



www.ucserviceleague.org

SPECIAL EDITION
JANUARY 11, 2021
SERVICE LEAGUE NEWSLETTER
Contents



| | |
|---|--------|
| Message from our Co-Presidents | 2 |
| Special Interest Groups Update | 3 - 8 |
| Our Community Service Organizations | 9 - 11 |
| Board Officers/Website Info | 12 |
| Become a Member of the Service League | 13 |
| Not-Quite-A-Calendar Dates Listing | 14 |

**Members' Meetings and Programs will be scheduled
for the 3rd Wednesday of specific months:**

Program meetings are planned for
FEBRUARY 17th, and March 17th.

(NOTE - NO PROGRAM MEETING IN JANUARY.)

~~~~~  
**Board meetings will be scheduled on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1:30;**  
all via Zoom until it is safe to meet in person.

Board meetings so far are planned for  
**February 10<sup>th</sup>**, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

~~~~~  
Please keep in touch! Send news, photos of your group's activities to

ucsl.newsletter@gmail.com

by the 22nd for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

Next deadline: JAN. 22nd for the February 1st edition.

***NEW FEATURE: click on any blue name or email
to either start an email to the person or to see that webpage.***

Co-Presidents' Message

Dear Service League Members:

We have good news for the New Year: Thanks to your generosity, we accumulated more than enough toiletries—and the cosmetic bags to put them in—to make beautiful gifts for 15 ladies living in the temporary quarters of the South Side Center of Hope. After Roberta sorted all the donated items, she delivered the many bags to Barbara Wagner, who, with Sarah Wright, organized the contents to put similar items into each of the 15 donated cosmetic bags. They then delivered all of these gift bags to the residents in time for Christmas.

The remaining items are being donated to other charities. Now that we are in the depths of winter, with so much suffering and need surrounding us, we'll continue the Service League's mission of helping those in need.

Also, as we welcomed the arrival of 2021 (good riddance 2020), we completed the formation of our nominating committee. The two of us will be ably joined by Nancy Baum, Barbara Wagner, Kristin Woods and Sarah Wright. We welcome their participation

Wishing you a happy, healthy, productive new year.

Lesley and Roberta

lesley_bloch@yahoo.com

bernsteinroberta@gmail.com



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

*Please note: The Dining Out Group;
The Games Group;
The Music Group; and The Walking Group
continue to be on hiatus,
and also don't have a message for this month.
Here's hoping we all can resume meeting in person
sometime soon!*

BOOK GROUP

Our next meeting is
February 2
on Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

We will be discussing *Where the Forest Meets the Stars* by Glendy Vanderah. The chair will send an invite to everyone on her email list a couple days before the meeting. All Service League members and their guests are welcome.

If you will be joining the group for the first time, please send your email information to the **CHAIR, Laura Kracke** at lhkracke@earthlink.net so she can send you an invite.

The Book Group met on
Tuesday January 5 at 7:00 p.m.
via Zoom to discuss
Talking to Strangers by Malcolm Gladwell.



more SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Contemporary Civics:

Chair, Dorothy Patton, dep712@att.net

NEW DATES! Alternate MONDAYS, 2 pm!

We will continue to follow the multiplicity of issues associated with the transition to a new administration in Washington as well as issues and the controversies surrounding the pandemic. **We plan to meet every other MONDAY until June 1st, NEXT on Jan. 18th.**



Recent discussions have focused on members' hopes and concerns relating to the then upcoming Georgia primary, threats of disruption during the January 6 Joint Congressional session on the Electoral College results, and individual expectations and plans for getting vaccinated.

New members are welcome,
as are temporary "news junkies".

**Please contact Dorothy Patton, dep712@att.net.
two weekdays before the posted event date to register.**

French Group / Cercle Français

Chair: Ruth Koval, 773-726-8870, rthkvl@gmail.com

*Cercle Français / The French group continues to meet via
Zoom on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month.**

We have been reading and discussing stories from the book, Parallel Text French Short Stories 1. After finishing the second one, a very long short story—"Les Bottes de Sept Lieues" by Marcel Aymé--we decided we will read another (very short story) by Aymé, "Le Passe-Muraille" at

our next meeting is Tuesday, January 12, 2:30 p.m. CST.

We will also discuss our plans for future get-togethers at this meeting.

If you would like to join us, please contact Ruth Koval.

**Dates are subject to change; contact chair to confirm.*

Monarch News

By Marilyn Cavicchia

Great news! Here's the date for the 1st meeting of the new year.

Monarch Special Interest Group:

Thursday, January 21, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Please join the meeting, and please email me at

marilyn.cavicchia@gmail.com for the link.

At our first meeting, I will walk you through a project to plant milkweed seeds in milk jugs and put them outside for the winter.

[Click here for a link for the directions for the project.](#)

(The link is <https://monarchbutterflygarden.net/winter-sowing-milkweed-seeds-prepare-containers/>)

I have many milkweed seeds available for distanced pickup; some are for the tall variety of milkweed, and others are for a shorter variety that is also native here.

I am also hoarding plastic milk jugs, the plastic bins that salad greens sometimes come in, and other plastic containers that are fairly deep and not completely opaque. If you can save some containers like this and share them with me, please let me know. Prepping them for this project involves cutting or drilling holes in the bottom and also cutting almost completely through the middle of the jug. If you lack tools, I will trade prepped containers for ones that are empty and rinsed.

If you want to follow along and do the project during the meeting, besides seeds and a prepped container, you will need:

potting soil or seed-starting mix (not with moisture control or other special features, but also not the cheapest stuff, because it tends to be full of clay), and

duct tape (not any other kind of tape, because it will be outside for several months)

(continues on page 6)





ABOVE - what the jugs will look like for the rest of the winter:

RIGHT - This is what they will look like in spring, when the seedlings have sprouted and grown a bit but aren't yet ready to plant in the ground (I'll let you know when to remove the tape and open the top half):



Left - here's a close-up of an especially successful jug planter.



Please join us even if you have no outdoor planting space. We can find homes for your seedlings!

more SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Movie Group

Carole Landrum, Chair

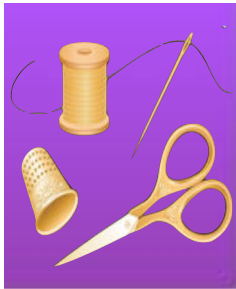
cplandrum@sbcglobal.net

Best wishes to all and hopes you had a peaceful holiday season. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Movie Group will not meet in January. We all look forward to safely viewing and discussing wonderful films again!



Our Souls at Night, seen 9/12/19

The Needlework Group



The Needlework group has not met and has no plans to meet in the coming winter months (though **many of us are still knitting and crocheting**). I hope the group will be able to reassemble at some point in the future. Please keep us “on the books” at this point. Thanks, and hope you all enjoyed happy Holidays,

Lucy Lester, Chair, lucylester@gmail.com

The Spanish Group has been meeting on alternate Thursdays since September. We continue to meet in members’ homes but have not gone on our normal extracurricular activities since the pandemic spread. We often read a book of “modern” Spanish writing; email the chair for current title.

We hope to resume our weekly meetings and activities when it is safe.

Contact for dates/times: Chair, Agnes Zellner
(azellner@gmail.com)

more SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Twice-Read Books Group

Twice-Read books has met monthly on third Tuesdays. At meetings, each participant may talk about a book that she has recently reread. So far, we have generated a list of 179 titles including non-fiction, memoirs, novels and children's books.



Books may trigger discussions about shared experiences/ memories, about how attitudes and ideas have changed over time, or about what is appropriate to share with children. We hope to put the booklist on the Service League website.

Here's the Books we Discussed at our Dec. 15th meeting:

Abbey, Edward – The Monkey Wrench Gang

DeLillo, Don – White Noise

De Waal, Edmund – The Hare with the Amber Eyes

Dickens, Charles – A Christmas Carol, Hard Times,

The Chimes and A Tale of Two Cities,

Flagg, Fannie – Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle-Stop Café

The Wonder Boy of Whistle Stop, and

The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion

Gaskell, Elizabeth – Wives and Daughters North and South

Haruf, Kent – Our Souls at Night

Powers, Richard – The Overstory

Vidal, Gore - Burr

Vishnevskaya, Galina – Galina: A Russian Story

Our next Zoom meeting is Tuesday, JAN 19th, at 2:00.

For more information contact our Chair,

Marie Schilling mschilling17@earthlink.net; 773-955-4949

(Please note, all are welcome to join in the conversation!)

Community Service Organizations

Chicago Commons appreciated the Service League's gift of surplus toiletries from its Holiday Drive. They were donated to the Commons' Adult Services section.

Thank you also for the Service League's continued support during this very challenging year of COVID mitigation. We hope the new year and vaccine will permit a return to full programs.

Until then, Early Education programs offer both in person and online learning. Commons has raised money in a Little Scholars Fund to cover the cost of the Head Start copay. Families served earn an average annual salary of about \$15,000. Commons offers adult home care services. Commons continues to provide vital emotional and social support during our very isolated year.

Stay well, and best wishes for the New Year. (submitted by Caroline Harney, Service League Representative, harneyc@att.net)

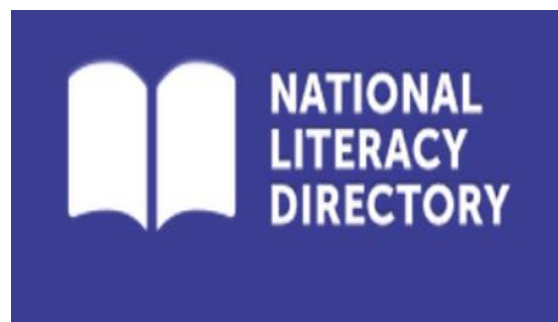


for more info, go to
www.chicagocommons.org

DELTA LITERACY PROJECT

Contact: Charlotte Johnston,
773-288-8970

Charlotte reports that the Delta Literacy Project's center at Delta Literacy Project/ D'Estee, Inc., in the Grand Boulevard/ Bronzeville neighborhood, continues to be closed, due to the pandemic. The Center continues to look for another temporary venue.



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

www.nld.org/delta-literacy-projectdestee-inc



Hyde Park Neighborhood Club

Light in a dark year

On December 31, more than 60 families gathered to bid goodbye to a challenging year and look forward to what we hope will be a brighter 2021. In a gesture that conjured hope and light, each family created a luminary with simple materials that together formed the shape of a heart in the middle of Nichols Park – the heart of our neighborhood. It was a simple act by individuals that together contributed to a beautiful image of collective action, a spirit which HPNC and our community embody.



As Hyde Park Neighborhood Club looks forward in a new year, we continue to see the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic with the glimmer of normalcy in the distance brought by the hope of a vaccine. We are continuing our Learning Hub for students to have a safe space to engage with their remote classrooms through February 5 – and perhaps beyond. With Chicago Public Schools and others making difficult decisions about the next steps towards reopening schools, HPNC will remain a resource for students to continue their education despite the obstacles presented by the virus.

Families with pre-school aged children enjoyed receiving take home art projects celebrating winter holidays, including Hanukkah, Christmas, Diwali, and others. HPNC will continue to provide this resource for families with limited options for enrichment activities through the winter months. Our Neighbors Together initiatives Kenwood Food Project and Feeding Frontliners continue supporting local restaurants struggling with lost business by purchasing food and gift cards for neighbors facing food insecurity and frontline hospital workers in our community.

A special thanks to the Service League for your December contribution to HPNC. Knowing that we can count on the contributions of loyal supporters like you helps us plan for an uncertain future. We know that the needs of our neighborhood will continue to be great, but the strength that we have when we come together as a community is greater still.

(contributed by Chris Younkin-Wilson, HPNC Development Dir.)

more Community Service Organizations

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 in Kenwood. There are 3 to 4 people who are helping 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 St. Paul and the Redeemer
- Soup Kitchen • Community Breakfast

You can read more about these programs at
<https://hpkinterfaith.org/programs/food-pantry/>

A BIG Thank You

to all Service League Members who so kindly contributed to the annual Holiday Toiletries Drive. Your generosity meant not only were the 15 ladies at the South Side Center of Hope (SSCH) each given a personal sized cosmetic bag bursting with the small-sized toiletries they need, but also Chicago Commons was able to distribute the additional donated items that the SSCH's temporary quarters didn't have space for.

A BIG Thank You also to the volunteers who collected and packed the items.

Photo is of the prepared personal bags for the South Side Center of Hope.



Board/Website Info

2020-2021 Board Executive Committee:

Co-Presidents [Lesley Bloch](#) & [Roberta Bernstein](#)
First Vice-Presidents (*Program Chair*) ... [Deborah Franczek](#) & Robin Charleston
Second Vice-Presidents (*Membership Chair*) Nadine Foster & [Sherry Glick](#)
Third Vice-President (*Communications*) [Judith Wright](#)
Recording Secretary [Sarah Diwan](#) & [Margaret Huyck](#)
Corresponding Secretary ([Newsletter/Calendar *](#)) [Carol Johnson](#) & [Sarah Wright](#)
Associate Corresponding Secretary (*Yearbook*) [Raiselle Resnick](#)
Treasurer [Clairan Ferrono](#)
Associate Treasurer [Ginny Meeker](#)
Website Manager [Theodora Shih](#)

*(**NEW features:** click on above BLUE name to start a blank email to her)*

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

New Members

The Membership Committee welcomes new member Marilyn Cavicchia, whose presentation about Monarch Butterflies and the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club's butterfly garden enlivened our October Program meeting.

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 Jill Carlotta Armagnac Maher and Arlene Zide 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 SouthSide Center of Hope (formerly St. Martin de Porres). 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. _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

I am interested in these Special Interest Groups:

___ Books ___ Contemporary Civics ___ Dining Out ___ French ___ Games

___ Movies ___ Music ___ Needlework ___ Spanish ___ Twice Read Books

___ Walking _____ MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

I am interested in working on:

___ Fundraising ___ Publicity ___ Membership/Welcoming Newcomers

___ Technology ___ Planning Programs/Speakers ___ Hospitality/Refreshments

Something Else _____

Please list the name(s) of the member(s) who encouraged you to join the Service League (if any), or one or two names of members that you already know (if any).

OK to put your email address in the *Yearbook* (Member Directory)? ___ Yes ___ No

Signature _____

Dues (May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021)\$35.00

Donation.....\$ _____

Total.....\$ _____

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
by JANUARY 22nd for the FEBRUARY 1st issue to

ucsl.newsletter@gmail.com

We all enjoy hearing from YOU! THANKS!

Guess who are
these MYSTERY
Trash Pickers,
spotted at work
this Fall!



| week in month | MONDAYS | TUESDAYS | WEDNESDAYS | THURS. |
|------------------|---|---|---|--|
| 1st | NEW DATE Contemporary Civics 2 PM & ALSO 2/1 | BOOK GROUP 7 P.M. chair Laura Kracke, lhkracke@earthlink.net AND FEB. 2nd | contact Lesley Bloch, lesley_block@yahoo.com to join the MYSTERY Trash Pickers in Hyde Park on most Thursday mornings, spotted above this fall. | |
| 2nd | | 2:30 PM FRENCH GROUP Ruth Koval, 773-726-8870, rthkvl@gmail.com | NO BOARD MEETING IN JANUARY. Next is Feb. 10th | SPANISH GROUP meets on some Thursdays. Contact Agnes Zellner azellner@gmail.com |
| 3rd | NEW DATE Contemporary Civics 2 PM Dorothy Patton, dep712@att.net | 2 PM TWICE READ BOOKS GROUP Marie Schilling (mschilling17@earthlink.net ; 773-955-4949) | NO PROGRAM Meeting in JANUARY see you on Zoom on FEB. 17th! | NEW GROUP 3 PM MONARCH BUTTERFLY GROUP Marilyn Cavicchia marilyn.cavicchia@gmail.com |
| 4th | | 2:30 PM FRENCH GROUP | | |

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

DINING OUT: Fran Gordon, fgordon@aol.com / Jan O'Malley, hddrO@sbcglobal.net

GAMES: Clairan Ferrono, fabric8tions@hotmail.com

MOVIE: Carole Landrum, 773-428-8147

MUSIC: Dottie Jeffries, dottiejeffries@gmail.com

NEEDLEWORK: Lucy Lester, lucylester@gmail.com

WALKING: Fran Gordon, 773-684-0522 {temporarily on walk-it-yourself status}