



## WCWU FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

### A WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this message, I admire the pretty fall leaves out my window each unique in color, shape, and size. Uniqueness is a characteristic that each member of the Woman's Club brings. With each member's special skills, insight, and attributes together we continue to build and pull together wonderful activities and new initiatives that not only benefit Club members today and those of tomorrow but also benefit others in the Washington University community. This newsletter will spotlight some of those new initiatives (Learning Endowment Fund & Mini-Grants to the Brown School) as well as honor past presidents who continue to help move the Club forward. We also bring a bit of history regarding the coffee urn passed from president to president.



By now, most are aware that the Women in the Kemper were brought under the Educational Programming group of the Woman's Club. Faith Berger is chairing WAK and planning an exciting event for 2024. The Edison Theater Matinee, renamed Arts & Entertainment under Iris Malone, is another group considering an event in 2024. So, continue to watch your Constant Contact email messages as these and other exciting plans come to fruition and are shared.

I enjoy meeting members and look forward to seeing you at Woman's Club events.

Warmly,

Sarah Fowler-Dixon

#### Executive Committee

**Sarah Fowler-Dixon**  
President

**Margaret Israel**  
Vice President

**Iris Malone**  
Director, Educational  
Programming

**Jane Schaefer**  
Director, Membership

**Helen Wall**  
Director, Communications

**Charlene Kass**  
Director, Service to the  
University

**Elena Maksaeva**  
Director, Symposium  
Luncheons

**Phyllis Markus**  
Director of Finance

**Karen Johnson Fields**  
Recording Secretary

**Lisa Schmidt**  
Treasurer

**Carmen S. Dence**  
Immediate Past President

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

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## PAST EVENTS

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**Past President's  
Luncheon**



11 of the Woman's Club's Past Presidents met at Bartolino's Ostaria at the end of October to celebrate their history with the club. Everyone had a fun time being together, sharing memories and laughter. All are eager to do it again! Those in attendance missed five members of the group who were either out of town or had other conflicts. It is always a special time to honor the Woman's Club former leaders.

**Left from back to front:** Susan Colangelo, Pat Owens, Nancy Thompson, Jen Jensen, Karen Johnson Fields, Margaret Israel at head of table. **Right from back to front:** Sylvia Silver, Jan Kardos, Ingrid Neufeind, Gloria Lubowitz, Carmen Dence.

## Fall Symposium Luncheon and Lecture

On November 3, the Woman's Club of Washington University gathered at Maggiano's Little Italy for the Fall Symposium Luncheon and Lecture.



Dr. Eric Lenze, the Wallace & Lucille Renard Professor of Psychiatry, Director of the Healthy Mind Lab, and Chair of Psychiatry gave a lecture about “Our Aging Society and the Mental Health Crisis of the 21st Century.”



Members enjoyed a welcome from President Sarah Fowler-Dixon before delighting in lunch and a presentation from Dr. Lenze.



## HISTORY



### History of the Coffee Urn

The silver coffee urn has been handed down from Woman's Club president to president since 1952 when it was given to the Woman's Club "from the girls of the class of 1915," per the inscription. It was one part of an entire silver service that was used to serve coffee at Club meetings which were held in presidents' homes. Some past presidents fondly recall polishing the urn with silver polish that was often included as the urn was passed on.

Once executive and full board meetings ceased to be hosted in the home of the president, partly due to the COVID-19 pandemic which made social distancing a necessity, Woman's Club presidents still placed the coffee urn in a place of honor in their homes, continuing to care for it.

As life returns to normal, executive and full board meetings continue outside the president's home. In part, due to continued use of virtual Zoom meetings but also

because the Woman's Club now has access to meeting rooms on the Washington University campus as part of the support provided by University Advancement. Thus, housing the coffee urn in a neutral location made sense. At the Fall Welcome Reception and Butterfly Garden party, a picture was taken with attending past presidents. The coffee urn was then given to University Archives who will keep the coffee urn in a climate-controlled room. The urn can be brought out for special occasions, like the ceremonial passing of the urn from one president to the next.



Past Presidents with the coffee urn at the Fall Welcome Reception.  
Back Row: Nancy Thompson ('98-'99), Jennifer Luner ('14-'16), Jane Schaefer ('13-'14), Karen Johnson Fields ('16-'18), Assimo Azariadas (Fall '08), Carmen Dence ('21-'23) and Sarah Fowler-Dixon (current).  
Front Row: Margaret Israel ('09-'10), Gloria Lubowitz ('11-'13), Pat Owens (2000-'01), and Sylvia Silver ('97-'98).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT GAME DAYS

**Wednesdays - November 15, 2023 & March 13, 2024**  
**9:45 am – 3:00 pm**

**THE CLARENDALE**  
Lake Forest Lounge

We will serve lunch with dessert, coffee, and tea near noon.  
A full day of **FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP** for only **\$40/person** donation.

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### The Risa Zwerling Wrighton Scholarship Luncheon

**Friday, January 26, 2024**  
**11:00 am - 2:00 pm**

The Ritz-Carlton St. Louis

# INFORMATION ON THE WOMAN'S CLUB RESTRICTED AND ENDOWED FUNDS

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The Woman's Club now has 4 endowed accounts designed to support specific Club activities. Those listed as "endowment" are interest accumulating accounts. The "payout" for any given year from those endowment accounts come from the interest accrued; that is the amount the Club has to work with for a given year. Principal amounts, in endowment funds, are not drawn upon. If there is a surplus of interest accrued income that is not used in a given year, the Woman's Club Board of Directors can vote to re-invest those unused funds with the idea that the "payout" from accrued interest will increase the following year. In this fashion, these accounts continue to support activities.

The endowed accounts are:

- Lecture Endowment Fund. Established in 1985 through a memorandum of understanding, this fund can only be used to support the Assembly Series which the Provost's office now sponsors. Those wishing to support lectures and educational activities in the Woman's Club should donate to the Learning Endowment Fund, explained below, as it provides greater flexibility.
- Elizabeth Gray Danforth Butterfly Garden Endowment Fund. This fund continues to accept donations for on-going activities in the Butterfly Garden.
- Risa Zwerling Wrighton Scholarship Endowment Fund: This fund provides scholarships to students in the College of Professional Studies (CAPS). Potential scholarship recipients must adhere to fund guidelines and are screened by the RZW Scholarship Committee whose members are: Linda Smith, Jennifer Lunar, Judy Joerding and Karen Johnson Fields. This fund actively accepts donations and is supported by Club Game Days.
- Learning Endowment Fund: The newly named "Learning Endowment Fund" is designed to benefit members of the Woman's Club as well as the broader University community. This fund accepts donations.

In addition to the endowed funds, the Woman's Club also has 2 restricted accounts that help to support events and activities specific to the title of those accounts. These are in addition to any cash reserves the Club also holds.

The restricted accounts are:

- Elizabeth Gray Danforth Butterfly Garden Pergola & Improvements Gift Fund. This fund was established specifically to build and install the new pergola. The remaining funds in this account will be used by the Butterfly Garden group. This fund will then be closed. Those wishing to support the Butterfly Garden should donate to the EGD Butterfly Garden Fund explained below.
- International Women Gift Fund. This fund was established due to a specific donation made for the International Women's Group. Once these funds have been used, this gift fund will cease to exist but the International Women's group and their activities will continue.

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## NEW LEARNING ENDOWMENT FUND

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The Woman's Club of Washington University (WCWU) established the Learning Endowment Fund Committee in the summer of 2023 to recommend procedures for implementing a Learning Endowment Fund (LEF), which was in the process of being discussed with Washington University administrators. The LEF was to generate an annual payout to be used to expand the knowledge and experience of members of the WCWU and other members of the Washington University Community, including students. The LEF was created after consulting with the Washington University office responsible for overseeing Gifts and Endowments. A Memorandum of Understanding was prepared by that office and signed in August 2023 by designated University officers and Woman's Club leaders. The Memorandum enabled the Woman's Club to split the funds in the Club's Lecture Endowment (originally signed in 1985 and to be used for the Assembly Series only) into two entities – the Lecture Endowment and the Learning Endowment. The Lecture Endowment will continue to be used to support the Assembly Series. The Learning Endowment is to be used more widely by the Woman's Club to enhance the learning and experiences of Club members and the broader Washington University community. The division of funds from the original endowment was approximately 20% (Lecture Endowment) and 80% (Learning Endowment). The annual payout will be in the same proportions. In 2023, those amounts were approximately \$800 and \$6000, respectively.

The LEF committee, chaired by Linda Smith, worked to establish guidelines for using the LEF's annual payout. The committee set out to define allowable activities, prepare an application form, and create a review process for determining the eligibility of submitted requests. The committee met four times – July 19, August 16, September 13, and October 4, 2023. Members of the committee included Barbara Feiner, Sarah Fowler-Dixon, Margaret Israel, Judy Joerding, Charlene Kass, and Jane Schaefer. Carmen Dence participated in the initial two meetings. Staff members Laura Vetter and Blair Rudert were ex-officio members of the committee. Going forward, applications to the Learning Endowment Fund will be reviewed by the Learning Endowment Fund (LEF) Screening Committee appointed by the president. The 3 person LEF Screening Committee members are: Linda Smith, Barb Feiner, Judy Joerding with the Director of Service to the University, currently Charlene Kass, as an alternate.

Information and the application for the Learning Endowment Fund can be found on the Woman's Club [website](#) on the Learning Endowment tab, or by [clicking here](#). Please direct any questions regarding the application to [womansclub@wustl.edu](mailto:womansclub@wustl.edu).

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## NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BROWN SCHOOL

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The Woman's Club has launched an exciting new initiative with the Brown School of Washington University. This initiative will support students by providing mini-grants that will enhance their overall University experience. These grants will be managed by the Brown School's Student Engagement Fund and will be used by the school to help students cover such items as the cost of student activity fees and graduation regalia for qualifying students, to enhance diversity, equity and inclusion programming at the Brown School, and to encourage community engagement and leadership by this group of dedicated students.

This partnership aligns with the Woman's Club mission of service to the University and will be funded with surplus money available in the Woman's Club budget.

The Woman's Club board established the following guidelines for providing funding to the Brown School's Student Engagement Fund:

- A total of \$5000 will be allocated by the WCWU in FY24 and if all proceeds well, in FY25 and beyond
- A maximum of \$500 is available per applicant
- The application and selection process will be overseen by the Director of Student Engagement, with support by the Office of Finance at the Brown School

- Recipients will be made aware that funding for their mini-grant was made possible by the WCWU
- Students can apply for funds only one time during any given year
- The WCWU will receive an annual stewardship report regarding use of the funds.

We thank the Club's Mini-Grant Committee for their work in bringing this effort to fruition. The committee members were Linda Smith (chair), Carmen Dence, Barbara Feiner, Sarah Fowler-Dixon, Margaret Israel, Judy Joerding, Charlene Kass, Jane Schaefer, and ex-officio members Blair Rudert and Laura Vetter.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

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- Several of our Interest Groups meet *year round!* You can join Arts and Crafts, Butterfly Gardeners, Canasta, Dancing Damsels, Mah Jongg, Out and About or Scrabble all year long. Check the [website](#) for more information about each group or [print a schedule](#).
  - You can sign up for any special interest group by contacting the Chair or Co-Chairs.
  - Guest Members of the Woman's Club are welcome to attend any special interest group or event hosted by the Club, giving them the opportunity to explore all the Club has to offer for 1 year before joining.
  - Margaret Israel sends notes for tributes. Tributes to one of the endowment funds currently accepting donations: EGD Butterfly Garden Fund, Learning Fund (new), and/or the RZW Scholarship Fund. Tributes to any endowment fund can be made on behalf of, in honor of, or in memory of those within or outside the Club.
  - Judy Joerding sends out courtesy notes. Notes are sent to encourage Club members whether the event is joyful or one of sorrow. We want our members to know the Club supports and is thinking of them.
  - Suzanne Doyle writes the engaging member spotlight articles for the newsletters.
  - Jena Schaumberg has joined Laura Vetter and Erin Schreiber as a University Advancement team member who helps support the Woman's Club. Blair Rudert has moved to another position within University Advancement. Thanks to all!
  - Karen Johnson Fields has joined the Executive Board as its Secretary.
  - The full board met in October to approve the 2023-24 budget. With this budget, the Club has absorbed increased fees from vendors allowing ticket prices to remain stagnant for the 2023-24 year.
  - Shannon Laine Smock has been a member of the Screen Actor's Guild (SAG-AFTRA) since 2005 and was recently elected to the board of directors. Additionally, Shannon was nominated to chair the development committee for Cinema St. Louis. Be sure to catch some of the films at this year's St. Louis International Film Festival (SLIFF), November 9-19th, 2023. More information about SLIFF can be found [here](#).
  - Patti Bubash recently returned from a 10 day tour of Salvador and Sao Paulo, Brazil.
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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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The current membership of the Woman's Club stands at 180 members and guests.

If you haven't yet, you can renew by credit card [online](#). It is safe; your information is protected by the Washington University data processing protocols. If you prefer to pay by check, you can print out a [membership form](#) and mail the form and a check into the office.

If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact our Membership Chair, [Jane Schaefer](#).

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## TRIBUTES

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The Woman's Club of Washington University accepts tributes to honor and to remember events, special occasions, and those dear to our hearts. Tribute donations may be directed to any of the Woman's Club endowment funds: Risa Zwerling Wrighton Scholarship, Elizabeth Gray Danforth Butterfly Garden, or Lecture Fund. Tributes are acknowledged in the Woman's Club newsletter, email notifications, and by a personal note sent to the donor.

- Annaliesa Hanebrink made a tribute in memory of Greta Camel.
- Isabel Van Essen made a tribute to the Butterfly Garden in memory of Ibby Danforth
- Judy McKelvey made a tribute in memory of Jean Davis.

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If you are interested in making a gift or tribute, please contact Laura Vetter at 314-935-6013 or [womansclub@wustl.edu](mailto:womansclub@wustl.edu).

**To give by mail:**

The Woman's Club of Washington University  
7425 Forsyth Blvd., MSC 1228-414-2100  
St. Louis, MO 63105

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## 20 YEAR & TIER MEMBERS

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**Eliot Society Members**

Maya Jerath

**Benefactor Members**

Paulina Conner, Lee Anne Quatrano

**Sponsoring Members**

Assimo Azariadis, Elissa Cahn, Barbara Feiner, Margaret Israel, Charlene Kass, Alki Lappas-Case, Charmaine Leonard, Tedi Macias, Pat Sarantites, Linda Smith

**Sustaining Members**

Gisela Ahadi, Andrea Atkinson, Faith Berger, Marcia Bernstein, Carole Bever, Barbara Bindler, Carmen Dence, Karen Johnson Fields, Sarah Fowler-Dixon, Elaine Greenbaum, Cary Hobbs, Connie Kahn, Barbara Kodner, Catherine Krucylak, Betsy Lawlor, Linda Lindsey, Sara Loyet, Gloria Lubowitz, Jennifer Luner, Ingrid Lutzeler, Phyllis Markus, Judith McKelvey, Elfriede Olney, Sibylle Ott, Pat Owens, Diane Rankin, Paula Smith, Sarah Stauffer, Celia Sutera, Nancy Tankersley, Edith Tashma, Serry Thakor, Helen Wall

**Honorary Members**

Paulina Conner, Connie Kahn, Tedi Macias, Anne McDonnell, Ellen Wallace, Anabeth Weil, Risa Zwerling Wrighton

**20+ Year Members**

Gisela Ahadi, Carole Bever, Diana Bose, Judy Dudukovic, Charlotte Ellis, Betty Epstein, Ellen Feinstein, Elaine Greenbaum, Annaliesa Hanebrink, Margaret Israel, Alki Lapas-Case, Jackie Lipsitz, Ingrid Lutzeler, Tedi Macias, Judith McKelvey, Pat Sarantites, Jane Schaefer, Celia Sutera, Maureen Swihart,



**50+ Year Members**

Marcia Bernstein, Betty Hudgins, Jan Kardos, Audrey Mathews, Pat, Owens, Marcella Rose, Rose Marie Salisbury, Katherine Sandel, Sylvia Silver, Carolyn Stern, Nancy Thompson

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## OPPORTUNITIES

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### 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>

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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

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