Madison audiences always applaud the opportunity to hear award-winning piano and vocal collaborators Bill Lutes and Martha Fischer. They last performed for University League in 2011, and we are delighted to have them back for our 2017 Candlelight Concert and Dinner. Their program, “Children’s Music—for Grownups,” will be a potpourri of classical and popular songs as well as piano solo and duet selections, evoking the world of childhood as seen through the nostalgic lens of adulthood.

Martha Fischer, professor of piano at the UW–Madison School of Music, has been described in American Record Guide as “a marvelous pianist, profound interpreter, and expert collaborator.” She and her husband, Bill Lutes, UW–Madison emeritus professor of piano, often perform together in concerts. Their interpretation of Schubert’s Fantasie in F minor was described by the Washington Post as “an energetic performance bursting with heartfelt intensity.”

Bill Lutes is also known to Madison listeners for his work as the area’s leading classical-music radio host for Wisconsin Public Radio for many years. From 2000 until his retirement in 2011, he served as the vocal coach for the University Opera.

This year, the event will be held at the Blackhawk Country Club on December 9, starting at 5:30 p.m. The cost of $48 per person includes the concert and dinner. The three dinner selections are Breast of Chicken Veronique with Riesling wine and toasted almonds; Lemon Sole Florentine; and Asparagus-Stuffed Ravioli with Roasted Garlic Spaghetti Puttanescia. All three choices can be prepared gluten-free upon request. In addition to your choice of entrée, the menu includes salad, dessert, and beverages.

Join us as these engaging performers entertain us and educate us about the lives of children through the songs of well-known composers.
Welcome to November, the transition from Trick-or-Treat to Thanksgiving and the December Holiday Season. I am very excited that we will hear Bill Lutes and Martha Fischer perform at our Candlelight Concert on Saturday December 9 at the Blackhawk Country Club. You’ve probably already read about it on the cover page of this League Letter. The reservation deadline is Wednesday, November 29. Please remember that when you send mail, even within Madison, it now takes at least one extra day because it must be postmarked in Milwaukee before it can be delivered here. Be forewarned: We must have your check in hand prior to the dinner. We cannot accept walk-ins. The Early Bird Gets the Worm: Send in your reservation today!

At the end of September, I attended the College of Letters & Science Undergraduate Scholarship Reception with Bobbie Johnson and Theresa Calderon. We were seated with and became acquainted with students who received University League Scholarships, including some who received money from our endowed scholarship funds. Dean John Karl Scholz made introductory remarks. He speaks with great enthusiasm and optimism about L&S and its student body. It took my breath away when I heard him say my name, and then Bobbie’s name and then Theresa’s name as representatives of University League, the first donor organization he mentioned. Letters & Science is by far the largest of the colleges at the University, and University League donates the largest proportion of our scholarship funds to L&S. This event was a great affirmation that the scholarship money we give to the University is appreciated and acknowledged. Mary Jo Willis and Priscilla Thain also attended a reception for scholarship recipients, this one in the School of Education. (See pages 8 and 9 for photos and more details).

Last month, for the first time, University League had a booth in the Health and Resource Fair at the Colloquium on Aging presented by the University’s Institute on Aging. As a non-profit organization, there was no charge for University League to obtain a booth. This free-to-the-public event, begun in 1988, attracts about 500 attendees. Registration was filled by the fourth day after it opened. Those in attendance included a large proportion of the demographic of University League: the “Wellderly” aka the well elderly. Theresa Calderon, Cindy May, and I “worked the crowd.” Theresa created a trifold handout that includes our philosophy, our activities, and a membership application. We lured people to the table with chocolate kisses and peppermint candy. It was helpful that everyone wore a nametag, and we could call people by name to get their attention. We introduced many people to University League, and at least one person has already joined us by mailing in a check with their membership application.

I look forward to seeing you at the Candlelight Concert!

Betsy Haimson, President (215-7042 or laughingwithbetsy@yahoo.com)
LOOKING BACK ON OUR FIRST OUTING OF THE SEASON:

University League Members Tour APT

Joan Hall

A glorious July day, a bus full of eager theater-lovers, and enthusiastic tour guides at the newly renovated American Players Theatre: Who could ask for a better outing?

On July 31, APT’s Michele Traband and Carol Jefferson led 56 UL members and friends through the costume shop, the wig-making room, the construction shop, and the properties room in the “down-the-hill” buildings, where behind-the-scenes preparations start well before the first performance. The requirement that craftspeople attend to the smallest of details was evident everywhere. Hats, wigs, costumes, and props were displayed all around. There was even a full body cast of Brian Mani as the assassinated Julius Caesar, which relieved the actor of having to lie motionless on stage for a scene!

“Up-the hill,” we saw the greatly improved green room and dressing rooms, where actors now have their own personalized dressing tables, and there are toilet stalls large enough to accommodate the widest of hoop skirts and bustles! The greatly expanded set storage building now allows the crew to change and store sets more quickly and without taking them down; a new indoor rehearsal space allows all five up-the-hill plays to rehearse at the same time, even in inclement weather; a redesigned main set allows more flexibility for staging, including trap doors, and revolving sets (see another photo on page 7); acoustical changes have improved the sound for everyone, especially people using hearing devices; and the open-air “lobby,” with flagstones and granite rather than bark chips, creates an accessible area as well as an inviting space for mingling before the shows and during intermission. The flagstones are engraved with the names of many donors who support the troupe’s work.

Tour-goers went away feeling very fortunate to live close to what a Wall Street Journal reviewer has described as the “great open secret of American regional theater.” Reviewer Terry Teachout says that APT “is America’s finest classical theater festival, unrivaled for the unfailing excellence of its productions. Nowhere else—not even in New York or Chicago—will you see such plays done more stylishly or excitingly.” http://bit.ly/2wGgBhF.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

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

Friends of UW-Madison Libraries

The Friends of UW-Madison libraries engage in a variety of activities during the year designed to bring members of the campus and the wider community to the UW-Madison Libraries. This includes hosting a rich variety of lecturers, authors, and events. The Friends also support the Libraries through grant programs that fund purchases and preservation needs that may not fall within the regular library budget. In addition, the Friends provide grants to scholars from around the U.S. and the world who would like to further their research using the UW-Madison Libraries’ collections. All of these programs are funded through membership, donations, and by their semiannual book sale.

The book sales, held every spring and fall, generate a substantial income for the Friends and utilize many volunteers. Anyone wishing to participate in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Libby Theune at 265-2505.

UW-Madison Arboretum

Share your time and talents while learning about nature and supporting the Arboretum. Volunteers help by staffing the reception desk, working in the gardens, walking the trails, restoring prairies, and much more. Training and tools for these volunteer opportunities are provided by the Arboretum. Please contact Judy Kingsbury, Volunteer Program Coordinator, for more information (262-5604 or JudithKingsbury@wisc.edu).

UW-Madison Odyssey Project

Did you know that the Odyssey project now has a special Odyssey Jr. program for youth up to eighteen years of age? Volunteers are needed for this group to read stories and help with homework and meals.

If you have time to share and would like to be a volunteer for this program, please contact Emily Auerbach at 263-3733 or Emily.auerbach@wisc.edu

Odyssey Junior participant Choho shows off his self-portrait. His mother recently graduated from the Odyssey Project.

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics

The UW Hospital is looking for volunteers to serve anywhere in the hospital, from the main information desk to working in the in-patient hospital units, performing duties to make a patient or family members comfortable. Contact Volunteer Services at 263-6046.
MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

Upcoming Wisconsin Public Television Volunteer Events

Kathryn Dreps of Wisconsin Public Television has published an extensive list of possible dates and times for us to participate in the WHA Winter Pledge Drive, from Saturday November 25 through Sunday December 10, 2017. If you would like to participate as an individual or with a group of your friends, please contact Barbara Rogers (barbierog2@tds.net) for the list of available times to match the dates. Or sign up individually with Kathryn Dreps (kathryn.dreps@wpt.org or 262-8508). Website registration is also available.

WHA’s Garden Expo will be held in February 2018. Available volunteer positions will include greeter, hand stamper, raffle ticket sales, ticket sales, and demo and seminar assistants. The Expo will be open Friday February 9, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday February 10, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday February 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration to volunteer for this event is now open. Contact Mike McKenzie (volunteer@wpt.org or 265-4436). If you would like to sign up in groups of three to five people, please contact Barbara Rogers at barbierog2@tds.net, and we can review the dates and times. Website registration is also available.

Cindy May Serves Four Nonprofit Organizations in One Volunteer Shift!

Cindy May, University League member and board member, provides an ultra-efficient twist on volunteering. She loyally offers her knowledge and spirit to four non-profits, the Quilt Expo, Wisconsin Public Television, University League and Wisconsin Bookworms. (These four non-profits collaborate for their mutual benefit.) Recently, Cindy sold tickets and advised attendees at the Quilt Expo in the Alliant Center.
INTEREST GROUP NEWS

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS

Mary Jo Willis (467-8608)

The Armchair Travelers’ first meeting on October 2 featured a fascinating presentation, “Walking the Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin” by journalist and thousand-miler Melanie McManus. Thousand-milers are people who have completed the entire distance of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail on foot. We learned that the Ice Age Trail came to be when a man from Milwaukee, Raymond Zimmer, envisioned a ribbon of parkland across the state marking the edge of the last glacial advance. In August 2013, Melanie began her trek in St. Croix and finished in Sturgeon Bay only 36 days later. Two years later she did it again, this time traveling east to west, and besting her earlier time by two days! Melanie’s remarkable story encompasses the history of the Ice Age Trail, the challenges she and the hikers she met faced confronting poorly marked and sometimes impassable, rained out trails, and the incredible beauty they witnessed. Melanie has shared her experiences in her book, Thousand Miler: Adventures Hiking the Ice Age Trail, published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press. It is available in libraries and on Amazon.com.

Our December 4 meeting will include a presentation by Heidi Wilde, titled "In the Wake of Captain Cook: Three South Pacific Sailing Trips.” It will start at 7:00 p.m. in the Westmoreland Room at Oakwood Village. To the right is their tall ship, “The Soren Larsen.”

INTERNATIONAL FOODS - DINNER  (Contact: Edith First, 238-5495; LaVonne Senn, 233-4241)
DINING OUT - DINNER  (Contact: Priscilla Thain, 233-5578)

Margy Walker

The International Foods interest group had their annual fall food gathering on September 10. The event was planned by Betsy Haimson and Margy Walker, who invited the Dining Out group to join us. We met for brunch at the Bonefish Grille Restaurant. Members were treated to a very enjoyable afternoon, with brunch choices of Crème Brulée French Toast, California Omelet, or Bang-bang Shrimp Eggs Benedict. Included were salad, bread, and a spectacular dessert. We were first welcomed by owner and chef, Rod Ladson, well known in the area for his culinary skills. He promised the group a surprise dessert demo at the end of the meal. He did not disappoint, with the presentation of two spectacular Baked Alaskas made with Babcock Hall ice cream. We watched the torching of the meringue and enjoyed eating the dessert. It was a delightful afternoon.
L&S CELEBRATES SCHOLARSHIP DONORS AND RECIPIENTS

On September 26, President Betsy Haimson, President-Elect Theresa Calderon, and Past President Bobbie Johnson attended the L&S Undergraduate Scholarship Reception at the Gordon Dining and Event Center on Campus. There, they heard Dean John Karl Scholz express his immense gratitude to the League for our generosity, and enjoyed meeting six of thirteen L&S recipients of our scholarships. Those who were able to attend were pursuing degrees in a wide variety of fields.

Pictured (from left to right): Liliana Teniente, Theresa Calderon, Andrew Stowe, Samara Pagach, Jacob Wintrone, Monica Janz, Betsy Haimson, Fiona Ljumani.

Andrew Stowe from Hartford WI, a freshman studying psychology, is a recipient of the Mrs. William F. Allen Scholarship. Three recipients of the Angelena Frensley Lenehan Scholarship were in attendance: Samara Pagach is a pre-med student from Oak Creek, WI; Liliana Teniente, a graduate of Madison’s LaFollette High School is studying political science and environmental studies; Jacob Wintrone, from LaCrosse WI, is studying psychology.

Scholarship recipient Fiona Ljumani with Past President Bobbie Johnson.

General Scholarship Recipients: Fiona Ljumani is a junior majoring in microbiology (pre-med) with a minor in Spanish. She graduated from Middleton High School; Monica Janz, from Mosinee, WI, is in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.
MORE SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATIONS

School of Education Scholarships

Members Mary Jo Willis (second from left) and Priscilla Thain (fourth from left) attended a gala reception on September 26 at Union South for the scholarship recipients in the School of Education. The students, (pictured left to right) are: Carolyn Schroeder, recipient of the Dorothy Searles Scholarship and also a UL Scholarship; Darby Fitzsimmons, recipient of the Grace Loeffler Thiede Scholarship; and Matthew Kuik, recipient of a UL Scholarship. Carolyn is majoring in Early Education and ESL; Darby, Theatre and Drama, and Matthew, Physical Therapy and Kinesiology.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Your hardworking Board of Directors met at Oakwood Village in June to get started on the new year.
University League Candlelight Concert
Saturday, December 9, 2017, 5:30 p.m.
Blackhawk Country Club

Program: “Children’s Music ... For Grownups” by Martha Fischer and Bill Lutes
Reservations deadline: November 29* (No refunds after this date)

Member: ________________________________________________________________

Member: ________________________________________________________________

Guest(s) name(s): _______________________________________________________

and addresses: _________________________________________________________

___ Reservations @ $48 each (includes dinner and concert) $_______

General scholarship donation _________

Scholarship in honor of ________________________________ _________

Scholarship in memory of ________________________________ _________

________________________________________________________

(For IMO, please indicate next of kin and address so that your gift can be acknowledged.)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $_______

Menu choices (indicate who wants each, and list any dietary restrictions):

_____ Breast of Chicken Veronique with Riesling Wine and Toasted Almonds

_____ Lemon Sole Florentine

_____ Asparagus-Stuffed Ravioli with Roasted Garlic Spaghetti Puttanesca

Need a ride? ________ Can you offer a ride? ________

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

*To guarantee your reservation, we must have your check and registration form in hand
In September, Wisconsin Bookworms volunteer readers met to pick up all their books and plan for a new year of reading to schoolchildren. (Left to right: Janet Gajewski, Lynn Courtenay, Linda Mayfield, Kathy Knox, Lucy Lasseter, Amal Vitale, Sue Taylor, Barb Freeman, Sue Stachoivak, Anne Badey-Raffa and Laureen Yoshino.)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Candlelight Concert Announcement: 1
- President’s Letter: 2
- Members Tour APT: 3, 7
- Volunteer Opportunities: 4, 5
- Interest Group News: 6
- Yearbook Updates: 7
- Celebrations with Scholarship Recipients: 8, 9
- Donor Recognition: 10
- In Memoriam: 10
- Candlelight Registration Form: 11
- Bookworms: 12