UNIVERSITY LEAGUE ANNUAL FALL COFFEE:
START THE YEAR WITH COFFEE, FRIENDS, AND AN AWE-INSPIRING TALK

Providing medical care is a challenge in any community, but imagine being the only doctor in a tiny indigenous community on the Amazon River, with a kerosene lantern and daylight as your light sources, and the medicines in your bag as your only pharmaceuticals! On September 14, we will hear from Dr. Linnea Smith, who has lived that story.

The Continental Breakfast will offer freshly brewed coffee and a selection of hot teas, fresh fruits, assorted breakfast pastries, scones, and a yogurt parfait with berries, honey, and granola. The cost is $18.00 per person. There will be on-street parking, and complimentary valet parking will be available if you drive up to the door. [The lot will be reserved for Golf Club members.]

About our Speaker

Graduating from the UW–Madison School of Medicine in 1984, Dr. Smith joined a small group practice in Prairie du Sac. In 1990, eager for adventure, she took an eco-tourism vacation in northern Peru. The trip changed her life: She didn’t want to leave the jungle.

Dr. Smith will explain how she took a 3-month leave of absence from her practice and went back to Peru, armed with her stethoscope, a small microscope, a bottle of prenatal vitamins, and a few doses of antibiotics. And we will learn how donors helped her build a rudimentary clinic at the water’s edge, which eventually became a sophisticated clinic that now boasts enough power for a centrifuge, a ceiling fan, refrigerators, and a computer and printer. Her highly acclaimed book, La Doctora, offers readers a rare glimpse into the suspense and drama of practicing medicine in a culture far removed from the supplies and supports of 20th-century medicine. Among many other honors, Dr. Smith has been given the American College of Physicians Rosenthal Award for the delivery of innovative medical services; and in 2005, she was named Citizen Physician of the Year by the Wisconsin State Medical Society. Her talk is one you will not want to miss.

Bring a friend or invite a potential member to attend – we look forward to seeing you there.
PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Welcome to this brand spanking New Year of University League! I’ll be wielding the gavel for 2017-2018. So watch out for all the fun and exciting adventures coming our way! If you weren’t paying attention or if you were celebrating summer your way, you missed our sold-out July 31 bus trip to the newly transformed backstage areas of American Players Theater. (See p. 12 in this newsletter.)

Not to worry. There are plenty more programs in store. It’s all summarized on the bookmark included with this newsletter (with more details on p. 11). Coming right up is the Fall Coffee at Nakoma Golf Club on Thursday, September 14, featuring Dr. Linnea Smith, founder of the Amazon Medical Project. If you enjoy a good storyteller on a heart-warming mission, turn immediately to the reservation form (p. 11) and send it in. Then he thee back for the rest of my remarks.

Everyone who is a member knows that we have Interest Groups galore. We have so many that I don’t think anybody is a member of all of them. (If you are, please raise your hand.) Have you been curious about some of the Interest Groups you haven’t tried? Several are featured in this issue; so as you read about them, imagine yourself a member or call the group leader, whose phone number we provide. If the spirit moves you, go to a few meetings. Don’t be shy. You are bound to know someone there already. And if I’m wrong, I’ll bet you make friends right away because people in University League are friendly and welcoming . . . and you’ll learn something while you’re there! No wonder we say our Interest Groups are some of the best-kept secrets in town!

But let’s keep them secret no longer. Just today I heard it said that we are entering a renaissance. Members are enticing friends to join and our numbers are growing because we are so enthusiastic about our activities. Just remember: Word of mouth remains the strongest magnet for new members. You too can EMPOWER A FRIEND TO JOIN UNIVERSITY LEAGUE. Or, as we say in the vernacular: “Each one, reach one.” (See p. 11 for creating a “buzz”.)

So you want to volunteer? Do we have volunteer opportunities for you! If I were better at rhymes, I’d name each of the dozen plus organizations we volunteer with to the tune of “My Favorite Things” from The Sound of Music. Instead, might I suggest that you hum the melody while you read about a few options on pp. 3-4, and peruse them all in the Yearbook.

Let me not forget scholarships. For more than one hundred years, University League has given scholarships to students at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. This past year, we donated more than $150,000. For the exact amount, please continue humming “My Favorite Things” and check it out in the Yearbook. We can all be very proud of this record.

What is the engine that keeps us going? It is the Board of Directors. Board members change every year. How does this happen? It happens when members just like you accept the call of the Nominating Committee to share your time, talent, and creativity on our Board of Directors. I hope you will seriously consider serving on the Board when the Nominating Committee calls. See you at the Fall Coffee!

I welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions. Please email or call so we can talk.

Betsy Haimson, President (215-7042 or laughingwithbetsy@yahoo.com)
Welcome to the 2017-2018 year of Volunteering

Barbara Rogers  Coordinator  (829-0969)  
Lucy Lasseter  Assistant Coordinator (274-7114)

Lucy and I have been busy preparing for a great year of volunteering. We have been in touch with each of our current volunteer organizations, making sure that the contact information is correct. If you see an opportunity that speaks to you, please connect with the person designated as the contact for that group. These organizations coordinate their own volunteers.  NOTE IMPENDING DEADLINES FOR THE FIRST TWO!!

1) The UW School of Nursing offers two opportunities to volunteer:

In the Older Adult Project, volunteers 70 years or older are needed to work with undergraduate nursing students. Students are paired with an older adult volunteer, and three to four times during the fall semester they conduct interviews and assessments and provide health education in the volunteer’s home or at an agreed-upon location. This highly enjoyable and rewarding program is now in its third year.

In the People In Crisis Project (Poverty Project), volunteers play the role of someone living in poverty trying to meet their monthly basic needs. A script is provided. Volunteering takes place at the School of nursing on Campus.

The deadline to sign up for both projects is September 1, 2017.
Contact Tina DeGroot at tmdegroot@wisc.edu for both projects.

2) The first WPT volunteer opportunity for this year is as a Quilt Exhibit Attendant (Docent) at the Quilt Expo.

Two shifts are available:  Thursday, September 7 and Friday, September 8, both from 2:30 to 6:15 p.m.

The docent will monitor the quilts for safety, show visitors the reverse sides of quilts, answer basic questions, and share information about the quilts using fact sheets WHA provides. Having knowledge of quilting not necessary. The volunteer performs these functions while standing up and/or walking around.  Contact Barbara Rogers, (barberog2@tds.net), who will coordinate shifts with Mike McKenzie at WPT.

3) Finally, now in its 15th year, the award-winning UW Odyssey Project provides a free, two-semester UW humanities course for adults at the poverty level. Graduates of the program have moved from homelessness to UW master's degrees, from incarceration to meaningful work in the community. Whole families report life-changing effects. For the past three years, the program has also offered Odyssey Junior, providing enrichment and intensive arts-based literacy work for children and grandchildren of Odyssey students ages 2 to 18. Volunteers are needed to help with meals, fundraising, tutoring, childcare, gifts, and other services to families in need. See www.odyssey.wisc.edu for more information or contact Emily Auerbach at emily.auerbach@wisc.edu or 262-3733.

These are just a few of the opportunities available to our members. Please take a look at the others as described in your Yearbook. Lucy and I are looking forward to a wonderful year of volunteering.
THE JOYS AND REWARDS OF WISCONSIN BOOKWORMS
Mary Warfield

“Read it again!” That is a request Wisconsin Bookworms volunteer readers love to hear from their preschool listeners! This year, we will read and distribute books about polar bears, the weather, and a bear who decides he wants to be a duck.

Funding for these books has been provided by individual donors, also known as BWBF (Bookworms Best Friends) and local civic organizations. We are grateful to all our donors! They include Attic Angel Association, BWBF Contributors, The Cremer Foundation, Delta Kappa Gamma – Phi Chapter, Madison South Rotary, and The University League.

During the 2017-18 year, Wisconsin Bookworms will provide a total of 3880 books to 468 Dane County preschoolers and their 28 classes. For many of these children, the Bookworms books they receive are the only books in their homes. Their families are very grateful for our efforts.

If you would like to know how things end for the bear and his attempts to be a duck, or if you would like more information about how you can help with the Wisconsin Bookworms program, please contact Mary Warfield at mbwarfield@gmail.com or 273-9809

Kudos and gratitude to Publicity Chair Kay Jarvis-Sladky: Thanks to her efforts, the Wisconsin State Journal recently published an article about Wisconsin Bookworms. The article not only highlighted the enjoyment and educational enrichment this program brings to children, but it also provided University League with very valuable publicity. Read the article yourself at http://tinyurl.com/ul-bookworms.
JOIN OUR THRIVING INTEREST GROUPS!

THIRD MONDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP:
Long on Tradition, Friendships and Love of Reading
Carol Kiemel (286-1446)

“Conversation at Monday Evening Book Group meetings back in the 1950’s has changed little when compared to what you might hear at a current Monday Afternoon meeting today. Yes, we talk about family, activities, travel, but mostly about good books we’ve read today just as we did so many years ago. But the subjects are now grandchildren and yes, even great-grandchildren, general interests, and the travels might be even more extensive than before. We still meet in the warm comfort of members’ homes and just as before, one thing is obvious: Friendships are still being made between women who share that common interest of burying themselves in reading a good book, then talking about its style and many controversial aspects.”

The quote above is from Jeanne Grover. When talking with the three other members who also joined in the early 50’s, similar feelings were expressed. In addition, Marjane Smith mentioned that while raising five children, she welcomed the evening meetings and she “kept on reading.” Margaret Schroeder added her appreciation of the friendships forged over coffee/dessert and book reading. Mary Ellen Gerloff stressed how she appreciates the smaller group setting now because “there is more time to express yourself about the book.” This occurred in the 60’s when the too-large group split into two groups, one evening and one afternoon.

Our current group recently chose the books for next year at our May potluck lunch meeting. We wondered how we could ever top this past year’s list of novels such as A Man Called Ove by Fredrick Backman and nonfiction books like The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown. However, everyone offered suggestions prior to the meeting, and after much discussion we chose eight books reflecting our many interests and decided who would lead each discussion.

We invite you to join us for The Confessions of Young Nero with Margaret George, the author, as our special guest in September, and Our Souls at Night by Kent Haruf in October. And continue with us for an amazing year of friendship and discussion.

MORE ON OUR THRIVING INTEREST GROUPS!

Genealogy Meeting in April, 2017 (Contact: Catherine Tesar, 233-8077)

Mary Jo Willis

At the April meeting of the Genealogy Interest Group, we welcomed four members of the Madison, Wisconsin African American Genealogy Group. They were inspired to write their childhood memories and share them in their genealogy meetings and with their families. A book entitled *Nine African American Women: Their Memories and Reflections* (Madison, Wisconsin African American Genealogy Group, 2016), grew out of their work. It is available at most libraries and bookstores. These women, who came from a variety of backgrounds and locations, produced significant achievements in their own education, professional and community service work, and family life. They happily shared their stories. Other contributors to the book were unable to attend our meeting. A big thank-you to LaVonne Senn for inviting the group to our meeting.

Left to right: Rose Mary Jackson, Barbara Jill Thomas, Dianna Hopkins, and Kay Simmons.

Wine Divas and Dudes
(Contact Elaine Rosenblatt, 827-5046)

Eighty-five percent of the group’s founding members are still participating. When it started it was named Wine Divas. But as members enjoyed learning about wine and meeting other people, they started to bring spouses and male friends. (Left to Right: Ken Pelatzke, Renee Hoxie, Neil Hoxie, Sharon Nellis, Linda Baumann, Kate Beaver, Mary Jo Willis, Elaine Rosenblatt, Barbara Rogers, Dan Beaver, Lynda Cantrell.)

Know someone who might like to Join University League?
Have them contact our Membership Chair, Kathleen Murphy Sherry
(831-7871 or frostyfluffy@aol.com)
Anyone can join, and dues are only $30!!
MORE INTEREST GROUPS!

Armchair Travelers Fall Schedule  (Contact: Mary Jo Willis, 467-8608)

Join us for our fall programs being held at Oakwood Village West on the first Monday evening of the Month beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Westmoreland Room. The fall programs include:

October 2, 2017       Walking the Ice Age Trail with Melanie McManus  
November 6, 2017     Touring Iceland in Summer with Linda Baumann  
December 4, 2017     In the Wake of Captain Cook: 3 South Pacific Sailing Trips with Heidi Wilde

(No meetings in September and January)

Art Appreciation Group  (Temporary contact: Kathy Knox, 231-2197)

The Art Appreciation Interest Group attended the Electronic Theater Controls tour in Middleton in May. ETC manufactures theatrical and studio lighting equipment internationally. Its products include lighting control systems, stage lighting instruments, fixture dimming, stage rigging, and power distribution systems.

In June, the group went to Mineral Point and visited the Brewery Pottery Studio among other sites.

Diane Smidt and Kathy Knox say that the group looks to find “art” beyond, but not excluding, museums:

“We see art in many aspects of our everyday lives. It’s practical, it’s an enhancement of our environment, it’s a fascination we are yet to know! Our hope is to explore that realm and raise awareness of the beauty of art all around us.”

Pictured (Left to Right): Ann Walser, Fred Foster (President & CEO of ETC), Judy Stang, Diane Smidt, Cathy Andersson, Helen Read, Kay Jarvis-Sladky, Marcia Schmidt, Kathy Knox, Mary Laedtke, Edith First.
STILL MORE INTEREST GROUPS!

DINING OUT – LUNCH (Contact: Kathy Knox, 231-2197)

The Dining Out – Lunch group enjoyed getting together at Nakoma Golf Club in April.


BOOK CRITIC – DISCUSSION (Contact: Elisabeth de Boor, 258-9698)


From Elsie Ham: “The Book Critic Group started in the week of the U.S. Moon Landing, 7-16-1969. The members ‘graduating’ from the Newcomers’ book group formed a new UL group called Book Critics, now in it’s 48th year.”
University League Fall Coffee Registration  
Thursday September 14, 9:30 a.m., Nakoma Golf Club  
Reservations are due by September 5 [No refunds after this date]

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Dietary Restrictions?  

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Menu: Fresh fruits, assorted breakfast pastries, scones, a yogurt parfait with berries, honey, and granola, freshly brewed coffee and a selection of hot teas.

Check payable to: The University League, Inc.  
Mail to: Betty Zeps, 1922 Adams Street, Madison, WI 53711

* For a memorial gift to scholarships, please list the next of kin and address, so that your gift may be acknowledged.

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Help Create Our Own Buzz: A Suggestion from Kay Jarvis-Sladky, Our Dedicated Publicity Chair

Publicity is a commodity that University League (like all non-profits) normally has to buy at very high prices. **However, we, as members, can create our own buzz at no cost.** Say this to your friends, “Have you heard about the speakers and performers on University League’s program this year? Awesome!” Use the information here to help spur people’s interest.

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**Fall Coffee, September 14, 2017: Dr. Linnea Smith**, an intrepid Wisconsin physician, practices in the Amazon basin in Peru, treating indigenous people who previously had no modern health care. When she first went there, she spoke no Spanish and had only the most rudimentary equipment. Now her clinic treats 2,500-3,000 patients a year.

**Candlelight Concert and Dinner, December 9, 2017:** We welcome Madison’s favorite piano/vocal duo, **Martha Fischer and Bill Lutes**. Their program will be “Children’s Music—for Grownups!” Performing works by composers such as Schumann, Debussy, and Prokofiev, they will reflect on the world of childhood and our mature understanding of that world.

**Spring Luncheon, March 21, 2018:** State Supreme Court Justice **Shirley Abrahamson** will bring us up to date on the workings of the court, informing us of current concerns from her special vantage point of many years of service.

**Annual Meeting & Luncheon, May 9, 2018:** A track and field star, a paramedic, a UW administrator, an author of children’s books, and a composer, **Leotha Stanley** is a man with a wide array of talents. In his work with Madison schools, Lee has combined his interests in education and composing by intertwining African-American music and literacy skills.
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← OUR TRIP TO APT

We were delighted by our tour of the new facilities of American Players Theater on July 31st. From costume and stage design, to the logistics of changing sets, to what goes on behind the scenes during the plays, we learned a great deal and now appreciate this wonderful regional treasure even more!