

Who's New in Madison

Where New Faces Become Old Friends

Please Take Note

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www.whosnew.org

Visit our public website is:

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.

Liz Freitick or Gail Green
whosnew.newsletter@gmail.com

President's Corner

Paula Primm

When I first moved to Madison, one of my Who's New friends explained to me that Wisconsin has only two seasons, winter and construction season. Funny, but true. As soon as the ice melts and the trucks scrub the sand and grit off the roads, the orange barrels and detour signs appear. We transition from slow traffic due to snow and ice to slow traffic due to road construction. I observed this right outside my condo window in 2018. We had what appeared to be an early spring. The ground thawed, and construction crews descended upon my downtown neighborhood for some long-planned road and infrastructure repairs. I thought spring had truly arrived. Construction season certainly had. Two weeks later, on April 15, four inches of snow fell overnight, covering the heavy equipment and orange cones in a blanket of white. When seasons collide!

That was the moment I realized that spring in Wisconsin is not a distinct event but a process. You don't wake up one morning to a riot of flowers and warmer temperatures that last until fall. That's how it happens in New Orleans where I grew up. Spring comes early and goes by fast. Then the city settles into another hot and humid summer with every afternoon downpours that make the roads and sidewalks steam. I prefer a Midwestern spring, as erratic as it can be.

The process of spring in Wisconsin is not steady or linear. Spring moves along in fits and starts, one step forward and two steps back. As I write this column at the end of February with my deadline looming, we've had a February thaw with temps in the 50's, followed by a cold front that didn't bring any more snow but pushed all of the moisture away, leaving us with clear blue skies. The days have gotten noticeably longer. Most of the snow has melted. Everyone is talking about spring. Maybe it will be an early spring, maybe that was the last of the snow (even I laughed at that one!), spring will be here soon. Not that soon!

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I've lived here long enough to know that Spring will come when she is good and ready. She'll stop by for a few days or even a week or two. The lakes will begin to thaw. The sand hill cranes will return as soon as they spot the newly opened water. The hyacinths, crocuses, and snowdrops will push their way out of the earth. Then Spring will retreat south, and Winter will pop back by for a return visit. The lakes will briefly refreeze, creating ice shoves that look like modern art. By the time Spring comes back and promises to stay until the glorious arrival of Summer, we are all suspicious. Can we really bring out the patio furniture and the potted plants? Can I move the snow boots to the top of the closet and bring down the sandals? The approach and passing of Spring is exhausting, but when she really gets here and decides to stay, oh my goodness, what a celebration we have!

April is presidential primary month in Wisconsin, but it is full-on election month for Who's New in Madison. We were set to vote in person for our proposed slate of officers for 2020/2021 at the luncheon on April 9th. The luncheon has been cancelled due to health concerns, so you can't vote in person. **You can vote by email or by mail.** We need a quorum of 20% of our membership, 121 votes by our latest member count, to elect our officers. Please do your part! You will find the ballot, bios of each candidate, and voting instructions in this newsletter. You will be impressed by the qualifications of the candidates: Anne Brasier (President), Annie Cooper (Vice-president), Barbara White (Treasurer), and Sue Simon (Secretary). Many thanks to them for volunteering to serve!

I was sorry to miss the February luncheon, but I heard positive reviews. The attendees all enjoyed the fajita buffet and brought home both leftover food and food for thought from Veronica Rueckert's talk on her book. *Outspoken: Why Women's Voices Get Silenced and How to Set Them Free*. I was with you in spirit as I toasted Who's New with a margarita in the beach in Mexico on my all-too-brief winter getaway. But spring is coming, right?

The luncheon and Not Just Wine & Cheese have been cancelled for the month of April. The Mah Jongg Tournament has also been cancelled. We will evaluate the situation in the next few weeks and make a decision about May events.

Don't forget to vote, and stay well!

Your Prez,

Paula Primm

WNIM Mah Jongg Tournament

As most of you already know, the 2020 Maj Jongg fundraiser has been cancelled. Those of you that have registered and sent in checks for registration, those checks have been held and NOT been deposited. Rather than incur costs to send those back, **we will shred those checks and you can delete them from your check register**. Many thanks to those who started the planning process and those who registered. We may look at something in the fall when all of us are back to normal activities.

Carole Schaefer and Kathy Nelson



Election of Officers for the WNIM 2020-2021 Board

The Who's New by-laws require us to nominate and vote for new officers every spring. The quorum required is 20% of our membership. You need only to vote YES or NO for the entire slate. **There are 2 ways to vote.** If you have any questions, please email Betty Cohen at wnim.secretary@gmail.com.

- 1. EMAIL** your vote before April 9th to: Betty Cohen at wnim.secretary@gmail.com. To email your vote, click on the above email. In the body of email type YES or NO and print your name.
- 2. MAIL** this proxy ballot before April 9th to: Betty Cohen, 2802 Arbor Drive #2, Madison, WI 53711.

Slate of Officers

President - Anne Brasier, member since April 2018, from Galveston, TX. Served as Vice President for the past year. WN interests include Books and Bites, Biking, Hiking, Snowshoeing, Current Events, One and Done, Coffee, and luncheons. Served as the executive director of a \$50M family foundation in Galveston, currently working part-time at the Middleton Public Library. 5-time member of Team USA in Sprint triathlon.

Vice-President - Annie Cooper, member since February 2019, moved here with her husband, Jeff, from Winona, MN. WN interest groups include, Biking, One and Done, Couples Dining, luncheons and Diversity Group. Outside of WN, during tax season she volunteers with the IRS VITA program and also as a financial coach through the UW Extension. She is retired from a career as a Personal Financial Planner.

Secretary - Sue Simon, member since 2016 from FL, formerly from WI. WN interest groups include Couples Night Out, Lunch Adventures, and Marathon Bridge. Outside of WN, she serves as Co-Registrar of Black Hawk Community Gardens, Co-Chairs a School Supply Drive and chairs a Cash Raffle for her church.

Treasurer - Barbara White, Member since 2018, from Minneapolis, MN and Omaha, NE. WNIM interests include Women's Bicycling, Lunch Bunch, and Movies. Retired from career in information technology. She and her dog Samson volunteer as a Therapy Team. She practices yoga and serves as Director & Treasurer for a recreational corporation.

Proxy Ballot for Who's New In Madison Election of Officers 2020-2021

I vote **YES** for the slate of officers below _____ I vote **NO** for the slate of officers below _____

President – Anne Brasier
Secretary – Sue Simon

Vice President – Annie Cooper
Treasurer – Barbara White

Please vote by
PROXY BALLOT BEFORE APRIL 9TH

Signed: _____ Please print your name: _____



April News From The Service Committee

The Service Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the many WN members who have donated to the monthly “wish list” collections for Maydm. Nonprofit organizations like Maydm appreciate every generous donation; whether it is stamps, envelopes, cleaning products, micro:bit kits, snacks, books, or Kleenex, as these smaller donations allow them to concentrate on providing more girls and students of color with the opportunity to learn more about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and diversify the technology workforce! Thank you!

May 14 Luncheon News and Final Fundraiser event - a special “thank you” to WN members from the Service Committee

At our May luncheon at Olbrich Gardens, the Service Committee will offer our final “thanks to you” fundraiser to benefit Maydm.

- To show our appreciation and to thank our members for their generosity this past year, the Service Committee will provide a yummy “made by us” treat bag for each donation to Maydm!
- We are also planning some special surprises! More details in next month’s newsletter.
- Winnie Karanja, Founding Executive Director of Maydm, will be the guest speaker at the luncheon providing an update on Maydm’s successful year and sharing plans for their amazing summer school programs.

Maydm Volunteer Update

Volunteering your time, energy and talents is another way to help Maydm.

Many of our Who’s New members have volunteered at Maydm helping with the necessary tasks that need to be completed to put on an event or to finish an office project. To date, approximately 10 members have volunteered for a combined total of over 40 hours of much needed and appreciated assistance.

To paraphrase a quote from Audrey Hepburn, “as we get older, we realize we can use one hand to help ourselves and the other hand to help others.” Thank you ladies! If you are interested in volunteering, contact Maydm at www.maydm.org.



Coding and Programming Q & A with Maydm

What exactly is coding?

Coding is a broad term for writing in a language that a computer understands. Computers use a variety of different languages, just like humans, so when we code, we translate our thoughts and ideas into actions and commands for the computer to create something or perform an action.

What type of programs do Maydm students create using code?

Maydm students create a variety of things depending on the program! Maydm teaches students to build websites, apps, games, 3D models, and more!

How do they apply coding to their studies?

In an ever increasingly technologically dependent world, coding applies to every area of students' studies. Natural sciences depend on technological advancements to examine the smallest of biological and chemical elements. Because of coding, people are creating smart devices, drones that detect body heat after natural disasters, medical tools that dramatically lower surgical risks, and so much more. Mathematical modeling is becoming far too complex to be done by hand or with a basic calculator, coding allows us to more precisely and more quickly have computers run these computations for us. There are more than 5,000 languages that are spoken around the world, coding allows us to create apps, translators, and technology that makes those barriers much smaller. We live in a world that expects all businesses and all people to have a digital presence- a knowledge of coding allows our students to take control of that presence.

When coding, do the students use everyday language or do they use a coding dictionary or a resource/guide of commands?

Writing commands often use English words, or use a combination of characters and letters to signify paragraph breaks, change font styles, insert images, create links, and more. Code will not read like a sentence, so Maydm students learn these commands, then implement them in their own programs. Different coding languages use different syntax (think of it as punctuation for human languages). There are different programming languages with their own unique strengths, so it is up to a programmer to decide which language to use depending on what they want the computer to do. Luckily, there are many resources available online as students learn; even senior programmers use these same resources every day. We don't expect anyone to remember everything right away!

Questions For Maydm?

Do you have questions about coding or programming? Please send those questions about coding or technology to Patti Bavlnka at pbavlnka@gmail.com. She will forward them to Maydm. Questions and answers will appear in the May newsletter.

Additional News and Announcements

Interest Group News

Travel Adventures

Travel Adventures is now accepting members. This group meets on the last Thursday of the month at 10AM.

Kayak Meeting The April 21st meeting is cancelled.

Bicycling

Save the date for the 18th season of Who's New Bicycling kick-off meeting!

Friday, April 10, 2020

Verona Public Library, 500 Silent St, Verona, WI 53593

Location: *Please bring one cup of fruit with you - cut into bite-size pieces.*

We will discuss the upcoming bike season and the fall trip to Door Count, Wisconsin. The group is open to all levels of cyclists, beginning to advanced riders and we welcome new members! Our weekly rides explore the bike trails, routes (and restaurants!!) in the city of Madison and surrounding areas. The rides are scheduled for Friday mornings throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Please reply to Debbie if you plan on attending the meeting. If you are unable to attend, but wish to receive the weekly emails, contact Debbie Wise dwise52@charter.net to get on the distribution list.

Help Wanted - Style Show Coordinator

The Programs Committee is looking for a fashion-forward, fun-loving woman to serve as the Style Show Coordinator for 2020. Duties include researching and selecting the local shop to provide the fashions for the annual style show, recruiting models from the membership, co-ordinating the selection of the fashions for the show, and running the show at the October Who's New luncheon.

We are sad to announce that Marge Kostichka is retiring from her position as our Style Show Coordinator. The October luncheon and style show is one of our most popular events. Marge has done an amazing job of coordinating the style show as a “single event” member of the Programs Committee for the past several years, but she is ready pass her tips and tricks to an eager, enthusiastic replacement. If you are interesting in volunteering to be our 2020 Fashion Diva, you can contact Diane Wiersema, Programs Committee Chair at dutch5@charter.net or Paula Primm, President, at paulalprimm@gmail.com.

Welcome New Members to WNIM

**These new members have joined Who's New over the past month.
Check the website directory for more details on new members.**

Leslie Rebhorn

Amanda Krause

Dee Dee Zwettler

Mary Beth Riley

Pat Donovan

Sue Ellerhorst

Mary Darling

Maryann Stubbs

Alice Williams

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 2019 - 2020

Executive Board

President

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

Vice President

Anne Brasier 409 771-5244
Abrasier2@gmail.com

Secretary

Betty Cohen, 617-447-5412
bettycohen3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Barbara White 402 203-9440
Blwhite2@me.com

Committee Members

Hostess

Debbie Snyder, 318-1764
debsny1@gmail.com

Committee:

Pam Benish, Mary Knight,
Sue Madson, Terry Payne,
Sue Simon

New Member Coffee/Cocktail

Dawn Curatolo 331 643-9620
Dcurl18@hotmail.com

Committee:

Sue Bishop, Janet Pawelski,
Lydia Weber, Susanne
Pelicano, Randee Shayne,
Nancy Skeffington

Archives

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Luncheons

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

Committee:

Merriel Kruse, Katie Heling,
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Rigby, Deb Riederer

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Marge Kostichka

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Anne Spurgeon, 251-3837
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Committee:

Denise Cariski, Kathy Condit,
Barb Foster, Debbie Wise

Service Project

Sue Ciurczak, 467-2267
sjvaciurczak@gmail.com

Patti Bavlka, 825-2292
pbavlka@gmail.com

Committee:

Genevieve Murtaugh, Jill
Westberg, Sue Cambria

Fashion Show Coordinator

Marge Kostichka

Past President

Kathy Nelson, 269-208-8257
katnels59@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, click on *My Account* box and then go to *Account Details* to edit.