

# UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN

## WOMEN'S CLUB

Promote friendship | Strengthen bonds of common interest | Provide service to UNL



• **Febr. 20th - 1:30 p.m.**

**General Meeting**

**Ryan Wieber, Director  
Lincoln City Libraries**

• **March 18th - 10:00 a.m.**

**General Meeting**

**Children's Book Illustrator,  
Chloe Burgett**

• **March 30th - 7:00 p.m.**

**Movies That Matter:**

**The Bell Affair**

**OLLI at UNL / UNLWC**

• **April 8th**

**Spring Luncheon**

**Read All About It**

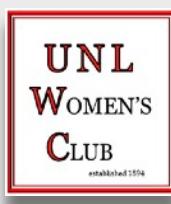
**2, 3 & 4 – Spring Events and  
New Members**

**5 - Fall Events and Fundraising**

**6 - Fundraising cont.**

**7 - Outreach and Courtesy**

**8 - Interest Groups**



**Message from UNLWC 2025-26  
President, Nancy Weller**

Dear UNLWC Members,

Happy 2026!!!! Can you believe our club has been in existence since 1894? Shortly after the opening of the University of Nebraska, faculty women were invited to the home of Flavia Canfield, wife of Richard Canfield, Chancellor of the University, to consider forming themselves into a club. That is how it all began and the UNLWC is still here.

I recently had a conversation with a UNL faculty member who had never heard of our club. He wanted to know more and I was willing to tell him. After that conversation, I reflected on why our club is in existence after all these years. I believe the UNLWC remains strong because of the many wise women who have belonged to this group, both today and in the past. Our members have been dynamic, inquisitive and forward thinkers, ready to change with the times to meet the needs of its members and the students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

One of the first activities of the club was to serve supper to the University football team, the Bugeaters. Now we donate food to students experiencing food insecurity and provide personal care items to the Husker Pantry.

In 1924 the group presented their first two scholarships to University students for \$50 each. This spring, nine scholarships will be awarded to students for \$2,500 each. In 1943, club members were encouraged to help with surgical dressings as they had done during WW1. In 2020, club members recognized the need and made masks for students during the COVID epidemic.

Our club's original goals of fostering good fellowship among its members while also increasing our ability to support University students certainly has been met throughout the 131 years of our club's existence. The membership has remained true to the original aims of that first group of women and has continued to thrive. We look forward to many more successful years to come.

Membership is open to any person who is interested in the activities, well-being, and continuance of the University of Nebraska and the UNL Women's Club.

**Fall Welcome - September 18, 2025**

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A delightful day was enjoyed by approximately 70 members and guests at the Fall Welcome in September. Highlights of the event, held at Southwood Lutheran Church, were checking out and signing up for interest groups, hearing club member Debra White talk about her book "The Spirit of Nebraska," while enjoying tea and coffee along with yummy desserts catered by the Talon Room. There was also the opportunity to donate to the Husker Pantry and purchase raffle tickets for the fundraising quilt and blanket that were on display that day. It was a chance to visit with old friends and make new ones. What a great way to begin the year!

**Fall Tour - October 2, 2025**

The Joslyn Tour was a success with 29 members attending. Attendees enjoyed a short, guided tour and free time to enjoy the exhibits and outdoor sculptures on their own. A tasty lunch was provided at the Durham Cafe and the bus tour was a success.

Thanks to Rita Kean, Pam Edwards and Janice Lawrence for organizing this event.





### Spring Luncheon Wednesday, April 8th

A Spring Fashion Show, presented by The Vicarage, will be the highlight of our spring luncheon. The event will be held at the Country Club of Lincoln.

Activities will include drawings for the beautiful queen-sized quilt donated by the UNLWC Piecemakers and Needlework Group and a crocheted baby blanket donated by Ivette Bender. Donations for the Husker pantry and election of officers will also be on the agenda.

We also look forward to hosting and recognizing scholarship recipients.

Watch for more details, including a request for fashion show models. We hope to see you there!

Karen Buckley & Arlene Smith  
Spring Luncheon Co-Chairs

### Welcome New Members

**Reach out and get to know our seven new members who joined in 2025!**

**Gwen Cook, Kandise Griess,  
Nancy Keen, Lorraine Leiser,  
Joan Helen, Christine Rio, and  
Ellen Wynegar**



### Spring Events UNLWC Programs and General Meetings

**Ryan Wieber, Director Lincoln City Libraries**  
February 20, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.  
Gere Public Library  
2400 South 56th Street

Ryan S. Wieber has been Director of Lincoln City Libraries since December 2022, having arrived from Michigan where he served as a library director in west Michigan for over 20 years. His passion is introducing—or in some cases reintroducing—today's public library to residents and demonstrating the value and transformative nature it has for communities.



Come hear Ryan speak about the future of public libraries and specifically, the Central Library Project. The Central Library Project is breaking new ground as a 21st-century library.



**Chloe Burgett, Children's Book Illustrator**  
March 18, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.  
Southern Heights Presbyterian Church  
5750 South 40th Street

### UNL WOMEN'S CLUB MEMBERS ARE IN FOR A TREAT!

Our speaker will be Chloe Burgett, a talented illustrator of children's books for grades K-5<sup>th</sup>.

Chloe regularly visits elementary classrooms and libraries in Nebraska to discuss her work as a children's books illustrator directly with the children and their teachers.

Her presentation will focus on the "Art" of Illustrating Children's Books.

See her website for a glimpse of her amazing artistic and literary talents.



Marjorie Kostelnik has seen Chloe present: she is both informative and fun! We are in for a stimulating morning!

<https://www.chloebartistry.com/about-contact>

## Let's Try Again: The Bell Affair

In 2025, the UNLWC program committee planned to showcase the work of a multi-disciplinary team of UNL faculty who had collaborated to create an historical documentary film entitled The Bell Affair. This animated-live action film tells the story of Daniel and Mary Bell who went to court to sue for their freedom from slavery and won. After slaveholders threatened to re-enslave them and their children, the Bells led one of the largest escape attempts in American history.

The Bell Affair originally premiered on Amazon Prime. Since then, it has been featured in national and international film festivals, where it has won multiple awards. Director Kwakiutl Dreher and Producer/Art Director Michael Burton agreed to share with UNLWC members how their innovation project came to life during the COVID-19 pandemic. The filmmakers also planned to discuss the unique challenges they faced, including working with actors located across the country and filming without ever bringing the cast together in the same place.

Unfortunately, poor weather intervened, prompting the workshop to be cancelled. Many of you expressed disappointment in this outcome and suggested that we try again in 2026.

The program committee agreed and went one step further, asking OLLI (the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) to partner with the UNLWC to bring the film to our members and the community.

See the details below and put this date on your calendar.

### Movies That Matter: “The Bell Affair”

**March 30, 2025 — 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Co-Sponsored by the UNLWC and OLLI**

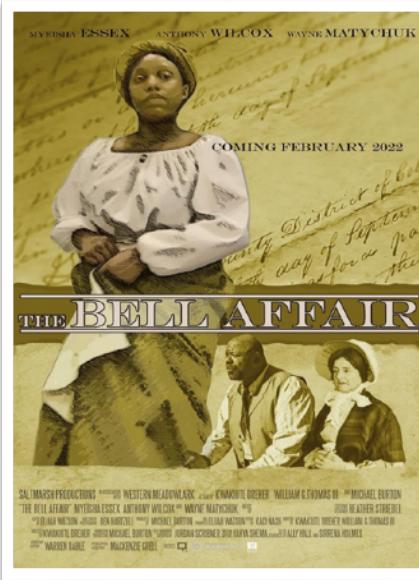
**Location: Cornhusker Bank Community Room, 8310 O Street**

**Cost: Free**

**Registration Deadline: March 23**

**Attendance Limit: 100**

**More information about how to register will be provided soon.**



A screenshot of the UNL Women's Club website. The header includes the university logo, a search bar, and navigation links for 'About Us', 'Interest Groups', 'Newsletter', 'Scholarship/Fundraising', 'Membership', and 'Photos'. A red banner at the bottom of the page reads 'Welcome to the UNL Women's Club website!'.

**Check out the history  
of the UNL Women's Club at our website:  
<https://womensclub.unl.edu/>**

## Fall Brunch - November 5, 2025

63 members and guests gathered on November 5th at The Landing for the Fall Brunch. A delicious brunch of chicken and fruit on mixed greens, cranberry-orange muffins, roasted local squash, and raspberry sorbet was served.

Speaker Rhonda Revelle, Husker Softball Head Coach, inspired and entertained us with tales of her adventures in women's sports, from her childhood (the all-boys free throw tournament!) through her present responsibilities as head coach. After the program, Rhonda donated her honorarium to the Husker Pantry.

The event was co-chaired by Linda Rabbe and June Carrell, assisted by UNLWC treasurer Linda Collins (reservations), Debby Raddatz-Portnoy (decorations), and greeters Karen Buckley, Mary Clark, Diane McCallister, Tina Shrader, and Jane Zatechka.



## Holidays for Little Huskers

UNLWC Board members participated for the fifth year in the Holidays for Little Huskers program which provides Christmas gifts for UNL students and their children. This year, gift cards to HyVee and Target were purchased.

Program coordinators reported that 150 children, along with 101 UNL student parents, were sponsored this year. Click here to learn more: [Donation drive connects community to university's 'Little Huskers'](#)

Coordinators are Karen Buckley and Tina Shrader.



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## UNLWC Fundraising for UNL Scholarships

I am delighted to report that we have raised a total of \$10,412 as of December, not including our anonymous donor's additional \$3,000. That will bring our grand total for the year so far to \$13,412. Raffle tickets for the quilt and baby blanket remain at \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

Thank you all for your amazing generosity!

Cheryl Trzupek



## 2025 Fundraising Campaign

We recognize those members listed below who have given to the Scholarship Fund as of September 30th. Members who requested their donation remain anonymous are not listed, as well as those who sent their donations directly to the NU Foundation.

All donations are greatly appreciated!

Mary Avery	Carol Grell	Marjorie Kostelnik	Arlene Smith
Jill Bates	Kandis Griess	Deb Levitov	Lorraine Taylor
Ivette Bender	Cathi Haisch	Lois Mayo	Barb Trout
Helen Beukelman	Anita Hall	Diane McCallister	Cheryl Trzupek
Carolyn Brandle	Aldine Harmon	Penny McCord	Bonnie Varvel
Nancy Brandt	Wanda Hein	Deb Miller	Anne Vidaver
Luming Brewer	Priscilla Henkelman	Diane Mohrhoff	Marie Vodvarka
Marion Carr	Diane Herrmann	Sarah Mushlitz	Karen Walkin
June Carrell	Karen Heusel	Gail O'Hanlon	Tracy Way
Eileen Carroll	Caroline Hug	Rhonda Obermeier	Nancy Weller
Mary Clark	Pat Hurley	Susan Perlman	Chris Wilhelm
Linda Collins	Kathy Jackson	Kelly Powell	Myra Wilhite
Nancy Comer	Karen Janovy	Joan Powers	May Ann Williams
Jean Detlefsen	Judy Jensen	Sarah Purcell	Jane Zatechka
Marjorie Dickinson	Mary Jensen	Christine Read	Christine Zygielbaum
Kay Easley	Julie Johnson	Carol Rundquist	Lincoln Community
Pam Edwards	Brenda Keith	Ruth Ann Schulte	Foundation (Susan
Maria Eisenhauer	Carol Kendrick	Catherine Sellmyer	Gildersleeve)
Valerie Ellsworth	Gail Keown	Tina Shrader	Seven anonymous donors

Donations for the 2025-26 year are welcome at any time,  
including at the Spring Luncheon on April 3rd.

Please be sure to make your donation checks payable to NU Foundation.

Mail your check to:  
UNLWC, PO Box 5781, Lincoln, NE 68505.

Thank you for your contributions.

## Holiday of Trees

The 53rd Annual Holiday of Trees Event was held by the Heritage League of Lincoln at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Proceeds from this year's event went to Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This organization builds and delivers beds to children in need of a bed and a safe place to sleep.



Members who decorated the beautiful UNLWC Christmas tree were Debby Raddatz-Portnoy, Kelly Powell, and Cheryl Trzupek.



## Courtesy

Cards are sent to members who are hospitalized or for special events such as a significant birthday or anniversary.

If you know of a member who has passed away, please advise our Courtesy Chair Helen Beukelman.

## In Memory

A sympathy card is sent to the family of a member who has passed away. An annual memorial donation of \$300 is made to the NU Foundation UNLWC Scholarship Fund in honor of all those who have died. This donation from UNLWC is sent in April, along with a letter listing the individuals in whose name the gift is made.

We remember the members who passed away since the Fall 2025 Newsletter.

**Gloria VanAckeren and Carol Riefler**

## Husker Pantry

Thanks to the generosity of the UNLWC membership, \$450 and an SUV filled with personal care and protein items, and assorted grocery staples, was delivered to the Husker Pantry following the Fall Brunch in November.



The Husker Pantry is located in Room 123 in the University Health Center at 550 N. 19th Street in Lincoln. The Pantry accepts donations Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. If you'd like to donate to the Husker Pantry outside of our UNLWC donation opportunities, black rectangular donation bins are located at 12 different sites on the Main Campus, six sites on the East Campus, and at the Food Innovation Center on Innovation Campus. A complete and precise list of donation bin location can be found on the Pantry's website at [pantry.unl.edu](http://pantry.unl.edu).



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## Join an Interest Group!

Current groups include Arts & Crafts, Book Clubs, Bridge Groups, Dance Club, Gourmet Dining, Group Therapy, International Club, Mahjong, Newcomers & Friends, Piecemakers & Needlework, UNLWC Volunteering, and Variety Club.



Dance Club couples show off their dancing skills.



Newcomers and Friends meet for coffee every Wednesday morning at 9:30. Everyone is welcome!

Book Club members read and discussed banned books!



Group Therapy members enjoy dinner and conversation at Carmela's.



Variety Club enjoyed an afternoon showing of Wicked for Good.

Watch your email for the monthly Interest Group calendar.

Contact Penny McCord if you would like to suggest a new interest group.  
[@pmccord23@icloud.com](mailto:@pmccord23@icloud.com)



Kem and Cheryl explore the Art Market at the International Quilt Museum.



Arts & Crafts designed witches' hat centerpieces for Halloween.