

Find complete information and details at whosnew.org

President's Message



Season's Greetings, everyone!

I hope you enjoy time with friends and family throughout the upcoming holiday season.

WNIM currently has 742 members, an all-time high for our wonderful organization. As we look ahead to the 2026–2027 year, it's time to begin considering our Board of Directors positions. I will be retiring as President in June, and our current Vice

President, Judy White, will be stepping into the role. We are very fortunate that Jean Murray, our Treasurer, and Renee Hoxie, our Secretary, will each continue to serve for one more year.

We will, however, need to fill the Vice President position. The VP oversees WNIM interest groups and serves a one-year term, with the expectation of stepping into the Presidency the following year. If you or someone you know is interested in this role, please contact Judy White at VP@whosnew.org for more information.

Looking ahead to the 2027–2028 fiscal year, we are also preparing to fill the Treasurer position. Jean Murray has done a remarkable job streamlining the Treasurer's responsibilities over the past two years. We are seeking an "apprentice" to work with Jean over the next year to learn the role. If you enjoy working with numbers and would like to explore this opportunity, please reach out to Judy White at VP@whosnew.org or Jean Murray at Treasurer@whosnew.org.

Wishing you all—and the world—a peaceful season. **ELLEN**

Luncheons and Programs

Date: Thursday, January 8

Location: Maple Bluff Country Club, 500 Kensington Drive, Madison

Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Deadline to register: December 26 [Click here to register](#)

From Burnout to Backroads — Finding Your Way Back to Yourself

What happens when the life you built starts breaking you down? In this honest, relatable talk, fourth-generation farmer and former PBS host Inga Orth (many WNIM members will remember Inga from her October 2022 presentation) shares her personal journey through burnout, perfectionism, and emotional exhaustion — and how she slowly found her way back through therapy, boundaries, and the radical act of rest. With humor, grit, and hard-won wisdom, Inga invites audiences to reflect on their own burnout cycles and explore what healing can look like in real life — without the spa days or Instagram filters.

This talk is for anyone who's ever felt like they had to hold it all together while falling apart inside. You'll walk away feeling seen, grounded, and reminded that it's never too late to rebuild a life that actually feels like your own.



Not Just Wine and Cheese

Hostess: Michele Stanley

Location: 6321 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton

Time: 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Date: January 16 [Click here to register](#)



NJWC is a monthly gathering that is held at member's homes. We typically meet on the third Friday night of the month. These gatherings provide a casual opportunity to chat with old and new friends. The potluck style of sharing appetizers and desserts, along with wine (or beverage of choice) enhances the evening. Husbands/partners or other guests are welcome.

Interest Groups

Currently we have 67 Interest Groups(IG)! If you would like to join a group, [click here](#) to look at all the categories of groups and click the join button to get on the list for current updates and plans for activities. If you want to start a new IG, contact Judy White at vp@whosnew.org and she can help you get started!

New Interest Group: West Side Chinese Mah Jongg!

Keep an eye out—this new group will be launching in January! Get ready to sign up and join the fun. Beginners welcome—the IG leader will teach you how to play



Update on events to support Luke's Closet

Holiday Bazaar and Giving Tree

Copious and heartfelt thanks to the generous WNIM membership for another successful Holiday Bazaar. Luncheon guests browsed Bazaar donations from dozens and dozens of vendors including baked goods, ornaments, knitted hats and scarves, themed gift baskets, greeting cards, and much, much more!

Thanks, also, to every member of the Service Committee and all the volunteers, as well as the tireless Luncheon and Program teams, who cheerfully pitched in to make this a well run, successful, and very festive event!



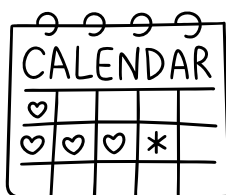
As this newsletter goes to press, the Service Committee is compiling results of the Holiday Bazaar. Visit the [Past Fundraising Events](#) page on the Who's New website for up to the minute news on how much was raised, to view photos, and more!



In January, [Luke's Closet](#) is requesting underwear for teens – men's boxer style and women's bikini style, sized Sm, Med, Lg, XL, 2XL. Donations may be dropped at Luke's Closet or brought to the January Luncheon.

Considering end of year gifting? Need to make a RMD from an IRA? Do you make annual end of year donations to a non-profit? Please consider [Luke's Closet](#).

Items of Interest



Mark Your Calendar



The next New Member event will be a Happy Hour on March 11, 2026 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at the Waunakee Library. Sign Up Genius will be sent in February.

Get to Know
a MemberWho's New
~Isms

Each month, one or two Who's New members will be featured by filling out a questionnaire known as Who's New ~Isms. A member chooses 10+ questions from 25 available questions to answer. Have fun learning more about your peers! Created by Diane Wiersema.

Introducing: Pat Eaton ~Isms

1. *Member of WN:* 20 years
2. *Interest Groups:* Books & Bites 1 and 2; Nonfiction Book Club; Writing Group; Walkie Talkies; Lunchtime Adventures; Diversity in Madison
3. *Favorite part of WN:* All the good friends I've made over the years.
4. *WN leadership/volunteer position(s) past and/or present:* Chair/leader of various Interest Groups: Diversity in Madison, Couples Gourmet; Various committees: Programs, Hospitality, Service, Nominating, NJWC, Newsletter - *Meet a Member*
5. *Family:* Husband, Peter, the best-natured person she knows, & married for 63 years! Three adult children, 2 in Wisconsin & 1 in Massachusetts; Five grandchildren: Salvador, 16, an award-winning artist; Joaquin, 23, NYC jazz bassist; Nathan, 23, a UW-Whitewater education major student; Morgan, 28, works at Washington University in St. Louis; and Luna, 29, a PhD candidate in architecture at Princeton
6. *Career or work experience:* Started as a buyer at Bloomingdale's in NYC, where she met Peter; became a stay-at-home for 8 years; moved to CA to work as a Director of Marketing for 22 years; upon retirement, went to work for Steelcase for 5 years; started Objective Third Party Consulting in CA, bringing it to Wisconsin; Formally retired 15 years ago
7. *Favorite beverages:* Red wine & Pimm's Cup, a British cocktail
8. *Favorite foods:* Pasta, beans of all kinds
9. *Hobbies/collections:* Bird images (statues & prints); Equestrianism, owning 4 horses at one time; competing in dressage; was an event announcer
10. *Favorite exercise:* Hiking
11. *Favorite local places:* Live music venues, Farmer's Market, Indian Lake, & Barriques for Sunday morning lattes
12. *Favorite restaurants:* D'Vino, Osteria Papavero
13. *Favorite performance groups:* Madison Symphony Orchestra, Arts + Literature Laboratory for women's music
14. *Favorite actors:* Hugh Grant, Kevin Costner, Helen Mirren
15. *Favorite movie genre:* Rom-coms, drama
16. *Favorite TV shows:* PBS shows - *Wisconsin Life*, *Washington Week*, anything by Ken Burns
17. *Favorite colors:* Blue, green
18. *Favorite places to travel:* Anywhere in Europe, especially Italy; East & West U.S. coasts
19. *Favorite authors:* J.R.R. Tolkien, Elizabeth Strout, Ivan Doig, Laurie Colwin
20. *Special childhood memories:* Going to Howard Beach, north of Chicago; traveling up & down the California coast
21. *A perfect day for me:* Lots of clouds, blue sky, outdoors, big trees, & wildlife
22. *Dinner with anyone (dead or alive):* J.R.R. Tolkien, to discuss his wild imagination and use of Icelandic mythology!
23. *Something you might not know about me, but now do:* Volunteers by donating hours instead of money at Lussier Community Center and Just Dane.

**Introducing: Laural Mineard ~Isms**

1. *Member of WN:* 13.5 years
2. *Interest Group:* Lunch Adventures
3. *Favorite part of WN:* Meeting other ladies from Dane County
4. *WN leadership/volunteer position(s) past and/or present:* Welcome Committee host, Treasurer, Vice-president, President
5. *Favorite beverage:* Coca-Cola
6. *Favorite foods:* Tuna salad, chili
7. *Hobbies:* Cross stitch, needlepoint, reading
8. *Favorite sport to watch:* College & pro football
9. *Favorite restaurants:* Delaney's Steak/Seafood/Wine, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Olive Garden
10. *Favorite movie genre:* Adventure
11. *Favorite colors:* Blue, green
12. *Favorite sports teams:* Badgers, Packers
13. *Favorite places to travel:* Grand Tetons, Great Smoky Mountains
14. *Special childhood memory:* Going to Devil's Lake & hiking around the lake. Also going to the lake, swimming, and then eating tuna salad, chips, & pickles at one of the picnic tables.
15. *Something you might not know about me, but now do:* I started the Couples Euchre Interest Group.



Member Photo Gallery



**East Side
Coffee
Bunch**



**Wed. Hiking/
Snowshoeing**



**Cross-country
Skiing**



Savvy Sips



**Not Just Wine
and Cheese**

