

It's time to gear up for the annual business meeting!



Ina Linville

Dear MURA members,

Please join us in the 2023 MURA year! As you read this issue, you will see that there are many special events planned for this Spring for you to connect, to learn and to shepherd the organization.

Please make plans to attend our annual business meeting and election of officers on Wednesday, March 15, at the Country Club of Missouri off Forum Boulevard. We will begin with coffee,

pastries and camaraderie at 9:30 a.m. There is no cost to attend, but registration is requested on the MURA website.

We have a wonderful slate of volunteers stepping up for leadership roles. More information about them can be found on page 2 in this newsletter.

Our featured program, "A Time Out of Time" will be by **Chris Bouchard** as he shares his father's story as a POW. Updates about Retiree Benefits and the Retiree Pension Fund will be presented by members of the UM Executive Staff.

MURA FOCUS
on members' pastimes and hobbies

- Visual and performing arts
- Sports and fitness
- Outdoor activities
- Interesting collections

This issue of MURA News features those who hone their visual arts skills and talents. The next three newsletters will highlight members skilled in sports, outdoors hobbies and, finally, those who have interesting collections.

In this issue, we are spotlighting painters **Ben Schwarz**, **Larry Kantner** and **Shirley**

Jackson; fiber artists **Mary Licklider**, **Betsy Garrett**, **Donna Puleo** and **Maggie Walter**; and performing artist **Aaron Krawitz**.

The MURA Breakfast on Feb. 7 featured **John Kelly**, a retired school administrator, who shared his vast knowledge about the Negro Leagues Baseball and its museum.

We have an array of interesting breakfast programs in the months ahead, arranged by our MURA Education Committee of **Clyde and Cecile Bentley**.

- On March 7, **Andrew Zumwalt**, MS, CFP of the MU Personal Financial Planning Program will advise us on how to avoid scams and protect our money.
- The challenges of improving access to health care in rural areas will be addressed by **Kathleen Quinn**, associate dean of Rural Health and MU School of Medicine, on April 4.
- **Dena Higbee**, director of simulation for the MU School of Medicine, will give tours of the Sheldon Clinical Mobile Simulation Unit for our members attending the April breakfast.
- **Betsy Garrett**, a former MURA president, will share her love and passion for birding on May 2.

You can attend our breakfasts in person at the Country Club of Missouri or by webinar. All registrations are through our website, [MURetirees Association](http://MURetireesAssociation)

It promises to be an exciting 2023 for MURA, and I hope to see many of you at many of the events. Thank you for all you give to MURA, to the university and this community.

Warm regards,
Ina Linville, MURA president

John Kelly, a baseball fan through and through, shares enthusiasm for sports

JOHN KELLY SHARED HIS ENCYCLOPEDIA KNOWLEDGE of the history of the Negro Baseball League and its museum in Kansas City at the MU Retirees Association's breakfast on Feb. 7, sponsored by **Central Bank and Central Trust Company**.

As Clyde Bentley, program co-chair, said in his introduction: "There are no pigeonholes into which you could place John Kelly. It takes, instead, a bookshelf or perhaps a whole library."

Kelly, a Columbia native, is a Mizzou Tiger, earning both his bachelor's and master's degrees at MU. He's an Army veteran, serving in Vietnam in the military police. He also is a Peace Corps veteran, who taught teachers in Madras, India.

He made an indelible mark on local education during his 20 years at Hickman High School – as assistant principal, athletics director and director of the secondary learning center.



John Kelly captivates his audience at MURA's February breakfast with the history of Negro League Baseball as well as the history of its museum.

(continued on p. 14)

Slate of officers selected to serve MURA in 2023-24



THE MURA Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers to serve as the MURA Board of Directors for the 2023-24 year.

Editor's note: Ken Dean, current president-elect/program chair will move into the president's position at the beginning of the 2023-24 year.

Jim Scott, for president-elect and program chair



JIM RETIRED IN 2019, after serving MU in a variety of roles for 28 years. His first assignment was director of Educational Services for the congressionally-funded Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI), based in MU's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources in 1991. RUPRI was a collaboration between MU and the universities of Arkansas, Nebraska and Iowa State.

"Our primary mission was to provide non-partisan research and decision support for Congressional committees of jurisdiction and federal agencies on the rural impacts of their decisions," Jim wrote.

Jim completed his Ph.D. in rural sociology.

He later established a new center, Community Policy Analysis Center, focused on local government policy in Missouri. It built unique research tools to help measure the economic and fiscal impacts of local governments. From this center, a national research network, called the Community Policy Analysis Network was developed.

This network soon attracted international interest. "I was invited to a conference in Derry, Northern Ireland, to explain how we used this research to support local governments. This led to a large research proposal funded by the EU to establish a cross border at the height of the Troubles. That project helped me build long-standing friendships and collaborations in Ireland and with EU institutions.

"In 1998, I joined a group of prominent MU faculty members working to establish a center of excellence in EU and Transatlantic relations. Funded by the EU, MU was selected as one of 10 centers at prominent universities across the U.S. Most of these centers were led by political scientists or by prominent European scholars.

"MU took a different approach. We involved faculty with European experience from 12 different colleges."

The primary work of the Center was to acquaint people in Missouri with the EU market and its institutions. During this project, MU hosted about 30 conferences on campus with more than 200 European officials and scholars. During these years, Jim also served as an associate professor in the Truman School of Public Affairs.

In 2006, he was invited to serve MU as director of the International Center to support the global academic reach and to manage the risks and liabilities associated with it. Almost 25 percent of MU undergraduates earn academic credit in programs offered in other countries. It also enrolls students from more than 100 different countries, including those now torn by military conflict. This mobility of students requires excellent staff support, and specialized knowledge provided by the center.

Suzette Heiman, for secretary



SUZETTE RETIRED IN JUNE 2021 after more than three decades at the Missouri School of Journalism where she served as a professor in strategic communication, a department chair and the director of planning and communications.

Her roles allowed her to be involved in all aspects of the School's initiatives, including overseeing the 2008 centennial of the School and the dedication of the Reynolds Journalism Institute. More than 2,500 alumni and others from around the world attended the

three-day event in Columbia.

Suzette co-authored one of the leading public relations textbooks for college students and served as a communications consultant to a diverse group of multinational clients. She served in numerous leadership positions for academic as well as advertising and public relations organizations. Among them are the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, the National Advertising Review Board and the Missouri Interscholastic Press Association.

In retirement Suzette is an ABLE volunteer, tutoring a sixth-grade student in reading. She also meets weekly with an Afghan refugee wanting to learn English. She is active in her church as a deacon and Sunday School teacher.

Suzette takes piano lessons, likes to ride her bike on the Katy Trail, hike, cheer the Tigers on at football games and travel. She and her husband, Terry, both MU alums, raise Polled Hereford cattle on their farm in Russellville with help from their Pochon Beau Jo.

Sherri Helm, for member at large – staff



SHERRI RETIRED FROM MU after 39 years of service. She began her career in the Center for Independent Study in 1978. Working in a variety of offices throughout her career, she served as the secretary to the vice president for Administrative Affairs from 1993-98, worked for the executive vice president for Extension from 2000-04, and additionally served as interim secretary to the president from November 2003 to March 2004.

Her most recent responsibilities were in the Office of Economic Development from 2010-21. Her responsibilities included project management, administrative support, event coordination, supervising student interns and various other functions. She also was responsible for department-wide communications and event management.

Sherri keeps busy in retirement with her husband of 45 years, four grandchildren, reading, traveling, and every once in a while, still working for MU.

Chris Bouchard, for member at large – faculty



CHRIS RETIRED FROM the University of Missouri in July 2016 after working in the Small Business and Development Center (SBDC) for 24 years, a program of MU Extension. He started as a business development specialist in Cole County and eventually became the SBDC state director. The SBDC is a national, university-based program with lead offices in each state, delivering services to small businesses and entrepreneurs across the state.

While in the SBDC, Chris served as the vice chair of the National Small Business Administration's SBDC Accreditation Committee, was part of a three-member team that consulted with the government of Egypt, interested in starting an SBDC program, escorted Missouri small business owners to Japan to expand their markets and facilitated workshops/consulted with small businesses in Bulgaria when free markets first opened.

Prior to his employment with MU, he owned two businesses in Columbia, Thomas Home Decorating and T.J. Cinnamon's Bakery.

He has been part of Columbia's business community for the past 39 years and is currently on the REDI board serving as the small business/entrepreneurial liaison. Chris served 10 years on active duty as an Air Force pilot and 10 years in the Missouri Air National Guard becoming the comptroller for the Lambert Air National Guard unit.

Chris graduated from the University of Missouri with a bachelor's degree in geology and received an MBA from Central Michigan University. After retiring from the university, he was hired by the Missouri United Methodist Foundation to start a new grant-funded program teaching clergy to become more effective financial leaders.

Community activities include serving on the board of directors for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Missouri, including a term as the chair and was a Big twice; membership on the Columbia Airport Advisory Board, including a term as the chair; membership in Rotary and a two-time past president; a CASA volunteer; a Love Columbia volunteer; and served 13 years for the Missouri Quality Award as an examiner, senior examiner and a member of the Board of Overseers.

Chris is married to Ann, and they have two grown daughters and six granddaughters. He loves to ski and recently became Scuba certified.

MURA Nominating Committee members were Ruth Tofle (Chair), Betsy Garrett, Jo Turner, Kee Groshong and Gary Smith.

MU Retirees Association Statement of Cash Flows

	Actual Fiscal Year Ended as of January 31, 2023	Actual Fiscal Year Ended as of June 30, 2022	% of Prior FY
Operating Activities Supported by Member Dues and Investment Income:			
Receipts			
Dues-annual	\$ 387.50	\$ 300.00	129.17%
Dues-lifetime	1,700.00	3,612.50	47.06%
Donation to Scholarship Fund	170.00	100.00	170.00%
Sponsorship from Tiger Place for Business Meeting	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Sponsorship from Central Bank for FY 2023	0.00	3,000.00	0.00%
Investment income - Vanguard	1,678.62	2,836.45	59.18%
Total Operating Receipts	\$ 3,936.12	\$ 10,848.95	36.28%
Disbursements			
Business meeting	0.00	333.06	0.00%
AROHE Dues	0.00	120.00	0.00%
Flagship Council	0.00	250.00	0.00%
Post Office Box rent and postage	0.00	138.00	0.00%
Software (WinHost, Jotform)	407.40	407.40	100.00%
State of Missouri - Secretary of State filing fee	10.50	10.50	100.00%
Payment to MU for Kitty Dickerson Scholarship	70.00	4,000.00	1.75%
PayPal fees assessed against dues payments	39.87	88.05	45.28%
Miscellaneous	0.00	88.39	0.00%
Total Operating Disbursements	527.77	5,435.40	
Excess of Operating Receipts over Disbursements	3,408.35	5,413.55	62.96%
Self-Supporting Social Activities:			
Holiday Luncheon			
Receipts - Members	2,175.00	1,925.00	
Receipts - Sponsorship	1,114.95	880.29	
Disbursements - PayPal	66.45	63.97	
Disbursements - Honorarium Pianist, supplies	91.76	50.00	
Disbursements - Holiday Inn Executive Center	3,131.74	2,691.32	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Shakespeare's Fundraiser			
Receipts	209.55	196.02	
Disbursements-MU for Kitty Dickerson Scholarship	209.55	200.00	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	0.00	(3.98)	0.00%
Spring Event			
Receipts	0.00	1,190.00	
Disbursements - PayPal	0.00	37.01	
Disbursements-MU for Kitty Dickerson Scholarship	0.00	1,200.00	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	0.00	(47.01)	0.00%
Breakfasts			
Receipts -Members	4,555.00	6,415.00	
Receipts - Sponsorship	1,885.05	2,119.71	
Disbursements - PayPal	197.76	279.05	
Disbursements - CCMO, City of Columbia, A-1	4,113.08	6,445.85	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	2,129.21	1,809.81	117.65%
Other Receipts (Disbursements)			
Transfer to Investment Account	0.00	(7,612.50)	
Transfer from Investment Account	0.00	0.00	(7,612.50)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash During Period	5,537.56	(440.13)	
Cash Balance, Beginning of Period (less FY 2023 sponsorship assigned to events)	5,548.57	8,988.70	
Cash Balance, End of Period	\$ 11,086.13	\$ 8,548.57	
Investment Assets (See note 1)			
Lifetime Members Reserve Investment Account	\$ 104,966.22	\$ 102,192.05	

Notes:

- (1) This asset pool was established from lifetime membership dues. The income from these investments provides continuing services for lifetime members as they no longer pay membership dues. Currently, these assets are invested in the Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund.

CREATIVE FOLKS ACROSS MANY ARTS FILL MURA RANKS

THIS ISSUE of the MURA News features members' talents in the visual and performing arts. Enjoy as you read about members who paint. One member discusses his passion for performance work. MURA has a slew of fiber artists. This Special Section highlights their works along with their stories.

A trio of artists, each in a class of their own

IT WAS VINCENT VAN GOGH who said, "real painters do not paint things as they are. ... They paint them as they themselves feel them to be."

Three MU retirees connect to Van Gogh's philosophy as they express themselves in the creative art of painting. They have different backgrounds, different professional history and different styles in their completed works.

Each artist approaches their work in their individual way.

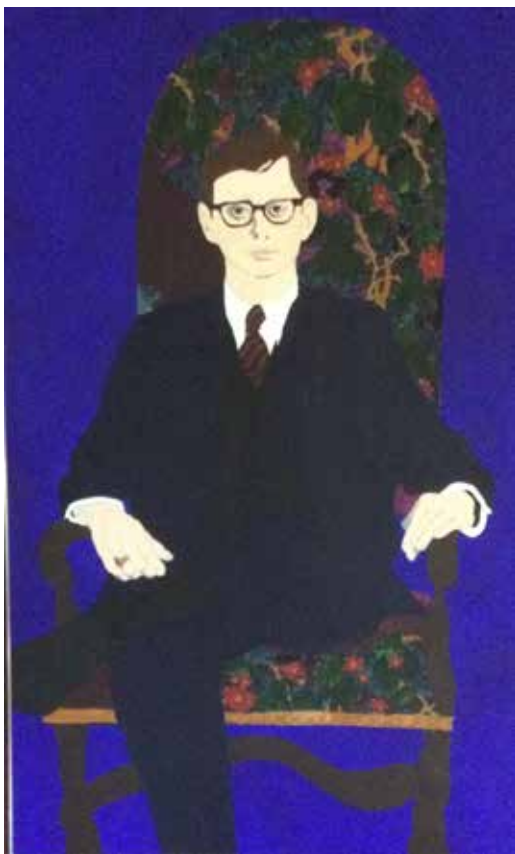
A similarity is in how each are entranced by the mystery of inter-

preting the character of a person. Moreover, all three artists are quick to admit to the pleasure they extract from the painting process.

Arguably, Van Gogh's most famous quote was, "It is good to love many things, for therein lies strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done with love is well done."

With these three artists, you feel the love.

– Ruth Tofle



Larry Kantner – art is pure pleasure

LARRY WAS FORMALLY TRAINED as a painter and printmaker and received his doctorate in art education. For most of his professional life with professorships in the departments of art and curriculum and instruction, the motivation was to have work accepted by national jurors.

After retirement and a nine year "breathing period," he found his way back to his home studio. He had a recent show in the Melissa Williams Gallery and continues to spend two hours a day with what brings him "pure pleasure." Larry's motivation is not in showing or selling but in the sheer enjoyment in producing art.

The nature of Larry's work has also evolved over time. While earlier work was once larger and more painterly with visible brush strokes, his work evolved to flattened figurative forms in color fields. Now his work is smaller in scale and is in watercolors and acrylics and collage on paper. The work now is more narrative and often based on mythology or poetry.



Ben Schwarz – an outlet for creative juices

BEN HAD TWO CLASSES in his architecture training that covered two-dimensional design with sketching and color theory. He began painting in the mid- 1980s when his job as a diplomat left him without an outlet for his “creative juices.”

After completing his doctorate and becoming a professor in the department of architectural studies, Ben began experimenting with acrylics in 2006. After his retirement in 2018, his painting blossomed as he captured portraits, figures and both built and natural landscapes.

His media is acrylic for larger and more detailed work while he chooses watercolors for smaller work, which goes much faster.

In addition to the joy of being creative, Ben says his primary motivation for painting is the personal satisfaction his art gives others.

“When I see others excited about my work, it makes me happy,” he said. He aims to capture the emotions of music with his art.

Ben received the First Place Award in the December 2022 Columbia Art League annual exhibition at Central Bank of Boone County for his work titled “Bass Jazz.”

Shirley Jackson – finds her happy place in painting

SHIRLEY IS PROUD TO SAY she has been an artist since early childhood. While initially self-taught, over time she has attended workshops and taken art classes from artists she admired to learn and perfect her own individual style.

She owned Centralia’s Suntime Gallery Ltd in the 1980s where the work of local artists and her own paintings were featured.

Shirley later worked for Provosts Deaton, Franz and Foster as their office manager and executive administrative associate. When she retired in 2006, she was able to reclaim her passion for painting to work daily for hours in her home studio.

Her motivation for painting is to be in a “happy place” where mood and attitude are elevated, and time is not an issue.

While Shirley has had numerous commissions, she has gifted most of her work to family and friends.

Her chosen medium is watercolors for portrait, landscape and still life work, but she also enjoys using acrylics and pastels.

Recent work has been portraits in the style of realism. She strives to capture the personality of the model. The finished painting must have good composition and value, but more importantly, both the artist and the recipient must be pleased with her creative interpretation of the subject. If not, it goes into the “failure file,” and she begins again the next day.





Karma Metzgar's quilting works are shown clockwise from left: grandson's Emery's Christmas quilt; Karma; Riley's name is quilted into a skirt on a quilt; quilting machine and frame; and Christmas quilt for granddaughter Riley.

Karma Metzgar – quilter extraordinaire

Karma learned how to sew in 4-H when her mother was the clothing project leader. Making garments in 4-H means seams and stripes need to be lined up perfectly. There is many a tale of ripping out seams and resewing, usually told with a sense of nostalgic pride.

Karma loves quilting for her family members. Her first full-size quilt was a wedding present for her daughter. She followed this with plans for an anniversary quilt for her parents' 60th anniversary. As with many of us, life sometimes gets in the way: Her parents received the quilt on their 65th and half anniversary.

Karma had been sending her large quilts to a long-arm quilter to finish. She really wanted to start finishing the quilting herself, so she could do custom quilting. About eight years ago, Karma was approached by a MU Extension colleague and MURA member, Mary Leuci, about purchasing her mother's long-arm sewing machine and quilting frame. Karma and her husband traveled from Mound City to Sedalia to disassemble and transport the equipment.

During the pandemic, she began to follow free-motion quilting sites and participated in on-line classes. She discovered opportunities to be testers for quilt patterns. Several designers began sending patterns for her to test.

Testing patterns involved following the pattern to make a block or a quilt top in a couple of weeks and post progress on Instagram. Once finished, comments are provided back to the designer on the pattern's directions. The benefit is a free pattern and sometimes fabric or notions.

Her grandchildren are the most recent beneficiaries of Karma's love and love of quilting. She finished quilts for grandson Emery (2 ½ years) and granddaughter Riley (4 ½ years) just in time for Christmas. But the delivery to California was delayed over the holidays. Karma made good use of the time to make matching pillowcases and wall hangings. The names of both grandchildren are quilted into their respective quilts.

What's next for this quilter? She has learned how fabric is designed and released to be sold. She follows a Missouri designer, Tula Pink, and Kaffe Fassett. Both use bold designs and jewel tones. Karma has discovered wonderful rulers and tools to add more precision to her quilting whether making and trimming flying geese, half-square triangles or curves.

Is there collecting in her future? Maybe, as an uncle found and reconditioned a 1952 Singer Featherweight. It's a perfect machine to take to quilt retreats, she says.

– Ina Linville



Birds are a consistent motif in most of Betsy Garrett's hooked rugs. Clockwise from top left: framed bird on house; blackbirds in a row; blue bird; and welcome mat with posies. Center: Betsy poses with a bird on a flower basket.

Betsy Garrett – hooking rugs creates friendships

YOU MAY SEE A PATTERN on linen being hooked with wool on the loom or finished rugs displayed on the wall, but what you are really seeing is a creative outlet for Betsy Garrett. They also represent a group of like-minded friends.

The Big Muddy Rug Hooking Guild meets monthly to exchange ideas and rug hooking techniques and to enjoy each other's company.

Years ago, a coworker brought a rug to hook at work. And seeing that it sparked Betsy's curiosity, the coworker was kind enough to show Betsy some techniques. Soon, she was "hooked" too. Both are members of the guild.

Betsy emphasizes that the style of hooking she enjoys is "primitive." It reflects rug hooking using larger strips of wool. Loops are pulled up through a stiff woven base such as linen or monks

cloth. There is detail but not fine detail that one might create when using smaller strips of wool or yarn.

Finishing a rug provides Betsy with a sense of accomplishment. Many of her rugs are gifted to family and usually are utilitarian gifts such as mug rugs or trivets.

It's generational sharing as Betsy explains that a passion for fiber arts runs in her family. Her grandmother crocheted and quilted. Her mother was a quilter as well. Rug hooking is Betsy's fiber art and creative outlet.

What's next for Betsy? We had a long discussion about Woolly Mason Jar dyeing. It seems to be the next thing that has "hooked" her interest. Me, too!

– Ina Linville



Clockwise from top left: A pretty pieced quilt in purple; Donna; raw edge applique with hand quilting; rug hooked chair pads; hand embroidered blocks made by Donna's mother, now deceased. (Her mother was goaded by a friend to make them, and Donna pieced the top and free motion quilted a portion of it; and a wool on cotton applique table runner.

Donna Puleo – a woman of many talents

WHAT DO KNITTING, quilting, appliqueing wool and hooking rugs have in common for Donna Puleo? The repetitive work with her hands is therapeutic for her.

Wool on cotton applique is a favorite and involves tacking down the designs cut out of wool on a cotton background with decorative stitches. The hum of the machine brings enjoyment as she sews and pieces quilts.

Donna usually sends the quilt tops to a long-arm business to be quilted but has tried her hand at free motion.

"Free motion is a challenge," Donna states, but her samples tell another story. A beautiful raw-edge applique of a pumpkin displays her machine-quilting technique.

Primitive rug hooking is another fiber art that occupies her hands. Using the early 20th century Magdalina technique of value, Donna made three chair pads – one of her dog JuJu, a buckskin horse and a sheep.

"I wish I could understand background color and movement more," she laments. Take a look at her work in the picture collage, I think her backgrounds nail it.

Donna is not just an inside kind of gal. She is the president of the Mizzou Botanic Garden, a Master Gardener and a Master Naturalist.

– Ina Linville, MURA president



Top: From left: Diane Peckham, Linda Coats and Mary Licklider separate batting at Heartfelt Alpaca Creations studio; Clockwise from top right: Mary standing by the felting machine, one of six in the U.S. like it; a felted bag that is a new wholesale product in development; felted trivet; felted insole; and one of the adorable Alpacas at Curly Eye. All three members of Heartfelt, LLC agree there is something special about alpacas. Besides being cute, Mary says, "They are one of the more intelligent animals."

Former MU staff members coalesce around their love of alpacas and fiber arts

IN A STUDIO on Mary and Gary Licklider's Curly Eye farm west of Columbia, Diane Peckham, Linda Coats and Mary Licklider turn alpaca fiber into products made of felt or yarn.

Each spring, the alpacas on the farm are shorn, and the fiber is sent to a mill in Michigan to make roving, unspun fibers ready to be spun or felted into yarn. Heartfelt buys 600 to 800 pounds of fiber per year to felt and makes a variety of products to wholesale through their company, Heartfelt Alpaca Creations, including blankets, trivets and insoles for footwear.

The colors vary with the color of the animal; there are 22 recognized colors of alpacas.

The studio is filled with felting equipment, a die press and other production machines.

They work well together to achieve the final products. "What one person finds annoying, the others don't mind," Mary explains.

Mary, retired director of the grant writers at MU; Diane, a retired medical technician from University Hospital; and Linda Coats, retired from the MU Career Center, have been working together for the last dozen years.

I personally purchased some yarn this fall at one of the times Heartfelt Alpaca Creations is open for retail sales. There is something special about knowing the name of the cute alpaca sourcing the luxurious yarn.

– Ina Linville



Ina's treasured purchase – skeins of processed alpaca fibers.



Clockwise from top left: Maggie in her fiber studio with miniature sheep statuettes behind her; “Missouri Trouble” in overshot pattern; quilted tote bag with decorative stitches; rug woven in Krokbragd pattern that originated in Sweden; wall hanging woven on a rigid heddle loom; Maggie’s first loom from the mid-1980s, which she used at the fall Heritage Festival to teach children how to weave.

Maggie Walter – weaving works of art, sewing to follow family traditions

FIBER ARTS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART of the Walter family’s history. Great-grandmothers, grandmothers, mother, siblings, aunts and cousins explored a variety of crafts. Tatting, embroidering, rug hooking, braiding rag rugs, knitting, crocheting, designing and sewing clothes and home decorations and other fiber works were overshadowed by quilting.

Once Maggie started to weave in the late 1980s, all other fiber interests fell away. Weaving became her passion as she took one class after another learning new techniques and patterns. She joined the Columbia Weavers and Spinners’ Guild in 2003 when she moved from Maine to Columbia to take a faculty position at the Missouri School of Journalism.

Maggie’s first loom is a four-harness table loom. If you walk into her weaving studio, it is a loom wonderland. She has a big Glimakra (Swedish) loom. There also is an assortment of looms in smaller sizes. Her latest is a 12-harness Schacht loom, a retirement gift to herself.

Maggie’s woven works are exquisite. “Missouri Trouble,” a monochromatic piece has 60 threads per inch and a complex overshot pattern.

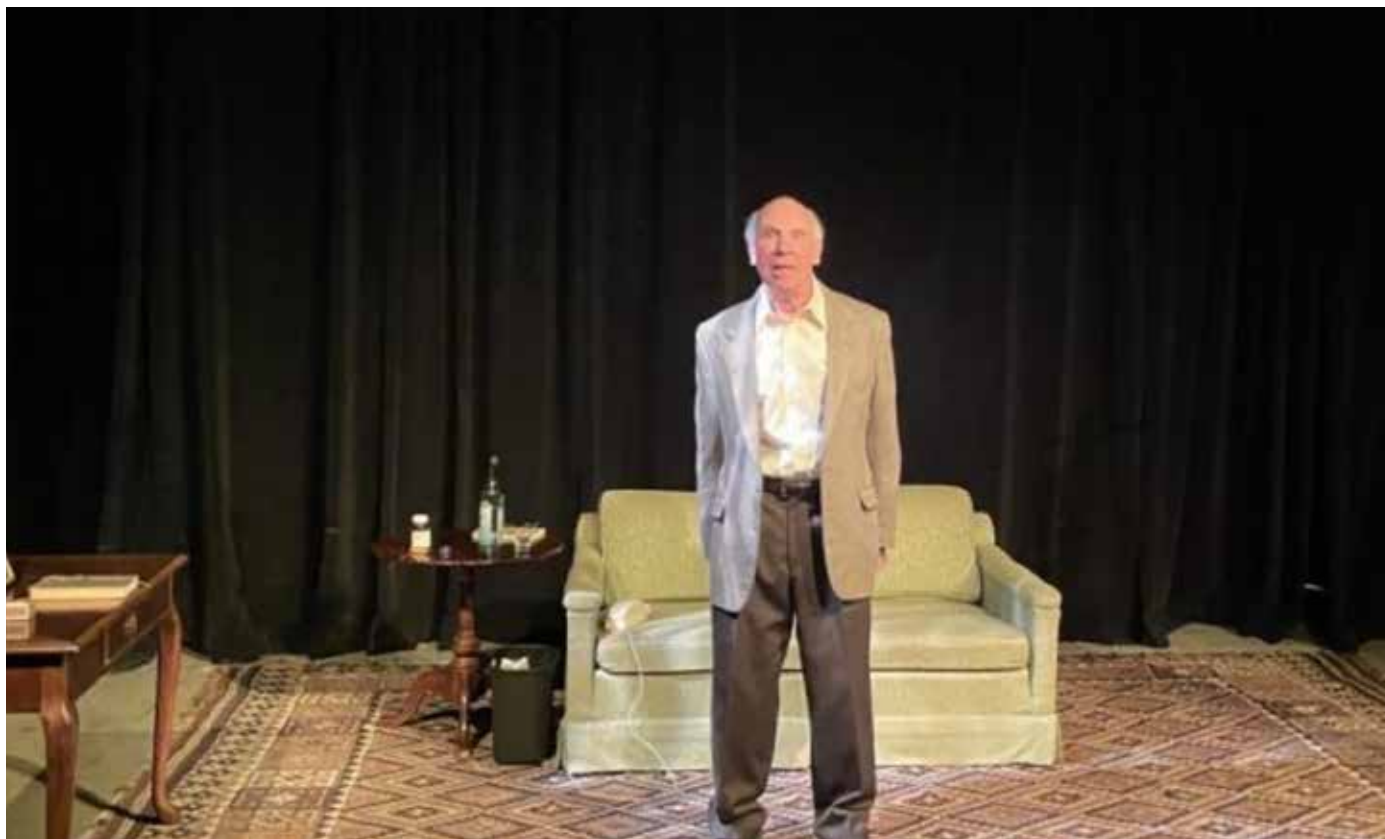
In what is a sort of full circle, quilting is finding its way back into Maggie’s fiber arts studio. She is a member of the Booneslick Trail Quilters Guild, and besides sewing quilts, Maggie sews to serve as she makes school bags for children among other charity sewing projects.

Maggie’s fiber studio, separate from the weaving wonderland, is a playground for a fiber artist and crafter. Stashes of material, yarn-filled shelves and quilt blocks cover tabletops. Two sewing machines are at the ready and sometimes supplemented by two overlocker machines.

A collection of sheep figurines, in honor of the family’s sheep farm in southern Indiana, keeps Maggie company as she works. Nostalgic pieces of a barn loom her mom and Aunt Mary purchased after weaving rugs as docents during the Indiana’s Sesquicentennial anchor the room.

“My studio is also loaded with bits and bobs from the world of weaving, a miniature museum, if you will, of the whimsies of weaving,” Maggie says.

– Ina Linville



Aaron starred in the production of "Golgotha" at Columbia's Talking Horse Productions in 2021, a one-man play depicting Holocaust survivor Albert Savado.

Aaron Krawitz – engineering his way into performing arts

ENGINEERING PROFESSOR AARON KRAWITZ switched venues from the classroom to city chambers, theater stages and radio studios. However, he is still transmitting the visions, values and dynamic patterns of life experiences in time and space. The same creative process and problem-solving skills used in teaching material science courses are now applied to his volunteer efforts in the arts for community enrichment.

Learning by doing, Krawitz learned about community theater through his friendship with Willy Wilson. He reveals, "(Willy) conned me into auditioning for 'Song of Singapore' at Maplewood in 1995. I was the bartender. I had one line and washed a glass behind the bar for two hours."

That cameo led to comedic and dramatic character roles in non-profit community theaters – seven with the Maplewood Barn Theater, eight with the Columbia Entertainment Company and 12 with Talking Horse Productions.

Equally impressive to his civic organizational leadership in the arts is how he steps up to enrich our community with his own musical talents. Krawitz has appeared at Art in the Park and civic

events playing folk music and blues in a band called Minimal Art, that included fellow MURA member Mike Porter on upright bass.

Krawitz remains true to the purpose of the Columbia Cultural Affairs Commission with "Marooned," his monthly radio show on KOPN. The concept is based on the BBC radio show "Desert Island Discs." In it a local guest is asked what six musical numbers they would bring with them if they were on an uninhabited desert island for the rest of their life. During the course of a 30-minute conversation, he plays excerpts of each piece and asks why they were chosen.

As visions, values and patterns are captured not only in strategic mathematical equations but also in the rhythm of temporal arts, the lines between the sciences and the arts are erased for Aaron. His volunteer civic efforts with his own creative interests and talents are our community's windfall.

— Ruth Tofle, MURA past president



Aaron Krawitz



Yes, indeed, MURA members kept party traditions alive at the MURA Holiday Luncheon held at the Holiday Inn Executive Center on Nov. 30. There were raffles, a rousing sing-along, gift baskets with a variety of themes, **Dick Otto's** trivia quiz, yummy food and 81 folks in attendance.

As per another tradition, **Gary Smith** honored **Ray Schroeder** with a toast in recognition of his work to establish MURA in 1990.



Linda Lorenz has her arms full as she delivers a raffle prize to a lucky winner.



Connie Loveless accompanies the annual sing-along on piano, with Dale Brigham and Ruth Tofle.

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Dale Brigham shows off his Vanna White skills while working at the raffle table.



Some are intently filling out Dick Otto's annual trivia quiz, some awaiting the results of raffle drawings, but all enjoying good company at the MURA holiday party!



Donna Johanning, Jan Harrison



Larry Ganong, Marilyn Coleman



Brooke Cameron



Mary Jo Herde, Dee and Bob Montgomery



Mark Stewart



Barbara Schneider, Michelle Cecil



Betsy Garrett



Ken Hutchinson, Doris Littrell



Vicky Wilson, Margie Sable



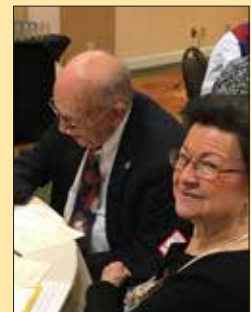
Bill Allen



Carol and Gary Smith



Donna Otto, Ken Dean



Jack and Darlene Miles

Timely tips for possibly saving money on state income taxes

DID YOU KNOW Missouri allows for exempting government pensions from being taxed with the caveats noted below?

Tax software will recognize the exemption from the state tax if you enter the information appropriately. For example, for TurboTax you need to enter your 1099-R into the software using the "Interview Method" and not using the direct entry "Forms" option. (The software should ask, "Is this a government or private pension?")

Please consult your own tax software to be sure you are getting the exemption the law allows. For questions, please consult your tax consultant.

Federal Income Tax

MU retirement pensions are fully taxable on your Federal return.

Missouri State Income Tax

Missouri allows for exempting government pensions from being taxed – subject to the following limitations.

Your total Missouri adjusted gross income (excluding taxable Social Security benefits) must be less than \$100,000 if married filing jointly or \$85,000 if single, head of household, married filing separate, or qualifying widower.

If your income exceeds these limits, you may qualify for a partial exemption (Your exemption is decreased by the amount your income exceeds the limit.).

So, lower income earners do not have to pay state income tax on their MU pension. In the case of higher income earners, if their other income goes up and they exceed the limitation, they would pay state income tax on an increasing amount of their pension (with the potential of paying tax on all of their pension.)

Resident of another State?

Your MU pensions may or may not be taxable if you are a resident of another state. Check with your state for taxability. For those states that tax MU pensions, MU System has announced updated withholding for retirees living outside of Missouri.

– Ernie Barbee, AFSP Participant and Professional, of Columbia

John Kelly (continued from p. 1)

With frequent reminders that spring training starts next week, Kelly walked his attentive audience through the history of NLB – the players – male and, yes, female, the coaches, the owners, how the leagues evolved, fought racism and rascals and highlighted the many heroes in the league – some known and some unsung.

Kelly emphasized the Kansas City Monarchs, one of the earliest teams in the league, making no effort to hide his favoritism.

Kelly is married to MURA member Jacqueline Kelly, the former director of minority business development at MU.

– Compiled by Clyde Bentley and Maggie Walter

THIS EVENT SPONSORED BY



JOHN CARL KELLY RESUME

Educational Background

University of Missouri – Columbia: Master of Education

University of Missouri – Columbia: Bachelor of Arts

U.S. Army: Military Police School

University of Pennsylvania: Peace Corps Training

Professional Work Experience

Assistant principal, Hickman High School: Evaluated teachers, administered athletics programs, purchased textbooks, supervised building maintenance, sponsored student government.

Director, Secondary Learning Center: Administered programs for students who were unable to function in the regular classroom.

Other Professional Experiences

Peace Corps, Madras, India: Worked in a teacher training program.

U.S. Army: Worked in Military Police Unit, served one tour of duty in Vietnam.

JOHN KELLY'S HONORS/RECOGNITION

- 1996 Missouri Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Distinguished Service Award
- 2000 Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Award
- 2004 Alumni Super Kewp Award (Columbia Hickman High School)
- 2009 St. Paul A.M.E. Church Man of the Year
- 2010 Columbia Public Schools Foundation HHall of Leaders
- 2011 Kansas City Royals Buck O'Neal Legacy Award
- 2012 Columbia African American Association Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2014 Fun City Youth Academy Community Educator Award
- 2022 Don Faurot Sports person of the Year Award

Civic and community activities

- Missouri Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association District Representative
- Douglass Athletics Board of Directors
- St. Paul AME Church Education Committee
- Boone County Historical Society – Boone Junction Village Committee; Heritage Days Volunteer



MURA members' generosity still strong

MU RETIREES contributed \$130,911 of the \$404,414 raised by MU during the United Way campaign that ran from September through the end of 2022.

Retirees contributed 33 percent of the total!

WELCOME!



Seven join MURA as life members; four join as annual members

WELCOME to new MURA members who have joined since Jan. 1, 2023:

New Life Members: Memoree Bradley, Cindy Cover, Jacqueline Kelly, Mark Kirk, Julaine Stiers, Brooke Cameron and Kathy Timms

New Annual Members: Denise Boland, Donald Corwin, Sherry Corwin and Dean Larkin

– Linda Jo Turner

MURA Membership Committee



UPCOMING EVENTS

2023	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
*Tuesday, March 7	Breakfast - Dr. Andrew Zumwalt, MS, CFP, associate professor of financial planning, "Would you recognize a scam before it bit you? Protecting your money in 2023."	**8:00/8:30 to 9:30 a.m.	Country Club of Missouri and Zoom
Wednesday, March 15	Annual Business Meeting -- Social begins at 9:30 a.m.; business meeting begins at 10 a.m. Program: Chris Bouchard, "A time out of time." There will also be an update on Retirement Pension Plan. Registration not required, but helpful in planning refreshments. See mura-missouri.com .	9:30 a.m.	Country Club of Missouri and Zoom
*Tuesday, April 4	Breakfast - Dr. Kathleen Quinn, associate Dean for Rural Health, MU School of Medicine, "Rural health challenges; Improving access and equity," and Dena Higbee, director of Simulation, Tours of the Sheldon Clinical Mobile Simulation Center.	**8:00/8:30 to 9:30 a.m.	Country Club of Missouri and Zoom
*Monday, April 10	Spring Social hosted by President Mun Choi, honoring Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Recipients and Chancellor's Faculty and Staff Retiree of the Year.	5:00 p.m.	Walsworth Family Columns Club at Mizzou Stadium
*Tuesday, May 2	Breakfast - Betsy Garrett, MURA Past President and Avid Birder, "What's that bird? Become a birder and see (and hear) your world."	**8:00/8:30 to 9:30 a.m.	Country Club of Missouri and Zoom
*Tuesday, June 6	TBD	TBD	TBD

* Requires pre-registration; details at mura-missouri.com

** Food service begins at 8 a.m. and program at 8:30 for in-person Breakfast Series; Zoom meeting starts at 8:30 a.m.

Need help with MU-related issues?

IF YOU HAVE UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS about MU-related issues, MURA has two ombudspersons who may be able to help you find answers.

On behalf of MURA members, faculty representative **Mark Stewart** or staff representative **Carrie Lanham** can help investigate hard-to-navigate information.

Contact them at StewartM@missouri.edu or LanhamC@missouri.edu.

MURA News is published by the MU Retirees Association.

Maggie Walter, managing editor
Ginny Booker, designer
Judy Maseles, website manager
Karma Metzgar, Facebook administrator

DON'T MISS the bi-weekly MURA Update emails!

Please provide any email address updates to Barb Harris, MURA communications chair, at: harrisb@umsystem.edu.

MU Retirees Association



University of Missouri
P.O. Box 1831
Columbia, MO 65205-1831

Breakfast programs, annual business meeting, and socials, oh my! **Get these dates on your calendar!**