UNIVERSITY LEAGUE FALL COFFEE (Pandemic style)
September 23, 2020, 10:00 am-noon
(Performance: An hour, with questions for Jessica Michna afterward)
Where: Physically distanced on Zoom from your device, computer, smartphone, Ipad
Attire: Your choice of casual, dressy, comfortable, glamorous
Program: Dolley Madison: The Lady Who Saved Washington
as portrayed on video by Impressionist Jessica Michna (pronounced Mik-na)

Cost: Free! An anonymous donor has generously offered to underwrite the cost of our 2020 Fall Coffee. As University League follows the distancing precautions dictated by Covid-19, this will be our first-ever program on Zoom. Our donor is happy to pay the cost for this one event, while we learn as a group to attend a program via technology. (Imagine our Founding Mothers 120 years ago conceiving of such a congregation for Fall Coffee!)
If you have questions about the technology or feel uncomfortable with it, you may contact either President Joan Leffler at university.league2017@gmail.com or Assistant Program Chair Elaine Rosenblatt at elaine.rosenblatt@uwmf.wisc.edu. They can send you a practice link to connect with Zoom ahead of time and talk you through the steps.

Please send your registration in early. Non-member registrations will be accepted beginning September 14. On September 22, Joan Leffler will email you the link to the Zoom event. Beginning at 8am on September 23, the Zoom link goes live so you may sign in any time after that. We will begin the program at 10am. You will find the Registration Form on Page 11 along with instructions on how to register either online or by US mail. While there is no charge for the program, you are invited to include a donation to a scholarship fund with your registration.

About Jessica Michna: Originally from Pennsylvania, Jessica Michna developed a love of history at an early age. She and her family visited the many historic sites throughout America. Her school years would find her appearing in various productions, in addition to costume design and construction. Upon graduation, several scholarships were offered to further her studies in theater arts. She would opt to earn a degree in psychology from the UW system working several years as a researcher and lecturer.

Her love of theater and history would eventually bring Jessica to found her company, “First Impressions.” Since its founding in the year 2000, Jessica has expanded her repertoire to include seventeen historic figures. In 2016 she was awarded the Presidential Service Center’s Distinguished Service award for her riveting portrayals of First Ladies.
DOLLEY AND JAMES MADISON

Charming, flamboyant and strong willed, Dolley was tested in the calamity of the War of 1812. Born into a Quaker family, Dolley was raised to be obedient and well behaved. Early in her life she married a man selected by her father. Dolley would soon be strengthened by adversity. Widowed at an early age, she would soon be courted by Congressman James Madison. As First Lady, Dolley would become the Grand Dame of Washington. Her strength of character would be tested to the utmost by the War of 1812.

As Dr. Catherine Allgor writes in her book, *A Perfect Union* (Holt, 2007), “Dolley built coalitions and connections every week in her drawing room. And, she used dinners at the White House and on the lawn and dining room of Montpelier in a similar manner. This is just part of the reason that she was considered ‘America’s Queen’.” She is now most remembered for rescuing the portrait of George Washington. “The full-length portrait of the beloved Washington hung in the presidential portrait gallery in the state dining room. Unfortunately, there was no time to unscrew the frame from the wall. “I have ordered the frame to be broken, and the canvas taken out,” Dolley related to her sister, Lucy, “it is done.” She entrusted the precious painting to “two gentlemen of New York” for safe passage out of Washington.

Allgor notes, “Dolley Payne Todd Madison was also famous for precisely the same reason as her male counterparts: power. She possessed considerable political capital, which, under the veil of her culturally appointed roles of wife and hostess, she used to further her own and her family’s political aims. Paradoxically, while her sex prevented her from openly playing politics, those very bonds of womanhood allowed her the scope in which she accomplished her greatest political successes—granting political favors, constructing a modern ruling style that emphasized cooperation over coercion, and achieving her husband’s political aims.” Allgor sums up Dolley’s contributions: “Within the conventional bounds of “ladyhood,” Dolley legitimized her husband’s administration to the nation and the world and went a long way to establishing Washington City as a capital.” And these are some of the reasons Jessica has titled her Impression “Dolley Madison: The Lady Who Saved Washington.”

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Request from the Membership Chair

Each year, attrition is inevitable due to age, illness, or members moving away from the Madison area. As of this writing, 45 members from last year have not renewed for the 2020-21 membership year, leaving us with fewer than 300 members, only four of whom are new members. It is especially difficult to recruit new members during the pandemic, because so many University League events and interest group meetings have had to be canceled. With no end in sight to social distancing and mask-wearing precautions, your help is critically needed this year. Please remember to observe the University League’s motto of “Each one, reach one.” I encourage you to contact me if there’s anyone you’d like me to phone, email, or send a University League brochure.

Many thanks, Cindy May, Membership Chair, clmay@wisc.edu, 608-848-9291 (landline), 608-335-9291 (cell)
Greetings, University League Members!

First and foremost, I hope this finds you and your loved ones safe and well. I am excited, and a bit daunted, to be the University League President this year. Like everyone else, we have experienced unprecedented changes in the old ways of how we do things. We are fortunate to have a creative, dynamic Board of Directors who, along with our various committees, are working diligently to devise safe solutions for adapting to the limitations we face, and to keeping University League strong and meaningful to our members.

Many thanks to each of you for renewing your membership or for becoming a new member. University League has so much to offer in terms of programs, interest groups, volunteer opportunities, and in forming genuine friendships. Our programs entertain, inform, and leave us with something to think about on a deeper level. Our Interest Groups are fun! From Aerobics to Wine Divas and Dudes, you’ll find kindred souls who share your interests. Our volunteers have an array of opportunities to be of service to the UW and to the greater community. Finally, members’ financial support of scholarships has been outstanding. Your donations, especially in this era of hardship for many students and the University itself, make a difference in students’ lives. So please, keep up the good work!

As you see on the cover page, the Fall Coffee as originally planned at Nakoma Golf Club will instead proceed via Zoom. Jessica Michna will perform a well-researched interpretation of Dolley Madison, a famously spirited First Lady unique to her time. Be stationed at your favorite electronic device by 10:00 a.m. on September 23, coffee in hand, ready to enjoy her presentation and to learn something new about women in early America.

This fall some of the Interest Groups have chosen to meet on Zoom, and I expect that more groups will follow. We are exploring other electronic ways to conduct meetings and expand our reach with social media. Wine Divas and Dudes will gather around their laptops and tablets for their September meeting on Zoom. Wine will flow, conversation will be lively and—a bonus—everyone will be safe at home. I’ve even heard that exercise workouts are held on Zoom, so Aerobics, maybe you are next! Lastly, remember that we have a new Interest Group, Technology, a member-information forum, which will eventually become active too. Stay tuned.

At the present time, Volunteer Opportunities are suspended and for safety’s sake, will not take place for an indeterminate time. Many of you are safely volunteering in other capacities, helping your families, neighbors, and those in need. So continue to do good works, and we will eventually meet again at the PBS Wisconsin phone banks, or at American Family Children’s Hospital, or Allen Centennial Gardens, or at the Volunteer Opportunity of your choice.

The challenges we are coping with now, though at times frustrating and mystifying, are opportunities for growth and learning, and we will emerge stronger than before. I look forward to the upcoming year and getting to know as many of you as possible. Please contact me (university.league2017@gmail.com) to make your suggestions and thoughts known.

Joan Leffler
A Year of Generous Giving--Judy Stang, Scholarship Chair

In spite of the pandemic, you “Stepped Up” for the 2020 Stay-at-Home Scholarship Benefit, ending successfully May 15, with donations from 116 members/spouses totaling $14,955. Added to General, In-Honor-Of, In-Memory-Of scholarship donations of $21,515, League was able to give $2000 to each of 11 schools/colleges and $14,470 to L&S. (L&S receives a larger donation because it is the largest school and most students have some classes in L&S.)

The Centennial Endowed Scholarship was established by League in 2016 to commemorate the 100th year of giving financial aid to students by University League. Initial donations totaled $21,207. With additional donations in the last four years, including $2,250 in 2019-2020, the fund as of 12/31/2019 was $27,054. Spendable income from the endowment this year is $1,154 given to Student Financial Aid. The University League Endowed Scholarship holds unspecified donations to the UW Foundation naming University League. The spendable income this year is $3,452 divided among the four professional schools. (Medicine, Law, Pharmacy, Vet. Med.)

There are 27 University League Named Endowed Scholarships with a spendable income of $84,165. These funds are distributed as directed by the donors.

University League’s 2019-2020 total donation to UW Madison students is: $125,241! All University League donations are distributed through the UW Foundation, as directed, to the various schools and colleges who in turn select the award recipients.

Thanks to all of you who made this happen! Our student recipients are grateful!

Challenges and Creativity--Scholarship Benefit Committee

First of all, a big thanks to all who donated to this year’s Benefit. We appreciate your generosity. The 2020-2021 University League Scholarship Benefit Committee’s work has begun! Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we now meet virtually via ZOOM. Our committee is: (upper row) President Joan Leffler, Carol White, SBC Director Gail Schomisch, (lower row) Judy Stevenson, Judy Stang, and Barb Widder. Not pictured: Ruth Johnson, Barbara Rogers, and Margy Walker.

After three productive June meetings, we voted for a unique and inspiring 2021 theme. Of course, “mums the word” so you will have to wait until February 1, 2021, when your Scholarship Benefit Stay-at-Home invitation arrives in your mailbox. Meanwhile you may like this challenge! What is our new theme? Email or USPS your one best guess to Carol White, csw.universityleague.2016@gmail.com before Oct.1, 2020. Rules: include your full name, address, one mailed idea per active UL member from now to October 1, 2020. Carol will provide two prizes to the first member who thinks up an identical or extremely close to identical theme to the one chosen for 2021. The prizes will be: a $25 gift card for Ambrosia Chocolates and a donation of $50 submitted in your honor to the 2021 Scholarship Benefit. In these challenging times, we appreciate your outstanding support of our General Scholarship fund, and hope you will, once again, reach the high level of donations you have always done in the past. Stay tuned for additional fun, innovative work from your friendly Scholarship Benefit Committee!
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

This year, we are pleased to offer 14 volunteer opportunities through University League! Training will be provided “on the job,” and volunteering will offer you a chance to have fun, meet new friends and help others. Also, if you would be interested in acting as a liaison between your group’s volunteers and the organization you are helping, please let us know. Within your small group, you could take photos and share a brief article for the newsletter, contact a new volunteer to make them feel part of the group, set up times to meet at the hospital, Arboretum or Allen Centennial Gardens or even be a cheerleader for the organization at University League events. Being a liaison gives you a chance to be creative and help everyone in your group feel successful! If you are interested, please contact Sally Andrews, Volunteer Opportunities Coordinator, at sjandrews53@gmail.com or my assistant, Priscilla Thain at priscillathain@gmail.com. We are looking forward to having you participate in these amazing volunteer opportunities. Thank you for your help.

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Great Dane Readers will start off the new school year with much uncertainty, but also in the spirit of adaptability!

After area preschools closed down in March, Great Dane Reader volunteers delivered the March, April and May titles to their school sites. The teachers were then able to distribute the books to the children along with deliveries of food and other school supplies.

The books for 2020-21 have arrived and will be ready for the volunteers in September. They include a nonfiction book about tigers, a story about a little girl following tracks in the snow, and a bilingual book about a brave little dinosaur. At this time, we do not know when the Head Start preschools will reopen. If they do not reopen in September, it is possible that we will once again donate the books for home deliveries. And if we are unable to hold in person readings, I have been in contact with the support staff at Head Start to try to provide virtual readings for the children.

So, if you have been a contributor to Great Dane Readers, Thank you! Please know that even amid all the current uncertainty, we are still carefully using your donations to promote early literacy in our community. And we will continue to adapt our program to find the best way to provide books and readings for area preschoolers. If you have any questions about Great Dane Readers, please contact Mary Warfield at (608)273-9809 or mbwarfield@gmail.com.
IN MEMORIAM

The League sends its heartfelt condolences to the families of these members:

**Katharine Elisabeth Peterson (Allen),** 95, a World War II veteran, died Sunday, March 29, 2020, in Lancaster, Pa., of natural causes. Many League members will remember Katharine as the granddaughter of one of the League’s Founders, Mrs. William F. (Margaret) Allen. Margaret Allen established the first University League loan fund especially for the education of young women attending the University of Wisconsin. That fund was the beginning of the League’s dedication to raising money for student scholarships. In 2016, Katharine was in attendance at the League’s Celebration of Giving and spoke during the program. Her obituary in Lancaster, where she was living at the time of her death, says, “Katharine's smile, kind words, and contagious optimism won her friends from everyone she met. You never heard a disparaging word from her. The world is a little bleaker without her in it.” Years ago, she was made an “Honorary Member” of the University League.

**Olvi Leon Mangasarian,** 86, husband of long-time League member Claire Mangasarian, died at University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison on March 15, 2020. They moved to Madison in 1957 when Olvi joined the faculty of the Computer Sciences Department at the University of Wisconsin. He was the John von Neumann Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Computer Sciences and a pioneer in the field of mathematical programming where his fundamental contributions range from abstract theory to practical applications. He was an avid researcher with over 200 peer reviewed publications, and a dedicated teacher, having mentored 28 PhD students at UW. IN ADDITION, Olvi was chairman of the Computer Sciences Department for several years. Olvi’s love of classical music began in his college years; continued throughout his life, concerts at the Wisconsin Union Theater were his delight.

**Elizabeth Scott Livermore (Libby),** age 98, died May 15, 2020. Libby grew up in Schenectady, N.Y., only sixty miles from the beautiful Adirondack Mountains. Summers of hiking, camping and exploring the woods and waters of this wilderness made her an “outdoor person” for life. A graduate of Oberlin College, she married Donald F. Livermore, an engineer from Madison. They moved to Madison when he joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin. Libby joyfully called Madison home for the next 61 years, where she taught at Glen Stephens school. She was an active member of University League until her move to Sheboygan in 2008.

**Edward Schten** who passed away on July 13, 2020, was, along with his wife Lynn, an active member of the University League for years until her death in 2018. Ed and Lynn shared a joint love of art, music, and travel, which brought continuous spicing to over 60 years of marriage. Visiting art museums was a favorite activity during their international and domestic travels. Together, they were members of several interest groups. Ed was also an avid runner for 25 years. In retirement, Ed and Lynn made many trips to national parks in the western U.S, including eight hikes to the bottom (and back) of the Grand Canyon. He always reminded himself how lucky he had been during his life to do what he wanted to do and to be with whom he wanted to be with.
Jane Hilsenhoff passed away peacefully on July 15, 2020, in Madison, Wis. She was born on Nov. 27, 1930. Jane was a classical music lover and an accomplished pianist. An avid bridge player, she relished the game’s nuances and the camaraderie. Jane was a member of the P.E.O. sisterhood, dedicated to advancing, educating and motivating women, and a member of The University League. During their retirement years, Jane and Bill spent many winters in Green Valley, Ariz., where they enjoyed birding and hiking in the scenic canyons and mountains of the National Forests, and in The Nature Conservancy. The Hilsenhoff Prairie Overlook at the UW Arboretum is a memorial to Bill and Jane, whose mission of ecological restoration, research and education, and appreciation of the beauty and wonder of nature it honors.

Marjorie June (a.k.a. Peggy Joan) Metzner, age 101, died peacefully on July 19, 2020 after a short illness. She was active in many groups, including the Nakoma League. She was a past president of Republican Women of Dane County and Lawyers’ Wives of Dane County. She was a past member of the Madison Civic Club, the Madison Club, and the Nakoma Golf Club. She was a longtime member of the University League where she had many lifelong friends. She was also a longtime member of Madison Friends of International Students, where she and her husband entertained many wonderful students from all over the world. Her interests were many, especially politics, genealogy, reading, antiques, bridge, and travel.

Susann S. “Suzy” Griffiths passed away peacefully in her sleep on Sunday July 26, 2020. There are no real words to describe how wonderful a person Suzy was. She was incredibly involved with her family and friends. She was never without a smile and a laugh. After retiring from the University of Wisconsin Department of Medicine Residency Program in 2008, she kept herself busy with many activities such as: PLATO, volunteering at the Overture Center, University League, Blue Lake Group, “Rummies”, ballet, Bridge and book club to name a few. Her love for the arts and travel was very evident from her trips all around the world (Africa, South America, Italy, England, Iceland, etc.) to her continuous attendance at greater Madison area performing arts. Our lives will be a little less bright and colorful without her.

INTEREST GROUP LEADER’S SURVEY

To be able to get input from the Interest Group Leaders during a time in our history that we are deprived of social in person contact due to COVID-19, I will be sending out a survey requesting your thoughts and ideas as to how your Interest Group can continue to function with your membership. Many thoughts and ideas have come forth about online platforms that might best suit your group’s needs. But we need your input. If you are a group member and have suggestions or are skilled at leading a group on a platform, please contact your Interest Group Leader or Susan Ihler Interest Group Chair.
University League Wins Outstanding Civic Group Award from PBS Wisconsin--Cindy May

University League members have been volunteering for many years at PBS-Wisconsin (formerly known as Wisconsin Public Television). Our members staff fund-raising and community-outreach events, such as working the phone bank during the annual on-air membership drives (March, May, August, November/December) and serving in a variety of roles during Quilt Show (September) and Garden and Landscape Expo (February). If you'd like to join us, please contact me by phone or email: Cindy May, 848-9291 (landline), 335-9291 (cell), clmay@wisc.edu. The more the merrier!

Each year, PBS-Wisconsin throws a party to thank its volunteers. Due to COVID19 precautions, this year's party was held via Zoom on the evening of July 22nd. At this festive event, the University League received the Outstanding Civic Group award, and I was given a few moments to thank the station and give the University League's "elevator speech" to the attendees. Once PBS Wisconsin staff return to their offices, they'll mail us a signed copy of the certificate in a wood frame.

Birthday Car Parade for Theresa

Since car parades have helped celebrate everything from graduations to holidays to birthdays this season, it wasn't much of a stretch to jump on this trend to honor a very important University League member. Looking at the calendar at the end of May, current and recent members of the Board of Directors realized that former League President Theresa Calderon would be celebrating another trip around the sun on Saturday, June 6. She has a very functional circle drive in front of her house so a surprise birthday car parade seemed like the obvious way to celebrate.

At the head of the parade were long-time members Ben Benevenga and former President Mona Steele. They were followed by 2019-2020 President Barbara Rogers in her convertible and 2020-2021 President Joan Leffler with Priscilla Thain. About 20 more cars followed. COVID restrictions made some aspects of the preparation rather easy: No food or drink! For the most part, drivers stayed in their cars, especially while the car was in motion, so social distancing wasn't difficult to maintain.

Theresa's daughter, Alba, helped by advising Joan Leffler and Kay Jarvis-Sladky, who had been casing the neighborhood for the best place to stage the cars. Alba suggested that nearby Harper Road, with its wide shoulder and little traffic would be the ideal parade lineup area. It was the perfect spot to chat with friends and to admire the decorated cars, mostly socially distanced. RuthAnn Lewis placed “Happy Birthday” letters on Theresa’s lawn. Alba and Mario, Theresa's husband, watched from the patio at the front of their house. The day was beautiful. Neither too hot nor cold and mostly sunny skies. The parade itself was enjoyed by all and went off without a hitch.
University League Fall Coffee (Pandemic Style)
Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 10:00 a.m.-noon

Program: Jessica Michna—Dolley Madison, The Lady Who Saved Washington
Registrations: Please send your registration in early—Non-member registrations will be accepted beginning September 14

Name: ___________________________________________ Phone:_________________________

Your Preferred Email:________________________________________________________
Where a link to the Zoom program can be sent. **Accuracy is important.**

On September 22, Joan Leffler will email you the link to the Zoom event. Beginning at 8 am on September 23, the Zoom link goes live so you may sign in any time after that. Program begins at 10 am with questions afterward. Jessica will answer all questions.

Optional Donations:

General Scholarship (IHO/IMO)______________________________

Centennial Endowed Scholarship (IHO/IMO)______________________________

(For donations “In Honor of” or “In Memory of”, please circle IHO or IMO and provide contact information.)

**DONATION TOTAL ENCLOSED:** $________

How to register: As the University League enters the electronic age, you may register either to email: university.league2017@gmail.com or by snail mail to:
The University League, Inc.
P. O. Box 5064
Madison, WI 53705-6488

We appreciate any articles and pictures you or your group have that you would like printed in the League Letter and invite you to keep sending them in. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is **Wednesday, October 14.** Please send to bszeps@wisc.edu in .doc or .jpg form for easier editing.
Ruth G’s car decorated for the Birthday Car Parade!

TELL US WHEN YOU MOVE!

If you have moved or will be moving to a new address or apartment number, PLEASE be sure to phone or email the change to one of us. The post office charges the University League quite a bit for every returned piece of mail. Thank you in advance for your help in keeping mailing costs in check.

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