

JANUARY 2014

## Robert Holt to discuss the Congressional “gridlock” at January luncheon meeting

Our luncheon speaker on the 28th of January is Robert T. Holt, emeritus professor of Political Science, who will discuss the consequences of political gridlock in Washington.



Bob and Shirley Holt are familiar faces at UMRA luncheon meetings. Long-time members will remember that he served as president in 2009–10. Among his interests, Bob follows closely the problems of global climate warming. He and Shirley have three daughters and six grandchildren.

A Minnesota native, Bob attended Hamline University, graduating in 1950 with majors in history and psychology. While an undergraduate, he participated in SPAN (Student Project for Amity Among Nations), and studied one summer in Italy, an experience that no doubt shaped an interest in international politics.

He went on to graduate school at Princeton University where he earned a master’s degree in public affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School in 1952 and, in 1957, a Ph.D. with concentrations in international and compar-

ative politics. Serving in the military from 1953 to 1955, he spent much of this time at the U.S. Army headquarters in Europe working with NATO plans that dealt with psychological operations and special forces. Based largely on his experiences there, he wrote two books: *Radio Free Europe* and *Strategic Psychological Operations*.

In his final year at Princeton Bob taught about government for an interdisciplinary course in the American Studies Program, working with a historian and two American literature instructors.

In 1956, he returned to Minnesota, joining our university’s Political Science Department, where he began long-term collaborations with a young generation of distinguished colleagues in a variety of disciplines. In 1967 he founded the Center for Comparative Studies in Technological Development and Social Change, a multi-disciplinary research center that brought together scholars from anthropology, economics, geography, political science, sociology, mathematics, control science, and electrical engineering. The center developed major research projects in Mexico, Morocco, and India. Bob served as the center’s director until 1980. In 1979, he accepted a three-year appointment as chair of the Political Science Department.

From 1982 until 1991 he served as dean of the Graduate School at the University. During his term, the Graduate School requested and was granted \$6 million from the Legislature to provide tuition fellowships for graduate assistants.

Holt on “gridlock”— Continued on page 3

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

### JANUARY LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday, January 28, 2014  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

#### Featured Speaker

Robert Holt, professor emeritus,  
Department of Political Science,  
University of Minnesota  
“Gridlock: More Dangerous  
Than It Sounds”

#### Location

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

#### Menu

Balsamic Chicken with  
Campus Club Pilaf  
For vegetarian or gluten-free  
options, please request when mak-  
ing reservations.

**Reservations ARE Required**  
**Deadline: Thursday, January 23**  
Prepayment of **\$16** per person;  
annual prepayers **must** also make  
reservations.

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

Or, contact her before the dead-  
line at 651-698-4387; e-mail:  
Jleahy4654@aol.com.

Please honor the reservation  
deadline date; if cancellations are  
necessary, please call by Jan. 23.

#### Parking

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

A new book provides a range of reflections and suggestions that may interest UMRA members: *Out of Time: The Pleasures and the Perils of Ageing* by Lynne Segal (Verso: NY & London, 2013); reviewed in *The Economist*, 16 November 2013. The review (excerpts below—with British spellings) describes a book that promises to be both insightful and provocative.

### ***Sunrise, Sunset: A Meditation on Ageing***

The passage of time is inherently traumatic. The shiny promise of youth grows tarnished, the disappointments mount. The future no longer yawns with infinite possibilities. “Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away,” sang a nostalgic Paul McCartney in 1965, when he was only 23.

If time is a demon, age is a complicated topic—all the more so as one gets older. Attitudes towards old age vary, but are rarely free from dread. “You haven’t changed at all!” is a compliment everyone longs to hear, eager to believe that time has passed stealthily, without a trace.

So what does it mean to age gracefully? How is this done? These questions are at the centre of this thoughtful new book from Lynne Segal, a psychology professor at the University of London. Anxious about her own ageing, and mindful of cultural prejudices against the old (“Few adjectives combine faster than ugly-old-woman”), she mines works of literature, psychology, sociology, and poetry in search of ways to “acknowledge the actual vicissitudes of old age while also affirming its dignity and, at times, grace or even joyfulness.”

Perhaps the oddest part of getting older is that few ever feel their age—a disconnect that increases with time. Writing in her late-60s, Ms. Segal marvels at the way her age feels somehow separate from her core self. She describes “lurching around between the decades, writing the wrong date on cheques,” wondering, in essence, how old she is. She is hardly alone.

In a 2009 survey of Americans, those over 50 claimed to feel at least 10 years younger than their chronological age; many over 65 said they felt up to 20 years younger. “Acting our age,” observes Will Self, an English writer, “is something that requires an enormous suspension of disbelief.”

This oddity of self-perception now afflicts more of us. The 20th century added an extra 30 years to life expectancy in the developed world. In America some 40 million are over 65, a number that is predicted to double by 2030 — a fifth of the population. This greying of society has only amplified social antipathy towards the elderly, observes Ms. Segal. Born when the state was more generous, pensioners are now accused of selfishly hoarding resources that could otherwise go to the young. Politicians such as David Willetts, a conservative British MP, have blamed the current financial crisis on the “self-interest and electoral dominance” of ageing baby-boomers. This trend towards “generational scapegoating,” writes Ms. Segal, is a way of distracting voters from the real problems of social policy and deregulated corporate finance.

But this is not a book about policy. Rather, it is a winding, often lyrical and occasionally muddled look at what it feels like to get older. Ms. Segal is startled to discover that her feminism did not prepare her better for the dilemmas of ageing. It was easy to disdain the dictates of youthful beauty when she was young herself, she candidly notes. It is rather less so now that she feels more likely to be ignored.

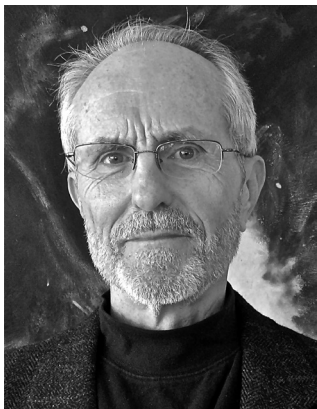
“The great secret that all old people share,” observed Doris Lessing, a Nobel prize-winning author, at 73, is that “your body changes, but you don’t change at all.” The effect is confusing, she explained—even at 94. Old age often brings loneliness and sadness, but also a greater appreciation of the transience of all things—a thought that can be moving, not just depressing.

In her search for a meaningful way forward, Ms. Segal finds inspiration in words of Simone de Beauvoir. At 55 the French writer complained of feeling marginalized and undesirable, while her frail paramour Jean-Paul Sartre enjoyed the admiration of young, beautiful women. But 10 years later she was revived with a new love—for a much younger woman—and a new political vitality. If old age is not to be “an absurd parody of our former life,” she wrote, it is essential to “go on pursuing ends that give our existence meaning,” such as devotion to other people, causes, and creative work. This may well be the secret to enjoying life at any age.

— John S. Adams, UMRA President  
adams004@umn.edu

## January 28 Workshop — Living Well in Later Life: The Basics of Sustainability

Clifton Ware will lead UMRA's January 28th workshop, speaking on "The Basics of Sustainability." The workshop follows our luncheon that day at approximately 1:30 p.m.



Clifton Ware taught for 37 years in the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities School of Music; he retired in 2007 and is professor emeritus of voice and voice pedagogy. Since his retirement, he has been a member of UMRA.

Clif and his wife Bettye offer a model for grassroots level community action, particu-

larly in the area of environmental concerns. Their activities address the environmental and economic forces that are shaping the future.

They founded Citizens For Sustainability (CFS), a community action group working toward "Eco-Life Balance," a movement for sustainable living. They also co-created the Insight Forum: Understanding and Preparing for a Future of Converging Crises. As a co-founder of CFS, Clif serves as media spokesperson and as editor-publisher of a weekly e-newsletter titled CFS News-Views Digest. See this work on the website: <http://www.clifware.com/>

Clif has published five books, one of which has been widely adopted worldwide. His most recent book is *The Aging Challenge*, a very thoughtful review of research and thought regarding later life.

Clif and Bettye are also known and loved for their performances in Eco Songs: Promoting Sustainability through the Arts, a multi-media event combining accurate data, engaging visuals, and original musical compositions. If we are lucky, they will provide live examples of their work.

### Discount parking for UMRA members

Campus parking discount coupons are greatly appreciated by many UMRA members. Thanks to Parking and Transportation, coupons reduce all-day fees to \$6, with the exception of special-events parking. Members can obtain coupons: (1) at any UMRA luncheon; (2) when you renew your membership; (3) by sending a request and self-addressed, stamped envelope to John Anderson, 1332 Como Blvd. E., St. Paul, MN 55117.

This workshop, like the others in the Living Well in Later Life ongoing series, will be held from 1:30–2:30 p.m. after the upcoming UMRA luncheon, in the same room. After 30 minutes of the presentation, discussion opportunities include asking questions, giving comments or relevant descriptions of your own work. You are welcome to attend this workshop whether or not you attend the luncheon, and the workshop is free.

— Ron Anderson, UMRA Past-President

### Robert Holt to discuss dangers of "Gridlock" January 28 Continued from page 1

The graduate assistant program was further strengthened with policies that supported health benefits.

Programs that had outlived their usefulness gave way to new programs, most of which were inter-disciplinary involving departments in different colleges. As dean, Bob was especially proud of the success of the many new "freestanding" minors that were established. "Five of them won major NSF fellowship awards," he said.

During his professorial career he taught courses largely in the comparative field emphasizing mainly economic and political development, and public policy, particularly in areas where technological matters are of great importance, i.e., energy policies in the late 1970s and environmental policies in the 1990s. He jointly taught courses in anthropology, economics, and in the Institute of Technology.

Active in research, he authored and edited a number of books, including *The Soviet Union: Paradox and Change*, *The Political Basis of Economic Development*, *Political Parties in Action*, *American Government in Comparative Perspective*, *The Methodology of Comparative Research*, and *An Evaluation of the Lower Moulouya Irrigation Project*. He also has produced many technical articles, the most recent of which is in the September 2009 issue of *Environmental Practice*.

He has served on many national boards and committees including the American Political Science Association, the International Studies Association, the National Research Council, the Council of Graduate Schools, and the Association of Graduate Schools. He has taught in England, Norway, and Turkey and was invited to lecture in Israel, Yemen, India, Nepal, Korea, Mexico, and China. He was a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Norway.

Join us on January 28 for discussion and commentary on the Washington gridlock and what it means for us.



## There's a place for us – to publish, to share, to enjoy

When someone says, “We need your contributions!” do you jump to the conclusion that they want your money? What about your talents, your wisdom, your research, your humor, your creativity, your opinions?

Yes, there is a place that values those kinds of contributions, and you will find it in a new online journal titled “Journal of Opinions, Ideas, Essays” (JOIE).

JOIE is sponsored by the University of Minnesota and operated by UMRA members. As its name implies, it publishes a wide variety of articles, intended to inform and entertain its broad audience. Access is available via the following URL:

[www.lib.umn.edu/joie](http://www.lib.umn.edu/joie).

When you enter the JOIE website, you will see a description of the goals and nature of the journal. It is a digital journal, with free and open access. It offers the opportunity to publish items that may not be suitable for other peer-reviewed journals, but are, nonetheless, a reflection of your creativity and intellect.

Anyone who is a member of the University of Minnesota community—including active and retired faculty, staff, alumni, spouses, or students—is encouraged to submit an essay, a review, a short story, a poem, a photographic essay, or an opinion on matters of University community interest.

On the website, you will see a list of illustrative articles that have already appeared. As examples they include “Jim’s Secrets: What Mark Twain Knew but Huck Finn Didn’t,” “Robert Koch—From Obscurity to Glory to Fiasco,” “Turtle Mania—A Short Story.” Click on “View a complete list of articles” on the website to see all the articles that have been published since JOIE’s recent inception.

Submissions are reviewed by an editorial board and, if accepted, are published in JOIE online via the University Digital Conservancy (UDC); as such, they become searchable by Google or other search engines.

We solicit your submissions and encourage you to read and enjoy JOIE.

— Martin Dworkin, JOIE editor ([dworkin@umn.edu](mailto:dworkin@umn.edu))

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## Behind the Scenes

On this page, we present a sampling of photos from a photographic essay you will find on JOIE: “Behind the Scenes” by Victor Bloomfield, emeritus professor of biochemistry, molecular biology, and biophysics. Since his retirement, Victor’s interest in the visual arts has blossomed, and photography has given him “new eyes.”

“Those of us in academia...are familiar with offices, classrooms, and labs,” Vic said. “But there are many other places in the University where things get done that we may never see.” And so, he began this project to photograph “many of the people and places ‘behind the scenes’ to show others the people and operations that make our academic work possible.”

Left: Sanford Hall dining prep; Right: Washing a parking ramp



## University's MLK Day asks for your pledge: a semester of voluntary community service

The holiday celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., will take on a new essence at the University, and the new program for the University community will include retirees and the University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC).

This new approach will enhance the manner in which Dr. King's life and goals are recognized and will emphasize issues of social justice, civil rights, diversity, and inclusivity in human affairs. This will be promoted through public engagement, i.e., community volunteerism.

Understanding that the success of this vision cannot be attained in a single day, the University planners are establishing a full semester period for honoring Dr. King with a community service pledge drive. This will be announced in January to the entire University community in January.

You will be encouraged to seek opportunities and pledge hours of service via the MLK Community Service website: [mlkservicedrive.umn.edu/opportunities](http://mlkservicedrive.umn.edu/opportunities).

The website lists facilitating agencies, such as URVC, which will provide information so that you can make informed choices for service. Once you make a decision, you will return to the MLK website, and select "pledge" rather than "opportunities" to register your name and log in the agency to be served and the hours you are pledging. To pledge, go to [mlkservicedrive.umn.edu/pledge](http://mlkservicedrive.umn.edu/pledge).

We hope you will choose the University Retirees Volunteer Center as your facilitator. URVC will provide a wide range of service organizations to meet your interests.

If you are already volunteering in a community service, or have wished to volunteer for a particular organization that meets your interests, passions, and talents, this is a fully acceptable pledge. You may list that agency and a primary contact when you register.

Alan Kagan, project manager, URVC

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## While away your winter hours reading about UMRA online and delving into JOIE

Read the new "Journal of Opinions, Ideas, Essays" (JOIE) online to see some of the work your colleagues and fellow retirees have submitted for your entertainment, new perspectives, and enjoyment. Go to [www.lib.umn.edu/joie](http://www.lib.umn.edu/joie).

See the UMRA Newsletter online, check out the photo archives, and stay current on news for retirees. Go to [www.umn.edu/umra](http://www.umn.edu/umra).

## February meeting will feature Noteboom speaking on sustaining arts organizations

Mr. Lowell Noteboom, immediate past chair of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Board, will be the UMRA luncheon speaker for February 25. With a settlement accomplished with the SPCO musicians, and with the Minnesota Orchestra still locked out, the topic of how to sustain arts organizations in today's economy is especially pertinent.

Lowell Noteboom chairs the board of directors of the League of American Orchestras, based in New York. He served as chair of the MacPhail Center for the Arts when it was part of the University of Minnesota, guiding MacPhail's successful transition from the University to a thriving independence. Mr. Noteboom is especially well qualified to address the problem of keeping arts organizations alive in difficult times. Mark your calendars for February 25th.

—Hal Miller, Program Chair and President-elect

## Welcome new members to UMRA

Please give a hearty welcome to new members who have recently joined UMRA. Greet them at the next luncheon meeting, and add them to your UMRA Directory.

Steve Benson and Judy Hornbacher, OLLI, Civil Service  
4448 Vincent Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55410-1526  
612-423-6244; benso006@umn.edu

Barbara R. Birk, Boynton Health Service, Civil Service  
3836 Aldrich Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55409-1027  
612-827-3729; 612-275-3809; birkx001@umn.edu

John Easton and James Miner, CLA-OIT, Civil Service  
2319 E 36th St., Minneapolis, MN 55406  
612-670-9218; easton@umn.edu

Deborah Engelhard, Environmental Health Sciences,  
School of Public Health, P & A  
13872 54th Ave. N. #1; Plymouth, MN 55446  
763-557-0570; perthdeb@msn.com; debe@umn.edu

Linda Kading, Athletics, Union  
4021 Xerxes Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410-1147  
612-926-2867; 612-598-7481; kadingmn@gmail.com

Cynthia Land, CFANS, Union  
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651-210-4843, cml2055@gmail.com

Andrew Lucas, Graduate School, P & A  
3033 43rd Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406  
612-722-8907; lucas001@umn.edu

Joseph and Margaret Marchesani, U of M Rochester, P & A  
911 20th St. NW, Rochester, MN 55901  
507-280-0189; march027@umn.edu

Michele K. Sullivan, Boynton Mental Health, Civil Service  
4709 27th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406-3721  
612-722-3701; 612-619-5837;  
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 Other Info \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**In Remembrance**

We report the passing of UMRA members as we learn of losses to our UMRA community. Since the Newsletter was published last month, we have received news of the following. Our condolences to the family and friends of:

- William (Bill) DeJohn, Libraries/Minitex P & A, died December 31, 2012. He had joined UMRA in March 2012.
- Veronica Frantz, widow of Dr. Ivan Frantz, Jr., died on November 23, 2013, at age 98. Both the Frantzes joined UMRA in 1985 and were long-time members.
- Patrick Kroll, faculty emeritus in CEHD, PSTL, died December 5, 2012. He joined UMRA in January 2008.
- Irvin E. Liener, professor emeritus of Biochemistry, died November 8, 2013, at age 94. He was a long-time member of UMRA through 2007.
- Anne T. Truax, Office of Equal Opportunity P&A, died October 25, 2012, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She had been an UMRA member since January 1995.

**UMRA Cares about you**

For assistance and support in the event of the death or serious illness of an UMRA member or family member, please email the UMRA Cares committee at [umracares@umn.edu](mailto:umracares@umn.edu) or call 612-626-4403 and leave a message for UMRA Cares. —Earl Nolting, UMRA Cares committee member

The Board of Directors and members of UMRA wish to thank the Center for Spirituality and Healing (CSH) at the University of Minnesota for sponsoring UMRA's January Newsletter. Some CSH programs are offered at a discount to UMRA members throughout the year.

CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY & HEALING

**UPCOMING CENTER PROGRAMMING**

**The Purpose Project:**  
 Working on Purpose™  
 Thursday, March 27, 2014

**Living on Purpose™ - Creating a Life Map**  
 Friday, March 28, 2014

**Healing on Purpose**  
 Friday, April 11, 2014

**Healthy Eating, Healthy Living Cooking Series**  
 with Spoonriver Chef Brenda Langton  
 March 24, April 1, April 8, 2014

**Save the Date**  
 Wellbeing Lecture Series Featuring Dr. Dan Siegel  
 Thursday, April 24, 2014

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**DID YOU KNOW?** If you are over the age of 62, you are eligible to sign up for a University of Minnesota course for free.

Contact Erin Fider for more information: [fider002@umn.edu](mailto:fider002@umn.edu) | 612-624-6743

[csh.umn.edu](http://csh.umn.edu)