



League Letter

Volume LIX, Number 5, April 2025 <http://www.univleague.wisc.edu> Editor: Betty Zeps Asst. Editor: Gisell Sirianni

UNIVERSITY LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 11:30 am – 2:00 pm

Blackhawk Country Club

Speaker: Brian Borland — *Maynard 8 Miles*,

A Story of Family, Basketball, and Triumph in The Heartland



Brian Borland was inspired to write *Maynard 8 Miles* after visiting his family's ancestral home of Maynard, Iowa while attending his Grandmother Ruth's funeral in 2004. In the process of writing his family's story, Brian uncovered the fascinating past of his parents -- two amazing athletes with incredible accomplishments. He discovered that his mother, Carolyn, unbeknownst to him, had changed the face of girls' basketball in Iowa forever with her quick first step, deadeye shot and fiery personality. He visited the scenes of his parents' triumphs and heard their stories—many of which are shared in the book *Maynard 8 Miles*. Carolyn passed away before the publication of the book, but the experience of learning her story has helped her live more vividly in his memory. Brian resides in Madison, with his wife Char and three children, Brianna, Alex and Brooke. He lived only 15 minutes from his father, Glenn, for whom this truly incredible story was “no big deal.” Brian is a first-time author, an IT entrepreneur and a former

collegiate athlete with a passion for family, teaching and coaching. He received his BA from the University of Eau Claire, where he played Division III NCAA baseball. *Maynard 8 Miles* is a female empowerment story of overcoming incredible odds in the 1950's. The screenwriter of *Hoosiers* and *Rudy* wrote the screenplay for the book and is now in negotiation for a movie deal.

UNIVERSITY LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON MENU:

Choice 1: Fresh Baked Quiche Lorraine, Fresh Fruit Garnish

Choice 2: Grilled Chicken Craisin Berry Salad--Bleu Cheese, Walnuts, & Raspberry Vinaigrette, (Served without chicken for vegetarians.)

Dessert: Assorted Cookies

Beverage: Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks

Cost for the lunch and program: \$35.00 **Deadline for returning reservation forms: no later than**

Friday, April 25. None will be accepted after this date. Registration forms may be found on Page 11 of this newsletter and online at <https://univleague.edu/programs/#luncheon-and-annual-meeting-5-7-25>.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Spring has sprung! I hope you've adjusted to daylight savings time. I've read that in some cases it can disrupt sleep cycles, but I for one appreciate that extra hour of evening daylight.

If you haven't mailed in your Scholarship Benefit donation, it's not too late. Just send your check in the envelope that you received with your invitation. Lost track of the invitation and envelope? No worries—You can mail your check in a plain envelope to: The University League, Inc., PO Box 5064, Madison, WI 53705-5064. As I've noted before, raising money for UW-Madison student scholarships is the first goal listed in the League's mission statement, and with the rising costs of tuition, housing, and books, students need our help more than ever. Please give generously!

I hope you will all make plans to attend our Luncheon and Annual Meeting on May 7th at Blackhawk Country Club. Our speaker, author Brian Borland, will share his true and inspiring story about a girls' basketball team from the little town of Maynard, Iowa that won the Iowa state title in 1956.

The program will be followed by our Annual Meeting, where you will have the opportunity to find out what's going on in League, and to thank our hard-working officers and committee chairs for the considerable time and effort they devote to keeping us vibrant and solvent. This will be the occasion for me to welcome the new and continuing Board members who will preside over our upcoming membership year, and to hand over the gavel to incoming President John Shanda.

One of my tasks as Past President will be to chair the Nominating Committee, which is in charge of finding new assistant officers, committee chairs, and appointees for the 2025/26 membership year. Please indicate your interest on your renewal sign-up sheet, or contact me at 608-335-9291 or clmay@wisc.edu. Becoming a Board member or appointee is a great way to learn new skills and make new friends.

It is vitally important that The University League continue to recruit new members in order to offer all the opportunities and events you enjoy, while remaining financially sound. For years members have been asked to adopt our "Each one, reach one" slogan. There is still no better way to get new members on board. Invite a friend or relative to one of our programs, or to join you at an Interest Group event or meeting. Mention how much you enjoy being a University League member in conversations. Our tri-fold brochures do an excellent job of summarizing the benefits of membership. Contact the Membership Committee if you'd like some to give to prospective members or share our website address at <https://univleague.wisc.edu/>

I'll continue as President of the League until the end of May, but this will be my last President's column, so I want to express now that this has been an honor and an incredibly rewarding experience for me. I've learned so much about the League, its mission, and its amazing members. I'm deeply grateful to have had this opportunity.

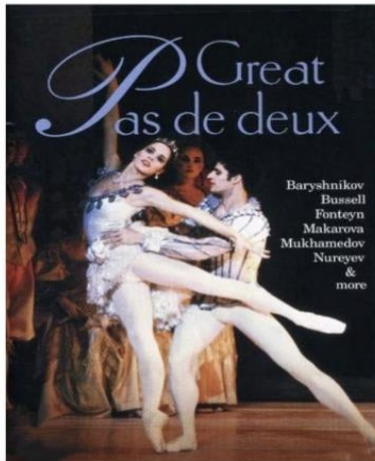
Fond regards,

Cindy May

Cindy May, President 2024/25

INTEREST GROUPS

Ballet Film
Great Pas de Deux
Monday, October 10th
7pm
Grand Hall



DINNER & BALLET: New Interest Group forming

On the second Monday of each month, participate with 5pm dinner in the Capitol Lakes Seasons Restaurant followed by a 7pm ballet video in the Grand Hall. All entertainment in the Grand Hall is free and open to the public. The Dance Entertainment Schedule is currently planned for each month through August, 2025. Individuals can opt for both dinner and the ballet video, or just dinner or just the ballet video. Seasons Restaurant accepts credit cards only. You may bring your own beverage or order it off the menu -- an extensive wine list is available. Capitol Lakes is at 333 West Main St in Madison. There is street parking and parking in the ramp directly across the street from Capitol Lakes' front door. If you park in the ramp, you may park in any of the places with a sign for Capitol Lakes. Bring in your parking slip and it will be validated at the front desk so you won't have to pay for parking.

Reservations for dinner are due no later than the Friday before the event by contacting Betsy Haimson at laughingwithbetsy@yahoo.com or 608-215-7042.

The Dance Entertainment schedule is as follows –

****May 12 - Rice: Cloudgate Dance Theatre**
 Cloudgate is a Taiwanese company. In this performance the dancers combine modern dance, martial arts, ballet and qigong set to Taiwanese folk songs and Bellini areas.

On Marquee 69 minutes

****June 16 - Tributes to Robbins**
 The Paris Opera Ballet performs EnSOL and The Concert.

Kaj's collection of DVDs 111 minutes

****July 14 - Don Quixote**
 This version is choreographed by Rudolph Nureyev. He also stars as a young man, Basilio, who dances and flirts with a number of partners. Don Quixote and Sancho Panza have a parallel storyline. Danced by the Australian Ballet. (1973) On Medici.tv 1 hour 45 minutes

****August 11 - Hobson's Choice**

This humorous ballet is based on a novel and a movie starring Charles Laughton. Hobson, the owner of a shoe store in nineteenth century England believes he has his three daughters under his firm control. He neglects the store to spend time at the pub with his cronies. His daughters, particularly 30-year-old Maggie, have other ideas. They want marriage and independence. Maggie contrives to fulfill their dreams leaving their father with a Hobson's Choice, take it or leave it.

Choreographed by David Bintley (he also choreographed Aladdin).

On YouTube Premium 1 hour 40 minutes

GREGORY HINES

MIKHAIL BARYSHNIKOV



Artiques

On Tuesday, March 18th, about thirty Artiques Interest Group members met at Oakwood University Woods for a robust, informative talk and PowerPoint presentation on artist Grant Wood. The program was organized by Kathy Knox and presented by Floyd Sandford, Professor Emeritus, Biology Dept. at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Professor Sandford has a long-standing interest in all aspects of the history and culture of Cedar Rapids, including the famous artist, Grant Wood. Professor Sandford has been and remains a docent for the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art and would also readily acknowledge a request for a tour of Wood's hayloft studio. This was Grant's art studio above a carriage house which Grant, himself, reconstructed, and where he created many of his iconic paintings, such as "American Gothic." He dubbed it "5 Turner Alley" as it was owned by John Turner. He and his mother lived there from 1924 to 1935.



Professor Sandford sharing a photo of Grant Wood's hayloft studio



Grant Wood and his sister with "American Gothic"

Although a great number of us may only think of Grant Wood's famous oil painting of "American Gothic" (in the style of Regionalism), he excelled in many other mediums, such as lithographs, ceramics, metal, wood, etc. He also was known to design theater sets and jewelry and even worked as a camouflage artist while serving in WWI, camouflaging artillery. It may even seem surprising to some that Grant Wood also built houses, taking responsibility for their design and decorating!

Grant's early work was Impressionistic in style. And, in 1920, he and his friend, Marvin Cone, made a three-month stay in Paris to see art and to paint. Later on, in 1923, Grant returned to Paris alone to study for 14 months at the Julian Academy, focusing on only doorways and archways.

In 1927 Grant Wood was commissioned to design and build a stained-glass window for the Veterans Memorial Building in Cedar Rapids. He collaborated with German craftsmen from Munich. In 1928, it was completed and was, at that time, the largest stained-glass window in the U.S. However, sad to say, the Daughters of the Revolution would not regard Grant as the creator of this magnificent piece because he worked with Germans to install the famous window.

There were many little-known revelations regarding Grant Wood's talents shared by Professor Sandford in his talk. If you ever have the opportunity to visit Cedar Rapids, you would be able to view Grant's paintings, not only at Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, but also at Coe College. You could also drive over to 810 2nd Avenue, SE to view the carriage house with the hayloft where Grant once resided.

Let's Play! Another New Interest Group

We're inviting members and guests to join this new **Card & Board Games Interest Group** for an afternoon of FUN. Learn new games or play your favorites while making friends. Since September, we have enjoyed Quiddler, Dominos, Five Crowns, Parcheesi, and Blokuz, with many other games on the list.

The Interest Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (September-May) from 1-3 pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church at the corner of Mineral Point Road and Segoe Road in Room A101 Lower Level. Call or Text Jane Dunn at 608-333-8068 or email gwtwfidl1@tds.net so the room can be set up for the group. Bring your favorite game to share or just come to play. The more the merrier!



* * * * *

Wine Divas & Divos... A Vintage Affair: Exploring Wines From The 1970s

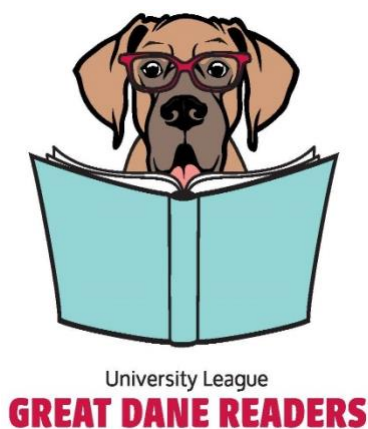


The Wine Divas & Divos Interest group at our March event took a walk down memory lane drinking wines, like Mateus and Gallo, which we enjoyed in the 1970s. Hosted by Donna McCarthy with assistance from Mary Willis and Elaine Rosenblatt, we also enjoyed some cakes and candies that we ate in the 70's, including a pineapple upside down cake and Bit O Honey candy.

The 1970s was a transformative decade for the wine industry. It was an era when regions like California began challenging Europe's dominance, culminating in the famous 1976 Judgment of Paris, where Napa Valley wines triumphed over French counterparts.

The evening was more than just about tasting; it was an experience in storytelling and remembering music, books and movies from the era. There was a quiz for us to fill out and the winners won a bottle of one of the wines and one person even won a Santa wine bottle holder.

Great Dane Readers -- By Mary Warfield



NEWSFLASH!! Thanksgiving arrives early for Great Dane Readers Program!

The season for giving thanks has arrived. Thank you, Donors! The Great Dane Readers program is grateful for every donation given this year. Every gift helped us continue our efforts to promote early literacy through book ownership. Your contributions purchased 3,640 books during the 2024-2025 school year – books about puffins, Little Green Peas, and a Panda in search of hugs. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you, Volunteer Readers! Thank you for your enthusiasm for reading, your loyal dedication to our program, and your determination to continue reading despite the exuberant chaos exhibited by some preschoolers. Thank you to Barb Freeman, Lucy Lasseter, Gail Steinhorst, Cindy Edwards, Anne

Raffa, Nancy Gloe, Laureen Yoshino, Mary Tremaine, Janet Gajewski, Sue Taylor, Nancy Baumgardner, Denise Garlow, Barbara Rogers, Sheila Endres, Kathy Knox, Helen Read, Susan Daugherty, Cheryl and Brian Goodman, Willa Aldstadt, Sally Stengel, Sandra Wurdeman, Jacqui and John Shanda, Madonna Scullion, Fran Malloy, and Terry Warfield.

We are grateful to you all, donors and volunteers alike, for the success our program has experienced. Word of our program has spread. We have been asked to add two new preschool classes (35 students) at the Madison College Early Learning Campus next year! That means we will need additional funding for next year. I hope you all will continue to be generous. Your support really does make a difference for the children and families who receive books through Great Dane Readers. If it were possible for them to communicate with you, you can be sure they would all say, “Thank you very much!”

If you have any questions about Great Dane Readers, please contact Mary Warfield at (608) 273-9809 or mbwarfield@gmail.com.

* * * * *

Have You Thought about Starting Your Own Named Endowed University League Scholarship?

For the past several years the minimum amount to start a University League Named Endowed Scholarship has been \$25,000, which could be given over 5 years. The Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA) is in the process of changing the requirements. Over the next few months, the minimum amount to set up your own University League Named Endowed Scholarship will become \$50,000, and the method of doing so will change. There is a brief window in which it might be possible to set one up with the \$25,000 minimum, depending upon the school, college, or department in which your scholarship will reside.

If you have been thinking about this but haven't yet acted on it and want to do so now, please contact incoming UL Named Endowed Scholarship Liaison Sally Lorenz, sallylor67@gmail.com, for more information. It is a great way to leave a legacy that supports UW-Madison students and honors your involvement in University League.

THANK YOU, UNIVERSITY LEAGUE, FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Engineering is recognized worldwide for discoveries and innovations. The College emphasizes that, “We don’t simply think. We do.” In a letter to The University League, Cathleen Walters, Associate Dean for Advancement, states, “A defining feature of a Badger Engineer is the emphasis on hands-on learning, where students gain practical experience through research projects, fieldwork, and community engagement. This method equips them with the skills to tackle real-world engineering challenges effectively.” She goes on to describe how the College educates and prepares students to accomplish more than a successful engineering career. “At the UW-Madison College of Engineering, we are committed to delivering an education that not only covers a curriculum based in technical knowledge but also emphasizes the development of social and cultural competencies. This holistic approach ensures that our graduates are well-prepared to excel in their careers and make meaningful contributions to society.”

UW-Madison engineering program rankings among U.S. public universities in both undergraduate and graduate studies are impressive, many in the top 10 and all within the top 20. Engineering programs include biomedical engineering, civil engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, computer engineering, environmental engineering, materials engineering, and nuclear engineering. The University League awards both general and named endowed scholarships annually to UW-Madison College of Engineering students. The 2024-25 UW-Madison University League College of Engineering scholarship recipients are:

The University League, Inc (General) Scholarship

- Joshua S, electrical engineering
- Simon F, biomedical engineering

Mildred & Lorentz Adolfson Endowed Scholarship

- Caden M, electrical engineering
- Nathan N, mechanical engineering

Rosa P. Fred Endowed Scholarship

- Kyle E, civil engineering
- Morgan I, environmental engineering

Associate Dean Walters describes how the college continues to grow and will soon have a new building with the capability of accommodating increased class sizes and the ability to provide top-notch student education. However, she points out, “with this growth comes the need for additional resources, making scholarships more vital than ever, as we strive to meet our goal of ensuring that no student is denied an engineering education due to financial reasons.” She concludes, “Thank you for your generosity and for believing in the potential of our engineering students. Your support is not only an investment in their futures but also in the future of engineering innovation and excellence.”

In the words of Simon F, recipient of The University League (General) Scholarship: “I was delighted and honored upon hearing that I was selected to receive the University League Scholarship. I am writing to express my immense gratitude for being selected for this award. I am currently studying biomedical engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This scholarship will provide me with the opportunity to further my education. I am determined to fulfill the generosity of this scholarship by continuing to focus on my degree as well as achieving personal growth and goals through school and extracurricular activities. Upon graduation, I seek to utilize the skills I have gathered throughout my time in school to continue research and discovery in the field of biomedical engineering. My goal is to research and work toward developing artificial transplantable kidneys and organs. This scholarship has brought me one step closer toward achieving this goal and I cannot be more thankful.

Nominating Committee Report

The University League Nominating Committee has been hard at work since August 2024 and is happy to report that the following people will be nominated by the committee at the Annual Meeting on May 7 to serve in positions for 2025-26:

President Elect - Donna McCarthy

Secretary - Susan Lauffer

Assistant Secretary - Julie Sadowsky

Assistant Membership Chair - Jane Dunn

Assistant Interest Group Chair - Larry Hubbard

Program Chair - Rich Leffler

Assistant Program Chair - Elaine Rosenblatt

Volunteer Opportunities Co-Coordinator - Charlotte and Jim Burns

Assistant Newsletter Editor - Roma Lenehan

Assistant Scholarship Benefit Director - Sheila Lynch

The people listed below will continue to serve on the board in 2025-26:

President - John Shanda

Treasurer - Marsha Janota

Assistant Treasurer - Anne Marie Lawrence

Membership Co-chairs - Elaine Rosenblatt and
Linda Baumann

Interest Group Chair - Gabriela Cerghedean

Newsletter Editor - Gisell Sirianni

Mailing Chair - Bev Priefer

Immediate Past President - Cindy May

Scholarship Chair - Peggy Wiederholt

Many thanks to those above who have agreed to serve University League during the next board year and to the Nominating Committee members: Jane Dunn, Betsy Haimson, Kathy Knox, Judy Stang, Judy Stevenson, and Sally Lorenz – Chair

University Newsletter Delivery Update

The University Board of Directors has voted to change the primary method of delivering our newsletters to the membership. Beginning this fall, your full color newsletter will be delivered electronically to your email address on record. This change will save the organization both time and money.

If you feel you must have a paper copy of the newsletter you will have two choices. First you can print your own copy from your email. If you still want a printed, mostly black and white, copy mailed to you we are asking that you pay \$5.00 to cover printing and postage in the 2025-2026 league year. This fee will rise to \$10.00, annually in the 2026-2027 league year.

To continue to receive a paper copy please send your check payable to The University League, Inc. to P.O. Box 5064, Madison, WI 53705-0064.

Thank you for your membership and continued support of our League mission.

IN MEMORIAM

Amal Vitale

University League Luncheon and Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 7th, 2025, 11:00 a.m. -- 2:00 p.m.
Blackhawk Country Club

Program: Brian Borland – *Maynard 8 Miles*

Reservation deadline: Friday, April 25th (No refunds after this date).

Member: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Home address: _____

Additional member: _____ Phone: _____

Guest(s) name(s): _____

_____ Reservations @ \$35 each (includes lunch and program) \$ _____

General Scholarship (IHO/IMO name): _____ \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Circle IHO or IMO and provide contact information for honoree or family/friend of deceased.

Menu (circle choice):

Choice of: (1) Fresh Baked Quiche Lorraine, Fresh Fruit Garnish

Choice 2: Grilled Chicken Craisin Berry Salad--Bleu Cheese, Walnuts, & Raspberry Vinaigrette, (Served without chicken upon request.)

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, 1918 Adams St., Madison, WI 53711**

***Reservation Form and payment must be in hand by April 25th Friday**

Questions? Call Betty Zeps at 608-698-1414



Great food for wine-lovers at the vintage wine tasting
meeting of Wine Divas and Divos!

