



The Woman's Club of WashU NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025

A Message from the President

Somewhere between the seemingly endless rain, powerful and destructive storms and soaring temperatures cruel enough to make even the most avid outdoor person cry for mercy, there was a St. Louis summer, and with it, an opportunity for me to reflect on how best to introduce myself to the **Woman's Club of Washington University** community.

I have been affiliated with WashU in many ways over the last 30 plus years....as a daughter to a retired School of Medicine faculty member, as the daughter of Alumna Argini Lappas (who served as President of WCWU 30 years ago!), and as an Alumna myself from the College of Arts & Sciences. Throughout that time I have had the pleasure to participate in (and even help prepare) High Teas and Game Days, attend **Gallery** outings, **Symposiums**, **RZW Luncheons** honoring CAPS Scholarship recipients, **Garden**

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

Events, and most recently an opportunity to dig and weed alongside some serious green gurus and plant whisperers in the **Elizabeth Danforth Butterfly Garden**.

314-935-0491

Whether your interest is discussing literary themes and memorable characters in the **Literature Group**, exploring and learning from docents and guides about the many hidden artistic and natural wonders in our area with **Galleries & Sights**, taking a bite out of the incredible St. Louis food scene with fellow foodies with **Out & About**, trying your hand with **Creative Women Writing** or playing a hand with Canasta or Mah Jongg there is no doubt that you will find rewarding engagement and involvement with this exceptional group of women.

I encourage you all to join WCWU this year and discover for yourself the wonderful ways with which to connect; starting with 2 fantastic back-to-back events!

- **The Butterfly Garden Celebration and Woman's Club Fall Welcome Reception** Tuesday, September 9th at 4 p.m. at the Elizabeth Danforth Butterfly Garden on WashU Campus, across from Edison Theater. This will also be a chance to **renew your membership in person**
- **Fall Member Recognition and Full Board Meeting** Friday, October 3rd at 11 a.m. at Pietro's, 3801 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63109

I am honored to be serving as Sarah Fowler-Dixon's successor and excited to learn from, meet, and celebrate this community of women and together further the legacy of service, education and friendship espoused by the WCWU.

Sincerely,





Alki Lappas-Case
President

Member Spotlight

Ingrid Neuefeind A Lifetime of Experience

After the pleasure of walking through Ingrid Neuefeind's lush green front yard, I found myself enchanted by the light and color I encountered when she opened the front door. Ingrid greeted me warmly in a simple multi-colored dress then escorted me to the living room, shining from sunlit stained glass, bright artwork, an eight-foot-high flower sculpture wreathed in Christmas lights, and, from the rear, a view of her lively garden and her husband Wilhelm's "junk art": glass bottle mobiles and fluttering fabric streamers. So much and so simple. Lively aesthetics in color and pattern—and sound I was soon to learn—characterize 87-year-old Ingrid and the life she and her husband have made here in St. Louis.

The couple and their two young daughters, Nicole and Bettina, moved to their home in the heart of University City shortly after their arrival in the US more than forty years ago when Wilhelm was hired to teach theoretical economics at WashU. The girls adapted quickly to American culture and language in the U. City public schools, and Ingrid soon acquired the coursework necessary for K-12 teaching certification to teach German and music, but she was lonely and missed the "carnival city" in Germany—Cologne—where she grew up and met her husband after completion of their studies. In addition to the Woman's Club, which she joined around 1978, music proved the key to belonging.

Ingrid was then and is a violinist. Teaching and performing music connect her via the shared riches of melody and devotion to skill-development and the mesmerizing communication of temporal beauty among adult companions. When she became part of

the St. Louis Philharmonic and helped form a string quartet, she was relieved not to “be so alone anymore”; she and the other musicians speak a common language. She has played with the Philharmonic as it has moved from what was Kiel Auditorium (on the other side of a wall from where basketball fans shrieked) to Logan University, where this summer they will perform their semi-annual Pops concert. Her involvement in music organizations has not been limited to her teaching and performance, however; for example, in the past she designed posters for the Philharmonic, publicized concerts, and served on its board; she currently serves on the advisory board for the Webster Music School and was a docent for the St. Louis Symphony and still is for Opera Theatre Saint Louis. And, of course, “my husband and I attend thirty + concerts a year,” every kind of music in every sort of venue. Not surprisingly, one of Ingrid’s first efforts in the Woman’s Club was to co-found the Classical Music interest group which quickly evolved from just listening to supporting one another as performers.



Ingrid and her quartet performing for a celebration of Nobel Laureate Douglass North (WashU Department of Economics)

All the while Ingrid and Wilhelm pursued their careers and raised their daughters, they deepened their commitments to the neighborhood and larger community. Both tutored for Oasis, Ingrid for fifteen years, Wilhelm for ten. She served as the Woman’s Club’s president TWICE—1993-94 and 2007-08—organizing many visits to St. Louis cultural institutions. In that household their daughters grew into accomplished, engaged

women: The elder, Nicole, studied design at Stanford then earned her MBA at the Northwestern University; she and her husband, an architect, live in Barcelona, where she designs customer satisfaction programs for Oracle. Bettina graduated from WashU and got a law degree from the University of Chicago. She and her husband, a constitutional law professor, both work for Harvard, where she advocates for disabled children seeking educational services to which they are entitled. Ingrid loves their three children, aged 15, 18, and 21.



Newly inducted WCWU President Ingrid Neufeind presenting outgoing President Marianne Engebretson with a gift

Unlike the cultural and civic wealth and safety that undergirded much of her daughters' childhoods, Ingrid was born and spent her first years in Breslau, Germany (Silesia)—now Wroclaw, Poland—during the ravages of WWII then the immediate marauding Soviet invasion. She remembers, first, being crowded into freight cars, then walking west, exhausted and cold, during a long winter, seeking refuge from the Russians. She made a point, when her daughters came along, of introducing them to Breslau/Wroclaw, their ancestral home.

Now many years and experiences later Ingrid acknowledges that she and Wilhelm are old—though not as old as her mother, who, despite the hardships of surviving the war, the occupation, and separation from her family in the East, lived to be 102. Ingrid is saddened at times by the losses associated with aging and laments such frustrations as arthritic hands, but she and Wilhelm remain vibrantly active: He bikes several times per week and meets with fellow cyclists on Sundays, and she, of course, plays her violin. A book of flower photographs she took at the Missouri Botanical Garden fairly vibrates with brilliant hues, making clear that she is still in love with color. Ingrid Neufeind dances with the Dancing Damsels and with life.

-Suzanne Doyle, 2025

Upcoming Events



Out and About Group

Tuesday, September 9

11:30 a.m.

Oliva on the Hill

4915 Daggett Ave, St. Louis, MO 63110

Join the Out and About Group on **September 9 at 11:30 a.m. at *Oliva on the Hill***. Please note, this locale does NOT take reservations. You order and pay for in the small gift shop. It is delivered to the table wherever you decide to sit. Small groups can plan to sit together, and the food comes out as it is prepared. There are many nice tables outdoors under the pergolas.

Jennifer will coordinate a table for those attending. Reach out to Jennifer Luner at jjluner26@gmail.com or call 314-323-3263.

Join the Out and About group mailing list by emailing Jennifer Luner or Charlotte Ellis! An email will go out with meeting details so be sure to hold the 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. of each month.

RSVP for Lunch



Elizabeth Danforth Butterfly Garden Celebration and Woman's Club Fall Welcome Reception

Tuesday, September 9 at 4 p.m.

Join us to celebrate the 2025 Butterfly Garden season and delight in the migrating Monarch Butterflies. We look forward to welcoming WashU's Woman's Club members and guests to kick off another year of the Woman's Club. Enjoy delicious appetizers and cool beverages. This will also be a time to renew your membership in person!

Suzanne Langlois will be our speaker about
Meds & Food For Kids

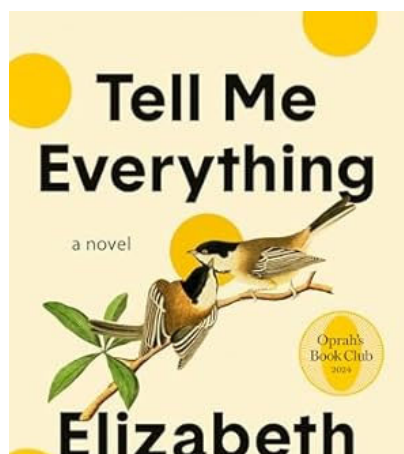
More than a treatment. **A Solution.**

*Based in Haiti, we save lives and transform futures by
treating malnourished children & mothers, training
farmers, and creating jobs.*

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 by September 2



Book Club - September

Thursday, September 11
1 p.m.

Book: *Tell Me Everything* by Elizabeth Strout

Prepare for a wonderful discussion of *Tell Me Everything* accompanied by dessert!



RSVP to Jennifer Luner at jjluner26@gmail.com or call 314-323-3263 for the host details.



Fall Member Recognition and Full Board Meeting

Friday, October 3 at 11 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate and recognize members for their years with the Club.

This event costs \$10/person and guests are welcome!

Program:

11:00 a.m. Full Board Meeting

11:30 a.m. Lunch

12:15 p.m. Recognition of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50+ years of membership

1:00 p.m. Program concludes

All entrees include salad, pasta, or vegetable and bread, butter, iced tea, coffee, or water.

A cash bar is available.

Choice of one entrée at the event:

Chicken Ala Pietro

Beef Spedini

Grilled Grouper

Special dietary needs such as vegetarian, gluten free, etc. accommodated by servers

Questions? Contact Carol Fowler-Dixon at

cfowlerdixon@att.net

Pietro's at 3801 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63109

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

RSVP for the Fall Event

The Woman's Club Wants Your Picture!

We have lots of group pictures from events over the years, but would like individual pictures to use at the **Fall Recognition Event and Full Board Meeting**. If you have one and are willing to share electronically, please send to Liz Ojo at eojo@wustl.edu and copy Carol Fowler-Dixon at cfowlerdixon@att.net so it can be included in the slide presentation.

Past Events



Nature Playscape

Members of the group met May 9 at the Forest Park Anne O'C. Albrecht Nature Playscape to explore the area and enjoy the day. It is a wonderful place for groups, families, and individuals. The wildflowers are lovely!



The Big Dig

In spite of the storms this spring, the ladies met to plant and prepare the Elizabeth Gray Danforth Garden for the summer. The garden is open from dawn to dusk and all are welcome.

Reach out to Lee Anne Quatrano at lquatrano@gmail.com and 314-322-3842 to find out how best to assist.



Spring Symposium



On May 23 at Meadowbrook Country Club, the Woman's Club conducted its Annual Meeting at which the Executive Board for the ensuing year was installed.

We also heard from Stéphane Denève, Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. The quote "Music can change the world" by Ludwig van Beethoven resonated with Stéphane's talk. He conducts pieces that he believes in, that move him. Music can transform and change your life forever!

[Listen to Stéphane's talk](#)

Get Involved!

Find a group that sparks your interest

The Woman's Club boasts a wide variety of opportunities for members to get involved in. All club members are invited to attend Special Interest Group meetings. If you are not a regular group member but wish to attend a meeting, please contact the group chair and ask to be added to their email list. You will be informed of the upcoming meetings. In addition, Woman's Club members are encouraged to invite prospective members to join them at Special Interest Group meetings.

Click on any of the icons below to reach out to the group chair and [explore our other groups online](#) to get involved during the year!



Join this year-round group to do beading, knitting, crochet, and needlepoint crafts.

The group meets on the



All new players of all levels are welcome to join this social bridge group that meets the **first Thursday** of each month (September-May).

We meet for lunch at 1:00



Do you want to gain momentum and confidence in your writing? Please join our group of creative writers who come with a broad range of writing experiences. We complete

third Thursday of each month from noon to 3:00 pm. Bring a brown-bag lunch for yourself and share dessert by rotating contributors.

To join, contact: **Evie Shucart (314-698-6779)**

Arts and Crafts



The Dancing Damsels of Washington University group is a large and vibrant group of mature ladies, who not only benefit from dance but also gain self-confidence, poise, and balance and develop creativity with a support system, all needed as we grow older! We meet the **first Saturday** of each month at 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM at Carmen's home.

To join, contact: **Carmen Dence (314-813-0325)**

p.m. at the Pasta House and play bridge at 2:00 p.m.

To join, contact: **Margaret Israel (314-997-0431)**

Bridge



We meet at the home of the hostess the **second Thursday** of the month, (excluding December) at 1:00 pm to discuss books. We also serve dessert during our meetings.

Upcoming months:
Tell Me Everything by Elizabeth Strout
The Color of Water by James McBride
History of Love by Nicole Krauss

To join, contact: **Jennifer Luner (314-323-3263)**

monthly writing assignments designed to inspire, guide, and develop our skills. This group meets the **second Thursday** of the month, September through May, from 9:00–11:30 a.m.

To join, contact: **Jennifer Luner (314-323-3263)**

Creative Writing



This group meets the **second Tuesday** of each month, year-round, to lunch at restaurants in St. Louis. We socialize with new and old friends and explore new neighborhoods and areas together. The group meets at 11:30 a.m. Restaurant choice is communicated via email and RSVP's are requested so a reservation can be made with the restaurant of the month. Members collaborate to select the restaurants.

To join, contact: **Charlotte Ellis (314-623-8523)**

[Dancing Damsels](#)[Literature](#)[Out and About](#)

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.

New members can be Guest Members who will not pay dues for their first year, 2025 - 2026.

Thank you for your help!

Jane Schaefer Janeschaefer79@gmail.com

There is still time to renew! The Club coordinator will update member information afterwards to ensure the listings are current. You can also renew by credit card online on the [membership page](#), or you 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
7425 Forsyth Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63105

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.

Obituaries



A Memorial to Pat Sarantites

July 29, 2025

Loving wife, beloved mother, and
cherished grandmother

Woman's Club member since 1976.

The remarkable life of Pat Sarantites has been defined by her devotion and service to Washington University and the community, her active philosophy of generosity and inclusion, and her own unique open, warm, and giving personality.

As a graduate of Washington University, a Special Education teacher, and the spouse of a Chemistry Professor, Pat used her talents and experience to benefit the St. Louis community and beyond. Pat credits her early scholarship to Wash U as the beginning of her devotion to the University. Her advocacy through the Woman's Club of WU is legendary. Pat served as the Club's President, a myriad of numerous chairperson positions, and as one of the leaders of the Club's International Women's Group. Her vital work with this group continues to welcome spouses and students to the University.

Pat's service to others shone and was demonstrated by her lived philosophy of inclusion. Cognizant of the challenges of special needs and individual circumstances, Pat always sought ways to dynamically include and celebrate others. Whether opening her home to WCWU groups, such as the International Women, Pat's door was always open to sharing diverse cultures and experiences. Through interactive art projects and holiday traditions, such as pumpkin carving, Pat's home was a haven that made everyone feel relaxed, included, and special. These experiences fostered lifelong friendships throughout the globe.

However, Pat will always be remembered for not only her many accomplishments and service, but, more importantly, the way she made all around her feel special. She never met a stranger. Her friends describe her as a dynamic force who is always the first to laugh with an unstoppable sense of humor. A person could not be in her presence very long without Pat drawing you in and making you a part of her family of friends. Known for her bright colors, Pat was vibrant and personified a lived positive attitude where all was possible. Pat Sarantites touched the heart and spirit of so many people. She will surely be missed

-Judy Joerding, 2025

The Women's Leadership Program

Elevate Your Influence and Impact

Gender representation in leadership yields more creative and innovative teams with enhanced problem-solving capabilities, ultimately leading to success. The Women's Leadership Program exists to sustain this impact and mobilize resources to support the growth and development of women leaders.

Through six thought-provoking day-long sessions, the Women's Leadership Program will equip participants with a clear understanding of the unique value gender representation affords an organization, as well as a comprehensive strategy for moving forward. Sessions are comprised of a thoughtful mix of lectures, case studies, breakout discussions, guest speakers, and role-play exercises.

[Learn more and register at WashU's Olin Business School.](#)

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

Alki Lappas-Case

President

Helen Wall

Director,
Communications

Phyllis Markus

Director of Finance

Charlene Kass

Vice President

Elena Maksaeva

Director, Service to the
University

Annaliesa Hanebrink

Recording Secretary

Iris Malone

Director, Educational
Programming

Charmaine Leonard

Director, Symposium
Luncheons

Lisa Schmidt

Treasurer

Jane Schaefer

Director, Membership

Sarah Fowler-Dixon

Immediate Past
President

Renew your Woman's Club membership or make a gift.

Learn more about [With You: The WashU Campaign](#).

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