



The Woman's Club of Wash U NEWSLETTER Spring 2026

Message From the President



More glass jars!

Our son's preference for store bought pasta sauce over my homemade marinara left me with a gaping hole in my heart and a pantry filled with mismatched jars. By the time he had left for college, and long after the smell of garlicky betrayal had dissipated from the lid, I had accumulated 17 empty jars that occupied 2 feet of premium shelf space. It was time for me to put the jars to use. One after the other, legumes, beans, grains, and baking ingredients were set free from their original packaging and relocated into clear containers. When all, but one of the jars, had been repurposed, I sat on the floor, looking up and around me, admiring the order and organization I had achieved.

From that moment on, every time I swung open the pantry doors, and watched the lights click on, each jar revealed itself to me clearly, announcing its intention. Beluga lentils, once sadly slouched in a plastic bag, now boldly applauded me for embracing more fiber in my diet. Bright yellow, pearl-shaped mustard seeds pleaded with me, wondering if they would ever get a chance to pickle something; and a few lingering chocolate chips reminded me that out of sight, was indeed, out of mind. The simple act of changing how the items were displayed, allowed me to see them differently and appreciate their purpose all the better.



We, at the Woman's Club of Washington University, want to be your empty glass jar, brimming with possibility and potential. We invite you to generously pour your ideas, gifts and talents into us. We want to help them find fresh life and showcase them on the shelf, so that they can fuel the engagement and growth we are known for as a club. Take a moment and ask yourself, "what could I offer to that jar?" We look forward to hearing from you.

I wish you all a wonderful summer!



Alki Lappas-Case
President

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 WCWU 7425 Forsyth Blvd, MSC 3100, St. Louis, MO 63105.

Member Spotlight

Jane Schaefer



A few seconds after I knocked, the front door swung wide open and a large Wheaten Terrier (Libby) leaped at me. Jane Schaefer, her mistress, both struggled to contain Libby and to welcome me warmly. Despite Libby's initial din, I immediately noticed color: Jane's lavender glasses and her purple and rose sweater. In her small University City house a collection of art—paintings, prints, embroidered and beaded pieces—sing with joyful color. The color reflects and perhaps reinforces 83 year-old Jane's enthusiasm for her wide range of interests pursued in and outside the Woman's Club.

In our time together Jane spoke candidly and openly about her family, her work, including her education, years of her consultancy, and long volunteer commitments, and the groups she's served energetically and loyally for decades.

Although long divorced, Jane maintained a loving connection with her ex-husband, a chemist and researcher at Wash U, until his death in 2022, and has partnered with her financial advisor boyfriend, Steve, since 2005. Jane has three adult children, two of whom are still living. With great tenderness and empathy for his struggles, Jane mentioned that her youngest son, Tom, died of suicide in 2023; she acknowledged compassionately that "life was always hard for him." The older two are accomplished professionals and parents: Jane's daughter, Jill, 58, is a fundraiser for the American Red Cross; Jill has a daughter in Los Angeles, engaged in public relations for the movie industry, and fraternal twins scheduled to graduate this spring from Mizzou. Her son, Jake, 55, lives in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where he is a biology professor; he has two sons, one a freshman at Auburn and another, 11, described fondly by his grandmother as a baseball fanatic.

Curiosity, ingenuity, and keen intelligence run in Jane's family—and, I'm sure Jane hopes, longevity as well: Her father lived to be 100 and her mother 102. Both her parents studied at the University of Minnesota like Jane after them (Phi Beta Kappa in mathematics). Her engineer father designed the B-26 bomber during World War II; to protect him and his wife the couple were moved from the East Coast to Omaha, where Jane was born. She and her younger sister, a retired medical technologist, then were raised in Minneapolis, where she later met her husband at the university.

She has lived in the St. Louis area since 1964, a seminal year for the region when both the Arch and Busch Stadium were completed. While raising her young family, she studied in Wash U's brand-new program in Computer Science and earned her MS in 1975. (All the while her remarkable mother pursued a similar program of study.) Afterward and until very recently, Jane then worked as a computer consultant for the BJC Health system and for several St. Louis County municipalities (lastly Maplewood), enjoying the collection and collation of the mountains of data needed in the functioning of complex organizations.

For the past forty years, while investing in family and in her practice, she has settled into the U.City and the Wash U communities. Like in her work Jane has been quick to identify needs and problems and offered her skills and energy to resolve them. She founded U City in Bloom, helping to plant and maintain 200 public flower beds. She is still active on that board as she is as membership chair of the Woman's Club. (This is her last year.) Since 1985 she's been active in the Club, serving as President around 2010. Deepening her affiliation with U. City, she joined the Arts and Letters Commission two years ago, allowing her to work for and play with all kinds of public arts events.

Everywhere she looks, it seems, Jane finds meaning and areas of interest; she dives in then stays. She joined the Ethical Society after her boyfriend, Steve, invited her decades ago; she's enjoyed the inspiring talks, great music, and many opportunities for service. Right now she manages the art exhibits at the Society's center, finding and inviting artists to show their work. Reflecting her U. City gardening venture, she became a Master Naturalist through Meramec Community College in 2002 and loves observing and supporting her mostly native plants at home as they thrive in Missouri's extreme climatic conditions. She participates in two book clubs, the Woman's Club interest group and the second through the Ethical Society, focused on social justice.

As we reached the close of our conversation, my head spinning with the variety and depth of Jane Schaefer's engagements, she smiled and said, "I've had a lot of fun in my life." Then the Woman's Club membership chair added buoyantly, "This is a wonderful organization! We do so many wonderful, worthwhile things. Bring your friends!"



Jane's Family



Growing coral vine honeysuckle



Quilting for loved ones

-by Suzanne Doyle 2026

Upcoming Events



Fall Welcome Event and Butterfly Garden Party

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 4-6 pm
Elizabeth Danforth Butterfly Garden
(Ibby's Garden)

This is a free event for members and guests to enjoy the garden in its fall glory and appreciate the work done throughout the summer along with drinks and appetizers.



Fall Recognition Event and Full Board Meeting

Friday, October 23, 2026, 11am-1pm
Pietro's
3801 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63109

Join us for this year's Fall Recognition Event and Full Board Meeting where we will recognize members for years of membership in the Woman's Club.

Past Events

RZW Endowed Scholarship Luncheon 1.30.26



Jane Schaefer, Assimo Azariadis,
Barbara Feiner



Linda Lindsey, Doris
Ogrowsky, Zora Hanko



RZW Scholarship
Recipients,
Katherine Leemon,
Patty Prewitt



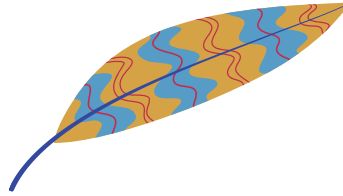
RZW Guests



Iris Malone, Sarah Fowler-
Dixon, Susan Ruffcorn,
Carol Fowler-Dixon, Patti
Bubash, Cori Darvish

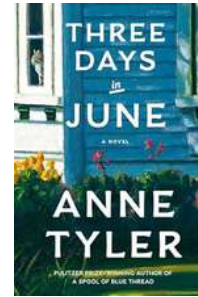
Past Events

Book Club

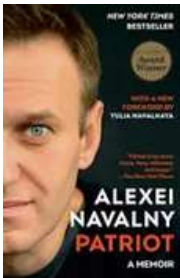


Next Year's Book List

- *Together in Manzanar* by Tracy Slater
- *Paris in the Present Tense* by Mark Helprin
- *Adventures in the Louvre* by Elaine Sciolino
- *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon
- *Night Watch* by Jayne Anne Phillips
- *Atmosphere* by Taylor Jenkins Reid
- *All Fours* by Miranda July
- *James* by Percival Everett



Three Days in June
by Anne Tyler
2.12.26



Patriot by Alexei
Navalny 4.9.26



Wild Dark Dark Horse
by Charlotte
McConaghy 4.9.26



Delicious by Ruth
Reichl 5.14.26

Enjoying Nature MOBOT Orchid Show 2.25.26



Doris Ogrowsky, Christine Hepler,
Karen Johnson-Fields,
Annaliesa Hanebrink, Jennifer Luner,
Anita Hutkin, Dvora Siegel,
Debbie Aumer, Arlene Moore.

Arts and Entertainment Our Town Performance 3.1.26



Gloria Lubowitz, Karen
Johnson Fields, Assimo
Azariadis



FR: Charmaine Leonard,
Keifer Lichtenberg, BR:
Carol Fowler-Dixon,
Rodney Malone, Iris
Malone.

Past Events

Galleries and Sights at the Pulitzer Art Museum, "Dialogues and Conversations Exhibit " 3.27.26



L to R: Gloria Lubowitz, Karen Johnson-Fields, Cynthia Kahn, Patti Bubash, curator Molly Moog, Jane Schaefer, Assimo Azariadis, Roberta Gutwein, Phyllis Markus, Barb Gervais, Tedi Macias, and Anneliesa Hanebrink

Spring Assembly Series, co-sponsored by the WCWU: " Public Health in Challenging Times: Finding a Way Forward." 3.31.26



Linda Lindsey, Dee Garcia, Patti Bubash, Karen Johnson-Fields, Doris Ogrowsky, Alki Lappas-Case (not pictured Annaliesa Hanebrink and Arlene Moore)

Out & About Luncheons



Bailey's Range Restaurant
2.10.26



Mexican Barrel House
Restaurant
3.10.26



Maize and Wheat
Colombian Cafe
4.14.26



My Place Bar & Restaurant
5.12.14

Past Events

Annual Full Board & Transition Meeting 5.7.26



Alki Lappas-Case, Lisa Schmidt, Elena Maksaeva, Gloria Lubovitz, Assimo Azariadis, Carmen Dence



Elena Maksaeva, Gloria Lubovitz, Assimo Azariadis, Cindy Kahn, Liz Ojo, Ann Rothery, Sarah Fowler-Dixon, Carol Fowler-Dixon, Charlene Kass, Carmen Dence. Not photographed: Barbara Bindle, Paulina Conner, Suzanne Doyle, Charlotte Ellis, Barb Feiner, Karen Johnson-Fields, Annaliesa Hanebrink, Margaret Israel, Judy Joerding, Charmaine Leonard, Jennifer Luner, Iris Malone, Phyllis Markus, Jane Schaefer, Liz Schmitt, Evie Shucart, Linda Smith, Sarah Stauffer, and Helen Wall.

Past Events

Spring Symposium Luncheon 5.8.26



Alki Lappas, Case, Mitra Heravi,
Liz Schmitt, Cynthia Kahn, Sarah
Stauffer



Annaliesa Hanebrink, Jane
Schaefer, Helen Wall, Charmaine
Leonard



Jane Schaefer and Helen Wall,
Annaliesa Hanebrink



Speaker, Min Jung Kim



Jennifer Luner, Annaliesa
Hanebrink, Anita Hutkin,
Charmaine Leonard, Lynn
Harris



Assimo Azariadis, Judy Joerding,
Carmen Dence, Neeta Gupta,
Gloria Lubowitz, Cleo Kelly



Arlene Moore,
Patti Bubash



Barbara Bindler, Susan
Knopf, Deborah Gilula



Gloria Lubowitz, Arlene
Moore, Robin Gutmann,
Shirley Raitzsch, Francesca
Di Rollo, Toba Agarwal



Past Events

The Big Dig 5.12.26



Alki Lappas-Case, Linda Laferriere, Sumi Yonegi, Vanessa Plana, Suzanne Langlois, Erica Uppstrom, Elena Maksaeva



WCWU members & Garden Friends: Erica Uppstrom, Marcia McCabe, Paula Gross, Liz Schmitt, Vanessa Plana, Elena Maksaeva, Lee Anne Quatrano, Sumi Yonegi, BG friend, Carolyn Woodsmall, Linda Laferriere, Suzanne Langlois, Assimo Azariadis



WCWU members & BG friends: (back row, standing) Erica Uppstrom, BG friend, Elena Maksaeva, Assimo Azariadis, Lee Anne Quatrano, Vanessa Plana, Linda Laferriere, Paula Gross, Marcia McCabe, Carolyn Woodsmall. (Front row, kneeling) Alki Lappas-Case, Liz Schmitt, Sumi Yonegi

Women Of Achievement Award 5.19.26



Helen Wall



Helen and Dr. Lewis Wall working in Ethiopia with the Dignity Period Project, and Dr. Zenawi Zerihun, project manager



Alki Lappas-Case, Arlene Moore Ross, Jane Schaefer

Past Events

Lifecycle of a Butterfly at the EDBG 5.24.26.

1.



5.11.26

2.



A few days later

3.



A chrysalis is formed.

4.



5.26.26

The female monarch emerges with its wings tiny, wet, and crumpled..

5.



The butterfly hangs upside down to let her pump hemolymph from her swollen abdomen into the wings to stretch them out.

6.



Early that same afternoon

7.



A few hours later, at 14:27pm, ready to fly



From Left: Alki Lappas-Case, Sissy Price, Katia Lappas, Claire Lyman, Annaliesa Hanebrink, Karen Fields, Carmen Dence, Anita Hutkin, Gloria Lubowitz, Helen Wall, Ann Rothery, Elena Maksaeva, Jennifer Luner, Hannah Segrave, Patti Bubash, Liz Schmitt, Assimo Azariadis, Toba Agarwal, Ingrid Neuefeind, Sara Loyet

Galleries and Sights - Ancient Splendor - Roman Art In The Time of Trajan 5.28.26

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.



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

To join, contact:
Margaret Israel at meisrael@sbcglobal.net
or call
(314) 997-0431 or
(314) 504-7680

Bridge



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

The group meets on the 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 at evieart42@gmail.com

Arts and Crafts



We meet at the home of the hostess the second Thursday of the month, (excluding December) at 12:30 pm to discuss books. We also serve dessert during our meetings.

To join, contact:
Jennifer Luner at jjluner26@gmail.com
or call (314) 323-3263

Literature



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 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 at
jjluner26@gmail.com
or call 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 RSVPs 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 at
cellis57us@yahoo.com
or call (314) 623-8523**

[Out & About](#)



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 at
carmensdence413@gmail.com**

[Dancing Damsels](#)



Whether you've played for years or would like to learn, the Mah Jongg group is for you. The group will be starting up again soon.

To join, contact: Jane Schaefer at janeschaefer79@gmail.com



Mah Jongg



Whether you're keen to learn how to knit or searching for your next knit-and-chat crew, we'd love you to join us. We're all about yarn—knitting, crochet, and everything in between.

We meet weekly to share stories, patterns, and plenty of yarny lore. All skill levels are welcome. If you're a beginner, we're happy to help you get started with the basics, from choosing materials to picking your first patterns. Bring your lunch and your love of yarn!

This group will meet Thursdays from 12-2pm at group member's home announced week to week.

To join, contact: Vanessa Plana at vanessaplana@aol.com

Yarn Club



Service Groups and Educational Programming

In addition to Special Interest Groups, the Woman's Club offers Service Groups and Educational Programming opportunities for our members as another way to get involved. Look for these opportunities in our weekly emails.



Do you enjoy movies, live performances, or an afternoon at Edison Theatre? This group is intended to provide Woman's Club members, and their guests, with opportunities to explore these types of activities.



The Elizabeth Danforth Butterfly Garden Committee and volunteers are the caretakers of this garden for students, faculty, and staff on the Danforth Campus of Washington University. Our volunteers work in the garden every Tuesday morning each week from early spring to late fall, weather permitting. We would be delighted to welcome anyone interested in helping.

To join, contact:
Lee Anne Quatrano at lquatrano@gmail.com
or
Elena Maksaeva at elena.wcwu@icloud.com



Visit beautiful outdoor sights around the St. Louis area during the course of each year. Look for announcements about meeting dates, times and places in the Woman's Club newsletters and e-blasts.

To join, contact:
Elena Maksaeva at elena.wcwu@icloud.com

or Jane Schaefer at janeschaefer79@gmail.com

Arts and
Entertainment

Elizabeth Danforth
Butterfly Garden

Enjoying Nature



Enjoy curated tours of area galleries and museums several times per year.



We are an outreach activity of the Woman's Club. Club members welcome and host international visitors and their families to Washington University. Many lasting friendships develop through our weekly activities. We visit St. Louis landmarks and members' homes to exchange cultures and to develop friendships.



Upon selection the RZW (formerly known as University College) Scholarship recipients receive a letter of congratulations from the Club and are invited to speak at the Club's annual RZW Scholarship Luncheon in January. In addition, scholarship funds go toward graduating students' regalia fees.



Galleries and Sights

International Women

Risa Zweling Wrighton Endowed Scholarship Committee

The Woman's Club directory for the 2025-2026 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

The password is: WCWU25-26

Please note the password is case and space sensitive

Reach out to WCWUSTL@googlegroups.com if you have any issues or need to update your information.

The 2026-2027 Woman's Club Executive Board

Alki Lappas-Case President	Carol Fowler-Dixon Director, Communications	Cindy Kahn Director of Finance
Charlene Kass Vice President	Elena Maksaeva Director, Service to the University	Mitra Heravi Recording Secretary
Iris Malone Director, Educational Programming	Sarah Stauffer Director, Symposium Luncheons	Lisa Schmidt Treasurer
Elizabeth Schmitt Director, Membership		Sarah Fowler-Dixon Immediate Past President