Madison’s Gail Ambrosius, World-Class Chocolatier
University League Spring Luncheon

Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm (Via Zoom)
Virtual meeting with Gail Ambrosius and a chocolate tasting!

Cost: All are welcome at no charge.
Registration deadline: Saturday, March 20, 2021.

About Gail Ambrosius: Gail Ambrosius realized her dream of becoming a chocolatier in 2004 after the nudge of a lay-off notice from the State of Wisconsin, where Gail was a cartographer. Gail Ambrosius-Chocolatier has grown into a thriving neighborhood business, serving major restaurant and catering customers, web customers, and local fans who visit for “just one” dark chocolate truffle.

“Over the past 16 years, we have been consistently named Madison’s Best chocolate, and in 2013, I was honored to be named one of the top 10 Chocolatier’s in North America by Dessert Professional Magazine. What gives us the best feeling however is helping our happy local customers.”

“In my opinion, good chocolate is its own food group. A little bit feeds the soul and fires the imagination. I want people to experience the real thing, without lots of sugar, and other ingredients that most people confuse with the taste of chocolate.”

Continued on page 2
“Real chocolate is strong, earthy, fruity, floral… a whole world that unfolds on your palate. It’s the deepest, densest tropical jungle mixed with the refinement of Paris and the sheer wonder of childhood. Chocolate, in all its mysteries and complexities, is my passion”

**Meaning of ‘Single-Origin’:** Single-origin chocolate is a simple idea. It’s chocolate that’s made from one variety of cacao harvested in one region. Why does this matter? Well, cacao is a plant. Like other plants, its beans take on the characteristics of the region where it’s grown—its terroir. Many terms used to describe single-origin chocolate will be familiar to wine lovers—earthy, floral, herbal and berry, to name a few.

When cacao is blended, the effect of terroir is lost. That doesn’t mean that blended chocolates are not as good. In fact, blends are used by some of the world’s finest chocolatiers. Gail prefers the distinct flavors of single-origin chocolates, but she does use some blends, too.

**Flavors suggested by Gail:** “For chocolate purchases for a specific box that would pair well for tasting, it would be best to get it curbside. A 2-piece box could be a Jasmine or Rose truffle made with 64% Ecuador chocolate, and the second being either a caramel with sea salt (our best seller) or a Raspberry made with Colombian chocolate. For a 6-piece box, first two flavors plus and espresso, Cointreau, and cognac, you might also want to add a sweet curry made with Hawaiian chocolate.”

流畅的巧克力有一种强大的、泥土般的、水果般的、花香味的…一种在你的味蕾上展开的整个世界。它是最深的、最密集的热带丛林与巴黎的精致、童年的纯粹的混合。巧克力，包含了它所有的神秘和复杂性，是我对它的热情。

**单一来源的意义：**单一来源的巧克力是一个简单的想法。它是用一种单一品种的可可豆在单一地区的收获制作的。为什么这很重要？因为可可豆是植物。像其他植物一样，它的豆子会带有一种地区特征——它的风土。许多用来描述单一来源巧克力的术语对葡萄酒爱好者来说是熟悉的——泥土的，花香的，草本的，浆果的，等等。

当可可豆被混合时，风土的效果会丢失。这并不意味着混合巧克力就不一样了。事实上，混合巧克力被世界上一些最好的巧克力制造商使用。吉尔更喜欢单一来源巧克力的独特的风味，但她也会使用一些混合的。

**建议的风味：**“对于巧克力购买的特定包装以适合品尝，最好是通过路边取货。一个2件的包装可以是茉莉花或玫瑰巧克力，第一件是64%厄瓜多尔巧克力，第二件是海盐焦糖（我们的热门产品）或一个用哥伦比亚巧克力制作的覆盆子。对于一个6件的包装，前两件加浓缩咖啡、金酒和白兰地，你可能还想要添加一个用夏威夷巧克力制作的甜咖喱。”

**巧克力…简单…**

如果你想要自己购买并在品尝后将其带回家，可以通过在线购买来订购吉尔的巧克力。她的网站已经重新开放，可以接受邮件订单、取货订单和送货订单（每周四将送出）。

**注册说明：**

你可以在第11页找到注册表单，上面有说明如何通过电子邮件或寄送邮件来注册。虽然参加此活动不收取任何费用，但你被邀请在注册时捐赠一些钱给奖学金基金。

如果你对使用Zoom有疑问，你可以联系：
总统珍·利弗尔在university.league2017@gmail.com，或助理项目主席埃莱恩·罗森布拉特在elainer49@gmail.com。

在2021年3月22日星期一，珍·利弗尔将通过电子邮件发送给你Zoom的链接。从2021年3月23日星期二下午12:30开始，Zoom链接将上线，所以你可以在任何时间加入会议。

请访问univleague.wisc.edu/programs了解更多信息并下载注册表单。你可以通过电子邮件到university.league2017@gmail.com，或通过邮寄到：威斯康星大学联盟，Inc. P.O. Box 5064, Madison, WI 53705-6488。

**注册和有关可选品尝的信息：**univleague.wisc.edu/programs
Greetings, University League Members!

Though winter still seems entrenched, there are glimmers of change in the air: days are visibly longer, Covid vaccinations are underway, and by the time our Spring Luncheon Program is held on March 23, spring will have arrived (on March 20). After almost a year of pandemic, we are taking steps toward emerging from it.

On the University League home front, the Annual Scholarship Benefit campaign has officially started. By this time, you’ll have received your invitation and donation cards. The stunning invitation card depicts a painting entitled “Beckoning,” by local artist Karen Watson-Newlin, who graciously gave us permission to use the image. What could be more symbolic of hope in troubled times than the beauty and renewal of nature and gardens? Underlying this theme, too, is the promise of growth and progress that a UW education brings to each generation of students whom your donations help support. We “beckon” you to make your contribution to the Annual Scholarship Benefit, running through April 30. And, as always, I extend our deep gratitude for your support of this and all of our scholarship funding opportunities.

As the cover story of this issue temptingly points out, our March program will feature another virtual gathering, this time with Gail Ambrosius, chocolatier par excellence of Madison. After so many restrictions and deprivations in the past year, what better way to let loose and live a little by attending Gail’s talk, followed by tasting some of the finest chocolate that Madison, and the world, has to offer? Out of necessity, the virtual program requires that we bring our own chocolate. (See the purchasing suggestions and instructions on page 2). I confess to planning on doing some chocolate tasting “research” beforehand so as to be well informed on each flavor (and hopefully with some chocolates left to join in tasting with all of you!).

Speaking of our Programs, we are still in a “wait and see” pattern with respect to holding gatherings at our favorite venues and seeing each other in person. The Annual Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, featuring Sarah Marty speaking on \textit{Hamilton}, will also be held via Zoom, and as far as the rest of the year, vaccines are giving us hope, but until it is completely safe to proceed with our customary gatherings, we will continue to meet virtually.

In closing, I want to invite you to consider writing a piece or submit to an interview for the \textit{League Letter} about yourself—where you come from, your background, your accomplishments, your interests—anything that you would like to share. We are trying to feature more articles about individual members in future issues. This is one way to get to know each other better - in other words, to stay connected - during times of isolation. Please think about it. Each of you has a story to tell!

\textit{Joan Leffler}
INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

Many Interest Groups have been meeting since last fall, and some are even adding new members to their ranks.

The French Reading and Conversation Group has changed leadership. Jan Tymorek has decided to step down after spending many years as group leader since the early 1990’s. Jan, the University League is very appreciative of your years of service! The new leader is Maureen Kind, dmkind@sbcglobal.net.

The Technology Interest Group has been meeting the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. since December. Linda Baumann has taken on leadership of the group, arranging meetings and scheduling presenters for topics chosen by the group. So far, we’ve covered Zoom basics and have had two sessions on Excel spreadsheets. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 3, where Excel will again be the focus, this time a demo of how to output data in Excel to labels, envelopes and documents. Please join us - and come with suggestions for technology topics you want to learn more about at future meetings.

Two-thirds of University League members belong to one or more Interest Groups. We are truly fortunate to have dedicated leadership to oversee the activities of each group, activities where members learn, discuss new ideas, make friends, and have fun!

Wine Divas & Dudes: Holiday Tasting, December 2020

The Wine Divas & Dudes were treated to an entertaining and informative meeting December 3rd, thanks to members Jacqui and John Shanda. They provided, virtually of course, ideas for wine and food pairings for the current seasonal holidays.

Starting with Thanksgiving and ending with Chinese New Year, we learned about each holiday and about the wine and foods that are traditional for that time of year. For example, did you know that Festivus (a secular holiday celebrated on December 23 as an alternative to the pressures and commercialism of the Christmas season—from Seinfeld) goes well with Mad Duck Zinfandel and a mini meatloaf?

A good time was had by all… We also each had the opportunity to share information on what we were drinking as well as holiday memories. Not as easy to take Zoom pictures but attaching a moment in our meeting.

If you’re interested in joining the group, contact Elaine at elainer49@gmail.com.
Last meeting in 2020 Spanish Reading/Literature

Starting in September 2020, the Spanish reading/literature group keep having their meetings via Zoom on the first and third Thursday from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm. Join us anytime for reading and discussion of works by contemporary authors of the Spanish-speaking world.

Fluency in Spanish is recommended, intermediate to advanced-level. Meetings are held September to June.

On January 7, 2021, discussion began on the novel Sidi, by Arturo Pérez-Reverte. Sidi will occupy the remaining meetings through June 3.

For more information or if you are interested in joining the group, please contact: Esther Bach-y-Rita at estherbachy@gmail.com, or Daniel Hill at hill.lein@gmail.com.

Happy memories of 2016!

Checking out high tea for a future antiques group visit at the Baker House in Lake Geneva.

Barbara Pillinger and Karen Goebel
MEMBER PROFILE: Cindy May

A native of Green Bay, Cindy May came to the UW-Madison as an undergraduate in 1968, decided then and there to make Madison her permanent home and has never looked back. Her major in Comparative Literature and minor in Italian offered only limited employment prospects, so she earned a Master’s in Library Science. What started as a student hourly job in the early 1970s, turned into a 42-year permanent position as a Librarian at the UW Law School.

Cindy joined University League in 2015 after retirement. She has enthusiastically embraced all aspects of being a League member: serving on the Board, alternating as Assistant Chair and Chair of the Membership Development Committee, Assistant Secretary and Secretary. She currently serves on the Technology and Nominating committees, and is a steadfast volunteer for PBS Wisconsin. Cindy’s Interest Group memberships include Armchair Travelers and Wine Divas and Dudes. If all that sounds like a full-time job, she also belongs, since 1978, to two non-League book clubs, one of which consists entirely of retired librarians. She even has her eye on joining the two League book groups when current family commitments allow her more free time. That would make four book groups!

In addition to being an avid reader, Cindy is a lover of music and the performing arts. She often travels to Chicago for theater, and occasionally opera, and is a volunteer usher at Overture Center events and at American Players Theatre. Every summer, Cindy and her daughter meet in Chicago and drive to the Stratford Festival in Stratford, Ontario, to spend several days immersed in the plays of Shakespeare and other world-class playwrights. What led to her passion for theater and the arts? Cindy recalls that she became smitten after seeing a performance of *Marat/Sade* as a teenager, and she has pursued that interest ever since.

As you might guess from the photo, Cindy has traveled the world. This slide is one of dozens that she presented at the November Armchair Travelers Interest Group meeting, where she shared highlights of her 2008 trip to Egypt. (In the foreground, she holds Freddie, one of her two newly adopted cats, as he ponders his ancient feline ancestor, the Sphynx.) While the trip to Egypt was her most exotic one to date, Cindy’s true passion is for the medieval period, which has led her on multiple journeys to France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, England, and Scotland to study and savor the history, architecture, and remnants of the medieval era that are still present today. But if Covid travel restrictions are lifted by October, her next trip will be a return to the ancient world, this time to Greece and Turkey.

Most recently, Cindy has become a new cat-Mom, having adopted Freddie and Panda, who hail from Chicago. They were brought to Madison in two separate trips by a Chicago friend who fosters rescue cats. All indications are that Freddie and Panda have adjusted nicely to a privileged life in their new home, have become fast friends with each other, and have teamed up to train Cindy to be at their beck and call. (Does that sound familiar to us pet owners?)

University League is fortunate to be a beneficiary of Cindy’s energy, commitment to service, and her lively, fun-spirited presence at meetings and interest group gatherings. Thank you, Cindy, for all you do!
Getting to Know One of Our International Members

Dory Christensen (maiden name Dory Anillo) was born in 1946, in Barranquilla, Colombia, a city located on the northern Caribbean coast. She was educated in Barranquilla and completed her undergraduate degree in Business Administration and languages (English, French, Italian, and German, plus her native language, Spanish). In her first job after graduation, she worked for a company that exported lumber, and was in charge of anything that dealt with the English language, including dealing with US customers. One company she worked with extensively was the First Wisconsin Bank of Milwaukee. After she had worked with them for about a year, a high-ranking officer of the bank asked her boss if she would be interested in emigrating to the US to work with them. It was the opportunity of a lifetime!

It took her a couple of weeks to talk it over with her parents and get their approval, but her parents saw the opportunity the job brought to further her profession. One of the strict requirements her parents set was that she needed to find a Catholic residence for women. The staff at the bank found such a residence for her in Milwaukee!

Dory arrived in Milwaukee in May of 1968, and she fell in love with the city immediately. She truly enjoyed her job. Working in the International Division, she had the opportunity to meet other staff from all over the world. She also made wonderful friends at the residence where she lived, both American women and women from other Latin American countries.

She met her first husband in Milwaukee, an American. They married in 1970. When they moved to Madison in 1971, Dory found a job in the International Division of CUNA Mutual Group, which gave her the opportunity to travel all over the world. It was a very rewarding job, and she worked there until her retirement in 2001. She and her husband had a daughter, Jennifer, but they divorced when Jennifer was 5, and she was a single mother until Jennifer was 18.

Dory’s second husband, Ole, is from Denmark, continuing the international thread that runs throughout her life. Dory and Ole have both embraced each other’s extended families. They visit Denmark and Colombia every year to participate in different family celebrations. Ole’s grandchildren and Dory’s nieces have come for longer periods to study here in Madison.

Dory’s daughter, Jennifer, has blessed her with a wonderful son-in-law and two fabulous granddaughters, now 13 and 11.

Both Dory and her husband are extremely happy with the life they have in Madison. They live downtown and enjoy all the activities the city has to offer. They have a close group of friends who also are from different countries. They think of them as their adopted Madison family.

Dory enjoys the University League’s Spanish Literature and Reading Interest Group and the many friends she has made through the organization. One of her objectives in life has been to assist in whatever way she can to include diversity of culture, race, and traditions. It is what has helped her achieve fulfillment in her life. She hopes she will be able to help the League in this endeavor.
NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER!

Do you know anyone who is bored or lonely? University League has two great programs yet this year. Many Interest Groups are meeting by Zoom. By next year Interest Groups should be meeting in person.

Furthermore, we have a special deal. Any new members joining University League now (February through May) will be a member through May 2022 and be able to participate in both this spring’s activities and all the activities next year!

Join the "Each one, reach one" recruitment efforts and invite your friends or relations to join University League.

New members will be able to support student scholarships, develop new interests (or enrich old ones), and make new friends. **Please help us share our wonderful organization with new people. Help us recruit new members.**

Contact the Membership Chair, Cindy May (contact information below), for a membership brochure, or the membership form is available on the University League website (univleague.edu).

**Membership Additions and Changes**

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:** Please check your directory listing in the *2020-2021 Yearbook* and send corrections/changes to Cindy May, clmay@wisc.edu or phone 848-9291. THANK YOU!
IN MEMORIAM

Joan M. Maynard, University League president in 1982-83, died in Santa Fe, NM, on November 21, 2020 after a lengthy illness. Joan was born in Turtle Creek, PA, where she loved discovering dance and theater classes in downtown Pittsburgh as a child, even appearing on The Happy Puppy TV show. She graduated fromDickenson College in 1957 with a degree in mathematics, a field with few women at the time. She then worked as a computer programmer at the Westinghouse Atomic Power Division as part of the team that developed the first nuclear submarine, the Nautilus. Joan and her husband, Charles, moved to Madison when he began a professorship in nuclear engineering at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, and Joan volunteered at community and arts organizations in Madison including University League, the Attic Angel Association, the (then) Elvehjem Museum of Art and contributing her creative skills at the Madison Civic Center. A several-month adventure living in the Soviet Union in 1976 kindled her lifelong fascination with Russian culture and Russian art, particularly folk art. After Charles's death, Joan relocated to Santa Fe, NM permanently in 1998, and she again took up volunteerism. League members have missed her enthusiastic presence in Madison since her move and still remember her with affection.

Anna (Banker) Bender, long-time League member, passed away January 17, 2021, in Madison, Wis. Born in 1929, Anna received two M.S. degrees from UW-Madison and taught at Janesville High School, Iowa State University in Ames and Madison Area Technical College. Anna was an artist who enjoyed painting and displaying her artwork in Wisconsin Regional and Madison Art Guild shows, winning many awards. She served on the boards of the University League, Madison Civics Club and the First Unitarian Church. She was a Dane County Park Commissioner for 10 years, after which she joined the Friends of Dane County Parks Foundation and served on their board. Anna was a Girl Scout leader and Sunday school teacher, as well as the producer and co-host of the cable TV show, Senior Beat. She is remembered for her willingness to participate in many League leadership roles.

Jeanne Marie Grover, On Jan. 22, 2021, at the age of 95, she passed away with her family by her side. She will be remembered for her vitality, her active spirit, and her love of family and laughter. Jeanne earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati in zoology and chemistry. She and her husband, Albert, moved to Madison in 1959. Until 2019-20, Jeanne was a very active member of University League and had a long history with the Book Discussion and Aerobics Interest Groups. Jeanne loved to read, volunteer and garden, especially her tomatoes and had a soft spot for any dog she met. She especially cherished family camping trips to northern Wisconsin.

Dr. the Hon. Ann Gordon-Walker, of Shorewood Hills, passed away on Jan. 27, 2021, at the age of 76. She was born in London, England. In 1974, she and her husband moved to the United States to Connecticut, before settling in Madison to raise their family. She taught both Edgewood College and MATC before her 21-year career at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as an administrator for the Institute of Molecular Virology. Ann's greatest pleasures came from her connections to others. She was active in the University League, Dickens Society, Jane Austen Society, and PLATO. Ann loved spending time with friends while attending plays, particularly at the American Players Theater. She loved the card games bridge, Mahjong, tennis, golf, and cheering on the Badgers and the Green Bay Packers. She was delighted that, as a naturalized American citizen, she could cast a vote for Joe Biden. It was a real delight to serve on committees with Ann and enjoy her enthusiasm.
UNIVERSITY LEAGUE SPRING LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm (Via Zoom)
Virtual meeting with Gail Ambrosius and a chocolate tasting!

Cost: All are welcome at no charge.
Registration deadline: Saturday, March 20, 2021.

Name: ___________________________________________ Phone: ________________________

Your Preferred Email: ________________________________________________________________
Where a link to Zoom can be sent. Accuracy is important.

On Monday, March 22, 2021, Joan Leffler will mail you the link to Zoom.
Beginning at 12:30 pm on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, the Zoom link goes live, so, you may sign starting at that time.

Optional Donations:

General Scholarship (IMO/IHO): ______________________________________________________
Centennial Endowed Scholarship (IHO/IMO: __________________________________________
Great Dane Readers (IMO/IHO): _____________________________________________________
(For donations “In Honor of” or “In Memory of”, please circle IHO or IMO and provide contact information.)

DONATION TOTAL ENCLOSED: $ __________________

_________________________________________________________

(IMO and IHO contact Information)

You may register by email to:
university.league2017@gmail.com

Or by snail mail to:
The University League, Inc.
P.O. Box 5064
Madison, WI 53705-6488

We appreciate receiving any articles and pictures you or your group have that you would like published in the League Letter and invite you to keep sending them. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is Monday, March 22. Please send to bszeps@wisc.edu or gisell_2403@hotmail.com in .doc or .jpg form for easier editing.
HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY!

Clara Gerber just celebrated her 100th birthday. She is a bridge player, lives alone and is in good health.

Clara was a former volunteer at SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital, where she received her first dose of Covid-19 vaccine. Her volunteer work spanned 33 years, and she logged countless hours of service. One of her favorite volunteer activities was working in the hospital gift shop.

Shortly after her birthday, Clara came to the hospital for her vaccine. That day, she received a very warm welcome. Volunteer services and patient registration staff greeted her at the main entrance and sang “Happy Birthday” to her.

They also gave her flowers and chocolates before she received her vaccine. She has stayed healthy throughout the pandemic, spending most of her time inside her Madison apartment.

Congratulations, Clara, on reaching this incredible milestone!