

UMRA UNewsletter

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

SEPTEMBER 2007

Architecture critic Linda Mack to speak on area's new arts and cultural buildings

Choosing for her topic "The Art of Architecture: a critical look at Minneapolis's new cultural icons," architecture critic Linda Mack will speak on the new public buildings in Minneapolis at the UMRA meeting on September 25. These buildings, all commissioned by major cultural and arts institutions, brought to the Twin Cities internationally



prominent architects; and their new works raised the profile of our metropolitan area as architecturally innovative.

Please mark your calendars

Luncheon speakers for the whole year have been chosen. October 23 – Clarence Lehman, biologist; November 27– Darlyne Bailey, dean of the College of Education and Human Development.

UMRA meetings are on 4th Tuesdays: Oct. 23, Nov. 27, no Dec. meeting, Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 25, Apr. 22, and May 27.

Gentle reminder to renew

\$20 per year; \$25 per couple

Membership renewal letters were mailed in August. If you have not already done so, please send your check, payable to UMRA, to our data base manager, Carl Jessen, 2161 Folwell Ave., St. Paul 55108.

Linda Mack has a unique perspective for discussing the new structures for the Weisman Art Museum, Walker Art Center, Guthrie Theater, Children's Theater, the Minneapolis Public Library, and the Minneapolis Art Institute. She covered each of them for the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, from starts in institutional decision-making to architect competition, design, and fundraising through the construction, completion, and openings of the buildings. She probably had hard-hat tours of each one and well might know as much about them as their designers!

Mack wrote for the *Star Tribune* from 1986 to 2007. She contributed to the public's understanding of urban design and historic preservation and on matters such as the revival of the Mississippi riverfront and Block E, as well as new architecture. She was an advocate for the preservation of buildings like the Washburn Crosby A Mill ruins and Ralph Rapson's Guthrie Theater.

Before working at the *Star Tribune*, she was editor of the AIA-Minnesota magazine, *Architecture Minnesota*. Her bachelor's degree in Russian Civilization is from the University of Chicago and her master's in European History is from the University of Minnesota. She and her husband, Warren Mack, live in Minneapolis. They have two adult daughters, Kendra and Leslie.

Please join us in welcoming Linda Mack to the luncheon meeting on September 25.
— Gayle Graham Yates

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday
September 25, 2007
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker

Linda Mack, architecture critic
"The Art of Architecture:
a critical look at Minneapolis's
newcultural icons"

Location

Conference Room ABC
Campus Club, Fourth Floor
Coffman Memorial Union,
East Bank Campus, U of M

Cost

Prepayment: \$12 per person.
\$14 at door for those not prepaid.

Reservation Deadline

Thursday, September 20

To reserve your place(s) and take advantage of prepaid price, send a check, payable to UMRA, to Ben Zimmerman, secretary, at 2225 Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Contact Ben at 651-645-1662
or e-mail him at
zimme003@umn.edu.

Reservations requested after Sept. 20 will be on a waiting list. Cancellations must be received by noon September 20.

Parking

Parking is available in the East River Road Garage at UMRA's membership discount, \$4.50 for the entire day.

Board Meeting at 10 a.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Ripening

Writer Meridel LeSueur called the period of aging our time of ripening. I like to follow her use of “ripening” as my word for this phase of life; but as soon as I say it, some smart aleck in our family responds, “So, when are you going to rot and fall off the tree?”

“One never knows” is of course the answer, though surely sooner now than when I was budding or blossoming or first developing fruit. And, after that, the typical scenario with younger people brings silence, for the young often do not like to talk about the fact that aging foreshadows death, that growing older leads to the end of life.

In our demographic, however, I expect the ripening conversation might be a welcome one. We older people who are highly educated and thoughtful often like to talk about, to assess, to ruminate over, and to anticipate aspects of our lives. Oh, some want to be utterly private and keep their “stuff” entirely to themselves. Some want to talk in only practical terms, only about legal, domestic, financial, health care, and social plans. Others want to talk only about late life and end-of-life emotional and spiritual needs. Many of us, though, I suspect, want to have full and candid conversations, at least with certain trusted others, about what our lives mean and what matters in our lives in anticipation of our end-of-life time.

What prepares one for the end of one’s life? I believe that the answer is simple—and, simultaneously, enormously complex: one’s lived life itself. I believe that accepting one’s background and limitations, one’s losses and defeats

and letting go one’s disappointments and failures provides honest courage for our ripening time. I believe that giving oneself appropriate credit for one’s achievements, and, also, readily sharing due respect and regard for others who deserve credit give confidence and stability for one’s ongoing life. And I believe that one’s life is enhanced and secured by learning how to love, honor and respect family members, friends, colleagues and the world, as well as by being able to receive love, honor, and respect with grace.

When his beloved grandmother died when our son was a young adult, he came to me tearfully and said, “I don’t believe any of that stuff about death. I believe Grandmother is going to be fertilizer for the daisies!” I replied, to my credit because it comforted him, “But think what that means: her body returns to harmony with the earth and the rains and the plants, the seasons and new growth. It is a metaphor for new life!”

After ripening, yes, I’ll rot and fall from the tree! But I believe that the humus from our remains, yours and mine—our professional, social, and personal remains—will provide nutrients to nourish the new generation that will follow.

My hope is that on the last minute of the last hour of each of our last days, we will each be able to say that our lives as we lived them were sufficient. Who knows how scared we will be? Or how serene? How well prepared? Or how unaware? Meantime, we have these wonderful autumnal times of realized fruitfulness to live and to enjoy..

—Gayle Graham Yates, President

May Banquet ushers in new officers, board members

After a spectacularly successful year as a popular, genial, funny, clever, and savvy president of UMRA, Frank Miller, anthropologist, handed the invisible gavel of of-



fice to President-elect Gayle Graham Yates at UMRA’s May banquet and annual membership meeting.

She reciprocated with a gift of appreciation.

Elected that evening to serve as president-elect for the coming year was Hal Miller, former dean of the College of Continuing Education at the U. (See article on next page.)

Replacing outgoing board members Martin Dworkin, Evelyn Franklin, and Robert Holt were newly elected board members John Anderson, Ginny Hanson, Douglas Pratt, Robert Scott, and Burt Sundquist.

UMRA News and Views

UMRA agendas for the coming year—

In addition to the ongoing Membership and Program Committees, UMRA will have several new working groups this fall, probably of the temporary “task force” variety.

The Finance Committee, led by Treasurer Judy Howe will investigate our organization’s money holdings, expenditures, and income and make recommendations for new oversight of our funds. Another group will look at bylaw improvements and develop a clear and visionary mission statement, a need that became evident during negotiations with University groups. The effort for passage and implementation of our Proposal for Enhanced Recognition of Retirees is ongoing, and we will investigate further whether we want to work toward a retirees’ center for our university. The board is also open to planning workshops, social events, or excursions—let us know what your interests are.

Proposal for enhanced recognition of retirees—

In May, UMRA’s proposal for Enhanced Recognition for Retirees passed the University Senate Committee for Faculty Affairs (SCFA) and will go to the University Senate in the fall. The proposal includes a University systemwide process to assure rights, opportunities, and privileges of University membership continuing for retirees; central University oversight of professional opportunities available to retirees; continued inclusion of retirees in all University directories, electronic and paper; a request that retirees’ achievements and honors be noted more systematically in college and University publications; and a request that the University

host an annual celebration for all new retirees at a venue like Eastcliff. Look for the full text of this proposal on our Web site: www.umn.edu/umra.

May Banquet—

The board is considering making the May banquet a day-time rather than evening event. Which do you prefer?

Coffman unit available—

Unit 215, Morris “A”, 1020 sq. ft., 2-BR, 2-B, living/dining, kitchen, 2 balconies, garage space and storage locker: \$199,900. Contact Joan Osgood Realty, 651-644-0745.

What Gray Gophers are doing—

We present a column with a new focus—to note celebrations like decade or -5 birthdays or anniversaries; professional achievements, awards, or efforts; or awards or achievements for pleasurable pursuits like growing tomatoes, playing music, or winning tennis matches. Send yours, or other UMRA members’ items, to Gayle Graham Yates by letter or e-mail: graha001@umn.edu. Our first list:

- Constance Oriani was honored on her 80th birthday by her husband Richard with the lovely gift of an Alaskan cruise for their entire family.
- Frank Sorauf is rumored to have turned 80 as well.
- Jean Ward was president of her neighborhood orchestra, the Linden Hills Symphony Orchestra, in which she plays cello, and they commissioned new music.
- Al and Van Linck celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this summer. — Congratulations to all.

Introducing Hal Miller, chosen as UMRA’s president-elect, 2007-08

Dr. Harold A. Miller, known universally as Hal, was elected president-elect of UMRA for the 2007-08 year. Retired twice, Hal was dean of continuing education at the U of M from 1971 until 1998. At the time of his 1998 retirement, the governor proclaimed 6 June 1998 “Harold A. ‘Hal’ Miller Day in Minnesota.” His second retirement came from his undergraduate alma mater, Northwestern College, which he served as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs for eight years after his time at the U.

Praised as a highly respected leader “of determination and diplomacy” by a Northwestern colleague, Hal is a person of consummate integrity, intelligence, and leadership acumen. His UMRA friends were thrilled and confident of our good fortune when the word came down, “Hal will do it!”

Hal earned his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota in Speech-Communication and Higher Education, and he

taught public address, group process, persuasion, and interviewing in his speech-communication discipline early in his career at Minnesota. After growing up on a Wyoming farm, Hal and his high school beloved, Patsy, were married and both went to Northwestern College. He has been awarded numerous honors, including a Kellogg Fellowship for a three-month study leave at Oxford University. He also attended a summer program at the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University and later taught in Harvard’s Management of Lifelong Education Program.

Patsy Miller taught theater arts at Northwestern College for 17 years. She and Hal have two adult sons, Christopher and Patrick, and a daughter, Sheree. Patrick, an opera singer, is being married this month to another opera singer; and the Miller family will be going to St. Petersburg, Russia, the bride’s home city, for the wedding reception.

University of Minnesota Retirees Association — leadership for 2007–08

Keep this list as a handy reference throughout the year. UMRA encourages your active participation in UMRA affairs. To facilitate communication within the association, we offer this list of officers and others to contact.

OFFICERS

President: Gayle Graham Yates, 612-920-2501,

E-mail: graha001@umn.edu

President-elect: Harold Miller, 612-824-1662

E-mail: miller@umn.edu

Secretary: Ben Zimmerman, 651-645-1662,

E-mail: zimme003@umn.edu

Treasurer: Judy Howe, 651-645-2584,

E-mail: j-howe2@umn.edu

Past President: Frank Miller, 612-331-2145,

E-mail: mille005@umn.edu

MEMBERSHIP and COMMUNICATIONS

Members database manager: Carl Jessen, 651-645-1220

E-mail: c-jessen@umn.edu

Membership chair: Pat Tollefson, 763-781-9747

E-mail: p-toll@umn.edu

Webmaster: Ron Anderson, E-mail: rea@umn.edu

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Anderson, Ginny Hanson, Douglas Pratt, Robert Scott, Rodney Loper, Gene Mason, Earl Nolting, Marty Rossman, Burt Sundquist, Pat Tollefson, Yang Wang, Dave Wark

EX OFFICIO, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Jacqueline Singer

UMRA LIAISONS and REPRESENTATIVES

Alumni Association: Marty Rossman

Board of Regents: to be appointed

Campus Club: to be appointed

Morris Campus: to be appointed

Retirees Volunteer Center: Richard Oriani

1666 Coffman: Burt Sundquist

Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs: Ted Litman

Senate Subcommittee on Retirement Plans: Burt Sundquist

Benefits Advisory Committee: Ted Litman, Rodney Loper

**For additional information about
UMRA and its activities, visit the association's
Web site at www.umn.edu/umra.**

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McNamara Alumni Center
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200 Oak Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2002

UMRA
*University of Minnesota
Retirees Association*

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