

# Who's New in Madison

Where New Faces Become Old Friends

## Please Take Note

Visit our member website at:

[www.whosnew.org](http://www.whosnew.org)

Visit our public website is:

[www.whosnew.org](http://www.whosnew.org)

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Who's New in Madison



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Please contact the editors with any questions or concerns regarding the newsletter.

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[whosnew.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:whosnew.newsletter@gmail.com)

## *President's Corner*

Anne Brasier

Just as I suspected, one of the most challenging parts of being president of Who's New for me is writing a monthly column with pertinent insights. That's saying something with all the other pivots we have made in this virtual year of interacting. I do want to thank my hard working board that has made this transformation a little easier.

Due to newsletter deadlines, as I write this we still don't know the outcome of the presidential election, an event that has added divisiveness to our world. Although by the end of October we have had our first snow fall, many snow birds are already heading south and the shorter days drive home that winter is coming.

Let's hope as the December solstice passes and the New Year begins that as a country we can begin to heal from both the pandemic and the election. And start counting the increasing minutes of longer days! A nice winter walk with sun glistening off the snow helps my sun-driven spirit immensely.

I'm one of those who still sends snail mail holiday greetings; it is an affirming activity for me to remind myself of my supportive networks. We have lived and traveled all over the United States, and I have dear friends that I keep in touch with from each stop.

I'm also reaching the stage in life where the mailing list is becoming shorter as family and loved ones pass away. This makes it even more important to remind them that even though we no longer live near them, they are an important part of our lives.

Be sure to reach out to your Who's New family and let them know you appreciate the uniqueness they bring to your life.

(Continued on page 2)

*(President's Corner continued from page 1)*

Open space in your circles to include new members. We need a community in the dark days of winter in the North and this time of physical distancing.

December's virtual luncheon features the group Gin, Chocolate and Bottle Rockets. The three members will talk of their personal journeys to discover perfect harmony and will teach us how to implement the three components - at work, at home and within ourselves - so we can compose a life we love. They will play some uplifting and empowering music. I hope you will be able join us on December 10.

In January, the Nominating Committee will begin its search for volunteers to serve as officers, committee chairs, and committee members for our 2021/2022 club year. Annie Cooper and I invite you to step forward as a volunteer. Please email Annie or myself if you would like to volunteer. If you are contacted by a member of the Nominating Committee, please say "Yes, I'll help!"

Celebrate your festivals and traditions be they Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or Pagan rebirth. Embrace your family virtually if necessary and in person if you are able.

Happy Holidays!

Anne Brasier

## *December Virtual Luncheon*



Shawndell Marks, Jen Farley, and Beth Kille are friends, band mates and business partners who make up the popular Madison-based trio "Gin, Chocolate & Bottle Rockets". Well known for their beautiful singing and song-writing abilities, they are also making a name for themselves taking their voices beyond the music stage. They have helped girls and women find their inner rock stars in their Girls and Ladies Rock Camps and now even the non-musical among us can benefit from their teachings.

Through their work and life-long learning, they have discovered three components of perfect harmony and will teach us how to implement them - at work, at home and within ourselves - so we can compose a life we love.

They will share their "Living in Harmony" presentation at the Who's New in Madison December 10th Luncheon from 12pm-1pm. We will also hear a few of their songs that emphasize their message.

Watch your email for your SignUp Genius invite to the December luncheon.



## Service Project News - December Update

*The WN Service Committee has wonderful fundraising news to report!*

### ***Fall Walk Update***

***Thank you for participating in our first fundraiser of the year!***



*Annie Cooper and her granddaughter enjoying a Fall Walk hike*



*Shown in the pictures are the Thursday afternoon One and Done walkers: Peg O'D, Sue Ciurczak, Joanie Bachhuber, Paula Primm, Ann Cooper, Anne Brasier, Colleen Campbell, Annie Cooper, Lydia Weber, Joy Cardin*

The 2020 Fall Walk raised \$3,455 for Madison Reading Project! 48 members participated in the Fall Walk and one of the walking groups even arranged a special day to support the fundraiser! We love it! The Service Committee is very grateful to all who supported a “different” Fall Walk this year. Your willingness to support MRP is heartwarming!

### **October's Wish List Donations - Thank you for your generosity!**

The October wish list donations included books on diversity issues for area educators. WN members donated 52 books with an estimated value of over \$400! In addition, over \$150.00 worth of scissors, post it note pads, packaging tape and other office items were donated! If you donated books to MRP using their online links, they did receive your books. It worked!

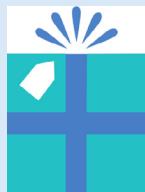
## Service Project **Holiday** News

### *A Message From Your Service Committee*

The Service Committee thanks all who have contributed to our fundraisers to support the work of Madison Reading Project.

We appreciate your willingness to keep these traditions going.

Have a safe, healthy, and peaceful holiday season.



### *2020 Holiday Bazaar*

*All gifts are made by WN members for holiday gift giving!*

Check out the November newsletter or the link on the Service Project page of the WN website for details. All proceeds will benefit Madison Reading Project. We are extending the order date to 11/20. Let's start shopping!

- The WN “Hat Ladies” are making their debut at our Holiday Bazaar with their colorful, warm polar fleece hats that you help design. You pick the colors and they make the hat for you. These hats will make great gifts for family and friends of all ages.
- Jennifer Allen’s popular photo notecards are offered in 10 themed sets with 5 different cards in each set. These beautiful notecards will delight anyone on your list. FYI, Jennifer wants you to know that if she runs out of a particular photo, she will replace it with a similar photo.
- Check out the WN Facebook page for fun gift ideas using both Jennifer’s notecards and the Hat Ladies’s polar fleece hats. You can use these suggestions to create your own special gifts.
- Click [here](#) to shop the Holiday Bazaar.

## Service Project **Holiday News** continued

### ***Mark Your Calendar***

***Our annual Giving Tree Fundraiser is postponed until February 2021. It is a WN member favorite so we are planning something special! Details coming soon.***

***We appreciate your understanding and it will be a wonderful opportunity to promote a love of books.***

However, if you would still like to donate books for the children to enjoy over the holidays, Madison Reading Project provided us with a list of “most wanted” books. Most of these are series books that the kids like to collect and read.

You can buy these books online and have them sent directly to MRP - just let them know they are from a WN member. Then let one of the Service Committee members know for our records.

If you want to shop local, drop off the books at one of the following member’s homes and we will take to MRP. A book bin will be on their front porches. Email them to let them know when you’re coming and make your dropoff by 12/16/20. Thank you.

**East Side:** Patti Bavlka: 640 Eddington Dr. Sun Prairie 53590 pbavlka@gmail.com

**West Side:** Stephanie Kissel: 17 Highgate Circle, Madison 53717 shkiss46@gmail.com

Carol Ottenstein: 26 Oxwood Circle, Madison 53717 caottenstein@gmail.com

Here are some favorite books suggested by MRP and are on their “most wanted” book list.

**Dave Pilkey: Dog Man, Captain Underpants, Dragon Might Robot**

Big Nate: series by Lincoln Peirce

**Dork Diaries by Rachel Renee Russell**

Graphic Novels for children and youth including: Star Wars books, Disney character books, and any of the Sesame Street books

**Bear Books by Karma Wilson**

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

**Magic Treehouse series by Mary Pope Osbourne**

Wings of Fire series by Tui T. Sutherland

**Raina Telgemeier author of Ghosts, Guts, Smile, Drama, Sisters series books**

Jason Reynolds: Ghosts

**Pete the Cat is a popular picture book series**

Bear Books by author Todd Parr is another picture book series.

**Bad Kitty is a series by a Nick Bruel**

## Interest Group News

It could be a long winter with the Pandemic under way. Now might be the time to check into some of our IG's that have found ways to meet safely.

**Wednesday Hikers** is a group that meets every Wednesday morning, weather permitting, for a 5-6 mile hike at locations throughout the Madison area. They hike at a 3 to 3.5 mile per hour pace. During the winter, provided we have enough snow, the group goes snowshoeing. Start times vary depending on weather and starting location. *The Wednesday Hikers recently decided to stop meeting until it is safer to gather in groups.*

**Book Clubs:** Tuck in with a good book this winter and join friends via a Zoom monthly meetings to chat about it. There are currently 2 different Nonfiction Book Groups are open to new members.

- Nonfiction Book Group I, contact: Jan Blakeslee, [janhb39@gmail.com](mailto:janhb39@gmail.com)
- Nonfiction Book Group II, contact: Kathleen Satut, [ksatut@gmail.com](mailto:ksatut@gmail.com) or Anne Spurgeon, [anne@spurgeonwoods.com](mailto:anne@spurgeonwoods.com)

**Memoir Writing** is writing group that meets once a month (currently via Zoom). This group is always open to new members and attendance is flexible. Contact Marcia Bradley, [marcydb@me.com](mailto:marcydb@me.com) for further info on meeting times and dates.

To sign up for any of these interest groups please go to the website and register there.

<https://whosnew.org>

If you would like to start a new group now or in the near future, please contact Annie Cooper at [amm1117@gmail.com](mailto:amm1117@gmail.com). These small interest groups are a wonderful way to make connections and build friendships.

**Message to IG Leaders:** Please contact me (Annie Cooper at [amm1114@gmail.com](mailto:amm1114@gmail.com)) and let me know if anything has changed with your group. For example: are you now meeting again in some way, does your group have any interest in using our WNIM Zoom Business account for your meetings, do you want to update or change your IG web page description?

I would like to encourage our members to consider attending a winter coronavirus Zoom group meeting or luncheon. We all know that Zoom meetings are a distant second place to meeting in person, but here we are. Our safety and health are paramount, but we can still grow and enjoy friendships.

A couple of things to think about:

“Don’t wait for things to be perfect to be a friend” and “Sometimes friendships take effort”. Text a friend and let them know you’ve been thinking about them.

Annie Cooper

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## 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.

### Who's New Board Members 2020-2021

#### Executive Board

**President**

Anne Brasier 409-771-5244  
Abrasier2@gmail.com

**Vice President**

Anne Cooper, 507-458-4256  
amm1114@gmail.com

**Secretary**

Sue Simon, 819-6235  
suesmn@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Barbara White 402 203-9440  
Blwhite2@me.com

#### Committee Members

**Hostess**

Mary Knight, 715-379-4203  
rmmbknight@gmail.com

**Committee:**

Cathy Broan, Lisa Kass, Sue Madson, Chris Olejniczak, Hedy Stieber, Chari Wood

**New Member Coffee/Cocktail**

Kerry Jewison, 692-0939  
Jewison.k@gmail.com

Melody Panek, 622-5550  
mpanek00@msn.com

**Committee:**

Pam Wade, Ann Crabb, Eleanor Jurkowski, Dottie Schoenke, Janet Pawelski

**Archives**

Vacant

**Luncheons**

Judy White, 714-267-2160  
Jawhite1106@gmail.com

Barbara Foster, 608-203-8010  
foster8434@prodigy.net

**Committee:**

Kate Heling, Merriel Kruse, Kathy Zastrow, Barb Nuti, Sue Friedman

**Membership/Directory**

Susan Cambria, 603-714-1411  
susancambria@gmail.com

**Committee:**

Diane Galarneau

**Newsletter**

Liz Freitick, 438-2988  
whosnew.newsletter@gmail.com

Gail Green, 509-6214

whosnew.newsletter@gmail.com

**Not Just Wine & Cheese**

Cathy Broan, 215-3379  
Cbroan@gmail.com

**Programs**

Diane Wiersema 608 837-3080  
dutch5@charter.net

**Committee:**

Volunteers needed

**Website:**

Mary Lindstrom, 217-5044  
mary.jth@gmail.com

Anne Spurgeon, 251-3837  
anne@spurgeonwoods.com

**Service Project**

Stephanie Kissel, 395-4939  
shkiss46@gmail.com

**Committee:**

Patti Bavlka, Martha Main, Carol Ottenstein, Nancy Daly, Barbara Fahey

**Past President**

Paula Primm, 404-229-7455  
paulalprimm@gmail.com

**Note for members:**

If you have a change of address, email or phone number, please update your information on the website.

Go to—

- [www.whosnew.org](http://www.whosnew.org),
- click on *My Account* box
- then go to *Account Details* to edit.