

# UMRA U NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

MAY 2008

## Enjoy music and art at UMRA's May Festive Luncheon and Annual Meeting

UMRA members are invited to enjoy the arts at the May Festive Luncheon and Annual Meeting. The meeting on May 27 features a musical program amidst the visual arts of the Weisman Art Museum.

Clifton Ware will sing, accompanied by Bettye Ware. Clifton and Bettye are UMRA members. Clif is a professor emeritus of voice and pedagogy at the University of Minnesota, Bettye a pianist, accompanist, and studio piano teacher. A tenor, Clif has performed widely in recital, opera, and oratorio in this country and abroad. Bettye has often accompanied her husband and other musicians on the piano, as well as teaching piano in her home studio.



Having taught at our University for more than 37 years, Clif Ware takes especial pride in the development of higher standards for teaching voice since he arrived in our music department in 1970 and, also, in attracting the quality of students now in the voice pedagogy program. When he came to Minnesota, he was the only full-time voice teacher; there were no auditions or other qualifying tests for students' becoming music majors. He helped his department

develop voice studio classes, singing diction classes, and weekly recital labs for students, as well as a highly regarded certificate program in voice pedagogy. He has published three voice textbooks: *Adventures in Singing*, *Basics of Vocal Pedagogy*, and *The Singer's Life: Goals and Roles*.

Bettye has arranged music, including some songs for the *Adventures in Singing* song anthology; she played the accompaniments for the CD that goes with the anthology.

The Wares were college sweethearts in Jackson, Mississippi, and music has been central to their 50-year marriage. They have three sons who play guitar, and last summer the family joined together for a performance of "Hit Songs of the 50s" after Bettye's and Clif's retirements. The Wares' two-part program for UMRA's May meeting will be divided between a "mostly classical" half and a "totally pop" half.

— Gayle Graham Yates, president

### Menu for May's Festive Luncheon

French bread and herbed butter

Iced tea and white wine;

Blueberry soup;

Napa cabbage filled with herbed greens, strawberries, caramelized nuts, Roquefort with raspberry vinaigrette dressing;

Entree—vegetable torte with chicken (chicken, spinach, artichokes, roasted red peppers, black olives, cheese in pastry crust)

Dessert—mocha-nut chocolate cake

Coffee available

Vegetarian and gluten-free meals available; please make request with reservations.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MAY FESTIVE  
LUNCHEON and ANNUAL  
MEETING

Tuesday  
May 27, 2008  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#### Featured Program

Clifton Ware, tenor, accompanied by Bettye Ware, piano, in a musical program, light classical and pop

#### Location

Dolly Fiterman Riverview Gallery,  
Weisman Art Museum,  
East Bank Campus, U of M

#### Cost

**Prepayment**, \$25 per person;  
\$27 at door for those not prepaid.

#### Reservation Deadline

**Monday, May 19**

To reserve your place(s), 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 by e-mail: [zimme003@umn.edu](mailto:zimme003@umn.edu).

#### Museum Tours

Guided tours of current exhibits available, 12 to 12:45 p.m.; please register for tour when registering for lunch and be at the museum promptly before noon.

#### Parking

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

**Board Meeting at 10:30 a.m.**  
Weisman Family Conference Room

UMRA NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was in Italy. My husband and I were celebrating retirement with the month of April in a splendid old Tuscan farmhouse doing nothing—except eating and drinking and going to art museums and old churches and driving around winding hillside roads. One day at the Internet café in Buonconvento, I had an e-mail from John Howe. Would I be candidate for treasurer of UMRA? I had only been to about six meetings of UMRA, but John was a friend, so why not? Then, four days before the Annual Meeting, a phone call came from John. Would I be president-elect instead? There is very little to do the first year, he said, and John was a friend, so...

What followed has been a most remarkable two years. Board meetings. Lunches at the Campus Club with marvelous speakers like editor and environmentalist Eric Utne, political scientist Larry Jacobs, artist Clarence Morgan, University President Robert Bruinicks. Delicious and beautiful food from the Campus Club chef. Reports about health care benefits and other matters of interest to “ripening” people from board members. Then, all too suddenly, it was my turn to see that we had speakers and lunches on 4th Tuesdays for UMRA.

The newsletter moved along with patient genius Ginny Hanson editing. I instituted a Gray Gophers column about members’ personal celebrations. I announced that Frank Sorauf had turned 80. He wrote back: Did not!

Committees did their work. Frank Miller thought we should send a proposal on some retiree issues to the University and that I should write it. I did, with 11 re-writings with David Wark, Ted Litman, and Warren Ibele having their say about how we should say it. We took the proposal through the University channels and it became legislation. Somebody thought we should explore having a Retirees Center. Would I appoint a committee to look into it? Someone else thought we should have a small

grants program for retirees’ research. Would I appoint a committee for that? Would I say a few words at a party at Eastcliff with the URVC for their volunteers and the year’s new retirees? Would I say a few words at the Human Resources pre-retirement seminar?

Some very special ones of our members like Al Linck died this year, and others like Doug Pratt became seriously ill. We acknowledged those losses and illnesses in our midst. Bob Scott had minor surgery, but he wrote me a note insisting that I understand that it was truly minor surgery. I don’t think he wanted a get-well card.

It has turned out—surprise! surprise!—that UMRA has become a way to organize an ongoing richness for retirees within our university. It is a setting where we can form friendships that are new to us with people we may have known only from a distance before. It is a good club for folks who share Medicare and a long history.

Recently, four of us were together in a U vice president’s office when Marty Dworkin commented that he felt more freedom to do what he really wanted to do and was doing better work as a retiree than he had ever done. Kim Munholland echoed him about his own scholarly projects, and John Howe and I sagely nodded our heads.

I suspect that all of us have something of the sense of who we are that Marty articulated. UMRA provides us with a community and a gathering time to enjoy together our late-life freedom and contentment.

It is a fair amount of work to be president of UMRA... John Howe and I are still friends, however. In all honestly, I have thoroughly enjoyed my turn at helping make things happen in our organization as we have worked together, had lunches together, and moved along our many paths of relationships around our university.

— Gayle Graham Yates, President

### Nominating Committee offers slate of officers and new board members for election at Annual Meeting

As is customary, the Annual Meeting celebration includes a brief business meeting, with the election of new officers and board members, as well a few select reports.

The UMRA Nominating Committee—Past President Frank C. Miller, chair; Richard Caldecott, Jeanne Lupton, Burt Sundquist, and Gerhard Weiss—announces the candidates for officers and board members to be elected by the membership.

Agreeing to serve in leadership positions next year are:

**President-elect**—Robert Holt

**Secretary**—Corinne Ellingham

**Treasurer**—Earl Nolting

**Board of Directors:** To be elected for a second term: Pat Tollefson, David Wark; To be newly elected: Jan Hogan, Calvin Kendall, Meredith Poppele, Earl Scott (replacing Marty Rossman, Doug Pratt, Gene Mason, and open position held by Earl Nolting, candidate for treasurer).

## April Board and Committee activities

### Program Committee—

President-elect and Program Committee chair Hal Miller convened the program committee—Richard Poppele, Julie Medbery, and Marty Rossman with President Gayle Graham Yates—on March 13 to propose luncheon speakers for 2008-2009 and suggest other possible activities for UMRA sponsorship. A full list of potential luncheon speakers was assembled, and President-elect Miller has begun securing speakers. University President Robert Bruinicks will speak in January; physics professor Marvin Marshak will speak on Oct. 28; a political scientist will be scheduled for November.

### Proposal for small grants program moves ahead

At its meeting on May 27, the Board will consider a proposal from a committee consisting of John Howe, Gayle Graham Yates, Kim Munholland, and Marty Dworkin that the University establish a Small Grants Program open to all faculty, P & A, and civil service retirees on the Twin Cities campus. The proposal, intended to support retirees' continuing scholarly and other professional work, calls for awarding as many as 10 grants of up to \$5,000 in each of three years, as a trial term. The committee has held preliminary conversations with Gerald Fischer, president of the University Foundation, and Vice President Carol Carrier concerning possible sources of funding. It's hoped that the trial program can be in operation as early as 2008-09.

### A retirement center for the Twin Cities campus?

Several months ago, the Board appointed a committee to explore the prospect of establishing a center intended to serve the interests of the University and its faculty, P & A, and civil service retirees. After careful consideration of retiree centers at other public and private universities and an extended discussion of the desirability of creating such a center at the U of M, the committee presented and the Board approved the following recommendation in April: "The University of Minnesota Retirees Association recommends that the University administration, in conjunction with the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs, appoint a broadly based task force charged with making recommendations concerning the establishment of a Retirement Center appropriate to the circumstances of the Twin Cities campus."

UMRA will open conversations with the Volunteers Center, the Osha Life-long Learning Institute, and other interested groups concerning common interests in the establishment of a Retirement Center. The committee's report is available on the UMRA website.

—John Howe, Committee Chair

### Council of Past Presidents—

Instigated and convened by Past President Frank C. Miller, a group of former UMRA presidents gathered on April 16 to form a Council of Past Presidents. Warren Ibele, Jeanne Lupton, Vernon Jensen, William Gardner, Richard Oriani, Sheldon Goldstein, Gerhard Weiss, and Gayle Graham Yates were present. Along with UMRA board approval, it was also decided that a workshop style meeting will be held in which the group develop themselves as a Council of Elders to work with young people—perhaps students or grandchildren—on some shared matter of social or environmental concern.

On April 22 the following motion had board approval: "That the University of Minnesota Retirees Association (UMRA) establish a Council of Past Presidents as a part of the organization to meet at least twice a year and to be convened and chaired by the immediate past president, and whose mission will be to nourish UMRA's institutional memory, to enhance continuity, to offer advice to the officers when requested, and to strengthen social bonds."

### What Gray Gophers are reading...

Continuing from April, recommendations from members:

Vern Jensen—Theodore C. Blegen's *Minnesota: A History of the State*. "The 150th anniversary pushed me to finally read this, which has been on my list for years. Needless to say, it is a fine sweep of our heritage."

Elizabeth Bourque Johnson—*The Pickup* by Nadine Gordimer. "Set in South Africa, the novel is the story of a white woman and an illegal alien from an unnamed Arab country ...with whom she falls in love." She returns with him to his home country when he is deported. The novel "examines many facets of immigration, emigration, desire, and the idea of belongingness in Gordimer's economical and piercing signature way."

Robert McCollister—*One: My Grandfather's Son*, Clarence Thomas's memoir showing how "he came up from dirt poor poverty; perhaps there are hints here on why he takes positions on issues." Another: *Long Life* by Nigel Nicolson "was fascinating to read... and, of course [had] links to the 'Bloomsberries.'"

Warren Roberts—*The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy* by John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt. "Some extremists have called them anti-Semitic, but a careful reading of the book dispels that emotional charge."

## Big Ten Retirees Association conference

The 17th Annual Conference of the Big Ten Retirees Association will be held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign August 15-17, 2008. The program, not yet complete, will likely include the Illinois Survivor Assistance Program for a spouse's needs when an annuitant dies. Any of our members is welcome to attend. Contact Bill Williamson at billw@uiuc.edu or address mail to 208 David Kinley Hall, 1407 West Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801 to receive a packet of information and application to attend.

## Volunteer opportunities

The University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC) offers the following opportunities:

**Participate in memory and aging study**—A research study on memory in senior citizens is being conducted by Wilma Koutstaal of the University's Psychology Department. She has permission to use 40 subjects, and she can provide free parking and payment for the volunteers' time. If you are interested in participating, please call the URVC office.

**Volunteer hosts needed at Twin Cities Bloodmobiles** — Duties involve greeting blood donors or handing out treats after the donation—the commitment is for 3 to 5 hours.

Locations are all over the Twin Cities; we try to service those in locations where our retirees live.

**State Fair**—Looking ahead to summer, earn a free pass to the State Fair by spending a few hours at the Red Cross booth. The fair will be held Aug. 21 to Sept. 1. Let the URVC know if you are interested.

— Helen Briggs, Communications Chair  
U of M Retiree Volunteer Center, 612-625-8016

## Renew your membership this summer

Watch for the membership renewal mailing in late June or early July. Your UMRA cards are dated and remain valid for discount benefits until they expire in August. Discounts continue at University bookstores, intercollegiate and on-campus sports events, and at three selected parking areas—the East River Road Garage (East Bank), lot C86 near the Law School (West Bank), and Gortner Avenue Ramp (St. Paul). These three are the only facilities where the discount is available to UMRA members; on July 1, 2008, the charge will increase to \$5 for parking up to an entire day.

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Next Newsletter is in September, keep current with  
UMRA's website: [www.umn.edu/umra](http://www.umn.edu/umra)

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### Have you changed your address, e-mail, or phone?

1. Print new information below.
2. Cut out this form **and address label**.
3. Mail both to the address above.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Other Info \_\_\_\_\_

University of Minnesota  
McNamara Alumni Center  
Room 264, Suite 250  
200 Oak Street S.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2002

 **UMRA**  
*Retirees Association*  
**University of Minnesota**

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