

# UMRA U NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

FEBRUARY 2013

## Hear Garrison Keillor tell the tale: “How I Wound Up Here” at February luncheon

It is a great honor to welcome America’s foremost humorist and renowned author and radio personality, Garrison Keillor, to our luncheon meeting on February 26. The title of his talk is “How I Wound Up Here.”

**Make your reservations early;** see information in the right column, page 1.

There are so many things to say about this legendary man, but Garrison Keillor prefers that we keep it simple. So, your Newsletter editor is happy to oblige with the pertinent information he favors.

“Garrison Keillor graduated from the University in 1966, majoring in English and journalism. He was a student of Robert Lindsay, George Hage, Sarah Youngblood, J.L. Levenson, Toni McNaron, and Paul Murphy.

He is the host and writer of “A Prairie Home Companion” and the author of more than a dozen books. He lives in St. Paul.”

Finding anyone in Minnesota who does not know Garrison Keillor would be difficult if not impossible. From his weekly radio show and the 2006 Robert Altman film based on such a radio show to his daily “Writer’s Almanac” and Common Good Books, the St. Paul book store he founded, he seems to be a part of our daily lives.

Keillor’s fabled Minnesota town of Lake Wobegon, “where all the women are strong,

all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average,” is known far and wide. His storied career was chronicled in a docudrama, *Garrison Keillor: The Man on the Radio with the Red Shoes*.

Keillor has returned to the University to teach creative writing classes. He speaks highly of his alma mater and entertains his University audiences with fond stories about working as a U parking attendant, (long before the days of ramps and our machine-attended lots).



Join us February 26 for this special event.

**Spaces for the February luncheon will be limited to 120 members. Please make your reservations early.**

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

### FEBRUARY LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday, February 26, 2013  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Featured Speaker**  
**U Alum Garrison Keillor,**  
**legendary humorist and author,**  
**“How I Wound Up Here”**

#### Location

Conference Room ABC,  
U Campus Club, Fourth Floor,  
Coffman Memorial Union

#### Menu

Cornmeal-crusted Catfish with red pepper aioli, Black-eyed Peas and Greens; vegetarian or gluten-free options – please request when making your reservations.

#### Reservations ARE Required Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 21

Options: Prepayment of \$14 per person; \$16 at door for reservations not prepaid. Annual prepayments **must** also make reservations.

To reserve your place(s), prepay with a check payable to UMRA; send to UMRA Reservations, c/o Judy Leahy Grimes, 1937 Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1728

Or, contact her before the deadline at 651-698-4387; e-mail: [Jleahy4654@aol.com](mailto:Jleahy4654@aol.com).

Please honor the reservation deadline date; if cancellations are necessary, please call by Feb. 21.

#### Parking

Parking is available in the East River Road Garage; with UMRA’s discount coupon — \$6 for the day.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Growing Pains—

As you probably know, this month's luncheon speaker, Garrison Keillor, and next month's, Krista Tippett, are both well-known authors and hosts of national broadcast radio shows on NPR. Because of their visibility and renown, we are anticipating a larger than usual share of our members to want to attend the luncheons, despite the winter cold.

We have investigated all alternative venues both within and outside the University including local hotels, theater-style rooms in Coffman, the HHH atrium, the McNamara auditorium, and the Northstar Ballroom on the St. Paul campus. And, we have determined that moving to a different location to accommodate a larger audience would bump up the luncheon fees to \$30 or \$45, which is at least two to three times more than they are now. Even staying in our current location for lunch and then moving to an auditorium in Coffman Union for the presentation would cost us a minimum of \$600, which would mean charging everyone at least \$5 more for luncheons.

Therefore, the UMRA Board has decided to remain in the present location, with additional plates served in the small rooms 410 and 411. We will squeeze in extra chairs at the back of ABC so those eating in the small rooms can join later, like we did in November. Our policy of allowing people who come only for the presentation will be

suspended, and the eight members who pre-paid luncheons for the year will have first choice for reservations. All other members can make reservations on a first-come, first-served basis. We apologize if there are more people who would like to attend these presentations than we have seats for, but this is the best we can do this year.

In future years as the number of members in UMRA grows, we may have to make arrangements other than our current Campus Club luncheon room. If we plan a year in advance, we may be able to provide for more seats at the luncheons using different facilities.

For now, the bottom line is that if you have a strong desire to hear Garrison Keillor or Krista Tippett at one of the next two luncheons, you should send in your reservations with checks as early as possible. Fortunately, Judy Leahy Grimes has agreed to continue taking and managing reservations. She has done a huge and wonderful job with reservations this year, and we will look for an appropriately huge and wonderful gift for her at the end of our year.

In honor of Garrison Keillor, his sense of humor, and his great contribution to Minnesota and the University, I urge all of you to wear red shoes and socks to the luncheon. A red tie for the men would be a nice embellishment as well. Red shoes for men are hard to find, but if you enter "red tennis shoes" into Amazon, you'll find several options.

— Ron Anderson, President (rea@umn.edu)

## Events of interest to UMRA Members — Mark your planning calendars

February 21, 7-9 p.m. – Global Public Health Lecture: Dr. Christy Hanson, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church (for info: see article, page 3)

February 26, 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. – UMRA Luncheon presentation: Garrison Keillor, "How I wound up here."

February 26, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. – UMRA Living Well in Later Life – "Finding Reliable Health Information Online—and knowing what to do with it."

March 26, 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. – UMRA Luncheon presentation: "Meanings of Aging" by Krista Tippett, broadcaster, author, and creator of public radio's "On Being."

March 26, 1:30 -2:30 p.m. – UMRA Living Well in Later Life workshop – speaker to be determined

March 29, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Living on Purpose: Creating a "LifeMap." Workshop by Center for Spirituality and Healing (10 percent discount for UMRA members) For information, see <http://www.csh.umn.edu/programs/programeventscaledar/home.html>

April 23, 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. – UMRA Luncheon Presentation: Arthur Rolnick, former vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and now senior fellow, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, will speak on "The Economic Case for Public Investment in Early Childhood Education."

April 23, 1:30 -2:30 p.m. – UMRA workshop on g-mail and related technology issues; Reed Munson, instructor.

May 17, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. – Vital Aging Network's Evolve course on human leadership in Roseville. (For more information, see article in January issue, or contact Kathy Ramundt, [kathyfischer2010@hotmail.com](mailto:kathyfischer2010@hotmail.com))

May 28, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. – UMRA Annual Meeting Gala Presentation: Paul Rosenblatt, professor emeritus, Family Social Science, speaking on "Two in a Bed and What Couples Know and Don't Know about Each Other"

## February 26 Living Well workshop will focus on finding good “Online Health Information”

Anne Beschnett, outreach librarian in the U’s Bio-Medical Library, will give a workshop on “Finding Reliable Health Information Online — and Knowing What To Do with It” on February 26 at 1:30 following our luncheon meeting.



The Internet offers a massive amount of very useful health information, but it is mixed with unreliable and perhaps harmful claims as well. Unless you have some rules of thumb to avoid the bad and consume the good, it may seem daunting.

Ms. Beschnett will talk about search tips, communication strategies, and trusted resources. The workshop is designed to give you some strategies for evaluating online health claims and sites, suggestions for where to look for good information, and how to use this information in talking to your health care providers.

## You are invited to attend Global Issues Forum on Public Health, February 21

**Thursday, February 21, 7 - 9 p.m.** — One of the free monthly meetings held by the Global Issues Forum at the Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis. Park in church lot.

**Speaker: Dr. Christy Hanson**, dean of the Institute for Global Citizenship and Humphrey Professor in International Studies at Macalester College. Dr. Hanson earned her Ph.D. in international health systems from Johns Hopkins University and has more than 18 years of experience in international public health in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, working with the World Health Organization, World Bank, and other agencies. Her independent research focuses on the relationship between poverty, health care seeking behavior, and responses from the health care system.

While preventable and curable infectious diseases continue to take the lives of millions around the world, considerable progress has been made in global public health in the past 20 years. Dr. Hanson will discuss global health architecture supporting this progress and present today’s public health priorities and the changing landscape in which non-communicable diseases are surpassing communicable illnesses.

— Joseph E. Schwartzberg UMRA member  
(schwa004@umn.edu)

Anne Beschnett grew up in Waseca and attended Gustavus Adolphus College, majoring in classics. She went on to earn a Master’s of Library and Information Science, followed by a certificate in Public Health Care Concepts at the U of Minnesota. Since 2011, she has been liaison and outreach librarian at the Bio-Medical Library here at the U.

Ms. Beschnett will also talk about new websites with tools to help in health care decisions and other innovations in the field. Bring your health care questions, and we can use them as examples to explore together online.

— Ron Anderson, UMRA President

## UMRA committee seeks members to help create dynamic, user-friendly website

My two-year-old great-grandson easily views photo albums on his mother’s iPhone. Desktop and laptop computer sales are declining. Computing is moving to “the cloud.” Microsoft will soon market a tablet built around the Intel chip that now powers top-of-the-line laptops. Meanwhile UMRA leadership works hard to maintain and deliver a useful – but static – set of web pages for our organization.

Should we devote time and energy trying to keep pace with all the new developments in IT? Obviously not. That would not well serve our membership, many of whom retired several generations of IT ago. For many of us, e-mail is challenging enough, and we have interests other than keeping up with the technologies of the very young.

But UMRA members might benefit from a more dynamic website that can make possible online meeting reservations, payments, membership applications and renewals, and program updates. A dynamic website would permit timely updates that would not have to be filtered through the single-person bottlenecks we have now.

An improved and enhanced website could maintain searchable UMRA history for speakers, workshops, board activities, committee minutes, and more.

The Communications and Technology Committee is charged with addressing these and related issues. **This is a call for members who have an interest in helping define these issues to join this committee in developing and recommending IT policies to the Board or helping with implementation.** No IT experience required. Contact me for more information.

— David Naumann (dnaumann@umn.edu)

Chair, Communication and Technology committee



The following reports from UMRA members were collected in a web survey in January for the period from November 1, 2012. This is part of a project to document retiree professional contributions, especially service to the University of Minnesota, and remarkable events of special interest to fellow retirees. The UMRA Board of Directors has endorsed this ongoing compilation of information.

### Awards, Special Recognition

Willard Miller, Jr.: Invited speaker for “Special Session on Symmetries of Differential and Difference Equations” at the Canadian Mathematical Society Winter Session, Montreal, Dec. 2012

David Wark received the Ernest R. Hilgard Award for the Best Paper: “Historical Topic on Hypnosis,” from the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis.

Barbara F. Weissberger received the Luis Andrés Murillo Prize for best article published in the journal *Cervantes* in 2012.

Roger H. Stuewer will receive the 2013 American Physical Society / American Institute of Physics Abraham Pais Prize for History of Physics “for his pioneering historical studies of the photon concept and nuclear physics” at the April 2013 APS annual meeting in Denver.

### Publications and Creative Work

Roger E. A. Arndt: (1) “Some remarks on hydrofoil cavitation,” *Journal of Hydrodynamics*, 24:3, July 2012. (2) “On minimum cavitation number of a ventilated supercavity in a water tunnel,” *Scientia Sinica Physica Mechanica & Astronomica* (to appear). (3) “Supercavity motion with inertial force in the vertical plane,” *J Hydrodynamics* 2012, 24:5, Wang Zou; Kai-ping Yu. (4) “On the shedding of the ventilated supercavity with velocity disturbance,” *Ocean Engineering*, 57 2013. (5) “On the interaction between a turbulent open channel flow and an axial-flow turbine,” *Journal of Fluid Mechanics* (accepted).

Dwight Burkhardt: “Zebra fish retina: signals for color contrast,” *Visual Neuroscience*, 2012: 29.

Willard Miller, Jr.: (1) “Superintegrability in a non-conformally-flat space,” *Journal Phys. A Math. Theory*, 46 2013. (2) “Solutions of Helmholtz and Schroedinger equations with a side condition and nonregular separation of variables,” P. Broadbridge, C. Chanu and W. Miller, Jr, *SIGMA* 8 (2012).

Jerry Siegel: A collectible of short stories, “You Shoulda Been There.” Copies available at U of M Bookstore.

Wark, D. M.: “Traditional and Alert Hypnosis for Education: A Literature Review,” *American Journal of Clinical Hypnosis*, 54:2. (2011).

Barbara F. Weissberger: “Es de Lope’: Child Martyrdom in Cervantes’s Los baños de Argel,” *Cervantes*, 32.2 Fall 2012.

Jake Waddington: Invited paper: “Nuclear Composition of the Cosmic Radiation” in June to the Centenary Symposium 2012: Discovery of Cosmic Rays” sponsored by NSF and APS, in Colorado.

### Other Contributions to the University of Minnesota

Mary G. Weisensee: consulted on several surgeries and health care encounters

K. Munholland: taught freshman seminar and one course for Learning Life on Revolutions in History.

# Retiree Encores

Roger E. A. Arndt: Invited lecture on Cavitation Research from an International Perspective at 26th IAHR Symposium on Hydraulic Machinery and Systems, Beijing, China, 2012. And invited lecture on Introduction to Cavitation at International Forum on Fluid Machinery and Engineering, Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang, China, August 2012.

Dwight Burkhardt: Laboratory research, virtually full time and attending seminars.

### New Volunteer Work

Len Banaszak was a panel member for a volunteer training meeting of the St. Louis Alzheimer’s Association.

Barbara F. Weissberger continues to volunteer on a weekly basis (this will be her sixth year) as a Spanish interpreter at an immigration law clinic sponsored by Peace and Hope International at the Park Avenue Methodist Church.

Dwight Burkhardt: Mail service at Fairview Southdale Hospital

Jerry Siegel: Gave readings of his book, “You Shoulda Been There,” at Covenant Village, Subtext Bookstore, Adath Jeshurun Synagogue, Wilder Foundation—all within the last several months.

### Remarkable Travel and other Events

Barbara F. Weissberger traveled to Macchu Picchu and the Galapagos in June, 2012, on a trip sponsored by the Harvard Alumni Travel Association.

Jake Waddington is a member of a collaboration of five institutions funded by NASA to design, build, and expose a large cosmic ray detector. On December 6 this instrument was launched in Antarctica on a balloon that lifted it to an altitude of about 125,000 feet. As of this date (1/22/13) it is still flying, having set a new duration record. It is now making its third circuit of the South Pole and continues to send back large amounts of apparently excellent data.

Jake Waddington took a four-week cruise in December from Los Angeles to Auckland, visiting Hawaii, Tahiti, and Bora Bora before missing a Fiji force-5 typhoon.

Robert Howe: International Society for Music Education, Thessaloniki, Greece; summer 2012; Istanbul 2012.

Willa Reed and husband Duane, visited Washington, D.C., to visit family; the trip highlight – attending the second inauguration for President Barak Obama.

Wilson and Gayle Graham Yates are spending January 15 to February 15 in Boca Raton, Florida.

Victor Bloomfield and Elsa Shapiro toured Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar (Burma) from December 26 to January 17.

Ron Anderson and wife Nancy Kehmeier took a Caribbean cruise in November, organized by *The Nation Magazine*, enjoying political seminars and singer Joan Baez.

## New initiative: lecture series on role of retirees in U public engagement

Associate Vice-President for Public Engagement Andrew Furco has agreed to sponsor the planning of a lecture/panel series for retirees and alumni. A task group from his office will explore this and other ways in which retirees and alumni can serve as more effective resources for programs that facilitate community-University symbiosis.

Victor Bloomfield, who served as head of the Office of Public Engagement before he retired, is now chairing UMRA's Committee for Public Engagement. We seek additional members for this planning/organizing committee. If you have an interest in community service and the University's role in it, please contact Vic at [victor@umn.edu](mailto:victor@umn.edu).

The September, November, and now February's Newsletter have featured the "Retiree Encores" column in which members report volunteering and service to the U; many members are doing innovative and important community service, all deserving of recognition. A lecture/panel series can bring those individuals together with others interested in community service.

While this project has been UMRA-initiated, we will work very closely with the University Retiree Volunteer Center. We hope to be able to launch this lecture/panel series in the next academic year.

— Ron Anderson, UMRA President

## Volunteer to help immigrants and refugees with English language skills

The University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC) recommends several English language programs in need of volunteers. This is a fine time for you to engage in working with immigrants and to use your life-long competency in English and teaching. Below we offer you some times and details so that you might match your schedule to these activities. For more information, please call URVC, 612-625-8016, or send an e-mail to [urvc@umn.edu](mailto:urvc@umn.edu)

1. Common Bond Communities—ESL classroom assistants for immigrants and refugees – Monday-Thursday; St. Paul location in Skyline Tower adjacent to I-94. Three hours minimum, weekly, 9 a.m. to 12. Orientation / training provided. Background check required.

2. CLUES (Comunidades Latines Unidas en Servicio)--ESL for Latino immigrants—Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 6-8:30 p.m. until May 17. East Lake Street location; orientation or training required.

3. Neighborhood House / Wellstone Center (winner of Pegasus Award for Best Adult Basic Ed Program in Min-

## UMF: a special giving opportunity is back!

The ability to make a convenient and tax-advantaged gift to the University of Minnesota (or any qualified charitable organization) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is back for 2013! Thanks to The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 this opportunity is available through December 31, 2013. Qualified Charitable Distributions from an IRA are excluded from a donor's gross income and therefore are not taxed.

If you have an IRA and would like to make a gift to benefit the campus, college, program, or fund of your choice (including the UMRA Grants Fund #4867), consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution.

Here are the specifics:

- Donors must be age 70½ or older at the time of the gift.
- Donors must request a direct transfer of funds to a qualified public charity – gifts cannot be made to a private foundation or to a donor-advised fund.
- Gifts cannot be used to fund a gift annuity or charitable remainder trust.
- Each donor may give up to \$100,000 for each tax year.

For information about making a gift from your IRA, contact Lynn Praska in the U of M Foundation Planned Giving Office at 612-624-4158 or [lpraska@umn.edu](mailto:lpraska@umn.edu).

Note: The U of M Foundation cannot give tax or legal advice. Please consult your own professional tax advisor about the best way to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

nesota Community Organizations) — Location: south of downtown St. Paul; ESL for immigrants and refugees; 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. or 6-8:30 p.m.; training and resources provided; class observation available. 12-week commitment; 2.75 hours weekly minimum.

4. Spanish Legacy Adult Day Care: a program in Golden Valley; ESL teaching needed; choir director needed.

5. Lincoln Adult Education Center: Downtown Minneapolis; teaching English, math, and other subjects.

6. Minneapolis Adult Education —North campus (West Broadway): GED writing and basic math class —South campus (East Lake Street): ESL writing, listening, speaking; GED writing.

7. Lutheran Social Service—Refugee services: mentors, translators, citizenship class assistants.

8. Minnesota Literacy Council—ESL pre-service tutor training and assignment at several locations (eg., Hubbs Center Outreach, St. Paul)

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Dr. Robert Fisch, professor emeritus, led the “Living Well in Later Life” workshop to an appreciative audience following the January luncheon. Telling stories of growing up in the Hungarian Holocaust and the twists and turns of his career in medicine, he presented his views on what happiness means, on suffering, and cultivating ongoingly new interests for living well at all stages of life.

See the newsletter online, delve into the archives,  
 and stay current on news for retirees —  
 Visit UMRA’s new and ever-expanding  
 website: [www.umn.edu/umra](http://www.umn.edu/umra)

The Board of Directors and members of UMRA wish to thank the College of Continuing Education for their generous support of the UMRA February Newsletter. Keep in touch with LearningLife offerings at [www.cce.edu](http://www.cce.edu).

**learninglife**

**Evening/Saturday events and classes on history, travel, science, politics, and more!**

“Rich, engaging” Jay Ritterson
“So much fun!” Jean Price

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“Bravo!” Mary Dunnavan

**would recommend us to a friend!**

“Time well spent.” John Carson

“So interesting, very informative.” Beth Bedell
“Very impressed.” Sandra Backowski

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