AHoy!
CLIMB ABOARD!

The University League 2022 Scholarship Benefit Committee encourages all our caring contributors to join us in “putting the wind in their sails” of our student scholarship recipients as they navigate the cost of higher education at the University of Wisconsin.

With your generous financial support, we can provide smooth sailing for our budding scholars.

Reminder:
Our campaign will run from February 1 until April 30.

Please check your mail for your Stay-at-Home Benefit donation invitation arriving later this month.

Thank you for continuing the University League’s tradition of supporting scholarships at the UW-Madison.

Submitted by: Barbara Widder, chair.
Greetings University League Members,

Happy New Year! I wish each of you the following in 2022 (paraphrasing a popular toast in Spanish): “May you have good health, prosperity, the love and companionship of family and friends, and lots of time to enjoy it all!”

Now that January has arrived, the Scholarship Benefit Committee, chaired by Barbara Widder, is excited to be sending you this year’s invitation to contribute to the University League’s annual Stay-at-Home Benefit. Look for your invitation to arrive later this month.

The Stay-at-Home Benefit is the principal fundraising activity for providing scholarships to deserving UW-Madison students. Your contributions go into our General Scholarship Fund and are awarded proportionately to each school and college at the UW-Madison. Please make a difference and donate generously to this effort. As always, we are aiming for 100% participation, so we’ll need your help!

University League scholarship recipients again this year are a highly motivated, intelligent, and diverse group of students whose thank-you letters described their backgrounds, the academic goals they hope to achieve at the UW, and the careers that they aspire to. In October, President-Elect Sandy Nuernberg and I attended the College of Letters and Science reception, held in-person, honoring L&S scholarship recipients and donors. We met several of the students who benefited from your generosity, having received University League scholarships. It was a memorable occasion for learning more about them individually and to hear of their deep gratitude for the financial assistance that our scholarships provide.

We hope to meet more of the awardees from other schools and colleges at in-person receptions this spring. Their academic achievements and service to their respective communities are a source of pride for us all, and a reminder of how much our scholarship support affects the lives of these engaging young adults.

As winter settles in, I hope that you continue to enjoy your favorite Interest Groups and will consider trying out one or two new ones. They are an excellent way to become involved in University League, to meet others, and to form lasting friendships.

Our next Program will be the March 22 Spring Luncheon at Blackhawk Country Club. It features author Rochelle Pennington speaking on the 1975 sinking of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* in Lake Superior. Be sure to save the date. Come ready to learn about an intriguing topic and to enjoy fellowship with friends. More information will be forthcoming in the February *League Letter*. See you there!

Joan Leffler
INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

Genealogy Interest Group and Armchair Travelers:

Dear League members, here are the scheduled presentations for the Genealogy and Armchair travels group. There may be changes over time, but we want you to get excited about what is going to come:

**Genealogy Interest Group: Meet via Zoom on the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.**
- January 24, 2022: Bebbie Kroopkin speaking on "Unique Aspects of Jewish Genealogy"
- February 28, 2022: Kathryn Ciancina will relate her Grandfather's Polish heritage from her book on Polish nationalism entitled "On civilizations Edge: A Polish Borderland in the Interwar World.
- March 28, 2022: Mark Gajewski will entertain us on "Who is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery?

**Armchair Travelers: Meet via Zoom on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.**
- January 3, 2022: Gabriela Cerghedean will present on her homeland "Beautiful Romania"
- February 7, 2022: Chris Kleinholz is welcomed back to share his knowledge of Italy: "Civilizations in Italy from Antiquity to the Present: All Roads leads to Rome.

French Reading and Conversation:

The French Conversation Interest Group met for most of the fall at Rennebohm Park. As the weather got colder, we had a very enjoyable in-person meeting at Maureen Kind’s home, pre-Covid style, but have returned to Zoom for the time being. We finished our fall reading of Jean Anouilh’s 1942 play, *Antigone*, which was inspired by the classical Greek tragedy *Antigone* by Sophocles. Anouilh’s modern version, written during Nazi-occupied France, represents resistance to tyranny. We took turns reading the various characters’ parts out loud, which brought out the intensity of the drama. Lively discussions occurred at every meeting. We will begin 2022 reading René Barjavel’s *La Charrette bleue*, about the author’s boyhood growing up in Provence during World War I. New participants are always welcome. We meet the second and fourth Wednesday each month. Please email Maureen Kind, dmkind@sbcglobal.net to put your name on the contact list.

Artiques Group:

**Visit to: Assumption Greek Orthodox Church**

On Tuesday, November 16th, 2021, a group of 19 arrived at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Madison to enjoy the many beautiful iconographs designed and painted by David Giffey. The nearly 80-year-old spoke to us about his life, his passion for painting the iconographs (with no formal art background), and his vision for what more he'd still want to complete within the church. His knowledge, travels, personal history, and tribute to women with his acrylic paintings were indeed informative, surprising and admirable.

Submitted by: Diane Smidt.
Visit to: The home of author STERLING NORTH

On a beautiful fall day in September, the Artiques group took a trip to Edgerton. We visited the home of author STERLING NORTH (1906-1974). North is the author of *Rascal, A Memoir of a Better Era*, an autobiographical story about raising his pet racoon, Rascal.

*Rascal* sold more than 2.5 million copies and was translated into 18 languages. North Penned 29 books during his lifetime, including *So Dear to My Heart* in 1947, translated into 26 languages. (This story and *Rascal’s* are available on DVD from the public library). *The Wolfling* was published in 1969 and was North’s final book.

We were able to step into the past and tour this exquisite home where Sterling North lived as a young boy. The beautiful home was built in 1894 by North’s grandfather in the Queen Anne architectural style.

It has been restored to its 1918 vintage condition and has the original, ornate wood trim and wooden floors. Furniture of the time period includes a fainting couch, a Hoosier cabinet, an organ and a piano, a wood burning stove, and an icebox. (Much of the furniture was acquired thanks to Questers – a nonprofit organization dedicated to the study, conservation and preservation of historical objects.) Lace curtains on the main floor were made in Scotland using Jacquard looms. "Even if you have never heard of Sterling North, you'll love visiting his home."

There are guided tours given by the Sterling North Society. The home/museum is located at 409 W. Rollin St. in Edgerton. They are open Sundays, April-November 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Karen Goebel.
**The International Foods Group:**

The International Foods Group is starting again after a pandemic hiatus. Our first dinner will be February 13, and we welcome new members. We meet the second Sunday of the month at 6:00 p.m., sharing the cooking and expenses for an international dinner planned by a committee. If you aren’t on our email list and want to join the fun, call or email Sally Carpenter at 608-630-7334 or scarpen1964@gmail.com. I’m looking forward to seeing you all and enjoying some good food and conversation.

Submitted by: Sally Carpenter

---

**Spanish Conversation:**

At its November meeting, the Spanish Conversation group discussed and viewed slides depicting the November 2nd holiday, *Día de Muertos* (Day of the Dead), as it is observed in Mexico. Coinciding with Halloween in the US and All Saints Day in Europe, *Día de Muertos* is a blend of pre-hispanic traditions and Catholicism, where the memory of the dead loved ones is celebrated.

Throughout Mexico, festive parades and family picnics are held. Carefully laid out altars placed in city squares and in individual homes are festooned with marigolds, food offerings, *calaveras* (skulls made of sugar), and brightly decorated objects. People often paint their faces to look like skulls, or dress in elegant costumes, wearing elaborate skull facemasks. While this might at first seem macabre, *Día de Muertos* is in reality a joyous celebration of the belief that spirits of the dead return on this day to mingle with and to be remembered and honored by the living.

The Spanish Conversation group covers an array of topics -- Hispanic culture, anthropology, history, current events and more. Contact Joan Leffler jleffler@wisc.edu to join our meetings on the second Thursday of the month.
University League is a vibrant and relevant organization in large part due to the people who serve as Board and committee members--people like you who value what we stand for and are committed to our mission of raising scholarship funds and offering volunteer, educational, and social activities for our members.

We are an all-volunteer organization, which means that we need YOU to contribute your time and energy toward helping us function smoothly and to carry out our goals and activities. Joining the University League Board requires no special expertise, just a desire to learn some new skills and to work with other remarkable people who have a shared sense of purpose. Preparation for Board positions occurs for one year as an Assistant (for example, Assistant Secretary), then the next year assuming the senior position (Secretary).

The Nominating Committee is looking to fill the following Board positions for 2022-2023, which begins June 1:

- President-Elect
- Assistant Secretary
- Assistant Treasurer
- Assistant Program Chair
- Assistant Interest Groups Chair
- Assistant Volunteer Opportunities Chair
- Assistant Scholarship Benefit Director
- Publicity Administrative Co-Chair
- Publicity Editorial Co-Chair

If you would like to discuss any of these positions, if you have questions or would like further information, please email Joan Leffler, jleffler@wisc.edu or call 608-273-8491.

The University League Board of Directors is an excellent way to make your voice heard on the various aspects of how we function and the directions that we take in the future. It is also a way to expand your skills and learn new things that you never expected you would. Amazing new relationships and opportunities await you!
CANDLELIGHT CONCERT 2021:
“An Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan”

University League’s virtual Candlelight Concert on December 3rd featured the Madison Savoyards who, since 1963, have been presenting the works of Gilbert and Sullivan to Madison audiences. We were treated to a performance on YouTube of G&S favorites from The Gondoliers, The Mikado, Trial by Jury, Patience, Iolanthe and others.

Cast members Kelsey Wang, Mike Brady, Beck Buechel and Noah Strube (pictured at right) sang a variety of solo and ensemble pieces that perfectly captured the wit, the spoof, and the tongue-in-cheek elements of comic opera that are so uniquely Gilbert and Sullivan.

Even the narrators/directors, Adam Shelton and Catherine Killam (pictured below) got into the act with their pointed descriptions of each song and the background of the opera for which it was written. Although he didn’t appear on camera, piano accompanist Nick Nydearek did a superb job.

While talented singers are essential to the success of any operatic production, skillful acting is also critical, something that cast members exhibited in abundance. Particularly noticeable on YouTube are facial expressions, posture, gestures, a haughty toss of the head, or a dismissive flick of the hand, and of course perfect timing—all of which the cast excelled at—and all done while singing and simultaneously performing choreographed steps.

Thank you, Madison Savoyards, for an entertaining and memorable evening!

For your further listening and viewing enjoyment, the Madison Savoyards summer 2021 program, ‘I have a song to sing, O!’ -- a selection of songs from all fourteen G&S operettas, is available on the link: https://youtu.be/2bhTkg8idjo

Photo credit: Nick Cardarella.
IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth A. "Betty" Stern, a very active University League member, passed away peacefully on November 19, 2021, at 93. Graduating with a B.A. in Home Economics Education, she became a home economist for Metropolitan Edison Company, Reading PA, food editor for Rural Gravure magazine supplement, Madison, WI., and the manager of the Research Home Economics section and test kitchen of Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation. Betty was honored as the Wisconsin Business Home Economist of the year 1988-89. In addition to her activities with University League which included the Book Group, Bird Study Group, Luncheon Group, Hiking Group, and Friends of Arboretum. she was past President of Forest Products League and Madison Home Economics Association. She was a certified braillist with the Madison Volunteer Braillists. Her League friends and colleagues will miss her entrepreneurial spirit and enthusiasm tremendously.