

JUNE 2, 2021 SERVICE LEAGUE NEWSLETTER



www.ucserviceleague.org

SAVE THE DATE! Sat., June 26th	
Wine & Cheese Fund Raiser	2
Message from our NEW Co-Presidents	3
Special Interest Groups Update4 -	8
Our Community Service Organizations9 - 1	11
"The Extra-Special Non-Group"	11
Thank You Letters from Our Recent Donations to 3 Local Charities .12-1	5
Board Officers/Website Info 1	6
Become a Member of the Service League	7
Not-Quite-A-Calendar Dates Listing	8

Save Sat., Nov. 13th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for our Annual FALL Benefit & Bazaar at the Quadrangle Club!

The Committee asks you to please start collecting/ creating Fall Bazaar items: costume jewelry; raffle

items; silent auction offerings; handmade pieces; edibles; contents for special gift baskets; and also gift cards. More details about the Benefit AND Luncheon as well as drop off addresses for goods/items will be in the July Newsletter. Thank you for your help!

NO PROGRAM OR BOARD MEETINGS until the Fall.

Several of our Special Interest Groups WILL continue their activities.

This Newsletter will be published monthly through the summer, to keep us all in touch.

Please send news, photos of your group's activities to <u>ucsl.newsletter@gmail.com</u> by the 22nd for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

Next deadline: JUNE 22nd for the JULY 1st edition.



Saturday, June 26th
(rain date, Sunday June 27th)
for our
WINE and CHEESE
EVENING GARDEN PARTY
FUND RAISER
in the Garden of the Resnicks
at 5649 South Woodlawn Avenue

More details to follow!

Please Save the Date of

Co-President's Letter, JUNE 20

Dear Members:

Summer is upon us, certain COVID 19 restriction are being lifted, most of us have now been vaccinated and travel plans are underway. We would like to take this occasion to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Co-Presidents for 2021-2022. Special thanks to Lesley Bloch and Roberta Bernstein for their outstanding leadership of the UCSL as they zoomed through the challenges of the past year and for their guidance through the transition phase.

We approach the coming year with eagerness and invite you to participate it in these upcoming events; more details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized:

- Wine and Cheese in the Garden June 26, 2021
- Fall Benefit November 2021
- Program Meetings resuming October 2021
- UCSL Newsletter throughout the Summer

Throughout the summer and into the fall we foresee continuing direct engagement with our philanthropies via our liaisons:

- Chicago Commons Association Caroline Harney
- Delta Literacy Charlotte Johnston
- Hyde Park-Kenwood Hunger Program Agnes Zellner
- Hyde Park Neighborhood Club Julie Spielberger
- South Center of Hope Patricia Bennett

Thanks to our hard-working Board, the liaisons for each of the charitable organization and the leaders of the Special Interest Groups. We look forward to an exciting and productive year.

> Sincerely, Barbara Wagner and Sarah Wright

wagner36@sbcglobal.net sarahwright9688@yahoo.com

Please note: The Movie, Music and Spanish Groups are on hiatus. Here's hoping normal gatherings can resume soon!

The Book Group will meet once over the summer, on July 13, 7 pm. (Also on June 1st.) The July book will be "Sold on a Monday", by Kristina McMorris. If you would like to join us for the first time, you can get a Zoom link by emailing me, Laura Kracke, Book Group Chair, at lhkracke@earthlink.net.



The books chosen to be read from Fall to Spring, 2022 are: Deacon King Kong; Mrs. Everything; 1947: Where Now Begins; Watergate Girl; Daughters of Yalta; Daughters of Kobani; Anxious People; Samurai's Garden; Fifty Words for Rain; and Caste. (Books' order not yet set.)

Contemporary Civics

Chair, Dorothy Patton, dep712@att.net



The Civics group will continue meeting by Zoom during the summer, with meetings scheduled for the following Mondays at 2:00PM: June 7, June 21, July 12, and August 9.

If City restrictions continue to be lifted and members themselves are comfortable, the group will have a long-awaited in-person meeting at the home of Dorothy Patton on September 13. Regular participants will be notified by email; other interested SL members can contact Dorothy for information.

Dining Out Group-meets LATE Summer!

The Dining out group will have a planning meeting in the late summer. Please let Jan O'Malley or Fran Gordon know if you are interested in joining the group.

Jan and Fran

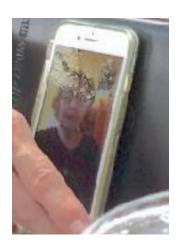
Chair: Jan O'Malley, 773-955-4518, hddrO@sbcglobal.net



Cercle Français







It's almost summer. . . or at least it has felt like it recently. So with good weather and more opportunities to be out and about, the French group will meet **ONCE MONTHLY** on **EITHER** the 2^{nd} OR 4^{th} Tuesday*, weather permitting, or via Zoom.

We met outdoors for the first time May 25 at Bonjour Café. We enjoyed seeing each other--in person(!)--and chatting in a mix of English and French. If you would like to join us for future meetings, and are not on the French Group email list, please contact Ruth Koval, 773-726-8870 or rthkvl@gmail.com

*Dates are subject to change; contact Ruth to confirm date and location.







Photos: Top Left, Rosalie Guttman, Roberta Bernstein, and Judy Chernick; Top Center, Ruth Koval and Right, close-up of Nancy Baum via FaceTime/iPhone; Bottom, Judy Chernick and Charlotte Adler; Isabel Stewart; Helen Roberts.



The Games Group will meet to play *Spite and Malice* on Thursday, June 10 at 10:30 am at the home of Clairan Ferrono, 5432 Dorchester. Please RSVP to the host, clairan@gmail.com



Monarch News

By Marilyn Cavicchia

Hello from the Monarch Special Interest Group! While I don't have the biggest news to share—which would be that we have seen monarchs here in Hyde Park—there is still a lot happening. We are continuing to meet on Zoom and have also added some in-person walks and other outdoor events. Our next Zoom meeting will be Thursday, June 17, at 3:00 p.m. Please email me for the link and also to get on the list for emails about in-person events: marilyn.cavicchia@gmail.com.

The purpose and location of our outdoor meetings will vary as the season progresses. To start, we're taking walks from the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club over to Dorchester and Blackstone. This gives group members a chance to see the HPNC Monarch Waystation and to learn how to identify two different plants, one good and one bad:

Milkweed and Black Swallow Wort.

LEFT, we have a few native varieties of milkweed, but the one we're most likely to see in areas where it hasn't deliberately been planted is common **milkweed**. Ours doesn't have flower buds yet, but this gives you a good idea of what the leaves look like. We plan to start writing in sidewalk chalk where we see some milkweed, so people will know what it is, & that it's good.

RIGHT, here's what **black swallow wort** looks like now. Eventually, it will grow small, purple flowers, followed by seed pods. We want to get the word out about it and encourage people to pull it up before it can make seeds. We are seeing a

lot of it in certain locations throughout Hyde Park, especially on fences and twining around bushes. It's an invasive species from Europe, and one big reason it's a problem is that monarch butterflies lay eggs on it and the caterpillars eat it, but then they starve to death because it doesn't have what they need. We are currently making plans for how to communicate with others about it, in hopes that it will be removed. For now, the communication part will also involve some sidewalk chalk.



There have been monarch sightings elsewhere in and around Chicago and even as far north as Ontario, as you can see from this Journey North update: https:// journeynorth.org/monarchs/news/spring-2021/05192021-monarchs-migration-carries.

Typically, I find eggs before I see the butterflies that laid them. I've been looking almost daily and hope to have more news soon!







Movie Group

Carole Landrum, Chair cplandrum@sbcglobal.net

Best wishes to all and hopes you all continue to be safe and well. Due to the pandemic, the Movie Group will not meet in June.

We all look forward to safely viewing and discussing wonderful films again.

NEEDLEWORK GROUP

The Needlework Special Group met at the home of Kristin Woods on Monday, May 10th for an enjoyable evening. Everyone was pleased (and comfortable) meeting in person! The next meeting is Monday June 14th at 7 pm at my home (Lucy Lester) at 5551 So University Ave.

Anyone interested in the group can call Lucy at 773 255-5868, or email (lucy.lester@sbcglobal.net). Please RSVP if you plan to attend and bring a friend! Thanks, and hope you all stay well and safe. Lucy Lester, chair.

The Spanish Group

hopes to resume meetings on alternate Thursdays, most likely in members' homes. We have often read a book of modern Spanish writing. Please email the chair for current title. When it is safe, we hope to resume our weekly meetings and excursions. Contact for dates/times:

Chair, Agnes Zellner azellner@gmail.com

Twice Read Books Group

Twice-Read Books will meet throughout the summer on the third Tuesdays at 2:00 by Zoom, June 15, July 20, August 17 -

We will also meet on September 21, but have not decided whether it will be in person or do a hybrid in-person/Zoom.

<u>Present, May 18, 2021</u>: Lesley Bloch, Margaret Fyfe, Natalie Goldberg, Rosalie Guttman, Carol Johnson, Alma Kuby, Susan Meschel, Gale Reinitz, Marie Schilling, Janet Surkin, Sarah Wright

Books Discussed: Banfield, John - Snow; Doerr, Anthony - All the Light We Cannot See; Eliot, George - Daniel Deronda; Hemingway, Ernest - The Old Man and the Sea; Joyce, James - Dubliners; Liebling, A.J. - Between Meals; Nemirovsky, Irene - Suite Française; Tartt, Donna - The Goldfinch; and Tsukiyama, Gail - The Samurai's Garden

Also Mentioned: DeGroot, Roy Andries - The Auberge of the Flowering Hearth - Lawson, Nigella - How to Eat - Lukins, Sheila and Julee Rosso - The Silver Palate Cookbook - Reichl, Ruth - any and all of her books.

For more information contact our Chair, Marie Schilling mschilling17@earthlink.net; 773-955-4949.

All are welcome to join in the discussions.

The Walking Group is alive and well! Everyone is happy to be out enjoying being together. All the members of the group have been vaccinated and enjoy being active.

We meet on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and some Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m.

We will always meet at the 55th Street Shopping Center (near the Post Office). A weekly reminder will be sent to all participants. We welcome new members and only ask you to let Fran Gordon know that you will be joining us: email fgordon0@aol.com; phone 773-206-9911.

Community Service Organizations

Chicago Commons' fiscal year is coming to a close June 30th. Thank you to the Service League for your continued support.

Chicago Commons has weathered the COVID mitigation period pretty well. Staff was retained.



Chicago Commons has received honors for its multigenerational Family Hub Program. This program will be featured in the Aspen Institute's Forum on Children and Families, and by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families for multigenerational education leadership.

The Common's annual meeting will be available on Zoom and takes place at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 15th. Details are being finalized so please let me know if you wish to participate.

Caroline Harney, SL Representative, harneyc@att.net.

To see what's new with the SouthSide Center of Hope, go to their website where they are celebrating their 38 Years of giving Hope.





https://mailchi.mp/sscoh.org/38-years-of-giving-hope-4879037?e=f74e6a0eff

(webpage photos of some Alumnae and volunteers). The Center is still looking for a permanent south side home and is transitioning the ladies to their temporary



quarters. Patricia Bennett, SL Representative, pbenne@comcast.net

more Community Service Organizations



Hyde Park Neighborhood Club

www.hpnclub.org

A huge thanks to all the Service League members who completed the Community Survey to tell us how to best contribute to the future health and strength of our neighborhood! We received over 115 survey responses, which will be instrumental in guiding our decisions on expanding our services after the pandemic and in the years to come.

Summer Camps are right around the corner! We can't wait to have over 60 kids and teens on site for an exciting summer of fun! We are thrilled to offer a new Explorers Camp for middle school students and to welcome back MAPSCorps as they learn to use mapping and technology to address community issues. Thanks to the Service League whose contributions help make these opportunities affordable and available to families of all socio-economic backgrounds!



Chris Younkin-Wilson, Development Director





more Community Service Organizations

DELTA LITERACY PROJECT

CONTACT CHARLOTTE JOHNSTON, 773-288-8970

Delta Literacy continues to be unable to tutor at their main site, 4525 S. King Dr.



Olivia Amos, the executive director, continues to encourage the tutors to stay in touch with their students by phone and email. She encourages both tutors and students to get the COVID vaccine.

Tutors are reaching out to the students by phone instead of online or in person sessions. Delta hopes to restart their math and reading tutoring and other programs when it is safe.

The Hyde Park and Kenwood Interfaith Council - Hunger Programs (submitted by Chair Agnes Zellner, azellner@gmail.com)

Breakfasts for 15 people and lunches for 30 to 35 people are being provided at St. Paul and The Redeemer Church. There are 3 to 4 people who are helping to prepare and serve the meals. They also deliver 20 meals to Hyde Parkers unable to come to the Soup Kitchen.

Please note that through their many partner organizations, the Interfaith Council participates in these area Hunger Programs:

- The Hyde Park Kenwood Food Pantry.
- Food Pantry at Kenwood United Church of Christ
- Soup Kitchen
 Community Breakfast
 You can read more about these programs at
 https://hpkinterfaith.org/programs/food-pantry/

The Extra Special Non-Group!

Trash Pick Up-- the current crew consists of Marilyn Helmholz, Margaretha Talerman, Charlotte Johnston and Lesley Bloch. We meet at Woodlawn and 58th St. on Friday afternoons at 1:30, weather permitting. We usually pick up trash on the Midway from Woodlawn to Cottage Grove. This task takes from 2 1/2 hrs. to 3 hrs. Volunteers can break off at any time. Everyone is welcome!



May 13, 2021

Dear Members of the University of Chicago Service League,

Sara and I were so excited to have the opportunity to speak to the Service League this spring and for the welcome and enthusiasm you showed us.

I have known about the Service League for many years through friends in the community and the projects you have taken on, and I hold the Service League in great esteem. So it is a double thank you to let you know how much we appreciate the donation of \$500 you have made to support the Refugee Project in addition to the invitation to speak.

Not long after we spoke with you, the Refugee Project held a strategic planning meeting to think about the direction we want to go in the coming 2-3 years. Knowing that we have such support as yours and such a welcoming community allowed us to think big about expanding the number of families we want to resettle each year and the infrastructure we need to build to make that happen.

I am so pleased to say that we aim to have the capacity to resettle three families a year by 2024. A family can be small, but it can also be quite large. The largest family we have worked with so far was a blended family of 16 from the Democratic Republic of Congo! So, while three doesn't sound like a big number it can mean anywhere from 15-45 people!

Your gift will help support the work of our summer camp this July for refugee and immigrant children that are English language learners. This camp has been growing each year, and we expect 50 children to participate this year. In addition, 25 young adults, most of whom are high school and college students, will have an opportunity to gain work experience, understand the challenges facing refugees, and experience the joy of volunteerism over the course of the month as counselors and junior counselors.

This year we are also very excited to announce that we have hired an educator from St Thomas the Apostle to coordinate camp activities. One of the special features this year will be weekly visitors to do gardening and beekeeping! I wonder if Marilyn might be persuaded to come talk about Monarch butterflies!

I am also pleased to report that we have recently received two grants, one to help support the summer camp, and one to help with intensive English-language learning for a single mother so that she is able to find better jobs to help support her family.

I want to let you know how much we value your support and the work of the Service League in the community. Your long history and dedication to supporting the South Side are exactly the things we look up to. We hope one day to have such a long community history as the Service League. Once again, thank you for your generosity and for inviting us into your group to share our work. It was a great pleasure.

Warmest wishes,



Lisa Jenschke, HPRP, Co-Director

hydeparkrefugeeproject.org

The Hyde Park Refugee Project is a program of the Hyde Park & Kenwood Interfaith Council, 1448 E. 52nd Street, #117, Chicago, IL 60615.

The Interfaith Council is a 501(c)3 public charity.



The University of Chicago Service League c/o Lesley Bloch 5765 S. Blackstone Avenue Chicago, IL 60537

Dear Members of the Service League,

Thank you so much for your recentdonation of \$500 to the Kenwood Food Project. As you know, we were formed to support both restaurant workers in our community and to aid families needing food. We collaborate with five local restaurants and two grocers by raising funds to buy gift cards or certificates from those pusinesses. These purchases have helped them retain employees and the certificates have been distributed by The Lunch Ladies at Kenwood Academy, Principal Charlie Bright at Bret Harte School and volunteers with the Hyde Park Refugee Project. They have all reported overwhelming appreciation from the recipients they have reached. What a treat to not only receive a delicious meal but also to get the night off from cooking!

Your support has been essential. On April 23rd Block Club Chicago posted an article highlighting the fact that we have provided food for over 100 families in the past year. The online newspaper reported: "The project has been sustained by recurring givers and generous one-time donors, and it recently received a \$500 grant from the University of Chicago Service League to buy 10 more gift cards." The news of our work plus the endorsement a gift such as yours adds to our record, inspired donations from 26 folks we had never heard from before. They included gifts from Evanston, Skokie, Oak Park and Chicago neighborhoods far from our own! Thank you for being a part of our support system and for being a good role model for others.

Our giving link is hpnclub.org/kfp if you'd like to past on to other generous neighbors.

Sincerely,

Linda Erf Swift Founder



515 E. 50th Street Chicago, IL 60650 (773) 373-5055 www.chicagocommons.org

Board Officers

Chair Willard S. Evans, Jr.

Vice Chairs Ronald G. Kaminski Steven Sparks

Treasurer Daniel Chavez

Development Mary E. Timmons

Secretary Brian Marquez

President (Ex-Officio) Edgar E. Ramirez

Board of Directors

Dorothy Abreu
Priscilla Bahenna
Holly M. Baumgart
Alfred E. D'Ancona
Caroline Harney
James Hill, III
Torrence L. Hinton
Ann Beran Jones
Philip B. Kenny
Amit Mehta
David R. Perez
Ofelia M. Potter
Robert E. Smietana
John Yeager



May 20, 2021

Lesley Block Co-President University of Chicago Service League 5765 S. Blackstone Avenue Chicago, IL 60637

Dear Lesley and UCSL,

On behalf of the more than 3,000 people Chicago Commons serves, thank you for your donations during the past year totaling \$5,500. We are so grateful for your incredible 126 years of support! Your gifts will help support our early childhood education, family-centered adult education and senior services programs.

Because of you, more families will have the opportunity to achieve their goals, like Aleli, a participant in Chicago Commons' Pathways for Parents program that provides parents the opportunity to attend college and find jobs in early childhood education:

"The classes have helped me become a better mother, and prepare to be a teacher. The most important thing to me is that my children see me do homework and work hard, and this shows them that if you work hard, you can get to your goal."

Thank you again for your support. We are grateful for longtime supporters like the UCSL who are determined to create lasting, generational change by investing in some of Chicago's most under-resourced, high-potential neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Julio Paz

Chief Development Officer



In accordance with IRS requirements, this letter confirms that no goods or services were provided to the donor by Chicago Commons in consideration of this charitable donation. Chicago Commons is a 501(c)3 organization.

2021-2022 Board Executive Committee:

Co-Presidents	Barbara Wagner and Sarah Wright				
First Vice-Presidents (Program Chairs) Deborah Franczek & Roberta Bernstein					
Second Vice-Presidents (Membership Chairs) Nadine Foster & Sherry Glick					
Third Vice-President (Communications)					
Recording Secretary Sarah Diwan & Margaret Huyck					
Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter/Calendar *) Carol Johnson & Sarah Wright					
Associate Corresponding Secretary (Yearbook)					
Treasurer	Clairan Ferrono				
Associate Treasurer	Ginny Meeker				
Website Manager					

^{* {}click on Newsletter/Calendar to submit info/pictures/dates for next issue}

New Members

The Membership Committee welcomes new members.

Please see the "Become A Member" form on the next to last page.

and/or email names and contact information for prospective members to:

ServiceLeagueMembership@gmail.com

Please include in the subject line: "Service League Membership"

In Memoriam

Please remember long-time former SL member Margot Hamp who passed recently.

Please consider making a memorial donation to the Service League
in memory of your family member or friend.

Visit the Service League Website

Our Website Manager, Dora Shih, had created a wonderful website.
You'll find information about our Monthly Programs, our
Special Interest Groups and our Community Service Organizations.
Continue to use the same web address: www.ucserviceleague.org
You will automatically be directed to our new website.

Attention Service Leaguers on Facebook!

Did you know that the League has a Facebook page?
Ask to "friend" The University of Chicago Service League.

If you go to Facebook and type in "University of Chicago Service League", our page comes up.

For a complete list of all Committee Chairs,
Special Interest Group Chairs/Contacts
Community Service Organizations Representatives,
go to the Committees, etc. listing page on our main website.
https://www.ucserviceleague.org/board-and-committees

Become a Member of the Service League!

Founded in 1895, the University of Chicago Service League provides financial support to local organizations: Chicago Commons, Delta Literacy, Hyde Park Kenwood Hunger Program Open Kitchen, Hyde Park Neighborhood Club, and St. Martin de Porres House of Hope. Our Monthly Program Meetings feature speakers of general interest. We also sponsor Special Interest Groups. We hope very much that you will join us. We look forward to welcoming you to the Service League!

First Name	(PLEASE PRINT)		
Last Name	_		
Address	_Apt		
CityZip (Code		
Telephone			
Email			
l am interested in these Special Interest Groups:			
BooksContemporary CivicsDining OutFrench	Games		
MoviesMusicNeedleworkSpanishTwice R	lead Books		
WalkingMONARCH BUTTERFLIES			
I am interested in working on:			
FundraisingPublicityMembership/Welcoming Newco	mers		
TechnologyPlanning Programs/SpeakersHospitality/l	Refreshments		
Something Else			
Please list the name(s) of the member(s) who encouraged you to jo League (if any), or one or two names of members that you already t	in the Service know (if any).		
OK to put your email address in the Yearbook (Member Directory)? Signature	YesNo		
Dues (May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022)	\$35.00		
Donation	\$		
Total	\$		
The University of Chicago Service League is a registered 501(c)(3)			

The University of Chicago Service League is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Make check payable to The University of Chicago Service League. Send completed form and check to Virginia Meeker, 1700 East 56th Street, Apt. #2309, Chicago, IL 60637. Thank you!





UC Service League CALENDAR

There ARE events and meetings, currently on Zoom - please confirm dates/times with chair/leader.

We all hope to resume meeting in person, when it is VERY safe. Send dates/times/info to be added to this calendar in JULY 1st issue to ucsl.newsletter@gmail.com.

Sat. June 26th
Evening
Wine & Cheese
Garden Party
Fund Raiser!
(rain date
Sun., 6/27)

week in month	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	<u>FRI.</u>
1st	Contemporary Civics 2 PM via zoom Dorothy Patton, dep712@att.net	BOOK GROUP 7 P.M. via zoom Laura Kracke, Ihkracke@earth link.net	SOME Wed. WALK GROUP 1:30 pm contact Fran Gordon, 773-206-9911		WALK Group EVERY FRI 9:30 am contact Fran Gordon 773-206-9911
2nd	NEEDLEWORK GROUP, 7 pm JUNE 14th IN PERSON lucy.lester@ sbcglobal.net	FRENCH GROUP meets this month on the 22nd, contact for info: Ruth Koval, 773-726-8870, rthkvl@gmail. com		GAMES GROUP IN PERSON 10:30 a.m. Clairan Ferrono clairan@gmail. com	Trash Pickers are on patrol! ANY FRI 1:30. Contact lesley bloch@ yahoo.com
3rd	Contemporary Civics 2 PM via Zoom Dorothy Patton, dep712@att.net	TWICE READ BOOKS GROUP Marie Schilling mschilling17 @earthlink.net; 773-955-4949 2 PM via Zoom	no program or Board meetings until Fall	MONARCH BUTTERFLY GROUP 6/17, 3 p.m. on Zoom marilyn. cavicchia @gmail.com	WALK GROUP EVERY FRIDAY
4th		2:30 PM FRENCH GROUP			WALK GROUP EVERY FRI.

These groups are temporarily on hiatus, feel free to contact the chair/leader for more info:

MOVIE: Carole Landrum, 773-428-8147

MUSIC: Kathy Huff, <u>kathy@rogerhuff.com</u>

SPANISH: Agnes Zellner, <u>azellner@gmail.com</u>