



League Letter

Volume LIX, Number 1, August 2024 <http://www.univleague.wisc.edu> Editor: Betty Zeps Asst. Editor: Gisell Sirianni

UNIVERSITY LEAGUE FALL COFFEE

Samantha Crownover

Brisbane House in Arena, Wisconsin

Wednesday, September 11, 2024: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 am



SAMANTHA CROWNOVER recently completed her dream project, restoring the Brisbane House, in Arena, WI, which is on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. A veteran Airbnb and VRBO host, she loves to show it off, has opened it up to overnight guests, and has hosted over 100 groups in just over two years. She is also the proud 26-year executive director of Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society, Madison's premiere chamber music festival.

Steeped in the arts and unable to sit still, she has a consulting business for visual art purchases and collections management, managing historic buildings, and producing arts events for UW-Madison. Past positions include: curator at Tandem Press, a fine-art press at the UW-Madison; intern at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, and staff to the American Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, in Italy, where she learned to live beautifully! She has served as a member, and often times president, of many local non-profit boards. For more information go to: brisbanehouse.net or samcrownover.com



Wednesday, September 11
Brunch: 9:30 a.m.
Speaker: 10:15 a.m.
Short Meeting: 11:00 a.m.

Blackhawk Country Club
3606 Blackhawk Drive
Madison, WI 53705

\$25 per person
Deadline: August 30
No reservations accepted
after this date

Menu: Scrambled eggs, bacon, toasted English muffin, breakfast potatoes, orange juice and coffee—Please list any diet restrictions on your reservation, page 9.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I'm honored to serve as The University League's President for 2024-25. Thanks to all of you for supporting the League's mission: raising money for student scholarships and promoting volunteer opportunities, education, and social activities. So many of you have contributed your talents and energy to the League. Since the very first year I joined, I've been inspired by all the warm and vibrant members I've met, and I've learned so much from their example. The League has a long history of providing scholarships for UW-Madison students, and through your generosity we continue to help students from all the various schools and colleges, including returning adult students. As President-Elect I had the opportunity to attend several scholarship award events and meet students who have received scholarships from us, and it's a very heartwarming experience. The Scholarship Benefit Committee will be hard at work planning and carrying out this year's fundraising drive.

The Program Committee has put together an impressive and varied slate of events for this year. At the September Fall Coffee, Samantha Crownover will speak on her experience restoring historic Brisbane House in Arena, Wisconsin. Other events will receive full coverage in future issues of this newsletter. Many of you belong to one or more Interest Groups, a delightful way to both learn and make friends. Consider expanding your participation this year by joining one or more. Volunteer opportunities are another path to learning and fulfillment. The 2024-25 University League *Yearbook*, which will be mailed to members in August, includes descriptions of all the Interest Groups and Volunteer Opportunities, complete with contact information. Take the plunge!

The more involved I get with League, the more rewarding it becomes. A huge thank you to the members who have agreed to be officers, Committee Chairs, non-board appointees, and Interest Group Leaders this year. Please consider becoming active and serving in any of these capacities, then contact the member currently in that position to get a good feel for what it would be like. Wide participation is vital for maintaining a robust University League.

Sincerely,

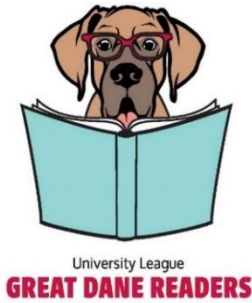
Cindy May

Cindy May, President, 2024-25

IN MEMORIAM

Kathy Sandefur, University League President, 2005-2006
William (Bill) Zarnstorff, University League's first webmaster

GREAT DANE READERS



How much do you really know about University League Great Dane Readers? Take the first ever Great Dane Readers quiz to find out and win fabulous prizes! Ok--you will not win prizes. But you will win the satisfaction of being well informed about a very popular University League volunteer opportunity! Here we go... True or False?

1. Great Dane Readers donates thousands of books to preschoolers in the Madison area each year. TRUE! Every year our program provides eight books to each participating child. For 2024-25 we will provide 3,592 books to 422 children and their 27 classroom libraries.
2. Great Dane Readers was created in 2019. TRUE! University League administered the Dane County portion of the statewide Wisconsin Bookworms reading program for 9 years. In 2018, a change in the participation requirements for Bookworms allowed us the opportunity to start our own program, and Great Dane Readers was created.
3. Great Dane Readers receives funding from state and county agencies. FALSE! Our program is funded exclusively by generous donations from University League members and grants given by local civic organizations.
4. More than 25 Great Dane Reader volunteers visit area preschools to read each month. TRUE! Last year 29 dedicated readers shared their enthusiasm for reading with preschoolers in Madison, Sun Prairie, and Stoughton. We also provide books for a Head Start class in Monroe, but do not yet have a reader assigned to that site. Let me know if you might be interested in taking on that volunteer position!
5. In the books donated by Great Dane Readers during the last five years, the most frequently featured animal is the dog. FALSE! Although our logo portrays a Great Dane dog, and we have donated books about Dogs, Ducks, Owls, Lions, and Tigers (even a dinosaur) the animal featured more than any other is the Bear. During the next year we will be donating a National Geographic prereader about Puffins, and a story about a little boy who outsmarts a very hungry Lion.

I hope you scored well on the quiz and know that you are now well informed about our program. If you have any questions about Great Dane Readers or would like to know more about how you can help, please contact Mary Warfield at (608)273-9809 or mbwarfield@gmail.com. All the answers I provide will be TRUE!



Board of Director's Meeting:

The new Board of Directors met in June to get acquainted and plan for the upcoming year. Since we sat at several different tables, only a few of the 18 board members are in this photo, however, you can see how intent they are to get the 2024-2025 year off to a great start.

Pictured at the table are: Bev Priefer, Mary Jo Willis, Elaine Rosenblatt and Linda Baumann

NEWS FROM INTEREST GROUPS



Wine Divas and Divos

April was the month to learn about Red Blends. Donna MaCarthy hosted this event (with a little family help -- see photo). Each red wine blend used at least three different grapes. There was plenty of food and wine to taste, along with the good company, as we sipped our wines and learned about the different grapes and blends.

Once again, we were pleasantly surprised to see we don't agree on which are our favorite wines! If you're interested in joining this group, contact Elaine Rosenblatt at elainer49@gmail.com or call 608-827-5046.

Climate & Environment

Carol Phelps, Interest Group Leader, sends the exciting announcement from the Climate and Environment group that they'll be providing "eco-tip" ideas in the University League newsletters this year, so we can all get some new inspiration about ways that we can care for the environment.

Armchair Travelers

Welcome back from the rainiest of summers in ages, but our drought is over. Many of you have travelled this summer and are eager to share your adventures. This year we're skipping September because the first Monday is Labor Day, but we'll be meeting on the first Monday every month from October through December at 6:45 p.m. via zoom. The programs for spring 2025 restart in February.

Everyone can attend our zoom meetings. If you are not a member of Armchair Travelers and wish to be, or you want the zoom link to any of these programs as a guest, please contact Mary Jo Willis at mjwillis@wisc.edu.

Armchair Travelers Schedule for fall 2024

October 7-- Larry Hubbard: [Rafting through the Grand Canyon](#)

November 4 -- Mary Jo Willis: [Antelope Canyon-Page Arizona](#)

December 2 -- Ronnie Hess: [Berlin: A Return to my Father's City](#)

Looking forward to seeing you all in October!

Genealogy Interest Group

I am pleased to announce that Louise Thompson has agreed to join us as Co-Leader of the UL Genealogy Interest Group. Louise is a very accomplished ancestor researcher, continuing to refine her studies. She can offer many ideas for creative programming.

Many of our members have provided interesting ideas for our programs and we encourage you to continue adding your suggestions and even offer to present your own family's ancestry and stories. The following is our plan for the fall. We begin in September on the fourth Monday of the month on zoom at 6:45p.m. and meet monthly except December.

We restart our programs in January. Everyone can attend our zoom meetings. If you are not a member of the Genealogy Interest Group and wish to be, or you want the zoom link to any of these programs as a guest, please contact Mary Jo Willis at mjwillis@wisc.edu.

Genealogy Schedule for fall 2024

September 23 -- Share ideas for future dates and theme. Video Presentation

October 28 -- Polish Pottery Festival in Boleslawiec, Poland

November 25 -- Sharing of Holiday Traditions: everyone can participate.

December -- No program. Happy Holidays!

MAY ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING

The 79 members and guests registered for the League's final meeting of 2023-24 were treated to a lunch of quiche or chicken. After the lunch, Mary Elise Antoine, president of the Prairie du Chien Historical Society, gave a fascinating talk focusing on the early fur trade in Wisconsin beginning in the 1600's. Listed below are a few of the books and articles she has written if you are interested in learning more about this formative period in the history of Wisconsin and Villa Louis historical site.



Books:

The War of 1812 in Wisconsin: The Battle for Prairie du Chien;

Frenchtown Chronicles of Prairie du Chien;

Enslaved, Indentured, Free; Five Black Women in the Upper Mississippi –

All published by Wisconsin Historical Society Press.

Images of Prairie du Chien; Legendary Locals of Prairie du Chien –
Arcadia Publishing.

Frenchtown Cemetery-Old Catholic Burying Grounds Prairie du Chien, 1816-1840 – Little Creek Press.

Articles:

“Treasures of the Villa: Seventy Years of Interpretation at Villa Louis Historical Site,” *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, vol.105, no.1, Autumn 2021.

“The Summer of '98: Country Visits at Villa Louis,” *Wisconsin Magazine of History* vol.104, no. 4, Summer, 2021.



Remember---The deadline for returning your registration form for the Annual Fall Brunch is August 30. For the convenience of Blackhawk ordering, no reservations can be accepted after this date.

Nominations Are Open

Each year the University League Nominating Committee has the responsibility to invite members to serve on the University League board for the ensuing year which runs from June 1 – May 31. Most positions are for two years – one year as the Assistant and one year as the Chair or position leader. The board is composed of 18 nominated positions and 2 appointed positions. Bonuses to serving on the board include new friendships, the opportunity to make decisions about the future of University League, and the responsibility to help University League continue to be the vital organization it has been for the last 124 years.

The Nominating Committee will begin its work in the fall and hopes to have the next board firmed up by the beginning of 2025. We welcome your suggestions of people to serve on the Board for 2025-26, an exciting year when we will be celebrating the 125th year of University League.

You can make suggestions to Chair Sally Lorenz or to Judy Stevenson, Judy Stang, Betsy Haimson, Kathy Knox and Jane Dunn, members of the committee.

The future of University League depends on having an active board to provide leadership! Say YES when you are asked to serve

LOIS AND BOB DICK ENDOWED UNIVERSITY LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Meet **Olivia Gacka**, one of the recipients of the 2024 University League Lois and Bob Dick Endowed Scholarship. Olivia is a Ph.D. student in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies in the English Department of the College of Letters and Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She holds a B.A in Anthropology/Sociology & Theatre from Rhodes College in Memphis, TN, and a M.A. in Irish Theatre History & Archives from the National University of Ireland Galway. The University of Wisconsin-Madison describes Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies as “. . . an innovative and comprehensive program of graduate training in the fields of drama, theatre, and performance, with an emphasis on work that crosses geographical and disciplinary boundaries.”

When informing the University League of Olivia’s scholarship recipient selection, Mimmi Fulmer, Professor of Voice and Opera in the Mead Witter School of Music, noted that Olivia “coordinates multiple facets of concert and opera productions.” Olivia is described as an opera and theatre stage director and dramaturg on the University of Wisconsin website. Dramaturgs serve as resources for directors, actors, and playwrights, providing vital background information and feedback about a production, taking on research, advisory and interpretation roles for the theatrical work. The University of Wisconsin highlighted some of Olivia’s credits, which include *Next to Normal* (Ostrander Award nomination), *La Traviata*, *Heathers the Musical*, and *Missy Mazzoli’s ProvingUp*.

Olivia’s research interests include contemporary and historical Irish theatre, musical theatre, and archive. In addition to her graduate studies and responsibilities, Olivia is a Teaching Assistant with the Folklore Program under the German and Slavic Studies Department in the College of Letters and Sciences. She also serves as a Front of House Manager in the Hamel Music Center in Madison.

Elizabeth Cantwell and Audrey Ferrero were also named recipients of the Lois and Bob Dick Endowed Scholarship. Elizabeth and Audrey are undergraduate vocal music education majors. Professor Fulmer described them as “dedicated members of the choral ensembles and essential contributors to the opera program as performers and production assistants.”

THE UNIVERSITY LEAGUE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

A primary mission of The University League is to raise scholarship funds for students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. University League Endowed Scholarships (those managed by the UW Foundation) in the amount of \$133,462 were awarded to 11 designated campus schools, colleges, and departments this spring for the 2024-25 academic year. If you would like to establish a Named Endowed Scholarship, please contact The University League President, Cindy May (cmay@wisc.edu), Scholarship Chair, Peggy Wiederholt (peggywiederholt@sbcglobal.net), or the Endowed Scholarship Liaison, Mary Jane Getlinger (getlinger2@gmail.com).

University League Fall Coffee
Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Blackhawk Country Club

Program: Samantha Crownover: Brisbane House Restoration

Reservation deadline: August 30, 2024* (No refunds after this date)

Member: _____ Phone: _____

Member: _____ Phone: _____

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

Email: _____ No. years a League member: _____

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

Great Dane Readers _____

General Scholarship (IHO/IMO) _____

Contact name _____

(For donations "In Honor of" or "In Memory of", please circle IHO or IMO and provide contact Information – General Scholarship only please)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Menu (list any dietary restrictions below):

Scrambled eggs, bacon, toasted English muffin, breakfast potatoes, orange juice and coffee

Dietary Restrictions _____

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

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

(Note: Your check will be cashed a few days following the event.)

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

***Reservation Form and payment must be in hand by August 30.**

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



The University League, Inc.
Post Office Box 5064
Madison, WI 53705-0064

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University League Members' Excursion



Fiddler on the Roof and lunch at the **Fireside Theater** enticed a group of League members to trek over to Fort Atkinson and have a fine afternoon of shopping, viewing a favorite musical, eating an excellent meal, and enjoying stimulating conversation.

Pictured are: Elaine Rosenblatt, Cindy May, Linda Harvey, Mary Jo Willis, Fern Lawrence, Judy Stang, Betty Zeps, Sally Lorenz, Jan Martin and Anne Lawrence.