



League Letter

Volume LVII, Number 4, February 2023

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

Editor: Roma Lenehan

University League Spring Luncheon and Program

March 23, 2023, 11:00 a.m. Blackhawk Country Club

Cost: \$30 per person Registration Deadline: March 15

A Wisconsin Actor

Sarah Day has been a member of the Acting Company of American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin, since 1986. There she has had the privilege of appearing in many roles in plays written by Shakespeare, Chekhov, Wilde, Sheridan, O'Neill, Shaw, Miller, Williams, Beckett, and fellow Madison native Thornton Wilder.

Sarah is a true Madisonian – she recounts, "I went to Odana Elementary, Cherokee Junior High, West High, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison." She began her theatrical career at Wilson Street East Dinner Playhouse while pursuing her BA in History at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Local audiences have gotten to know Sarah as a member of Forward Theater Company. She acted in two out of three shows in Forward's first season, including a scene-stealing turn as the daffy mother Luella in Christopher Durang's contemporary political satire, *Why Torture Is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them*. She continues to serve as an integral member of

Forward's advisory board. While audiences may know Sarah Day on stage, they probably don't know as much about her as a person. Sarah is fiercely proud to call Wisconsin home. Local pride is a reason that bringing Equity theater to her hometown, via Forward Theater Company, is so important to her. She was named a Fellow of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters in 2018.



WPR Studio photo by Allen Rieland

Lunch will consist of 1) Fresh Baked Quiche with Fresh Fruit and Roasted Vegetables or 2) Pecan Crusted Chicken and Spinach Salad with Sliced Strawberries, Goat Cheese and Maple Dressing. All selections come with rolls, tea, iced tea and assorted cookies for dessert. The Registration form is on page 7.

Cost is \$30 per person. Deadline is March 15 – **no reservations accepted after this date.**

From the President:

I hope and trust you are as happy as I am with a new year and the coming spring. I wish your resolutions (perhaps taking care of our bodies!) and New Year dreams (perhaps writing a book!) come true. I have been cross-country skiing at Elver Park and now am satisfied that our snow and winter can leave, bringing in the sunshine, warmth and newness of spring.



Soon we can all attend the Spring Luncheon on Thursday, March 23rd, at Blackhawk Country Club at 11:00 a.m. Sarah Day, actor for the American Players Theatre company since 1986 and one of the founders of Forward Theater Company of Madison, will be our speaker. She will, as a proud Wisconsinite, tell us of her life and experiences in acting, inspirational stories to renew all of us. The program details are on page 1 and the reservation form is on page 7. This information can also be found on the University League website, univleague.wisc.edu/programs. Please bring a friend and ask them to join University League.

You have already received your Stay-at-Home Scholarship Benefit invitation. The colorful and beautiful invitation was prepared by our capable and clever Scholarship Benefit Committee, chaired by Barbara Widder. Thank you to her and her committee – Ellen Lewis, Dory Christensen, Denise Garlow, Joan Leffler, Gail Schomisch, Judy Stang, Sally Lorenz, and Sandy Nuernberg – for their hard work. They developed a theme, created a design, and found comments from student scholarship recipients. Thank you especially to Mary Jane Getlinger for the use of her quilt, “Color My World,” and to the School of Human Ecology for the use of their weaving studio for our photo shoots. Please send in your donation card and check to the University League, Inc., P.O. Box 5064, Madison, WI 53705. Let us know if your contributions are “in honor of” or “in memory of” someone. We thank you in advance. The University League is proud to support University of Wisconsin-Madison students with our scholarships. Our scholarship awards (gifts) are given annually to the twelve schools and colleges at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (see League Yearbook for details). We have a generous giving tradition. Please return your donation by March 30, 2023.

Consider joining one of our many Interest Groups. I am confident you will find one that will offer you friendship, exercise (mind and body), adventure, or fun. Please take advantage of our many Interest Groups (see Yearbook for times and locations) to build friendships. Contact the Interest Group leader for more information and to tell them you want to join the Group.

Committees continue meeting. I’d like to thank Mary Jo Willis, Chair of Long Range Planning and Policy, for her committee’s review and updates of the League Board of Directors job descriptions. Also, I’d like to thank Barbara Drake, Linda Baumann, Elaine Rosenblatt, and Barbara Widder for leading our League standing committees this year. Our committee leaders are an awesome group of active, productive people to work with and learn from.

Please consider joining our Board of Directors or a committee. These jobs provide opportunities to learn, make friends, and have fun, while helping League fulfill its mission.

We have many talented and gifted members in University League. They help make us who we are: welcoming, appreciative, sincere, engaged, trusting, and learning from each other, always. There’s an excitement that accompanies new things! I encourage you to intentionally take the time to participate in ‘new things’ (anything) you would like in University League – you will be glad you did.

I’m looking forward to seeing and visiting with you at our Spring Luncheon.

FOREVER FORWARD!

Sandy Nuernberg

“Color My World”

Scholarship Benefit Committee

This year’s Scholarship Benefit invitation features the quilt created by League member, Mary Jane Getlinger. Thinking of University of Wisconsin-Madison’s composite of students, the design takes us on roads through cities, streets and neighborhoods that are universal to our world while four iconic skyscrapers represent the diversity of our world and the student population.



Meet Mary Jane Getlinger

Mary Jane received her Master’s degree in Clothing and Textiles. While not finding a challenging job in her field, she returned to college and received a Master’s degree in Food and Nutrition. This led to a 23 year career with the USDA Food and Nutrition Service followed by five years teaching Nutritional Science at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Mary Jane retired in 2010 and began quilting. She enjoys taking classes to learn different techniques. While there are two steps to making a quilt – constructing and quilting, Mary Jane does both. “Color My World” was constructed using a Pfaff table top sewing machine and quilted on a Prostitcher computer guided Handiquilter long arm machine. Thank you, Mary Jane, for sharing your beautiful quilt with League.

Thank you to everyone who has or will soon “color the world” for deserving students by generously donating to the University League Scholarship Benefit.

Interest Groups

Wine Divas and Dudes



The Wine Divas & Dudes December gathering with wines was hosted by Barb Drake and Cindy May. The focus was on the New York State wines of the Finger Lake region and Long Island. It turns out New York wine vineyards are a growing industry! New York ranks third in grape production by volume after California and Washington. The Finger Lake region is known for its Rieslings and Long Island is known for Merlot and Cabernet Francs. We were pleasantly surprised to see how many of the white and red wines we enjoyed!

University League Bird Study Group



Jill Feldkamp,
Paul McGann,
Roma Lenehan,
Charlotte Burns
and Phyllis
Menne

Warming up
after a
successful hunt
for Bald Eagles
on the
Wisconsin
River in Sauk
City.

Join the Bird Group for our Friday outdoor adventures beginning March 10 at 9 a.m. for ducks.

In Memoriam



Joan Leffler, President of University League 2020-2022, passed away peacefully from metastatic breast cancer at home with her husband, Rich, and her dog, Sophia, by her side on Saturday, January 28, 2023. Born in 1949 in Detroit, Michigan, she attended public schools in Royal Oak, Michigan, received her BA in French from Alma College in Alma, Michigan, and her MA in Spanish from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In the 1970s, Joan worked as a transcriber and translator in the History Department, where she met her husband, Richard. Rich and Joan were married for 45 years. In the 1980s, Joan worked in the precursor of Division of Information Technology (DoIT) at the university, meeting many life-long friends. From 1991 until her retirement, Joan was the Administrator in the German Department at the UW. She received the University Classified Staff Excellence in Service

Award in 2001. Before her retirement, Joan became a member of University League in 2010, enjoying the languages (Spanish and French), Genealogy, and Armchair Travelers Interest Groups. In 2014, when she retired, she increased her involvement in League committees. In 2018, she was Secretary of the Board of Directors. In 2019 she became President-Elect. During the 2020-2022 COVID-19 pandemic, Joan was President and provided her Zoom account to facilitate League meetings. She attended additional Interest Groups including languages, Technology, and Wine Divas and Dudes. Recently she and Rich hosted an evening of Greek wines and desserts for Wine Divas and Dudes at their home. Joan and Rich were on the Board of Directors together in 2022 and enjoyed social activities of the League. Joan was a diligent, dedicated, devoted, and determined member of League pursuing the organization's mission of assisting students financially in their higher education. Joan was a kind, patient, cheerful, and caring, sharing person. The visitation, service, and luncheon were held celebrating Joan's life on February 2nd at Cress Funeral Home and Cremation Center in Madison.

Former University League President (1975-76), **Mary Joan "Jo" Prieve**, age 89, passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 11, 2022. Born on September 8, 1933, in Milwaukee, she married E. Arthur "Al" Prieve on June 29, 1963. Before moving to Madison, Al and Mary Jo lived in Washington D.C. In 1969, they moved to Madison where Al became the founding director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate program in Arts Administration. Also an artist, Mary Jo enjoyed cross stitching and all things Christmas. She frequently gave cross-stitched ornaments for Christmas gifts. Mary Jo was active in many organizations including the University League, where, in addition to serving as President, she was the chair of many committees including the Endowed Scholarship Committee and the Program Committee; the Embroiders Guild of Madison where she served at the local, regional, and national levels; and the Attic Angel Association where she was a dedicated volunteer for more than 40 years. She was an avid reader and a die-hard Badger Sports Fan.



In Memoriam



Marion Ardys Thoresen, age 92, passed away on January 4, 2023. She was born on December 14, 1930, in Mt. Vernon, Wisconsin. She married Trygve Eugene Thoresen on August 21, 1954. After graduation from high school, she attended St. Mary's School of Nursing where she became a Registered Nurse and a proud member of "the Belles of St. Mary's." She attended the College of St. Francis where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree. She earned a Masters from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After years of service as a Surgical Nurse at Madison General and the VA Hospitals, Marion taught Health Occupations at MATC, became an assistant researcher at UW's Center for Health Systems, and a surgery scheduler at UW's Ophthalmology Clinic. Marion loved boating, knitting (known as the mitten lady), watching Packers and Badger football, traveling, crossword puzzles, reading mysteries (especially Agatha Christie) and

biographies. She was also an active member in the St. Mary's Alumni, Midvale Community Lutheran Church, Madison-Oslo Sister City Committee, and the University League where she rarely missed an event and was an active participant in Interest Group meetings.

University League Volunteers for PBS-Wisconsin

League Volunteers: Marsha Janota, Joan Leffler, Cindy May, Agnes Radek



The University League was on hand at the PBS studios in Madison to help out during the December membership drive. League volunteers took pledge calls and also managed the food table that kept volunteers fueled as they fielded telephone calls. Volunteering is a fun way to get to know your fellow League members better. See the group photograph on page 8.

The University League has been volunteering during these drives for the past five years.

If you'd like to join University League volunteers during the next PBS Wisconsin membership drive in March 2023, please contact Priscilla Thain.

**University League Spring Luncheon
Thursday, March 23, 2023, 11:00 a.m.
Blackhawk Country Club**

Program: Sarah Day, "A Wisconsin Actor"

Reservation deadline: March 15* (No refunds after this date)

Member: _____ Phone: _____

Member: _____ Phone: _____

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

____ Reservations @ \$30 each (includes lunch and program) \$ _____

General Scholarship (IHO/IMO) _____

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____ \$ _____

Menu choices (indicate who wants each, and list any dietary restrictions):

See page one for descriptions of menu items.

_____ Fresh Baked Quiche

_____ Pecan Crusted Chicken and Spinach Salad

Dietary Restrictions _____

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

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

Mail to: Betty Zeps, 1922 Adams St., Madison, WI 53711

***Reservation Form and payment must be in hand by March 15.**

Questions? Call Betty Zeps at 608-255-5252.



The University League, Inc.
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University League Volunteers at PBS-Wisconsin



Volunteers at PBS-Wisconsin - Marsha Janota, Agnes Radek, Joan Leffler, Cindy May