



# League Letter

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[www.univleague.wisc.edu](http://www.univleague.wisc.edu)

Editor: Roma Lenehan

## Scholarship Benefit: Helping Students to Discover Their Talents and Find Their Paths Forward

The Scholarship Benefit Committee has been hard at work preparing for the University League's 2024



Photos: Mural in Discovery Center (left)  
Scholarship Benefit Committee (below)  
1st row: Barbara Widder, Denise Garlow, Barb Sanford; 2nd row: Cindy May, Ellen Lewis (Director), Linda Mayfield, Sally Lorenz



Scholarship Benefit campaign. Drawing inspiration from the UW Discovery Center, we're mobilizing this year's fund-raiser to achieve maximum success in raising scholarship dollars for UW-Madison students. As tuition and housing costs continue to rise, we want to help as many students as possible discover their potential, achieve their educational goals, and follow their career aspirations. They are our ambassadors for the future. How can you help?

- If you've never donated to this campaign before, we urge you to take this opportunity to begin.
- If you've donated before, please do so again.
- Consider increasing the amount of your donation to offset the increasing cost of a UW-Madison education.

When you receive your "Stay-at-Home" invitation in the mail in early February, please give generously. The campaign will run through March 31, so don't delay mailing in your contribution. You can make a difference!

## *From the President,*



### **Happy New Year League Members!**

I hope you have had enjoyable holidays with family and friends. And I hope through University League that you are finding ways to learn new things and connect with friends during the winter season. Forty-one years ago, when our family moved to Madison from Rochester, New York, we loved the winter weather we found here - many sunny days with crisp, cold weather and lovely white snow. We do have January thaws and the polar vortex, but I still really enjoy this season.

For University League, winter brings the period for raising our annual scholarship funds via the Stay-at-Home Scholarship Benefit. There is a lot of information about the upcoming benefit in this newsletter and you will receive your invitation to support UW-Madison students in early February. I'm grateful for the creative Benefit Committee chaired by Ellen Lewis and our volunteer graphic artist Denise Garlow who have worked this fall to connect with a few of our 2023 scholarship recipients and put together an intriguing benefit invitation for each of you. Kudos to their creativity and thoughtful work. Please consider making a generous donation to this very worthy cause. Our 2023 recipients are most grateful. Here are messages from a few of them:

*With this scholarship, I can further my college education as an English major without the financial burden of financial loans. This scholarship aids me immensely in my future endeavors.* **Alexis-Rose Fischer**, University League General Sophomore Scholarship, College of Letters and Science

*Thank you so much for your support. This award is meaningful because every bit helps lighten my load and makes school just a little less stressful. My family and I really appreciate it. I am a hard-working art student and I plan to finish school with a graphic design degree and pursue a career in publication design and illustration.* **Leah Morley**, University League Scholarship for School of Education

*I greatly appreciate your gracious donation to my educational efforts and will be sure I take advantage of the possibilities it has opened up for me. The scholarship allows me to explore even more opportunities at this wonderful university.* **Dylan Chapman**, Mathematics and Music Performance, University League General Sophomore Scholarship, College of Letters and Science

*Thank you for your generosity. With this scholarship, I will be able to continue to pursue a degree in Psychology and Neurobiology. I'm not sure whether you have been made aware of my circumstances but this past year, when I turned eighteen, I aged out of foster care. This letter is not only a "thank you" from me, but a "thank you" from an entire community that is faced with adversity.*

**Kaitlin Jensen**, University League General Sophomore Scholarship, College of Letters and Science

Let's give strong Badger cheers for these worthy scholars and make donations to the Scholarship Benefit that will help 2024 students be able to attend UW-Madison and accomplish their dreams and goals.

**On Wisconsin** as 2024 begins!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Lorenz". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

Sally Lorenz, President 2023-24

## Ethan Cui, 2023-24 Recipient of the University League Endowed and General Pharmacy Scholarships

Ethan Cui's path from Beijing, China, was challenging and just the beginning of an incredibly ambitious course of study at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy, double majoring in the neurobiology and pharmacology/toxicology programs. These two majors



mutually reinforce his dream of becoming a scientist dedicated to neuropharmacology. UW-Madison provides opportunities to enroll in numerous graduate level courses that give him the in depth understanding that will enable him to succeed in the PhD program.

In his application letter he says, "I am unswervingly committed to pursuing a PhD in either pharmaceutical science or neuroscience, enhancing memory through pharmaceutical approaches."

Ethan Cui, Sally Lorenz, Barbara Widder at Pharmacy Awards

Knowing the level of competition, especially for international students, has not allowed him to pursue activities except in the classroom or the lab. He joined Professor Jerry Yin in January 2021. Professor Yin is most famous for his contributions using the *Drosophila* (fruit fly) model organism to study gene expression such as memory enhancement.

If you go looking for Ethan, you will probably find him in the Genetics-Biotechnology Center conducting research and reviewing his coursework. The building holds numerous memories for him, both positive and negative, but most importantly, it has been the silent witness of his growth and scientific potential.

We wish him well on this journey here at the University of Wisconsin.

### Membership Update

Good news! The University League membership in 2023-2024 has grown to 277 members and partners from 257 last year. Although most of our members renew during the Pay-in-May initiative, we continue to get both renewals and new members throughout the year. All of the new members have been referred by a League member, and many join after being invited as a guest to a League event, either a Program or an Interest Group. Maintaining an active, robust membership continues to be a challenge for many non-profits in the area, but so far, the League has managed to continue to recruit and foster active and engaged members. However, our work is never done. Keep promoting the League and its mission to support student scholarships and to promote volunteer services, educational opportunities and social activities. Any new member joining in February or after is a member through 2024-25. Bring a guest to a Program or Interest Group or give them a membership brochure. By recruiting new members, we can all contribute to University League's continued success.



## Interest Groups

### **Wine Divas & Divos**

The wine group was 'pleasantly' surprised tonight to learn how much they really don't know about wines.... Thanks to Jacqui and John Shanda we tried 3 different wines in black glasses, so we didn't know if we were drinking white, red, or rose. We had to use our senses of smell and taste to decide what type of wine we were drinking and the varietal. Turns out we have a lot to learn about wines, as many of us couldn't even decide if we were drinking red or white! Looks like this Interest Group will just have to keep meeting. Thanks Jacqui and John for a fun experience and for all the food and drink that accompanied our evening. Wines came from Lewis Station Winery in Lake Mills. Sounds like we may need to have a road trip there....



### **Climate and Environmental Group**



The Climate and Environment Group met two times during the fall to learn about climate change and what we can do. We've learned about amazing new technology, like the energy dome coming to Wisconsin, and we've had great discussions about everything from electric cars to preserving natural areas. Please join us the

first Tuesday at 1 p.m. at the Middleton Senior Center. If you have questions, want to join or get on the email list, contact Carol Phelps ([carolandyp@aim.com](mailto:carolandyp@aim.com)).

## French Group



French Group II began in September with a festive luncheon at the home of Maureen Kind. This group meets during the school year, at 12:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. Our French conversation includes a discussion based on an article provided by the hostess each month.

First row: Francoise Johnson, Kim Ebert, Jeannine Desautels  
Second row: Linda Christen, Otty Schaefer, Dee Kuech and Kim Vergeront

## Artiques

On Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, a gorgeous autumn day, 16 members of Artiques traveled to Sauk Prairie High School to view the "Wings and Water" art exhibit. This sixth biennial exhibit featured 50 award winning artists from around the nation and included all forms of media honoring our prairies, rivers, and birds. The exhibition was sponsored by the Ferry Bluff Eagle Council. The finalists were selected by art juror, Marla Brenner, a painter whose own art has been featured in the international art exhibit "Birds in Art." One of our members became so taken by one particular "zippered" bird that she purchased it!

"Act II: Paintings by Leola Culver" was also displayed at Sauk Prairie High School. In this acrylic exhibition she experimented with texture and technique. Lea paints flowers and clouds, along with sunrises and sunsets. She donates the sales of her artwork to her favorite nonprofits. Proceeds from this exhibition were given to River Arts Inc. "to help fulfill their mission to inspire, enrich, and educate the community through the arts."

Another part of our day in Sauk Prairie was spent at the River Arts on Water Gallery, which features artists within a 40-mile radius of Prairie du Sac. This gallery was founded in 2011 to showcase and highlight the local talent in the area. This is not only a gallery, but also a class instruction site, as well as a small musical venue site. To learn more about River Arts, see their website, [RiverArtsInc.Org](http://RiverArtsInc.Org), or phone, 608-643-5215.

Following our lunch at La Mexicana in Sauk City, we went to Prairie du Sac to the newest antique store, Odana Accents. Chris, the owner, and previous owner of the antique store on Odana Road, gave us a history of the building and some of their antique pieces.

It was a full day, with lots to learn and see! A few of our group took advantage of the lovely weather and took the ferry back, while others made a stop at the huge plant and vegetable market by the Sauk City bridge.

In November no Artiques programs were planned. However, we look forward to gathering at Quivey's Grove's Stable Grill for our Christmas luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on December 19<sup>th</sup>. As usual, attendees will bring a book to give away.



## Bird Study Group

The Bird Group had a successful year. Pam Joseph designed our first t-shirts which said “I think I see it!...I almost saw it!” and produced t-shirts in multiple colors (see t-shirt (left) and group wearing t-shirts on back page). On September 15 we had our first all day in town event. Members attended the parts of the event they wanted. We went to Owen Park (grassland birds), Pheasant Branch creek corridor (woodland birds), and Dunn’s Marsh (waterbirds) as well as going to coffee at Prairie Cafe and lunch at Lupe’s Taqueria. We found 55 species, including 11 fall warbler species and Great Egrets.



For the first time, we tallied the birds we found on our 11 spring field trips. We found 149 species, including 17 species of ducks, 8 species of shorebirds, 19 species of warblers, 13 species of sparrow, 7 species of flycatchers, 7 species of woodpeckers, and 6 species of swallows. We had the lowest number of daily species in March and the highest number during the May songbird migration. The birds changed through the season and only Robin and Crow were found on all the field trips.

**Join us for one or more 2024 events.** In February two members of the group will give a presentation about trips at 9:30 (location to be announced) – on February 12 Jill Feldkamp will talk about the “Birds of Panama” and on February 23 Pam Joseph will talk about the “Birds and Wildlife of the Galapagos.” Outdoor field trips resume March 15 with waterfowl at Lower Yahara River Bike Trail, followed on March 22 by a search for Tundra Swans at Goose Pond. Other out-of-town trips include Horicon Marsh NWR (April 19), Governor Dodge State Park (June 7), both all day, and Pleasant Valley Conservancy (May 31). The rest of the season (March – May) we go to nearby parks and natural areas (see [www.univleague.wisc.edu](http://www.univleague.wisc.edu) for the full schedule). We carpool Friday mornings at 9:00 and meet at the back of the Covenant Presbyterian Church parking lot on the corner of Mineral Point and Segoe Roads. Contact Roma Lenahan ([rlenahan@charter.net](mailto:rlenahan@charter.net) or 608-238-5406) or Jill Feldkamp ([jeldkamp@gmail.com](mailto:jeldkamp@gmail.com) or 608-692-0450) for more information.

## Your Board Member: Cindy May, President-Elect

Cindy grew up in Green Bay, a lonely word-person in a family of numbers-people. She moved to Madison to attend the University of Wisconsin, where she majored in Comparative Literature and



then got a master's degree in Library Science. She married and has a daughter in New York and a son in Menominee Falls – alas, both accountants. She worked at the UW-Madison Law Library as a student, then was hired as a librarian when she graduated and continued to work there for 42 years as a cataloger and then as Head of Cataloging. She loved her job, but when she retired in 2015 she discovered that she loves retirement too. Her passions are books, travel, theater, the Middle Ages, and ancient Egypt. She joined the University League shortly after retirement, and has been Membership Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer over the years. She is active in several Interest Groups, including Armchair Travelers, Artiques, Dining Out Lunch, and Wine Divas and Divos. Through these activities she has learned new skills, such as working with spreadsheets and slide presentations, and made friends with some amazing and vibrant League members. She also volunteers for PBS-Wisconsin and as an usher at the Overture Center. She's a member of two book clubs, one of which just celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. She is very attached to her tuxedo rescue cat, Panda.



# Candlelight Dinner and Concert 2023

*Delicious Salmon and Risotto, Joyful Conversations*



Ready for Dinner



Scholarship Recipient Joey Bonadonna expressed his thanks to League (Left)

🎅 ❄️ 🎄 *Fun Holiday Songs by the Mad City Ukes* 🎄 ❄️ 🎅







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## University League Bird Group with New T-shirts



See article on the Bird Study Group on page 6.

### **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.