

# Courier

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY CIRCLE

November 2021

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back, Circle members, to the start of a new year! I hope you are feeling optimistic about the coming season. Life at the university has returned to a more "normal." The students are excited to be meeting in person and have their lives moving forward.

I hope that you too are feeling some of that same energy. We appreciate being outside without masks, traveling again, and starting to go to events. Although there will still be some modifications to our events this year, I hope that we will be spending more and more time together. The Program Committee has already sponsored two successful events—lunch at Avli Restaurant and a tour of Alice Millar Chapel—and will be sharing news of upcoming programs with you via email.

Our annual Adopt-a-Family Holiday Project for Northwestern Settlement is off and running. You'll find details about how you can participate inside this issue of



the *Courier*. Information about the families Circle is sponsoring will be shared by email at a later date.

We are very happy to welcome some new members into Circle, and you can meet them elsewhere in this issue. During the pandemic, our friendships have risen to a new importance in our lives. Please contact me or one of the membership chairs if you think of friends we could include in Circle.

We can look forward to receiving an updated membership directory with contact information for every Circle member, which will arrive in January.

Please join me in being grateful for our beautiful autumn, the Northwestern campus, and the coming holiday season.

*Patricia Ulmer*

[pat.ulmer@gmail.com](mailto:pat.ulmer@gmail.com) 847-682-5741

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING EN PLEIN AIR. . .



Circle executive board meeting outdoors on a warm September day.

Left to right, Linda LaBuda, Debbie Crimmins, Jean Wilson, Jane Dampts, Jane Dowding, and Margaret Schatz.

Not pictured: Pat Ulmer, Elisabeth Malthouse, Sally Sprowl, Bert Mount and Jean Corvine; not present: Sylvia Taflove and Diane Unger

[www.northwestern.edu/university-circle](http://www.northwestern.edu/university-circle)



## MISSION

The mission of University Circle is to provide opportunities for Northwestern University women to participate in service, scholarship, and social activities that enhance the University community.

## MEMBERSHIP

If you know of a woman who is interested in becoming part of University Circle, please bring her along to a special interest group or general membership program. You may also contact Margaret Schatz at 847-475-2365 and she will happily send membership information out by mail. You can find membership information on the University Circle web site:

[www.northwestern.edu/university-circle](http://www.northwestern.edu/university-circle)

## BOARD MEETINGS

University Circle Board meetings are held at noon on the third Thursday of most months, on the Evanston Campus. All members are welcome. Meetings typically last one hour and are always lively and fun. Please contact the president if you plan to attend and/or if you have an item for the agenda.

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Mimi Schapiro

## INTEREST GROUP & PROJECT CONTACTS

**PIECEMAKERS QUILTERS** Margaret Schatz  
 Lonnie Dunlap

**SCHOLARSHIP** Debbie Crimmins

**NORTHWESTERN SETTLEMENT** Jane Dowding  
 Linda LaBuda  
 Margaret Schatz  
 Pat Ulmer

**SOCIAL SERVICE** Glenda Mockros

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN** Joan Fragen

For information about other interest groups, please contact the president.

## CIRCLE SUPPORTS SETTLEMENT FAMILIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Circle has a long tradition of participating in Northwestern Settlement's Adopt-a-Family holiday project, and this year is no exception. Circle's Settlement Committee will purchase gift cards that will be given to members of five families who receive



services at Northwestern Settlement, in Chicago's West Town neighborhood. Each family member will receive a \$50 gift card and each family will receive a food gift card. We'll also provide books for each child and a small box of cookies or candy for the families.

Circle members are invited to make donations to fund the gift cards. Checks should be made payable to University Circle, with Settlement in the memo line. Mail to Pat Ulmer, 2021 Noyes Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Please send Pat an e-mail at [pat.ulmer@gmail.com](mailto:pat.ulmer@gmail.com) or text 847-682-5741 to let her know that you

have sent a check and the amount. Or you may arrange with Pat to drop the check by her house. Please make sure your donation reaches Pat by Friday, December 3, to allow time for gift card purchases to be made. Any excess funds that are received will be donated to Northwestern Settlement.

When Settlement sends us the stories of the families Circle is helping, we will send them to our members via e-mail. We know that hearing about the recipients of our gifts is an important link in this holiday tradition.

Circle members have always been generous in supporting Settlement families, and we thank you for your donations. For more information about Northwestern Settlement, go to [tinyurl.com/5b8cpbct](https://tinyurl.com/5b8cpbct).

– Settlement Committee: Jane Dowding, Linda LaBuda, Margaret Schatz, and Pat Ulmer

## CIRCLE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO STUDENT EMPLOYEES

On May 18, the Scholarship Committee presented the 2021 University Circle Scholarship to four recipients at a virtual program via Zoom. In introducing the recipients, Chair Debbie Crimmins said the committee was inspired by their incredible dedication to their studies, work, community and family. Each scholarship provides \$1800 in tuition funds.

The recipients—all of whom are NU employees and students



in NU's School of Professional Studies – are **Rosa Ortiz**, **Rebecca Prince**, **Ana Sferruzza** and **Hamna Siddiqui**. They were joined by Soo La Kim, Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs at the School of Professional Studies, in a conversation about the paths they've taken to get where they are and what they hope to achieve moving forward.

University Circle thanks all the donors who make the scholarships possible.

– Debbie Crimmins, chair; Candice Dalrymple, Jane Dampts, Sally Dobroski, Gay Menges, Jean Wilson

# SUMMER POTLUCK DINNER

– by Jane Dowding

Coming out of many months of isolation from the Covid pandemic, NU Circle members eagerly gathered for our first in-person activity in a long while, a potluck dinner on July 21 at the home of Jane Dowding. Members outdid themselves, preparing delicious food to share (and LOTS of it!). A short business meeting was squeezed in between all the chatter, as people caught up on each others' lives during the previous months of isolation. The large turnout reflected how delighted people were to once again be able to gather in person.



Jeanne Fitzpatrick, Margareta Brown and Claudia Krizek



Bob Fragen and Jean Corvine



Jane Dampts and Sally Sprowl



Sally Dobroski, Eleanor Prince, Barbara Keer and Lindy Lynk



Gay Menges and Carol Nielsen



Eileen McGowan, Anita Yamada, Nita Hemke and Pat Ulmer

## OFFICERS REELECTED AT SUMMER EVENT

The election of Circle officers to the executive board was held on July 21 at the potluck dinner held at the home of Jane Dowding. Pat Ulmer was reelected president for a two-year term and Sylvia Taflove was reelected corresponding secretary, also for a two-year term.

During the short business meeting, Margaret Schatz presented the Circle pin to Pat in recognition of her service as Circle's President for the past two years. In thanking Pat, Margaret said the following:

*"Pat Ulmer is a step-up person. And Circle is lucky to have her. She has stepped up as a loyal and dedicated volunteer with several other organizations, including Evanston School Children's Clothing Association and the tax preparation*



Pat Ulmer receives Circle pin from Margaret Schatz.

– Jane Dowding and Margaret Schatz, Nominating Committee

*assistance program at Evanston's Levy Senior Center.*

*"I know, on a personal level, that Pat has stepped up for many of us, myself included, with a friendly phone call, a helping hand and often so much more.*

*"Like other organizations, the past year and a half has been a challenge for Circle. But Pat has stepped up to keep us connected, and even reach out to new members. And I think we may all agree—that connection is what's most important.*

*"Thank you, Pat."*

Circle is grateful to both Pat and Sylvia for stepping up and agreeing to stay on for another term.

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

**Calling all 50-year members:** Have you been a member of Circle since 1972 or before? If so, Circle wants to hear from you. Please let us know so that you can be designated as such in the new edition of the membership directory coming in January. Please contact Jane Dowding, [dowdingjane@gmail.com](mailto:dowdingjane@gmail.com) or 847-446-0302.

### **Change of address or other contact information?**

To ensure that the new directory is as up-to-date as possible, please contact Jane Dowding with any changes: [dowdingjane@gmail.com](mailto:dowdingjane@gmail.com) or 847-446-0302.

**2021-2022 Membership renewal reminder:** If you haven't already done so, please send a check for \$25 payable to University Circle to Linda LaBuda, 9225 Harding Avenue, Evanston, IL 60203. Thank you!

## CIRCLE MEMBERS ENJOY A TASTE OF GREECE

– by Sally Sprowl



October 19<sup>th</sup> was a sunny, warm day when nearly a dozen Circle members gathered at Avli Restaurant in Winnetka for lunch. We were seated on the porch where we enjoyed the lovely day, delicious Greek cuisine and best of all—delightful conversations with Circle friends. It's evident that Circle members really like getting together, and the Program Committee is continuing to plan more opportunities to do just that. Look for updates and invitations via email as plans develop.

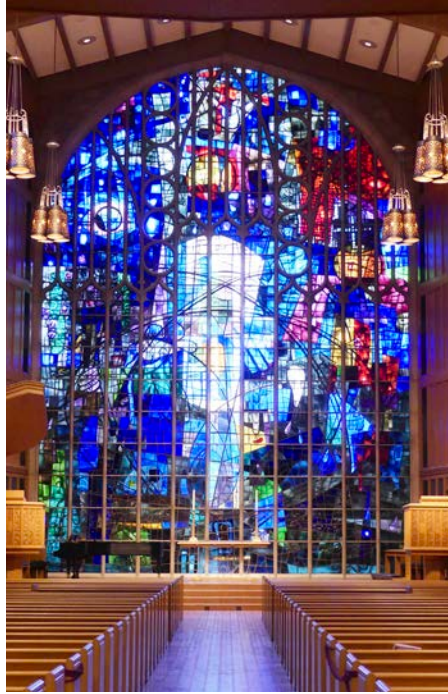
# TOUR OF UNIVERSITY CHAPELS

– *Story and photos*  
by Elisabeth Malthouse

On Thursday, November 4, Circle members participated in a tour of Alice Millar and Jeanne Vail chapels on the Evanston campus.

Rev. Kristen Glass Perez, Northwestern's chaplain, warmly welcomed the group and started the tour with a brief overview of the history of the Millar chapel. It was built in 1962 and named after Alice Millar, mother of Foster G. McGaw, founder of the American Hospital Supply Corporation, noted philanthropist and a Northwestern University trustee at the time. The land for the chapel was deeded to Northwestern by Dr. William Parkes (Parkes Hall adjacent to the Chapel is named after him).

The main feature of the chapel is its beautiful stained glass windows in a contemporary style. The center front window behind the altar depicts the story of creation with the dove (Holy Spirit) on top descending on the world. The side windows represent the work of the university in the world. Healing, Law, Discovery,



Literature, and the Arts are shown in the windows on the east side starting at the pulpit. And the windows on the west side starting at the lectern represent Commerce, Space, Communication, The State, and The Races of Humanity. Rev. Glass Perez pointed out many of the intriguing details of the windows. But they are certainly worth a much closer look than the tour allowed. A history of Alice Millar Chapel with photos of every window may be found at [tinyurl.com/d3uwaywz](https://tinyurl.com/d3uwaywz).

The smaller Vail Chapel is dedicated to Jeanne Vail, daughter of Mary Wettling McGaw (Foster McGaw's second wife) who died of polio in 1949 at age 24, just three months after her first child was born. Vail Chapel also has beautiful stained glass windows but in a more traditional style depicting biblical scenes.

At the end of the tour, Rev. Glass Perez talked about the spiritual life at Northwestern. She sees herself as chaplain to all, and pastor to some.

Following the tour, several Circle members enjoyed lunch together at Panera Bread in Wilmette.



# CIRCLE WELCOMES OUR NEW MEMBERS!

**Jeanne Fitzpatrick** worked in the business office of Northwestern's Department of Biochemistry and Neurobiology. After living in the area for several decades, she moved to Seattle for a period of time, followed by a couple of moves back and forth across the country. This year she returned to the Chicago area where she's happy to be home among family and friends. Jeanne is looking forward to volunteering to help other seniors with their taxes and walking with friends and neighbors in the forest preserve in Morton Grove near where she lives.

**Kay Hamel** is currently Northwestern University Guild president and program lead. She and her husband Ken, who is an NU graduate, attend NU Alumnae programs, are football season ticket holders and have attended a few Bowl games. They have lived in the Skokie/Evanston area for over 40 years. Kay was employed by Searle/Monsanto/Pharmacia/Pfizer in Skokie for 25 years, and previously worked at Wrigley Gum. She now finds time for the Highland Garden Club of Evanston and landscaping work at New England Village. Among her many interests are cooking and baking "sometimes" and eating at great restaurants "all the time."

**Sally Hillyer** earned her Nurse Practitioner certification from Northwestern. She has lived in Evanston since 1965. Over her long career in healthcare, she worked as the head of Loyola University Health Services and held a variety of administrative positions in Managed Care. After retiring from the health care sector, she

joined the Wilmette Public Library staff where she discovered book mending. She is an avid reader, and loves perusing vintage and international cookbooks. She's a classic movie buff and hopes to pursue her love of fiber art in the near future. Currently, she enjoys being the busy grandmother of three.

**Mary Ellen Lydon** is retired from NU where she was an administrative assistant at the School of Education's Center for Talent Development. She has lived in Evanston for 45 years where she raised three children and now enjoys five grandchildren. Before it closed she volunteered at the north branch of Evanston Public Library but continues to volunteer at Evanston School Children's Clothing Association, Open House Chicago, and the Levy Senior Center where she helps prepare taxes with the AARP group. Mary Ellen likes her book club, which she founded after she retired.

**Jayne Schaefer** started at NU's Center for Talent Development as a part-time instructor in the Saturday Enrichment Program (SEP) for ten years. She came on full time as the coordinator of SEP and LetterLinks programs, and then transitioned to assistant director in charge of the Summer Program. Born and raised in Chicago, Jayne has lived in Evanston for 46 years. When she's not spending time with her seven grown children and six young grandchildren, she volunteers at Evanston's St. Mary's Parish, ESCCA and the tax preparation program at the Levy Center. She's an avid reader and a charter member of Mary Ellen Lydon's book club.



# PIECEMAKERS PROJECTS

– by Diane Unger

For the 14 members of Piecemakers, Circle’s quilting group, making quilts is a labor of love—love of fabric, friendship and fun. During the past year, members have worked individually in their homes to piece lap-size quilts from donated fabric. In the summer they met in small groups at tables in backyards to tie the layers together: backing, batting and top. Final step is binding, which is often done by Piecemakers friend and binding specialist, Karen Courtright, to whom the group sends a hearty thanks.

The resulting 45 quilts became the subject of Piecemakers’ second annual quilt show, held on October 9 under the oak tree canopy of Margaret Schatz’s backyard. Circle members and guests took advantage of the beautiful day to view the quilts displayed on clotheslines strung between tree trunks

while munching on popcorn, fruit, tea bread and cookies. After Thanksgiving the quilts will be delivered to Deborah’s Place, a service organization that has been helping unaccompanied and homeless women in Chicago since 1985. There they will be given to the women living in the permanent supportive housing facility to keep and enjoy.

On July 26, a potluck dinner was held to honor Ann Duncan-Gibbs as she prepares to return to her home state of Iowa after a career at Northwestern’s library. Ann’s contributions to the group over the years have been many, and we will miss her but expect to stay in touch with visits via Zoom.

Margaret Schatz and Lonnie Dunlap lead the group with unending enthusiasm and humor. If you’re interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Margaret at [mesharbor@gmail.com](mailto:mesharbor@gmail.com).



Jean Wilson, Elisabeth Malthouse, Sally Sprowl, and Kay Hamel



Mary Ellen Lydon and Diane Unger







Kay Hamel, Sally Hillyer and Pat Ulmer



Maureen Hanrahan, Melinda Shanklin and Jeanne Fitzpatrick



Maria Poeppelmeier, Paula Selvig, Lonnie Dunlap and Margaret Schatz



## Remembering Our Circle Friends

NU Circle was sad to learn that member Ruth Lucchesi passed away on May 19, 2021. Ruth was very active in her town of Northfield in a variety of capacities. Ruth will certainly be missed by NU Circle and by the many other groups in which she was involved. We send condolences to her family.

See Ruth's obituary at [tinyurl.com/3sdb3vyw](https://tinyurl.com/3sdb3vyw)

