

# UMRA U NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

MAY 2012

## Celebrate the year's finale: May luncheon, annual meeting, and author Lori Sturdevant

Writing last December on progress to fix the state capitol, our May speaker, Minneapolis *Star Tribune* columnist, editorial writer, and award-winning author Lori Sturdevant, noted that work to date is “only the beginning of what the Capitol requires if it is to serve this state as well in the 21st century as it did in the 20th.” (Some might wonder if more than the building needs to be fixed.)

Join us for our spring banquet and to hear Sturdevant's perspective as she speaks on “Year of Distraction: How can Minnesota



focus on getting the most from our human capital, when there are constitutional amendments and a stadium to fight about?”

For more than 35 years Sturdevant has been a keen observer of the Minnesota scene. Many of us look to her for a sane and sensible guide as to what is going on in St. Paul and around the state. She has a passion for understanding the links between the past and the present. Her commentary often uses the history and traditions of the state as a basis for reflection on current issues.

She is the editor or co-author of seven books, including *A Man's Reach: The Autobiography of Elmer L. Andersen*; *Overcoming: The Autobiography of W. Harry Davis*; and *She's No Lady: Politics, Family and Interna-*

*tional Feminism*, a memoir by Arvonne Fraser. Her most recent book, *The Pillsburys of Minnesota*, was published in April 2011.

A native of South Dakota, Sturdevant is an alumna of Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and serves on the Coe College Board of Trustees.

She joined the *Minneapolis Tribune* as a summer replacement reporter in 1975, returned as a reporter in 1976, and was lead Capitol reporter and a newsroom assignment editor before joining the *Star Tribune* editorial staff in 1992.

Sturdevant was awarded the David Graven Award at the 2010 Frank Premack Public Affairs Journalism Awards Program. Jim Pumarlo, chair of the Premack Board, noted “The unanimous selection of Ms. Sturdevant is our recognition of the honoree's special qualities of character, integrity, courage, and determination in the face of unquestioned challenges and difficulties. Her columns and her open willingness to say ‘yes’ to every community group asking her to address their meetings is but a small part of a career that has consistently held fast to the traditions of great public affairs journalism.”

Sturdevant and her husband live in Minneapolis; they have three grown children.

Join us as we celebrate the end of the academic year, elect new leadership, and, most heartily, welcome back to the UMRA podium, our speaker, Lori Sturdevant.

— Craig Swan, Program Committee

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

### MAY LUNCHEON AND ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday  
May 22, 2012  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Featured Speaker**  
**Author Lori Sturdevant**  
“Minnesota's Year of Distraction”

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

**Reservations Required**  
Prepayment: \$30 per person (see below); \$33 at door for reservations not prepaid. **Please indicate your choice of entree with your reservations. See p. 3.**

**Reservation Deadline**  
**Thursday, May 17**  
To reserve your place(s) by prepaying, send a check, payable to UMRA, to UMRA Reservations, c/o Ben Zimmerman, 2225 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108. Or, arrange to pay at the door by contacting him before the deadline at 651-645-1662; or by e-mail at zimme003@umn.edu

Please honor the reservation deadline date; if cancellations are necessary, please call by May 17.

**Parking**  
Parking is available in the East River Road Garage, with UMRA's membership discount coupons—\$6 for the entire day.

**Board Meeting at 10 a.m.**

UMRA NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

How quickly the UMRA year rolls around! It seems only yesterday that Ellie and I threaded our way through the devastation of hurricane Irene from our home in Vermont to Minnesota, where I composed my first presidential message. Now we're preparing for our annual reverse migration back to Vermont for some long-deferred cleanup and repair.

As I leave, I take great pleasure in the knowledge that UMRA is in excellent shape. Our president-elect, Ron Anderson, an invigorating support throughout this year, is scheduling a summer retreat for the Board, UMRA committees, and interested members to do strategic planning and consider various initiatives to encourage participation in present and future activities. If you would like to have a hand in shaping the organization, you are invited to contact Ron at [rea@umn.edu](mailto:rea@umn.edu).

Though some of you may have come to think that the chief function of the past-president, aka John Anderson, is to hand out discount parking tickets, the reality is far different. Whenever a problem arose that was beyond my ken, John was always there to provide a solution. (You register the image—the president held firmly upright by an Anderson on either side—only in Minnesota!) Not only that, John continues to chair the membership committee, which is responsible for recruitment, members' renewal, brochure preparation, and the directory, among other things; onerous and time-consuming tasks, all.

The committee system is the lifeblood of UMRA, beginning with the members of the Board of Directors who have been unfailingly supportive. The executive committee, composed of the elected officers of UMRA, has advised me and provided overall direction. Securing engaging speakers for our monthly meetings has been the responsibility of the program committee, headed by the president-elect. Frank Miller and his committee handle lunch reservations and coordinate with the staff of the

Campus Club—a delicate last-minute tango that they dance to perfection; menus are supervised by the menu committee under Jan Hogan. The Professional Development Grants committee has had a banner year. In the fourth year of the program, it received applications from three campuses and 12 colleges, and was able to fund eight. In February John Howe passed the torch to Judd Sheridan, and to Jan Hogan who will chair a permanent subcommittee for fund-raising. Thanks to the PDG committee's efforts, and the full support of President Kaler and Vice-President Mulcahy, the University has provided bridging funds for another three years.

If committees are the wheels on which UMRA runs, key individuals are the technicians who keep them lubricated (this metaphor is in danger of skidding off the road). Dick Skaggs, as treasurer, keeps a sharp eye on expenditures. Julie Medbery's detailed minutes of the Board meetings and of the executive committee are an indispensable record of our actions. The monthly Newsletter is a lively as well as informative organ of UMRA's activities, thanks to Ginny Hanson's expert editorial skills and direction. Virgil Larson manages the database, keeping track of who we are, and Dave Naumann is constantly upgrading and improving the UMRA website. Vernon Eidman, Ted Litman, and Ron Loper represent UMRA's interests in University Senate committees that deal with retirement and health issues. All these folks and others work tirelessly on our behalf and deserve our deepest thanks.

One final observation: It is easy to take the splendid efforts of these committees and individuals for granted. But, of course, we must not. Please consider becoming involved. Talk with Board or committee members you know, or use the UMRA web site to find out more. New volunteers are always welcome and much needed.

And now, do enjoy the summer!

— Calvin Kendall, UMRA President, 2011-12

## Members will elect next year's UMRA leadership at May Annual Meeting

Among the items in the short business portion of our celebratory meeting on May 22 is the election of officers and new board members. The Nominating Committee recommends the following for your consideration.

**Officers:** President-elect John Adams  
Treasurer Richard Skaggs (third term)  
Secretary Julie Medbery (second term)

**Board of Directors:**  
Victor Bloomfield  
Vandora Linck  
Paul Quie (current board member, continuing)  
Craig Swan (current board member, continuing)

## Gear up for summer fun and activities...

### All aboard for THE VAMPIRE!

Come aboard the Minnesota Centennial Showboat for a chilling tale of high adventure. Two lovers battle ghoulish desire on the windswept moors of Scotland, threatened by shadows of darkness and mysterious powers. Plus olios—song and dance interludes spiced with fun gimmicks, colorful costumes, and surprises straight from the golden days of vaudeville. Identify yourself as an UMRA member for special discounted \$20/ticket. Call 651-271-1100 or visit [showboat.umn.edu](http://showboat.umn.edu). Go together with some UMRA friends!!

### Summer activities can include volunteering

What is better than being outdoors in the summer? University Retirees Volunteer Center focuses on projects that will meet our desires and at the same time benefit others. Have you been to the Caponi Art Park and Learning Center in Eagan? It's a great experience to enjoy art and nature while greeting visitors and assisting the staff at programs.

Sunday evening concerts (5–7 p.m.) start the first week in June featuring orchestra, band, bluegrass, Irish, and Japanese music, as well as Shakespeare! On Tuesday mornings (9–11 a.m.) there are family programs in dance, puppetry, music, storytelling, and nature.

If gardening is your fancy, there are youth urban food garden projects that need volunteer supervisor/mentors, and gardens at senior citizen facilities that could use your talents to maintain their beauty.

Other summer opportunities include summer tutoring and mentoring, the Fringe Festival performances, and Red Cross blood donor greeters/canteen workers. Let us know your wish, and we will satisfy it! Contact the Volunteer Center at [urvc@umn.edu](mailto:urvc@umn.edu) or 612-625-8016 for specifics.

### Help wanted to work on Web pages

UMRA and URVC websites both need continuous attention in order to make timely and topical information available to current or potential members and volunteers. That's a lot to handle for one person.

Our current webmaster would like to share some of the fun and challenge. If you have a little experience and would like to learn more — if you are interested in writing computer code and learning new tools — he will welcome the opportunity to teach you.

The improvements that two people could make will add value for both organizations. Please contact Webmaster David Naumann, [dnaumann@umn.edu](mailto:dnaumann@umn.edu).

### Annual Meeting Festive Luncheon features your choice among three entrees

(Please be sure to indicate your selection when you send in your reservations.)

#### Social

Come early and mingle with friends and colleagues. Wine and refreshment cash bar opens at 11:30; lunch served at noon, and the business meeting and program follow.

#### Menu

**Entrée:** Please select one from the following:

- (1) Chicken breast marinated with garlic and rosemary, pan-seared, demi-glace, Campus Club pilaf
- (2) Icelandic char fillet stuffed with crawfish, seafood and vegetables, roasted shaved potatoes with chervil oil and red pepper coulis
- (3) Rainbow chard and wild rice rolmades, served with red pepper coulis (vegan and gluten-free)

**Finale:** Vanilla bean panna cotta made with local cream, yogurt, and honey, topped with seasonal fruit.

Please rush your reservations with your entrée selections to: UMRA May Reservations c/o Ben Zimmerman, 2225 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108. See page 1.

### UMRA charter members to be honored

Did you know that UMRA was founded 34 years ago in 1978? The UMRA History Club has discovered that four of our current members first joined in 1978. At our May luncheon banquet we will honor those charter members with a "Loyalty and Longevity Award," and they will be our guests for lunch. The honorees are Frances Paulu, Dorothy Guilford, and Walter and Laura Broughton.

Other fascinating bits of history are yet to be discovered by the History Club. If you want to join this fun, contact Ron Anderson at [rea@umn.edu](mailto:rea@umn.edu) or 952-473-5910.

### You are invited to UMRA's Summer Retreat

Sixteen years have passed since UMRA systematically reviewed the purposes and policies of its own organization. You are invited to join the officers and board members in a summer retreat to review where we are going and why. For more information, contact Ron Anderson, [rea@umn.edu](mailto:rea@umn.edu).

### In Remembrance

Virginia M. Kivits, General College faculty, an UMRA member since 1978, died March 18, 2012

Virginia L. Ranz, Chemical Engineering, an UMRA member since 1992, died late March, 2012

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

First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Twin Cities, MN.  
Permit No. 90155

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Welcome new members to UMRA**

Please give a hearty welcome to new members who have recently joined UMRA, and add them to your 2011-13 UMRA Directory.

Roger Clemence, College of Design, Faculty  
3339 St. Louis Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55416-4394  
612-920-9234; cleme001@umn.edu

Vina and Prem Khera, Admissions, Civil Service  
4438 Harbor Place Drive, Shoreview, MN 55126  
651-483-2272; ppkhera@hotmail.com

Ann Koller, Academic Support Resources – Student Financials, Civil Service  
5680 Hadley Ave N #255, Oakdale, MN 55128  
651-748-5155; a-barb@umn.edu

Theodore and Judy Nagel, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Faculty  
2506 Lake Place, Minneapolis, MN 55405  
612-374-5163; nagel007@umn.edu

Diane L. Parker, Dentistry, Civil Service  
1565 So. Oberlin Circle, Fridley, MN 55432  
612-237-5968; parke016@umn.edu

Chip and Rosa Peterson, Learning Abroad Center, P&A  
1711 Lincoln Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105  
651-699-4286; c-pete@umn.edu, rmdelacp@umn.edu

Donna C. Peterson, Government Relations, P&A  
9085 Alverna Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077  
dcp@usfamily.net

Ira and Harriet Reiss, Sociology, Faculty  
5932 Medicine Lake Road, Minneapolis, MN 55422  
763-544-8016; irareiss@comcast.net

Herbert Ringheim, Neuroscience, Civil Service  
11343 Stratton Avenue #224, Eden Prairie, MN 55344  
952-854-0086; hringheim@gmail.com

Sharon Lee Vegoe, School of Public Health, P&A  
988 Lydia Drive W., Roseville, MN 55113  
vegoe001@umn.edu

Deborah Warren, School of Public Health, Civil Service  
3115 E. 25th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406-1449  
612-721-5006; djw@umn.edu

Cynthia Weber, Housing and Residential Life, Civil Service  
3524 Chelmsford Rd. N.E., Minneapolis, MN 55418  
612-788-4327; weber019@umn.edu

John T. Ziegenhagen, Office of Planning and Academic Affairs, P&A  
10039 Cove Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305  
jtz1946@gmail.com

**Watch for membership renewal information coming to your mailbox by mid-summer. Join in all the new benefits and activities coming your way in 2012-13.**

---

Visit the association's new and ever-expanding  
website: [www.umn.edu/umra](http://www.umn.edu/umra)

---