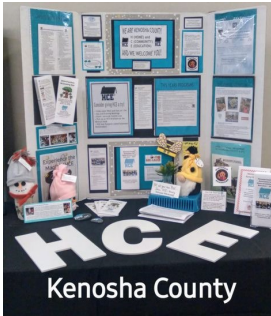




## A Few Words from President Donna Zarovy

Hi Fellow KCAHCE Members:

### *What a busy past few months ...*



We had a delightful education program in June. Our Pic-I-Nic in August – where we honored our 2024 Scholarship recipients. The the September “Back to School for Brain Health” program and the State Conference. On to Fall Focus.

The 2024 WAHCE Annual Business Meeting and Conference was the biggest highlight of my year. I was the Chair of this year’s conference. I worked on it for the last three years – glad to say it was a tremendously successful event thanks to many hands and minds. (The Evaluations agree with me.) Over 230 WAHCE members attended the three-day event. See the articles on pages 6-8 with highlights. It was great to have five of our members there. The photo at the left

is the extraordinary Kenosha County display by Jeri Moore.

The 2024 Fall Focus event is Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. The JJ’s Club has a fun event planned with Stowell’s Catering providing the food. You will receive your printed Extension Line, too.

We will honor Gail Gillmore - 30 years, Ruth Larsen and Chris Werner - 25 years, Kim Brandes, Lila Muhlenbeck and Barbara Schmidt for five years, plus 12 members for their first year of membership. They are Julie Christenbury, Justine Hammelev-Jones, Jessica Kapustin, Heidi Konz, Marge Larson, Ana McKinley, Pat Rosemann, Jennie Tunkieicz, Annee Williams, Debbie Wilson, Barbara Zaloudek-Scholwin, and Marybeth Zuhlke at the Fall Focus Event. *Congratulations and Great Job!*

It's time to step up and volunteer for committees. See the list on the next page along with a brief description. Most do not take much time, involve working with other KCAHCE members and/or the community, are fulfilling and lots of fun. Hope we can fill the list at the Association meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> at Fall Focus. *We still have an opportunity for someone to be President-Elect.* All other offices are filled for 2025. If you are not at Fall Focus and want to volunteer for a Committee, call me.

Heidi and her Wisconsin Bookworms readers are about ready to begin for the 2024-25 school year. We are reading seven books this year. Thanks to a couple of extra grants, we are also furnishing Wisconsin Bookworms bags for the children to keep their books in. More info on page >>>

The 2025 programs will be announced at Fall Focus. What a fun, educational, and interesting set of programs and crafts. I am also excited about the 2025 Families Branching Out in April. I hope some of you will join our committee.

Great News! We have received a grant from the Kenosha Women’s Network for next year. So, we have a start of funds to purchase items for the kiddos and food for the exhibitors.

Have a great holiday season – keep reading this issue for more highlights from this year, and opportunities for next year!

Happy New Year, too!!

Sincerely,

Donna Zarovy, 2024 Kenosha HCE President

### **October Extension Line**

President’s Letter .....	page 1
2025 Committee signups.....	2
Committee Descriptions .....	3
2024 Programs.....	4
2025 Programs.....	4
Kenosha Women’s Network .....	5
Salem Library Display.....	5
WAHCE Conference .....	6-8
WAHCE Cultural Arts .....	9
2025 Cultural Arts.....	10
Wisconsin Bookworms .....	10

## HCE Friends: 🍁

Its TIME 2 turn some new HCE 'leaves and pages' as we leaf thru the end of our year, and sign up for Club and individual 25/26 committees and roles on the infamous Fall Focus clipboard. 🍁

- 🌸 HCE is now a voluntary led group ~ unlike our years with Extension oversight.
- 🌸 HCE Is an organization fueled by each member adding new ideas and doing not just attending.
- 🌸 HCE is a service-learning organization adding value & purpose. So together we:
  - GROW / LEARN ~ do a'nnew
  - SHARE roles • invite friends
  - CARE about each other and community needs.
  - Outreach and us.



Nothing is difficult to do. It's just taking a 'step up ~ a learning curve ~ purposeful fun! And like the 4H motto, we really do 'learn by doing'. I know I have since rejoining maybe six years ago!

So, if asked to consider a role, please say 'YES, I'll try'. Or simply, just volunteer! Call County President, Donna or Club Presidents, Pat Perks, Joann Kevek, Linda Volling, Rita Larson, Regina LaForge, or Heidi Nevoso. Their contact information is on page 5 of our directory.

Make it your "Yes, I'll try year." And although I'm more of glue gun gal not a sewer...

~~ Thank You Sew Much ~jeri

## Kenosha HCE Committees – 2025



Here is the list of committees for 2025. You may sign up as an individual or a club. We would need about five or six members or whole clubs. Note: If a club is signed up for a committee and you wish to be on that committee, please sign up for it. A couple of clubs have already requested to be on a specific committee.

- Budget Committee
- Community Service Projects
- Cultural Arts Event – Merry Makers
- Extension Line, Editor and others
- Fall Focus
- Families Branching Out
- Financial Review
- International
- Marketing/Public Relations
- Membership
- Milaeger's Money / Flower Power
- Nominating
- Program Planning – Bristol Club
- Scholarship
- 2025 Spring Event – Bristol Club
- Wisconsin Bookworms





## The following is a brief description of Committees.

**Association Assistant:** Perform clerical support for organization including making copies, typing, email announcements and preparation of the annual Membership Directory and Handbook.

**Budget Committee:** Treasurer is Chair. One meeting is usually required to prepare the annual budgets for the General Operating Account and the Scholarship Account. Make recommendations for scholarships and contributions based upon available funds.

**Community Service Project:** Conduct community service project(s) appropriate to the needs of the Kenosha community including selection of project, solicitation of funds and/or needed items (i.e., diapers and items for Veterans in 2021), delivery of products and/or funds to site.

**Cultural Arts Event:** Organize and set up the Cultural Arts Show at an event in the spring of 2025 using WAHCE Entry form. Solicit entries from members, arrange for show, obtain non-HCE judges, conduct show, and submit entries to WAHCE show at the annual conference.

**Extension Line:** Contact officers, committee chairpersons and clubs to secure specific and timely articles, compose newsletter, assist with copying, preparing, and distribution of newsletters.

**Fall Focus:** Arrange for location, food, decorations, entertainment, preparation of flyer, program for event, set price and host event. It is held in late September or October. A short Association Meeting is held at this event.

**Families Branching Out:** Secure exhibitors with a focus on educational and fun activities for families, arrange publicity, prepare flyers, set up and take down venue. It is held at the Kenosha County Center the last Saturday in April

**Financial Review:** To review the financial records and the annual financial statements for KCAHCE and verify accuracy of accounts. One meeting is usually required to complete the review.

**International:** Promote the WAHCE and other international projects.

**Marketing/Public Relations:** Market KCAHCE, for example, set up displays in city of Kenosha and County of Kenosha libraries and other businesses. Also, send news releases to media, update the Kenosha HCE brochure, print, and keep in stock in public places.

**Membership:** Promote HCE to attract members. Create an “elevator” speech to sum up what we are all about. Develop materials for new members. At Fall Focus Event, recognize members for years of membership. Possibly create Extension Line articles or print media explaining what we are about.

**Milaeger’s Money/Flower Power:** This is our fundraiser for scholarships. Help sell and distribute certificates, including collection of money. Kick-off is at the March education program.

**Nominating:** Contact members and seek their willingness to serve as an officer. Present a slate of candidates for election at fall association meeting. If more than one person is running for an office, prepare a ballot.

**Program Planning:** Vice President is Chair of committee. Plan the educational programs for organization. 2025 Committee will plan programs for 2026. Obtain speakers, set location and host events, prepare any needed copies, etc.,

**Scholarship:** Review and prepare scholarship forms, solicit applications, determine amount of funds available and number of scholarships to award, select recipients, notify, and host them at spring event. Usually, one or two meetings.

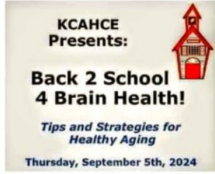
**2025 Spring Event:** Make all necessary arrangements for a social or educational event including location, food, cost, decorations, advertisement, and then hosting the event.

**Wisconsin Bookworms:** Read to children at Westosha Head Start, Brass School and/or Cesar Chavez Center in Kenosha including doing the activity on the sheets provided. Committee members also may assist in preparing books for reading and fundraising. Training for readers will be provided.

*Prepared 10/9/24*



## KCAHCE 2024 Education Programs



Our September Educational program on "Back 2School4 Brain Health" had us pointing • tossing • stretching • laughing • clapping • learning! Pat Perks told Jeri when asked, "It was great. One of our best ever programs"!



Our THANKS to friend, Cindy Lester a Memory Care and Senior Fitness consultant for: •caring to • share • learning with us. She's a role model for our learn•care•share mission. I've asked her to return for a 2025 program, and she replied in her humorous manner, "If I'm still kicking"!

### Upcoming Dates to Save:



(Note our November program change due to Mary Metten's departure from Extension.)

**Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1PM KCC**, "Tips and Tricks for Better Photos" with Joanna Carlberg of Joanne's Digital Images. Bring your phone!

**Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 11AM Birchwood Grill.** Lunch and "In the Nick of Time" Holiday and Cultural Arts fun. Bring a sack of oranges, etc., for local shelters. Lunch on your own and possible small fee for supplies. RSVP/more details TBD. BRING a FRIEND•GROW HCE!

### Announcing 2025 Programs



- **Saturday, January 18**, 12:30 PM KCC, 2025 Association Meeting. Begin at 10:00 AM with an activity or speaker, pizza or brown bag lunch about noon followed by the Annual Association meeting at 12:30 PM
- **Thursday, February 6**, 1:00 pm. Location TBD, Speaker, Katie Chada Aurora Health, "Medication Safety"
- **Thursday, March 6**, 11:30AM – 1:30PM, Sturtevant Milaeger's, Lunch/RSVP, "Houseplants and Succulents". Flower Power Kick Off.
- **Saturday, April 5**, 11:30 AM "Hop Into Spring" Spring Event, Casa Capri, RSVP (more info to follow.
- **Friday, April 25**, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Families Branching Out Expo Set Up, KCC
- **Saturday, April 26**, 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM, Families Branching Out Expo, KCC
- **Thursday, May 1**, 6:30PM, KCC, "Active Aging", Cindy Lester
- **August** -- Salem Library Display and 'New Member Communi-TEA',
- **Thursday, August 7**, 5:30 pm, Birchwood Grill, KAMP KCAHCE PicNIC
- **Thursday, September 4**, 6:30PM, KCC "Native Tribes of Wisconsin", Dr Annie Jones
- **Saturday, October 18**, Fall Focus, Location and time TBD
- **Thursday, November 6**, 1:00 PM, KCC, Westosha Senior Center presents, "Internet and Technical Tips"
- **December 4**, 11:00 AM, Birchwood Grill, "In the Nick of Time" RSVP, Lunch & Holiday Show & Tell. Share a holiday memory/item & bring fruit for a nearby shelter.



## Kenosha Women's Network Grants

Kenosha Women's Network is a group of local women entrepreneurs, business professionals, elected officials, and non-profit organizations. Jeri and I heard about the group last winter and, after attending a couple of meetings, decided to join and partake in the great networking.

Kenosha Women's Network meets the second Friday of every month at Casa Capri – we enjoy a lunch, network, and hear a speaker. All meetings start at noon and are done by 1:15. It has been a great resource to make valuable contacts for HCE.

KWN has fundraising activities to earn funds to provide grants to local and non-profit organizations. They award about \$11,000 every year – based on the success of the fundraising activities. In August, I applied for a grant for Wisconsin Bookworms and Families Branching Out.

I am happy to report that in September, \$12,742.70 was awarded to 13 groups for 14 different programs. We received two grants – one for Wisconsin Bookworms and the other for Families Branching Out! This extra funding has allowed us to purchase additional books and bookbags for the Head Start children and good “seed” money for Families Branching Out.

If anyone would like to check out this organization or join us for a monthly luncheon, please let me or Jeri know. We would love to have you.

The annual Christmas party is held at the Kenosha Country Club. It is Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. It is a fun event and a good way to check out KWN. We attended last year and it was an amazing celebration. Let me or Jeri know if you are interested in attending.

~~ Donna Zarovy, KCAHCE President

## Salem Library Display

The Salem Community Library has been a great supporter of Kenosha County HCE. Last month Jeri put up a display in the cabinets on the right when you enter. It was extremely well done. We even got a couple of inquiries about HCE from the display. Great job Jeri to promote HCE!!

~~ Donna Zarovy



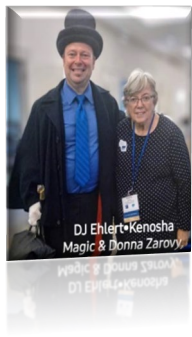
## 2024 WAHCE Conference

“Experience the Magic of HCE” was the theme of the 2024 WAHCE State Conference. Five Kenosha HCE Members – Rita Larson, Jill Montgomery, Jerin Moore, Ruth L. Rossman and I certainly did just that. We arrived in Appleton on Sunday, September 16th and checked into the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley. Our individual itineraries varied, but we saw each other throughout the event.

Monday was filled with tours, crafts, and the Monday evening banquet. Dr. Annie Jones, former Kenosha County Extension Educator kicked off the event with “The Magic of Leadership”. She also led a workshop on Tuesday about the Native Tribes of Wisconsin.



At the Monday evening banquet, awards were handed out for greatest increase in membership and Services of Love. Kenosha County was the top county for new members – 11! We also received one of three Services of Love Awards for our third annual Families Branching Out! Along with that award came a check for \$100. This is the second time we have received the Services of Love Award for Families Branching Out.



Tuesday was the WAHCE Annual Business meeting at 8:00 am. There were also four other workshops at that time and another set at 10:45. Lunch was enhanced by Kenosha Magician DJ Ehlert. He wandered through the tables doing magic tricks. It was so much fun. Kenosha received an award at lunch on Tuesday for 25 years of Wisconsin Bookworms participation – Great Job Readers. Then in the afternoon there was another set of workshops followed by our Tuesday evening Installation of Officers banquet and entertainment.

Inga Witscher from the PBS Series “Around the Farm Table” was our entertainment. She and her parents were thoroughly enjoyable. They live in Osseo, WI. Earlier in the day she shared her experiences as a small farmer in western Wisconsin. I don’t know when we have had a such a fun and enlightening speaker! We also shared some fun stories about the Jackson County area where I grew up.



Wednesday was the last day of one of the best conferences I have attended. There were two more sets of workshops that day followed by a luncheon where special awards for Cultural Arts entries were handed out and four quilts raffled off.

After analyzing the conference evaluations, I am not alone in my belief that this conference hosted by the HCE Southeast District was fantastic. The workshops were well received, food was great, company of old and new friends, and the hotel couldn’t have been nicer.



Thank you to everyone who attended, sent artwork, contributed baskets for the International Silent Auction, and boxes of goodies for the Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners drive. We had three baskets for the silent auction – one from Good Neighbors, one from Jerin Moore and I also sent one. I checked the amounts they received about an hour before closing of the auction and every one of them was over \$70!

Mark your calendar for “Going Wild with HCE” 9/15-18/25 -- 2025 WAHCE Conference in Green Bay!

~~ Donna Zarovy, Kenosha HCE President



# “Experience the Magic of HCE – 2024 WAHCE Conference Snippets

## “Around the Farm Table”

"Let HCE laughter•mirth•cheer abound" amid the joy and magic with HCE friends gathered round" with Inga and her mom from the PBS program, 'Around the Farm Table'. Inga made a 'Smorgastrata' that was deco topped with dried bachelor buttons and marigolds from her Osseo WI Dairy Farm gardens. Additionally, she presented an informative "Lessons From A Small Farm" workshop filled with nuggets of positivity and tips for daily growth.



## “Native Tribes in Wisconsin”

Some may recall Dr. Annie Jones from her years at the Kenosha County UW-Extension office. Her presentation at Conference on the "Magic of Leadership" and "Native Tribes of Wisconsin" were inspirational! We are so excited that Annie will present the Native Tribes of Wisconsin program for us in Kenosha on September 4, 2025.

Thank you Dr. Annie for taking us down your path and sharing your cultural stories!

## Hmong Culture in Wisconsin

Yee Santiago and her husband did The Hmong in Wisconsin workshop. Yee Santiago of Janesville, part of the White-Hmong Xiong clan, is a first generational Hmong student; now in her final year of College. Growing up with few young school peers, she hopes to help model for other first generation and beyond Hmong students.



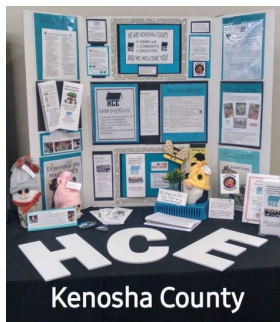
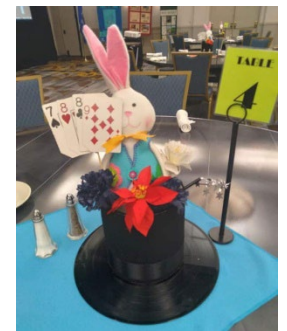
Her presentation included soup tastings from her mom’s Fitchburg, WI, restaurant, "Thai Noodles", varying clothing artifacts, and a program and the history of the Hmong in Wisconsin.

Jerin is pictured trying out a Hmong Costume.



## Conference Centerpieces

Kenosha County worked with Sheboygan County to create the centerpieces for the dining tables at the 2024 WAHCE Conference. Kenosha County THANKS Jeanette Besharat, Margaret McCabe, Jill Montgomery, Jeri Moore and Barb Zaloudek Scholwin for embroidering and embellishing 40 Rabbits to share our "Experience the Magic of HCE" Conference theme. So many centerpiece compliments!



## Kenosha County Display

Each year, Wisconsin counties are encouraged to create a pictorial display of yearly programs and events for sharing. Jeri Moore got double duty from her trifold display which was also used at the recent August Salem Library Display.



## Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners WNP boxes sent

Helping others thru the Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners (WN/P) is a long standing HCE tradition. Each year, items are collected at the WAHCE Conference and sent to Nicaragua thru the WN/P Stevens Point headquarters. WN/P sells Nicaraguan made items from supplies sent to them the prior year. Uplifting & empowering one another in circles of friendship is imbedded in our mission of learn•care•share.

This year Kenosha County sent six boxes of useful items for Nicaragua. Thank you to the Good Neighbors Club, and to the International Committee. Imagine their delight to open the boxes at their earthen floored clubs and find supplies for sewing, crafts, bee-themed items, band aids, straws, tumbling blocks, N95 masks; even craft supplies from Families Branching Out smiling tree craft carrying support of Kenosha County.

### Additional Conference Photos:



Donna at the Annual Meeting



Jerin and Inga Witscher



Jill Montgomery



Jill Montgomery & Rita Larson

### Cultural Arts State



SE District Members at Dinner



Ruth L. Rossman & Bunny



# Conference Entries

We had nine blue ribbons at the WAHCE Annual Conference Cultural Arts Show, two red, and one white. Thanks to our entrants - Jerin Moore, Jill Montgomery, Regina LaForge, Ruth Larsen, and Ruth L. Rossman. Congrats to these ladies. I'm so impressed with what they did. Hope we have even more participants next year!

The conference was great and the Cultural Arts Show was so well received. So many entries. There were 38 counties represented. Thanks, again.

~~ Rita Larson, Cultural Arts Chair

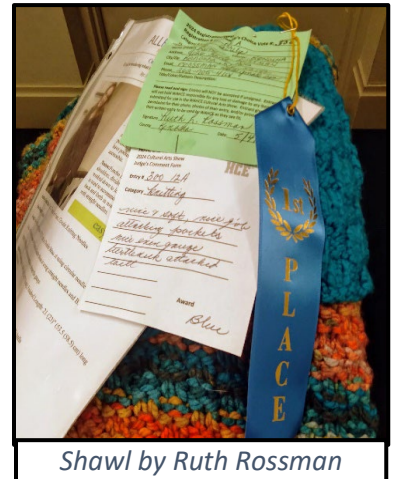
Here are a few photos of some of our exhibits taken by Jerin Moore.



Painting by Regina LaForge



Painted Pot by Jerin Moore



Shawl by Ruth Rossman



Painted box by Regina LaForge



Jewelry by Jill Montgomery



Stocking by Ruth Larson



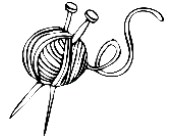
"Glittens" by Jerin Moore



Felt Painting by Jill Montgomery

## 2025 Cultural Arts

NOW is the time to begin – the 2025 Cultural Arts entry forms will be available about mid-November. As soon as the committee receives the information it will be emailed to our KCAHCE members. It will be mailed to those without email. So, polish those knitting needles, clean that camera lens or your paint brushes, buy sharp needles, and get ready to begin.



Thank you to everyone for your great entries this year. Can't wait to see what is next!

~~ Rita Larson & Merry Makers  
Art Show Committee



## Wisconsin Bookworms

**Congratulations!** Kenosha County received an award at the WAHCE Conference for 25 years of participation in Wisconsin Bookworms. Great job ladies!

Heidi Nevoso, Chair of the committee, has now distributed the books to the readers. The current HCE readers are Mary Flanagan, Marcia Richards, and Cheryl Widen. There are also three non-HCE members who are reading. Heidi is contacting one more persons to read as our program has now expanded into 13 classrooms. We will be reading to over 220 children! An increase of 40 over last year. It seems students are once again returning to Head Start after COVID.

We also have a unique classroom of all Spanish students, so Heidi has contacted the WAHCE Wisconsin Bookworms State Chairman to obtain more books in Spanish!! What a great opportunity.

Because the books had to be ordered in July, we used the 2023-24 numbers. Imagine our surprise when the numbers increased by 40! Heidi had to be inventive and use some of the leftover books from previous years to have enough to read to the kids. Great job Heidi.

Donna has been our grant writer for several years. This year we have received grants from the Lions Foundation, Greater Kenosha Area Foundation, and the Kenosha Women's Network that almost covers the costs of this year's books. The photo at the right shows Donna and Heidi receiving the Lions Foundation grant in July at the Annual Lions Foundation Dinner. We are waiting to hear from a couple of other grant requests she submitted.



~~ Heidi Nevoso & Donna Zarovy

**Just a reminder – Your list of officers is due to Donna Zarovy, Association Assistant, by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, you will be receiving enrollment information at the Fall Focus Event. Enrollment for 2025 is due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. Thank you.**

### KCAHCE Executive Board

Donna Zarovy, President  
Jerin Moore, Vice President  
Margaret McCabe, Treasurer  
Ruth L. Rossman, Secretary

### Extension Line Committee

If anyone has any ideas for articles, please let us know. We encourage clubs to submit articles and pictures from their meetings. A special thank you to KCAHCE members who helped assemble this newsletter. Please send all address corrections and new members to us.

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Marcia Richards  
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