

# 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)

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

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

## President's Corner

Paula Primm

I expected this, my last President's Corner, to be the easiest one to write. My mental outline went something like this: thank my fellow officers and committee chairs and members; talk about the installation of our new officers at the May luncheon; express faith in the abilities of our new officers to lead us in the year to come; thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president; and say goodbye. Check, check, check, done!

That was before the whole world shifted on its axis, before this insidious Covid-19 virus crept into our country, our state, and our neighborhood. Like you, I am still reeling from the abrupt changes in my daily life. Like you, I alternate between extreme boredom and high anxiety, fear, and despair. I confess that I've had some very dark days and endless nights in the past few weeks. I have felt very lonely and isolated. In my head, I know that I am better off than so many right now. I am not currently touched by serious illness, unemployment, or food insecurity. I live alone in a gilded cage with plenty of books, knitting, television, and music. I have family and friends who love me and who are checking on me regularly. My head says all of those things at the same time as my heart is broken. I grieve the loss of my old life. So I am trying very hard to listen to my head, not my heart, and to be grateful for this moment and for this day. I'm pulling up my brand-new, big-girl panties to face this uncertain new world. Am I the only one who ordered new underwear to face this crisis? Might be a Southern thing!

In trying to dig down deep and find the strength to face this frightening new world, I've been thinking a lot about the hardships faced by my grandmothers and, in turn, my mother. My mother Anne survived diphtheria when she was five. Her mother, my Grandma Sarah, was a widow at the age of 31, with four children under the age of 12. In the middle of the Great Depression,

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she moved in with her own parents who still had three girls at home. They lived in what is still one of the poorest counties in Georgia, but Sarah managed to get a paying job as the Greenville telephone operator. From the age of 12, Anne was responsible for her younger siblings. She told her own middle-class suburban children later that they slept four to a bed in those days, two at the head and two at the foot. Everyone was required to wash their feet before turning in! They raised their own food on the family farm, but sometimes had nothing but oatmeal and onions for dinner when that ran low.

On my father's side of the family, Mama and Papa Lawrence had good jobs in a cotton mill until it closed in the early 1930's. Mama and Papa Lawrence moved back to the family farm and became subsistence farmers for the rest of their lives. They didn't have electricity until the 1950's and never had indoor plumbing. The one family photo of the three children during the hard years of the Depression shows my Uncle Gary's embarrassment that he didn't have any shoes.

Both of my grandmothers buried husbands and children. Neither of them ever had much money. They could have been defeated by the hardships in their lives, but they remained strong, calm, grateful, loving women who believed in the power of family and community. I never heard either of them say a bad word about anyone. They found true peace and happiness in their families, in their needlework, in their gardens, and in doing things for others.

Those women have long been my role models, and I draw strength now from my memories of their grace and acceptance in the face of hard times. I'm sure you have your own role models among your family, friends, and neighbors. I'd love to hear about them. The next few months and years will present challenges I can't even imagine at this moment. Our foremothers got through hard times like these and came out the other side like polished granite. We will, too.

You've probably already guessed that the May luncheon and Not Just Wine and Cheese are cancelled. Your new officers for 2020/2021 (President Anne Brasier Vice-president Annie Cooper, Treasurer Barbara White, and Secretary Sue Simon) will work with the committees over the summer to restart our group activities when it is safe (and legal) to resume them. We will install our new officers officially at our next luncheon, whenever that might be.

*Paula Prim*

### **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.*

Terri Fiez

Laurel Anderson  
Mary Lee Miller

Denise Fergusson



## April News From The Service Committee

**A** heartfelt thank you to our members from the WN Service Committee. What a wonderful year we had getting to know more about our Service Project, Maydm! I think you will all agree that anytime women help other women - success will be the outcome! The Maydm team has been an inspiration to us with their dedication to girls and youth of color - providing technology programs, special events, and workshops, while at the same time encouraging them to revolutionize the tech industry!

Maydm envisions a world where all students will know that a career in STEM is possible for them, a world where all students regardless of where they come from can pursue their dreams as entrepreneurs, developers, engineers, or professors. Most importantly, Maydm believes potential and creativity exists everywhere, and Winnie Karanja, Founder and Executive Director of Maydm, along with her team, challenge all of us to "change our perception of where brilliance lies."

WN's Service Committee would like to thank our members for their generous donations to Maydm throughout the year. You shared your generosity in many ways through monetary donations, monthly wish list items, books, gift cards, office supplies, artistic and baking talents, and volunteer service.

WOW !! We are so grateful for your support of our committee's work. Our Fundraisers have raised \$7,436.50, and as you can see they have been quite successful!

- **The Fall Walk raised \$2,758. Special thanks to all who walked on a cold day!**
- **The Scholarship Giving Tree raised \$2,180 allowing more girls to attend Maydm's courses.**
- **The Giving Tree provided over 40 books featuring women or girls in STEM fields, as well as, office supplies and gift cards to Target, Walgreens and Staples.**
- **The December "Made By You" Holiday Bazaar raised \$2,464.50 through your talents.**
- **Monthly wish list donations at every luncheon provided office supplies, micro:bits, stamps, Kleenex, paper items, non-perishable snacks, books, cleaning supplies, as well as wish list items from Target. An additional \$34.00 was donated at the last monthly collection to help with supplies.**
- **The Bunko ladies made donations to Maydm.**
- **Special thanks to Jennifer Allen who donated the sales of her beautiful photo cards to the Service Project. We appreciate her generous spirit.**
- **Over 10 members volunteered 40 hours of time to help Maydm prepare for events.**

The MahJongg tournament and the May fundraiser were cancelled due to Covid-19.

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*(Service Committee News continued)*

Your help makes a difference and we thought you might like to hear from some of the students themselves:

**Cory (Zoe's mom): "Thank you for this program! Zoe comes home and says this was the best day yet! Everyday! She has loved the Maydm STEM program."**

**Siri says: " I do some coding in school. We do simple coding and nothing as complex as this. I want to learn more about it and get better at it."**

**And from Abdullah: "In Code Madison Forward" I felt excitement because finally I could take something that I loved and thoroughly enjoy - coding. My sister enjoyed participating in Girls Coding Day and seeing her excited and gushing about all that happened was awesome."**

Take care everyone. Stay safe and well and thanks again. The 2019-2020 Service Committee

*Patti Bavlka, Sue Ciurczak, Genevieve Murtaugh, Susan Cambria, Jill Westberg*

### ***From the Maydm Team***

Dear Who's New in Madison,



We have been so grateful for the support of the Who's New ladies over the past year. Your financial support, gifts from our wish list and volunteer time have made a huge impact for Maydm and our students.

This past year, Maydm has experienced an extraordinary amount of growth, most notably in the number of students served through immersive and workshop programs. As we look forward to the rest of 2020, we are excited to be launching a new completely virtual web development course in response to the Safer at Home Order and COVID-19. We additionally, continue preparing for what will be a great summer of students exploring STEM, building websites and becoming Solidworks drafting associates. Maydm will continue to be a resource and a champion for our community, for girls and youth of color, and for changing the perception of where brilliance lies in all of our work and programs to come.

These are unprecedented times for everyone and particularly small organizations like ours. We are looking at reduced funding of some of our grants we have typically counted on and suspect our corporate partners will be providing reduced funding as well. If you are interested in donating to Maydm, the link is [www.maydm.org/donate](http://www.maydm.org/donate). If you are interested in volunteering contact Maydm as we appreciated all you did for us.

Thanks again,  
Winnie

From Our Interest Groups

## Ideas for Staying Sane during *Safer at Home*

**Read** - Some recommendations from members are anything by Jane Austen & *Cold Sassy Tree*.

**Have Thanksgiving in the Spring** - We have a frozen turkey in the freezer and items in the pantry for a pumpkin pie so we are going to have a Thanksgiving dinner (for a few, and delivered to others) in April! We are grateful for family and friends and so many others helping the community during this time.

**Bake!**

**Chalk It Up** - The children of our neighborhood (anyone have children or grandchildren looking for something to do?) have started “chalk the walk”. They use colored chalk to draw pictures and write sweet messages for those of us taking a daily walk.

### Have an Online Adventure

Watch an Opera  
[Operawire.com](http://Operawire.com)  
[Metopera.org](http://Metopera.org)



Watch Birds Online and In Your Backyard  
[AllAboutBirds.org](http://AllAboutBirds.org)

Checkout Some Badger State Humor  
[CharlieBerensVideo](http://CharlieBerensVideo)

Do Free Online Workouts  
[Hasfit.com](http://Hasfit.com)  
[YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com)



Explore the Art Museums of Paris  
[ParisMuseums](http://ParisMuseums)



Visit Museums Throughout the World  
[TravelandLeisure.com](http://TravelandLeisure.com)

## Additional News and Announcements

### **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, coordinating 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 to pass her tips and tricks to an eager, enthusiastic replacement. If you are interested in volunteering to be our 2020 Fashion Diva, you can contact Diane Wiersema, Programs Committee Chair at [dutch5@charter.net](mailto:dutch5@charter.net) or Paula Primm, President, at [paulalprimm@gmail.com](mailto:paulalprimm@gmail.com).



*The Weekend Hiking Group on a walk through Pheasant Branch in Spring 2019.*

### **Interest Group News**

**Wednesday Book and Bites 1** is meeting via Zoom. A demo meeting was held March 30 to work out all the kinks and make sure everyone could connect. On April 1 they met to discuss *Less*, by Andrew Greer.

The **Wednesday Hiking** and the **Friday Biking** groups are posting the question of the day via SignUp Genius. Here are a few of the questions to which group members responded:

- Where did you attend 1st grade (include the name of the school and the city and state where it was located)?
- What was your first music purchase and what format?

**Wednesday Hiking** group members are encouraged to keep on walking and to scout out new hiking routes.

Similarly, **Weekend Hiking** group members are invited to consider being a guest hikemaster when the group starts meeting again. Share your Safer at Home hike discoveries!

## **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**

Carol Carnine, 833-9642  
carolcar9@yahoo.com

#### **Luncheons**

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

#### **Committee:**

Merriel Kruse, Katie Heling,  
Joanie Bachhuber, Diane  
Rigby, Deb Riederer

#### **Membership/Directory**

Denise Cariski, 608 698-1611  
dmcaris@sbcglobal.net

Susan Cambria 603 714-1411  
susancambria@gmail.com

#### **Newsletter**

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

Gail Green, 509-6214

whosnew.newsletter@gmail.com

#### **Programs**

Diane Wiersema 608 837-3080  
dutch5@charter.net

#### **Committee:**

Mary Bergin, Joy Cardin,  
Marge Kostichka

#### **Website:**

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

Anne Spurgeon, 251-3837  
anne@spurgeonwoods.com

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