We are grateful to them for their hard work."

## Finding her passion while taking a break

Scholarship recipient Abby Voss was feeling unsettled. A year out of high school, the Zumbrota, Minnesota, native already had achieved an associate of arts (AA) degree in liberal arts and sciences from Rochester Community and Technical College. She'd started that journey at age 16, taking high school and college classes simultaneously, and received her high school diploma in 2020 and her AA degree the following spring. She'd also worked as a gas station cook and sang in a young women's choir called Bella Voce.

But now she decided to take a break — a gap year — to make a little money and think about the future.

"The decision was not easy to come to terms with," Abby said. "I felt like I was straying or completely pausing my trajectory into adulthood." In the process, though, she found her passion: teaching.

"I worked full-time as a behavior technician for Caravel Autism Health Center for children ages 3–12 and taught beginner ballet as a side hustle," Abby said. "I became very confident and excited about my work, using parts of my personality and life experience that I never knew were valuable until I began working with kids."

Her most treasured memory was teaching a young girl to draw. "I was her teacher for 15 months," Abby said, "and

in that time I watched her develop a passion for art and became a trusted teacher in her support network. I made sure to show up for her, for good days and bad."



Abby Voss (Photo by lunaJEM photography)

Now at the University of Minnesota, helped in part by the UMWC's Stephanie Boddy Scholarship, Abby wants to pursue her passion for teaching and advocate for a better quality of life for people with disabilities. She is working toward a degree in developmental psychology and would like to go on to earn a degree in special education or complete a teaching certificate.

Abby admits, though, that her first year at the U has been a little bumpy.

"I thought that because I had experienced community college, the pandemic and working full-time that I would be immune to normal first-year experiences," she said. "Yet, I still experienced homesickness and social anxiety and just general cluelessness.

"Through it all, I had my family and friends to help me out. Last semester was hard, but I think this semester has already been getting better. I love my classes, I have made new friends and I have a life I dreamed about for years. It's not perfect, but it's good. That's all I can hope for, really.

She is grateful, too, to UMWC.

As Abby said, "It makes me proud to say that I am being supported by accomplished women in my community."

# Learn the latest about the Age-Friendly University Council

We introduced the Age-Friendly University Council (AFU MN Council) in our September/October newsletter and how it addresses healthy aging and life-long learning. Now that we understand it better, I'd like to tell you more.

The AFU MN Council believes:

- ▶ We all benefit from intergenerational approaches and exchanges.
- ▶ Lifelong learners bring experience and perspective that enrich education.
- ▶ Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central pillars to all the work we do.
- ▶ Ageism is a pervasive form of bigotry that must be challenged and eliminated.

UMWC fits right in with the 12 other prestigious members of the council. These organizations and programs are deeply committed to searching out ways to make learning accessible to our aging population. They do research and outreach, offer programming, services, training, events, and more.



When I joined UMWC in 2018 I thought of it as a well-run, long-established social club. Now I view UMWC quite differently — and appreciate it much more. Its unique three-part mission really does have something to offer everyone, with community and education at its heart.

We are a proud example of life-long learning and healthy aging! We develop and share interests, volunteer our time and learn new skills, try out new activities and adventures, make new friends, support students — we keep reinventing ourselves for this stage of life, adapting to the world around us. We encourage and help each other get started. And, it's fun!

Please consider attending the Age-Friendly University Day at McNamara Alumni Center on June 26, 2023. With speakers and breakout sessions, it's sure to get you inspired! Registration information will be emailed to you. You'll also be invited to a Spring 2023 Orientation Zoom event on March 15, 6–7 p.m.

These are opportunities for us to both connect UMWC with the broader UM community and provide fresh educational experiences for our members. UMWC will host an information table, alongside other members. This is a chance to expose 250 attendees to what UMWC stands for, and to learn more about the offerings of others.

Here are a few you may be especially interested in checking out:

- ▶ Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) – courses and more
- ▶ MN Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) – care and education
- ▶ UM Retirees Association (UMRA) – programs, events, volunteering
- ▶ UM Alumni Association – programs, events
- ▶ Earl E. Bakken Center for Spirituality & Healing – personal growth
- ▶ UM Extension Services – science-based knowledge
- ▶ One Stop Student Services – Senior Citizen Education Program (SCEP)

Please check our website's *CONNECTING*, as I will post offerings from fellow member organizations for us to learn, grow and have better lives.

So many win-wins.

*Susan Hopp*, Past President and

UMWC's AFU MN Council representative



*President Elect Linda Boss (left) helped recruit new members at last year's AFU conference.*

## *Board of Directors Meets April 11*

The UMWC board of directors will meet Tuesday, April 11, at Midland Hills Country Club, 2001 Fulham Street in Roseville. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. All club members are welcome to attend.

## SECTION NEWS

### Don't miss the thirty-first annual art show

The Art section is pleased to announce the 31st annual art show, which will again be in the St. Anthony Park area of St. Paul at St. Mathews Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Avenue, St. Paul. Members of the Women's Club will exhibit their creations from April 4 until May 29.

Plan to attend the UMWC opening reception on Tuesday, April 4, beginning at 3 p.m. In addition, members can join the artists and meet the congregation at 11:30 after the service on Sunday, April 16.

How about a lunch date and art show with a friend? There are four restaurants 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 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 at 612-839-8770 or Carol Lowe at 612-869-7949.

### Travel with us under the sea

Vagabonds invites you to join us via Zoom Friday, March 17, at 1:30 p.m. The armchair travel topic is "Secrets of the Deep: Belize, Galapagos and Hawaii," given by Olivia Burleigh, granddaughter of Barb Burleigh, our co-chair. If you are interested, just email Dorothy Waltz at Waltz.ds@yahoo.com and you will be sent the invitation with a link.

Olivia is a graduate student studying coral reefs at Oregon State University. She graduated from Creighton University in Omaha, planning to go on to medical school, but her semester abroad in the Galapagos changed her life. Learning to scuba dive and using an underwater

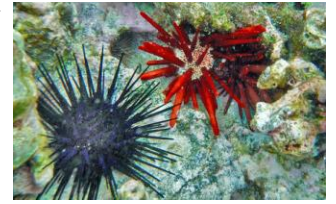


*Member Lola Christianson with her artwork at last year's show*



*Olivia Burleigh*

camera, she has many wonderful photos of undersea life. The Belize reef is second only to the Great Barrier Reef, and, of course, Hawaii is well known for the various colorful fish. The night dive with huge manta rays was a highlight.



### See you at the movies

Movie Rendezvous meets on the second Tuesday of the month for lunch at a nearby restaurant and a movie at the newly remodeled Edina Mann Theater. In February, eight members enjoyed lunch at the Edina Grill, and three members went on to see the film "Living," with its excellent acting and message.

Schedules at the theater have been in flux, so anyone interested in joining the group should contact Elaine Savick for details.

### Please note

The planning session for next year's Out to Tea activities will be from noon to 2 p.m. at Roseville Lutheran Church, 1215 Roselawn Ave., Roseville, instead of 1666 Coffman.

## Conversation luncheon draws good crowd

Our first Conversation with a Woman Leader in 2023 drew a gathering of more than 70 members and guests to hear Meredith McQuaid, the University of Minnesota's associate vice president and dean for international programs, who has been leading internationalization efforts for the University of Minnesota system for 15 years.



*Members (from left) Karen Dudley, Catherine Holtzclaw, Adrienne Banks and Joyce Tester enjoyed the luncheon.*

Meredith's presentation focused on the importance and logistics of that work as well as its challenges, including the effect of geopolitics.

As always, our Guest Quest challenge awarded a free meal to a member who brought a guest to the luncheon. The winner this time was member Mary Drew, who brought Nancy Kehmeier as her guest.

# CLUB NEWS

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### In this issue of Online Extra

**L**ong-time UMWCL member Olly Staneslow has packed a lot of life into her 89 years. But her adventures are far from over if her current activity level is any indication.

We introduce you to this delightful woman in the latest edition of Online Extra. 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 our club. Please reach out to welcome and to get to know our new members! We have one woman who has joined since the last newsletter: Missy (Nancy) Parks.



*New members (from left) Mary Nosek and Maureen Lundquist with member Diane Iverson at the Conversation luncheon*

There has been one directory change: Jean Olson has a new email address.

For a current list of new members and their contact information or a list of directory changes, contact Nancy Myers at [nmyers13@hotmail.com](mailto:nmyers13@hotmail.com).

### Memorial Gifts

Marian Raul by Abby Marier  
Mary Ellen Johnson by Nancy Helmich  
Tracy Moos by Karen Kaler

### Newsletter deadline is April 14

The deadline for the May-June newsletter is Friday, April 14. Please submit articles, information and photos to Nancy Kluver, newsletter editor, at [Kluver.nancy@gmail.com](mailto:Kluver.nancy@gmail.com).

## Olly Staneslow: A zest for life that just keeps going

“My wife and I really enjoy tent camping,” said longtime UMWC member Olly Staneslow. From any other 89-year-old, this might be a surprising sentence. But Olly’s interesting life, zest for new experiences and breaking of conventions make her love of camping at 89, including sleeping on the ground, downright matter-of-fact.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Olly had what she describes as a “childhood interrupted.” Her father, an historian at New York University and Columbia, had a “nervous breakdown” when Olly was 7. For the next six years, this “very shy kid” lived in a variety of places, including Florida for all of the sixth grade.

“I didn’t really mix with kids at school,” Olly said. “I only had two close friends,” but they remained friends for years. And, eventually, her family life righted itself. Her father resigned from teaching and became a full-time writer, moving the family to a home in Ithaca, New York, when Olly was 15. By then, she had a two-year old sister, who had been born with Down syndrome.



Olly finished high school in Ithaca and went on to Cornell University, where she met her husband, Paul, and began another interesting chapter. Paul went on to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia for an advanced degree in linguistics. Olly got a master’s degree in psychology.

“I got the degree because I knew I needed a job,” Olly said. And she found one teaching third grade, for which she was “totally unprepared. They gave me a manual and told me to show up in two weeks.” On the other hand, it paid \$2,200, and “you could live on that back then.”

She left the job after a year, however, because she and Paul were on their way to India, where Paul received an opportunity through a professor exchange to do research on bringing modern linguistic theory to the country.

“It was wonderful, we loved it,” said Olly of the experience. “We traveled and we met so many interesting people.” Olly even joined a dance class established by a famous Indian dancer.

“I was in my 20s, in a class with kids,” she said with a laugh. Again, so what? She was there for the experience.

After two years, with a son in tow, the couple moved back to Cornell, where they lived in student housing. In 1962, Paul got a position at the University of Minnesota. A daughter had joined the family by then.

Olly laughs now to remember that people told her she was moving to the hinterlands, a place with no culture, when she said the family was bound for Minnesota. But they settled right in and Olly was happy to join a newcomers group that was part of the University of Minnesota Women’s Club. With another son by then, Olly had little time to get very active in the Women’s Club. That would come later. She did, however, join the PTA when her youngest was in kindergarten and discovered that the school district was looking for special education teachers.

And so began her 25-year tenure at Central Park Elementary School in Roseville.



Judith and Olly

“It was a wonderful environment,” Olly said of Central Park. “I enjoyed it until the paperwork became too much.”

Her personal life took a turn when, she says simply, “I fell in love with a woman.” She divorced Paul and has been with Judith since 1996. In 2007, she and Judith “took the love bus to Iowa” with other couples to take advantage of the right of same-sex couples to marry in Polk County. In 2009, an Iowa Supreme Court decision made the state the third in the nation to legalize same-state marriage.

Paul married again but eventually ended up living with their daughter and her husband in Israel. When Paul needed additional help, he moved into the same assisted living facility where Olly and Judith live and now is right next door. A bit unconventional? Again, not for Olly.

Which brings us back to tent camping. She and Judith loved going to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Judith is “a couple of years younger” than Olly and the couple would travel with Judith’s daughter and son-in-law.

“They’d get the canoe on the car and in the water,” Olly

said. “We’d paddle in, set up camp and stay for several days.” The last few years, however, they’ve pretty much kept to nearby state parks, which they found a perfect setup during the pandemic because it got them out of the house, while still social distancing.

Unfortunately, it may be a little while before Olly is camping again. Currently recovering from knee surgery, she plans to transition first to her walking sticks and then who knows.

Her secret to a long life is tried and true: take things a day at a time, eat well, exercise. She practices yoga, swims and takes classes at the facility where she lives. A long-time member of UMWCA’s Hikers group, she also was a member of the Drama group before it disbanded. She’s also active at Unity Unitarian Church in St. Paul and in a Cornell Alumni reading group.

A full list and a full life. And once that new knee is working well, chances are good that Olly will be back at a campground again.