

# 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)

Our public website is:

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

Find us on Facebook at:  
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](mailto:whosnew.newsletter@gmail.com)

## President's Corner

Anne Brasier

A new Year, A new US president, a vaccine for Covid -19 on the horizon; 2021 is shaping up to be an eagerly anticipated year. Hopes of meeting in person and traveling again are my biggest wishes for 2021.

Over the holidays we were able to move into a lovely home on Lake Mendota. Water has always soothed my soul. I was a competitive swimmer in high school, college and into masters. I was a lifeguard for 8 years at a state park in Indiana. And I continue swimming today as a triathlete. I find swimming to be a meditative activity that for me balances my perspective on life. Sitting on the beach watching the waves roll in or in this case the storms come across the lake realigns my faith in the world. Just like life, it's the same, it is different, it is beautiful, it is angry and it is always moving. I am indeed fortunate to wake to the sun bouncing off the water and feel the cooling breezes on the lakefront. My wish for all of you in the New Year is that you find an activity or place or person that fills and soothes your soul.

Continuing to provide connection throughout the winter and the pandemic, a virtual Not Just Wine and Cheese took place December 11 with a Cheese Tour presented by Metcalfe's Specialty Cheese. Member chatrooms were open before and after the presentation. Metcalfe's cheesemongers provided a presentation that was informative, entertaining and colorful. We learned about five different award winning Wisconsin cheeses. It was a delightful evening.

To help with a common New Year resolution our January 14th luncheon will feature Jill Anise speaking on "Simply Organized" watch for an invite coming soon in your email and on the website. Remember all you snow birds can join us from your warm and sunny havens via Zoom.

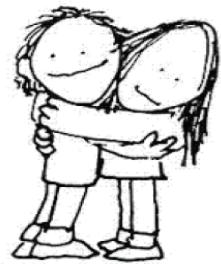
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(President's Corner continued from page 1)

I hope you have taken advantage of the new donation button on the Who's New website to make a donation to the Madison Reading Project. MRP is partnering with the Empty Stocking group and providing a new book to each child receiving a toy this Christmas. This is a great collaborative effort getting books to children.

By now or shortly after the New Year a revamped home page on the WN's website will be available. Check it out. Happy New Year to all.

*Anne Brasier*



To my Who's New family (From Working Women.com via Judith Hutchison's Facebook page):

*A HUG a day keeps yours troubles at bay.  
A HUG at night makes everything alright.  
So I'm sending you these hugs to help you cope,  
To give you some love and to bring you some hope.*

## Our January Program

### Want to go from overwhelmed to organized in 2021?

- Do you feel overwhelmed by the amount of 'stuff' in your home?
- Do you want to feel more in control of the 'stuff' in your home?
- Do you want to feel more comfortable in your home?
- Do you desire organizational skills?



Then you're in the right place! Please join us for our January luncheon program speaker to get some help! Jill Annis, the owner of Simply Organized, is your compassionate, nonjudgmental home organizer! Since 2002 she has supported overwhelmed clients who feel stuck when making decisions about their stuff. After working with Jill, clients feel lighter and a sense of control. Jill has lived in Madison for 23 years and spends her free time walking, gardening, ice skating, and exploring national parks.

Check out her website for free tips: <https://simplyorganizedwithjill.com/>

Join us at 11:30 am on **January 14th** to participate in chat rooms. The Who's New business and speaker presentation will begin at noon. A Zoom invitation link will be sent to those who registered. Watch for an invite coming soon in your email and on the website. The link will be posted on the website by January 12th for those who join us at the last minute.

## Interest Group Leaders Zoom Your Way Through Winter!

The WNIM Board of directors has approved a second business Pro Zoom account for the use of any and all of our IG's. It is now up and running and if you would like to use it for your Interest Group contact Annie Cooper at [amm1114@gmail.com](mailto:amm1114@gmail.com) to reserve a time and date. The advantages of the Pro Zoom are:

- Longer meeting times, no more cut off at 40-minutes
- Can be recorded to the cloud
- Can be streamed to social Media
- Can host up to 100 participants



Right now we have lots of time slots available, but we are filling up fast.

This month we have added 4 different book clubs, the Diversity Group and the Film Discussion Group to the schedule.

We recognize that the use of ZOOM is not only a distant second to meeting in person, but many of us are not familiar with how to use it. So, we would like to direct you to the tutorial link below to expand your knowledge.

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>

If after viewing the tutorials you feel you need further assistance the board has agreed to retain the professional services of Ilana Seidman at [lanachka898@gmail.com](mailto:lanachka898@gmail.com) to help you get your ZOOM IG meetings up and running. She has been facilitating our virtual luncheons and is very willing to help you. Please contact me at [amm1114@gmail.com](mailto:amm1114@gmail.com) for the ID and passwords for the Who's New Pro Zoom account if you would like to use it for your group. Have fun, stay connected and be creative!

*“Anything is possible when you have the right friends to support you.”*

*“You may not be able to control every situation and its outcome, but you can control your attitude and how you deal with it.”*



WNIM biking group has continued to enjoy riding into December with the unseasonably warm weather. This group of bikers took a break on this sunny day while riding through Pheasant Branch Conservancy on November 20th.

Our Who's New **Not Just Wine and Cheese** organizers are making tentative plans for another virtual get together on Jan 22. Look for information about this event soon.

## Service Committee News



Members of the Who's New Service Committee dropped off books and office supplies collected during our October "Wish List" book donation to Madison Reading Project. We also presented checks from our Fall Walk and Holiday Bazaar fundraisers to Natalie Holdahl from MRP.

Standing in front of the very awesome "Big Red Reading Bus" is Natalie and Service Committee members; Nancy Daly, Martha Main, Stephanie Kissel, and Patti Bavlka. Committee members not pictured are: Carol Ottenstein and Barbara Fahey. Thank you to all who donated to help Madison Reading Project provide books and literacy programs to deserving children in the Madison area.



### Check out our fundraising results - what a year we've had so far!

**Holiday Bazaar:** The Service Committee offered a "virtual" Holiday Bazaar this year and we are grateful to all the members who participated. Enjoy your warm polar fleece hats and beautiful photo notecard sets! Your generous spirit helped raise \$3,567.00 for Madison Reading Project!

- In summary: 54 members placed orders for 180 notecard sets and 131 polar fleece hats - 65 hats were for members and 66 of the hats were donated to MRP!
- In addition, several members and friends of members donated \$457.00 to Madison Reading Project.
- A big THANK YOU to Jennifer Allen for donating her beautiful notecards sets and to the Who's New "Hat Ladies" - Nancy Daly and Martha Main for making the fun fleece hats. We couldn't have done any of this without their generosity and hard work!

**The Fall Walk:** This year's Fall Walk fundraiser was very successful with 48 Who's New members donating \$3455 for Madison Reading Project! The best part of the Fall Walk is walking with friends (socially distanced, of course) and although this year was different, members walked over 215 combined miles and 10 members pledged to be cheerleaders!

**October Wishlist donations:** For October, we asked members to donate books on diversity issues for teachers to read and discuss with their students. We also asked for office supplies on MRP's wishlist. Over 60 books and \$150 worth of office supplies were donated.

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## Need to Order More Notecards or Hats? All Proceeds Benefit Madison Reading Project



Didn't order enough notecards during our **Holiday Bazaar**? Jennifer is happy to take care of any last minute card needs you might have. These beautiful notecards make perfect gifts or stocking stuffers for anyone on your gift list. Remember to keep a set handy as gifts for a teacher, your hair stylist, a helpful neighbor, a Secret Santa, or for someone who is lonely and needs cheering up. Don't forget to keep some card sets for yourself!

Winter has arrived in Wisconsin and staying warm outside will get challenging. No worries - the **Who's New Hat Ladies** - Nancy Daly and Martha Main are happy to make you extra hats to keep your whole family warm and cozy. The hats come in all sizes from newborn to extra large adult. You can pick colors to match a favorite winter jacket and remember a hat in neutral tones or all one color is a great option for the boys and men in your life.



### To order - contact Jennifer or Nancy directly for arrangements.

For the notecards, contact Jennifer Allen at: 608-661-0184 or [orijenal@chorus.net](mailto:orijenal@chorus.net).

For the hats contact Nancy Daly at: 608-345-6531 or [nmdaly@charter.net](mailto:nmdaly@charter.net).

Check out the Who's New November and December newsletters for product detail.

### Check out the new, convenient way to make a donation to Madison Reading Project.

You can now make a donation to MRP on the Who's New website through the new direct donation account using your credit card. Here's how: Go to the Who's New Website - [whosnew.org](http://whosnew.org). After signing in, you will see "Member Activities". Look for "Current Service Project". Click on the donate button and follow instructions. Thank you.

### Questions about collecting books for Madison Reading Project or what MRP does?

- Annually Madison Reading Project gives over 40,000 free books to kids.
- MRP connects the Madison area community with free books and literacy enrichment programs that ignite a love of reading.
- They partner with over 100 local organizations and schools to provide, coordinate and distribute tens of thousands of books annually to needy children in our community and to help them build their very own libraries. They also donate books for teachers to use in their classroom.

### Why is there an important need for books and reading literacy programs?

- Because the individuals who need these programs are at the two lowest levels of literacy skills, and approximately 1.5 million people in Wisconsin qualify for literacy services.
- Studies show that being read to as a child and having books in the home are the two most important indicators of future academic success.
- 2/3 of children from low income households do not have any books at home.

## ***Madison Reading Project's Accomplishments***

- MPR's IMPACT: Since 2014 they have given 163,129 books to 81,383 kids!
- Their Big Red Reading Bus is packed full of free books for kids. The bus makes scheduled stops at local organizations, libraries, events and schools to give away high quality books and other reading materials to kids ages birth to 18. The role of the bus has changed a bit during the pandemic, but the goal is the same. When children visit the Big Red Reading Bus, they get to choose the books they like.
- Madison Reading Project has donated over 40,000 books to needy children during the Covid 19 pandemic.
- Follow them on Facebook and sign up to receive their monthly newsletter.



### **Upcoming 2021 plans**

We are planning a special Valentine's "Giving Tree" Challenge for February! Details will be explained in the February newsletter. Will YOU accept our challenge? This will be an awesome way to help Madison Reading Project ignite a love of reading and allow children to build their very own libraries.



### **Thank you and Happy New Year!**

*The Service Committee wishes everyone a healthy, happy and safe New Year. Thank you for sharing your giving spirit and making our fundraising traditions so successful! Encouraging a love of reading is such an important mission and one that will last a lifetime. Stephanie Kissel, Nancy Daly, Barbara Fahey, Martha Main, Carol Ottenstein, Patti Bavlka.*

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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 Home-page, 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  
wnim.secretary@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Barbara White 402 203-9440  
Blwhite2@me.com

#### Committee Members

**Hostess**

Mary Knight, 715-379-4203  
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**Committee:**

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

**New Member Coffee/Cocktail**

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**Committee:**

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**Archives**

Vacant

**Luncheons**

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Barbara Foster, 608-203-8010  
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**Committee:**

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

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Diane Galarneau

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Gail Green, 509-6214

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**Programs**

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

**Committee:**

Anne Spurgeon, Barbara White

**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  
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**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.