Welcome Spring!

Luncheon
Tuesday, March 29
11:30 a.m.
Nakoma Golf Club
4145 Golf Club Road, Madison

Joseph E. Kapler will tell us about

Odd Wisconsin:
A New Way to Reveal Intriguing and Compelling Stories

In keeping with the bright and sunny days of the season, the Museum Curator at the Wisconsin State Historical Society will describe the unique and often humorous stories that come from unexpected sources and unusual places. In doing this he will reveal more about the Odd Wisconsin method to “lower the bucket into the depths of Wisconsin history and bring to light curious fragments of forgotten lives.”

A history major who moved to museum studies, Joe Kapler now is a curator for the Division of Museums and Historic Sites. The range of tales he has encountered show that history is not the dull matter many of us imagined.

Refreshments will be available beginning at 11 o’clock; luncheon will be served at 11:30. The menu is Teriyaki Chicken Salad and a Bananas Foster Sundae for dessert. (A vegetarian option is available upon request with your reservation.)

The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, March 23. Return the form (at the back of this newsletter) and a check to University League for $16 per person to Cynthia Benevenga, 6410 Appalachian Way, Madison, WI 53705.
From the President:
Roma Lenihan

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday season with families and friends. For me, the season began by attending the Candlelight Concert with more than a hundred League members. We all enjoyed the marvelous performance of Kitt Reuter-Foss at Blackhawk Country Club.

I want to again thank you all for your generosity. The gifts for the Annual Scholarship Benefit have been steadily arriving. If you have not yet given, please consider giving to help support student scholarships. Your gifts enable students to go to the twelve University of Wisconsin-Madison schools and colleges.

Lois Buelow and the Nominating Committee have done an incredible job filling most of the Board positions, including the unfilled positions remaining on this year’s Board.

Mona Steele has generously agreed to be the President-Elect and serve as next year’s (2011-12) President.

League is fortunate to have volunteers, like Charlene Krembs, who generously donate their time. Charlene, who maintains the University League electronic membership list, is profiled in this newsletter.

February is a wonderful time to recruit University League members. If people join now, they do not have to pay dues again until May 2012, getting the extra months free. Please invite people to join our League community to enjoy our programs and Interest Groups.

I hope to see you at the March 29 luncheon at the Nakoma Golf Club. Museum Curator Joseph Kapler will share fascinating stories about the “Odd Wisconsin” exhibit at the Wisconsin Historical Society Museum.

By the time we meet again, winter will be ending and spring will have begun. Despite early spring’s challenges, including frequently some of the largest snows of the year, the promise of the lengthening days, early flowers, and migrating birds brings joy to us all.

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Please Remember to Give to the Scholarship Benefit

Now that Spring is coming, it’s also time to return your donations to the Scholarship Benefit. Please help our scholarship “come up roses” this year by sending your contribution by April 1st to: Cathy Tesar, Treasurer, University League Scholarship Benefit, P.O. Box 5064, Madison, WI 53705-0064. Make your check payable to The University League, Inc. Thank you very much.
INTRODUCING CHARLENE RIECK KREMBS

The University League is very pleased and honored to introduce one of our long term members, Charlene Rieck Krembs, who maintains the League membership list. Charlene began work at the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) at the UW-Madison campus in 1983 as a programmer/analyst. Presently, she is the Manager of the Administrative Computing Services (CALS) at UW-Madison.

In 1987, Lois Buelow, the League’s Newsletter Editor that year, invited Charlene to volunteer as the ‘keeper’ of The University League's membership files. Lois knew Charlene from Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and the League. Charlene says, "Nancy Dorl had been maintaining the membership files and I worked with Nancy and Lois to transition the files to me. I originally used a list management package that we had on our WANG system (a mini-computer system that was installed in CALS and throughout the University) and as technology changed, so did the software that I’ve used. The database is now maintained in Microsoft Access (2010) with the data on our office file server."

Charlene and Bob Krembs, a fellow musician whom she met at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, were married in 1998. Both are actively involved in the church's music ministry and are members of the "Joyful Harmony" which leads the music for the 9 a.m. service at Good Shepherd West. Charlene also participates in many physical activities, such as bowling, biking and gardening. She and Bob enjoy traveling whenever possible. They take Charlene's 88-year-old father on an annual family fishing trip to Kenora, Ontario. Other family gatherings include visits with Charlene's two older sisters, Cindy and Cheryl, a niece in the Milwaukee area and a nephew in Juneau, Alaska. She also spends time spoiling their three beloved felines.

Charlene has recently joined the sorority, Beta Sigma Phi, an organization dedicated to life, learning and friendship.

A life full of work, service to family and others, and a reaching out for new adventures seems to sum up Charlene's commitment to live life to the fullest. The University League Board of Directors and members wish to honor you, Charlene Rieck Krembs, and to say a heartfelt 'THANK YOU' for all of your years of volunteer service.

IN MEMORIAM

The League has lost several members since the publication of our last newsletter: Ellen Buck on January 9, 2011; M. Vere DeVault, husband of Marge DeVault (both members), on December 9, 2010; and Mary Taylor on November 14, 2010. We send our condolences and thoughts to their families for their loss.
The Genealogy Interest Group met Monday, January 24, 2011 for an excellent program on Immigrant Ports of Entry. Our speaker was Cora Lee Kluge, Professor of German History at UW - Madison, and Director of the Max Kade Institute on campus. Cora Lee teaches a UW class on "The German Immigration Experience" which some of us have taken as Senior Auditors.

At the meeting, she discussed the US Immigration Laws, and we learned there were no quotas imposed until 1921/1924. The reasons for immigration from Europe were called the "Push and Pull Factors." Push factors in Europe included crop failure, overpopulation, inheritance laws, and political and religious oppression. Pull factors from America were land grants by the US government, employment opportunities, family members already established here, and stability.

Ports where the immigrants entered the US (sometimes as many as 11,000/day) included not only Castle Garden, New York (1855 - 1890), and Ellis Island, New York which opened in 1892, but also Charleston, Galveston, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore. Most immigrants had no trouble entering the US, but about 2% were turned away because they were considered "undesirable" for reasons like diseases, being criminals, and so forth.

Sally Lorenz and her co-hostess Phyllis Menne provided the group with wonderful desserts and beverages to compliment the talk by Cora Lee. We also welcomed a new member, Diane Peltin. Our membership is now at 33, but new members are always welcome.

Our next meeting will be February 28, 2011 at the home of Cathy Tesar. Joyce Nigbor, one of the co-chairmen, will present a program entitled, “The Power of Yes: A Case Study of Norwegian Immigration to Minnesota.”
More Interest Group Photos And Activities

Third Monday Afternoon Book Group

As a change from the usual book discussion, the third Monday afternoon Book Group participated in a Readers’ Theatre performance. A Christmas short story by Louisa May Alcott was adapted for production by Karen Harris and involved many members of the group. Pictured are the participants, some of them complete with costumes.

Dolores Kanner and Roma Rowlands

Top Row: Caroline Liedtke and Karen Harris; Middle Row: Carol Kiemel, Jeanne Grover and Friedemarie Farrar; Bottom Row: Dolores Kanner, Roma Rowlands, Marjean Smith and Elisabeth DeBoor

Spanish Interest Group

Members of the Spanish Interest Group display their “pantuflas” or slippers knit by Rhonda Croxson. Rhonda brought a selection of slippers to the December 2nd meeting at Jan Tymorek’s house. Everyone tried on slippers until they found a proper fit. Tradition of the club is that a birthday or two is celebrated each month. December’s birthday celebrant was Jan Tymorek. Joanna Thompson, interest group leader, supplied the delicious cake while Catherine Bonnard-Sullivan was a co-host. Catherine’s daughter was a special guest. In addition to fun and conversation in Spanish, the group also reads and discusses books in Spanish.
News From League’s Volunteer Organizations

Madison Friends of International Students (MFIS)
Below is information on three main volunteer needs for MFIS right now. Please consider whether you or someone you know would be a good fit for one of these important positions. To respond, please contact info@mfismadison.org or call the MFIS office at 263-4010 to leave a message.
Thanks so much!

1. Coordinator for MFIS English Classes (ESL)
The MFIS English Classes program is seeking a new volunteer coordinator, or co-coordinators, for next year (fall of 2011). These English Second Language Classes, ESL, have been a part of the MFIS offerings for over 45 years. Most of our students are associated with the University in some way, e.g., grad students, visiting faculty, spouses or relatives of the aforementioned, but the classes are open to anyone who wishes to improve their English language skills.

Classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 – 11 a.m. during the fall and spring semester in rented classrooms at the First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin Ave. The fifteen enthusiastic and motivating teachers are all volunteers, the majority of them with teaching and/or language backgrounds. There are six levels of classes, including a parent/child class for parents with children age 2 and under. The enrollment varies between 60 and 80 students on any given semester. Coordinators are responsible for overseeing everything from publicity and ordering textbooks and supplies to coordinating with the teachers from teaching assignments for each semester and student placements to collecting tuitions and balancing the checkbook.

We are always happy to welcome a new volunteer who wants to teach or substitute, but right now our most urgent need is to identify a new coordinator(s) for next fall. If you are interested, please contact me, Coe Williams, at coemw@att.net or call me directly at 608-274-1958.

2. Thanksgiving Host/Student Coordinator
Do you have good organizational skills? Are you available to help during October and November? If so, perhaps you’d like to work with the MFIS office to coordinate the sign-up of host volunteers and students who want to join a local family for a Thanksgiving meal. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email the MFIS office at info@mfismadison.org to learn more.

3. Two Positions on the MFIS Board are open! The board meets about 9 times a year to oversee the work of the organization. Experience with MFIS is not necessary. Furthering cultural understanding and exchanges with students of the UW-Madison and Madison College--and their families--is our goal. Please email the MFIS office at info@mfismadison.org to learn more.

Join Us!!!

Bookworms

The Bookworms Program recently received a $1500 grant from the Cremer Foundation and a $500 award from the Alliant Energy Foundation. These funds will be used to purchase books for the 2011-2012 school year. Members of the Bookworms committee realize that many very worthy causes compete annually for limited funding, so we are very grateful to both groups for their very generous donations. The support of such organizations is essential for the continued success of our program. Thank you to the Cremer Foundation! Thank you to the Alliant Energy Foundation! If you would like to donate to Bookworms, or if you would like to volunteer as a reader, please contact Mary Warfield at 273-9809 or Warfield-wi@tds.net
School of Pharmacy Student Scholarship Ceremony, September 2010
# University League Spring Luncheon Reservation Form

**Due by Wednesday, March 23, 2011**

Program: Joseph Kapler telling us about “Odd Wisconsin”

Member: ______________________________

Guest(s): ______________________________

Lunch Choices:
Teriyaki Chicken Salad with Bananas Foster Dessert _____
Vegetarian Option available with your reservation _____

_____ Reservations @ $16.00 each = _______
Scholarship donation = _______
Total = _______

Check(s) payable to: The University League, Inc.
Mail to: Cythnia Benevenga, 6410 Appalachian Way, Madison, 53705