Librarian Liz Amundson to Talk about Books at Midwinter Luncheon

As snow blankets the ground and temperatures stubbornly remain low, University League offers an easy escape from the Wisconsin Winter! Join us for lunch and a talk about good books as Librarian Liz Amundson presents "Great Reads for your Book Group--or Just for You!" on Tuesday, March 17 at Nakoma Golf Club.

Liz Amundson is a Librarian at the Madison Public Library’s Central Branch. She has worked for the Madison Public Library for thirteen years, moving up through the ranks. Currently she serves as a Reference Librarian and is also responsible for choosing books for the parenting, photography, cooking, decorating and pop culture collections. For the past eight years, Liz Amundson has led a library sponsored book discussion group.

Midwinter Luncheon at Nakoma Golf Club

The afternoon will begin with a Soup, Salad and Sandwich Buffet lunch. The buffet will feature potato leek soup and assorted meats, cheeses and salads. A vegetarian option will be provided upon request. Arrival time will begin at 11:00 with the lunch scheduled to start at 11:30. The cost for this event is $14.50 per person. Reservations are due by Thursday, March 12. Late reservations will not be accepted.

Please return the reservation form (found on the last page of this newsletter) with a check payable to The University League, Inc., to:

Helen Read
813 Ottawa Trail
Madison, WI 53711

University League Midwinter Luncheon

When: Tuesday, March 17, 2009
11:00 Social Hour, Lunch at 11:30

Where: Nakoma Golf Club
4145 Golf Club Lane

Reservation Deadline: March 12th
President’s Message — Janice Golay

This is that odd and not too pleasant time of the year – we’re tired of winter but know we have to prevail through the month of March before we can get to Spring. One of the ways to get through all of this is with the comfort of a good book. University League members are definitely serious readers. We have four book groups in our organization, each with a slightly different emphasis and identity. Take a look at their descriptions in the front of our Yearbook, and consider attending one of their meetings. The Chair of each Interest Group will be able to give you the details. Whether for group or individual reading, we look forward to hearing Liz Amundson speak and guide us towards interesting books. I’m eager to hear what she recommends!

Janice

Interest Groups

Book Critics Reunion

Book Critics members, past and present, mark your calendars for our 40th Anniversary on June 8, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Premiere Room at Capital Lakes (formerly Meriter Main Gate), 333 West Main, Madison. Our founders who met on Harriet Shetler’s porch in July 1969 will be honored guests. Besides Harriet, if any of you were there or know of anyone who was present, please let us know. Also we need addresses of former members who have moved to other cities. Please contact Elsie Ham at fgham@wisc.edu or 233-5172.

Art Appreciation

The Art Appreciation group of the League held their November meeting at the Chazen Museum of Art. Exhibition curator, Henry Drewal, a University of Wisconsin Professor of Art History and African Studies, guided us through three galleries of the special exhibit, “Mami Wata: Arts for Water Spirits in Africa and Its Diasporas.” We learned of the origin and history of the African deity, “mother water.” It was an outstanding exhibit reviewing hundreds of years of African art history, including altars, masks, sculptures, prints, and paintings.

New Members

Anne K Stray-Gundersen
5958 County Road A
Brooklyn, WI 53521

Barbara Wulf
2931 Chapel Valley Rd #104
Fitchburg, WI 53711
630-8460
wulfie53711@yahoo.com

Marilyn Vanderhoof Young
2801 Colgate Road
Madison, WI 53705
233-3835
vanderho@charter.net

New Email Address

Kay Babcock
khabcock@wisc.edu
Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who generously contributed since October.

General Scholarship Fund

Nancy Becknell  Marilyn Schilling
Fran Bicknell    Dolly Schoenberg
Lois Buelow     Carol Shackelford
Friedemarie Farrer Harriet Statz
Trudi Flanagan  Jean Stewart
William and Sandra Frazee Marguerite Sykes
Mary Ann Halvorson Cathy Tesar
Joan Jennerjohn Judy Troia
Jane Loper       Karen Warren
Claire Mangasarian Helen Wilding
Roberta Preston  Barbara J. Wulf
Nancy Ragland    Beverly Zarnstorff
Peggy Scarpace  Shirley Ziegelmaier
Joanne Schalch

Odyssey Project

Lois Buelow     Marita Hettinger
Hada Ellinger   Helen Wilding

Additional contributions were made during 2008 to the following University League Endowment Funds

Pat Cornwell Endowed Scholarship
Bob and Lois Dick Endowed Scholarship
Louise B. DeFoliart Endowed Scholarship
Margaret McKee Hickman Endowed Scholarship
Angelena Frensley Lenahan Endowed Scholarship

In Memoriam

Dr. Adelaide Bates Bingham
Jane C. Mitchell
Elizabeth Nagle
Clara Penniman
Betty Smith

Needlework Group

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Volunteer Opportunities in Hard Times

Bookworms Goes Bilingual
Thanks to a grant from The Capital Times Kids Fund, Bookworms now has Spanish/English books to read and present to children at their daycare sites. This donation is in response to the 150% increase of the Spanish speaking population in area daycare centers over the past ten years. Once taken home by the children, these bilingual books also help their parents learn English. There is always a need for readers—and it’s fun! Contact Mary Warfield at warfield-wi@tds.net or 273-9809 to volunteer.

Odyssey Project Offers Student Designed Cookbooks, Calendars and Note Cards
Learn to make N’Awlins Cajun Beans and Rice, Char’s Grannies Southern Style Greens, or Yum Yum cake from recipes in the 2009 Odyssey student cookbook. Or plan ahead with an 18-month calendar which features photos, stories and quotes by current students. Odyssey graduate Stanley Sallay has created beautiful hand-drawn note cards. All the proceeds from these items support the UW Odyssey Project. So support Odyssey while enjoying these unique items.

Cards sell for $5 for 5 cards, or $35 for 40 cards with envelopes (2 each of 20 designs), or $80 for 100 cards with envelopes (5 each of 20 designs).

Calendars and cookbooks are available in exchange for donations to the UW Odyssey Project.
Please contribute a minimum of $25 for each item. Please make checks payable to the UW Odyssey Project and mail to 628 Lowell, 610 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53703. Call 262-3733 or email eauerbach@dcs.wisc.edu with questions. Thank you for your support!

University League Board Provides Inexpensive Odyssey Meal
The University League Board sponsored December 3rd meal for Odyssey’s 35 participants. Bev Zarnstorff and Arlene Peterson did some frugal buying at Costco and managed to obtain four pans of lasagna, two boxes of salad, two gallons of cider, and oranges for just $83.65, less than half of the usual cost of these weekly dinners. Margaret Strass baked cookies for the group.

Help with meals---both financially and personally---has never been more important. Consider supporting Odyssey with contributions of food or money. Contact the meal coordinator, Julie Haberkorn, at 244-2400 or julieh@greatwiscinacu.org.

American Family Children’s Hospital
The new American Family Children’s Hospital treats children from all over Wisconsin and sometimes far beyond. If you haven’t visited this state of the art facility yet, do so in the near future. The Hospital is a wonderful place and your volunteer help will be appreciated by both children and their families. Volunteer programs are coordinated by Jenelle Fuller. Some opportunities include serving small group meals in the lobby once or twice a week, helping in children’s waiting rooms by reading books and/or helping with crafts, and assisting parents in the computer rooms. As you can imagine, a hospital visit is a stressful time for families, so your smile and companionship will be an important part of their experience in Madison. Contact Jenelle at 890-8923 or jfuller2@uwhealth.org for more details about volunteer possibilities. Parking is in the main hospital ramp and directions are available at the information desk for the short walk through the clinics. You will be glad you took the time to help.
Volunteer Opportunities for Spring

Looking forward to spring, some outdoor volunteer opportunities include the Allen Centennial Gardens, the Arboretum, and a new opportunity, the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Opportunity to Volunteer at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Inspired by the dynamic presentation by Professor Bill Cronon at our fall meeting, the University League Board added the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to its volunteer opportunities. Volunteers can work on this natural area on the campus, helping care for the woodlands, wetlands, prairies and extensive Lake Mendota shorelines between Memorial Union and Eagle Heights Woods. Volunteers will work with Preserve staff or Friends of the Preserve volunteers to control invasive species and restore various areas, including Picnic Point, Frautschi Point, and Tent Colony Woods, beginning shortly after the snow melts. In addition to having the opportunity to learn about the Preserve and its restoration, volunteers will be able to share their experience with student volunteers. To learn about work parties and get inspired, see the award winning website (www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu under Get Involved/Volunteers), contact Cathie Bruner (cbruner@fpm.wisc.edu or 265-9275) about how to volunteer, or get in touch with Roma Lenahan (rlenahan@charter.net or 238-5406), a volunteer for Friends of the Preserve.

Another Look at the Allen Centennial Gardens

Gardens have reflected events of the times throughout history. Ranging from formal Victorian gardens to utilitarian Victory gardens, the style and types of plants gave insight into the period. Concerns about global warming, environmental health, and world-wide declining economies also will impact today’s gardens. Allen Centennial Garden is no exception, so volunteers are needed more than ever to help with the ongoing changes.

These changes will be overseen by the recently selected Director, Ed Lyon. He has returned to the University of Wisconsin after coordinating educational programs at the Chicago Botanical Gardens, Olbrich Gardens, and most recently served as Director of the Rotary Gardens in Janesville.

During his tenure at various gardens, Mr. Lyon has noted changing interests of the clientele who visited and attended programs at the gardens. Formal gardens have become less appealing to a modern culture focused on “sustainable development, integrated environmental management and carbon footprinting” (“An Expanded Vision,” The Centurion, December 2008). There is a new emphasis on locally grown and organic foods. Water, energy, chemical applications, invasive species, and renewable resources are emerging concerns of an informed population. While aesthetics are still central, gardens are becoming more utilitarian. Plant diversity and native plant communities often replace groomed lawns and ornamental plantings. Vegetable and herb gardens are often incorporated into attractive garden designs.

While primarily serving as an outdoor laboratory for students of horticulture, landscape architecture, and related disciplines, Mr. Lyon feels that Allen Gardens should evolve to meet the changing interests and needs of our times. In partnership with Madison’s Herb Society based at Olbrich, several herb gardens, including heirloom and ethnic community herbs, are being planned and planted. Other programs will be introduced when funding and partnerships develop.

Spring and summer help will be needed to plant and maintain new and established gardens. Allen Gardens offers flexible commitments and sponsors educational workshops for volunteers. Check out the website for more information (www.horticulture.wisc.edu/allencentennialgardens). Scroll down the site to read their newsletter, The Centurion, to better understand the direction of the Gardens. Consider sharing your talents and gardening expertise at Allen Centennial Gardens.
University League Midwinter Luncheon
Reservation Form
Due by March 12, 2009

Program: Great Reads for Your Book Group – or Just for You

Member: ________________________________
Member: ________________________________
Guest: _________________________________

Midwinter Luncheon: Tuesday March 17, Nakoma Golf Club
Social Hour 11:00, Luncheon 11:30

______ Reservations @ $14.50 each = _______
Scholarship donation = _______
Total = _______

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