Announcing The 2018 University League Scholarship Stay-At-Home Benefit

University League has fond memories of our friendships and service to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We are proud of supporting education through the University League Scholarship Benefit. Last year, University League members generously contributed more than $15,000 through the annual Benefit to support talented UW-Madison students. **Your contribution this year will continue to make a difference in students’ lives.** All donations are tax deductible. Donations “In Memory of” will be acknowledged to the surviving family and those “in Honor of” will be acknowledged to the honorees.

Please watch your mailbox this February for more information about the upcoming Stay-At-Home Scholarship Benefit. You’ll learn the full story behind this intriguing picture!!
As I write this letter, the seasons are changing. I spy a dusting of snow upon awakening. And then the white cover melts. Ahhhh! The day of the Candlelight Concert has finally arrived. We are all anticipating a celebratory evening. Nearly 160 reservations! We can’t wait to hear the piano-vocal team of Bill Lutes and Martha Fischer. Friendships, food, and marvelous entertainment all rolled into a single evening. On the surface this tableau appears effortless. Do not be deceived. University League behind-the-scenes “worker bees” team up. Program, Publicity, Membership, Treasurer, League Letter editors, to name a few. The longer I preside over this organization, the more I am impressed with the enthusiasm, energy and creativity of our Board of Directors and their committees. If you would like some of this magic juju, please call or email me. I have a jar of it, and I’ll share. If you join a committee or serve on the Board, I’m sure you’ll enjoy it!

Next month is our Stay-at-Home Scholarship Benefit. Talk about creativity and enthusiasm! Our Scholarship Benefit Committee has a dynamite invitation this year. You will be receiving it in the mail around the first of February. I hope each of you will make a contribution. In every thank-you letter I receive from the recipients, they tell us how much difference the scholarship makes in their lives. I repeat: I encourage every member to send a contribution. IT IS IMPORTANT. Large or small, every donation counts and demonstrates the dedication of University League to accessible higher education.

In December I sent out an organization-wide email informing all University League members that the University of Wisconsin Foundation, beginning in January 2018, is changing the Endowed Scholarship minimum to $25,000. I sent a letter to the Foundation requesting that they continue to grant us endowed scholarships at the $10,000 level. As soon as I hear their decision, I will pass the information on to you.

I wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2018 filled with the joys of family and friends, and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Betsy Haimson, President (215-7042 or laughingwithbetsy@yahoo.com)
YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK

The Nominating Committee extends a huge thank-you to members who have generously offered their time and talent to serve League beginning June 1, 2018. The nominees for election to the Board of Directors will be presented at the Annual Meeting, on May 9, 2018.

Standing (L to R): Beverly Schrag, Judy Stang (Chair), Kay Jarvis-Sladky, Ruth G. Johnson. Seated: Darlene Olson, Dorothy Binning.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Barbara Rogers, Volunteer Coordinator; Lucy Lasseter, Assistant Coordinator

UPDATE ON SCHOOL OF NURSING OLDER ADULT PROJECT

For those of us who have been involved in the Older Adult Project in the past or have been hoping to participate in the future, we have been informed that, unfortunately, the class that this project was part of is being phased out. Many of us enjoyed being paired with a Nursing student, and it seems that the enjoyment was mutual. The School of Nursing would like to extend its appreciation for the support the University League has shown for its students by our participation in the program. They will let us know if the program will be restarted, and we will keep you informed of any new developments.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Many other volunteering options are available to our members. Please check pages 12 to 14 in the Yearbook if you’re interested in exploring a new activity.

CONTACTS: Barbara Rogers, 829-0969; Lucy Lasseter, 274-7114.
Bill and I have belonged to International Foods (previously Foreign Foods) for more than 40 years. At first, our purpose in belonging was to get to know other faculty members outside of Bill's department. It was immediately apparent that the conversations around the dining tables were just as much of a draw as the menus and food.

The dinners are planned each month around a specific country or region or holiday, and members are assigned to a host home. Each person prepares a part of the meal, and the costs are divided equally. You may dine each month with a totally different group. We have two or three dinner parties every 2nd Sunday of the month, and each dinner has 8 or 10 (only very occasionally 12) diners. We have a pot luck with the whole group in the spring.

Bill and I are not "foodies," and I was, in the beginning, a just barely passable cook. So I have learned a lot and have tried recipes and techniques that I would never have ever considered. And still, if it were just soda crackers and cheese, I would go for the conversations.

CONTACTS:
Edith First, 238-5495, e2nd@aol.com
LaVonne Senn, 233-4241, shumiq@yahoo.com

Mexican tasting dinner in August, hosted by LaVonne Senn
(L to R): LaVonne Senn, Beverly and William Zarnstorff, Mary and Frank Graziano (Peggy Otto not pictured)

UPCOMING SCHEDULE FOR DINING OUT--LUNCH

Here are the next three sites for the Dining Out--Lunch gatherings:

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<th>Wednesday, Jan. 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;, 11:45</th>
<th>Wednesday, Feb. 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;, 11:45</th>
<th>Wednesday, March 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;, 11:45</th>
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<tr>
<td>Liliana's 2951 Trilverton Pike Drive Fitchburg</td>
<td>Biaggi's 601 Junction Road Middleton</td>
<td>Cranberry Creek 1501 Lake Point Drive Monona</td>
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CONTACTS: Kathy Knox, 231-2197, kaknox24@gmail.com
Elinor Zach, 271-0051, eakz1133@gmail.com
The Antiques Group has had two delightful fall trips. The first, in September, was a ride on the Lake Geneva Mail Boat, which included a 2 ½ hour historical narrative. The second, in October, was to Delafield and Eagle. We visited Hawks Inn in Delafield, an 1845 Stagecoach Inn, and then the Eagle Center House, a 1990's replica of the stagecoach inn as a B&B (but with modern amenities). Both are replete with 19th-century antiques. We also enjoyed an outdoor lunch in Delafield and delicious cake in Eagle, baked by our host Reine Wells.

In November, the intrepid group "nested" at the home of Kathy Knox. Our topic: Folk Art. Among the Show-and-Tells were galimotos (Malawi), soapstone carvings (Alaska), a hand-hewn miniature log cabin (Swedish grandfather), a colorful theorem (New England), Ojibwa Indian beading (Canada), and a most amazing mask (Fiji).

Do join us. We have fun together, enjoy interesting programs, and learn a lot!
CONTACTS: Barbara Pillinger, 952-215-2609, baxie002@yahoo.co.uk; Barb & Bill Vogelsang, 271-1417, wfvogels@wisc.edu
GET TO KNOW YOUR OFFICERS

Someone suggested that we’d all like to know more about the people who help make our organization tick. So we asked a few questions of our President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and let them introduce themselves to us.

BETSY HAIMSON, PRESIDENT:

I came to Madison in 1969 when my husband received an appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Material Sciences and Engineering. Over the years, I have been a social worker at University of Wisconsin Hospitals and subsequently at Home Health United. For a few months along the way, I had a stint trying out recipes for a caterer. That fizzled quickly because it sounded easier than it was, and she never paid me. Now my favorite “occupation” is teaching Yoga from a Chair at Lechayim, the Jewish Social Services Senior Adult Lunch Program. (In case you are wondering, Lechayim is Hebrew for “To Life!” It is also what people say when they give a toast in Hebrew. And if you noticed a similarity between Lechayim and my last name Haimson, you are very observant. Haimson means “son of life.”)

And I must mention that I have been a Certified Laughter Leader with the World Laughter Tour since 2004. Laughter prevents hardening of the attitudes!

I joined University League soon after I arrived in Madison. Jane Loper, a recent Past President of the League, was the wife of one of my husband’s colleagues. She took all the wives of new department members under her wing and introduced us to the organization.

My husband and I have been members of the Sunday night Foreign Foods group ever since we came to Madison. The major changes in the group since 1969 are: The name has changed to International Foods; as families downsize, we now have seven to nine people coming to our homes instead of ten to twelve; we serve a lot less alcohol; we are trying to create menus with less food and simpler recipes (which is not always possible).

Now, about the Board of Directors and the committees of University League: It is AMAZING the amount of talent we have in University League. One of the things that impresses me most is the TEAMWORK I have observed and the SUPPORT members offer one another. We are a FANTASTIC organization!!!
LINDA MAYFIELD, SECRETARY:

I was born and raised in an idyllic little town in Illinois, Streator by name, located 95 miles southwest of Chicago. I had wonderful experiences in school and knew by 4th grade I wanted to be a teacher. I went to Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana, and completed majors in Spanish and Elementary Education. I interviewed in Madison, hoping to secure a teaching position and get my Masters. Fortuitously, I was offered a position in the School in the Round, later named Huegel School. At that time, it was an experimental school in conjunction with Research and Development at the UW. It was an attempt to implement a marvelous philosophy of non-graded classrooms and individualized instruction. The results were exciting and worthwhile, but the program was not sustainable. After three years, I was teaching in a self-contained classroom and applying my newly gained knowledge. Thus, my professional path started with a unique sequence of experiences.

I am known for use of color, creative bulletin boards, classroom ideas, and writing. As a child/young woman/senior I have always enjoyed running. I have even competed in the Wisconsin Senior Games.

I joined League four years ago. I especially enjoy visiting and working with such talented, accomplished women. Diversity of backgrounds and experiences and eagerness to continue to learn seem to unite us all. It is an honor to serve on the Board and promote the University of Wisconsin.

PAT FELTSKOG, TREASURER:

I was born and raised in the Chicago area and moved to Madison in late 1976 when I married a professor in the English Department. After I first arrived, I taught school for a few years; later, I held several positions in the School of Nursing.

Angelenae Lenehan and Anne Scott, wives of English Department faculty, were responsible for my involvement in University League and other organizations in the community. My recollection of my first League activity was attending a Thursday night bridge group at the home of Sally Stoltman. Very soon after that, I started volunteering at the old University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, taking the library cart around the floors. When we moved to the new hospital, I continued volunteering, this time in the Surgical Waiting Room. I later served as president of the Friends of the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics. My University League involvement over the years has continued: At the Housing Referral Service, we helped incoming visiting faculty find temporary housing and faculty on sabbatical the opportunity to rent their homes. After I retired from the School of Nursing, I became active on the Board, serving as Interest Group Co-Chair, Membership Chair, and Scholarship Benefit Chair before becoming Treasurer.

Other community volunteer activities have included being president of Madison Friends of International Students and being active in the Madison Symphony Orchestra League. I enjoy knitting, reading, playing bridge, and doing cross stitch. (I’m an original member of the Needlework Interest Group, which started in the early eighties.) I have two children and two adorable grandchildren.

I count myself fortunate to have made so many wonderful, lasting friendships in University League. It has been a great opportunity to serve on the Board and would encourage others to do so.

NOTE: Donations to scholarships that have been made since October 16, 2017 will be acknowledged in the February issue of the League Letter
Our Candlelight Concert and Dinner was a great success. Blackhawk Country Club provided a delightful atmosphere and delicious food; Martha Fischer and Bill Lutes presented a charming set of songs evoking childhood, both folk melodies and pieces by famous composers; and members and guests had plenty of time to socialize and enjoy themselves. A marvelous holiday celebration!