



League Letter

Volume LVIII, Number 1, August 2023

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Editor: Roma Lenehan

University League Fall Coffee

Jennifer Mnookin

Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin - Madison

Wednesday, September 27th, 2023, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Blackhawk Country Club

Jennifer Mnookin became chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Madison on August 4, 2022. She is the 30th chancellor in the university’s 175-year history.

Chancellor Mnookin has spent her academic career at top public universities – most recently at UCLA, where she was on the faculty for 17 years. For the last seven years, she served as dean of the UCLA School of Law, where she helped to strengthen the school’s academic excellence, increase both the diversity and the academic strength of the student body, and build new programs in areas ranging from law and technology to human rights.

Chancellor Mnookin is one of the nation’s most cited legal scholars in the area of evidence law and has served on several national committees examining the use of forensic science in court.



She has spent her first months at UW-Madison listening and learning. She has been deeply impressed by the university’s commitment to educational excellence and the ways in which the faculty and staff incorporate leading-edge scientific research and public service into the student experience. She is committed to understanding what’s working well and finding ways to build on those successes, as well as looking for opportunities to improve so that UW-Madison can make even greater progress in meeting its mission of education, research, and outreach.

About the Event: The League Fall Coffee will feature a served brunch that includes scrambled eggs, bacon, toasted English muffin, breakfast potatoes, orange juice and coffee. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions on our registration form.

FALL COFFEE

When: Wednesday, September 27th, 2023

Brunch: 9:30 a.m.

Speaker: 10:15 a.m.

Short meeting: 11:00 a.m.

Where: Blackhawk Country Club
3606 Blackhawk Drive
Madison, WI 53705

Cost: \$25 per person

Reservation Deadline:
September 15th

Reservation form on page 11

From the President,



Welcome to the beginning of the 123rd year of The University League's activities. Our fiscal and planning year began June 1st and your board and committees have been busy making the final plans for another great year for University League members.

We are honored to start off our **Programs** with **Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin** as our speaker. She has been able to make time in her very busy schedule to speak to us at the Fall Coffee to be held at Blackhawk Country Club on Wednesday, September 27 at 9:30 a.m. This will be our opportunity to get to know her a bit better and to hear about her path to becoming Chancellor at UW-Madison and her reflections on her first year as Chancellor. Your Program Committee, under the leadership of Linda Harvey, has planned for a delicious brunch served to you at your table, so come hungry and ready for lively conversation with League members.

Interest Groups are all set with leadership for 2023-24 and we are grateful for those of you who have stepped up to guide each group. Most begin their activities in September, so look for a message from the leader of your group(s) as to the time and date of the first meeting. If you are interested in joining a group that is new to you, please review the list of opportunities in the University League Yearbook (pages 7 – 11) which you recently received. And if you have an idea for a new group you would like to help start, please contact Interest Group Chair Jane Dunn.

Our members are involved in many of the **Volunteer Opportunities** that are available through University League. Judy Stevenson, Volunteer Chair, reports that many of you indicated an interest in one or more opportunities on your Pay-in-May form. She and Assistant Chair Sheila Lynch are notifying the volunteer coordinators at each organization of your interest in participating. If you would like to find a new way to volunteer this year, check out pages 12 – 15 of the Yearbook.

Providing **scholarships** for UW-Madison students is a core value of University League. Your Scholarship Benefit Committee has already had several meetings to begin planning the Benefit invitation which you will receive in early February. One of the privileges of serving on that committee is the opportunity to read the lovely thank you letters from students who were notified recently by their schools or colleges that they are University League Scholarship recipients. Excerpts from those letters will be shared with you throughout this year.

So, would you like to be involved in some of these planning activities? Making friends as you work together is one of the benefits of serving on the Board or one of the committees. The **Nominating** Committee will soon begin its work to nominate members to serve on the board for 2024-25 (it's not that far away!!) If you would like to be considered for a position, contact Past President/Nominating Chair Sandy Nuernberg.

Finally, I feel privileged to serve as your President this year. Thank you for the opportunity and for trusting me to serve again. I was President in 2002-2003 and have served on the board and committees off and on over the past 38 years. I've always felt that University League is a valuable organization to support. And I am most grateful for the 18 board members and the six appointed to non-board positions this year. They are a wonderful, dedicated group to work with. It will be a great year!!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Lorenz". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

Sally Lorenz, President 2023-24

Linda and Cindy's Excellent Adventure: Big Ten Women's Conference

Linda Harvey and Cindy May

The Conference of Big Ten University Women's Clubs traditionally meets biennially, with a fixed rotation schedule of host universities. However, the 2021 conference was cancelled due to Covid, so this was the first conference since 2019. We were both excited to represent the University League at the conference. We drove out of Madison at 8 a.m. on Friday, June 9, and arrived in East Lansing around 4 p.m. (We lost an hour somewhere along the way.) Arriving participants were each asked to choose among a display of beautiful hand-made quilted totes that included all the information we needed for the conference. A welcome reception followed. There are now sixteen members of the "Big Ten," with the recent addition of University of California-Los Angeles and University of Southern California, although not all of them have a Women's Club.

On Saturday morning, keynote speaker Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha spoke about her investigation of the government's role in Flint's water crisis. We all received copies of her book, *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City*. If you'd like to read it, please let us know.

Lunch was served at Cowles House, the University President's residence, followed by a bus tour of the huge and impressive campus. After the tour we broke up into roundtable discussions focusing on membership, leadership, and interest groups. We discovered that these clubs come in all shapes and sizes, but share many of the same challenges: recruiting younger members, finding members willing to take on leadership positions, and keeping up with technology. Most clubs have boards similar to ours, with President, President-Elect, Secretary and assistant, Treasurer and assistant, Past President (sometimes), committee chairs and assistants. Some have term limits.

We learned about innovative steps other clubs have taken. One club found that a successful meeting place for new, younger members is a grocery store that has an upstairs meeting room. Another club has successfully recruited members by asking local realtors to include their organization's brochure in newcomer packets. Yet another club subscribes to "Membership Works" software, which features membership management, member directory, event calendar and registrations, online payments, donations, web forms, announcement boards, and member-only content. They consider it well worth the cost of \$35/month for up to 300 member accounts.

Clubs offer a wide variety of interest groups. Here are some that University League members might consider forming:

- knitting and needlework
- quilting
- bowling
- cooking with friends
- bicycling
- walking
- hiking
- "tea time" with fancy cups and scones
- Bunco (a dice game)
- Sequence (a combination card and board game)
- women with hammers (work with Habitat for Humanity)
- young connections (meet in a bar)



The University League is scheduled to host the conference in 2037. Mark your calendars!

Interest Groups

Artiques

The Artiques group enjoyed visiting the historical Octagon House in Watertown on June 20, a beautiful summer day. The house was built by John Richards, who was a pioneer lawyer and mill owner in the area. It was built in 1854, with Watertown brick interior support walls and Milwaukee cream brick as exterior cladding.

The octagonal design gained popularity prior to the Civil War. It featured exterior exposures to admit natural light into the rooms when the usual light sources would have been candles and kerosene lamps. Since taxes on houses in the mid nineteenth century were based on the size and number of windows in the home, architects frequently substituted French doors for windows - hence the balconies with French doors leading from the rooms around this house on all floors. This feature also enhanced circulation in days before air conditioning.



Many of the furnishings were original to the home. One bedroom showcased a replica of the Lincoln bed in the White House. Some wallpaper had been reproduced from pieces discovered while renovating the house.

The spiral staircase in the center is a favorite attraction of this home. It has the original basswood base, and remains in excellent condition. It rises some 40 feet, culminating in a tower room. Our group also received a demonstration of the unique doorbell, which hangs on the staircase wall and rings through a system of wires from the front door.

Central heating and a cistern system providing indoor plumbing were not common at the time. Rain water was collected in the attic and piped through the walls for use in the household.

Our group had an excellent tour of the Octagon House and gained some knowledge of Watertown history. It was an enriching experience.

Wine Divas and Divos

The Wine Divas & Divos Interest Group was treated to an opportunity to learn about aspects of



pairing cheese and wine. Our hosts, Barb Sanford and Ellen Lewis, shared three different award-winning Wisconsin cheeses (cupola cheese, pleasant ridge reserve cheese, and hooks 5-year cheddar). They were all winners in our group as well. Then we learned how to consider matching the wine to the cheese. And there were plenty of other things to eat besides the cheese, including desserts! If you're interested in learning more about wines, or just enjoy drinking wines, consider joining our group. Call Elaine Rosenblatt at 608-827-5046 or email at elainer49@gmail.com.

Volunteers Welcome

Consider joining other University League volunteers and sign up for Volunteer Opportunities in our community. We have a total of thirteen community organizations that we work with, providing volunteer talent and time.

Because of the Pandemic that started in 2020, volunteer opportunities in the area hospitals were closed. With the easing of the Pandemic, there is a special need for volunteers in the three hospitals listed below. Also, Madison Friends of International Students could use ten or more volunteers. **Please consider signing up this year.**

American Family Children's Hospital – Bring a smile to a child who needs cheering up! Volunteers read to children or engage them in activities while they are waiting for treatments and appointments.

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics – Volunteer anywhere from the main information desk to inpatient hospital units, doing anything to make a patient or family member more comfortable.

Wm S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital – Volunteers can assist as volunteer escorts, office aides, drivers, information desk and waiting room attendants and Emergency Dept. aides

Madison Friends of International Students – You can provide short term housing (2 - 3 nights) for arriving students and scholars, help with the fall picnic, offer Thanksgiving hospitality, or participate in a mid-year Capital reception while making global friends.

All of our University League volunteer activities are listed in the League Yearbook that you recently received. If you find a volunteer activity that interests you, as soon as possible please contact Judy Stevenson (judy_stevenson@sbcglobal.net).

Interest Groups: Armchair Travelers

On October 2 Judy Stang will share "Fjords and Family." The trip will include the boat trip through the fjords and rail trip on the Flåm Railway through the mountains to Bergen. The Flåm Railway has been described as one of the most beautiful train journeys in the world.

On December 4 Mina Kato will describe her trip to Brazil and the Amazon region. She visited Marajo, a large island in the estuary where the Amazon empties into the Atlantic Ocean in northern Brazil. Rich in wildlife, it's home to water buffalo and colorful wading birds.

All programs begin @ 6:45 on Zoom. Contact Mary Jo Willis at mjwillis@wisc.edu to join.



Annual Meeting 2023

Great Dane Readers

By Mary Warfield



What do a bear looking for a lost button, a little bird reluctant to leave his home for the fall migration, and a fox frustrated by winter all have in common? They are all characters in books that Great Dane Readers will donate to Dane County preschoolers this year!

Many University League members have provided financial support to help purchase these books, and the others that will be used for the 2023-24 school year. Thank you! Thank you also, to Madison South Rotary, Delta Kappa Gamma-Phi Chapter, Madison West Middleton Rotary, and The University League. We are extremely grateful to these organizations for their contributions. In just the past five years, all our donors have helped us provide more than 20,000 books to local preschoolers - that's a lot of books!

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 2023-2024

Farm Alphabet Book by Jane Miller

National Geographic Kids, Animal Homes by Shira Evans

Bear's New Friend by Karma Wilson

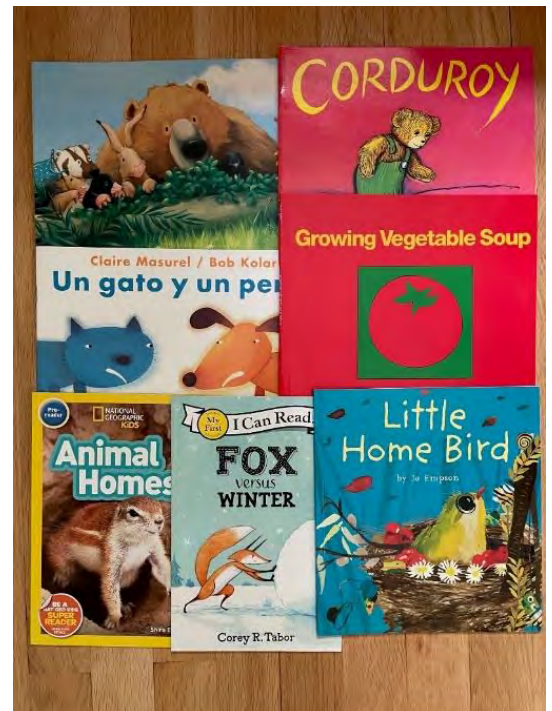
Corduroy by Don Freeman

Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert

Little Home Bird by Jo Empson

Fox Versus Winter by Corey R. Tabor

Un gato y un perro/ A Cat and a Dog by Claire Masurel



In Memoriam

The University League has had multiple members pass away since our last *League Letter* in April. All these members have contributed their talents and efforts toward making us strong and vibrant and furthering our success as an outstanding organization.



Jean Potter Stewart made room in her activist life to become University League president from 1998 to 1999. She was known for her natural leadership ability – advocating in a dynamic political life, focusing on environmental issues such as protecting Madison Lakes and keeping admission free at Henry Vilas Zoo, as well as leading several Interest Groups.

Helen Lackore was a willing and important part of so many League activities, it's hard to keep count. Wherever and whenever someone was needed to take a Board position or head an Interest Group, Helen was one of the first to volunteer to take that position. Helen loved games, including bridge, and led the Mah Jongg group.



Norma D. Magnuson has been a long-time member of the University League and served in many positions on the Board. She was enthusiastically involved in the activities of several different Interest Groups such as the Antiques and Needlework. Norma helped organize the Genealogy Interest Group years ago, which is still very active.

Audrey Kay Strang has been a loyal University League member for many years, actively participating in the Needlework Interest Group, among others. She sought out places where she could volunteer, especially hospitals. Audrey made friends everywhere she went with her beautiful smile, charm and love of life.



Eleanor Rodini was a long-time faithful member of the Book Critics group. Back in the day when we needed to go to the library to research books for reviews, Eleanor was always willing and able to help us find good materials in the Memorial Library. She was an avid reader and always contributed wonderful ideas to our discussions.

Several spousal members of the University League have also died during the Spring and Summer. We will miss their participation in the University League concerts, luncheons, and lectures, and their presence at other events:

John Webster, husband of Nancy Webster;

Charles Scott, husband of former president Anne Scott (2006-2007);

John Palmer, husband of former president Carol Palmer (1988-1989); and

Steven Babcock, husband of Kay Babcock.

Long-range Planning and Policy Committee 2022-2023



Left to right: Sally Lorenz, Sandy Nuernberg, Betty Zeps, Mary Jo Willis, Judy Stang

From Scholarship Recipient Kaylin Vang

“I am beyond grateful for the opportunity you have given me through the Mrs. William F. Allen University League scholarship. Your kindness and compassion are noticed and I am truly appreciative to be receiving this scholarship. . . Thank you for giving me the resources to accomplish my dreams.



I am from Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and am blessed to be the second oldest of eight kids. With my family I love to travel, cook, and exchange stories of my ancestors to understand my history better. I play soccer and volleyball and I have played the flute for eight years.

Ever since I was little, I always have known two things – I loved to read and I wanted to attend UW-Madison. During junior year I went to UW-Madison to watch my best friend’s sister perform a Hmong dance and the event was such a perfect moment consisting of immense laughter, spring weather, cultural awakening, and inclusivity that it was no doubt UW-

Madison was the perfect school for me.

I am majoring in biology with the hope of becoming a family doctor. Science has always been a passion of mine and ever since I took a biology course in my junior year and really started putting the pieces together, I never looked back.

To close, I again want to say how truly blessed I am to be receiving the Mrs. William F. Allen University League scholarship. This scholarship makes such a difference in my attendance at UW-Madison and allows me to pursue my passions stronger without the limit of financial stress. . . the impact you have made on my life is unforgettable.”

Your Board Member: Donna McCarthy Beckett, Secretary

Donna moved to Madison in 1987 when she joined the faculty of the UW-Madison School of Nursing. Her academic career included scientific studies of the biology of illness symptoms and teaching courses on pathophysiology, research methods, and medical surgical nursing. At the UW, she rose through the ranks of assistant, and associate, and full professor. In 2004, she participated in a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Intergovernmental Personnel program that allowed her to work at the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland for two years as a visiting scientist. She returned to the University, but left again in 2007 to take a position as the Associate Dean for Research at the Ohio State University College of Nursing. From 2013 to 2019 she taught at Marquette University College of Nursing where she served as Interim Dean for two years.



Shortly after moving to Madison in 1987, she met and married Dale Beckett, an avid UW hockey enthusiast and fisherman. Together they raised a blended family of five teenagers, all of whom attended West High School. Dale loved nothing better than hosting a fish fry for friends and family. Donna has been a member of the University League since she retired in May, 2019. She is an avid tennis player, playing five days a week at Powless Tennis Center, and consumes at least one novel a month on her Kindle reader. She also enjoys traveling with friends and her three daughters.

University League Fall Coffee

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Blackhawk Country Club

Program: Dr. Jennifer Mnookin, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
Reservation deadline: September 15 (No refunds after this date)

Member: _____ Phone: _____

Member: _____ Phone: _____

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

Email address: _____

____ Reservations @ \$25 each (includes brunch and program) \$ _____

General Scholarship (IHO/IMO) _____ \$ _____

(For donations "In Honor of" or "In Memory of", please circle IHO or IMO and provide honoree or memorial family contact information so an acknowledgement can be sent.)

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 St., Madison, WI 53711

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

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



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University League New Member Reception



New members were welcomed to an informal gathering in May at Linda Baumann's house.

Mission Statement

The University League is a nonprofit membership organization open to all who support the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The purpose of the League is to raise funds for student scholarships and to promote volunteer services, educational opportunities, and social activities for its members.