University League Spring Luncheon Features
Supreme Court Justice Shirley Abrahamson

For our Spring Luncheon, the University League is honored to welcome Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson as our speaker. Justice Abrahamson is the longest-serving Supreme Court Justice in our state’s history, and she has been the Wisconsin Supreme Court’s first woman Justice and first woman Chief Justice.

Appointed by Governor Patrick Lucey in 1976, she has subsequently been elected to four ten-year terms. She became Chief Justice in 1996, serving in that position until 2015.

Justice Abrahamson received a bachelor’s degree from New York University in 1953, a law degree from Indiana University Law School in 1956, and a Doctorate of Law in American legal history from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1962. She was in private practice for fourteen years before being appointed to the Court.

Justice Abrahamson’s honors and awards are far too plentiful to enumerate here, but listing a few will indicate the breadth of her accomplishments:

- President of the Conference of Chief Justices
- Chair of the National Institute of Justice Committee on the Future of DNA Evidence
- Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Elected member of the American Philosophical Society

The event will be held at the Nakoma Golf Club on March 21st, and the cost is $25 per person. The meal options are pesto-crusted chicken breast with vegetable medley and roasted potatoes; or a cobb salad (see the registration form on p. 9 for more details.) Valet parking will be available.

Shirley Abrahamson is uniquely situated to give us “A View from the Bench.” With a race for a Supreme Court Justice now underway, close attention is being paid not only to the candidates and our system of electing our top judges, but also to potential issues that may come before the Court. We hope you’ll join us for this outstanding opportunity.
Can’t write in sentences.
Computer frozen.
Composition option?
iPhone chosen.

Snow-covered ground today.
Spring Program in mind.
March twenty-first, the day;
Eleven, the time.

Justice Abrahamson,
Right after our meal,
Captivates crowds
With her dynamic appeal.

**HAPPY MARDI GRAS!**

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ATTENTION MEMBERS! ATTENTION MEMBERS!  BLUE LIGHT SPECIAL
Go to page 9: Exclusive opportunity to register until March 1.
Then the public may also sign on.
Extensive publicity, limited seating
Procrastinators BEWARE: Be there or be square!

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Early February. You received your Stay-at-Home Scholarship Benefit invitation. It is so enticing that you may have run right out to Babcock for your own ice cream treat. Wouldn’t it be fabulous if we achieved donations from 100% of our members? You can help make that happen, and it’s easy! Look at the box on page 7 for instructions.

Please join me in supporting our UW students!

Post Office Box 5064. Your President goes there at least once a week to collect mail. Bills, solicitations, newsletters from other Big Ten university leagues, new member sign-ups and contributions. Imagine my delight when I opened an envelope from a total stranger who had read the *Wisconsin State Journal* article last spring about Bookworms and wanted to help us make a difference. You can find his profile on page 3.

If you have questions or comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to greeting you at the Spring Luncheon!

*Betsy Haimson, President* (238-7010 or laughingwithbetsy@yahoo.com)
PORTRAIT OF A GENEROUS DONOR TO WISCONSIN BOOKWORMS

Mary Warfield, Bookworms Coordinator

Last May, the day a wonderful article about Wisconsin Bookworms appeared in the Wisconsin State Journal (thanks again to our publicity crew headed by Kay Jarvis-Sladky), our then-President Judy Stang received an email from Madison resident John Reindl, asking what he could do to help Bookworms with their unmet funding needs. After we had a bit of back-and-forth about how additional funding could be used, an exceptionally generous check for the Wisconsin Bookworms program in Dane County arrived in University League’s Post Office Box. We were curious to find out what motivated this largesse, so we asked him.

“I still remember my Milwaukee Public Library card number from 1954,” said Mr. Reindl as he proceeded to recite the number. Reading and books have always been very important to him. His gift will provide all the books for the 68 children of four Head Start classes (and their classrooms) for three years. That is a lot of books—1680 to be exact!

Mary Warfield reads with a Head Start class (another photo on page 10)

Mr. Reindl recently said that he has been involved in other community volunteer activities but that he wanted to help further our early literacy efforts. He believes that the ability to read has opened up many different opportunities for him throughout his life, including everything from the research on solid waste recycling management he did while serving as the Dane County Recycling Manager, to the research he now does on Norwegian Genealogy. And he said he has experienced a lot of joy from his time spent reading, whether learning about a challenging topic like gravity waves or reading a book about German history. He hopes the children receiving books through the Wisconsin Bookworms program will experience that same joy.

Every year, donors like John Reindl help us increase the number of children receiving books through the Wisconsin Bookworms program. This year we will provide books for 475 children and their 28 classes. If you would like to join Mr. Reindl in supporting Wisconsin Bookworms to help promote early literacy, please contact me at 273-9809 or mbwarfield@gmail.com.
Our Fascinating Members (and Their Families)

Editor’s Note: I’m sure many of us were enthralled by the PBS series *The Bletchley Circle*, which aired a few years ago. It featured four young British women who had become secret heroes during World War II by cracking enemy codes at Bletchley Park. Imagine how impressed I was to discover that one of our members, Elizabeth Hoadley, is the daughter of one of the intrepid women who served the cause of freedom so tirelessly and were required to keep mum about it. According to one historian, Churchill referred to the Bletchley staff as "the geese that laid the golden eggs and never cackled." I convinced Elizabeth to write an article about her mother, Vivien Donn. See the next page for that story and an amazing photo. At left here is an enlargement from that photo.

Says Elizabeth:

I joined the University League about three years ago, after I retired from teaching ESL at Memorial High School. I joined because I wanted to be part of the French Book Club. Like my mother, I spent a year in France and became fluent in French before going to University. I've always wanted to keep speaking and reading French, and this French Book Group gives us all exactly the right mix of reading and conversation. (See my description below).

Imagine my surprise when I found out how many other activity groups there are in the University League. I haven't had time to explore them yet, but they all look interesting and exciting.

Vivien Donn (center)

Le Group de Lecture et de Conversation (French Reading and Conversation Group)

Elizabeth Hoadley

Founded more than fifty years ago by a Professor of French and a French housewife raising young children in Madison, le Group has enjoyed continuous robust support from a large membership ever since. Philida Charly joined the group in 1964, continuing her membership until 2016! Elayne Steeves has been a member since 1981. Places and times of meetings varied at first. In 2003 le Group became so large that it was impossible for everyone to contribute conversation. So the decision was made to split into two. One group now meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month; the other (French Conversation II) meets on the third Wednesday. Both meet from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Our group of 2nd and 4th Wednesdays is indeed fortunate in that it includes at least six native speakers of French. Other members include those who have studied French, who have lived in France, or who have always loved the French language and culture. We read between two and six books a year, depending on length and/or erudition of language. Titles vary enormously, from the swashbuckling diamond prose of *The Three Musketeers* to the confidential humorous intensity of *Maigret*. Member are inspired to recommend spin-off readings to one another, and always take great delight in calling to mind episodes from the great literature of the French Film Industry. (See page 10 for a photo of one of our meetings. Pictured left to right: Elia Basurto, Françoise Johnson, Kim Vergeront, Elyane Steeves, Simona Musat, Esther Bach-y-Rita, Jessie Lindner, Jan Tymorek, Maureen Kind, Jane Pizer, Stephen Cohen, Kay Barry.)

If you are interested in speaking French with a cosmopolitan group of fascinating people, please contact one of the Interest Group Leaders to find out where they will be meeting or for other information.

CONTACTS: French Reading & Conversation: Leader: Maureen Kind, 274-6754, dmkind@sbcglobal.net
French Conversation II: Linda Christen, 225-5562; llchristen@gmail.com
My Mother, Vivien Donn by Elizabeth Hoadley (see page 4 for background)

My mother, Vivien Donn, had just received her undergraduate degree from the University of London in 1939, at the beginning of World War II. Because her older sister worked in the UK Foreign Office in London, my mother was told about opportunities for French speakers to work in the government war effort. She spoke fluent French as a result of having spent a year in France before starting her French degree. She was also a fanatical crossword freak. Both these were assets that resulted in her being placed in the code-breaking team at Bletchley Park. Among reasons that the Bletchley estate had been selected were, first, it was a small unobtrusive village, equidistant from Oxford, Cambridge, and London, and second, the estate had been donated to the government. The staff did not live in the stately home. Instead, small huts were built on the grounds for their crowded offices. After long shifts of concentrated work, people would be found stretched out on tables in any spare offices, fast asleep.

Of course no one, not in my mother's family nor my father's family (they married in 1943 in Cairo), knew what Vivien had done during the war. No Bletchley employee was allowed to speak about it. They signed the Official Secrets Act before they started work. This obliged them to keep the secret for at least 50 years. I am happy to say that both families were extremely impressed when my mother was finally able to explain her war activities. At that time she also received a medal for her work.

Bletchley Park is now a museum, and of great interest to the families of those who worked there. The picture below shows Vivien standing slightly to the right of center in the front row, at a reunion of the team at Bletchley Park, which took place early this century. Vivien is the one with brown hair, standing in front of the center-most archway. Although she is holding a cane, she was very active and walked every day of her life. Her hair never turned grey, and she finally passed away in my sister's home, at the age of 94. (See page 4 for an enlargement of the part that shows Vivien)
NEWS FROM THE SPANISH READING GROUP

The Spanish Reading Group features discussion of works by contemporary authors from the Spanish-speaking world. Members also share cultural activities and personal experiences. The group meets the from 1 to 3 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from September through May. There is also a Spanish Conversation Group, which meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 1 to 3. New participants are welcome to both groups.

The second November meeting of the Spanish Reading Interest Group was held in the home of Elia Basurto-Colson. Inspiration for our culinary treats was found in the reading selection, which was Lunas de Estambul (translation: Moons of Istanbul) by Sophia Goldberg.

CONTACTS: Spanish Reading Group: Elia Basurto-Colson, 233-7212; eliabasurto@gmail.com
Spanish Conversation Group: Carol White, 843-4930; whitecamj@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Lakeshore Nature Preserve - URGENT RECRUITMENT EFFORT: Deadline March 1st

This 300-acre natural area on the UW-Madison campus is recruiting Volunteer Stewards to support the Preserve as trail monitors, native plant gardeners, greeters, and administrative & development project assistants. The deadline for interested persons to apply is March 1, 2018. A day-long training will be held Friday March 23, 2018. Click on “Volunteer Stewards” on the Preserve's Volunteer Page: lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/volunteer/.
Or Contact Bryn Scriver (220-5560).

Wisconsin Historical Museum

Volunteers assist in the museum’s mission to collect, preserve, and share stories. Positions available include Information desk, special events, and educational tour guide. Schedules are flexible; training is provided. Benefits include discounts and passes to historical sites. Please contact Anna Yarish (254-6550) if you are interested in this opportunity.
From The Scholarship Chair, Priscilla Thain

The University League Scholarship Benefit

Your beautiful Babcock Hall Ice Cream-themed invitation was sent out early in February. Committee Chair Molly Wesling and members Denise Garlow, Heidi Lauhon, Judy Stevenson, and Margy Walker worked all fall on the Babcock Hall theme. UW-Madison students are more serious and driven than ever, and they are worried about student debt. The thank-you letters we receive tell us that many are doing double or triple majors and that they are very grateful for the scholarships. Please give generously, if you haven’t already done so.

To donate to this year’s Scholarship Benefit, please make checks payable to The University League, Inc., and mail to The University League, Inc., P.O. Box 5064, Madison, WI 53705-5064.

Donations are tax deductible. If you can’t find the card that came with your invitation, include a note with your name and address. Also let us know if your contribution is “in honor of” or “in memory of” someone. If so, give us the name and addresses of honorees or their family so we can acknowledge them.

The Proposed New Minimum for Setting Up UL Endowed Scholarships

Late in November 2017, the UW Foundation notified the University League of their intent to raise their minimum for setting up a UL endowed scholarship to $25,000, up from the current level of $10,000.

President Betsy Haimson sent an email early in December to the UL membership, notifying them of the proposed change. She urged members who were considering setting up an endowment to do so before the January 1 deadline. Mary Jane Getlinger, Endowed Scholarships Liaison, set up meetings at the UW Foundation with Brian Hettiger, Director of Fund Administration, and UL members wishing to set up endowed scholarships. Foundation liaisons to the specific UW departments also attended. LaVonne Senn set up a UL Endowed scholarship in History in honor of her late husband Professor Al Senn, and Betsy and Bezalel Haimson set one up in their names in the School of Social Work. Betsy Haimson also sent a letter to the UW Foundation asking to continue to grandfather the UL in at the $10,000 level. (The UL had previously been grandfathered in at $10,000 when the Foundation raised the minimum to $20,000.) As of this writing, nothing has been decided.

The Scholarship Committee met on December 4 and asked the UL Board to approve asking the Foundation to continue to grandfather the UL in at the $10,000 level. At that meeting, the committee also discussed the UL Endowed Scholarship fund at the UW Foundation. The purpose of this fund has been for UL members to donate $1,000 a year until $10,000 is reached, when a named endowment fund can be set up. The committee reviewed Mary Jane Getlinger’s UL records to determine how many members the proposed new minimum would affect, because it would now take 25 years to reach $25,000. The records showed that many donors to this fund are no longer members of the League. Two continuing members were identified. They were contacted to let them know of the new minimum, and asked if they wanted to set up an endowment before the possible January 1 deadline. The UL Endowed Scholarship fund has a net worth of $79,000. This fund will continue with or without more donations, and it will continue to pay out money for scholarships. This fund is separate from the UL Centennial Endowed Fund, which has a net worth of approximately $24,000. Both funds are invested with the UW Foundation along with all of the UL endowed scholarship funds. The UW Foundation currently pays out 4 ½ percent for the scholarships and charges 1 percent of the funds’ value each year for handling the funds. UL members wishing to set up an endowment in their own or someone else’s name, should contact Mary Jane Getlinger (274-0662; getlinger2@gmail.com).
YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS BETWEEN OCTOBER 16, 2017 AND JANUARY 21, 2018

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<th>General Scholarship Donations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Norlin Benevenga - In Memory of Cynthia Benevenga</td>
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<td>Rebecca Blank &amp; Hanns Kuttner</td>
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<td>Lee Burkholder</td>
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<td>Joanne Cantor - In Memory of Elizabeth M. Cantor</td>
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<td>Laurine Carstens</td>
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<td>Lynn Courtenay - In Memory of Jane Woolsay</td>
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<td>Edith First - In Honor of LaVonne Senn</td>
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<td>Karen Goebel</td>
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<td>Betsy Haimson - In Honor of Mario Calderon</td>
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<td>Ruth G. Johnson - In Memory of Prof. Millard Johnson</td>
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<td>Kathy Knox - In Memory of Joan Roob</td>
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<td>Helen Kuntz - In Honor of Patricia Kuntz</td>
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<td>Lucy Lasseter - In Honor of Margaret Lucy Hayes Taylor</td>
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<td>Barbara Pillinger - In Memory of Dr. Scott Davenport</td>
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<td>Tad Pinkerton</td>
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<td>Janet Shumaker</td>
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<td>Bob Sladky &amp; Kay Jarvis-Sladky - In Memory of Al Senn</td>
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<td>Brook Soltvedt</td>
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<td>Mona Steele - In Memory of Thomas Steele</td>
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<td>Catherine Tesar</td>
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<td>University League Inc. - In Memory of Anne Scott</td>
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<td>University League Inc. - In memory of Dottie Sledge</td>
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<td>Margy Walker</td>
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<td>Betty Zeps</td>
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**Bookworms**

Agape Circle - Bethany United Methodist Church
Patricia Meloy
John Reindl
Beverly Schrag
Nick Schweitzer

**Endowed Scholarships**

Anonymous
Betsy & Bezalel Haimson
Ruth G. Johnson
LaVonne Senn

THE STUDENTS WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM UL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE VERY, VERY APPRECIATIVE!

IN MEMORIAM

Emlen J. O'Keeffe passed away peacefully on January 3, 2018, at Agrace HospiceCare, after a long battle with MDS and Leukemia. Emlen’s teaching career began in Würzburg, Germany, and continued in Massachusetts, Florida, and Wisconsin. She traveled widely, living in Germany, the Republic of Panamá and México. She studied Spanish in Guatemala. Later, her special interest was Russia. Emlen became a member of University League only a few years ago, but jumped into its activities right away, joining several interest groups such as Needlework, and becoming a Board of Directors member in 2014 as the Volunteer Services Coordinator. Her adventurous spirit and willingness to become a vital part of League activities will be remembered fondly. Our sympathies are with her husband, Michael, and family.

Joanne Gay Schlach passed away on January 2, 2018 of a heart attack. Her kindness and courage were a blessing to her family and an inspiration to everyone around her. Determined to leave the world better than she found it, she helped build one of the first solar houses in Colorado, marched on Washington, and even knitted sweaters for babies she did not know. She was a very active member of University League and participated in several Interest Groups, among them Aerobics, Foreign Foods Lunch, and a book discussion group. We will miss her enthusiasm and energy and send our condolences and best wishes to her husband, Don and all her family.

On Christmas morning 2018, Joan Maxine Roob passed away peacefully in her home. A woman of many interests such as traveling, involvement with Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts, mentoring, and her neighborhood association, she was a member of the Jane Austen Society of North America for the last 25 years. She was also a very active member of University League, participating in Movies in the Afternoon, Armchair Travelers, Art Appreciation, and Genealogy Interest Groups. Her presence in these groups will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and sympathy are with her family.
University League Spring Luncheon
Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 11:00 a.m.
Nakoma Golf Club

Program: “A View from the Bench,” by Supreme Court Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson

Reservations deadline: Monday, March 12* (No refunds after this date)

Member: ________________________________________________________________
Member: ________________________________________________________________
Guest(s) name(s)___________________________________________________________
and address(es):____________________________________________________________
Email address(es): __________________________________________________________

___ Reservations @ $25 $_______
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):

    ______ Pesto-crusted Chicken Breast with Vegetable Medley and Roasted Potatoes
    ______ Cobb Salad (You may request a vegetarian version or ask that bacon be omitted)
        Served with coffee, tea, or milk; assorted rolls and butter; raspberry sorbet.

List any dietary restrictions: ________________________________________________

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. bszeps@wisc.edu

*To guarantee your reservation, we must have your check and registration form in hand
Armchair Travelers Interest Group Last-Minute Update

Meetings are on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Oakwood Village West on the following dates:

April 2, 2018  “Beautiful Costa Rica,” presented by Charlotte Burns

May 7, 2018  “Interesting and Unfamiliar Ingredients (to us) that are Used in Cuisines around the World,” presented by Joan Peterson

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Many children benefit from our generous support of Bookworms. See page 3.

Le Group Français. See page 4.