



# Who's New in Madison

January 9, 2026



Find complete information and details at [whosnew.org](http://whosnew.org)

## President's Message



With Warm Regards,  
**ELLEN**

Happy New Year, Members!

I hope the coming year brings you happiness, good health, and many meaningful moments. As we move forward, please cherish your family and friends—and remember the importance of giving back to our community. There are great needs among those less fortunate than us, especially in these challenging times.

Who's New in Madison continues to thrive, and that strength comes from each and every member. While the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and Interest Group Leaders serve as organizers and facilitators, it is truly all of us—through participation and volunteering our time and talents—who make this organization so special. The support and friendships we share are truly unsurpassed.

As we look ahead to 2026, please consider volunteering as an Interest Group Leader, a Committee Chair, or a committee member. Your involvement makes a real difference.

Thank you to everyone who has dedicated your time, energy, and enthusiasm to WNIM. We are grateful for you and excited for the year ahead.

## Luncheons and Programs

**Date:** Thursday, February 12

**Location:** The Breakwater, 6308 Inland Way, Monona

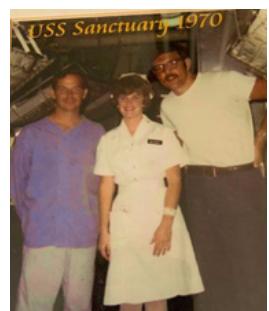
**Time:** 11:00 am-1:30 pm (Social Hour is 11:00-12:00, Meeting/Program begins at 12:00 pm)

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

Registration is limited to the first 100 ladies who register so sign up early. If the registration closes early, a waitlist will be activated. Please let us know if your plans change so someone from the waitlist can attend.



The Women, was a runaway bestseller last year about the Army nurses serving in Vietnam. Cathy Andrews, RN, BSN, a retired naval nurse (and nursing instructor at Edgewood College) will provide the “real” story. Cathy’s presentation, a power point of photos as well as mementos from her service in Vietnam, will provide a fascinating look at Vietnam as well as being a woman in the US Navy.



## 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](#)

This is a great way to meet new people. Partners and guests are also welcome! If you would like a “wine buddy” to assist you with introductions, contact [NJWC@whosnew.org](mailto:NJWC@whosnew.org)

**Interest Groups****Nighttime and Weekend Interest Groups – We'd Love More!**

Recently, several new members have asked about nighttime and weekend Interest Groups. If you've been thinking about starting a group that meets in the evening, now is a great time! Currently, we have just two Interest Groups that meet at night: [Chapters & Chats](#) (Book Group) and [Board Games](#). Maybe you have an idea for something new—dining out, crafts, games, or another activity you enjoy? If you're interested in starting a nighttime Interest Group, please email Judy White, at [VP@whosnew.org](mailto:VP@whosnew.org).

**New Interest Group Alert! Chinese Mah Jongg – West Side**

This group is now online and open for sign-ups! Beginners are welcome. The Interest Group Leader will teach you how to play. Don't miss out!

**Gentle Yoga in The Park Interest Group is looking for an additional yoga teacher.**

Karen Holschuh and Barbara White are seeking a yoga teacher to join their teaching team. Weekly classes are offered late spring through early fall. Teaching schedule cycles through three teachers based on availability. If you're interested please reach out to:

Barbara: [blwhite2@me.com](mailto:blwhite2@me.com) or Karen: [kfs123home@gmail.com](mailto:kfs123home@gmail.com)

[Click here](#) for Interest Group Information.

As the new year begins, the Service Committee sends its gratitude to each and every member who donated time and resources, and provided financial support to Luke's Closet in 2025, for a total of \$26,347! We are humbled by your generosity. [Click here for more info.](#)

**Service Partner**

WNIM members can shop the Luke's Closet Amazon Wishlist with items shipping directly to the organization. When ordering, please make a note in the gift section that you are a WNIM member. [Click here](#) for St. Luke's donation link site.

**Luke's Close**

It's time to search for the 2026-27 WNIM Service Partner. Please review the [Service Partner Nonprofit Selection Criteria](#). Please submit your recommendation and questions to the Service Committee: [Service@whosnew.org](mailto:Service@whosnew.org). Suggestions are due by February 15. Selections must include: Member's name, Nonprofit name, Nonprofit contact person, Nonprofit contact email, Nonprofit address, Nonprofit phone number, and Nonprofit website.

**Items of Interest**

New Member Happy Hour will be held March 11 from 5:00-7:00 pm.  
Location will be the Waunakee Library.

**Website Q&A****How do I know if my purchase for Luncheon or Events completed successfully?**

- o Immediately following a successful purchase transaction on the website, this will occur:
  - § A screen showing the transaction will display
  - § An email confirming the successful transaction will be received
  - § On the website click My Account, View Luncheon Purchase/View Event Registrations. You will see the purchase listed if it was successful.

**What if I receive an Error Message when attempting a purchase on the website?**

- o The purchase transaction most likely did not complete. Confirm by checking in My Account. Contact the web team if you have questions at [web@whosnew.org](mailto:web@whosnew.org)

**What if I can not remember if I purchased a Luncheon or Event?**

- o Sign in to the website. Click on My Account. Select View Luncheon Purchase or View Event Registrations to verify.

**What if I still have questions?**

- o Send an email to [web@whosnew.org](mailto:web@whosnew.org)

## Introducing: Pam Benish ~Isms



### Get to Know a Member

### Who's New ~Isms

1. *Member of WN:* Almost 10 years!
2. *Interest Groups:* Wednesday Hiking Group, Co-ed Hiking, Friday Biking, Co-ed Biking, Ladies & Co-ed Pickleball, two Mahjong groups, Ladies' Euchre; Couples Euchre; Hand & Foot; Savvy Sips; Gourmet Group; Snowshoeing; Cross Country Skiing, & Super Agers
3. *Favorite part of WN:* Everyone is so welcoming and even in new circles, you always feel like you are part of the group.
4. *WN leadership/volunteer position(s):* Co-chaired Programs committee twice, once with Gail Green, & again with Diane Wiersema; former IG Leader for Couples Euchre
5. *Family:* Married to Paul for 48 years – we were high school sweethearts, so pretty much together forever! Son, Chris who has three children; daughter, Jessica, who has two; Grandchildren range in age from 9-16 & are the joys of our lives! We are blessed to watch them grow up & attend their local activities.
6. *Career:* An accountant, first an HVAC firm & then Bliss Communications, both in Janesville
7. *Favorite food:* I'm an omnivore, so I like a lot of things, but I really, really hate goat cheese!
8. *Hobbies:* Gardening, reading, games, as well as most outdoor activities
9. *Favorite sports to watch:* As a lifelong WI resident, I'm a big Packers & Badgers fan; favorite is UW Men's Basketball, & we have been season ticket holders since the early 2000's; UW Women's Volleyball team – too bad I wasn't smart enough to buy season tickets before they got so good!
10. *Favorite exercise/outdoor activities:* Pickleball, biking, & especially distance hiking
11. *Favorite TV/streaming shows:* Old favorites – The Sopranos, The West Wing; New favorites – The Gilded Age, The Last of Us
12. *Favorite podcast:* Fresh Air on NPR
13. *Favorite places to travel:* I've been fortunate to have traveled all over the world; I especially loved New Zealand and many places in France & Italy; & backpacking the Grand Canyon
14. *Favorite authors, and/or genre:* Elizabeth Stout, William Kent Krueger, & Margaret Atwood; I read broadly & volunteer at the Wisconsin Book Festival; my favorite genre is literary fiction
15. *A perfect day for me:* A long hike to someplace with an amazing view, a long hot shower, some red wine & dinner outside, preferably on the water or in a pasture
16. *Favorite quote/words of wisdom/advice:* This is one I ask myself every December 31: - Tell me, what do you plan to do with your one wild & precious life? ~ Mary Oliver  
I guarantee whatever the answer is, Who's New has an Interest Group for it!

**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.**

### Member Photo Gallery



Walkie Talkie



Oregon Mah Jongg



Garden Group Wreath Making

**Get to Know  
a Member****Who's New  
~Isms****Introducing: Barb Foster ~Isms**

1. *Member of WN: 11 years*
2. *Interest Groups: Pickleball, Coed Pickleball, Couples Euchre, Biking, Coed Biking, Walking, Golf, and Hand & Foot*
3. *Favorite part of WN: Meeting new friends with similar interests, who want to form deeper relationships, & have fun.*
4. *WN leadership/volunteer position(s): Luncheon Committee Chair for 6+ years, guiding it through the transition from mail-in registration to website registration & through Covid; IG Leader for Outdoor Ladies & Coed Pickleball.*
5. *Family: Moved to Madison from southwestern Michigan after retiring to be closer to our son, daughter-in-law & newborn grandson. Never doubted how great it would be to live close & be able to frequently interact. I also have a son & daughter-in-law in Las Vegas.*
6. *Career or work experience: I was an elementary teacher & taught in the following states: Michigan, Texas, & New Hampshire. I also did various volunteer activities, the most meaningful being a Hospice client care volunteer*
7. *Hobbies: I love everything connected to the outdoors, including gardening & sporty things (which I 'try').*
8. *Favorite restaurants: Downtown places, The Union Terrace, & music venues*
9. *Favorite TV/streaming shows: Anything junky, home-related, and/or funny*
10. *Favorite podcasts: Anything about health & fitness; how things are run & done*
11. *Favorite sports teams: Michigan Wolverines, Green Bay Packers, & Buffalo Bills*
12. *Favorite places to travel: A 102-year old cottage in northern Wisconsin that I love going to; northern Michigan; visiting family; snow-birding in Estero, FL; & so many simple pleasures to visit right around us*
13. *A perfect day for me: Being with family or friends, doing something active, & lots of laughing*
14. *Favorite quote/words of wisdom/advice: Don't sweat the small stuff, Love is all you need, & the Golden Rule*

**Member Photo Gallery****Holiday Bazaar**