

Who's New in Madison

Where New Faces Become Old Friends

Please Take Note

Visit our member website at:

www.whosnew.org

Visit our public website is:

www.whosnew.org

Find us on Facebook at:
Who's New in Madison



Table of Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| President's Corner..... | 1 |
| Luncheon Information..... | 2 |
| Service Project..... | 4 & 5 |
| Phillip Thomas story..... | 5, 7, 8 |
| Interest Group News..... | 6 |
| New Members..... | 6 |
| Not Just Wine & Cheese..... | 6 |
| Board Members..... | 9 |

Please contact the editor with
any questions or concerns
regarding the newsletter.
Liz Freitick - efreitick@gmail.com,
call 438-2988.

President's Corner

Hello to all and Happy New Year!! Our membership is again dispersed geographically this winter, with some of you wintering in a warm climate during our Wisconsin winter. And many of you travel to somewhere warm for a few weeks/month, just to break up the Wisconsin winter. And many of you stay right here in our Wisconsin "winter-wonderland", enjoying all of the outdoor activities that come with the season (although at this writing, we have yet to have any snow). No matter where you are while you read this edition of the WNIM newsletter, I hope that your coffee mug is steamy, your feet are warm and your heart is full.

There are many opportunities to keep you busy and active in Who's New during the remainder of January and all of February. Attend our monthly Wine and Cheese (January 18 hosted by Dawn Curatolo's and February 15 hosted by Joanie Bachhuber and Liz Freitick). It's a great way to meet new people and catch up with those you know. Our monthly lunch will be held on February 14 for our program on The Clean Lakes Alliance. Sign up on our website in the next week!! Take a hike/snowshoe with one of our three hiking groups, join a Maj group, a book club or a Make New Friends coffee. All of these and all of our Interest groups can be explored and/or signed up for on our website under "Interest Groups". And if you have an outing or a place to visit and want some company to join you, sign up for our "Who Wants to Go" Interest group, write up a small description and it will be sent out to other IG members inviting them to join in.

Paula Primm is leading our nominating committee for our 2019/2020 Board. If you have an interest in serving on a committee, please let me or Paula know. Remember,

(Continued on page 3)

Reservation deadline is midnight Monday, February 4, 2019
Go to <https://whosnew.org> to register
Guests limited to 70

February Luncheon Program

At the February luncheon, we are excited to welcome James Tye, Executive Director of the Clean Lakes Alliance. After the record-setting rains and flooding of 2018, this is a very timely and important program for all of us.

The Clean Lakes Alliance is a not-for-profit organization devoted to improving the water quality of the lakes, streams, and wetlands of the Yahara River Watershed. You may recognize them as the organizer of the Frozen Assets Festival on Lake Mendota, which takes place February 1-3, 2019.

Their goal is to raise community awareness of the issues facing the watershed, advocate for the welfare of our lakes, and help procure the necessary funding to clean and protect these waterways.

They work closely with state, county and local government agencies, waterway user groups, lakefront property owners, and community nonprofits to serve as both a positive voice for the promotion of our cherished lakes and a fundraising vehicle for achieving those ends.

James has been recognized for his significant community achievement and leadership in many ways, including as one of In Business Magazine's 25 Most Influential People of 2015; as Yahara Lakes Association's Person of the Year in 2016; and one of Madison Magazine's One's to Watch in 2016.



We hope you can join us at Buck and Honey's in Sun Prairie on February 14th.



February Luncheon

February 14, 2019

11:00 AM Cocktails,
12:00 Noon Luncheon

Buck and Honey's
804 Liberty Blvd
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Italian Salad

Florentine quiche (vegetarian)
Homemade quiche with spinach,
provolone cheese and mushrooms
served with fresh fruit \$21

Spanky's Meatloaf

Homemade meatloaf drizzled with
a veal glaze over a bed of garlic
mashed potatoes and
grilled vegetables \$21

Meatloaf

Meatloaf with garlic
mashed potato, caramelized onion-
stout gravy, braised spinach,
roasted tomato salsa \$21

Gluten-free Smothered Chicken

BBQ sauce, Provolone cheese,
mushrooms, onion and garlic
served over grilled chicken breast
Roasted red potatoes \$21

Dessert

Mini fudge brownie with ice cream
Coffee and tea is Included.

we are an allvolunteer organization that relies on our membership to keep Who's New an active social group. I am so thankful for our current Board members, committee leads and committee members, as well as Interest Group leaders who are doing such a great job!! On behalf of our membership, many thanks to all of you!

And my Wish to All of You in 2019:

Comfort on difficult days, smiles when sadness intrudes, rainbows to follow the clouds, laughter to kiss your lips, sunsets to warm your heart, hugs when spirits sag, beauty for your eyes to see, friendships to brighten your being, faith so that you can believe, confidence for when you doubt, courage to know yourself, patience to accept the truth and LOVE to complete your life.

Anonymous

My Best to all....Kathy Nelson

Meeting Highlights and Announcements

January Luncheon and Program

- 52 members and 2 guests enjoyed our monthly luncheon at Great Dane East on Thursday, January 10.
- Our speakers and program entertained us with a history and current happenings on The Madison Roller Derby. What athletes!!
- Sign up for the February 14th luncheon this month, by going to our website and enjoy a mid winter lunch and program with fellow WNIM members.

If you'd like to submit a sentence, a paragraph(s) or an article on "What WNIM means to you" for publishing in future WNIM newsletter, please send them to: Liz Freitick - efreitick@gmail.com or Kathy Nelson - katnels59@gmail.com



Mark your Calendar for the
4th Annual MahJong Trounament

April 24th at the Eastside Club
Watch for more details in the March newsletter.

It will once again support our MUMS service project.

Recycle

Bring your used, empty ink cartridges to the luncheons. One of the many deserving organizations the service committee researched this year was Mindset, Inc. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to building healthier minds and more fulfilled lives. They offer free mental wellness education, tools and resources to all Dane County residents. One source of funding for them comes from recycling old ink cartridges. They will accept any brands and sizes of empty inkjet or toner cartridges. Questions? Contact Service Project chair/committee members.



Madison-Area Urban Ministry

Sweetheart Treats from Just Bakery!

Just Bakery has just the right gift for you and your loved ones! You can order this 9" cookie (\$15) (shown) or a brownie (\$20) for Valentine's Day!

- Orders will be accepted until Monday, February 11th.
- Deliveries are \$5 each (can be for multiple orders, unless on opposite sides of town).
- Call 608.598.0420 to place an order or order on-line at: www.justbakerymadison.org
- To pick up baked goods, visit their storefront at:
1704 Theirer Road
Madison, WI 53704
Monday & Wednesday: 7-9 am & 4-6 pm
Saturday: 8 am - 2 pm



Thank YOU!

- To all our members, for the wonderful items you donated for the November kitchen shower for Healing House. Wow, the amount and quality of the small appliances, cooking items, linens, dishes, etc. were, once again, beyond amazing!
- To all our members, for all the beautiful Giving Tree gifts you purchased for the children of MUM's Mentoring Connection. Our organization donated 100 gifts to help make the holidays a little brighter!
- To all our members for the money raised at the December luncheon from the sale of note cards, floral arrangements, toffee, a holiday quilt, and a baby blanket totaling just over \$800! This money goes directly to Healing House. Also, thank you to the very special Who's New members for sharing their talents and donating their work for us to sell.
- To all our members, for your bakery purchases from Just Bakery at our December luncheon. We helped raise \$700 the day of, plus \$500 in pre-order sales, for a total of \$1200! All of the money raised is reinvested in the training program. We hope to bring back Just Bakery products at a spring luncheon!



(Continued on page 5)

Page 4

February Luncheon Donations

Please help future clients at The Healing House with personal care items (men, women, & children) for our February donations.

Suggested items (all should be new), but not limited to:

- Deodorant
- Skin/facial care wash, moisturizer
- Shampoo*
- Conditioner*
- Hair relaxer*
- Make-up*
- Hair accessories (headbands, bobby pins, barrettes, pony tail holders, etc.)
- Shower caps
- Combs, brushes
- Lotions
- Body wash
- Caddies to carry shower/bath items
- Tampons, sanitary napkins
- Chapstick, lipstick
- Nail polish, files, polish remover
- Flip flops
- Slippers, socks
- Hand sanitizer
- Kleenex (small packets)
- Shaving cream
- Razors
- Cologne or perfume



* African American products are also needed.

Please note: there is NO need for toothbrushes or toothpaste.

Your Service Project Committee,

Diane Wiersema, Sue Ciurczak, Patti Bavlka, Nicola Davis, & Genevieve Murtaugh

Meet Phillip Thomas from Just Bakery

Phillip worked at our December luncheon, selling delicious bakery to our members!

Tell me a little about who you are. Where were you born/where did you grow up? Family? Interests/hobbies? Education?

Okay, well my name is Phillip Thomas. I am 55 years old and was born in Chicago. I was raised in a very close-knit, religious family. I have six wonderful daughters. I'm married. And, I love my



job! My hobby is my job. I love where I work. Just Bakery has shown me a new path in life so that I won't have to look for-

From an interview by Diane Wiersema

ward to destruction. I have hope. I can see the light now.

So you were born and raised in Chicago. Did you live anywhere else? What brought you to Madison?

I moved to Detroit and lived there for about 10 or 12 years. I moved back to Chicago. What brought me to Madison was my brothers started going back and forth from Chicago to Madison and one day, I just came to visit. Through

(Continued on page 7)

Interest Groups

If you would like to start a new group or have an idea for a new group, please let me know (paulalprimm@gmail.com or 404 229-7455). We have over 60 current groups, but there is always room for more. Chances are very good that if you have an interest, other members will, too!

One and Done

One and Done is one of the interest groups which promotes socializing while exercising throughout the year. The picture was taken by Jennifer Allen at a pre-Thanksgiving gathering of the group enjoying beverages after a walk. The group meets once a week (Thursday afternoons from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.) and walks for an hour. A weekly email is sent notifying the group where we will walk. Now that it is winter, we walk the Southwest Bike Path which is regularly plowed and walkable. The current group leaders are Barb Foster and Peg O'Donoghue. We would love to identify someone who would lead a group of walkers on the East side. Come join us and enjoy the great outdoors!"



Who's New In Madison

Not Just Wine & Cheese

Friday, February 15, 7:00 PM -9:30 PM

Hosted by Joan Bachhuber & Liz Freitick
7528 E Hampstead Court
Middleton, WI 53562

RSVP: Joanie joanieb@tds.net, 920-606-3806
Liz efreitick@gmail.com, 439-2988

Not Just Wine & Cheese is a monthly social event for all members. Singles, couples, everyone is welcome. Please bring an appetizer/dessert to share and your own beverages. We look forward to seeing you.

Welcome New Members to WNIM

Diane Randall
Sandy Engel

Trudy Callaghan
Brenda Detert

Ann Cooper
Patricia Iaccarino

✓ Check website directory for more details on new members.

other circumstances, I had to get out of Chicago. I just had to go - I didn't think I was going to live too long down there. It was time for me to go, so I landed in Madison. I've been in Madison for 19 years.

What is your job at Just Bakery? Have you had other jobs there? How long have your worked at the bakery?

What do you like about working at Just Bakery?

My job at Just Bakery is first, I'm a baker - that's what I really like doing. I'm a delivery driver, instructor, sales associate, and speaker. I wear a lot of hats around the bakery. I've been at Just Bakery before it even had a name. I was among the first graduates and that was in 2013. At the end of 2013, they hired me. One of the things I like about working at Just Bakery is I'm able to watch Just Bakery grow and being a part of something that is so wonderful for the community; something that's tangible that I am a part of. I just love being a part of something that makes a difference. I've never been a part of something positive that makes such a difference to me and the people around me, to my peers. And knowing people, my peers, take an interest in me about my journey. They

ask me how did you get out of this, how did you get into that? It kind of means a lot. It means the world to me that I was able to escape a life of crime, and I didn't have to die to do it.

How did you come to work at Just Bakery?

I heard of MUM, Madison Urban Ministry, first when I was in prison. The prison was having a job fair, and MUM was there. So I'm walking around the fair, and I'm listening to people. I was walking past someone from MUM; they were telling somebody, if you give me six months, MUM will change your life. And I heard that, and I just kept walking - he wasn't talking to me. So the next time, I thought about MUM, I was out of jail, prison, and my agent asked me if I ever heard of it. I was like, yeah, so he suggested I check it out. So I did. I joined one of the men's support group called Phoenix Initiative. John Miller was the facilitator at the time and he introduced me to Just Bakery. He asked who wants to be a part of the bakery program. At first, I didn't want to. He said, come on man, if it's nothing, it's something to do, so I just signed up. That was five years ago, and here I am.

What is your past work history?

Oh, sure. I've always had a job. I was raised with "if you don't work, you don't eat." So, I've always had a job. From the age of 11 years old all the way until my mid-20s, I was a plumber. My uncle was a plumbing contractor. I didn't want to go to school, so he came and got me, so I learned the trade. After that, I was the manager at a car wash and doing plumbing work. I did factory work; I worked at an animal shelter while I was in prison. I did factory work, odds and ends, nothing like a career. But, I've always had a job.

You served time in prison. Tell me about that or as much as you're comfortable sharing.

Sure. I was convicted of first-degree reckless homicide. That's when you sell drugs to someone and they overdose. So I was convicted of that, and I was sentenced to 17 years, five of those were initial incarceration. The rest was probation. So, while I was in prison, I decided to get my act together. I didn't just want to sit around 'cause I'm just not that type of person. So, I got my high school diploma, and I took some computer stuff. Everything they had to offer, I became available for it, as well as working in the prison. Any prison, because they shifted me around,

everywhere I went I tried to get a job or tried to do some classes or whatever. I was the head chef at the last prison I was in. When I got out of prison, I got out with the proper identification, high school diploma, I don't know how many certificates. I think prison kinda saved my life. Had I not went to prison, I probably would be dead.

Where you in a Wisconsin prison?
Yes, never anywhere else. I had never been to jail overnight until I was 38-years old. I was in Madison, visiting, and the car I was in was stolen. I had been driving the car for two or three months and didn't even know it. So the people came and got the car, and they didn't press charges. That was my first time in prison, jail, over night. Ever since that time, I had been getting into trouble. Over and over and over. Drugs, drugs, drugs, and finally, landed me in prison.

You were a user...? And you also, sold? Yes.

What was it like in prison?

When were you released?

I was released in March 2010. Prison wasn't like I thought. It wasn't all whites against blacks, Mexicans or you gotta have a knife and gang banging. Wisconsin prisons are not like that. It was a place where you can actually better yourself, if that's what you desire. And, I wanted to better myself. So, prison wasn't

the experience that I wanted, but the experience I got bettered me. I was better, way better than when I went in.

What are your plans or hopes for the future?

My plans for the future, I really don't have anything nailed down. All I want is to just be able to go home, every night, to just go home. That's all I want. I've lived a really sketchy life. People dying, getting killed, and drugs, and all kinds of tragedy, all around me, until I decided to get my life together. So, just being able to go home to my favorite place with my favorite person is all I want for my future. I got a nice job; I'm able to save money. That's all I want to do is go home.

Is there anything else you want our members to know about you?

Yes. My past was one of any drug dealing person. I was a drug user, and I sold drugs to support myself and my habit. But that does not define the guy who I am. I am no longer into that. If I had never told you this about me, you would never know. So, just try not to judge folks unless you know who they are.

Are there any suggestions or ideas you would like to share about the criminal justice system? Restorative justice?

Our criminal justice department is a revolving door. Once you are in, you are in.

I have never been in trouble until I came to Wisconsin, into this prison system. I've been on probation going on 20 years. If this system had a Just Bakery, if they promoted stuff like this, it would be less recidivism.

What would have helped you, maybe some intervention that would've helped you to NOT go into prison?

The one thing that helped me get to prison is the opioid thing. If there was an easier way to help people to battle this opioid stuff, I guarantee a lot of people wouldn't be in prison.

Any words of advice?

My words of advice are that there is a way out. If you are stuck in a rut, there is a way out. You do not have to do what you're doing. There's always a way out. You just have to look for it.

Phillip had one more thing he wanted to share, and that was to tell us about Carmella Glenn, Program Coordinator for Just Bakery.

The majority of the success for this bakery comes from Carmella. She just makes the place go. I don't know where this place would be without her. She is very smart and she makes stuff happen. She's tough when she has to be. I can't say enough about her. I know one thing if not for her, we wouldn't be where we are.

What does the Who's New Board of Directors talk about each month?

You can find out by reading the minutes of our board meetings, which are available on our website. Use the Quick Menu to find the “Board Minutes” tab; or from the Members Homepage, scroll down to Board Meeting Minutes in the Club Information section. Your WN Board members welcome your input and ideas on any of the matters that we discuss – contact any of us to let us know your thoughts. There was not a Board meeting in the month of January.

Who's New Board Members 2018 - 2019

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If you have a change of address, email or phone number, please update your information on the website. Go to www.whosnew.org, click on *My Account* box and then go to *Account Details* to edit.