From the Board Chairs…

As the co-chairs of the Marnita’s Table Board of Directors, we are so enthused to be a part of an organization that is so transformational to individuals, systems and institutions as well as a major disruptor in the field of increasing equity and decreasing disparities across difference. We are more than satisfied with the return on investment from our contributions and support of the Table. We are overjoyed with what Marnita’s Table has achieved in 2018. Speaking for the whole board we are so proud of all the effort, passion, thoughtfulness, and intentionality the entirety of the Marnita’s Table team has shown in bridging gaps across difference, increasing their visibility, finding new clients and contributors and pursuing their mission of making Intentional Social Interaction (IZI) the new model for effective communication across difference worldwide. We hope this annual report exhibits the power of the IZI model and the need for Marnita’s Table worldwide. If anything in this report inspires you please share it with your networks, colleagues, and family. And, of course, get excited for the bigger and better things coming from Marnita’s Table in 2019 and beyond!

Enthusiastically,

Elizabeth Sarquis & Perran G. Wetzel V

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Perran G. Wetzel V | Co-Chair
Project Manager, Collective Action Lab
Elizabeth Sarquis | Co-Chair
Founder & CEO, Jukko + Global Gaming Initiative
David Scott | Treasurer*
Senior Vice President, Sunrise Banks
Dawn Baker, MSW | Secretary
Director, Learning and Development Solutions, City of Minneapolis
Paul Bachleitner
Communications Director, Northwest Area Foundation
John Hardy
Field Diversity & Inclusion Manager, Best Buy
Lynn Herbert
Development, Marnita’s Table
Josine Peters
Community Advocate & Déclarer


Introducing Blanca!

We are honored to have Blanca Martínez Gaviña join the team on a full-time basis. Blanca first came to the Table in 2014 as an aide for Senator Patricia Torres Ray. Fast forward to the fall of 2017 when she was recommended to us as a community outreach consultant. We were able to bring her on full-time in December 2018 to continue providing her community engagement expertise while also expanding her role to support our development work as our Outreach Specialist and Development Lead.

MTI Team
Marnita Schroedl
Founder and CEO
Sammie Ardito Rivera
Operations & Projects Director
Elexis Trinity William Gray
Director of Research & Projects
Lauren Williams
Training Manager
Executive Administrator
Blanca Martínez Gaviña
Project Manager & Development Lead
Lars Goldstein
Project & Curriculum Manager
Elijah McGregor Fortson
Content Strategist
Samuel Prohaska
Information & Systems Manager
C. Ted Bates
Facilities Manager

1330 Lagoon Avenue South
4th Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55408
612-928-7744
info@marnitastable.org
marnitastable.org

HUMANS GODS MONSTERS

2019 HUMANS GODS MONSTERS

IMAGINE if everyone had a seat at the table!

18 rural Minnesota communities want to communicate on topics they want to kommunikate in their 2019 Annual Report on the Annual Fundraiser of all people who attend one three-hour IZI say they want to be invited back say they want to invite someone to attend who’s never attended before of people say it’s VERY IMPORTANT to feel as though you belong in your own community say they felt as though they belonged at an IZI

More than 5,000+ people have now experienced IZI

Save the date
Saturday, November 9
Westminster Presbyterian Church
1200 Marquette Ave, Minneapolis

99% say they felt as though they belonged in their own communities
98% say they felt as though they belonged in their own communities
100% of people say it’s VERY IMPORTANT to feel as though
More than 53,000+ people have now experienced IZI

HUMANS GODS MONSTERS

Blanca Martínez Gaviña

Project Manager & Development Lead

*not pictured

2019 Fundraiser

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2018 Annual Report

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HUMANS GODS MONSTERS
Our 11th Annual
Start the Conversation Fundraiser!
Saturday, November 9
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We’ve now trained over 2,800+ people throughout the state to host IZIs in their own communities on topics that matter to them. 18 rural Minnesota communities want to host IZIs but lack the resources. Every week, on average, we receive over 30 requests from individuals and organizations who want to do IZIs of their own!
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More than 53,000+ people have now experienced IZI!

99% of all people who attend one three-hour IZI say they want to be invited back

98% say they want to invite someone to attend who’s never attended before

100% of people say it’s VERY IMPORTANT to feel as though you belong in your own community

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SUCCESSFUL CONNECTIONS, COLLABORATIONS, AND CONVERSATIONS

In the Media
Find these and other stories at marnitastable.org/blog
Marnita and The Table substantially heightened its profile and made numerous appearances in the media this year. Marnita was interviewed on the popular Paul and Jordanna Show on WCCO. She and Lauren also appeared on KFAL radio’s Health Notes. The Table was featured in at least three Star Tribune stories, one covering the success of our Building Bridges Breaking Bread event. Excitingly, Marnita gave her first TEDTalk at Todx Mahtomedi. She was also featured as the cover story for the Food issue of Minnesota Women’s Press. In 2018 we launched our playful podcast From A-10. Expect more episodes and blog posts in the coming year!

IIZI Training
In 2018 Marnita’s Table added a new level to our model: “Intentional Social Interaction for Individuals.” Training for this new level included a “paint by numbers” course and online curriculum complete with 7 diverse topics recommended by community members.
We trained 129 dinner party hosts to facilitate conversations in their own communities across the Greater Twin Cities in partnership with the Itasca Project. Thanks to funding from the Bush Foundation, the GenConnect project bridged diverse community members across generations who may have never met before but share similar interests in order to inspire collaboration and authentic connection across difference.
Tanya Paley and Kim Schaufenbuel of the United Way of Steele County in Owatonna, Minnesota became the newest Master Trainers in the IIZI model. Congratulations to them on completing their first independent IIZI and co-facilitating their first IIZI community youth training.

Updates from our IIZI Master Trainers and hosts:
• 1,840 guests attended IIZIs in Suburban Ramsey County and 170 youth took part in hosting, planning or leading an IIZI with the support of IIZI Master Trainers, Mary Sue Hansen and Peggy Huot-Hansen.
• Trained IIZI facilitators, including Niall Murton of the YMCA, in partnership with the Burnsville YMCA, Know Your Neighbor, and other community organizations brought hundreds of people together across difference through facilitated community conversations in Dakota County. Through their work, a United Methodist Church and the Burnsville Mosque came together to talk about each other’s communities and traditions in order to learn more about one another’s communities.
• Lori Anderson, through her community organization Transformative Circles brought together 200 people in her Coon Rapids community by hosting 9 IIZIs.

38th Street Bridge
On August 16th, Marnita’s Table partnered with Councilwoman Andrea Jenkins, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and a number of other community organizations to bring over 400 people together across difference for a feast on the recently renovated 38th Street Bridge over I-35W. A rousing success, the Table is planning to use it as a model for more events across Minnesota as well as for pop-up tables nationwide.

Mitchell Hamline College of Law
Focused on moving diversity and inclusion from theory to practice and igniting a culture shift, we collaborated with the Diversity Working Group and held a series of engaging lunch conversations focused on building relationships and creating community.

Collaboration in the Greater Metro
We completed a three IIZI series on Education, Housing, and Workforce Development with the Live, Learn, Earn Initiative of Scott County. Carver County Public Health, under the direction of Dr. Richard Scott, brought us in to support community outreach for their Community Health Assessment process.

Best Buy Diversity and Inclusion Team
We were excited to partner with the Diversity & Inclusion Team at Best Buy on two fun team-building cooking exercises and two community building IIZI meals.

Catalyst Initiative
We are honored to continue to be the Catalyst Initiative’s convener of choice as they move to their new home at The Minneapolis Foundation.

Annual Fundraiser: Greed Justice Generosity
Event Co-Chairs Sam Goldstein and Perran Wentzel successfully led a team to deliver the most financially successful Start the Conversation fundraiser in our history! We also began to build the resources and connections necessary to deliver Rapid Response pop up IIZIs from coast to coast.

We’ve exceeded the goals of our clients 100% of the time
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We've now trained over 2,800+ people in 2018 through the IZI. Our 2018 trainings are available for free in rural Minnesota communities on topics that matter to them. This is just the beginning of our work in providing IZI trainings to communities across the state.

We’ve now trained over 2,800+ people over 30 requests from indigenous communities in 2018. About 75% of them are Native American.

98% of people say it’s VERY IMPORTANT to feel as though you belong in your own community.

100% of people say it’s VERY IMPORTANT to attend IZI who’ve never attended.

98% say they want to attend some other IZI.

99% say they want to attend more IZI the year after attending one.

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Project Manager & Development Lead

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