



League Letter

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Editor: Roma Lenehan

Quarantined at Sea: Judy DeMuth Talks About Their Cruise

Judy and Jim DeMuth couldn't have known what they were getting into when they departed February 21st from San Francisco on the Grand Princess for a 15-day cruise to Hawaii and Mexico. Leaving Hawaii for Mexico on February 29th, the ship was notified of a potential exposure to the coronavirus and diverted to California. Then a normal cruise turned into something much more.



After they returned and were out of their 14-day quarantine in the US, members of the University League wanted to hear about their thoughts, feelings and experiences. Judy graciously consented to provide written answers to Betty Zep's emailed questions. The printed answers are only a small portion of the interview. If you would like to read the entire interview, please visit the League's website, www.univleague.wisc.edu.

What was known about the coronavirus when you set out? We knew that the virus had spread to other countries and there were a few pockets of the illness in the US.

At what point did you realize that things were changing, that this would not be a "normal" cruise trip? We were notified of the possible exposure on the morning of March 4th and confined to our cabins at noon time on the 5th. . . . On the 6th while watching MSNBC, VP Pence came on national television and announced the results of testing aboard the Grand Princess – that two passengers and 21 crew tested positive. . . . The Captain came on the PA system and apologized. He would rather tell us himself. You could tell from his voice he was very upset.

Glad you are back without getting the coronavirus. What did you do to prevent getting it? We were confined to our stateroom from noon on March 5th to the 11th. We were to wear a mask when answering the door or went outside. . . . At Dobbins AFB, we also had to wear a mask. . . . Since we have been home, we are under another 14 day quarantine.

Once the ship was in quarantine off the coast of California, what was life on aboard like for the next two weeks you were in limbo? My husband and I played a lot of cribbage, we read, I did my hardanger embroidery, we watched movies, the news and old TV shows, e.g. *Cheers*. The major feelings we experienced were that of having no control of our situation and the lack of information. When would we dock; where would we go; how we would get there; and would we ever get home?

Despite all the negatives of your experience, did you walk away with any uplifting feelings about human nature? All the ship's staff were always pleasant and polite whether we called on the telephone or when they delivered our meals. . . . We did not experience any negative interactions. However, it was apparent that the different branches of HHS did not always communicate well with each other.

How did your experience shape your views of future travel? Do you anticipate limiting your travels from now on? We do have a cruise booked for late August, but we are seriously considering postponing it for a year. Yes, we will cruise again – just not sure when. Our travel plans will most likely be in the continental US for the remainder of the year.

From the President's Desk



Wow! The 2019-2020 year is almost at an end. It has been a very busy year with the League seeing some meaningful changes. Before I talk about that, I'd like to thank all of you who have worked so hard all year. First to the Board of Directors, you have worked so diligently to make sure the organization continues to work on keeping up our traditions and keeping our organization moving forward.

Thank you to the Interest Group leaders, the volunteers to our many organizations, our scholarship donors, our Stay-at-Home Scholarship Committee, and all of those who attended our scholarship fundraisers at the IHOP. We have so many hard working members in this organization. From the president's chair, I am just amazed at how hard we all worked.

We are ending our present cycle of the five-year strategic plan. As a group, members of the Board of Directors were invited to participate in the development of a new strategic plan. We continue to work to complete this plan.

We also held our first "Smart Phone Essentials" classes. We plan to continue these classes in the fall. If you didn't get a chance to attend a class this past fall, your opportunity is coming. Unfortunately, the computer component of our technology classes were postponed. We have had our initial meeting of our new Technology Interest Group. We did a great job with our fundraising efforts, thanks to all who participated. We've also spent a lot of time looking at how committees work and did our best to help these groups run more efficiently using timelines to complete assignments.

Our Annual Meeting May 6, 2020, at the Maple Bluff Country Club has been cancelled due to the coronavirus. **Super Charged: Ancient Practices for Modern Happiness** was to be presented by our guest speaker Dr. Charles L. Raison, MD, a psychiatrist who is internationally recognized for his groundbreaking research on enhancing emotional well-being in the modern world. With what's going on in the country right now, having to stay at home would cause anyone to be in a depressive state. Perhaps he will be able to speak to us at another time in the near future.

As I think about this past year, I've learned a lot about how League runs and I've made new friends. I've had the opportunity to encounter these friends in other contexts as well, which makes me appreciate the fabric and the diversity of opportunities offered by the League, a wonderful organization. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Barbara Rogers

Cancellations and New Dates

It's hard to believe. In just a few weeks these unsettling times have brought upheaval to our lives in ways we never imagined. In keeping with official mandates due to the unprecedented conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, University League cancelled both our March Spring Luncheon and our May Annual Meeting.

Disappointing though these developments are, we are looking ahead with optimism to rescheduling our Spring Luncheon and speaker Professor Pajarita Charles this summer. We are also announcing our programs for next year (see below). We are confident that you will find each event unique and informative.

Regrettably, we were unable to reschedule Professor Charles Raison, M.D, our May 6 Annual Meeting speaker, for next year. His talk, "*Supercharged: Ancient Practices for Modern Happiness*," may be considered for the 2021-2022 year.

Upcoming Dates

Spring Luncheon, Rescheduled

Professor Pajarita Charles, "*Kids with Incarcerated Parents*"
Thursday July 23, 2020, 11:00 a.m., Nakoma Golf Club
Registration information will be sent in June, either by email or regular mail

Fall Coffee

Wednesday September 23, 2020, Nakoma Golf Club
Jessica Michna, American Historical Characters Impressionist
"Goode Rebeka, Trial by Fire: The Salem Witch Trials"

Candlelight Concert

Friday December 4, 2020, Maple Bluff Golf Club
The Dalton Gang Girls Quartet, The American Songbook and Big Band Favorites (Bring your dancing shoes, if you are so inclined!)

Spring Luncheon

Tuesday March 23, 2021, Nakoma Golf Club
Gail Ambrosius, Madison Chocolatier
Presentation followed by a chocolate tasting

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Thursday May 13, 2021, Brassworks at The Goodman Center
Sarah Marty, Producing Artistic Director, Four Seasons Theatre
"Hamilton: How a Musical about History made Musical History"

- Caveat: Please be aware that events are subject to postponement or cancellation if restrictions on gatherings continue indefinitely

Spring News from the University League Nominating Committee

The following members of the Nominating Committee have been meeting since September to sow the seeds for the annual planting of the University League Board of Directors: Theresa Calderón, Ruth Gifford Johnson, Kay Jarvis-Sladky, Judy Stang, Mary Jo Willis and Betty Zeps. We thank them for their continuing efforts.

Opportunity knocks! As you can see below, although we have many new nominees to the Board, we still have a few positions available for 2020-2021. As a member of the Board of Directors, you will work together in friendship and service to support UW-Madison. The first year affords all assistants and the President-Elect a year of learning the work of the Board and the job of the chair that you will assume in the second year. Most of all, you will be part of a dynamic team, working with other creative, talented, and enthusiastic members of the University League Board of Directors.

Nominees for Board of Director Positions for 2020-2021

*President Elect	TBA
*Assistant Secretary	TBA
Treasurer	Roma Lenehan
*Co-Treasurer	TBA
Assistant Program	Elaine Rosenblatt
Membership	Cindy May
Assistant Membership	Ellen Lewis
Assistant Interest Group	Linda Baumann
Assistant Volunteer Opportunities	Priscilla Thain
Co-Publicity Chair	Joanne Cantor
*Assistant Newsletter Editor	TBA
Assistant Mailing	Janet Priefer
*Assistant Scholarship Benefit	TBA
*Open positions	

Reasons to Join Our Team

1. With every assignment, you will meet other members and discover how friendly, fun, and talented they are, and how willing and able they are to help you.
2. The University League Board of Directors meets the first Thursday of the following months: June, August, October, December, February, March and April. Meetings are held from 9 to 11 a.m. at Oakwood Retirement Center West.
3. Other meetings include the June Orientation Meeting and the spring Tri-Board Luncheon. The June Orientation is a chance to get to know the chair and other members of the Board. The Tri-Broad Luncheon is a time to celebrate with your predecessor and successor, to enjoy what you've accomplished, and get ready for the next year.
4. With these activities, you will make new friends, and that will encourage you to attend one or more of the large group events and/or join an Interest Group or two where new friends abound.

5. If you have the idea that the Board is an insular group that requires prior membership for years, that is simply not true. The Board is especially delighted to welcome new University League members.
6. In addition to the fun, you'll have the satisfaction of having contributed to an organization that supports collegiate scholarships to the great University of Wisconsin-Madison as well as the pre-literacy efforts of Great Dane Readers and local Head Start centers.

Join Us Now

If you think you might be interested in an available position or know someone who would be interested, please contact Theresa Calderón, Nominating Committee Chair, university.league2015@gmail.com, or any other member of the Nominating Committee. Or, if you have your eye on an assignment for the following year (2021-2022), consider volunteering for that committee this year to learn about the position.

Donate to the Scholarship Benefit Now

Have you *Stepped Up*? There is still time to donate to the Scholarship Benefit by sending a check to: The University League, P.O. Box 5046, Madison, WI 53705. Let's give deserving students a boost in stepping toward their goals. Their need has never been greater!

Spring Has Sprung and Pay-in-May Is Near!

The annual Pay-in-May membership renewal forms will be mailed to all members in late April. Please remember to return your renewal and sign-up forms and your check promptly. By sending in your membership promptly, you will save League money. In addition, your name will appear in the Yearbook Directory. Maintaining our membership numbers is vital to the League's organizational goals of scholarship, service, education and friendship. Every member counts!

News from the Technology Committee and Technology Interest Group

The **Technology Committee** has accomplished a great deal this year. It organized classes on smart phones in October, 2019. Although the spring classes have been postponed, League will reorganize two sets of classes, one for Android (non-Apple) computers/tablets and the other for Mac Ipads/computers. The Committee will be holding the smart phone classes in the fall. It hopes to hold computer classes again in spring 2021. Contact Joan Leffler, jleffler@wisc.edu, for more information.

In addition, the Technology Committee, led by Theresa Calderon, Chair, has developed a "Timeline for Revisions to the Website and Yearbook," which informs Board members of the monthly expectations and responsibilities and the interrelationships between Board members and committees. The timeline will make the League Board more efficient.

The **Technology Interest Group** held its first organizational meeting March 4, 2020 at Oakwood Village West to establish this group. The group hopes to have regular meetings by fall, 2020. The members of the group will determine the focus. The mission of the new interest group is to educate and support members in their technology needs. Anyone wanting to join this group should indicate this on the Pay-in-May "Activity and Volunteer Form" or contact Mary Jo Willis at mjwillis@wisc.edu.

Interest Group Leaders' Meeting

On March 4th, 2020, the Interest Group Leaders met at Oakwood West. Leaders were provided with deadlines to update their Interest Group information for the Website and Yearbook. They also were encouraged to submit Newsletter articles. During the working session, leaders received a copy of their Interest Group's description, which is included on the Website and in the Yearbook. They were asked to make any changes they felt would better describe their group. Updates needed to be submitted to both Cathy Andersson, Interest Group Chair, cathya52@gmail.com, and Susan Ihler, Interest Group Assistant Chair, sjihler@gmail.com, on or before March 31st.



IN MEMORIAM



On Friday, January 24th, 2020, the University League and the world lost one of their very special people, **LaVonne Senn**, who died at age 92. Her work on behalf of the University League will live after her in many ways. Several members have sent their remembrances.

Kay Jarvis-Sladky wrote: “LaVonne Senn, in her 88th year, 2014-2015, chaired the Program Committee with enormous success. In advance, she envisioned personalities and themes that would attract large audiences to four annual events and three day trips, including two to the Epic campus and one to the recently completed School of Nursing. She and her committee worked hard to draw 638 attendees to these events with the participants giving \$2637 to the Scholarship Funds (excluding the Scholarship Benefit). In the last two years, LaVonne was on the Publicity Committee, always ready to lend an historic eye and a mind to the present situation.”

Joan Hall told of another of LaVonne’s passions: “LaVonne was a longtime member of the Foreign Foods Interest Group (now called International Foods). An excellent cook who enjoyed exploring new cuisines and recipes, she encouraged others with advice and enthusiasm. She and her late husband Al liked to host in December, when their home was festively decorated and their round table piled high with good food. In recent years, LaVonne was a tireless recruiter of new members. We all miss her.”

In addition to her work with the University League, LaVonne was a gifted violinist, still teaching young students to play the violin. She founded the Shumi String Quartet, which played when the University League hosted the Big Ten Conference of Women’s Organizations. Another of her accomplishments, showing her intellectual versatility, was her scientific career—she was on the team at the University of Minnesota that developed the first mechanical heart pump.

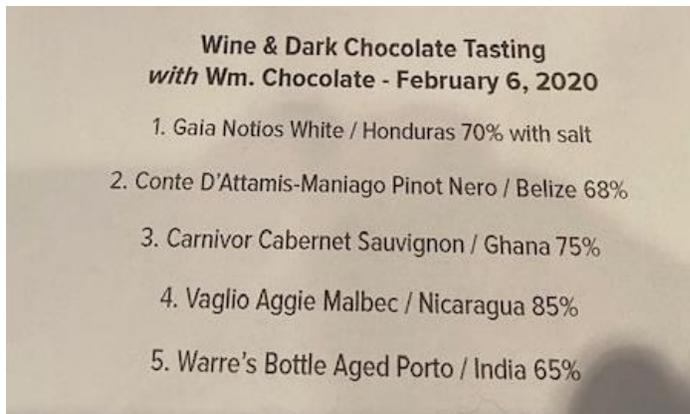
Werner Frank, husband of long-time member, Jean Frank, died on the evening of January 14, 2020. Werner was a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Business where he taught for over 30 years. While there, he was the major professor for 19 doctoral dissertators, a member of 41 doctoral committees in business, and an author of two textbooks. He did consulting work for four textbook publishers and several professional organizations. He enjoyed woodworking, toymaking, the visual arts, music, travelling, and camping. At one time, he was on the Board of Directors for Opera Props, an organization that serves as a link between the University Opera and the community. We send our condolences to Jean and her family.



Interest Group News: Wine Divas and Dudes



The Wine Divas & Dudes started February off with a treat. Along with tasting red and white wines from different areas of the world, we were treated to a lesson about chocolate by Will Marx the owner of www.wmchocolate.com. And he even paired different chocolates with the different kinds of wine to entice our taste buds.



University League Collaborates with SAIL

SAIL is Sharing Active Independent Lives, a membership program of the nonprofit organization, AgeBetter, Inc. SAIL has approximately 530 members who live in the Madison area and range in age from 58-99. Its website is www.sailtoday.org. It's a neat model that is part of the national "village" movement (www.vtvnetwork.org) that is now recognized by the World Health Organization as an excellent way to create a more age-friendly community and help people stay connected and engaged as they age.

AgeBetter, Inc. was founded by Oakwood Village and Attic Angel Association. Agrace and SSM at Home were also founders and remained with AgeBetter until about 2013. Oakwood and Attic Angel have supported the SAIL program since its inception in 2005. AgeBetter is now expanding to develop affordable housing for seniors, local produce/foods source and/or community gardens for Attic Angel, Oakwood, SAIL and the larger senior community, and a training and education center for people working with seniors. These initiatives are in addition to the SAIL membership program.

University League receives publicity in SAIL's publications. For this reason, University League plans to reciprocate in the League Letter.



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Additional newsletter articles on pages 6 and 8. See the full DeMuth interview on the University League website, www.univleague.wisc.edu

A Relaxing Afternoon with Friends

League members have an enjoyable afternoon playing Bridge every Thursday. We welcome all Bridge player to join us. Today we are playing at Gennie Bostian's home.



Pictured from left: Helen Lackore, Ann Ellingboe, Gennie Bostian, Carol Mathis, Nan Beyer-Mears, Priscilla Thain