



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.

May-June 2024 ~ No. 311

UMWC 2024 Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Looking at the fascinating effort to save the Dakhóta Iápi

Please join us May 14 at the 2024 annual meeting, where we will have the pleasure of hearing from three young leaders who are working to revitalize the Dakhóta Iápi, or Dakota language.



Šišókaduta

Despite the fact that we notice many Dakhóta place names across the Twin Cities and that interest in the language has grown over the years, only one first-language speaker is still living in our state. Šišókaduta, Eileen Bass, and RickyMae Littlest Feather are working to change that through education, technology, spiritual practices, the arts and community engagement.

Šišókaduta is an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Dakhóta Oyáte of Lake Traverse Reservation. He worked as a Dakhóta language instructor at the University of Minnesota for many years until recently, when he began a full-time position as linguistic director and editor at Dakhóta Iápi Okhódakičhiye (DIO), a 501c3 nonprofit organization of dedicated Dakhóta community members, language learners and speakers. DIO recently released Dakhód Iápi Wičhóie Wówapi, the first Dakhóta language dictionary app with more than 28,699 audio recordings.

Šišókaduta is working on a book with Dr. Clifford Canku, a first-language speaker from South Dakota, and he'll be traveling to New Zealand this summer to meet with Māori language leaders to learn more about their efforts to preserve and teach language there.

Eileen Bass is Lakhóta but because she lives in Minnesota, she has been studying Dakhóta at the University of Minnesota, where she was a McNair Scholar in 2023. She's worked on a number of studies and projects with the Minnesota Historical Society and other organizations, and she and Šišókaduta, along with four other students and Dr.



Eileen Bass

Canku, wrote a Dakhóta language article for *Ramsey County History* magazine last fall. Eileen took this last semester off to work at the Weisman Art Museum on a Dakhóta land map guide that is scheduled to debut in late May. In addition, she works as an assistant teacher at Dakhódiapi Wahóhpi (Dakota Language Nest), a language immersion preschool that Šišókaduta helped create a few years ago within the University of Minnesota Child Development Laboratory.

Born and raised near the Red Lake Reservation, University of Minnesota student RickyMae Littlest Feather is also an assistant teacher at Dakhódiapi Wahóhpi. The goal of the program is to breathe new life into the Dakhóta language, such that it lives on as the original language of Minnesota. In Dakhóta, it is said that *šičéca kin*

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President's Message ~

She said I wouldn't regret it and she was right

This is my last newsletter as President of UMWC, and I want to take the opportunity to tell you what an honor it has been to serve you. Two years ago, Barb Swadburg persuaded me to allow my name to be put forward for the two-year position of President Elect/President. She said I would not regret it. She was right. I would have missed out on the opportunity to work with and get to know so many marvelous women. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes that is required to run this organization. During my term, I benefitted from a strong and caring Board of super-qualified women, each of whom carried out her role professionally, collegially and with an extra measure of fun.

We started the year with our first Fall Welcome event, featuring our interest sections. Each section created a display reflecting the group's activity. These interest groups exist thanks to the leadership of the section chairs and their hard work keeping the activities engaging and fun for their



members. Three new interest sections started this year. Our traditional October scholarship luncheon put the spotlight on our mission to support University of Minnesota students through scholarships. Thanks to the combined contributions of our members, this year the scholarship team awarded a record 85 scholarships. The luncheon is your chance to meet some of these outstanding students in person and hear about their chosen fields of study and some of their life stories.

Our Membership team welcomed 40 new members this year. I will miss our New Member Coffees, where Board members have the opportunity to meet the new members and hear about the varying backgrounds, talents, skills and experiences they bring to the club. This year our Tech team completed the work on getting our online payment and registration systems in place and are now turning their efforts toward digitizing our club records.

It has been an amazing year and I want to close by saying thank you to everyone who contributed to making it a rewarding year for me. You won't regret it. Thank you!

Saving the Dakhóta Iápi, continued

wakháŋpi, or children are sacred. By returning the language to the children through play, outdoor exploration, art and loving interactions, the instructors allow the children of Minnesota to lead the way toward a bright Dakhóta future.

You won't want to miss this program. Please note that all members also are invited to attend the business meeting, which begins at 10 a.m.



RickyMae Littlest Feather at Dakhódiapi Wahóŋpi

Photos of Šišókaduta and Eileen are courtesy of University of Minnesota. Photo of the Dakota Language Nest is courtesy of Ramsey County Historical Society.

Meeting at a Glance

UMWC Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Business meeting at 10 a.m. • Luncheon at noon

Speakers

Šišókaduta

Eileen Bass

RickyMae Littlest Feather

Location: Town and Country Club,

300 Mississippi Blvd. No., St. Paul.

Free parking available in on-site lot

Menu

Grilled chicken teriyaki house glaze, served with scallion jasmine rice and Szechuan green beans. Vegetarian option is marinated tofu and coconut rice bowl and peas/sweet potato and mint cucumber raita. Both include rolls with butter.

Cost: \$36 for mail-in registration

\$37.34 for online registration, including credit card fees

Reservation deadline:

Monday, May 6

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.

Another successful Art Show draws enthusiastic crowd

Despite the pouring rain, more than 40 members attended the opening reception for UMWC's 32nd Annual Art Show at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in St. Paul. Guests had the opportunity to view the art while enjoying refreshments. In addition, they heard from each of the artists, including guest artist Jodi Eineichner.



Janet Robb has been creating works of nature or photographs of nature for the past 24 years. This year she exhibited two water color pencil renderings of cultivated plants from the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

"The art submitted by members was splendid and our guest artist was amazing," said Carol Lowe, who helped organize the event, along with Jane LaFroth.

A wide array of artwork—from pastels to acrylics to photography to quilts—was on display, illustrating once again the depth of artistic talent among UMWC members.



Karen Eian's photographs are from a trip she took in September to the North Shore of Lake Superior.



Members (from left) Barb Angelo, Jill Griffin and Marian Adcock enjoyed the show. Marian also was an exhibiting artist with two colored pencil works.

New Member Coffee welcomes another impressive group

New members gathered in April at the home of Membership Cochair Susan Hopp for a welcoming coffee party hosted by the Membership Committee. The new members pictured are (from left) Jan Reisch, Lisa Mellas, Debbie Legan, Liz Peter, Laura Moret, Sandi Poindexter and Kathy Di Perna.

"These gatherings are so energizing," Susan said. "We get to know each other a little better, and we look forward to expanding our friendships with these impressive women."



Board of Directors to Meet in May and June

The Board of Directors will meet Tuesday, May 14, at 10 a.m. at Town and Country Club, 300 Mississippi River Blvd. No., St. Paul. The board also will meet Tuesday, June 4, at 10 a.m. at Midland Hills Country Club, 2001 Fulham Street, Roseville. All members are welcome to attend.

Do you have old club newsletters?

Club Historian Sandy Gale has inventoried the records in our office and will be working with board members and interest group chairs to determine which Women's Club records should be kept and for how long.

For starters, she is looking for missing club newsletters. If you have any newsletters from 1951–2002, 2007–17 or 2019–21, please contact her.

A heartfelt thanks

UMWC received the following note from member Jane LaFroth, following the death of her husband, David.

"I really appreciate the thoughtfulness in making a donation to the scholarship fund on behalf of David. He was an educator at one point in his life and would have been pleased.

The memorial service went well. He planned it and wrote his own obituary. Thanks so much for the kindness."

Jane LaFroth

Scholarship effort keeps growing with your generous support

You've done it again, and we are delighted to say thank you to the UMWC members who contributed to our scholarship fund from July 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. In total, members have contributed more than \$94,000, including 17 One-year Named Scholarships.

If you are still interested in making a contribution — of any size — to this year's effort, you still have time to do so before June 30, 2024, which is the end of our fiscal year. Donors who made gifts after March 31 will be listed in the fall newsletter.

The scholarship application process, which opened in April, will close June 1. That's when members of the Scholarship Awards Committee begin the work of reviewing applications for next year's group of scholarship recipients. And, of course, you will have an opportunity to meet many of those recipients at our Scholarship Luncheon in October.

UMWC donors to the 2023–2024 campaign

Deborah Alper	Bernice Folz	Nancy Kliver	Mary Ann Palmer
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SECTION NEWS

Needle Arts group has new leader

After many years and many lovely items, Needle Arts Co-Chairs Carole Senty and Dorothy Waltz are passing the chair position to Shelley Horstman. The section currently does not have regular meetings. Instead, various members, along with friends of UMWC, knit and crochet on their own and then contribute items to charity. In January, for example, the group provided four bags of hand-knit and crocheted items to the University of Minnesota Hospital, including 97 baby hats and eight comfort shawls.

Shelley is interested in growing group membership and gathering together.

"I am looking forward to taking on this role and am curious to know if any members are interested in meeting on a regular basis to do needlework together," Shelley said. "I think it would be wonderful to welcome both experienced needleworkers as well as members who would like to learn to knit and crochet. I will teach you!"



Call or email Shelley if you are interested. She's looking for any feedback on how best to organize the group.

"I also would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Carole and Dorothy for their many years of coordinating the crafting volunteers and delivering donations to the hospital," Shelley said.

Around the Campus stays ready and steady

Increasing and maintaining physical activity was the topic when Around the Campus group members heard from Siobahn McMahon, PhD, RN and Associate



Professor at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing. Dr. McMahon discussed the methodology and results of the Ready Steady Wellness Program, a research project designed to assess different ways people increase and maintain their level of physical activity. The group is seen here with Nurse Lucy.

Out to Tea enjoys annual celebration

The old saying "A cup of tea shared with a friend is happiness tasted and time well spent" proved true at the annual Celebration Tea on April 12 for the Out to Tea section, according to Out to Tea Co-Chair Millie Woodbury. Members feasted on savory and sweet dishes that would make Queen Victoria jealous!



Out to Tea members enjoying the party are (from left) Kathy Pratt, Judy Silk, Jill Griffin, Janet Graves, Millie Woodbury and Karen Eian.

Special thanks to Janet Robb and Mary Ann Palmer for organizing the event.

The Over 80s love to party

Members of Over 80s and Others, a new special interest group, enjoyed gathering in February and made plans to meet in April.

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 five women who have joined since the last newsletter: Deborah Legan, Mary Mohan, Sandra Poindexter, Jan Reisch, and Kathleen Drake. Our club now has 302 members.

There have been several directory changes since the last newsletter. Barbara Burleigh has a new address. Cynthia Vars has a new phone number. Several members have new emails: Judy Cox, Joyce Guelich, Phyllis Haglund, Georgia Nygaard, Theresa Taylor and Fran Holmsten.

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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In this issue of Online Extra

Because she remembers what a scholarship meant to her, Mary Glaeser is a strong supporter of the UMWC scholarship effort and has named several One-year Named Scholarships after family members.

“Mary was one of the first members to embrace the One-year Named Scholarship experiment,” said Marian Champlin, who initiated the effort. And like Mary, many donors quietly but faithfully repeat their gifts year after year.

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



Register now for Age Friendly University Day

The third annual Age Friendly University Day will be June 24, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the McNamara Center. This year's theme is Aging and Social Connections.

Dr. Alyson Van Ahn from Associated Clinic of Psychology is the keynote speaker for a day that also includes breakout sessions, exhibitor booths (including ours!) and plenty of time for making connections and having conversations with more than 250 retirees, older Minnesotans and lifelong learners.



Dr. VanAhn

The event costs \$25 (plus parking) and includes breakfast and lunch. I will provide more information as the event nears, including volunteer opportunities. Meanwhile, to learn more about the AFU and to register for AFU Day, go to <https://www.sph.umn.edu/research/centers/chai/policy/age-friendly-university-day/>

Would love for you to join us!

Shelley Horstman, UMWC AFU Representative

Newsletter deadline is August 16

The deadline for the September-October 2024 issue of Club News is Friday, August 16. Please submit articles, information and photos to Nancy Kluver, newsletter editor, at kluver.nancy@gmail.com.

Enriching lives by paying it forward

Mary Glaeser well remembers what a scholarship meant to her when she was working on getting her master's degree in nursing from the University of Minnesota.

"In my last quarter at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing's master's program, I applied for and received a district nursing scholarship, and it enabled me to graduate without debt," said the UMWC member. "I will forever be grateful for that assistance, and I am happy to support undergraduate students through the UMWC."



Mary Glaeser (upper right) is shown with her brother Ted at the 2019 scholarship luncheon. Also shown are Megan Peterson, recipient of The Theodore Arnold Johnson Jr. Scholarship, and her mother.

A particular supporter of the One-year Named Scholarship effort, Mary looks at the program as a convenient way to make a difference. "I just enjoy doing it," she said, and she has supported a number of named scholarships since the program began in 2017.

Born in St. Paul, Mary was the youngest of four children. Her parents were teachers, and her father started the St. Paul traveling film programs and public schools TV programs. In addition to teaching, her mother was a

homemaker, who sewed many of Mary's clothes. All of the children in the family attended public schools and graduated from college.

Mary has honored family members by naming some of the scholarships after them. The 2019 Theodore Arnold Johnson Jr. Scholarship, for example, was named for her brother, who sadly was killed in a bicycle accident after the scholarship was awarded.

"He was knocked over by a jogger and sustained a head injury," Mary said. She was grateful to have been able to honor her brother during his lifetime with the scholarship.

A member since 2017, Mary joined UMWC at the invitation of Georgia Nygaard, a long-time friend who Mary initially met because they were neighbors.

"Georgia introduced me to the club," Mary said. "What a gift!" Both Georgia and the club no doubt. She golfs with Georgia, and will be playing with two golf groups, "as soon as the weather allows." In fact, she loves to keep moving, saying, "I can be seen at the YMCA most days. I enjoy the rowing machine and walking." She also loves to read and is a member of the Neighborhood Holloway Pond Board.

And, of course, she enjoys UMWC activities, especially the October scholarship luncheons, where she has met many recipients. "What a delight," she said of the experience.

The same can be said of long-time, consistent supporters of the scholarship program, particularly the One-year Named Scholarship effort, according to Marian Champlin, who initiated the program, which has grown 43 percent in seven years—from \$21,882 in 2017 to \$94,245 this year, not including UMWC endowed scholarship income.

"Mary was one of the first UMWC members to embrace the One-year Named Scholarship experiment," Marian said. "And like Mary, many of our generous donors repeat their gifts every year.

"I can't say enough about supporters such as Mary," Marian continued. "They have enriched and eased the lives of over a hundred U of M students. And, very often they have been able to meet their students at our annual October scholarship luncheons.

"But I must also say they every one of these generous women has very much enriched my life."