

# 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.

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## President's Corner

Anne Brasier



My year as president is coming to a close and though it wasn't what I was imagining in some ways, in others it was exactly what I hoped for. I was supported by and worked with a fabulous group of women on the Who's New board. We adapted, changed, grew and offered opportunities for our members to learn, to share and develop friendships albeit in different ways than before.

Our Programs committee offered great speakers from Christine Whelan helping us find purpose in uncertain times to Kevin Revolinski getting us excited about all the great things to see in Wisconsin when we can travel again. And who would think that a virtual cheese or chocolate tasting offered through Not Just Wine and Cheese could be so much fun? Zoom accounts, online mah-jongg, book clubs and Diversity meetings kept many Interest Groups going. Walking, hiking, snowshoeing and biking groups barely missed a beat, although I do look forward to a hike without a mask soon. The membership committee provided an invisible, but efficient process to the 510+ members joining this year. The eighteen new members who joined in February and March (and all other months) were greeted quickly by the Hostess committee letting them know of our offerings and opportunities and welcoming them to an outstanding organization. One new member I met at an outdoor coffee (2 days after she joined) said she had never before felt as welcome in an organization.

Our website was overhauled and the content is updated at least weekly, if not more often. The newsletter came out like clockwork once a month and Newcomer Coffees in the parks were well received. Fundraising for our service project

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proceeded like gangbusters providing over \$8500 dollars and hundreds of books to The Madison Reading Project. I'm excited to see what organization will be chosen for next year.

Be sure to purchase a raffle ticket or 2 or 3 for the king size quilt being raffled off as the last fundraiser of the year for the Madison Reading Project. See details elsewhere in the newsletter. We will learn the winner of the quilt live at the final luncheon (May 13) and hear a summary about our year supporting the Madison Reading Project. Luncheons will start back up in September.

National elections could only hope for the turnout Who's New displayed. More than 211 of you voted (40+% of our membership) for accepting the incoming officers for 2021-22. They will be inducted at the May luncheon. Annie Cooper will be taking over as your president, Joy Cardin as Vice President, Barbara White as treasurer and Sue Simon as secretary. These are amazingly accomplished women who will serve you and the organization well. Hopefully they will be overseeing a return to normal operations of Who's New with some lessons learned from our virtual year. Give them your ideas and support over the next year.

My connections to Who's New got me through many dark winter days and the isolation of the last year for which I am grateful. Special thanks to the Executive Board, Annie, Sue and Barbara, it is women like you who make Who's New special. ■

*Thank you, Anne Brasier*

### **Join us in person for the Who's New May 13 Luncheon!**

McKee Farms Park Pavilion, 11:30 am-1:30 pm  
2930 Chapel Valley road, Fitchburg

We will be outside and will have use of a covered pavilion. Please bring your mask.

**Reservations capped at 150.**

Box lunches will be offered at \$10 each. They include a sandwich on white or wheat bread, kettle chips, an apple and a chocolate chip cookie. There are 4 sandwich choices including a vegetarian option. **Lunch orders must be placed by midnight on May 2nd.** Please see the order form on the Who's New website on the luncheon page.

Bottled water will be provided and/or bring your own alternate beverage. You may wish to bring a lawn chair.

We will be inducting the 2021-2022 officers, having the drawing for the winner of the raffle for the king size quilt and hearing a concluding presentation from the Madison Reading Project about their accomplishments this year.

A Zoom link (with chat rooms) will be provided if you wish to hear the presentation, but are not comfortable attending in person.

## *Not Just Wine and Cheese*

Time again to socialize with an in person *Not Just Wine and Cheese* gathering. Our first attempt will be **Friday, May 21st, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm**, with a rain date of Saturday May 22nd from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Bring your competitive spirit. As you can see from the pictures, it is a flat lawn on the water's edge where we plan to have bocce ball and a bag toss.

Lake Kegonsa Camaraderie  
2156 Colladay Point Drive, Stoughton  
(3 miles south of McFarland)



Unfortunately we will not be sharing appetizers. Please bring your self-sufficient supplies — including a lawn chair, drink cup and whatever you wish to eat and drink. Be advised, if there is a brisk south southeast wind it will be chillier than elsewhere.

Due to parking limitations and anticipated social distance needs we are limiting attendance to **50 participants**. Parking will be mostly street parking and car pooling is also recommended as parking will be limited to approximately **25 cars**.

Further details will be available on the WNIM website. We will be accepting RSVP on the Who's New website with Sign up Genius registration open soon for this event.



## May Service Committee News

Join in the WNIM and Madison Reading Project's quilt raffle and win this stunning king size quilt beautifully handcrafted and designed by a Who's New member!



This will be our last fundraiser to benefit Madison Reading Project. Let's support MRP's goal to ignite a life-long love of reading in children in the greater Dane County area.

**Tickets on sale NOW through May 7th.**  
Winner will be announced at our May 13 luncheon.

*"One who sleeps under  
a quilt is comforted by love"!*

### Here's how the ticket sales will work:

For raffle tickets, contact Martha Main at: 99 Golf Pkwy, Unit D, Madison 53704, [mmmain48@gmail.com](mailto:mmmain48@gmail.com). 608-604-8474. Make your checks payable to Madison Reading Project and mail to Martha. Please include your email address.

- Tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00.
- Tickets can't be purchased online through the donate button on our website – per raffle rules.
- When Martha receives your check, she will take a photo of your tickets and email the picture to you. This is your receipt. She will also keep a copy so nothing gets lost. Martha will take the actual tickets to **Madison Reading Project** for the drawing at our May luncheon.
- If you're concerned about mail delivery, you can order tickets through Martha now through **May 7th** and she will send you the ticket photo and wait for your check to come. We want to be as flexible as possible. This flexibility is great for last minute ticket orders, too!
- Friends and family may purchase tickets as well.
- Good luck and thank you for your support! ■



### More About Madison Reading Project

Madison Reading Project will hold a virtual Grand Opening on May 26 to celebrate its new location as well as two amazing milestones: MRP has now served over 100,000 children in Dane County delivering high quality literacy programs and has donated over 193,000 quality books to date! To put this in perspective, MRP reached the 100,000 books donated milestone in October 2019, and despite a pandemic year, a three-month

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shut down and moving to a new brick-and-mortar space at 1337 Greenway Cross this spring, MRP gave away as many books to area children in the past 18 months as it did in its first six years combined!



Madison Reading Project expects to hit the 200,000 books donated milestone within the next couple of weeks and their Big Red Reading Bus delivered and gave away 76,000 books in 2020. “Whether you’re 50 or 20 or 5, being able to own a brand new book that you’re excited about, there’s just nothing like that feeling of knowing that book is yours and you get to keep it,” says Rowan Childs, MRP founder. WNIM and the Service Committee are excited for their success and is pleased to have been able to partner with them this past year. ■

### *Special Interest Group — Diversity In Madison by Pat Eaton*

Seven years ago at the WNIM September luncheon, where interested women sign-up for Special Interest Groups, a sign-up sheet titled *Diversity in Madison* received 7 signatures. Today the distribution list has 112 names.

Interest in finding out about Madison’s variety of people, different than our own social group, has resulted in opening our eyes to the real Madison. Over the years, among other things, we have learned that for immigrants, missing family is the hardest thing; that living differently from accepted norms has resulted in hidden lives of pain; that not everyone can enjoy healthcare in the same manner we do. Some of our speakers have been from Centro Hispano, Omega School, Justified Anger, Black Lives Matter, Hmong group, the Urban League, a midwife of color, an imam, a transgender woman and so many more. Paul Fanlund, editor and publisher of the CAP TIMES, March’s speaker, reminded us of how far we have to go to make Madison a beloved community. When we speak of racial justice we must include not just African Americans but the Latino community, the Hmong, the Asian population, and our Native Americans. He told us that it is vexing that Madison is unable to attract and retain professionals of color, that many black leaders have left for better opportunities and those that stay are real heroes. He surprised many of us when he said that radical groups play a role as necessary agitators. And he encouraged us to lean in and continue to learn and understand...to “stay in the room”.

This year we plan to spend some time learning about the different neighborhoods in Madison by having leaders of Madison’s many community centers speak to us about the people they serve.

Our goal is to accept and respect the amazing diversity in our community of Madison. Sign up to get on the DIVERSITY IN MADISON distribution list. All are welcome. We currently meet on Zoom and send out an invitation each month. ■

## Interest Group News

Little by little things are opening back up. As they do we are seeing more of our Interest Groups becoming active again. We currently have 37 of our 60+ IG's meeting up in some form. If you are a leader of an IG please review your groups web page to make sure it contains up to date information about your group, including if you are meeting up again and in what way. Also, feel free to send me any pictures of your group to include in the newsletter.

A gentle reminder that WNIM's success starts with you. Those of you have been in WNIM for many years and those who have only recently joined have much to share. We depend 100% on our member volunteers to run the organization. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our group. We hope you will be there in some capacity to help this extraordinary group of women to continue to thrive in our community with our social activities, luncheons, interest groups and/or on our Board. Please consider volunteering when an opportunity comes up. ■



Friday Biking Interest Group



Wednesday Hiking Interest Group

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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  
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**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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Jewison.k@gmail.com

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**Committee:**

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

**Archives**

Vacant

**Luncheons**

Judy White, 714-267-2160  
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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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**Not Just Wine & Cheese**

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**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.