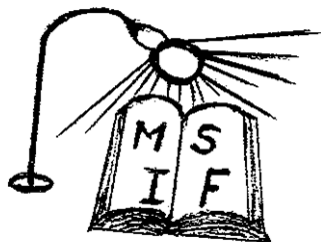


The Minnesota Scholar

Journal of the Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum

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Rethinking Education

by Evelyn D. Klein

Table of Contents

3-Feature Article:

Rethinking Education

by Evelyn D. Klein

2-Editor's Perspective:

What Is MISF?

by Evelyn D. Klein

7-Book Review:

Steven A. Miller

Two Books on Historical

Perspectives by:

Charles C. Mann and

David Grann

3-Reflections:

From Walden

Henry David Thoreau

8-New Words

9-13-Programs & Meetings:

9-Annual Meeting

Steven Miller

9-Scholars Without Walls

Lucy Brusic

10-Review of Gallery Tour

Bob Brusic

11-MISF Annual Picnic

11-The Woodcut Art of

Wolfgang Klein

Evelyn Klein

12-Minneapolis and Tangletown

Neighborhood Landmarks

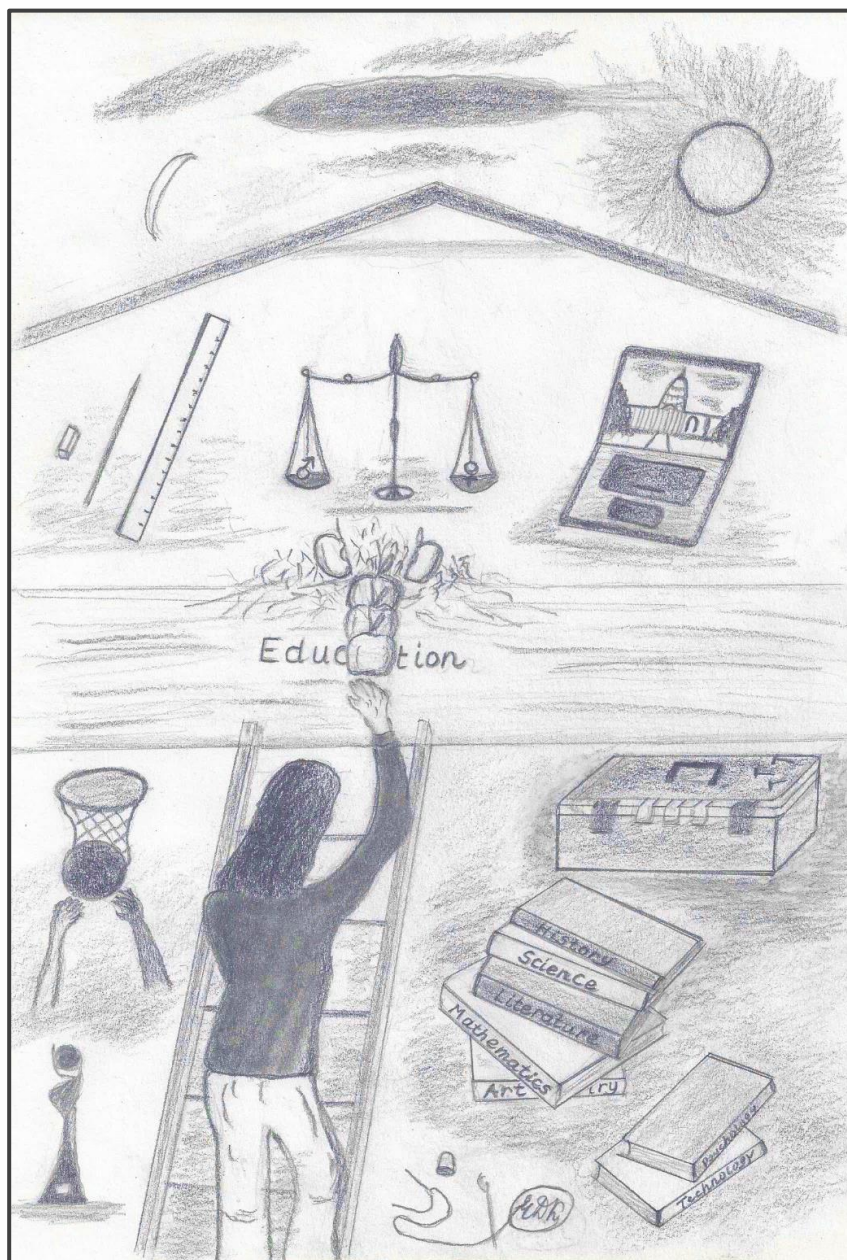
Tom Balcom

13-Oxaca, Mexican Discoveries

Charlie Roger

Upcoming Programs & Events:

14-16-January through June



See Feature Article, Page 3



Editor's Perspective

What Is MISF?

by Evelyn D. Klein

The Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum is an informal group of folks from all walks of life, who come from all over the Twin Cities area and beyond. We gather on a regular basis to carry on a discourse about happenings in our world, from yesterday to today, on whatever subjects that may be timely or of particular interest to members.

Yet the words “scholar” or “scholarship” seem to create a sense of unease among some people. They seem to conjure up images of exclusive white-haired sages with long beards poring over books in an overstocked library and carrying on weighty conversations with each other on inexplicable topics. While the stereotype may appear to apply at times, and we do have some white-haired folks in our group, nothing could be further from the reality of the membership of MISF, no matter what their hair color.

The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines “scholar” in a number of ways, among them “a learned person; a specialist in a given branch of knowledge; a student.”

This gives the person called Independent Scholar quite a range of what he or she may represent, most fitting for our Forum. Although the group found its beginning about thirty-five years ago primarily with academics who swamped the teaching market without an employment base, it has developed into a group of independent individuals with diverse interests and varying educational backgrounds, from high school graduates to college graduates and, hence, of diverse occupational and professional backgrounds, both men and women.

There is no academic or vocational standard or requirement for membership in the Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum. Many of us believe life is education in progress no matter what a person's age or where on the ladder of education we stand. What matters is an interest and/or dedication to take up,

continue, even expand on topics of interest and consideration that life brings our way and talk about them. That is our goal; that is our bond. Beyond that we can even write an article, perhaps even find a grant to write a book or publish the established way.

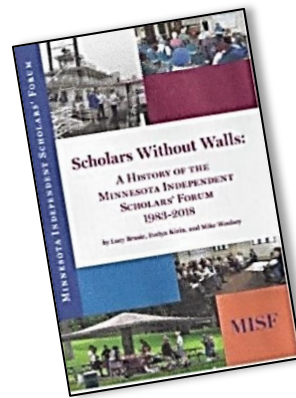
Most people have a passion or area of expertise in a given field or area. MISF gives them the opportunity to share this for the benefit and enjoyment of the group. Coupled with a healthy curiosity, people's interests or expertise can be a good reason to participate in the Forum. On the other hand, members can choose just to attend meetings to listen and socialize. The idea is to have the opportunity to inquire, explore, exchange and engage either in our monthly programs or in one of our discussion groups, like the philosophy or history groups or create a new group based on another topic of preference. There is also opportunity to express our thoughts in a variety of articles for our journal, *The Minnesota Scholar*. Members can enjoy this in a like-minded group, where they find community in their approach without standing out or sounding overly controversial.

Programs such as those on F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Romans in Minnesota, Re-growing Democracy, and theme trips to the MIA, such as on Women in Art, to name just a few, explore our world. TMS member articles in the Why Genealogy, such as Great Books Seminars, Applied Scholarship: Science and Humanities, or features, such as Cursive Writing: An Essential Part of Ourselves, or Interviewing the Past, engage both writers and readers. The Book Review section, like *Be Still: Departure from Collective Madness* or the member book, *Taking Sides with the Sun: Landscape Photographer Herbert W. Gleason*, take a look at what is and has been around for a stimulating exchange between the curious. And should someone miss a monthly

program, a summarized write-up of each program also appears in the journal.

The Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum is for those who wish to go beyond small talk to topics that matter, who like to be informed of what is current or what has changed, revisit the past, and grow in their outlook, all the while finding community in midst of a congenial membership. Here men and women find opportunity to share talents and interests in a world that is quickly changing, where truth can become illusive and facts can be slanted into opinions. All this can leave us with a lot of questions. And while we cannot answer all of them, no matter how extensively we try, we can attend an informative program, read an insightful article, or participate in a lively discussion dealing with them.

Incidentally, our book, *Scholars Without Walls: A History of the Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum 1983-2018*, gives more specific insights about its membership and contributors and on every-day topics of concern. Prospective readers can page through the book to peruse the contents or find specific articles of interest or someone they know and his or her contributions; or they can simply read the entire book, cover to cover.



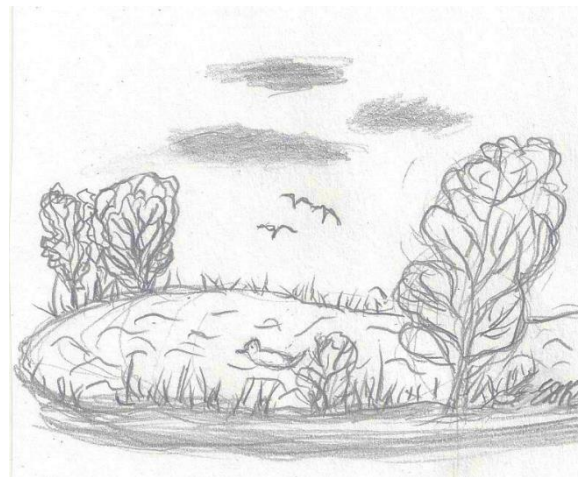
~Evelyn D. Klein is the editor of
The Minnesota Scholar

Reflections

From **Walden's Pond, Sounds** by Henry David Thoreau

What is a course of history, or philosophy, or poetry, no matter how well selected, or the best society, or the most admirable routine of life, compared with the discipline of looking always at what is to be seen? Will you be a reader, a student merely, or a seer? Read your fate, see what is before you, and walk on into futurity.

There were times when I could not afford to sacrifice the bloom of the present moment to any work, whether of the head or hands... Sometimes, in a summer morning, having taken my accustomed bath, I sat in my sunny doorway from sunrise till noon, rapt in a revery, amidst the pines and hickories and sumachs, in undisturbed solitude and stillness, while the birds sang or filtered noiseless through the house, until by the sun falling in at my west window, or the noise of some traveller's wagon on the distant highway, I was reminded of the lapse of time. I grew in those seasons like corn in the night, and they were better far than any work of the hands would have been. They were not time subtracted from my life, but so much over and above my usual allowance.



Rethinking Education

By Evelyn D. Klein

On October 18, 2019, a Reuters headline read: “U.S. astronauts embark on the first all-female spacewalk.” U.S. astronauts, Christina Koch and Jessica Meir, stepped outside the International Space Station to complete the task of exchanging defective batteries. Koch was about to embark on the longest single space flight by a woman, lasting until February 2020. The mission represents an important achievement for women at NASA. Reuters reports that out of 221 space walks only 43 included women. Koch considered the spacewalk a “gender milestone.” Sandra Magnus, former NASA astronaut, who spent 136 days on the Space Station, commented: “We don’t want them to be a gimmick,” but “We want them to happen because people have the skill sets and they’re available to do the job.”

While the all-female spacewalk did not make the front page of the local newspaper, it is, nevertheless, a significant event in the status of women. It can perhaps be viewed as one of the most sought-after steps in achieving equality in the workplace, right along with the election of a record number of women to Congress in the 2016 election, offsetting some of the underrepresentation of women in top level positions in workplace and political system. The women’s march that followed the election, a largescale peaceful demonstration in Washington, D.C. and, simultaneously, in many states, called attention to the fact that women’s rights are still hanging in the balance. But the sheer numbers of the march empowered women to have their voices heard. In months following, the U.S. women’s soccer team, after considerable successes, demanded equal pay, echoing AAUW’s efforts of “equal pay for equal work,” on behalf of women.

Before the #MeToo Movement, some observers felt the women’s movement had stagnated. Little was said among women about women’s rights, with the exception of some organizations, such as the AAUW, that kept pushing their “equal pay for equal work” agenda on the political scene. Surprisingly,



many younger women seemed to feel they had what they wanted. Then, the #MeToo Movement brought about a new awareness of the status of women, their sexuality and credibility. This called attention again to the need for women’s participation as equal partners in the activities of a democratic society.

Why is it so hard for women to achieve equal rights? we might ask. John Stuart Mill, writing in 1869 on the topic of *On the Subjection of Women*, stated: “In what is now called the nature of women is an artificial thing...” Janet Muff, Jungian Analyst, at a 2018 lecture at the Minnesota Jung Association in Saint Paul asserted that when we are born, “nature comes into the world before nurture happens.” Yet from birth on, she maintains, “we are put into a bag bit by bit. *Oh, the picture got ruined. Better try something else.* Into the bag it goes. *Real boys don’t write poetry; they go out for sports.* Into the bag it goes. *What would a girl want with a toolbox?* Into the bag it goes. *And what do you mean developing your potential when you are an adult? That’s long over with.* Into the bag it goes.”

Whether we are aware of it or not, whether male or female, we are programmed by the environment of the culture in which we live to follow a certain course, whether by gender or age. This includes influences from parents, friends and peers, school and church affiliation, community, economics, entertainment, local and national politics, and on.

It is easy to see that both many men and women today are ambivalent about the changing role of women. That may be because the history of established roles is a long one, with men as leaders and creators, women as supporters and guardians of traditions and morals.

Where do these prescribed paths and roles emanate? Richard Tarnas, author of *The Passion of the Western Mind*, points out that Greek mythology has provided us the archetypes that permeate the modern western mind (165). Greek mythology was primarily patriarchal with Zeus and his thunderbolt as head and all the other gods below him in rank, including his wife, Hera. With the coming of

Christianity, the metaphysics of the archetypes depreciated, according to Tarnas, but that did not eliminate them. Christianity maintained the patriarchal form with God the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. The Virgin Mary represents the feminine, the church, the structure of the cathedral which also represents the feminine (166). While the feminine in Christianity represents nurturing, its role is primarily supportive but otherwise passive. This only changed more recently, notably after the Women's Movement, when women were allowed to enter the ministry in some Christian denominations, for example.

Thus, many time-honored traditions we observe and carry out so automatically even today have been programmed into our lives over millennia and appear so "natural" we follow them without second thought or even awareness. They have become part of our collective unconscious. The psychologist, Carl Jung, refers to the collective unconscious as dominating our outlook and actions. This consists, in brief, of historical experience and perspective, often in symbolic ways, often unconsciously, shared by people of a culture or even by all humanity.

Remarkably, even if we take a closer look at the origin of the word "woman," so frequently used as a politically correct term today, we find it comes to us from Middle English "wuman," derived from Old English "wifman," a compound of "wif," wife, plus "man."

As western society has adhered to the lifestyle of the patriarchy since ancient times, specific gender roles assigned to men and women remained intact for millennia. This arrangement, of course, affected the extent and type of experiences and learning, or to use a modern term, education, to which each gender was exposed. In the early days of modern history, illiteracy was widespread, except for a select few of the privileged classes. With Christianity, the church, primarily, was a place where learning took place, particularly for those associated with the church and those privileged men and occasional women who had access. When universities were built in the Middle Ages, they were for men and off limits to women. Women's education consisted primarily of household or farming skills, as their work was in the home, on the land or in domestic service.

Changes, developments and advances throughout history in all areas of progress were privy primarily, if not entirely, to men. Even the gradual emergence of the middle class and subsequent rise of individualism and the ensuing changes these brought about benefited, primarily, men directly. It would

have been unthinkable for women to step outside the home to make contributions in the arts, the humanities, the sciences, and so on. A woman's place remained primarily anchored in marriage and without alternative recourse. Only few women were able to break this barrier.



Not until compulsory education at the end of the 19th century laid a foundation and women gained the right to vote in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, did women begin to enter into a new era and outlook. Women's contributions in the war efforts of WWI and WWII, opened a view on women's capabilities. The Civil Rights movement and its aftermath called attention to women's

rights, their aspirations, capabilities, and talents.

In a 2019 interview aired on PBS, IMF Director, Christine Lagarde, pointed out that women's contributions in the work force are important and measurable. For example, much of economic growth in the United States in recent years has come from the creation of small businesses with a large number of these established by women. Some of these businesses are started in the home, often to accommodate a young family, but at other times as a convenience or for economic reasons or even job loss. Furthermore, police departments have discovered partnering male and female police officers can be useful because of the differing approaches of each to social and crisis situations. More women now find their place in military service as well.

While many female attributes or stereotypes of the past have been debunked or disproven, differences between men and women do exist. Recent scientific research on brain function may help explain some physiological differences between men and women, accounting for the way each gender interacts with others. Patricia S. Churchland, in her book, *Braintrust*, helps us understand "What Neuroscience Tells Us about Morality." She states that as a means of survival in all animals, neural circuitry grounds self-caring and well-being, insuring reproductive success and survival (13). Sociability and voluntary association among humans, the style of cooperation and caring about others have been part of the evolutionary process for about 350 million years.

Associated with affecting this socializing behavior, most notably, are two brain chemicals, among others, strongly influencing our course of

action or behavior. These are oxytocin, an ancient amino peptide and argine vasopressin. While both are related and function in the brain and in the body, their effects differ. Oxytocin is more prevalent in females, while argine vasopressin is more common in males. Both have important beneficial effects. Higher doses of oxytocin are associated with giving birth, nurture, and cooperation. Conversely, higher doses of argine vasopressin are associated with bonding to a mate and with aggression. In brief, this difference accounts, in part, for women's "tend-and-befriend," a cooperate strategy and men's "fight or flight" strategy (78).

This newly gained research can bring us to a new perspective and understanding which are important in unearthing previously untapped contributions women can make that will bring a positive balance to the workplace. This recognition may well be a first step for many in accepting the changing role of women.



Secondly, as educator, I maintain that our interests, proficiencies, and success in life hinge on two factors, one, innate tendencies, talents, and abilities and two,

environment. I believe education starts at home, with the way we respond to a child's curiosity, what experiences or toys to which we expose children and whether we encourage or deride their own choices or ascribe masculine or feminine characteristics to them. Often the toys and play available to children are predictors of future jobs or careers they may eventually seek. When adults adopt a "letting the child choose the toys and games" kind of approach, it allows children greater opportunity to explore and make choices based on interest rather than expectations.

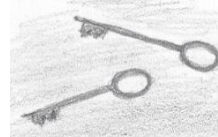
Third, the kind of training and opportunities we offer the young in public schools, technical schools or colleges and universities carries a lot of weight. I remember a day when in eighth grade, boys and girls were divided at one point of the school day, sending boys to math class and girls to home economics. Despite enthusiastic pleas by one of the girls and eventually desperate tears requesting to join the math class, she was forced to take home economics instead. And I wished then that my father had been present to tell them girls can succeed at anything they set their minds to, the way he told me.

But even recently, after I spoke about the topic at the local AAUW, one of the members approached me afterwards and told me she was strongly discouraged from studying math as a college student. However, she decided to become a math teacher despite objections.

The Civil Rights movement with its initial declaration of the multicultural, gender fair, disability-sensitive society resulted in many changes in the public schools from the use of language and writing of curriculum to a multicultural update of teaching materials. Recent encouragements by schools, colleges, and media for girls to take math, science and technology courses is a further step in an enlightened and more equitable direction of education.

Fourth, despite what my father told me, education and aspiration are not enough to bring women into a level playing field in the workplace, let alone to break the glass ceiling. There was a time mid-20th century, still, when women interested in a profession could only hope to be a secretary, nurse, or teacher. While the fields have expanded in recent times, from medicine to business, finance to sports, law to military, and more, the ERA is still awaiting ratification.

For women to succeed alongside men, they need two kinds of freedom: freedom from restraint and freedom to pursue areas of their aspirations. That will benefit both men and women and, subsequently, the entire society in which they work and to which they contribute. At a basic level, the key to success, progress, and well-being in industrialized, democratic societies rests with women's participation alongside men and working together not only in the work force but on all levels of society.



~Evelyn D. Klein, author, educator, artist, and editor, has a B.S. in Secondary Education and an M.S. in the Teaching of English. She taught in the public schools, at Century College and the Loft Literary Center. She is the author of three books of poetry, prose and illustrations. Two of her books are in the Minnesota Historical Society's permanent library collection.



Book Review: by Steven Miller
Two Books:

1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus

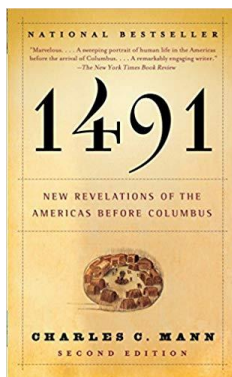
by Charles C. Mann

Killers of the Flower Moon:

The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI

by David Grann

In a simpler time when October 12 was still Columbus Day, not the second Monday in October, Explorers Day, or Indigenous Peoples Day, our myths were clear. Christopher Columbus discovered a new land, later named for another Italian, Amerigo Vespucci. The land was mostly empty and clearly not being used properly. The sparse inhabitants were mostly newcomers themselves compared to the ancient civilizations of the West. Sadly, or appropriately depending on one's viewpoint, Charles C. Mann in *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus* uses the latest discoveries in archaeology to make of myth the fairy tale it is.



He considers three questions: How many inhabitants of the Americas before Columbus? How long had they been in the New World? And did they just passively live off the environment rather than molding it to their needs? As perhaps to be expected in academia, population estimates are disputed between High Counters and Low Counters. But the number of native inhabitants may have been over 100 million. Disease and attacks by Europeans may have reduced the population by 90% or more. Since the worst epidemics in European history such as the Black Death or bubonic plague of the 14th Century killed

about a third of the population, Mann explores the reasons for a higher Native American death rate with major culprits being not just new diseases, but the domesticated animals brought from the Old World. Infections, carried by pigs escaping from Hernando de Soto's exploration of the American South, spread sickness over a wide territory as individuals fled villages already decimated. The Native American population loss according to *Popular Mechanics* was severe enough to affect the Earth's climate and trigger a Little Ice Age.

Once there was consensus that settlement of the Americas began 13,000 to 14,000 years ago, with Clovis man scurrying over a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska and moving south. Now the estimates are being pushed back to 32,000 years or long before the retreat of Ice Age glaciers made much of Europe inhabitable, with the ancestors of Native Americans traveling by boat. The Norte Chico civilization in Peru dates to 3500 BCE or before the Egyptian pyramids were built. The New World is apparently older than we thought. But even if Mexico, Peru, and maybe some other places in Latin America looked civilized or at least had big buildings when the Europeans came, weren't the indigenous inhabitants mostly Stone Age level savages?

It appears instead they were actively controlling the environment. Their methods were just more subtle than those of Europeans. Bison lived east of the Mississippi because Native Americans made it

possible. Amazonians enriched the soil to support a much larger population than lives there now. When visiting Costa Rica, I learned that the pre-Columbian inhabitants numbered 400,000 a level not achieved again until the 1920s. Columbus may not have discovered a New World; he may have helped create a Lost World.

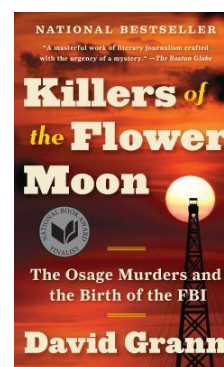
But if bad things happened to Native Americans in the past, hasn't Western Civilization learned its lesson and made amends? After all, don't we see Indian casinos everywhere? David Grann in *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* explores an instance of Indian prosperity and its consequences to an Oklahoma tribe. The Osage when being forced from their Kansas reservation purchased a new home in Oklahoma and in the process retained mineral rights. This meant when oil was discovered tribal members received part of the wealth. Outside newspapers lampooned rich Indians riding in expensive cars, living lives of luxury.

But courts soon began appointing guardians for tribal members—the more they retained their native culture the more likely to need a guardian according to Oklahoma judges. Then the murders began. This included shootings and even the bombing of a home which killed three people. According to the legend of the FBI retold in the movie, *FBI Story*, with Jimmy Stewart leading the clean-cut lawmen, the tried and true methods of J. Edgar Hoover solved the crimes and sent the perpetrators to prison.

According to Grann the story is more complicated. The investigators were former Texas Rangers, cowboys, and Western lawmen who would never be allowed in the modern FBI. However, they could go undercover and understand the type of men they were hunting and develop the informants who

could provide evidence. Some evil men were prosecuted and imprisoned. But many crimes were never solved or investigated. This included the murder of at least two pre-FBI interested citizens who were killed for their efforts to protect their Indian neighbors. Grann visits the Osage and tracks down other potential murderers now deceased. He witnesses a nation still trying to come to terms with a period known to them as the Reign of Terror. As suggested by the movie, *Wind River*, the dangers to Native Americans, especially women, remain but are mostly hidden from our eyes.

A purpose of history beyond entertainment, which makes the medicine palatable, is to inform us of the present, providing insights to avoid past injustice and see its impact now. There are myths which make us feel smug and fortunate while seeing the past as a reassurance of our right to enjoy the present without reflection. It is good to have books which remind us that the past may not be what we think it is and that present benefits may have come at great cost to others.



~Steven Miller, President of Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum and participant in a, perhaps, unhealthy number of discussion groups, is a sole practitioner attorney practicing labor and employment for management. He has a B.A. and M.A. from George Peabody College (now part of Vanderbilt University) and a J.D. from Duke University School of Law.

New Words in the English Language

Since language is always in flux, new words come into the language all the time. When they enjoy widespread use, the Oxford English Dictionary is one of the dictionaries that publishes them. Following is a small selection of new words for 2019:

“Climate emergency” is Oxford English Dictionary’s word of the year.

ancestory, n. – Ancestors collectively; esp. a particular group of ancestors considered as initiating a line of descent. = ancestry n. 1.

peoplekind, n. – The human race, humankind.

promposal, n. – An invitation to be someone’s date to a school prom; esp. one which is elaborately staged, filmed, and made available on social media.

Programs & Meetings

June 20, 2019



Annual Meeting

After opening the meeting, President Steven Miller summarized **the year's activities** for MISF so far:

- Programs: The Romansch in Minnesota, The Power of Landscape Art, Ignatius Donnelly: Ultimate Independent Scholar, The Writing Life, and What Is Poetry?
- Discussion groups: Philosophy and History
- Grants: Scholars Without Walls and other grants in process.
- Steven Miller pointed out that MISF is the organization providing a responsible adult for anyone wanting to apply for a grant.
- Upcoming events this summer: Annual picnic and Mia visit.

Annual Election: Election for the board was held. The nominee was Barb Sommer. She was reelected by unanimous vote of those present.

Amendment of By-laws: Current by-laws stipulated that the board needs to consist of a minimum of nine (9) members. It was moved that the minimum number

of required board members be changed to six (6). The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by members present.

Treasurer's report:

- Treasurer Emily Pollack reported that a few more memberships were received.
- 1/3 of MISF income is from memberships.
- The remaining income comes from donations, including Give to the Max day.
- Operational expenses revolve primarily around the TMS, the MISF journal.

Recognition:

- The treasurer also recognized various members of the organization, including Barb Sommer, Steven Miller, and Dale Schwie for their ongoing work.
- She presented awards to the editors involved in compiling *Scholars Without Walls*, including Lucy Brusic and Evelyn Klein for editing and Mike Woolsey for procuring grants and working on the website.

Scholars Without Walls: A History of the Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum 1983-2018

Presented by Lucy Brusic, Evelyn Klein, and Mike Woolsey

Editors Lucy Brusic, Evelyn Klein, and Mike Woolsey discussed inspiration, compilation, and production of the much-anticipated book at this momentous publication launch.

Mike Woolsey began the discussion by revealing that the idea for the book started with David Grabitzke, formerly a part of the Minnesota Historical Society. He suggested the Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum write a proposal to receive a grant for the project. Mike took charge of the details of grant

application and requirements. Subsequently, meetings between the three editors took place at various venues to discuss the details of the proposed book necessary for not only the creation of the book but for the grant application as well, including book design, publication, printing and two peer reviews. Wise-Ink was selected to publish the book. In the end, MISF still has grant money left for storage of the book.

Lucy Brusic, lead editor of the book, welcomed the audience. She reported that it took

three years for its completion. She stated that its history is connection with people and the past, and possibly with the future.

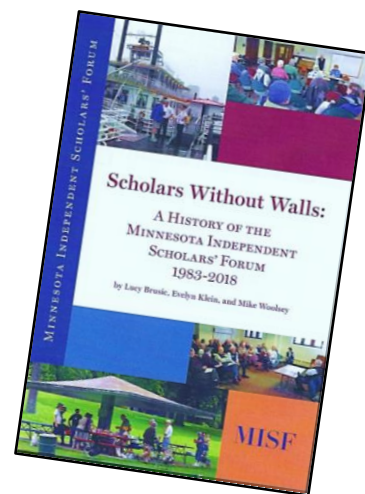
David Grabitzke saw a connection with the upcoming book and the MISF journal, which was very helpful. “We began with David Megarry interviewing David Wiggins and David Juncker about the beginning of the Scholars,” Lucy stated.

Lucy, who joined the Scholars in late 1989 began to assemble journals and writings and turned to other Scholars familiar with the early years, such as Curt Hillstrom and Susan Margot Smith for information and material. The best account of the early years is Cheryl Dickson’s account presented at the 25th anniversary presentation. From these beginnings, the story of MISF came together with contributions from people who came and went and those who remained.

As the former, longtime editor of the MISF journal, Lucy noted, she came to include many of the articles and contributions to the journal, “articles about scholarship, what it meant to be a scholar, what it took to be an independent scholar.” The ideas set forth in the book are valuable for what they mean to us today, although some of the contributors are no longer with us, she noted, among them Rhoda Gilman, Ginny Hansen, Roger Jones, Rhoda Lewin, Arthur Naftalin, Helen Watkins, Lee Wenzel, and Shirley Whiting.

Lucy indicated that 400 copies of the book were printed so far and that it will be available on-demand on Amazon Print. The special price at the launch was two-for-one at \$20.00

Evelyn Klein related to the membership that the three editors worked in close cooperation planning and selecting material for the book. To this end, they read their way through back issues of the MISF journal to pinpoint relevant articles to be selected for inclusion into the book. It was also agreed that illustrations should be part of the book and in a non-preferential manner. Once Lucy began compiling and writing the book, discussion over what should or should not be included ensued. An extensive copy-editing process then began for Evelyn. At times, problem areas needed to be discussed and worked out, all leading to positive outcomes. The end result is publication of a professional quality book, detailing the history of MISF, *Scholars Without Walls*.



July 12, 2019

Review of Gallery Tour: *Scholars Without Walls, Art On the Walls* Led by Docent Bob Brusic

A popular gallery tour at Mia is a book tour. People come to hear and see how themes from a particular book suggest or reflect themes from a particular work of art. This last July 19, docent Bob Brusic conducted his seventh summer gallery tour for MISF. It was based on the new MISF history, *Scholars Without Walls*. The tour was titled, appropriately, *Art On the Walls*.

Lucy Brusic, the lead author of the book, supplied selected readings from the book; these often led to perky discussion from the seventeen attendees.

For instance, at one point, viewers were encouraged to consider a self-portrait by Francisco Goya. In 1819 the artist was gravely ill, though his compassionate doctor, Arrieta, nursed the painter back to life. That moving scene is the subject of the 1820 painting. The group focused on the art of healing, while Lucy read a brief passage from the book, reflecting on the wider aspect of healing in our time:

“An entitlement plan that had financial liability for situations when a cure is not available, such as for ALS or Alzheimer’s, would provide

necessary ongoing care and have financial incentives to invest in critical research... Services oriented to care, rather than cure, generally do not conform to being an insurable risk” (Yes, But is it Health Insurance? by Lee Wenzel, 231).

Overall, the tour highlighted eleven works of art from various periods of art history. Viewers began with a look at a mid-nineteenth century painting of a steamboat sailing gracefully up the Mississippi River near Minneapolis. The painting was a romantic depiction of nature by Ferdinand Richard, in the style of the Hudson River School. On the opposite wall was an abstract view of Lake Superior by George Morrison. Rich, thick bands of color reverently suggested (but did not actually depict) the sky and the water of the great lake. The contrast between the two paintings was striking.

The works of art on the tour were chosen with an eye toward subjects of probable interest to viewers from MISF. A tromp l’oeil work by Peto was a fool-the-eye study in three dimensionality; a painting by Matisse examined a work by the philosopher-mathematician Pascal; “Star Path,” an imaginative painting by Tom Hammick, presented a timely trip to the moon.

Two works on the tour especially elicited thoughtful comment. One was a painting by the surrealist artist Peter Blume, “Winter” (1964). This painting portrayed a snowy winter scene with a blasted tree and dozens of birds. What is going on? Why are all those birds clustering and flying around that dead tree? Does the wintry scene connote death or perhaps the hope of spring? These and other questions caused the group to stop, think, and wonder about the power of landscape art.

The final work on the tour was an evocation of French aristocracy. A darkened space called a “Living Room” recreates an elegant space of the early 1700s where people of means or position, like Lavoisier or Thomas Jefferson, might have met and conversed.

The MISF group was invited to sit or stand for seven minutes while the room cycled through the lights and sounds of a full day’s activity, complete with servants scraping out the ashes from a spent fireplace. It was a few moments of magic where scholars, while within walls for a few minutes, could reflect on mystery, reality, and the capacity of art to stir the imagination.

~Bob Brusic

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August 24,2019

## MISF Annual Picnic

The annual picnic was again held at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. Approximately twenty people attended. Besides sharing the always inviting pot luck, attendees enjoyed an informal time of

visiting at the shelter in this lush park near the Mississippi River. And according to MISF president, Steven Miller, old acquaintances were renewed and new connections were made.

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September 27, 2019

The Woodcut Art of Wolfgang Klein

Presented by Evelyn D. Klein

The presenter began with a brief history on the art of woodcuts which had its beginning in ancient times

and constitutes the oldest form of printing. It was used by the ancient Egyptians, Babylonians and Hindus.

After the invention of paper by the Chinese, the Japanese adopted their woodcut skills derived from the Chinese in the 8th century and brought them to their highest level of development.

In Europe woodcuts first appeared in the 15th century in Germany and the Netherlands and were simplistic and of a religious nature. Soon woodblock prints were accompanied by short texts and bound into books. The art of illustrated books spread and became quite popular throughout Europe.

In the 16th century the art of woodcuts reached its pinnacle with artists like Albrecht Dürer, Hans Holbein, the Younger, Lucas Cranach, and others. Dutch, Italian, and French artists also contributed during this period.

When etching developed in the 17th century, woodcuts declined but enjoyed a revival with Thomas Bewick in Britain. Poet William Blake printed his own woodcuts, thereby establishing a practice followed by contemporary artists.

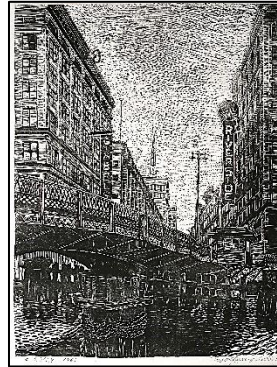
In the 19th century, woodcuts gained in popularity in France and the U.S. and included artists, such as Gustave Doré and Paul Gauguin, Timothy Cole and Rockwell Kent, respectively, among others. In the 20th century the art also spread to South America.

From the late 19th century on into the present woodcuts were created by expressionist artists, particularly in Germany, including Arthur Buschmann, Vasili Kandinsky, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Käthe Kollwitz, and others. In America today the art of woodcuts is also quite popular among artists, such as Hiroshi Yoshida.

Evelyn Klein presented not only numerous examples on pictures of tools and materials used in creating woodcuts in her history of woodcuts but also provided comments on her personal observations about the art as carried out by her father, followed by about 41 images of the woodcut artist, Wolfgang

Klein's creations themselves in her Power Point presentation.

Evelyn accompanied the slides with explanations of Wolfgang Klein's creative approach and technique, his experimentation with types of paper, his delivery of colored woodcuts, and his penchant for travel through the United States in later years to capture landmarks and scenes on location. All of these were sprinkled with details about the artist's life.



The artist had studied art at the Academy of Fine and Applied Art in Frankfurt, Germany and studied with Ernst Ludwig Kirchner in Davos, Switzerland. He exhibited his artwork widely, beginning at the age of 19 in Europe, primarily in France and Germany and, later, in the United States,

particularly in Wisconsin, where he was artist in residence, as well as in Illinois, Minnesota, and California. Initially, he taught art at the Academy of Fine and Applied Art in Berlin, Germany, and, then, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at the YWCA, Alverno College and Marquette University. He also worked as a commercial artist.

Of this well-known Wisconsin artist, about seventeen of his works will be displayed October 17, 2019 to January 17, 2020 at the Museum of Wisconsin Art at St. John's on the Lake, 1840 Prospect Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202.

The meeting was followed by a question and answer period and was attended by approximately twenty-five to thirty people.

October 26, 2019

Minneapolis and Tangletown Neighborhood Landmarks

Presenter Tom Balcom

Tom Balcom, a former employee of the DNR with special attention to the history of the Minneapolis Parks, addressed the Scholars on October 16. His

topic was Tangletown with special attention to the Washburn Water Tower. Balcom accompanied his presentation with a very extensive display of photos of the Tangletown Area.

Tangletown in Minneapolis is the area of twisty streets and roads north of Minnehaha Creek and east of Lyndale. In the middle of this group of roads is a hill with a water tower built in 1932 to supply water for lawn upkeep. (Note 1: The tower supplied water pressure when water pressure was low in the neighborhood. Note 2: The water tower has not been used since 2005.)

Originally, the area was called Brushwood Hill or the Devil's Backbone (it was not called Tangletown until after WWII). Uninhibited by dams, the creek supplied good water power in the area. By 1850 multiple mills, both flour and saw, operated in the area of 54th and Lyndale. The area was considered part of Richfield. It had a shopping area with general stores and a meat market. (When the airport was built, Minneapolis annexed the area around Washburn library, and it is now part of Minneapolis.) The streets

November 16, 2019

Oaxaca, Mexican Discoveries

Presenter Charlie Roger

Oaxaca (pronounced wah-ha-ca) is a city and state in southern Mexico that today is a popular destination for foreign and domestic tourists, those wishing to spend the winter months in a warm sunny climate as well as foreigners who now call Oaxaca home. Oaxaca has been populated for thousands of years and there is still a large indigenous population that carry on traditions and customs from years past. It is known for its cuisine, festivals, archeologic sites and its artisans and crafts, including weaving, textiles, pottery (green, red, black), alebrijes and mezcal.

The city of Oaxaca, Oaxaca de Juárez, is at 5000 feet elevation and has a pleasant year-round climate. The winter is dry and the summer has days with afternoon showers. The historic center of this colonial city, which dates to the 1500's, is well-preserved with narrow streets and buildings made of stone. The center of the city is very walkable and taxis are readily available. There is a lot to do in the city, with markets, restaurants, churches, museums, shopping, music and, of course, people-watching.

The city is surrounded by villages which generally specialize in a particular craft, e.g., weaving, pottery, alebrijes. The villages are available

more or less follow the contours of old paths, hence the name Tangletown.

The Washburn Water Tower was built in 1932 to respond to the need for water to keep lawns green in the summer. It was designed by H. W. Jones to replace a smaller tower with the same function. The water tower sculptures were designed by John K. Daniels, a well-known local artisan. They are said to be guardians of health.

The building was built of reinforced concrete, which was a new building material at the time, and was constructed by William S. Hewitt, an innovator in the use of this material. It is not a WPA structure. The 110-foot structure held 1.35 million gallons of water. The tower remained in use until 2005.

~Lucy Brusic

to visit by bus, colectivos (shared taxis), commercial tours as well as tours with groups such as the Oaxaca Lending Library and En Via. You can watch the artisans at work and buy products directly from them.

There are two yearly festivals that bring in many visitors. The Guelaguetza in July is a two-week festival celebrating folkloric dance. The city is alive with color and activity during this time. The Day of the Dead, November 1 and 2, as well as the days leading up to it is celebrated in honor of deceased predecessors and has been celebrated for thousands of years. Graves and altars are decorated with flowers, candles and other objects. This is a very traditional holiday.

Oaxaca is an easy city to visit as it has an international airport and there are several daily flights from the US. A knowledge of Spanish certainly enriches the experience but is not a requirement. Many people visit with no knowledge of the language. Tourism is the major driver of the Oaxacan economy and visitors are always welcome.

~Charlie Roger

Upcoming Events

January 25, 2020

Minnesota Swedes Raising Cane

Presenter: Marilyn McGriff

In the early years of the 20th century, a Swedish American doctor invested in a large tract of land in eastern Cuba. Using his doctor's office on Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis as a headquarters, he promoted the sale of land parcels to his fellow Swedish Americans. In his promotional pamphlets, written in Swedish, Dr. Line promised cheap land, a warm healthful climate and the opportunity to harvest crops year-round. A number of farm families from the Upper Midwest decided to participate in this adventure, becoming part of a Swedish American settlement in Cuba. However, because of turbulent political and economic times, by 1920, most of the Swedish American Cubans had returned to the U.S. Their experiences, as recorded in reminiscences, stories, and photos, gathered from their descendants, illustrate the drama, romance, intrigue, and adventure of the Swedes Raising Cane in Cuba.

Marilyn is a local historian who began researching the topic of Swedish settlement in Cuba while serving as director of the Isanti County Historical Society during the 1980s. She researched many topics relating to Swedish immigration and cultural traditions. For 15 years she published an annual history/tourism related newspaper, *The Isanti County Traveler*. In 2016 she published a novel, "a local history mystery," titled *Caught in the Lye*. Now living in the Twin Cities, she is currently assisting with the publication of a pictorial history of Saint Paul's Swede's Hollow.

February 22, 2020

Minnesota Women: First in the Nation to Vote in 1920

Presenter: Lois Glewwe

At 6:00 a.m. of August 27, 1920, the City of South St. Paul held the very first election conducted on the day following ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote. The identity of the first woman to cast a ballot will be discussed as will the history of suffrage across the nation and in Minnesota for the seventy-plus years leading up to the passage of the 19th Amendment. Lois Glewwe is from South St. Paul and believes that her own grandmother and three aunts voted on that important day.

Lois Glewwe is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and received her master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of published histories of South St. Paul, West St. Paul, and Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, and contributing author of *Minnesota's Trail of Tears: The Beginning of the Dakota Exile in Minnesota*. She published several additional works, including *A Brief History of South Saint Paul* in 2015 and stories of the first white and Dakota women in Minnesota, *DakotaSoulSisters.com* online, about 20

women from 1835-1862. She is also an oral history transcriptionist for Barbara Sommer, Kim Heikkila and the Minnesota Historical Society. She is currently under contract for a book on *Images of America: South St. Paul in Photos*.

Continued on Page 15

The Minnesota Scholar

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March 28, 2020

Bold Vision – ERA 2020

Presenter: Betty Folliard, Founder – ERA Minnesota

On the 100th anniversary of Women's Right to Vote, another 100-year struggle to gain constitutional equality through ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment for women is one state away from passage. Modern-day suffragists around the country have united to make equal legal in 2020. We'll explore efforts both here in Minnesota and around the U.S., finally, to amend an ERA into our state and federal constitutions.

Among her many achievements, the honorable Betty Folliard is a well-known Minnesota thought leader and founder of ERA Minnesota, an organization dedicated to passing the Equal Rights Amendment state-wide and nationally. Ms. Folliard has worked in government at the local, state, and national levels: first a School Board vice chair; serving three terms, (six years) as legislator in the Minnesota House of Representatives; and for several years a U.S. House of Representatives Congressional Aide in the Office of Congressman Keith Ellison.

As representative in the Minnesota House of Representatives, Betty Folliard served on the Minnesota Commission on the Economic Status of Women, was chair of the Teacher Preparation Subcommittee; became Pro-choice lead on the House Health and Human Services Committee, and served nationally on NCEL.

Betty Folliard earned a Bachelor of Arts from Stanford University and Master of Fine Arts from Wayne State University. She founded ERA Minnesota, received the Minnesota Women's Press Change Maker Award and the Minnesota Women's Summit Committee's Woman of the Year Award. This year she helped pass the state ERA bill through the Minnesota House. Most recently, she is helping organize a Women's Economic Security Task Force on behalf of the new Minnesota State Attorney General.

April 25, 2020

Minnesota and the Ultra Resistance

Presenter: Peter Simmons

Based on the 2018-2019 project, "We Won't Go, and We Don't Want You to Go Either," Peter Simmons will talk about Minnesotans who, during 1967-1970, took part in raids on Selective Service offices (draft boards) in Minnesota and elsewhere, aiming to cripple the ability of the government to conscript young Americans into the military during the never declared Vietnam war.

Mr. Simmons was born in North Minneapolis in 1950 and has been a life-long Minneapolis resident. After involvement in the draft resistance and peace movements, he was convicted in 1970 of violating the Selective Service Act and spent twenty months in Federal Prison in Colorado. His "We Won't Go..."

project was assisted and made possible by the Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum.

May 23, 2020

MISF Poetry Day, Featuring Two Distinct Poets:

Vicki Mickelson and Joseph A. Amato

Vicki Mickelson is a retired educator with thirty-eight years experience in the classroom, most of them in the Minneapolis Public Schools. Her writing journey began in Anna Maria, Florida, her winter haven. Proudly, she offers seven published books of poetry, including *Island Attitudes*, nominated for a Minnesota Book Award in 2016, to her readers. Vicki's poetry is inspired by life's feats and daily observations and resonates human frailties and achievements. Her six grandchildren fuel her energy for writing. She lives in Rosemount, Minnesota.

Joseph A. Amato has written more than twenty-five books on European intellectual and cultural history, family, local, rural and regional history as well as two memoirs. In the last decade, he finished two books, one book on philosophy and the other on history, *The Book of Twos* and *Everyday Life*. He completed a major work of magic realism, *Buffalo Man: A Boy Giant on the Minnesota River* and four books of poetry, *Buoyancies: A Ballast Master's Log; My three Sicilies: Stories, Poems and Histories; Diagnostics: The Poetics of Time*; and due for early spring 2020 publication, *Towers of Aging*.

June 27, 2020

Saving Lives: Stories from Minneapolis Pioneers And Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

Presenter: Sue Hunter Weir

Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery (formerly Layman's) is the oldest existing cemetery in Minneapolis and the first in Minnesota to have been listed as an individual landmark in the National Register of Historic Sites. The cemetery's first burial took place in 1853, five years before statehood. In addition to recognizing the significance of the cemetery's built environment, its listing in the National Register acknowledges the contributions made to the city and the state's history by those who are buried there. It is the final resting place of abolitionists, military veterans from the War of 1812 to World War I, members of the city's early African American community, and several thousand immigrants. And there are children – some 10,000 of them. Volunteers have been collecting and preserving stories and photographs of these residents to ensure that they are not forgotten.

Sue Hunter Weir is Chair of Friends of the Cemetery, an organization dedicated to preserving and maintaining Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. She has spent 20 years researching the cemetery and its 22,000 residents. Sue has written more than 160 "Tales

Continued on last Page

Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum
P.O. Box 80235
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408-8235

Continued from Page 15

from the Cemetery,” columns that have been published in the *Alley* newspaper, a paper serving the Phillips community and surrounding neighborhoods. For nine years, she served in the City of Minneapolis’ Heritage Preservation Commission. Before she retired, Sue was Coordinator of Academic Advising for students majoring in the visual and performing arts at the University of Minnesota.

All regular meetings of the Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum take place at the Washburn Public Library, 5244 Lyndale Avenue, Minneapolis, MN., Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

We begin gathering at 9:30 a.m. Meetings start at 10 a.m. with a brief business meeting first. MISF meetings are free and open to the public.

