



# League Letter

Volume LIX, Number 2, October 2024 <http://www.univleague.wisc.edu> Editor: Betty Zeps Asst. Editor: Gisell Sirianni

## UNIVERSITY LEAGUE CANDLELIGHT CONCERT AND DINNER

The UW Russian Folk Orchestra

Victor Gorodinsky, Music Director

Friday, December 13th, 2024, 5:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Maple Bluff Country Club, 500 Kensington Drive, Madison

Cost: \$35.00 per person. Reservation Deadline: Friday, November 30th, 2024.

*NOTE: All payments, reservations and cancellations **must be received by the 11/30 deadline**. No reservations will be accepted after that date and no refunds made.*



The *University of Wisconsin Russian Folk Orchestra* is a unique ensemble performing Russian and other East European folk music on authentic Russian fretted string instruments. The orchestra was founded in 1997 by its Music Director, Victor Gorodinsky, who is a Librarian Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Originally from Moscow, Russia, Victor immigrated to the United States in 1982. He holds a Master's Degree in Music (classical guitar and orchestral conducting) from Gnesin College of Music in

Moscow. In 1996, with generous financial help from CREECA, Victor was able to purchase a number of authentic Russian folk instruments, and rehearsals began in the fall of 1997. In 2023 (one year late due to the Covid-19 pandemic), the Folk Orchestra celebrated its 25th anniversary with an even bigger gala concert!

The Orchestra is made up of two groups of authentic Russian stringed instruments: balalaikas and domras. Most of them have three strings (domras sometimes have 4) but are tuned differently. Domras are oval shape instruments and come in 4 sizes: piccolo, prima, alto, and bass; balalaikas are triangular shape instruments and come in 5 sizes: prima, secunda, alto, bass, and contrabass. Most are played with plectrums. The Orchestra also uses accordions, bayans (button accordions), as well as various woodwind and percussion instruments.

--Gisell Sirianni

**Please see pages 3 and 11 for information about the menu, registration, and payment.**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



It was good to see so many of you at our Fall Coffee, featuring guest speaker Samantha Crownover, known for her restoration of the historic Brisbane House in Arena, Wisconsin, and as long-time executive director of the Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society. Samantha gave an informative and entertaining presentation on her connection with Brisbane House. It was delightful meeting Samantha for the first time, greeting members face-to-face whose names I've known for years, and getting introduced to several new members and guests.

Our next event will be the annual Candlelight Concert, scheduled for December 13th at Maple Bluff Country Club. The Program Committee is offering two delicious menu choices. Our post-dinner entertainment will be the UW-Madison Russian Folk Orchestra. I've been to many of their concerts over the years, and they're always engaging. Please make plans to attend, mail your reservations, and mark your calendars.

In September, I had the pleasure of joining our Membership Development Committee co-chairs, Linda Baumann and Elaine Rosenblatt, in staffing the University League's table at the Annual Colloquium on Aging, which is sponsored by the UW-Madison Institute on Aging and takes place each fall at the Gordon Dining and Event Center on campus. The event includes excellent lectures, poster sessions, and a Health and Resource Fair with dozens of exhibitors. If you were able to be there, you already know how good it is. If not, I heartily recommend that you check it out next year. You can find more about it here: <https://aging.wisc.edu/annual-colloquium>.

As President, I've been attending lots of League committee meetings over the last few months, and I'm so impressed by the talent and dedication of participating members. They do the real work that keeps our organization going, from planning programs, to raising money for scholarships, to organizing special interest groups and volunteer opportunities, to planning for the future, and much more. Committees are listed on page 6 of your Yearbook. What is your strength? What do you like to do? To find out more about a committee you might consider joining, please feel free to phone or email the committee chair.

I heartily enjoyed the cooler autumn temperatures, if not the earlier dusks. I hope everyone found a little time to view Wisconsin's beautiful fall foliage. Now I'm looking forward to gathering together in December to enjoy our festive dinner and concert.

Cordially,  
*Cindy May*

### **Program schedule changes**

Our March speaker will be changed due to a schedule conflict.

The new schedule is as follows:

\*Spring Luncheon, March 25, 2025: Franklin Stein PhD, OTR/L, "Healthy Aging and Self-Regulation."

\*Annual Meeting and Luncheon, May 7, 2025: Kelly Sheffield, UW Volleyball Coach

\*Fall Coffee, September 2025: John Stofflet, Former Newscaster

## DUES INCREASE

One of the major responsibilities of the Board of Directors of University League is to oversee the financial aspects of meeting our mission as a 501C3 organization. We collect dues to cover expenses required to raise funds for student scholarships and support the University through volunteer activities. At our last meeting on October 1, we discussed income generated by dues and potential increases or new expenses we will incur in the future. The cost of professional preparation of tax reports, mailing newsletters, and League correspondence with members and donors will increase in the future. Therefore, in order to ensure ongoing fiscal health of the League, as well as provide financial flexibility to meet future costs we may incur as we investigate providing alternatives to collecting checks for payments of registration for events, membership, and donations, the Board voted unanimously to support a \$10 increase in dues beginning with the 2025-2026 fiscal year. While membership dues will increase from \$40 to \$50 dollars per year, partner memberships will remain at \$10 per year. Per our Policy guidelines, any unexpended income of the League is added to the general scholarship fund. This change in dues will ensure that the University League can meet increases in costs and continue our financial support deserving UW students.

## CANDLELIGHT DINNER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Friday, December 13, 2024**

**(see page 11 for the registration form)**

### **CANDLELIGHT DINNER:**

**PLACE:** Maple Bluff Country Club, 500 Kensington Drive, Madison

**TIME:** Cash Bar, 5:30 p.m. Dinner, 6:00 p.m. Music, 7:00 p.m.

**MENU (\$35.00 per person includes dinner and performance)**

\*Entree: Choice of:

- 1) Cod en papillote: delicately steamed cod, baked in parchment and opened table side, or
- 2) Portabella en papillote mushroom base, with winter vegetables, herbs and Pernod butter.

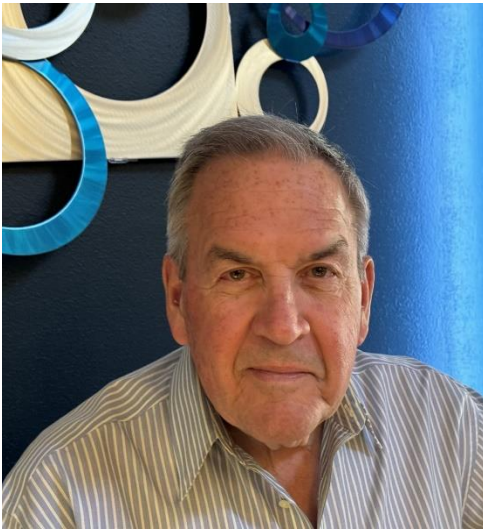
\*Salad for all: Pickled cherry salad with spring mix, shaved Chioggia beets, white balsamic vinaigrette

\*Dessert: Choice of :

1. Chocolate torte with whipped caramel, or
2. Tarte au citron: lemon curd crumb crust, fresh fruit and Chantilly cream.

*All payments, reservations and cancellations **must be received by the 11/30 deadline**. No reservations will be accepted after that date and no refunds made. Your payment check will be cashed soon after the event. If you have questions, please contact Betty Zeps, [bszeps@wisc.edu](mailto:bszeps@wisc.edu). Or 608-255-5252.*





## JOHN SHANDA, PRESIDENT-ELECT

My name is John Shanda. I am the new President-Elect of University League and would like to introduce myself to you. I grew up in Iowa and have lived in the Milwaukee and Minneapolis areas. We moved to Madison in 1982 and live on the North side of town. I retired in January of 2020 following 28 years with the State of Wisconsin. My wife Jacqui and I have one son and daughter-in-law along with one grandson.

Jacqui became a member of University League following her retirement in 2018. I joined her when I retired. We have both been involved with Wine Divas and Divos interest group and read to a group of 4-year-olds through the Great Dane Readers program. I am also involved with other volunteer opportunities.

I am very honored and humbled to be President-Elect of our long-established organization. With the vast experience of so many members I may call on many of you to assist me along the way. I bring many years of management, planning and organizational skills as I enter the new position. I look forward to melding our mutual experiences in the continued growth of the League.

I have an affirmation, from motivational speaker Heartsill Wilson, that I use as a daily guide. It reads, "This is the beginning of a new day. You've been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for something good. What you choose today is important because you are exchanging a day for your life for it. When tomorrow comes this day will be gone forever and in its place something that you have left behind. Let it be something good." This starts me off on the right path each day.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Volunteering for the Great Wisconsin Quilt Show

The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show at the Alliant Energy Center is an exciting three-day event that celebrates the art of quilting. Registrants explore exhibits of truly stunning quilts, shop in an exhibition hall full of vendors, and discover new ideas from leading quilt educators. This is a BIG DEAL for quilters from all over the Midwest. People drive for hours. Bus load after bus load arrives. There are classes, lectures, and appraisals. The event is presented by PBS-Wisconsin and Nancy Zieman Productions, and proceeds help support PBS-Wisconsin programming and community outreach projects.



Stephanie Karwacki, Cindy May, Judy Stevenson, and Jane Dunn (above, showing a quilt) at the Quilt Show

This year University League volunteers signed up for various duties. Perks include free parking and admission, refreshments in the volunteer training area, interacting with all those enthusiastic attendees, and getting a chance to see a wide variety of hand-made quilts. An exhibition I particularly liked this year was a whole corridor of quilts with the same basic pattern but in different colors. It was amazing how different each one looked. I simply could not pick a favorite. If you're interested in joining other League members at next year's event, or at the Garden Expo

scheduled for February 7-9, or at any of the PBS-Wisconsin phone-in fundraisers during the year, please phone or email me to get on the mailing list: Cindy May: 608-335-929, [clmay@wisc.edu](mailto:clmay@wisc.edu).

## NEWS FROM INTEREST GROUPS



Interest Groups offer unique opportunities for friendship, sharing and learning. Nineteen Interest Groups covering books, games, hobbies, language, and dining are meeting under the guidance of leaders. Leaders have been busy planning sessions with many programs beginning in September. Each group meets in person and/or by zoom. As a reminder - Description, Leaders, Contact Information, and Meeting Schedule for each is in the League Yearbook. You may join an Interest Group any time during the membership year. Three new Interest Groups, Card & Board Games, Mah Jong, and Bowling have been added to the list and are seeking more members to play.

Interest Group Leader Orientation was held on August 22, 2024, at The Crossing Clubhouse in Fitchburg for new and continuing leaders. Jane Dunn, Chair and Gabriela Cerghedean, Assistant Chair conducted the orientation. Twelve Interest Group Leaders were in attendance to socialize, provide updates for each Interest Group, obtain new IG membership roster, and review Leader policies and procedures. Leaders participating were Linda Baumann, Jane Dunn, Daniel Hill, Elizabeth Hoadley, Kathy Knox, Roma Lenehan, Dory Lightfoot, Elaine Rosenblatt, Sue Thieben, Louise Thompson, Barbara Widder, Mary Jo Willis. Other Interest Group Leaders include Helen Read, Diane Smidt, Jill Feldkamp, Kris Brown, Polly Kuelbs, Karen Harris, Judy Stang, Priscilla Thain, Carol Phelps, and Elia Basurto-Colson. Board of Directors members attending were Cindy May, John Shanda, Betty Zeps, Linda Baumann, Elaine Rosenblatt, Barbara Rodgers, and Aleta Murray providing information on University League, policy on Interest Group funds, the League website and Yearbook, newsletter timelines and articles/photos, promoting and confirming league membership, Programs for the year, and volunteer opportunities. The session ended with a hilarious time taking the group photo.

--Jane Dunn

### **Mah-jongg Group -- Barbara Widder**

Join us to play the American version of mah-jongg, an ancient Chinese game using tiles. New and experienced players are welcome. The meeting times are the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. You may join us both times each month or either Tuesday, whichever will fit your schedule. The only stipulation is that you let Barbara know "yes or no" by the Sunday before each Tuesday. cell: 608-692-1831 (phone or text) Email: [bjw716@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjw716@sbcglobal.net)). We'll meet at the Saukdale Condominiums Clubhouse at 717 Saukdale Way (near the intersection of Old Sauk Road and Westfield Road).  
Dates: September 10, 24; October 8, 22; November 12, 26; December 10, January 14, 28; February 11, 25; March 11, 25; April 8, 22; May 13, 27





## **Wine Divas & Divos -- Elaine Rosenblatt**

The Wine Divas & Divos started their 2024-2025 season at the WineHouse in McFarland. At this venue, each person picked the wines they wanted to try—white, rose and red—and then shared information about the wines they liked. It was nice to connect with the members we know from previous years as well as the new members in the group. If you're interested in joining this interest group, contact Elaine Rosenblatt--[elainer49@gmail.com](mailto:elainer49@gmail.com).



## **Armchair Travelers Meetings Coming Up**

The University League's Armchair Travelers Interest Group meets on the first Monday of the month. We open the zoom meeting at 6:45 PM. There are a variety of countries on 4 continents including one US location that may be a mystery to you. Please join us even if you are not a member of the group or contact [mjwillis@wisc.edu](mailto:mjwillis@wisc.edu), if you wish to join our group. The zoom link is below:

\*January 6 No meeting

\*February 3 Cindy May: Southern Spain: Yesterday and Today: Madrid, Granada, and Seville

\*March 3 Sandy Nuernburg: DC: the Cape Cod of the Midwest

\*April 7 Jack Smith: UW-Madison Student trip to Kenya and Tanzania

\*May 5 Diane McHugh: Let's take a trip to amazing Nepal and Bhutan

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82018944717?pwd=OVMRAiE2fn9oYVCmO7UiiJsijDQyzZ.1>

## **Bird Study Group**



The Bird Study Group has had a fall filled with birds. We walked through the Madison parks and colorful restorations watching the elusive fall migrants. On September 20, we had our second Bird Flight, where various group members visited three different birding sites throughout the day. We were lucky to have the first rain in weeks, bringing great bird activity and pleasant breezes, if not cool weather. At Owen Park at 7:00 A.M., we saw 12 species of warbler and 49 species of birds. Many of the migrants were bathing in the wet leaves. The water drops shown like diamonds in the sun on the plants. Highlights included colorful male Canada, Golden-winged, and Wilson's Warblers. By

the time we arrived at Picnic Point at 10:00, the wind had picked up, slowing bird activity, but we still found 8 warbler species and five new species, despite the similar habitat. In the wetlands of Nine Springs, we added another 14 species including water birds, shorebirds, and a few warblers. In total, 67 bird species were found, including 15 small, active warblers!

One week later, Owen Park still had a lot of birds, but generally a different set of birds – more short-distant migrants like sparrows and fewer neotropical (long-distance) migrants like warblers. A Merlin, a rare (but increasing) small Falcon, appeared and harassed the songbirds, amazingly alternating chasing and perching, providing great looks for more than 15 minutes. When the Merlin perched, Flickers and Jays attacked him.

When he was flying, he chased them. He finally caught a Goldfinch but was harassed so much that he lost it. How remarkable to see such a rare bird so well for so long!

Join us and come to see what unexpected birds we will see. We welcome beginners and everyone. We meet at 9:00 a.m. at the rear of the Covenant Presbyterian Church to carpool on Friday mornings from September through mid-November and mid-March through the second week of June. Each week we go to a different park or natural area to walk for about two hours. We look for Bald Eagles in January and we have two educational slide shows in February. The weekly schedule is on the League website. For more information, contact leaders Jill Feldkamp (608-692-0450) or Roma Lenehan (608-238-5406).  
-Roma Lenehan

### **Climate & Environment Interest Group**

The Climate & Environment Interest Group is looking forward to another year of sharing stories, tips and good news, and inspiring each other to environmental action! For example, at our October meeting we talked about how the new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) needs Park n Ride locations. We found out that people can tour Holy Wisdom Monastery, on the north side of Madison, remarkable for its beautiful prairies, and for being Wisconsin's first net-zero-emissions retreat center. We were also inspired by one of our members installing a bidet, and others switching to bamboo toilet paper (which they say isn't as odd as it sounds, and while it appears pricey, it's actually cheaper per sheet than name-brand toilet paper in the supermarket). No need to keep flushing virgin forests down the drain! Our group will also sponsor a new section in the University League Newsletter: "Did you know? Eco-tips." We hope you enjoy these surprising facts and statistics. We invite you to come check us out, and contribute your sustainability tips, knowledge, and enthusiasm to our group. We're discussing some possible outings for this year, so stay tuned! To share some inspiration with you, here are our top 10 eco tips for families:

1. Turn off lights when not in the room.
2. Save water when brushing teeth, washing hands, etc.
3. Don't litter --- pick up litter.
4. Use your own bags when you go to the grocery store.
5. Hang up damp towels – they can be used again if not dirty.
6. Don't put chemicals on your lawn.
7. Only put as much food on a plate as you'll eat.
8. Take the bus, carpool, or combine trips.
9. Save left-over food in a container in the fridge.
10. Use reusable dishes instead of disposables.



### **Bridge Group**



Bridge players Judy Stang and Sally Patti are at the refreshment table provided by Gennie Bostian on October 10, 2024. The University League bridge group plays bridge from 12:00 Noon to 3 pm every Thursday. They meet in the Oakwood Room at Oakwood West Village. Members take turns providing light refreshments. New and experienced bridge players are welcome. For information contact Judy Stang (608-712-4293) or Priscilla Thain (508-233-5578).



# SCHOLARSHIPS

## College Of Letters & Science Honors University League Scholarship Recipients

On September 20, 2024, Peggy Wiederholt, University League Scholarship Chair, and Judy Stang, Scholarship Committee member, attended the College of Letters & Science Undergraduate Scholarships Reception, where nine University League General Scholarship recipients and seven University League Endowed Scholarship recipients were honored.

Eric Wilcot, Mary C. Jacoby Professor of Astronomy and Dean of the College of Letters & Science, spoke passionately about providing students with a well-rounded, state-of-the-art education that prepares and empowers them to become fearless leaders and creative innovators within their community and beyond. Dean Wilcot also expressed heartfelt appreciation to College of Letters & Science donors: “To our incredible donors, your generosity ensures that a UW-Madison education is within reach for so many students. Thanks to your support the College of Letters & Science and its departments provided more than \$8 million in scholarships and awards last year, benefiting 11% of all L&S undergraduates. Thank you for investing in our students’ futures and turning their aspirations into reality.”

Based on the current formula for distribution of University League scholarship funds, 40% of our funding goes to students in the College of Letters & Science. Our annual General Scholarship Stay-at-Home Benefit will once again take place in February 2025. Your consideration and generosity are most appreciated.

## Jada Oparie-Addoh, Recipient of The Angelena Frensley Lenehan Endowed Scholarship



“Since I was in Kindergarten, I knew I wanted to become some sort of doctor, but it wasn’t until I began suffering from Alopecia Areata and severe acne that I decided dermatology was the route I wanted to take.”

Meet Jada Oparie-Addoh, a 2024-25 recipient of the University League Mrs. Angelena Frensley Lenehan Freshman Scholarship. Jada is from Madison, WI. Her many activities during high school helped prepare her for her freshman year in the College of Letters & Science at UW-Madison. Jada was a participant in the Black Student Union, National Honor Society, band, a varsity wrestler, a member of the Dane County Social Justice Youth Forum, and founder of the Foreign Exchange Club at her school.

Jada said that she loves science and is majoring in biology. Her personal challenges in dealing with alopecia and acne have inspired her to aim for medical school and a career in Dermatology. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to shadow her dermatologist in the UW Dermatology Clinic during treatment and credits her medical staff with helping her discover her

future career goal.

Jada wrote a thank you letter to The University League in which she says, “Receiving this scholarship is a blessing. This award has lightened the financial burden on my shoulders so that I can focus on my academics and the goal I wish to achieve. As someone who is extremely worried about the cost of attendance, I will forever be grateful for your donation. A million thanks!”



**University League Candlelight Concert  
Friday, December 13, 2024, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Maple Bluff Country Club**

**Program: Russian Folk Orchestra, Victor Gorodinsky, Music Director**

**Reservation deadline: November 30\* (No refunds after this date)**

Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Reservations @ \$35 each (includes dinner and program) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

University League Centennial Scholarship \_\_\_\_\_

General Scholarship (IHO/IMO) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name for notification \_\_\_\_\_

(For donations "In Honor of" or "In Memory of", please circle IHO or IMO and provide contact information for honoree or family/friend of deceased. General Scholarship only please)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Menu (list any dietary restrictions below):

Entree: Choice of

Cod en papillote: steamed cod \_\_\_\_\_ OR Portabella en papillote mushroom base \_\_\_\_\_

Dessert: Choice of

Chocolate torte with whipped caramel \_\_\_\_\_ OR Tarte au citron \_\_\_\_\_

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 November 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 Bowling Group



This enthusiastic and lonely bowler, Jane Dunn, is waiting in a lane at Schwoegler Park Town Lanes for other University League members to join her to become members of the Bowling Interest Group which she has started. Bowling is a wonderful way of exercising and having fun doing it—and anyone can do it. For more information, read about the Interest Group in your **Yearbook**, page 8, and then call Jane!