Kitt Reuter-Foss was asked to declare a major when she enrolled at UW-Madison. Since she couldn’t list what she truly wanted – the popular Wisconsin Singers – she indicated pre-school education. She became a member of the Singers and was successful performing the songs and dances of the group’s repertoire. Soon one of her UW instructors suggested Kitt might be able to sing opera. She went on to earn two degrees in vocal performance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Subsequently Reuter-Foss has received accolades such as selection by the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and invitations to perform in major U.S. cities and Canada. She has also received honors including the Alumni Achievement Award from the UW School of Music and a Minerva Society Laureate from the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters. Her versatility has led to appearances with Bobby McFerrin, Ben Sidran, Richard Davis and a rap artist. Sometimes she sings with the UW Band, and last year appeared in a video skit with Professor Leckrone. Today, in addition to performing professionally around the country, Reuter-Foss teaches voice at the studio in her Verona home and appears at local functions.

Reuter-Foss will begin her concert at 5:30 p.m. A cash bar will be available beginning at 4:45 p.m. Following the concert, the buffet will offer a choice of carved beef and turkey for sandwiches, salads, potatoes with rosemary, a hot vegetable, and smoked salmon. Coffee and tea as well as cookies and bars will be served at your table.

The deadline for reservations is Friday, December 3. Return the form (on page 7 of this newsletter) with a check to University League for $37.50 per person to Cynthia Benevenga, 6410 Appalachian Way, Madison, WI 53705.
From the President:
Roma Lenehan

Fall is fleeing, relentlessly pursued by winter. Early winter is brightened by the holiday season. Please join your University League friends at Blackhawk Country Club on Friday, December 10, to celebrate and hear Kitt Reuter-Foss at the Candlelight Concert.

The holiday season is also the season of generosity. In University League, generosity continues throughout the year.

Lois Buelow has generously agreed to Chair the Nominating Committee. The other members of the Nominating Committee are Diane Risley, Beverly Schrag, Hat Stevens, Cathy Tesar, and Mary Jo Willis. I hope everyone will help them complete their challenging task of finding a new Board for next year. Please consider serving on the Board. If you can’t serve, please suggest other nominees. The League has many exceptionally talented members, but they are all very busy! Board service is rewarding and provides opportunities to make a difference as well as make friends. Most importantly, it ensures the continuation of University League.

University League members are very special. Most of us know only a small portion of each other’s lives. Two events I attended this month were truly remarkable.

At the new member tea, (article on page 5) I met a group of bright women with fascinating life stories. Each of them had done many impressive things before joining League. A friend introduced them to University League. Most of them joined in order to participate in an Interest Group. They were all pleased to be a member of League, despite their many other interests and activities. I found it encouraging – if all of us continue to tell people about League, we should be able to recruit new members.

I also went to the memorial service of Annetta Rosser, a long-time active League member and the founder of the Bird Study Group. At the funeral we learned of her many other accomplishments, as a musician (the 2003 Scholarship Benefit celebrated her work) and community volunteer. Many other League members came to celebrate her life. Many of our members, like Annetta, never had a career, but devoted their life to enriching their community and supporting their families. We are all richer for their generosity.

After the holidays, in February please support our Annual Scholarship Benefit. This money supports students in each of the twelve University of Wisconsin schools and colleges. For thirty years, the University League has given scholarships to these twelve entities. With rising tuition, the need for scholarships has never been greater. At the award ceremonies and in their thank you notes, scholarship recipients express their gratitude. Our donations enable the students to devote more time to studying. It is inspiring to realize that we are making a difference in these bright young peoples’ lives.

Please give generously to our Scholarship Benefit in February.

Have a wonderful holiday season.
IN MEMORIAM—ANNETTA ROSSER

Annetta Hamilton Rosser, who died October 8, 2010, at age 97, was a remarkable and talented woman, as her obituary in *Wisconsin State Journal* (October 12, 2010) attests. She was a member of University League from the time she and her husband, Barkley, moved to Madison in 1963. She was instrumental in founding the Bird Study Interest Group among her many other contributions. Annetta Rosser was honored (and so was the League) by our presenting her original music, *An Offering of Song*, at our Scholarship Benefit event in 2003. Many of Annetta's friends at the School of Music performed, both faculty and students. We had a proper English High Tea that year as well as the concert at the Unitarian Meeting House, which was overflowing with Annetta's friends and guests. She, herself, helped with much of the planning—in fact, the rubbing on the front of the invitation was by her. We are certainly sad to lose her. Up until the end of last year, she attended most of our functions. She never let anything get her down, especially age!

The Bird Study Group members gave donations in memory of Annetta Rosser: Charlotte Burns, Phillida Charly, Regina Deutsch, Frances R. Johnson, Roma Lenehan, Helen Lodge, Elizabeth Ragotzkie and Elizabeth Stern.

Additional Gifts in Memory of:
Anne Scott in memory of Angelena Lenehan and Judy Troia in memory of Elizabeth Sequeira.

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The University League Needs YOU!

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Lois Buelow (Chair), Diane Risley, Beverly Schrag, Hat Stevens, Cathy Tesar, and Mary Jo Willis, is beginning its work of finding Board members for next year. Please contact a member of the Committee if you want to volunteer or suggest someone to fill one of the Board positions (listed on page 3 of the Yearbook).

Please respond favorably when you are called. The League needs you.

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A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization. Anonymous
Scenes from New Members Tea

New members of University League attend a tea at the home of President Roma Lenehan on Monday, October 18. They had an opportunity to meet members while learning about League.

Delicious refreshments were provided by Kathy Knox, Helen Lackore and Pat Feltskog.
Report from Long Range Planning Committee - Membership Survey Results

Thanks again to all of the members who completed the survey. A total of 81 surveys were returned - 20% of the membership. That is considered a very good return in the survey world!! Here are the basic results from the survey (percentages are based on the total number answering each question).

Length of Membership
* 67% have been members of League for more than 20 years
* 81% have been members for 11 years or more
* 6% have been members for 2 years or less

Importance of Activities - % ranking activity as very important or important (1 or 2)
* 88% Interest groups
* 35% Volunteer opportunities
* 69% Programs
* 58% Scholarship fundraising
* 30% Board service

Number of programs preferred each year
1 program - 7%
3 programs - 52%
5 programs - 41%

Benefit type
Stay at home benefit - 75%
Event - 25%

Service to League
Most would not serve on the Board for 2 years
Most would not serve on a League Committee for 3 years
Almost half are willing to chair an interest group

Increase dues to hire staff
Yes - 47%
No - 53%

Key conclusions by Long Range Planning Committee from your written responses
What makes League an important organization?
For its members - interest groups, friendship, scholarships, programs
For the University - funding scholarships
For the wider community - volunteer projects, offering membership and friendship

What aspects of League are non-negotiable?
Interest groups, scholarships

What aspects of League might be negotiable?
Number of programs each year, size of the board

The Long Range Planning Committee will now work on specific proposals to present to the Board concerning the leadership and organization needed to carry League forward in the next decade. Look for further news about this process in future newsletters.