

# The Woman's Club of Washington University



*Meet*

*Give*

*Live*



## Elizabeth Danforth Butterfly Garden 25th Anniversary



We are celebrating 25 beautiful, magical years of the Elizabeth Danforth Butterfly Garden this year. It continues to be a wonderful tribute to Elizabeth "Ibby" Danforth, the wife of the former chancellor of the University, William Danforth, for her endless contributions to Washington University. Ibby declared that she was "enthralled" when the garden was dedicated on October 10, 1996. June Hutson, Botanical Garden Horticulturist, designed the space with a circular path and raised berms planted with native species chosen to attract butterflies. The garden has been lovingly developed and maintained by dedicated Woman's Club volunteers to provide a quiet space away from the hustle and bustle of campus. The addition of many more native species, seating, tables, an arbor and now a spacious pergola enhance this little piece of tranquility. Tina Danforth, Ibby's daughter in law, and Beth Danforth, Ibby's daughter, joined us for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on September 14, 2021. We also installed the Woman's Club Officers for 2021-2022 during the event.

**Executive Committee**

**Carmen S. Dence**  
President

**Paulina Conner**  
Vice-President

**Jane Schaefer**  
Director, Educational  
Programming

**Nancy Thompson**  
Director, Membership

**Sarah Fowler-Dixon**  
Director, Communications

**Barbara Feiner**  
Director, Service  
to the University

**Linda Smith**  
Finance Chair

**Connie Stout**  
Recording Secretary

**Lisa Schmidt**  
Treasurer

**Judy Joerding**  
Immediate Past President

**Woman's Club Office**  
(314) 935-7085



The Woman's Club of  
Washington University

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends,

**Resilient. Resourceful. Re-adaptable.** As I prepare my first newsletter message, these R's words resonate within me **to identify who we are**, as we prepare our Fall's activities. The in-person celebrations are still riding on Covid 19 virus and its variants in our region but be assured that our personal health is the most important consideration, for us and WU.



**The Handbook** is our source for all information and activities of WCWU. I encourage you to join one or more of our fantastic interest groups. Also, share your talents and expertise with us!

I trust you were able to enjoy the Elizabeth Danforth Butterfly Garden Fall Garden Party on September 14 where our new pergola made its debut, and your new President and Vice-President, Paulina Conner, were officially installed.

There is always a great amount of work behind the scenes by our Executive Committee, Chairs of events and volunteers, and I deeply thank all our members! Personally, I want to thank Judy Joerding, our Immediate Past President, for all the guidance, tutoring and excellent organizational skills she has given me and Paulina, as we start our assignments for the club.

I close this message encouraging self-approval, kindness, and love for everyone, with the words of "Act of Love" by Bob Sharples.

*"Don't meditate to fix yourself, to heal yourself, to improve yourself, to redeem yourself; rather, do it as an act of love, of deep warm friendship to yourself. In this way there is no longer any need for the subtle aggression of self-improvement, for the endless guilt of not doing enough. It offers the possibility of an end to the ceaseless round of trying so hard that wraps so many people's lives in a knot. Instead, there is now meditation as an act of love. How endlessly delightful and encouraging."*

With sincere thanks,

*Carmen S. Dence*

**Carmen S. Dence**  
President  
Woman's Club of Washington University  
2021-2022

## Member Spotlight

### Susan Gobbo

by Suzanne Doyle

Susan Gobbo's work, since her arrival here in St. Louis in 2008, has been focused on transcultural connection, especially for women, who, like Brazilian Susan, have found themselves landing here isolated, anxious, and lost. For Susan and many of her peers transplanted from around the world, the dream of living abroad became a nightmare. Often, like Susan, they accompanied husbands, who found work opportunities in businesses and universities here, but knew little or no English, few American behavioral norms, and certainly not the idioms and nuances of small talk and humor. And some, like Susan, because of visa restrictions and despite their experience, could not work in their fields— she was an advanced physical therapy practitioner (an ICU Coordinator) in Sao Paulo. During the day husbands left for work and children for



school, leaving some wives empty and lonely. Susan describes that period as “limbo” when she lost her identity as a highly educated professional woman, the author of a specialized clinical text on the practice of PT in the cardiac intensive care unit. (She has since written a second, as well as contributing to American anthologies about women who have met significant challenges and transformed their lives.)

As an active extravert what Susan, above all, could not tolerate was helpless resignation to her plight. By the time she and her husband Mauricio finally received their green cards (permanent residency) in 2012, she had studied Spanish and French through the St. Louis Community College and began talking with other ex-patriate women struggling with culture shock. Susan wrote a paper that landed in the hands of St. Louis Mosaic Project Executive director, Betsy Cohen. Since Mosaic aims to welcome and support immigrants to St. Louis, the two women recognized their common passion. From Mosaic Susan received support and sponsorship to manage the St. Louis International Spouses' Meetup Group, now a community of 600 women, aged 21 to 55, from 80 nations— “from Argentina to Zimbabwe.” Susan beams as she describes the tours, arts events, picnics, and dinners, featuring foods from home countries. The women feel seen and heard, fully recognized. “After all, we all have our accents. We all make mistakes as we face the same hurdles. We all need a safe place to practice [new words, new habits.... Now] I can bring the help I wish I'd had when I arrived.”

While the Meetup grew and prospered, other projects arose, such as the International Mentoring Program, co-founded by Susan and Annie Schlafly. The Mentoring Program pairs new arrivals with local women, who, in providing help with the basics—where things are and how they're done—open themselves to a larger vision of customs, mores, and tastes. Vistas expand along with a larger sense of family and community.

Susan and Mauricio's daughter, Laura, was five when they arrived in the US, she—and her parents—grew up in this organic synthesis of cultures. When Susan began teaching Portuguese at St. Louis Community College at Meramec, Laura volunteered as a tutor; she attended celebratory events through a Brazilian organization then formed an international students' group at her own high school. Mauricio, who is an IT Program Manager at Nestle Purina, has joined Susan as a Mosaic Ambassador and on the Board of Directors of the Hispanic Leaders Group of Greater St. Louis, contributing to the vibrancy of the regional Latino community

This intense, enlivening multicultural involvement Susan sees as a link to her origins in a small town in southwestern Brazil, where a surprising number of internationals lived. Susan's godmother came from India and her paternal grandmother from Italy— “I still talk with my hands.” Mauricio's grandparents also emigrated from Italy, and he has worked for many years for transnational corporations, first Unilever and InBev in Brazil, then Nestle Purina in the US. (“Free beer then free baby food.”) So many ties and exchanges as Susan seeks members and feeds volunteers from her groups to local museums, festivals, and both non-profit and corporate institutions. Warm circles.

## Upcoming Virtual Event 2021

### VIRTUAL FALL SYMPOSIUM LECTURE EVENT

Via Zoom

**Friday, October 29th, 2021 ~ 1 p.m.**

**Dr. Brian Kim**

Co-Director, Center for the Study of Itch,  
Assistant Professor of Dermatology

**“Itch: Beyond the 8th Circle of Hell”**

Dr. Brian Kim is Assistant Professor of Dermatology, Anesthesiology, Pathology and Immunology, and Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Itch at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. His laboratory focuses on innate immune mechanisms that underlie skin inflammation and the sensation of itch. His research has led to awards and funding from the National Institutes of Health, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, American Skin Association, American Academy of Dermatology, and the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

**RSVP:** [womansclub@wustl.edu](mailto:womansclub@wustl.edu). You will receive a Zoom link to this virtual event on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Questions?** Contact:

**Elena Maksaeva:** (314) 724-1423; [elena.wcwu@icloud.com](mailto:elena.wcwu@icloud.com)

## OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

Washington University in St. Louis has many opportunities for learning virtually. Please visit the following websites for more information:

Lifelong Learning Department: <https://osher.wustl.edu/>

Virtual Connections: <https://alumni.wustl.edu/alumni/association/>. These events require registration to receive a Zoom link.

The Brown School has a variety of presentations and webinars on the calendar. For a list of upcoming events, and to register, please email [profdev@brownschool.wustl.edu](mailto:profdev@brownschool.wustl.edu) and request a list of upcoming events.

## BUTTERFLY GARDEN ENHANCEMENT FUND THANK YOU

The enthusiasm and generosity of many Butterfly Garden supporters made the lasting garden enhancements of a pergola and additional landscaping possible.

### Lead Gifts

Lee Anne and Ralph Quatrano • Elizabeth Butterfly Garden Endowment Donors

### Red Admiral

Barb Feiner • Leigh Pratter

### Tiger Swallowtail

Tedi Macias • Linda Smith

### Pipevine Swallowtail

Assimo Azariadis • Paulina Conner • Margaret Israel • Karen Johnson Fields  
Judy Joerding • Jan Kardos • Judith Hood McKelvey • Marlene O'Brien • Risa Zwerling Wrighton

### Painted Lady

Andrea Atkinson • Terry Beachy • Christy Beckmann • Marcia Bernstein  
Barbara Bindler • Sharon Britt • Carmen Dence • Sondra Ellis • Gupta Family Fund • Maya Jerath • Debra Kemp •  
Catherine Krucylak • Betsy Lawlor  
Jennifer Luner • Ingrid Lutzeler • Lynn Valeri • Ellen Wallace

### Fritillary

Gisela Ahadi • Anna Birman • Jake Eisenberg • Drew Eisenberg  
Annaliesa Hanebrink • Pat Sarantites • Audrey Mathews • Karen Spann  
Sarah Stauffer • Emily Smith • Yona Strasberg • Celia Sutera • Nancy Thompson  
Isabel Van Essen

### Other

Toba Agarwal • Debbie Aumer • Linda Ballard • Judy Dudukovic  
Sarah Fowler-Dixon • Elaine Greenbaum • Shannon Laine • Jackie Lipsitz  
Sara Loyet • Pat Owens • Jo Ellen Rosenkoetter • Evie Shucart • Aleene Zawada



## Upcoming Events

### RISA ZWERLING WRIGHTON SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT LUNCHTIME PRESENTATION

**UPDATE:** This event will be held via Zoom on **Friday, January 29, 2022, 1 p.m.**

#### Program, Part I

Presentation of the Risa Zwerling Wrightson Scholarship Awards

#### Program, Part II

Speaker: Raymond Arvidson  
James C. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor, Department of Earth  
and Planetary Science  
"The Mars Rover"

**More information about this event will be sent as details are formalized. Watch your email!**

**Questions?** Contact Co-Chairs **Paulina Conner:** (541) 241-0288; [jpaulinad@gmail.com](mailto:jpaulinad@gmail.com),

Or **Betsy Lawlor:** (314) 406-3795; [elizlawlor@gmail.com](mailto:elizlawlor@gmail.com)

### SPRING SYMPOSIUM LUNCHEON AND ANNUAL MEETING

**Friday, April 29, 2022 11:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

#### Program Part I:

Woman's Club Annual Meeting and New Board Installation

#### Program Part II:

Speaker: Andrew Martin  
Chancellor and Professor Law and Political Science  
PHD, Washington University

For more information, call either one of the event co-chairs Barb Bindler at (314) 432-4324 or Jennifer Luner at (314) 469-8668.

## COURTESY NOTES

Ginny Crowley passed away on October 8, 2021. Ginny contributed greatly to the Woman's Club, coordinating the Woman's Club theatre event several times. Ginny is survived by her husband Bob and her son William. She will be missed by many of us. There will not be a memorial service.

The Woman's Club offers its sympathy to longtime member Petie Karsh and her husband, Dr. Robert Karsh, upon the recent untimely passing of their son, Eli, from a heart attack.



## Contributions

Contributions to the **Risa Zwerling Wrighton Scholarship Endowment Fund** were made by the following individuals this year. Thank you for your generosity!

Paulina Conner  
Carmen Dence  
Sondra Ellis  
Annaliesa Hanebrink  
Suzanne Hendrickson

Jackie Lipsitz  
Sara Loyet  
Ingrid Lutzeler  
Patty Padawer  
Pat Sarantites

Emily Smith  
Celia Sutera  
Ellen Wallace  
Aleene Zawada

## Membership Recognition

These Members renewed their membership at the Sponsoring Level or higher. Thank you to the following individuals for their special support of the Woman's Club:

Assimo Azariadis  
Paulina Conner  
Barbara Feiner  
Karen Johnson Fields  
Margaret Israel  
Judith H. Joerding

Betsy Lawlor  
Charmaine Leonard  
Sibylle Ott  
Lee Anne Quatrano  
Linda Smith  
Celia Sutera  
Risa Zwerling Wrighton



## Did You Know?

- In January, Risa Zwerling Wrighton will be accompanying her husband, Mark, to Washington, D.C. where he will serve as interim president of George Washington University. Risa is delighted, she said, as that is where her two “red-headed grandbabies” live.
- Your WC Executive Board is already hard at work this semester. Their first meeting (Zoom) with President Carmen Dence was on September 2<sup>nd</sup> with 11 members present.
- Bella Packman and Susan Pierce, coincidentally, have both moved away from St. Louis to Vermont. We'll miss them.
- Petie and Bob Karsh are now living in Kansas City. Their address is in the new Handbook.
- The June (Zoom) Board of Directors transition business meeting had over 20 in attendance.
- Ellen Feinstein's husband, Robert, passed away in July. Ellen is now living in Kirkland, WA.
- Janice Berg and husband Phil Levinson will be spending their winter and spring in Florida.
- Janet Y. Jackson is now a Post-Dispatch columnist and Editorial board member.
- Sarah Stauffer organized weekly outdoor concerts this summer. They featured local musicians who performed near University City's Flynn Park. Food trucks were also available.
- Evie Shucart reminds us that the Arts and Crafts group continues to meet outdoors on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Let her know if you're interested in attending.
- Creative writing continues to meet under the guidance of Suzanne Doyle. The group meets mornings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays of each month.
- The combined (afternoon and evening) Book Club is meeting monthly (on Zoom still) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. If interested in attending, please contact Gloria Lubowitz or Jennifer Luner. The books are listed in the Handbook.
- Assimo Azariadis and Pat Sarantites spent most of their summers in Greece.

If you've news to share with the Woman's Club, please send it to Karen at: [kejfields@msn.com](mailto:kejfields@msn.com).

## 50 YEARS AND COUNTING ....

The following members have belonged to the Woman's Club of Washington University for more than 50 years. We've included the year they joined.

Marcia Bernstein	1967	Jan Kardos	1967	Katherine Sandel	1964
Gretchen Felix	1964	Audrey Mathews	1965	Sylvia Kalachek Silver	1968
Alice Gutsche	1946	Juel Niland	1957	Carolyn Stern	1963
Betty Hudgins	1959	Rose Marie Salisbury	1957	Nancy Thompson	1965



## WELCOME, ERIN SCHREIBER

Erin Schreiber joined University Advancement as the Senior Associate Director of Women's Affinity Engagement this past May. In this role, Erin will manage operations of the Woman's Club of WU, the Women's Society of WU and Women and the Kemper. Erin is honored to work alongside and get to know the members of each organization.



Erin previously served as the founding director of Maryville University Hillel. She worked closely with university and community partners to build strategic partnerships, lead operations and implementation of the program's strategic vision, engaged in stewardship with donors, and recruited and trained student leaders.

Prior to her time at Maryville, Erin served as the assistant director of Washington University Hillel. Erin received her MBA from Maryville University and a bachelor's degree in journalism from University of Missouri – Columbia. She serves on several philanthropic and professional boards. Erin, her husband, and twin daughters reside in Olivette.

The Woman's Club is pleased to be working with such a talented and experienced leader and we look forward to growing and learning under her tutelage. Welcome, Erin!

## GOODBYE, FROM NANCY DUNAWAY

Dear members of the Woman's Club:

It has been my pleasure to be your club Administrative Coordinator for the last four years. My first day, in 2017, was the same day as the Butterfly Garden Reception. What a wonderful introduction to the Woman's Club, it's fabulous members and the Butterfly Garden!



I have so enjoyed working with so many accomplished and wonderful women and getting to know many of you on a personal level. The club has generously offered me an honorary membership for the coming year, and I look forward to attending upcoming events.

What will I do in retirement, you ask? I will enjoy spending more time with my five grandchildren, train for my ninth marathon and travel to see friends and family scattered around the country. That should be enough for a while! My best to all of you, see you soon in better days!



## Upcoming Events at a Glance

**October 29, 2021** Virtual Fall Symposium Lecture

**November 18, 2021** Virtual Executive Board Meeting

**November 25, 2021** Thanksgiving

**December 2, 2021** Virtual Executive Board Meeting

**January 28, 2022** **SAVE THE DATE!**  
Virtual Risa Zwerling Wrighton Scholarship Endowment Program

[womansclub.wustl.edu](http://womansclub.wustl.edu)



# Washington University in St. Louis

The Woman's Club of Washington University

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**Address Correction Requested**