



# League Letter

Volume LIV, Number 4, March 2020

<http://www.univleague.wisc.edu>

Editor: Roma Lenehan

## University League Spring Luncheon and Lecture March 19, 2020, 11:00 a.m. Nakoma Golf Club

**Program: *Kids with Incarcerated Parents*, Pajarita Charles  
Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work**



Raising children is the most important and rewarding work parents often experience. Parenting from behind bars, however, is a serious challenge and raises significant concerns for children's well-being. Recently, the Dane County Sheriff's Office began offering fathers the opportunity to engage in and improve their parenting skills by completing an evidence-based skills training program called *Parenting Inside Out*. The program is part of a broader set of efforts at Dane County Jail to develop family and child-focused services for jailed parents. This presentation will focus on these services and share lessons learned about the *Parenting Inside Out* program.

The issue of children and incarceration has been the focus of much of the research Pajarita Charles, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, has done for the past several years. Her teaching reflects her interest in children, youth and families, as well as in social welfare policies and programs. She has been the principal researcher for many grants regarding children and family relationships and problems resulting from imprisoning fathers and mothers.

Join us for a delicious lunch, along with an informative talk by Pajarita Charles.

### **MENU** (choice of):

- Baked Penne Bolognese—penne pasta, homemade meat sauce, provolone cheese, parmesan, basil
- Three Salad Plate—chicken salad, tuna salad, egg salad
- Caprese Salad—mesclun greens, beefsteak tomatoes, red onion, fresh mozzarella, roasted red pepper, basil balsamic vinaigrette (gluten-free, vegetarian)

All will be served with assorted rolls and butter, coffee, milk, and a selection of hot teas.

### **SPRING LUNCHEON**

**When:** Thursday, March 19, 2020

**Social Hour:** 11:00 a.m.

**Lunch:** 11:30

**Speaker:** 12:00

**Where:** Nakoma Golf Club  
4145 Country Club Road  
(Valet Parking will be available)

**Cost:** \$27.00

**Reservation Deadline: March 11**

**Reservation form on page 9**

## From the President's Desk



Hello! League Members,

How time flies! Soon we will be completing the fifth year of our Five-Year Strategic Plan, so it is time to devise and begin to implement a new Five-Year Plan. To help identify our new goals for the future, Board members and appointed non-board members gathered on January 23 at the Fitchburg Library and worked through the day to identify what the League needs to do to move forward as an organization. The next step in the process will be for the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee to identify and

prioritize these needs. We will, of course, continue to keep you posted on our progress.

University League continues to raise funds for scholarships. Currently we have 29 Endowed Scholarships. If you are interested in establishing an Endowed Scholarship and you have questions about how to set one up, please contact Mary Jane Getlinger or Theresa Calderon for information. Also, a big shout-out to Carol White and the Scholarship Benefit Committee. Thank you so much for all your hard work creating the wonderful “Step Up” Stay-at-Home Scholarship Benefit invitation. We are proud to have supported the scholarship recipients pictured on the invitation as well as all other scholarship recipients. Please give to the Stay-At-Home Scholarship Benefit, University League’s biggest fund raiser. Every donation makes a difference to deserving students.

Speaking of scholarship fundraising, in January we had our second fundraiser with IHOP on University Avenue. The money generated goes directly to scholarships, and these events give us a chance to visit with each other. Thank you so much to everyone who participated.

Our Spring Luncheon will be Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. The topic is “Kids with Incarcerated Parents.” Our originally scheduled speaker, Julie Poehlmann-Tynan, ran into a scheduling conflict, but she kindly recommended a colleague, Pajarita Charles, to speak instead. Professor Charles is quite knowledgeable on this topic and has given presentations with Professor Poehlmann-Tynan on many occasions. Please join us at the Nakoma Golf Club at 11 a.m. for lunch and this interesting talk. The deadline for registration is March 11<sup>th</sup>. My motto this year is “Each one reach one younger,” so perhaps this is the time to invite a younger person to meet us and learn about the many things that make University League such a wonderful, unique organization. I’m looking forward to visiting with each of you at this event.

*Barbara Rogers*

# Interest Group News

## Spanish Conversation

The Spanish Conversation Interest Group holds lively, informative discussions that span a variety of topics: history, popular culture, geology, anthropology, psychology, and even a bit of philosophy. At each monthly meeting, our conversations are structured around articles selected from Spanish-language media and occasionally brief stories by Hispanic writers.

November's meeting focused on the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Spanish dictator Francisco Franco's death. Emeritus University of Wisconsin History Professor Stanley Payne, a leading scholar on Franco and the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), joined us to answer questions and comment on this period of history, which still bitterly divides many Spaniards. Other readings introduced us to the popular Spanish singer, Rosalía, and her controversial career in the Latin music world. At other meetings we have learned about the vast network of underwater caves in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula, and the origins of chocolate in Mesoamerica. We also have contemplated the advice of a psychologist on how to adhere to our New Year's resolutions all year long.

Group member Irene Geller proposed that we read and discuss some of the many Spanish "modismos," or sayings, which are astute observations on all aspects of the human condition. At first, modismos were only going to be the subject of one meeting, but they proved to be so popular and so numerous that we now allow time for a few each month. Our meeting on February 13, the eve of Valentine's Day, will cover popular modismos on "amor" (a word that needs no translation), which reveal the wit, irony, sadness, and deep truths of this most universal topic.



Please join us the second Thursday of the month at Sequoya Library from 1 to 3 p.m. Even if you are not an experienced Spanish speaker, feel free to come, listen in, and savor the "ambiente" of laughter and learning. Contact co-leaders Joan Leffler (jleffler@wisc.edu) or Mina Kato (luminakkeith@ymail.com) for information.

December 12, 2019 at Sequoya Library, starting at the far left and going clockwise around the table with non-member guests indicated: Carol White, Irene Geller, guest, guest, guest, Mina Kato, Ellen Soto, Elia Basurto-Colson, guest, Kay Jarvis Sladky, guest, Dan Hill, Joan Leffler, and guest.

# To the 2020 Scholarship Benefit, With Love

By Carol White

**Have you received your 2020 General Scholarship Benefit envelope?** We hope so! Let us know if you have not. The invitation is once again a work of art and love. Volunteer committee members enjoy the process of working together to raise scholarship funds for University of Wisconsin-Madison students. One fellow University League member, in particular, has made the Stay-At-Home Scholarship Benefit a big success. She is a generous, talented graphic designer and photographer named Denise Garlow. Let's get to know her in this short interview!

**Carol:** *Denise, you have contributed your skill as a graphic designer volunteer with the University League's Scholarship Benefit Committee for a number of years. We are so very thankful to you! Please tell us about this volunteer work, including how long you have participated and what tasks you perform.*

**Denise:** I have been working on the scholarship brochures for three years. I attend some committee meetings, brainstorming for ideas, themes and concepts. Then with the group's notes, I come up with a draft concept. Next I work with the Benefit Director to arrange a time and place to photograph the students. For that, I'll have scouted campus locations to show the committee. Once decided where, I take many photos to capture students in various poses. Another task is copywriting and fitting the design. The committee and I email back and forth until we reach consensus.



**Carol:** *What are some of the challenges of this kind of work?*

**Denise:** The biggest challenges are just getting good photographs. If it's outdoors, it's working with the location: the sunnier, the better. The funniest challenge was the 2018 Babcock Hall ice cream themed invitation due to the melting ice cream.

**Carol:** *What motivates you to help students with scholarships?*

**Denise:** As a parent with two children in college and graduate school, I have a good sense of how quickly money is spent on basic expenses. I'm motivated to design lighthearted but impactful giving solicitations so that more money will be raised and can be given to students in need.

**Carol:** *How did you get interested and trained in design work and photography?*

**Denise:** I have a BS in design. But it's a funny story about how I shifted to graphic design. I was in a significant accident when I was in college. I had to drop out mid semester to go home for surgery and physical therapy. While recuperating, I had time to think. That's when I decided to change majors from economics to design and enroll in a design and photography program. I've never looked back. I've always had an array of very interesting, fun and challenging design jobs over the years.

**Carol:** *What is special about the 2020 Scholarship Benefit invitation?*

**Denise:** I love the "Step Up" theme. That came out of a Benefit Committee meeting at the Sequoya library. I am so happy that the photo session gave us images supporting the call for members to step up and contribute to the campaign. It's clever, and like I said, lighthearted. I don't know what got into my head to photograph the students' shoes, but I think those images provide the unexpected part that makes me smile.

*(continued on page 5)*

## To the 2020 Scholarship Benefit, With Love *(continued from page 4)*

**Carol:** *What else might you like to share with your fellow University League members?*

**Denise:** I continue to be friends with two of the women I met my first year in the University League. Four years have passed. How quickly time flies!

**Carol:** *Thank you very much for your amazing contributions, Denise, and for this interview!*

## Announcements

### **New Information Technology Interest Group**

An organizational meeting of the new Information Technology Interest Group will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, in the Heritage Room at Oakwood Village West. Since many of our members are interested in learning more and improving their technology skills, the Information Technology Committee is developing a new Information Technology Interest Group. This first meeting will be informal and will select a day and time to meet and identify some possible topics. Please join us!

**RSVP** to Mary Jo Willis at [mjwillis@wisc.edu](mailto:mjwillis@wisc.edu) or Barbara Rogers at [barbierog2@tds.net](mailto:barbierog2@tds.net). If you cannot attend, please let one of them know that you would like to be part of this new Technology Interest Group.

### **Growing in Giving since 1916**

Leaders of university women's groups elsewhere in the Big 10 marvel at how our group has managed to raise money for University of Wisconsin-Madison student scholarships so well and for so long! We are extremely proud of this legacy and the continuing strength of our giving. The 29 fully funded University League Endowed Scholarships give dozens of scholarships a year. In addition, members generously give to our General Scholarship Fund, mainly through the Stay-at-Home Scholarship Benefit, occurring now. (Our Yearbook shows the details of last year's giving.)

**Please continue this tradition of giving, and give to the Scholarship Benefit today!**

### **Strategic Planning Begins**

The University League Board is beginning its next Strategic Plan. According to the website Strategic Planning Basics,

Strategic planning is an organizational management activity that is used to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, ensure that employees and other stakeholders are working toward common goals, establish agreement around intended outcomes/results, and assess and adjust the organization's direction in response to a changing environment. It is a disciplined effort that produces fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization is, who it serves, what it does, and why it does it, with a focus on the future. Effective strategic planning articulates not only where an organization is going and the actions needed to make progress, but also how it will know if it is successful ([www.balancedscorecard.org/strategic-planning-basics](http://www.balancedscorecard.org/strategic-planning-basics)).

On January 23, Sally Lorenz led the Board through SWOT analysis – evaluation of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Risks/Obstacles (Threats) of University League. Using the ideas generated in that meeting, the Long-Range Planning and Policy Committee, led by Mary Jo Willis, and the Board will develop a Strategic Plan to guide the organization during the next five years. The plan will be approved by the University League Board. The process closely parallels the development of the University League's successful *Five-Year Strategic Plan 2015-2020*.

# Volunteer Profile: Friedemarie Farrar

By Joan Leffler

Friedemarie Farrar has been a University League volunteer at the Chazen Museum and for Madison Friends of International Students for many years. A degree in Art History, teaching certification (in German, her native language), and a desire to make a difference in the lives of international students coming to America for the first time, led her to these two volunteer opportunities.

Friedemarie volunteers at the Chazen for the fun and enjoyment of interacting with people who share her interest in art. She introduces them to the museum's excellent collections. She conducts tours for groups of all ages, but she especially likes the tours for students who come for their classes. For example, she recently led a University of Wisconsin German class on a tour in German, focusing on works by German artists. Students were required to comment, also in German, on the paintings (with their instructor standing by). Knowing they would be shy at first, she prepared questions that helped to bring out their thoughts. Due to her foresight, a lively discussion soon followed.

The Chazen diligently prepares volunteers (docents) to conduct tours of all their collections, not just of certain types of art. Docents spend three hours per week during the academic year auditing Art History classes. In addition, they take topic-related classes to prepare for tours of special exhibits. Each docent commits to leading at least 20 tours per year. It is a rigorous program, but immensely gratifying for the docents, all of whom are strong advocates for the arts.

As a volunteer for Madison Friends of International Students, Friedemarie and her husband, Tom, have hosted students from many countries, including India, France, Germany, China, Taiwan, and Russia. They have welcomed both freshmen and graduate students to Madison, helped them to find housing and get settled, and have been their host family throughout their studies at the university. Friedemarie feels it's important to give students the opportunity to know ordinary Americans, in contrast with the often negative portrayals of them in the media.



Thanksgiving Day is an experience in Americana for student guests at the Farrar's. The six to eight who come each year sit down to a mostly typical Thanksgiving dinner (except for the German red cabbage and apple-onion stuffing). After turkey, trimmings, and dessert of apple pie (a student favorite), everyone takes a walk to nearby Owen Conservancy to explore the prairie. In the evening, another feast of leftovers is served, and before departing, each guest receives a doggie bag to take home.

Having personally known the challenges of living far away from home where a different language is spoken, she makes a special effort to include students in a variety of activities throughout their stay. She often meets individuals for lunch, or takes them on jaunts to her family's small farm near Richland Center, or invites them to her house to bake Christmas cookies, or to Madison Symphony concerts. Once she helped the Friends of International Students arrange a tour of the State Capitol with a special guide, Senator Fred Risser, who spoke to the students about the American system of government.

A University League volunteer can be a powerful cultural force and enrich the lives of others. We encourage all of you to become involved in League volunteer opportunities that inspire you. Vielen Dank, Friedemarie!

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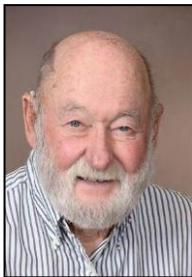
## In Memoriam

The University League sadly announces the passing of six members since the publication of the November issue of the *League Letter*. Each one was a valued contributor to League, our Interest Groups and our various events. We send our sincere condolences to all their families.



**Mary Ellen Gerloff** died on Halloween, October 31, 2019. She was the President of the University League in 1992-1993 and established a Great People Endowed Scholarship at the School of Veterinary Medicine in honor of her daughter, Barbara, a veterinarian. Mary Ellen was a native Madisonian – and proud of it. She was an environmentalist well before it became a thing many people espoused, and she spent many hours photographing nature and birds.

**Judy Plaenert Olson** passed away on November 23, 2019 leaving a distinguished legacy of community service both on the city council and as advisor to Mayor Sue Bauman, and in her activities with University League. She was Editor of the *League Letter* in 2012-2013.



**Professor Emeritus Richard (Dick) Walker**, League member and husband of Margy, was a man of many interests, ranging from his academic work at the School of Library and Information Science, to volunteering at food pantries, to traveling the world, to restoring sailboats. After retirement, Dick took up printmaking. These prints may be seen all around Madison in places like coffee shops and nursing homes. He died on November 23, 2019.

**Glen Myers**, husband of Susan Myers (both League members) and Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering at UW-Madison, passed away on December 2, 2019. He was passionate about teaching the next generation of mechanical engineers, but was also passionate about sports of all kinds, especially Badger football to which he held season tickets for 50 years, as well as genealogy and the Madison Symphony Orchestra.



**Mary Lou Birkett Goodfriend** died December 9, 2019. She and her husband, Ted, had been long-time members of University League and participated in several Interest Groups.

Civic leader and expert on aging, **Jim Sykes**, died December 24, 2019. He and his wife, Marguerite, were both active League members. Jim had always come to League events with Marguerite, then joined as soon as the League voted to include male members. He was an early and active advocate for equal rights of all kinds, especially for oppressed and aging populations. The son of a Lithuanian immigrant, he was a passionate explorer of different cultures.



**University League Luncheon and Lecture**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2020, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Nakoma Golf Club**

**Program: Pajarita Charles, "Kids with Incarcerated Parents"**  
**Reservations deadline: March 11\* (No refunds after this date)**

Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Non-member: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Reservations @ \$27.00 (includes lunch and program) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

General Scholarship (IHO/IMO) \_\_\_\_\_

Centennial Endowed Scholarship (IHO/IMO) \_\_\_\_\_

Great Dane Readers (IHO/IMO) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(For donations "In Honor of" or "In Memory of," please circle IHO or IMO and provide contact information.)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Menu choices (if more than one reservation, indicate who wants each,  
and list any dietary restrictions):

See page one for descriptions of menu items.

\_\_\_\_\_ Baked Penne Bolognese

\_\_\_\_\_ Three Salad Plate

\_\_\_\_\_ Caprese Salad

Diet restrictions (list name/restriction): \_\_\_\_\_

Need a ride? \_\_\_\_\_ Can you offer a ride? \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to **The University League, Inc.**

**Mail to: The University League, Inc., P.O. Box 5064, Madison, WI 53705-0064**

**\*To guarantee your reservation, we must have your check and registration form in hand  
by March 11th. Questions? Call Linda Harvey at 271-6488.**



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## Line Up



Serving on committees in the University League can be so much fun! Our crew met on January 6<sup>th</sup> at Sequoia Library to prepare the Scholarship Benefit donation invitation for mailing. The assembly line set-up worked smoothly and soon we were finished and enjoyed treats and conversation. Great time with great people! Thank you, helpers!

Photo (by librarian, Abigail Ryan): Ruth G. Johnson, Carol White, Joan Leffler, Karen Pasch, Judy Stang, Gail Schomisch, Margy Walker