



League Letter

Volume LVII, Number 1, August 2022

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

Editor: Roma Lenehan

University League Fall Coffee
Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Maple Bluff Country Club

Tanya Zastrow – Director, Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Tanya Zastrow, Director of the Olbrich Botanical Gardens since November 2021, will present a talk entitled “The Olbrich Botanical Gardens: Past, Present, and Future.” She will speak about Olbrich



Gardens’ origins in the early 1950’s, its evolution and expansion over the decades into the place of beauty, serenity, and learning that it is today, and her vision of its future.

Event: The Fall Coffee will feature a continental breakfast including a parfait with sliced fresh fruit and berries with yogurt, pastry, coffee, tea, and juices. Please note dietary restrictions on the reservation form. The cost is \$20 per person. The registration deadline is Wednesday, September 7.

Zastrow brings 18 years of experience working in all aspects of public gardens, including management and nature-based programming. Prior to coming to Madison last year, she was the Director of Programs at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas-Austin, overseeing the education and volunteer programs and staff. In addition, she was the supervisory education specialist and volunteer/intern program coordinator at the U.S. National Arboretum, the first center director for Welty Environmental Center in Beloit, Wisconsin, and an environmental education volunteer with the Peace Corps in Nicaragua.

She has worked with children and families as part of Cities Connecting Children with Nature (CCCN), a national initiative that seeks to create more equitable and abundant access to nature for low-income children who live in cities. She plans to continue this effort through the Gardens’ new Frautschi Family Learning Center.

A Wisconsin native, Zastrow graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor’s degree in Zoological and Biological Aspects of Conservation. She received her master’s degree in Parks and Recreation Resource Management from Frostburg State University. She is excited to be back in Madison as Olbrich Gardens Director and to oversee its future growth. According to Zastrow, “Public gardens have a way of bringing people together for many different reasons, whether they’re getting married in the garden, or they’re coming to attend a class or they’re just coming to get inspiration for their own home landscape. They can do so much for a community, and that’s what’s really exciting about being a part of Olbrich.”

The thousands of visitors who have savored the beauty and experienced the opportunities for learning and discovery at Olbrich Gardens would agree. (Continued on page 3)

From the President



Dear League Members,

I am not only excited but honored to be your University League President for 2022–23. I'd like to thank all of our Board of Director members (there are 23 of us!) who have agreed to serve on the board this year. Our University League has experienced, as have many other organizations, unprecedented changes during these last two (and counting) years of the COVID-19 pandemic, and our board and non-board leaders have worked so hard behind the scenes to make our activities successful. I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU SO MUCH to all of our renewing League members who responded to our Pay-in-May, those who also included gifts to our scholarship fund, and our new members. We welcomed our new members on May 22 at Past-President Barbara Rogers' home with our favorite refreshments provided by Board members. We enjoyed lively laughter and "getting-to-know you" activities. In all, I would like to THANK our entire University League membership for all of your assistance, ideas for virtual participation, patience, and care for each other during this really unique, surreal time period – yes, it has been more than two years now – and we still maintain a strong, willing, and opportunistic membership. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

As the fall approaches, let us anticipate what our next volunteering and participation can accomplish to support University League's mission of raising funds, promoting volunteer services, and providing educational opportunities and social activities for all of us and supporting the University of Wisconsin-Madison. There are many opportunities for involvement, for sure!

When I joined League nearly eight years ago, I volunteered for PBS Wisconsin television because our family watched so many of its excellent programs. As a volunteer I really liked helping with the PBS community outreach events about three times a year. I added the Great Dane Readers and Odyssey Project and the UW Arboretum to my volunteering. I then joined League Interest Groups one by one: mah-jongg, bridge, birding (outdoors in the Madison area), and the technology group, in which we learn and support League members with computer/technology needs. We all know that Interest Groups are the backbone of the University League – even as they have changed over time to reflect the members' interests. I'd like to THANK our leaders (chairs) of the various Interest Groups. They put in much time and effort to make these groups run smoothly. If you have an interest that is not already a group, please, oh, please, bring it to the attention of a board member and start a new group – if you are interested, others will be, too! Please take time and read your 2022–2023 *Yearbook*, as it includes our Mission, answers many general questions, including our Program schedule for the year, ways of donating to our Scholarship Funds (and what League gave last year), and a list of Volunteer Opportunities and Interest Groups with meeting days and times.

On May 10 we had our Annual Meeting Luncheon at Maple Bluff Country Club. Our second time together since the pandemic (there were about 85 of us!) was a time of sharing, listening, and enjoying great food and conversation. Be sure to read this first *League Letter* and fill out the registration for the Fall Coffee on September 14 at Maple Bluff Country Club. Tanya Zastrow, the Director of Olbrich Gardens, will be our speaker. Our Program Committee has worked very hard to bring us University and Madison-area speakers and topics. Please join us when you can to listen, learn, and participate in our four Program events.

Finally, another backbone of our University League is Scholarships. For over 100 years now, we have given scholarships to students at the UW-Madison. This past year our Endowed Scholarships provided more than \$125,000 scholarships. In addition, our members generously donated \$33,670 to scholarships. Both sets of scholarships go to the various schools, including Letters & Science, Nursing, Engineering, Veterinary Medicine, and many more, and during the pandemic! Now that is something to be proud of! You can learn more about whom we help with donations and volunteers in our 2022–2023 *Yearbook*.

If you want to take an active part in our League, ask a Board member, join an Interest Group, or volunteer. Our Board can answer questions and lead you to those who can help you decide where to become involved. The Nominating Committee is always eager to hear new and creative ideas for our League group of women (and men!) interested in gathering, talking, volunteering together – committee meetings bring out the best of us!! Please say “yes” when they call and ask you to climb “a-Board.” We welcome your comments, suggestions, and questions – we really do. Come join us when you can!!

I look forward to the coming year and all the activities that our University League has to offer.

Sandra J. Nuernberg

Tanya Zastrow – Director, Olbrich Botanical Gardens (continued from page 1)

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Since its opening in 1952, the Olbrich Botanical Gardens has become a “must see” destination for generations of visitors. Seventy years later, 16 acres of outdoor display gardens showcase a wide variety of Midwestern hardy plants, a Rose Garden, the Thai Pavilion and Garden, and specialty gardens such as the Perennial Garden, the Sunken Garden, the Herb Garden, and the Rain Garden.

Indoors, the Bolz Conservatory, a 50-foot-high pyramid, features diverse (including carnivorous) tropical plants, a waterfall, orchids, and free-flying birds. In the conservatory, visitors can see the plants from which everyday food products originate, such as bananas, coffee, and vanilla. A horticultural library, meeting rooms, and a gift shop complete the amenities.

The newly opened (October 2021) Frautschi Family Learning Center and Greenhouses offer a variety of educational opportunities, including school programs, summer writing camps, youth/family programs, and adult classes and workshops that emphasize sustainability and garden management.

The Olbrich Botanical Society and the City of Madison Parks Division jointly own and operate the Gardens. For exhibit hours and other visitor information, see www.olbrich.org/visit/hours.cfm.

University League Fall Coffee

When: September 14
Continental Breakfast: 10:00 a.m.
Presentation: 10:45 a.m.

Where: Maple Bluff Country Club
1500 Kensington Drive
Madison, WI 53704

Cost: \$20 per person

Registration Deadline: September 7

Reservation form on page 11

Interest Groups

Wine Divas & Dudes

Wine Divas & Dudes finished their meetings this season by learning about new ideas in aging wine and trying a new winery. At the end of March John and Jacqui Shanda hosted a special evening where we tasted seven different wines that were aged in “spirit” barrels. As John advised us, “Whiskey barrel aged wines are up over 50% in revenue and 65% in volume, much higher than any other table wine. These wines are a great option both for new wine drinkers and



for more seasoned wine drinkers, bridging a fun gap between wine and spirits. They are a new way of making, marketing, and selling wines. Look at the bottle shape and the labels. In another nod to spirits, these wines are often served in stemless glasses. Even the winemakers are now being called cellarmasters and winesmiths.” See the photo of the wines we tasted.



The April/May meeting was at Bailey’s Run in New Glarus, a four-year-old winery. Todd, the owner who is pictured, talked about how he and his wife wound up in the winery business. We learned about their large assortment of wines. We all munched on great appetizers while sampling white, rosé, and red wines. It was a warm day, so we sampled the wines inside



their large building, but a few of us did stay for a while after to enjoy their beautiful outdoor seating area. Thanks to Mary Ann Reale for hosting us! I believe many of us will be checking out this winery again!

--Elaine Rosenblatt

Bird Study Group

We are out spring and fall – in any weather! Join us Friday mornings at 9 at the Covenant Presbyterian Church parking lot at the corner of Segoe and Mineral Point Roads. Bring binoculars if you have them. Contact Roma Lenehan or Jill Feldkamp for more information.



March Waterfowl Outing



June at Pleasant Valley Conservancy

Scholarship Update

Scholarship Gifts

The main purpose of the non-profit University League is to raise funds for student scholarships. The annual Scholarship Benefit is the main vehicle for raising funds. In 2022, League members Climbed Aboard to support University of Wisconsin-Madison students with donations totaling \$15,970. You “Put the Wind in Their Sails.” Generous contributions from members throughout the year added \$16,065 for a total of \$32,035! Thus, University League was able to give \$13,320 for scholarships to the College of Letters and Science (the largest college) and \$1,850 to each of the other 11 schools and colleges. The students Thank You!

Endowments

Are you interested in donating to a specific school, college, or department? You can do this through a University League Endowment at the University of Wisconsin Foundation. A fully funded endowment is \$25,000. You can begin your endowment with \$5,000 and add to it over five years. When fully funded, the spendable income from your fund goes to the school, college, or department of your choice. You set the parameters as to how your funds are to be allocated. Since the principal remains intact, your fund will provide student support in perpetuity! Why not set up your endowment now so you can meet the student recipients of your generosity? If interested, contact President Sandy Nuernberg at sn333@aol.com.

Note

University League will gratefully acknowledge scholarship donations “in Memory of” with a written note to the family only if you provide an address.

Meeting a Friend



Barbara Widder, Joan Leffler, and Sandy Nuernberg with Bucky at the Adult Continuing Education and Special Student Services program scholarship event, one of the multiple college award ceremonies that celebrate scholarships.

Great Dane Readers

By Mary Warfield

It is my favorite meeting of the year. It is the meeting where one might hear bits of conversation like “Wow – you make a great chicken!” or “Will it disturb the three-year-olds to think the cute little mice might be eaten by the snake?” or “If we use one about sharks, there can’t be any blood pictured!” It is, of course, the annual Great Dane Readers book selection meeting!

Every spring, volunteers gather to review books for our program to use the following school year. And every year, our goal remains the same. We provide eight books annually to participating preschoolers, and our goal is to choose at least one book that each child will love enough to want to read and reread.

We choose the books as a set – a mix of fiction and non-fiction, some for their informational text, some for their beautiful illustrations, some just for fun! Because many of the families served by our program speak Spanish, we include a Spanish/English bilingual title. We also try to fulfill requests that teachers make for books about rhyming, shapes, and simple science concepts.

We try to limit the cost to \$25 per set of eight books, including the cost of the bookplates and donor labels. Each donated book includes a bookplate for the recipient’s name (a very visible sign of book ownership for the children) and a list of the donor organizations. Although it can be a challenge, we try to keep the cost of each book to approximately \$3. We order our books through Scholastic and a local bookstore, Books4School. All the books arrive early in August.

It is always a great compliment when volunteer readers or preschool teachers tell me they liked some of the books we have chosen so well that they have purchased them for their own children or grandchildren. It is important for the grown-ups to like the books, too, so that they will enthusiastically continue reading them to the children!

If you would like more information about our books, or about the University League Great Dane Readers program, please contact me at (608) 273-9809 or mbwarfield@gmail.com.

Books for 2022 – 2023

Have You Seen My Duckling, by Nancy Tafuri

All About Bears, by Jennifer Szymanski

Mouse Count, by Ellen Stoll Walsh

Who Eats Orange, by Dianne White

A Splendid Friend, Indeed, by Suzanne Bloom

Strictly No Elephants, by Lisa Mantchev

Giggle, Giggle, Quack, by Doreen Cronin

Perrazo y Perrito se equivocan / Big Dog and Little Dog Making a Mistake, by Dav Pilkey

In Memoriam

Allen Jeffrey “Jeff” Martin, age 78, husband of Jan Martin, passed away on December 13, 2021. He was born and raised in Michigan, and was a true Spartan, receiving his degrees from Michigan State University, earning his Ph.D. in 1969. Jeff worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Princeton, West Virginia, and then as a professor for the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension. Following his retirement, Jeff began a second career as a photographer. It was in this role that he contributed notably to the University League – his pictures documented the Big Ten Women’s Conference held in Madison. Jeff will be missed by his family for his ability to be there when needed while also allowing them to grow. He loved fly fishing – the challenge of catching and releasing a fish that he caught on a fly that he tied.



Ruth Helen Burdick (February 17, 1931 – April 22, 2022), a League member for years, was a member of several Interest Groups, including the Movie Group and Lunch Group. Several members have written their memories of Ruth. From Kathy Knox: Ruth attended my Dining Out-Lunch Group and was also a member of a teachers’ group that I am a member of, Kappa Gamma, Phi Chapter. She attended a great many sessions offered by the groups. From Barbara Vogelsang: I knew Ruth through the University League Movie and Lunch Groups. We talked frequently during the pandemic when people were not going out much. She loved to read and when libraries were closed, she would put on her mask and go to Walgreens for an armful of books. We hadn’t talked for a while and now I regret that I didn’t know that she was ill. I was glad to have known Ruth.

Betty Petrie Elsas died comfortably at Attic Angel on June 27, 2022, two months short of 103. The following is a precis of her life in her own words: “I was born in Detroit, Michigan, on September 1,



1919. When the war came, I proudly enlisted in the United States Navy as a WAVE in 1943. I still have my uniforms and jaunty cap. While in DC, family friends in Ohio arranged a blind date for me with Robert Elsas, a Captain in the Army, who was engaged in intelligence work. After a whirlwind courtship at record speed, we married on January 4, 1946, in Columbus, OH, while on leave from our military duties. I have lived such a long life that I have accumulated many wonderful grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I am lucky indeed. In 1965 the family moved to Madison. During my years in Madison, I was busy with Madison Opera, the Civic Music Association, the AAUW, University League, YWCA, and PLATO. My favorite poet was Emily Dickinson (1830-1886). She wrote: ‘The heart asks pleasure first,/And then, excuse from

pain;/And then, those little anodynes/ That deaden suffering./And then, to go to sleep;/ And then, if it should be/The will of its Inquisitor, /The liberty to die.’ ”

A longtime League member, **Clara Anna Gerber**, (January 23, 1921 – April 20, 2022) passed away peacefully after a brief illness at age 101. She was the daughter of Swiss immigrants, Fred and Marie (Ingold) Gerber. She grew up in rural Wisconsin. In 1943, she enrolled in St. Mary’s School of Nursing in Madison, graduating in 1946. She was a member of the Cadet Nurse Corp from 1943 to 1946. Clara remained in the nursing profession for the next 40 years in several places, among them, University Hospital Student Health Clinic. Continuing her education at UW, Clara graduated with a B.S. in Nursing in 1959. She then worked with the City of Madison Department of Public Health. She retired in 1986. For nine decades, Clara was a human dynamo. At age 100, she was still driving; she



still had a community garden plot that she planted; she still picked strawberries; she still played bridge; still attended weekly exercise classes; and still enjoyed an occasional glass or two of wine! Through the years, she also found time for knitting, furniture refinishing, reading, cooking, and volunteer work. Clara often reflected on how her family and friends of many years enriched her life and enhanced her journey, but in truth, she enriched the lives of all with whom she came to know. Clara was a glimmering gem; we will live in her afterglow a very long time.

Theresa Velda (Simon) Shinnars died on June 16, 2022, at the age of 90. Born on January 22, 1932, in Gueydan, Louisiana, she was of Acadian-French (Cajun) descent. Her parents, Alexandre and



Odeide Leblanc Simon, were cotton sharecroppers in southern Louisiana. Theresa was very proud of her Cajun heritage and was a lifelong student of its language, food, music, and traditions. She married Carl W. Shinnars in 1954, and in 1965 they moved to Whitewater, Wisconsin. She earned a bachelor's degree from UW-Whitewater in Education and taught French and Spanish for many years at Delavan-Darien High School. She became an active part of the Whitewater university community and St. Patrick's Catholic Church, volunteering with Catholic Services to use her language skills by serving the Hispanic community in Palmyra, Wisconsin. After her retirement, she moved

to Madison where she continued to use her language skills by substitute teaching and by joining clubs, such as University League, which had language groups. Her colleagues in the French Conversation Interest Group will miss her enthusiastic and entertaining presence.

Past President's Luncheon



On Friday, May 6, the first Past President's Luncheon in three years was held at Blackhawk Country Club. Thirteen Past Presidents attended, representing presidencies going back to 1980-81. Like old friends who hadn't seen each other in a long time, it was a happy occasion for getting re-acquainted and catching up, sharing laughs and swapping stories of University League over the decades.

The Past-President's Luncheon also serves as an opportunity to exchange information and make suggestions for future League operations. Although much has changed over the years in the world and in University League, all Past Presidents share a common bond: their continuing belief in, and support for, our mission of scholarships, service, education, and friendship.



University League Fall Coffee

Tanya Zastrow – Director, Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Maple Bluff Country Club Cost: \$20 per person

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, September 7** (No refunds after this date)

Member: _____ Phone: _____

Member: _____ Phone: _____

Guest(s) name(s): _____ Phone: _____

_____ Reservations @ \$20.00 each (includes continental breakfast and presentation): \$ _____

General Scholarship (IMO/IHO): _____ \$ _____

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

Great Dane Readers: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Need a ride? _____ Can you offer a ride? _____

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

Mail to: **Betty Zeps, 1922 Adams Street, Madison, WI 53711**

****We must have your check in hand by September 7 to guarantee your reservation**

Questions? Call Betty Zeps, (608) 255-5252



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International Foods Group Last Meeting



The International Foods Group (formerly Foreign Foods) had a farewell picnic at Garner Park on May 15. It was a gorgeous day, and a wonderful way to say goodbye to an Interest Group that has been enjoying great food together since the late 70's. We all like to cook so the potluck lunch was delicious. We shared a few nostalgic memories, but basically just shared conversation about our lives today. Thank you for many wonderful years!
--Sally Carpenter

Front row, left to right: George Hall, Bill and Bev Zarnsdorf, Kay Jarvis-Sladky, unknown, Gerald and Priscilla Thain, Al Ellingboe, Bezalel Haimson.
Back row, left to right: Barb and Don Sanford, Otty Schaefer, Barbara Rogers, Joan Hall, Sally Carpenter, Lloyd and Gennie Bostian, Betsy Haimson, Mary Graziano, Ann Ellingboe.