

# SCOPE



**Monona/Madison Branch Newsletter**

**April 2021**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 27**

**7:00 p.m. Zoom Program:** George Penn from Wisconsin United to Amend will present on: **"Let's Fix This! How you help get big money out of politics."** George Penn grew up in NY and moved to Madison in 1977 to get a degree in Nuclear Engineering. He spent most of his career as an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Consultant. In 2012 he shut down his business to devote his "free years" to Restoring our Republic from the corrupt political system. He joined United to Amend in 2012 and is helping to grow the movement around the state and nation. He expects to be building this non-partisan, grassroots movement until he is unable. Wisconsin United to Amend is an all-volunteer group that has helped pass referendums/resolutions supporting amending the constitution to get big money out of politics in 166 Wisconsin counties, cities, villages and towns. Twenty-two states have signed on supporting a constitutional amendment (but not Wisconsin, yet).

The Branch Business Meeting will follow the program, which will include the election of branch officers.

## **Zoom Meeting**

Kleo will send out Zoom invitations on **Sunday night** for any Zoom events that week. If you do **NOT** get an invite to a meeting or your book club contact her on Monday [kbkritz@charter.net](mailto:kbkritz@charter.net) or 273-2476 so she can resend it to you. **Please check the Zoom invite you receive right away to make sure the actual invite link is there!** (We had a couple members who received the Zoom email but didn't check it until just before the actual meeting and discovered no link was on the email!) You might want to create an email file titled "Zoom Invitations" to store your invitations. If you do not file emails, you might want to put a colorful flag next to it to make it "stand out" so invitation does not get lost in all the other emails you get. Kleo will start Zoom monthly meeting at 6:45 for members to get in, and be able to do some informal visiting. If an unexpected Zoom issue arises that evening, you can contact her. She will try to get it resolved. Speaker will begin at 7 p.m.

## **PRESIDENTS' CORNER, Donna Anderson & Sally Keyel**

It seems like we've jumped right into summer lately! Gardens are exploding with cheerful daffodils. The June luncheon committee has been busy arranging an in-person get-together at a park in Monona. See details later in the newsletter.

I hope people are registering for the upcoming State AAUW convention. It's so easy to do, and easy to attend!

Happy Spring!

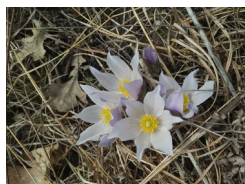
## **NCCWSL, Donna Anderson**

I am happy to inform you that the candidate from the Monona/Madison Branch has been accepted for the scholarship given by the State AAUW to attend the National Women's Leadership Conference being held virtually this year. Her name is Eliza Lindley and she is from Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin. She is a UW Madison Sophomore in the Department of Life Science Communication. Ms. Lindley was very happy to receive the news of her acceptance because she stated that "since the Pandemic, there have been very few opportunities for leadership experience." She is looking forward to the opportunity to connect with people around the country, especially other women." In the future her goal is to confidently communicate with people of diverse backgrounds about scientific and environmental topics. Eliza agreed that at some future point she would be happy to report to the Monona/Madison Branch about her experience at this conference. This is something to look forward to for next year.

The Wisconsin State AAUW had scholarships available for 12 candidates and 15 applied. The State then agreed to pay for 14 students and one was able to get funding from National. Therefore, all that applied was able to attend! We are very proud that we are able to send 15 great college women from all over Wisconsin as our representatives to the National Conference.

A big thanks goes to Shiela Reaves who reached out to Tera Holtz Wagner (UW Student Services Coordinator) for locating Ms. Lindley as a potential candidate. It reinforces Monona/Madison's AAUW connection to the University. Hopefully, we can continue with recommendations for the NCCSWL in the future.

STEM: In other good news, I want to let you know that the Tech Savy weekend education program for middle school girls went well this year for the Janesville and Fort Atkinson Branches. Even though they had to switch it from an in person event to online they had 119 participants out of 120 possible slots. Fifty schools across the State were represented. Some were as far away as Green Bay. The event took a lot of work and coordination with help from UW Whitewater students and staff. Thank you to all of our members who reached out to our local school districts to inform them of this opportunity. It is hoped that in the coming year the Monona/Madison Branch can lend a hand in the events of the future.



## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE, Val Murphy, Marian Ehrenberg, Linda Hoelzel**

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of officers for 2021-22: Co-President, Kleo Baruth Kritz; Program Co-VP, Val Murphy; Membership Co-VP, Mary Berg; Co-Secretary, Shiela Reaves. The election will be held at the April Zoom meeting by voice vote. The installation of officers will take place at the May meeting.

## **PROGRAM, Val Murphy & Jan Robertson**

Looking for Program Ideas. The program committee will be meeting sometime this spring to start planning programs for the 2021-2022 year. We are looking for ideas for next year and would love to have several more people on our committee. If you would like to be on the committee or have ideas/contacts to suggest for programs please contact Jan Robertson or Val Murphy.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT, Gail Stirr**

### **March 2021**

**Beginning Balance 2/28/21**                      **\$12,454.76**

- |                                     |          |                               |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Member donations                 | \$225.00 |                               |
| (supporting all branch initiatives) |          |                               |
| 2. Donations in memory of           | \$150.00 | (member's personal donations, |
| routed through branch)              |          |                               |

June Suhling

3. Online Silent Auction	\$856.00	
--------------------------	----------	--

4. Membership dues (2021-22)	<u>\$1,056.00</u>	
------------------------------	-------------------	--

**Total Income:**                                      **\$2,287.00**

5. UW Fund for Excellence	\$2,000.00	(scholarship support)
---------------------------	------------	-----------------------

6. Member's donations in memory		
of June Suhling	\$150.00	(AAUW Greatest Needs Fund)

7. Branch donation in memory		
of June Suhling	\$25.00	(AAUW Greatest Needs Fund)

8. AAUW National & State dues	<u>\$949.00</u>	
-------------------------------	-----------------	--

**Total Expenses:**                                      **\$3,124.00**

**Ending Balance 3/31/21:**                      **\$11,617.76**

**SILENT AUCTION, Sally Keyel** The Silent Auction was a huge success. We have so many generous members! Many donated items, many bid, and many sent in monetary donations as well. The amount listed in the financial report is only up to the end of March. More than \$200 has come in since then! THANKS!

## **NATIONAL BYLAW CHANGE VOTE, Kleo Baruth Kritz**

This is an important year with changes to AAUW National bylaws to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. Many branches are actively promoting this change. The vote goes from April 7-May 17. Just go to the National Website and type in “Bylaws” where the magnifying glass search box is at the top of the homepage and it will pop up. The articles explaining the reasoning was sent to members before the February meeting.

**AAUW Bylaws Amendment** Between April 7th and May 17th, all AAUW members will have the opportunity to vote on an important bylaws amendment that will **eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW**. The AAUW Board of Directors and the AAUW Governance Committee give the following rationale for the proposed the amendment:

“AAUW’s mission is to advance gender equity, yet the requirement for membership explicitly denies access to membership to those without college degrees. AAUW does not promote equity for all women and girls if the organization maintains exclusionary membership requirements. The membership requirement is not fair, is not right, and is not equity. This is simply the right thing to do.”

This proposed amendment is strongly supported by the national organization and our state organization. **QUESTION:** AAUW has been this way for a long time. Why do we need to change now?

Our continued relevance will be enhanced by eliminating barriers that limit who can participate in our mission of advancing equity for women and girls.

Staying relevant is crucial to AAUW’s survival. We will have access to more funding from corporate and foundation funders, which is critical. Many will not fund organizations that have barriers to participation in the work of the organization.

Membership dues only fund a small portion of our work. Our self-imposed degree requirement actually discriminates against women and girls, even if it once was a well-intentioned incentive to specific achievement. **Bottom line.** If the degree requirement is eliminated, membership in AAUW will be based on support for our mission to advance equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy, not on whether someone individually has had the opportunity, time, or money to attend college. I hope you will take the time to carefully consider this significant amendment. You can learn more about the proposed bylaws change by clicking:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/open-membership-toolkit/>

**Please go to <https://www.aauw.org> between April 7 and May 17 to cast your vote on the bylaws amendment! (Next to red Donate box in upper right corner is a magnifying glass, click, and type in “bylaws vote” and then click magnifying glass.)**

### Frequently Asked Questions about the Open Membership Bylaws Amendment

1. AAUW has been this way for a long time. Why do we need to change now? Our continued relevance will be enhanced by eliminating barriers that limit who can participate in our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. Staying relevant is crucial to continued success. We will have access to more funding from corporate and foundation funders. Many won't fund organizations that have barriers to participation in the work of the organization. Membership dues only fund a small portion of our work. We need to recognize that our self-imposed degree requirement actually discriminates against women and girls, even if it once was a well-intentioned incentive to specific achievement.

2. Won't dropping the degree requirement end what is unique about our organization and our like-minded nature? Our mission is not changing and AAUW will continue to be unique in its breadth of programming, research, policy, and advocacy, our fully endowed fellowships & grants for higher education, and our grassroots membership. Having a degree does not make someone “like-minded” or a better advocate. We are like-minded in our support for advancing equity for women and girls. Women without degrees can be passionate advocates. Think Eleanor Roosevelt, Lilly Ledbetter, Malala, Greta Thunburg.

3. Don't we need to honor our founding mothers by retaining the degree requirement? Today, more women earn degrees than men, and we make up (pre- COVID) almost half of the U.S. workforce. But economic disparities and discrimination against women persist widely, despite our levels of education and workforce participation. College degrees don't guarantee equal treatment or opportunities for women. Equal treatment and opportunity were foundational values for our founders.

4. If the degree requirement is dropped, will branch membership increase? Many younger women and men view our degree requirement as elitist and discriminatory. Eliminating it may help increase their support for our mission whether as national or branch members, donors, or advocates. But young people tend to avoid meetings in favor of taking on projects; they may also be deterred from joining a branch by the age of most of our current branch members. More women in older age ranges may be interested in joining branches once the degree barrier is removed. We all have friends

who can't be members because of the current degree requirement, and many of us have been embarrassed by encouraging friends to join, only to find out they aren't eligible.

5. I'm proud of my degree. We should still encourage women to get their degrees! We won't stop encouraging women to get degrees. But degrees are not the "badge of honor" they once were and many careers are now open to women without them. Skyrocketing educational costs, childcare, elder care, transportation, working multiple jobs, and language barriers are significant issues limiting opportunities to get a degree. Also, women are now burdened with two-thirds of the national college debt. Cost is a barrier many of us didn't have "back then." Education can come in many forms.

6. Won't we have to change our name if we drop the degree requirement? No. We can just use our initials, ala the YMCA or NAACP, to name two organizations that don't spell out their full names any longer. Changing our name is not the issue to focus on. Our focus needs to be on staying relevant, increasing our ability to get funding, and opening our membership to a broader group that will work in support of the mission.

**MEMBERSHIP, Betty Schmidt & Lynn Christensen** Membership renewal time is coming up. We are all looking forward to gathering again in person, hopefully later this year. We're also hoping to add some new members, too. If you know of anyone interested in joining our local branch, please tell them to contact either Co-Membership Chair Lynn Christensen, 442-0151 or Betty Schmidt, 240-2217. Applications are also available on our Branch website: [monona-madison-wi.aauw.net](http://monona-madison-wi.aauw.net)

Member dues payments for the 2021-22 year can be made between now and the end of May. AAUW National has raised 2021-22 membership dues from \$59 to \$62, **so total membership for National (\$62), State (\$13), and Branch (\$15) is \$90.00.** (*Remember that \$59 of this total is tax deductible.*)

Like last year, with a process begun during the pandemic when we could no longer meet in person, we have two pathways to pay dues. **Watch your email inbox for a letter from "memberinfo@aauw.org" that shares two renewal options that will appear as below:**

1. Pay dues online; 'click here' to use your credit or debit card.

(You can renew directly through this email by clicking a personalized link and paying with a credit or debit card.)

2. By check: Make check payable to our branch. Mail it to Gail Stirr.

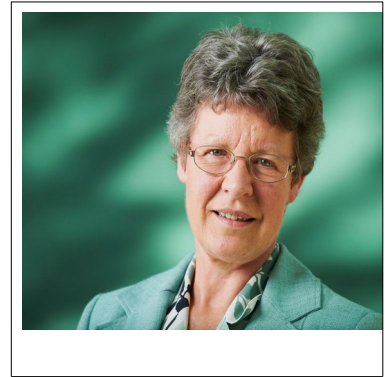
**\*\*If you prefer to pay by check rather than online, please make your check out to Monona/Madison AAUW and mail it to Gail Stirr (Finance Officer), 7510 Red Fox Trail, Madison WI 53717. We hope that you will renew your membership, stay "active," and be ready to celebrate when we again can meet!**



## **WOMEN’S HISTORY, Mary Boyd & Bobbi White Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Astrophysicist**

Jocelyn Bell Burnell was born in Northern Ireland on July 15, 1943.

She was studying at Cambridge University in England in 1967 under the guidance of Anthony Hewish when she discovered a regular pulsing radio transmission emanating from outer space; jokingly, she labeled it "Little Green Men" on charts.



Bell had joined Arthur Hewish's research team after completing a physics degree at Glasgow University in 1965, helping to build a massive radio telescope to study quasars while studying for her PhD in 1967. She soon noticed a series of repeating radio emissions on the printouts, occurring just over once every second - too frequent to be from a quasar. The team realized these emissions must be coming from rapidly spinning celestial corpses called neutron stars - the collapsed remnants of a dead star.

Later it was discovered to be a radio pulsar - a fast spinning collapsed star - and Hewish's team published their findings in a scientific paper. Discovery turned into controversy , however, as Hewish and co-authors later won the Nobel Prize to the exclusion of Jocelyn Bell, a decision debated ever since.

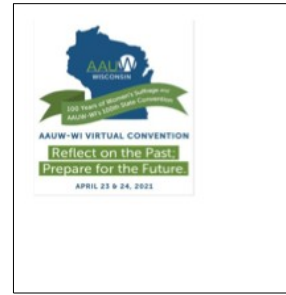
The discovery prompted a flurry of media attention and the discovery of more pulsars; Bell earned her PhD in 1968. In 1974 the Nobel committee awarded Hewish and other researcher, Ryle, leaving out Bell, a move that angered cosmologist Fred Hoyle. Bell remained unconcerned , however, and went on to study astronomy at various U.K. institutions. Her work is remembered as an important discovery in the modern description of our Universe, later acting as further evidence for the existence of black holes.

Jocelyn Bell Burnell continued lecturing at several British institutions; she was created Commander of the Order of the [British Empire](#) (CBE) in 1999 and Dame (DBE) in 2007. Bell Burnell became a member of the [Royal Society](#) in 2003, and also served as president of the [Royal Astronomical Society](#) (2002–04) and as president of the Institute of Physics in 2008. ***Perseverance is on Mars today due to space contributions from women like Jocelyn Bell Burnell.***



## **AAUW-WI Virtual State Convention, Kleo Baruth Kritz**

April 23 & 24, 2021. You all should have received your convention program by now. Hopefully it has inspired you to sign up for Zoom sessions so that you can participate in this year's convention. There is still time to sign up. When you visit the convention website, there is a short video that will help you navigate the site, and be sure that you are signed up correctly. **Remember:** You must sign up for each session you wish to attend. There are 11 sessions and you can sign up for a maximum of 7. (We have 2 sets of breakout sessions with 3 events scheduled simultaneously.)



You should receive a confirmation email and will receive the Zoom invites closer to the actual convention. One of the first pages in the program is a chart listing all of the Zoom sessions. Print that, and keep it as a way to organize which sessions you have signed up for, the times, and when you get them, the Zoom meeting IDs and passcodes. At the very bottom is a space for you to write down your password for the online auction. There should be lots of interesting items to bid on, and it is fun to watch the bids, and jump in at the last minute for something that you really want. Many of these items would make great gifts, so do some early Christmas shopping. Other gift ideas include the AAUW pins that are available through the website or by filling out the form in the program and sending it in.

The convention committee has been working hard on the plans for this event, and we hope that many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to participate without travel or cost. See you there. <https://aauwstateconvention.com> **Testimonials from members who have attended AAUW conventions:**

“The best part of attending State and National Conventions was the eye-opening experience of being part of something bigger than our branch, and meeting other women who shared the vision and mission of AAUW. As a branch officer, it was a great way to share ideas and bring some new ones back to try at our branch. This year we are lucky to be able to attend convention virtually and at no cost so every branch member can have that experience.” *Leslie Brunsell, Janesville*

“Attending the AAUW State Convention was a game-changer for me. Attending that first convention opened my eyes to the power women have when they join forces with AAUW. The stories about projects and collaboration to fight for women and girls were awe-inspiring. Join the fight...attend the convention for inspiration and affirmation. You'll be glad you did!” *Pat Phillips, Janesville, 2021 Convention Committee*



“I have attended several conventions, two in Janesville, and one in Madison. As I have worked on two convention program books, I have met and gotten to know other women in our state who are AAUW advocates. You never know what you will learn at a convention, or who you will make friends with.” *Diane Adams, Janesville, 2021 Convention Committee*

“Convention helped me see the big picture...that AAUW is about more than a branch meeting once a month and reading books for Book Discussion. The general meeting session helped me see the vision of AAUW in a new light. The keynote speakers and breakout groups provided in-depth views of issues critical to AAUW’s mission. In the counterpoint meetings, we had the opportunity to collaborate with other branch presidents and share our problems and concerns.” *Carole Salinas, Janesville Co-President*

“Donna Anderson and I attended our first state convention in 2019 and I realized so much about AAUW’s mission to improve the lives of women and girls. This was an exciting opportunity to learn from both national and state officers and meet like-minded women in our state who were committed to this mission.” *Kleo Baruth Kritz, Monona/Madison, District 1 Coordinator/2021 Convention Committee*

**SPRING PICNIC, Gail Stirr, Shiela Reaves, Wanda Nelson, Jan Robertson**  
Saturday, June 5th, from 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Oneida Park Shelter Tecumseh Avenue, Monona <http://mymonona.com/Facilities/Facility/Details/Oneida-Park-21>

Join sister members & guests as we meet *in person* to celebrate our AAUW community, greeting old and new friends in camaraderie & conviviality! We were lucky enough to reserve a park shelter with adjacent restrooms and nearby parking; we will have picnic table seating, as well as folding chairs and flexible “camping chairs” for comfortable options. Your guests are welcome, and we hope that our high school scholarship recipients will also be able to join us.

**Arrive between 11:30am and Noon; “official” welcome & introductions at Noon; picnic and chat until 2pm; we have the shelter reserved for a leisurely event.**

This picnic can accommodate your comfort level. You can move your chair to ‘socially distance’ if you wish; you can wear a mask when not eating. Likely all of us will be vaccinated well before June, so our safety level will be excellent!

**THE FORM AND MENU ARE AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER.**

### **AAUW GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, March 23, 2021**

Meeting called to order by Sally Keyel, Co-President via Zoom.

28 members plus the guest speaker participated.

The minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting were approved with the following corrections: Tax deductible amount for dues is \$59. (not \$56) and the following policy changes: Policy 3: Each member is encouraged to serve at a general meeting, the summer program, or a luncheon, or contribute a like amount towards expenses.

Policy 9: A detailed report of any special activity should be prepared by the Chair for the files. This report should include names of committee members. The committee members are responsible for any purchases they make except for any funds approved by the board. This file should be passed on to the new office holder or the President.

**Financial Report**, Gail Stirr. Balance in the account at the end of February 2021 was \$12,454.76 \$2,000 was paid to the UW Fund for Excellence. So far, \$50 of member donations in support of the silent auction have been deposited.

Balance on March 23, 2021 is \$10,504.76. The March financial report will be in *Scope*. 21 of 66 members have renewed. A \$25 donation from the branch was sent to National in memory of June Suhling. Checks totaling \$475 from members in memory of June Suhling were forwarded to National.

**Program**, Kleo Baruth Kritz & Jan Robertson. The April program will be about Money and Politics. Details will be in the April *Scope*.

**Public Policy**, Consuelo Lopez. Encouraged members to write letters to our representatives in support of the Equal Pay Act for Women.

**EF**, Liz Senseman. Scholarship and award winners at UW have been selected although the name of the recipient of the Single Parent scholarship has not yet been sent. She should have that information soon. There will not be an awards ceremony again this year but a booklet is being prepared with the names of all the winners and the donors in it. More information will be in the April *Scope*. The high school selections have not yet been made.

#### **Old Business:**

Convention News: The State convention will be held April 23-24. The master schedule can be found at [aauw.wisconsinstateconvention.com](http://aauw.wisconsinstateconvention.com). Members are encouraged to register.

Proposed National policy change. National will be voting on the Open Membership Policy beginning April 7. Information will be in the April *Scope*.

Linda Hoelzel read the slate of officers for 2021-22: Co-President, Kleo Baruth Kritz; Program Co-VP: Val Murphy; Membership Co-VP: Mary Berg and Co-Secretary: Shiela Reaves. The election will be held at the April meeting and installation at the May meeting.

#### **New Business**

**June Luncheon**, Gail Stirr. The June luncheon will be a picnic with a box lunch on June 5 at Oneida Park in Monona. There is a shelter house in case of rain. More information will be in the April *Scope*.

**NCCWSL**: Donna Anderson. The Monona/Madison candidate Eliza Lindley has been selected to attend the May Leadership Conference sponsored by National AAUW. Members are encouraged to check out the AAUW webinars from National.

**Silent Auction**: Sally Keyel. The online silent auction realized a profit of \$727 which includes donations and expenses.

**Women's History**: Mary Boyd and Bobbi White were thanked for the articles about Women's History which appear in *Scope*.

**STEM**: Gail Stirr announced that a documentary entitled "Picture a Scientist" will appear on PBS on Nova on April 14 at 8 PM.

**Study Groups**: The morning Lit group will discuss *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead with Lynn Celley leading the discussion. The afternoon Lit group will discuss *Out of Africa* by Isak Dinesen. This is a change from books listed in yearbook.

The deadline for *Scope* is April 7.

The next meeting will be April 27.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Bowles, Co-Recording Secretary

## CALENDAR

- **Apr. 15 at 1 p.m.: Afternoon Lit via Zoom:** Leader, Linda Voss; *Out of Africa* by Isak Dinesen (note change of book)
- **Apr. 21 at 7 p.m.: Wednesday Evening Book Club via Zoom;** Reviewer, Ellen Healey; *Clara Colby: The International Suffragist* by John Holiday
- **Apr. 22 at 9:30 a.m.: Morning Literature via Zoom:** Leader, Lynn Celley, *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead
- **Apr. 27 at 7 p.m.:** General Meeting

Co-presidents: Donna Anderson & Sally Keyel; Membership: Betty Schmidt & Lynn Christensen; Newsletter: Sally Keyel. **Monona/Madison AAUW website: [monona-madison-wi.aauw.net](http://monona-madison-wi.aauw.net)**

**\*\*Please select one of these box lunches from *Cranberry Creek Café and Grill*.**

**All include chips, beverages (iced tea, lemonade, bottled water), and a lemon bar for dessert.**

**1. Chicken Salad Croissant Sandwich**—with lettuce & tomato, and a side of seasonal fruit

**2. Ham & Swiss Sandwich on Focaccia**—with dill mayo, lettuce & tomato, and a side of seasonal fruit

**3. Cranberry Creek Signature Salad**—chicken, mixed greens, dried cranberries, Mandarin oranges, red onion, pecans, and cranberry balsamic dressing

**4. Vegetarian Hummus Wrap**—roasted red pepper hummus, herb flour tortilla, with cucumbers, tomatoes, mixed greens, & onion, and a side of seasonal fruit

**\*\*Cost for each box lunch is \$15.00.** Includes tax and small amount towards lunches for scholarship student guests & their parents.

**Registration deadline is Friday, May 21st.**

---

**\*\*To register for the June 5th AAUW picnic:** fill out the form below and send with payment to Gail Stirr, 7510 Red Fox Trail, Madison WI 53717. Questions? Contact Wanda Nelson (608-222-8476); Shiela Reaves (608-712-7718); Jan Robertson (608-833-6312); or Gail Stirr (608-239-3243). We will send out directions to Oneida Park to all who sign up to attend.

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Box Lunch Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Box Lunch Choice(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Payment enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_