



The Woman's Club of WashU NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

A message from the president

As I reflect on the past two years of my presidency, a number of significant accomplishments stand out in my mind.

As a Club we were able to:

- Keep our membership costs at the same rate pre-pandemic.
- Hold the cost of attending luncheons by using Club funds to subsidize rising costs.
- Successfully implement the use of mini-grants.
- Sponsor two Assembly Series events.
- Utilize Lecture Endowment Funds to support Woman's Club's educational activities.
- Allow Club members to once again enjoy Edison Theatre productions.
- Work with CAPs to clarify RZW scholarship processes.
- Shorten Executive and Full Board meetings.

Member resources

[Search the directory.](#)

[Join an interest group.](#)

[Browse upcoming events.](#)

[Serve and learn.](#)

[Keep learning with OLLI.](#)

[Visit Ibby's garden.](#)

[Read past newsletters.](#)

[Keep up with WashU news.](#)

[Travel with WashU.](#)

[Make a gift or tribute.](#)

Contact us

womansclub@wustl.edu

- Offer a wide variety of events for Club members. 314-935-0491
- Partner with the Woman's Society to cross advertise some events and extend invitations.
- Highlight special interest group activities.
- Recognize members who make Tributes as well as those who participate in our higher giving levels.
- Mourn our dearly departed members and celebrate others' achievements.
- Send weekly communications listing all upcoming events.
- Encourage members to renew and others to become guest members.
- Have University Archives hold the Woman's Club Coffee Urn and celebrate our Past Presidents.
- Update the Club's Standing Rules.
- Transition to new University policies which require us to work more closely with our University support staff.

In all, it's been a busy and productive two years. I am certain 2025-26 will be just as successful.

Warm Regards,



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Fowler-Dixon".

Sarah Fowler-Dixon
President

Member spotlight

Iris Malone

Woman's Club Director of Education

I arrived a few minutes early at the café on a storm-threatening gray afternoon, wondering how long I might have to wait to meet the Woman's Club Director of Education, Iris Malone. As I

pushed open the entrance door and gazed to my right, I realized that the answer was: no wait at all. I saw a beaming African American woman waving, a quizzical smile, asking me if I was looking for her. We nodded together, opening a delightful conversation about her educational and work history, her family, and the many talents she brings to the Club—all humbly, patiently, and thoroughly presented despite her insistence that she is no good at talking about herself.

At 55, she may be at the pinnacle of her career as a certified IRB (Institutional Review Board) and clinical research professional. Or the ladder she's been climbing since graduating from SIU-Carbondale in 1992 may have unexpected rungs soaring above yet. Currently, she is balancing her work as IRB Administrator for Mercy health system's fifty hospitals across Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, with her home life in St. Charles County. At home, along with her husband, she manages a household for her 15 year-old son, Emory, an avid athlete at Francis Howell North High School, playing basketball and soccer, among other sports. Emory is the youngest of three: His oldest brother, Rodney, 28, lives close by, is recently engaged, and works in sales; Bradley, 24, who studied biochemistry at Rockhurst, is now in pharmacy school at UM-KC.

Iris has been married to their dad, Rodney Malone, since July 4, 1992. Although they both attended Hazelwood Central High School, they didn't meet until a fortuitous blind date arranged by cousins in 1990 when Iris was a college junior. They've been strong partners and powerful models for their boys since the beginning as determined professionals and committed community activists. Rodney is a vice president for Stifel Bank, specializing in venture capital, and serves on several boards, including that of the YMCA and the People's Clinics.

Iris' bright tone and radiant smile throughout the conversation reflected her interest in and satisfaction with her career— "I've loved everything I've done"—always making the best use of her capacity to resolve conflicts and build respectful cooperation, whether teaching basic skills or monitoring compliance with critical regulators. She began in Tampa, where she and her husband lived for their first five years together. She worked for Telecredit (bought by Equifax), validating checks, then training others, then improving company systems so successfully that "I perfected myself out of a job." By then the Malones had moved to the St. Louis area to be near their families as they built their own.

Iris' mother, aunts, and some uncles were teachers, and so education seemed a natural fit when, as a young mother, she worked part-time for the St. Louis Community College Center for Industry and Labor. There she taught GED and ESL

classes and soft computer skills. The pattern thereafter was recruitment, i.e., becoming known and sought after for her skill, social/political finesse, and professional preparation. First, she was recruited by Wash U Medical School to be Clinical Research Coordinator for Oncology where she resolved problems with research oversight and restored order— “a baptism by fire.” Then St. Luke’s Hospital offered her a position as an IRB analyst; there again she successfully took on deep conflicts within research staff. Finally, in 2020, she was recruited by Mercy. Since her ascendancy as IRB Administrator, the Mercy system has passed all OHRP (Office for Human Research Protections) and FDA audits.

Despite the intensity of her work and home lives, or as fuel to energize herself, Iris has for years met at 4:30 every afternoon with friends to walk five miles. She has also served her neighborhood Home Owners’ Association as trustee and president. For the community of 66 homes, she oversees compliance with by-laws while keeping up with finances and fielding complaints—which certainly require sharp-eyed observation and diplomacy, like the skills she’s brought to the work of her past twenty-five or so years.

And, of course, she has served the Woman’s Club after—once again—being recruited, this time by Sarah Fowler Dixon, when Sarah was the new member chair; they happily became co-chairs. Now Iris is Director of Education, enriching the wealth of learning opportunities the Club offers. The Club is fortunate to have a lifelong and ardent pursuer of learning as educational model. This mother, teacher, communicator, dog-lover, recently certified wedding celebrant, and adventurer, simply, she says, wants “to serve the world as a good and caring person.” She does.

-Suzanne Doyle, 2025

Upcoming events



Nature Playscape Tour

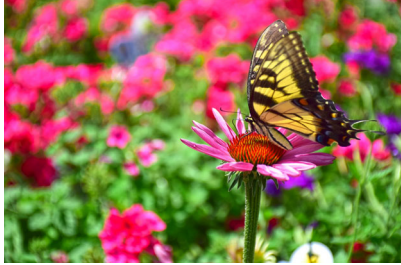
Friday, May 9

Please join us for a walking tour of the Anne O'C. Albrecht Nature Playscape in Forest Park on Friday, May 9 at 10 a.m. Jane Schaefer will lead us on a walk through the nature playscape and talk about the native plants blooming in the gardens along the trail.

[Click here to find a map of the Nature Playscape.](#)

Reach out to janeschaefer79@gmail.com or call 314-580-3972 with questions. ***Park on Carr Lane Drive near the intersection of McKinley Drive.***

RSVP for the Tour



The Big Dig!

Wednesday, May 14

Join us in the garden to help with our spring planting!

We will meet at the **Elizabeth Danforth Butterfly Garden** to ready the flower beds for the summer.

Please let Lee Anne know if you plan to come to receive future correspondence about The Big Dig!

Please RSVP to Lee Anne Quatrano at lquatrano@gmail.com and 314-322-3842.

On Forsyth across from the Danforth University Center. Park in the DUC parking garage.

RSVP for the Big Dig!



Spring Symposium

Friday, May 23

Join us for the annual meeting to hear a remarkable speaker, Stéphane Denève, the Director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. RSVP by May 16 and invite a guest!

Lunch will be a BBQ Chicken Salad with Chocolate Cake. There will also be an opportunity to renew your Woman's Club membership for the 2025-2026 year.

While complimentary valet parking is available onsite, you may consider carpooling.

More details available in the registration form.

Thank you to the Woman's Club for subsidizing part of the cost of the event!

RSVP for the Symposium

Past events



1904 World's Fair Exhibit

Galleries and Sights visited the 1904 World's Fair Exhibit at the Missouri History Museum on January 30. Sixteen ladies had a wonderful visit despite the rainy day. Ryan, the docent for the tour, was very knowledgeable and did an excellent job bringing to life such an interesting event in the history of Saint Louis. Most of the group enjoyed lunch at the museum restaurant following the tour.



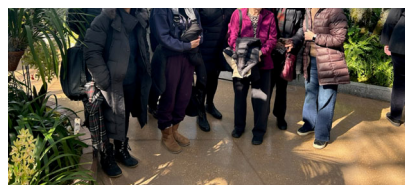
RZW Scholarship Luncheon

The Woman's Club celebrated students in CAPS at their Scholarship Luncheon on January 31 at Maggiano's. Vice Dean Kilinyaa Cothran spoke about CAPS and how the program champions its students. As the recipient students spoke about their journeys, Risa Zwerling Wrighton encouraged them and the women in the room to continue forging ahead on their chosen paths. **Dr. Nancy Morrow-Howell** gave an eye-opening lecture on Reframing Aging. Aging is created socially, not by biology. It's an interdisciplinary issue that will take a combined effort to fix. There are steps we can all take to make sure that everyone ages positively.

Listen to Nancy's lecture



Orchid Show



The Woman's Club had its annual tour of the Orchid Show on February 21. The event was organized by Jennifer Luner and Elena Maksaeva. The docent on duty spent a lot of time with several of the ladies. Five stayed for lunch at Sassafras after and walked the entire garden in the brisk, sunny weather. It was a really fun day, and the attendees were most appreciative that the WCWU scheduled the event again.



"The Wolves" at Edison

The Arts and Entertainment group invited members to see *The Wolves* on March 2. Playwright Sarah DeLappe captured the raw energy, unfiltered banter and accumulating pressure of an elite girls' indoor soccer team. It was an immersive experience because during the play, the exit became a part of the set and patrons were seated on stage.



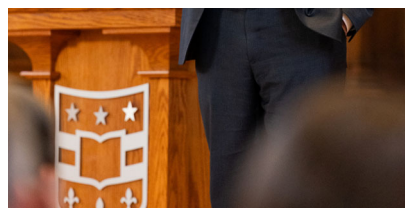
Seeds Exhibit at the Kemper

Galleries and Sights visited the Seeds exhibit at the Kemper Art Museum on March 29. The women had a private showing by curator Meredith Malone. The group exhibition grapples with climate crisis and explores human entanglements with the natural world. "'Seeds' aims to spark active and imaginative responses through encounters with dynamic artworks that reflect on and reframe our understanding of current environmental challenges and our connections to the natural world," said Meredith. They enjoyed lunch afterwards at the Oceano Bistro.



Assembly Series with Rob Bilott

The Woman's Club sponsored part of WashU's Assembly Series Lecture and Reception featuring Rob Bilott, a distinguished environmental attorney. He shared the unsettling story of his decades-long epic legal battle against DuPont and how he exposed corporate coverup and massive chemical contamination of unprecedented scale and scope. From cows dying on a small farm in West Virginia to the



ramifications on our bodies once contaminated, we learned we should be wary of possible health threats. During the reception, attendees received signed copies of his book *Exposure* and had the chance to speak with Bilot.

Membership report

The current membership of the Woman's Club stands at 175 members and guests.

We will be sending out renewal forms in the coming weeks for the 2025-2026 year. You can renew online or by mail!

20 Year & Tier Members

Benefactor Members

Lee Anne Quatrano

Sponsoring Members

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

Sustaining Members

Gisela Ahadi, Carole Bever, Barbara Bindler, Paulina Conner, Sharon Britt, Carmen Dence, Sarah Fowler-Dixon, Elaine Greenbaum, Annaliesa Hanebrink, Connie Kahn, Catherine Krucylak, Jacquelyn Lipsitz, Sara Loyet, Gloria Lubowitz, Tedi Macias, Phyllis Markus, Judith McKelvey, Georganne Nixon, Sibylle Ott, Pat Owens, Marcella Rose, Paula Smith, Celia Sutera, Nancy Tankersley, Serry Thakor, Michael Tilton, Susan Tilton, Helen Wall

Honorary Members

Paulina Conner, Connie Kahn, Tedi Macias, Anne McDonnell, Judith Hood McKelvey, Ellen Wallace, Anabeth Weil, Risa Zwerling Wrigton

20+ Year Members

Gisela Ahadi, Luisette Behmer, Carole Bever, Judy Dudukovic, Charlotte Ellis, Betty Epstein, Ellen Feinstein, Elaine Greenbaum, Annaliesa Hanebrink, Margaret Israel, Alki Lapas-Case, Charmaine Leonard, Jackie Lipsitz, Jennifer Luner, Ingrid Lutzeler, Tedi Macias, Judith McKelvey, Pat Sarantites, Jane Schaefer, Celia Sutera, Maureen Swihart, Charlene Taber, Serry Thakor, Isabel Van Essen, Helen Wall, Risa Zwerling

Wrighton

50+ Year Members

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

If you know of anyone who would like to join the Woman's Club, membership is open to all! They can [join online on the Membership Page](#), or can [print out a membership form](#) and mail the form with a check to the office address below:

The Woman's Club of WashU
University Advancement, MSC 3100
c/o Elizabeth Ojo
7425 Forsyth Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Invite a friend!

New members needed

The vitality of the Woman's Club depends on its members and their engagement. While we gain new members throughout the year, we are also losing members who move away or are no longer with us.

Please help us increase our membership! We all have friends who would enjoy our many fun activities, so we need to ask them to join us. Look around your neighborhood, workplace, church, synagogue, or other organizations you belong to, and talk to friends who might want to join the Woman's Club. Invite them to our events. **Tomorrow, on May 9, I am leading a tour of the Forest Park Nature Playscape. Our Spring Luncheon will be held on Friday, May 23, featuring Stéphane Denève, and of course our Interest Groups take place throughout the year.**

New members can be Guest Members who will not pay dues for their first year. Guests who join this spring will have a free membership for the 2025 - 2026 year.

Thank you for your help!

Jane Schaefer Janeschaefer79@gmail.com

News from our members



Patti Bubash recently achieved her certification in TESOL to teach English as a Second Language from Webster University. She has done volunteer work and substitutes to teach English as a Second Language.

Tributes

The Woman's Club is thankful for the contributions from its members and friends in the community who continue to support the ongoing educational activities of the organization. Tributes can be made [online by selecting where you want it designated](#) or mailed to the Woman's Club Administrative Coordinator at 7425 Forsyth Blvd, MSC 3100, St. Louis, MO 63105.

Thank you to **Assimo Azariadis, Margaret Israel, Elaine Kahn, Jennifer Luner, Nancy Thompson, Jane Schaefer, Linda Smith, Helen Wall** for their additional contributions to the [Risa Zwerling Wrighton Endowed Scholarship](#) through Game Day.

Thank you to **Marcella Rose and Isabel Van Essen** for their additional contributions to the [Woman's Club](#) and the [Elizabeth Gray Danforth Butterfly Garden Fund](#).

Obituaries



Maureen Wulf passed on December 29, 2024.



Opportunities

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.washu.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.washu.edu/events/> for a list of upcoming events, and to register.

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

The Woman's Club directory is online

The Woman's Club directory for the 2024-25 season is available online! You can access the directory online on the [membership page](#) of our website and clicking on the "Woman's Club Directory (PDF)" button in the green box. Feel free to print a copy at home.

Access the Directory

Reach out to Liz Ojo at womansclub@wustl.edu if you have any issues or need to update your information.

The password is: WCWU24-25

Please note the password is case and space sensitive

The Woman's Club Executive Committee

Sarah Fowler-Dixon
President

Helen Wall
Director,

Phyllis Markus
Director of Finance

Communications

Margaret Israel

Vice President

Iris MaloneDirector, Educational
Programming**Jane Schaefer**

Director, Membership

Charlene KassDirector, Service to the
University**Elena Maksaeva**Director, Symposium
Luncheons**Karen Johnson Fields**

Recording Secretary

Lisa Schmidt

Treasurer

Carmen S. DenceImmediate Past
President**Renew your Woman's Club membership or make a gift.**

This email was sent by the Woman's Club of WashU - Founded in 1910

Washington University in St. Louis, MSC 3100

7425 Forsyth Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63105

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