



## WCWU Fall 2022 Newsletter

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRSIDENT

Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to our Fall/Winter programs. A special welcome goes to our new members, and those of you with the WAK group! We are thrilled to have you as family members of WCWU. And let's remember that **Our Mission** is to provide opportunities for friendship, learning, and service to our members and to the broader Washington University community.



I wanted to quote from a book I am reading that **“98 to 99% of all the species that have ever lived on the planet are now extinct, all living things must struggle to keep changing. Without that ability, we will quite literally cease to be.”** Our Club has managed to stay strong during challenging times taking advantage of technology, such as Zoom, to get things done virtually when the in-person meetings were impossible because of the pandemic. We are now slowly reintroducing in-person meetings, but be assured that our personal health and safety are still the most important consideration for us and WU. A full description and more details about upcoming events are found in this Fall Newsletter. We look forward to seeing you in person, and hope you can make it!

**The Handbook** is now ONLINE! The Executive and Full Boards, along with our dynamic Coordinator, Laura Vetter, made possible this transition, so members are able to access the Handbook and our password-protected Membership list, anytime. Just reach out to Laura at [vetter@wustl.edu](mailto:vetter@wustl.edu) or 314-935-6013 if you need help. Training sessions are scheduled as needed, and in no time, you will be an expert! What a great amount of work behind the scenes by our Executive Committee, Chairs of events and volunteers; I deeply thank all of them! Please consider joining one or more of our fantastic Special Interest Groups (SIG), and sharing your talents and expertise with us! We can't do this without you! And remember as wisely said by Goethe, **“knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do.”**

In closing, let us remember that generosity is also a practice, giving without wanting or needing anything in return. Share with us the story of who you are, and express ourselves creatively through any medium, be it writing, music, dance, painting...life is everything,

### Executive Committee

**Carmen S. Dence**  
President

**Paulina Conner**  
Vice President

**Iris Malone**  
Director, Educational  
Programming

**Jane Schaefer**  
Director, Membership

**Sarah Fowler-Dixon**  
Director, Communications

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

**Elena Maksaeva**  
Director, Symposium  
Luncheons

**Linda Smith**  
Director of Finance

**Nancy Dunaway**  
Recording Secretary

**Lisa Schmidt**  
Treasurer

**Judith H. Joerding**  
Immediate Past President

**Laura Vetter**  
Coordinator  
(314) 935-6013

nothing less.

With sincere thanks,



Carmen S. Dence

## BUTTERFLY GARDEN PARTY AND WOMAN'S CLUB WELCOME EVENT

In September, the club gathered under the Butterfly Garden Pergola and walked the new enhanced pathways as we welcomed Washington University Woman's Club members and guests to kick off another year of events.

Speaker Cody Azotea of Focal Pointe gave a presentation about some of the native plants used in the garden, and member Linda Laferriere gave a demonstration on how to tag a monarch butterfly. Lovely weather and delicious treats made for a wonderful season opening event.





Monarch Tagging Demonstration

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Galleries and Sights tour of Katharina Grosse exhibit at the Kemper Art Museum

The Galleries and Sights Interest Group of the Woman's Club has scheduled a free, in-person guided tour of the current exhibition at the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum.



The tour of **Katharina Grosse Studio Paintings, 1988-2022: Returns, Revisions, Inventions** will be led by Sabine Eckmann, the William T. Kemper Director and Chief Curator, Kemper Art Museum.

**Tour Date: Thursday, October 27, 2022**

**Meeting Time: 10:00 am**

**Meeting Place: Main Entrance, Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum**

**Please RSVP by Monday, October 24.**

To RSVP please call or e-mail:

Assimo Azariadis

314-925-8162

[assimoaz@gmail.com](mailto:assimoaz@gmail.com)

Participants may choose to gather after the tour for lunch at their own cost. Parking is available in the East End Garage.

Galleries and Sights co-chairs

Assimo Azariadis, Gloria Lubowitz, and Karen Johnson Fields

***Can you come out and play?***  
**Wednesday, November 2, 2022**  
**9:45 am – 3:00 pm**

**THE CLARENDALE**  
**Lake Forest Lounge**  
**7651 Clayton Rd., Clayton MO, 63117**

We will serve lunch with dessert, coffee, and tea near noon.

A full day of FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP for only **\$40/person** donation.

For more information and to make your reservation [here](#)  
Or send a **\$40** check payable to Washington University:  
Woman's Club of Washington University  
7425 Forsyth Blvd., MSC 1228  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
(Include names of those at your table, for a table of 4.)

**Questions?** Contact Jennifer Luner: [jjluner@charter.net](mailto:jjluner@charter.net) (314) 469-8668

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## **FALL SYMPOSIUM LUNCHEON AND LECTURE**

**Friday, November 4, 2022**  
**11:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Maggiano's**  
**#2 The Boulevard, Richmond Heights**

### **Lecturer**

Dr. Tim Bono, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Director of Research and Analytics

**"Positive Psychology During a Pandemic; Can we Really be Happy at a Time Like This?"**

Guest speaker, Dr. Tim Bono, is the author of *When Likes Aren't Enough: A Crash Course in the Science of Happiness* and *Happiness 101: Simple Secrets to Smart Living and Well-Being*. He has spent the last 10 years as a Washington University faculty member in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. In this lecture, he will share some of his research findings.

Lunch will be served at 11:30

**Questions?** Contact:

Elena Maksaeva: (314) 724-1423, [elena.wcwu@icloud.com](mailto:elena.wcwu@icloud.com)  
Event Chair, Suzanne Greenwald

**Please RSVP by Friday, October 28.** Register online on the events page of the Woman's Club Website to [RSVP](#) and pay by credit card. To register by mail please send your check for \$38 to:

Woman's Club Coordinator  
Washington University  
7425 Forsyth Boulevard

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The *Out and About* group met in April at the Café Provencal for a delightful lunch together. They will resume meeting in October
- In April the *Galleries and Sights* group attended a tour at the St. Louis Art Museum of the "Paintings on Stone; Science and the Sacred." 14 members attended the showing led by Andrea Miller. In June they attended the "Currents 121 Exhibit" of Oscar Murillo, also at the St. Louis Art Museum. Heidi Klum was their leader.
- Jennifer Luner, it seems, wins the award for most traveled this year: Alaska, Machu Piccu, a cruise from London to Ft. Lauderdale, and will be leaving soon on a cross-Canada train trip. She also has a new grandniece.
- Have you had a chance to read Ellen Benton Feinstein's *Broken Dreams: A Survivor's Story*? It's available at booklocker.com, Amazon, or Barnes and Noble. (Ellen has moved to the Seattle area but remains a Woman's Club member and participates virtually in the book group.)
- Sylvia Silver and Marcia Bernstein have recently moved to the Clarendale Clayton.
- Linda Smith recently spent time in Florida with her new baby granddaughter, Melby, who was born September 2, 2022.
- All interest groups have resumed meetings – either virtually or in person. Please check out the list on our [website](#) and try out a group or two.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Jennifer Luner

by Suzanne Doyle

Long before Jennifer Luner served as president of the Washington University Woman's Club from 2014 to 2016, she had learned that she is an organizational leader and reveled in that awareness. From her earliest years growing up in Collinsville, Illinois, in a first generational mostly Italian Catholic family—Luner is Austrian—she was recognized as good and smart. Her goodness in its moral generosity exceeded mere obedience.



And, as for "smart," her eighth grade-educated mother taught her daughter to read and to do arithmetic before she entered school; she could multiply three-digit numbers and solve for "x" by first grade. Math and science were clearly in her future. In her home she also acquired a work ethic of determination and persistence modeled by her father, who always worked two jobs, including co-ownership with his brother of a neighborhood grocery store and oversight of all the money collected at a near-by racetrack.

By the time she reached college age, Jennifer had incorporated a beloved woman chemistry teacher's belief that "chemistry explains how the world works." Ambitious for an excellent education within the Catholic ethos of her heritage, Jennifer chose St. Louis

University and graduated with both BS and MS degrees in Chemistry. Although Monsanto, as a chemical products developer and manufacturer, was an obvious place for Jennifer to pursue her career, the sciences were—and often still are—male-dominated fields; Jennifer was hired as the first woman with a technical degree in the plant. To find and secure her niche at Monsanto required an alliance with a “salt of the earth” mentor and years of refining her skills; she became both assertive and shrewd at maneuvering strategically within a large organization. When she became convinced that an MBA could be a “ticket to the top;” she earned her MBA at Washington University. Finally, after meeting with obstacles and sometimes being pushed aside, she became, first, Training Manager, then Director of Human Resources at Monsanto.

That same clarity of vision and firm intention have characterized her coping with health challenges and choice of mate. (And, of course, those qualities have been seen in her transformative engagement with the Woman’s Club since she joined in 2004.) When she was diagnosed with Stage 4 endometrial cancer and told to prepare for probable death, she replied that she saw no reason that she would not be “among the 14%” of predicted survivors. And, despite a recurrence, major abdominal surgery, and chemotherapy, no evidence of disease has been found for nearly fourteen years. Another challenge, multiple sclerosis, was discovered just as Monsanto was splitting up, disturbing many employees, and certainly adversely affecting Human Resources and Jennifer herself. She applied her skills and resources to outplacing herself and forming a consultancy business with co-workers. The MS fortunately never progressed, but the MS Society has benefitted consistently from Jennifer’s dedication as volunteer grant writer and cheer-leading participant in MS Bike.

Jennifer Luner met Lee Hastings, perhaps not coincidentally, at a duplicate bridge tournament on a Memorial Day weekend. Jennifer had rejected prior boy friends as “not marriage material;” in Lee, however, Jennifer recognized someone, who, like her, is very bright, with a great sense of humor, and happily “an excellent bridge player.: “I was set on him from our third date” (likely a bridge game). Lee and Jennifer wed in a Missouri Botanical Gardens rose garden ceremony and hosted their reception on the 41<sup>st</sup> floor of the Metropolitan Building, savoring the natural beauty of the one, and bringing festivity to the corporate climate of the other. Shortly before they married in June of 2002, she left the consultancy firm and sought other activities among congenial people in which she could pursue meaningful purpose.

Jennifer has brought all her talents and inclinations to the Woman’s Club, along with her warmth. Perhaps she was not searching for the Club, but after being invited to the Arts and Crafts Interest Group, then to a luncheon, then to a board meeting, she recognized that her energies had found a compatible place where she could exercise her strengths. She has hosted countless luncheons since, including the annual officers’ installation. Before becoming president, she pursued long-range planning under Gloria Lubowitz’s leadership, ran a focus group to generate ideas for service and funding, and, as membership chair, developed the spiral-bound membership directory. As president—“the new sheriff in town,” she chuckles—she immersed herself in the process of joining the Club to Washington University.

Always she has enjoyed interest groups, “the heart of the club,” and this community of strong women, many aging gracefully. And she and Lee are actively pursuing their bucket lists, especially travelling to sacred and powerful places, such as Machu Picchu and the Galapagos islands. As these words are being written, the pair have embarked on a continental crossing by rail, from Vancouver to Toronto. Jennifer Luner is determined that her life will be rich until her last moment.

## WELCOME WOMEN AND THE KEMPER

The Woman's Club warmly welcomes the members of the Women and the Kemper. WAK is now an Educational Programming group and we look forward to forming great new friendships in the years to come.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The current membership of the Woman's Club stands at 244, up from the 162 last year. This is partially due to the fact that we have welcomed the Women and the Kemper as guest members this year. Forms to renew can be filled out online and members can pay with a credit card. It is easy and safe and information is protected by the Washington University data processing protocols. You may access the Woman's Club website [here](#). If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact our Membership Chair, Jane Schaefer at [janeschaefer79@gmail.com](mailto:janeschaefer79@gmail.com).

## OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

### 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/events/>. These events require registration to receive a Zoom link.

The Brown School has a variety of presentations and webinars on the calendar. Visit <https://brownschool.wustl.edu/events/Pages/default.aspx> for a list of upcoming events, and to register.

For more events visit <https://atwashington.wustl.edu>.

### UPDATES

This year we have lost a few of our beloved members of the Woman's Club.

Gini Lappas passed away on May 17, 2022. Her obituary can be viewed [here](#).

Judy Medoff passed away on September 28, 2022. Her obituary can be viewed [here](#).

A contribution to Washington University's Olin Library will be made in memory of these valued members.

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Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our Woman's Club community!

### **Woman's Club of Washington University - Founded 1910**

Washington University in St. Louis, MSC 1228  
7425 Forsyth Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63105