

UMRA NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

SEPTEMBER 2019

Author Jack Zipes will introduce “the forgotten folklorist” of the 19th century

The Professional Development Grants for Retirees (PDGR) program will be highlighted during our September program with a presentation by Jack Zipes, a professor emeritus, author, and folklorist known for his research on the social and political significance of fairy tales.

The grants program is supported by the University’s Office of the Vice President for Research, the UMRA fund held by the University of Minnesota Foundation, and the work of UMRA’s grants committee.

Zipes retired from the Department of German, Scandinavian, and Dutch, and received a PDGR award for 2018–19. In addition to his scholarly work, he is an active storyteller in public schools and has worked with various children’s theaters. The project supported by his grant will be the topic of his talk:



“The charismatic Charles Godfrey Leland and his magical tales.” In his time, Leland (1824–1903) was considered one of America’s most talented journalists and humorists. He wrote more than 30 books and, at one point, was as famous as Mark Twain.

Last summer, Zipes’s collection of fairytale-themed postcards inspired *The Wonderful World Before Disney*, an exhibit at the Weisman Art Museum. Recently, he was honored with a lifetime achievement award for his work in the field of folklore and fantasy.

PDGR grants for this year (2019–20) illustrate the wide variety of retiree interests.

Professor Joseph Allen will build on previous publications regarding the development of public space in Taipei, Taiwan, over the last 100 years and how those spatial configurations reflected and projected cultural, political, and ideological conditions.

Documentary photographer and video producer Randy Croce will conduct final research, shoot video, and acquire images to complete the script and a rough edit of *The Farmer-Labor Movement: A Minnesota Story*, a video documentary.

Jonathan Ravdin, M.D., will determine how Minnesotans approach death and funeral transition and whether variables such as age, ethnicity, cause of death, religious affiliations, and level of education have an impact on transition choices.

Attorney Kathryn Sedo will use her award to attend three American Bar Association meetings to stay current in tax law and procedure.

Librarian Lisa Vecoli will document the creation and evolution of the Minnesota lesbian community, especially in the 1970s and ’80s.

The grants committee will announce instructions for 2020–21 applications in October.

—Dick Poppele, chair, Professional Development Grants Program Committee

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER MEETING

At A Glance

Tuesday, September 24
Campus Club, Fourth Floor
Coffman Memorial Union

Luncheon + Forum

11:30–1 p.m.
West Wing Dining Room
Featured speaker
Jack Zipes

*Charles Godfrey Leland
and his magical tales*

Living Well Workshop

1:30–2:30 p.m.
Dale Shephard Room
*Educational opportunities for retirees
at the University of Minnesota*

Menu

Pan-seared chicken breast with
Cornercopia cherry tomatoes and
basil over brown rice, with sea-
sonal vegetables. GF, DF.

*For special dietary needs, please
request when making your
reservation.*

RSVP by September 17

Prepayment of \$23 per person.
Annual prepayers must also make
reservations.

Reserve and pay online or send
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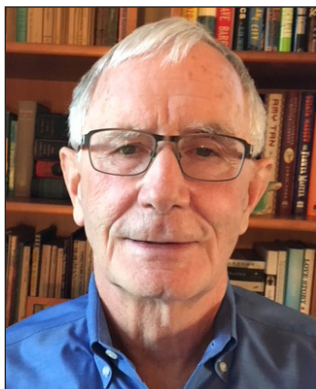
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UMRA NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

An exciting year ahead

Welcome to the 2019–20 academic year at the University of Minnesota. The University has a new president, Joan Gabel, and four new regents: Mary Davenport (at-large, Mankato), Kao Ly Ilean Her (at-large, Maplewood), Mike



Kenyanya (student at-large, Maple Grove), and Janie Mayeron (Congressional District 5, Minneapolis). It promises to be an exciting year as these new leaders learn about the University and make decisions about its future direction. The University of Minnesota Retirees Association will follow those developments

and support the University as the future unfolds.

UMRA has an exciting mix of forums and workshops for the coming year that will allow us to continue lifelong learning and living well in retirement. We expect to have a lively exchange with each of our fall speakers:

September 24. Professor Jack Zipes will talk about his research into children's literature and fairy tales, supported in part by an award from the Professional Development Grants for Retirees program.

October 22. Douglas Yee, M.D., professor of medicine and pharmacology and director of the University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center.

November 19. President Joan Gabel.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of UMRA Past-President Jerry Rinehart, all our 2019-20 forums will be held in the spacious Campus Club West Wing Dining Room.

Each forum will be followed by a workshop in the Dale Shephard Room. In September, the workshop will focus on educational opportunities for retirees at the U of M. In October, the U's Office of Human Resources will present the medical plan options for retirees in 2020; representatives of the plans will also be present. In November, Joseph Gaugler, Ph.D., a professor of long-term care and aging in the School of Public Health, will discuss models for successful aging.

Our Program Committee and other committees are working on additional opportunities for the association.

With 2020 being an election year, we should hear from prognosticators and analysts before and after the election. We hope to develop a travel program that partners with Roads Scholar, and to continue our Armchair Traveler series that was so popular last year. If you're interested in serving on one of our committees or have ideas to suggest, please let me know.

Finally, Kris Mortensen, our newsletter editor, and I attended the 2019 Big Ten Retirees Association Conference held at the University of Illinois in early August. It was exhilarating to share ideas and learn about the robust retiree programs at our peer institutions. Many of the associations do more extensive programming and have larger memberships than we do. We expect to emulate the best of what we saw to enhance our organization.

At the opening session, we heard from Chancellor Robert Jones, who was a long-time faculty member and vice president at Minnesota. I'm happy to report that he is prospering in Illinois and continues to be an articulate, thoughtful, and charming spokesman in his new home.

Continued on page 3 ...

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Continued from page 2 ...

Our hosts put on a great conference, highlighted with presentations by the following from the University of Illinois:

Barbara Wilson, executive VP and VP for academic affairs, spoke about the state and national status of large research universities and their funding. Her talk and slides were illuminating.

Wendy Rodgers, Ph.D., a professor of applied health sciences and leader of Collaborations in Health, Aging, Research, and Technology (CHART), and her graduate students discussed their work on the use of technology to support successful aging.

Donna Cox, M.F.A., Ph.D., director of the Advanced Visualization Laboratory at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, offered us a sampling of the award-winning movies they have created using large scientific data sets and models to visualize events ranging from the beginning of the earth to tornados in Kansas. It was mind-blowing.

Welcome back!

—Bill Donohue, UMRA president, donohue@umn.edu

Welcome UMRA's new board

Members of our Board of Directors are elected to three-year terms and may serve two consecutive terms. All officers serve one-year terms; the secretary and treasurer may be reelected annually.

Members of the board elected to new terms during UMRA's 2019 Annual Meeting in May are indicated in boldface.

Bill Donohue, president

Frank Cerra, president-elect

Lynn Anderson, secretary (continuing)

Carl Adams, treasurer (continuing)

Jerry Rinehart, past president

Vernon Cardwell

Will Craig

Cathy Lee Gierke

Cherie Y. Hamilton

Eric Hockert

Jean Kinsey*

Jeanne Markell

Ron Matross

Jan Morlock

Claudia Parliament

Chip Peterson*

Donna Peterson*

Richard Poppele

KaiMay Terry

Gloria Williams

*past president

Back to school: opportunities for retirees at the U of M

September is back-to-school month, so our September workshop will be all about how UMRA members can continue their education by taking courses at the U of M. Representatives from three University programs will talk about the opportunities their programs offer.

Anastasia Faunce, director of LearningLife in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies (CCAPS), will discuss the noncredit seminars, courses, and immersions that LearningLife offers to the general public.

Sandra Krebs Hirsh, vice president of the board of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), will discuss the extensive array of courses and seminars for seniors offered by OLLI, which is also in CCAPS.

Julie Selander, director of One Stop Services in the Office of the Registrar, will discuss the Senior Citizen Education Program, which allows retirees to take courses at low cost in the regular curriculum, either for credit or for audit.

The presenters will briefly describe the nature of their programs, how to access them, where classes are held, and how much they cost. As time permits, they may highlight some of their offerings for the 2019–20 academic year. They will also offer brochures on their programs and answer questions.

Please join us following the UMRA luncheon on Tuesday, September 24, for this workshop starting at 1:30 p.m. in the Dale Shephard Room.

—Ron Matross, chair, Workshop Committee



John and Anne Munholland enjoyed the buffet served in the Campus Club West Wing for UMRA's 2019 Annual Meeting.

HELLO, my name is Craig Swan

Hometown: I was born in San Francisco.

When did you join UMRA? In 2010.

What was your very first job? When I was in third grade, I made and sold pot holders going door to door. My memory is that I sold them for 15 cents for one or two for a quarter.

What was your occupation when you retired from FT work? I was a professor of economics and vice provost and dean for undergraduate education.

Where were you in 1969 when Apollo 11 landed on the moon? We were living in New Haven, Connecticut, getting ready to move to Minneapolis. We had a driveway moment listening to the moon landing on our AM car radio, and then watched Neil Armstrong take his first steps on the moon later that night.



Craig and Janet Swan at the Carrara marble quarries in Italy

If you were an Olympic athlete, what would you like your sport to be? The tug of war or Olympic dueling, in which contestants fire wax bullets at each other. I learned about these events when looking into the Olympic experience of an uncle, who in 1908 tied the world record for the 100-meter dash. He was injured in training and not able to run in the Olympic finals.

Do you have a favorite place on the U of M campus? The Weisman Art Museum. It is such a unique building and has such interesting exhibits.

What is a fun fact about you we might not know? John Foster Dulles and I are third cousins once removed, which means that his younger brother Allen Dulles is also my third cousin.

What is something you currently enjoy doing with your time? I have become the family historian and share what I learn with my children, siblings, and cousins in weekly emails. I have put together several books on family history. It is a way of addressing what will happen to the files and pictures in the attic when you die.

UMRA survey results are impressive

One role the UMRA Board of Directors plays is to promote awareness of and appreciation for the contributions of University retirees to the greater good of our communities. Last fall, in partnership with the University of Minnesota Foundation, we documented the significant financial commitments of current UMRA members to the University—more than \$23 million (FY12–FY18) to the U’s ongoing “Driven” campaign. To gain comparable information on the nature and impact of our members’ volunteer activities, the board commissioned a detailed study of the time UMRA members contribute in volunteer work, the impact of this work, and factors that inhibit volunteering.

In the spring of 2019, 218 UMRA members (36 percent) responded to an internet survey on their volunteer activities in the previous year. The survey found that 78 percent of UMRA members had volunteered in 2018, with 43 percent volunteering at the U of M and 68 percent in the community, averaging a total of 198 hours each. The leading factors for not volunteering in the past year were being too busy (48 percent), health-related issues (31 percent), and caretaking of family members (29 percent).

Making an Impact

Because of special efforts made to encourage participation in the survey regardless of volunteer activity, we feel the results provide a reliable estimate of our overall activity. Projecting respondents’ answers to the entire UMRA membership, we estimate that in 2018 UMRA members contributed more than 20,000 hours of service to the University, worth more than half a million dollars. Furthermore, UMRA members contributed more than 50,000 hours of service to the community at large, worth more than \$1.4 million.

Volunteers reported serving a wide variety of University departments and dozens of community organizations, in capacities ranging from ushering to leading governing boards and initiating major projects. Among the most frequently mentioned activities were educational ones—advising and mentoring students at the University and serving educational and youth organizations in the community.

Clearly, UMRA members are continuing to serve and are making significant contributions during their retirement to the greater community.

—Ron Matross, member, Board of Directors

Promoting volunteerism at the U

A recent survey jointly sponsored by UMRA and the University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC) prompted some respondents to ask why there are two organizations at the University promoting volunteerism by retirees. UMRA's mission statement includes a specific goal to facilitate opportunities for voluntary service to the University and community. URVC is singularly focused on volunteering.

More than 30 years ago, UMRA created a committee focused on volunteer opportunities. For reasons that are unknown, the volunteer coordination function was separated from UMRA a few years later and became URVC. Later on, UMRA became legally and financially independent from the University. In contrast, URVC is organizationally under the umbrella of the University's Office of University Relations, from which it receives a modest annual financial allocation to pay for office expenses and on-campus parking by volunteers.

Cooperative communication

Brief announcements of URVC projects are routinely reported in the UMRA Newsletter. Periodically, UMRA members also receive email messages from URVC announcing opportunities for volunteering. This cooperative communication is a carryover from the origin of URVC as a part of UMRA.

All volunteers, whether involved through UMRA or URVC, are to be applauded for their commitment to giving back and supporting the University and the surrounding community.

Please visit urvc.umn.edu for more information about URVC. To become a URVC volunteer, click on Get Started at the top of the home page.

—John Anderson, chair, UMRA Membership Committee and URVC Board of Directors

In Remembrance

We report the passing of UMRA members and University leaders as we learn of these losses to our community. Our condolences to the families and friends of our colleagues.

Dorothee Aeppli passed away in February 2019. She was predeceased in 2008 by her husband, Professor Alfred Aeppli. Both were active in the World Federalist Movement, as members of the University academic community and UMRA.

Nancy Bormann died May 14, 2019. She taught communication at Normandale Community College and wrote textbooks with her husband, Ernest Bormann, who predeceased her in December 2008. Nancy and Ernest were both UMRA members.

June Cavert died June 5, 2019. She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. H. Mead Cavert, in November 2016. She was an officer in the University Women's Club, and both June and Mead were active members of UMRA.

William Edson died June 20, 2019, at the remarkable age of 104. He was a professor in the College of Education from 1950 to 1983. In his retirement he was a volunteer at the University Hospital, an UMRA member, and a founder of the University Retiree Volunteer Center.

Donald McKay Fraser died June 2, 2019. He served Minneapolis in the Minnesota State Senate, as 5th District Representative in the U.S. Congress, and as mayor. At the close of his career he taught in the Law School and Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Don was predeceased by his wife, Arvonne Fraser, in August 2018. Both were active members of the University community and UMRA.

Kiki Gore died June 25, 2019. After retiring from teaching, she worked at the University's Boynton Health Service, and taught Spanish to adults until June 2019. She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Warren Gore, in January 2017. Both Kiki and Warren were UMRA members.

Vandora "Van" Linck died May 7, 2019. A graduate of the University in home economics, she was a model of women's leadership and mentor to many throughout her career. Van was a dedicated member of UMRA who helped form our Cares Committee. She was also a leader in the University of Minnesota Women's Club. She was predeceased in 2007 by her husband, Dr. Albert Linck.

— Kathleen O'Brien, Cares Committee

UMRA Cares supports members

If you learn of someone who is facing a difficult life challenge, or for assistance and support in the event of the death or serious illness of an UMRA member or family member, please e-mail us at umracares@umn.edu or call 612-626-4403, and leave a message for UMRA Cares.

UMRA service awards

Judy Leahy Grimes (pictured below) was recognized by Jerry Rinehart, on behalf of the Board of Directors, at UMRA's 2019 Annual Meeting in May for her many years of outstanding service to UMRA as a member of the board and as chair of the Luncheon Committee, managing arrangements and the entire reservation process for our monthly meetings.

President Rinehart also presented an award to **Kathleen O'Brien** (in absentia) for her outstanding service on the board, as a key player in developing our monthly workshops, and for taking the lead on the UMRA Cares Committee, providing support and condolences for members undergoing difficult transitions.



Photo by Ginny Hanson

Welcome new members to UMRA

Please give a hearty welcome to 21 new members who have joined UMRA since mid-April. Encourage anyone you know to attend our monthly meetings, greet all newcomers, and help introduce them to other members.

- Mark Bultmann, Office of Undergraduate Education
- Mary L. Cheleen, Arboretum, and John E. Cheleen
- Charles Roger Davidson, Southern School of Agriculture (now closed), U of M Waseca
- Jody Ebert, University Libraries
- Chris Frethem, College of Science and Engineering
- Judith Garrard, School of Public Health, and Bill Garrard
- Christopher N. Honda, Medical School
- David Kohlstedt, College of Science and Engineering
- Mary Koppel, Academic Health Center
- George Laskaris, Carlson School of Management
- Christopher Mayr, Carlson School of Management, and Ruth Mayr

- Karen Miller, Medical School
- Carol O'Boyle, School of Nursing
- Jane O'Connor O'Brien, Office of the Provost
- Gail M. Sauter, U of M Rochester
- Jean Underwood, College of Biological Sciences
- Lisa Vecoli, University Libraries
- Diane C. Young, University of Minnesota Foundation and GPS Alliance

For contact information, please visit umra.umn.edu > Contact Us > Member Search (login required).

New UMRA Travel Committee partners with Road Scholar

Mark your calendar, pack your bags, and get ready to set off on a custom educational tour with fellow UMRA members to explore unique ports of call.

The UMRA Travel Committee was formed earlier this year to plan unique custom educational tours for UMRA members. We have contracted with Road Scholar because they have been inspiring adults to open their minds to new ideas and knowledge of the world's peoples, places, cultures, history, and environments since 1975, offering educational adventures that engage people for whom learning is the journey of a lifetime. Road Scholar, a not-for-profit, is also the world's largest and most innovative creator of experiential learning opportunities, offering more than 5,500 adventures in all 50 states and 150 countries around the world.

Road Scholar will offer us private group programs that include in the cost: informative lectures; "behind the scenes" experiences; all excursions; enrichment activities, cultural events and performances; all meals, except a few to allow exploration of local restaurants; a group leader to handle all logistics; 24-hour assistance for medical and other emergencies; and all gratuities and taxes.

The results of a survey sent to UMRA members in July will aid us in planning tours, both nationally and internationally, for the next two years. We intend to plan two to three trips a year and will send out the schedule for 2020–21 in September.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at pimentamalageta@hotmail.com or 612-929-0233.

—Cherie Hamilton, chair, Travel Committee

Armchair Traveler invites you to tour India, and the world

Please join us for the next Armchair Traveler program on Tuesday, September 10, when UMRA member Don Johnson will show pictures and talk about India “off the beaten path.” Don served from 1987 to 2008 as the curator of the Ames Library of South Asia at the University of Minnesota. Since 1966 he has made 25 trips to India, primarily visiting dear Indian friends whom he met when they were all undergraduates at the University of Wisconsin. Don teaches an OLLI course on Indian textiles. We will meet from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Community Room on the second floor of the Highland Park Community Center and Library at 1978 Ford Parkway in St Paul.

Please come a bit early so we can start promptly at 3:30.

Following Don’s presentation, we will take a fun and interactive world tour to test our knowledge of incredible places.

The Community Room has space for 40 people, so if you plan to attend, please email me at boundarywaters07@gmail.com to reserve a place.

—Lynn C. Anderson, chair, Armchair Traveler Committee

Thank you to the University of Minnesota Foundation for helping to sponsor our September newsletter.



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Photo Club to meet September 10

Members of the UMRA Photo Club will meet 12:30–2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10, at the St. Anthony branch of the Hennepin County Library to share and discuss photos of shadows. Come early (11:30) for a buffet lunch first at the nearby Great Dragon.

Newcomers are always welcome. Most of us are struggling amateurs who like to take pictures and want to get better. We benefit from the kind help we get from each other, and we laugh a lot. We meet monthly to share photos and talk about different aspects of photography. Contact Sheri Goldsmith May at golds009@gmail.com or Craig Swan at swan@umn.edu for more information.

Food for thought

“If you want your children to be intelligent,
read them fairy tales.”

— Albert Einstein

Book Club to discuss *Becoming*

Members of the UMRA Book Club will meet at 2 p.m. on Friday, September 20, in the 1666 Coffman Building to discuss First Lady Michelle Obama’s memoir, *Becoming*. Contact Pat Tollefson at p-toll@umn.edu for more information.

Visit the UMRA website to read a [review](#) of the club’s refreshing summer read, *A Diary of a Bookseller*.

Estate Planning for retirees

UMRA’s Financial and Legal Issues Group (FLG) cordially invites UMRA members to a presentation on estate planning for retirees by attorney Matthew Guttman of Mullen & Guttman PLLC from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on Monday, October 14. Please visit the UMRA website and look for Events > Interest Groups > Financial & Legal to find details of the topics to be discussed and the location for the meeting.

Contact Andy Whitman at awhitman@umn.edu or 612-747-6015 if you have questions or suggestions.

UMRA University of Minnesota Retirees Association

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