

SUMMER 2025

# Yahara House

## QUARTERLY JOURNAL



TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS  
REPLACING DESPAIR, STIGMA & ISOLATION  
WITH HOPE, DIGNITY, & COMMUNITY

FLOOR360

By Corry Watson



This June, Yahara House was chosen for a free remodel by the FLOOR360 Design for a Difference program! The first and third floors will get a makeover, with updated lighting, paint, flooring, and furniture. This will beautify the space, improve workflow, and create a more uplifting environment. FLOOR360 has scheduled construction from September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 10<sup>th</sup>.

“We are so grateful for this opportunity,” said Aaron Klawiter, Clubhouse Coordinator at Yahara House. “Receiving this renovation support will help Yahara House be more organized and efficient with our Clubhouse-generated work and convey a sense of respect and dignity to our historic building.”

The project will rely on community members donating paint and other materials as well as volunteering time. If you would like to donate money, materials, or labor, scan the QR code to the right or call (608) 280-4700. The more the community donates, the more we can do with the project.



## Jennifer Wunrow: “My House”

By Brad Schlough

**Brad Schlough: What is your relationship to the Yahara House building?**

Jennifer Wunrow: I call Yahara House my house, not my home. I have been a member for over 28 years, and during that time we haven't had many updates. I fell in love with the house the first time I came here. It's such a beautiful house but so dark. I know the makeover will brighten up YH and lift our moods.

**BS: Can you talk about how you take care of the building?**

JW: This is our house and we need to respect it and keep it clean. I've always done what needs to be done, like cleaning the bathrooms, vacuuming, and dusting. However, no matter how hard I work it doesn't seem like things are getting clean anymore, and they need to be replaced.

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YH COLLEAGUES & FLOOR360 GROUP





RICK PETZKE WITH HIS ART AT GALLERY NIGHT 2025

## Gallery Night 2025

By Corry Watson

On Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, Yahara House participated in Gallery Night, a longtime Madison arts tradition organized by the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. Yahara House displayed and sold colleague art as well as donated pieces from community artists. We raised about \$1,300 from the event, selling 48 pieces of art from 21 different artists.

In addition to viewing and buying awesome art, participants enjoyed treats donated by Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream, Ian's Pizza, and Festival Foods. Rick Chandler from the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation gave tours to highlight the historical significance of the Yahara House building.

"My success at Gallery Night is from talking about how I create my art," said Yahara House member Teaira Fischer. "It takes the right buyers to see the beauty in my art, and hearing the stories behind my art helped it sell. I sold my painting of a horse named Shane by telling the story behind Shane. The story is that he followed me on the last day in the arena and he ran right beside me. I look forward to participating in Gallery Night 2026, and I've already started working on new art pieces!"



TEAIRA FISCHER WITH HER ART AT GALLERY NIGHT 2025

## Summer

By Jon Yttri, YH Member

Picnics, parades, part-time jobs, garage sales, bake sales, reruns, squirt guns, softball, volleyball, tennis, golf, croquet, badminton, bad basketball, swimming pools, sunbathing, inner tubes, beach balls, water skiing, water fountains that don't work, watermelon, cantaloupe, cotton candy, hot dogs, potato salad, fried chicken, marshmallows, banana splits, ice cream swirls, vacations, vacancy, travel guides, fishing, camping, hiking, detours, drive-ins, dairy month, Milwaukee Brewers, Madison Mallards, Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, Wisconsin Dells, Devil's Lake, carnivals, county fairs, state markets, ferries, fireflies, fireworks, paperbacks, port-a-lets, sunburn, scraped knees, mosquito bites, bee stings, heat waves, downpours, lawn furniture, lawnmowers, air conditioned tractors, RVs, Evinrudes, good humor trucks, rollerblades, mopeds, bicycles, sidewalk cafés, sidewalk sales, sailboats, botanical gardens, zoological gardens, umbrellas, sunglasses, sunblock, bug repellent, and other things you forgot to bring, street musicians, outdoor concerts, theater-in-the-round, t-shirts, cut-off shorts, sandals, sand in your socks, sweat bands, visors, bikinis, baseball jerseys, baseball caps of football teams, hardhats, and holidays marking the beginning, middle, and end.

### "My House" (cont'd)

**BS: What do you think it will feel like when you see the final makeover?**

JW: I recently moved from an old, dated apartment to a brand new one. I felt happy, excited, inspired and overwhelmed with joy. I know I'll feel the same way about YH after the makeover is complete. There will be such a buzz about the remodeling!

**BS: What would you like to say about Yahara House's effect on your life?**

JW: This house has saved my life so many times. I'm no longer working a paid job but I work very hard here at the house. I feel good about myself because I feel like I mean something to the world when I'm working here. I also know that I help other members who are struggling because they know I am a safe person to talk to. I might buy someone a cup of coffee or just give them time to talk about what's going on in their life because that's what we do for each other here.



# Yahara House Director Receives Award

By MC Department

In May, the UW Department of Rehabilitation Psychology selected our clubhouse director, Brad Schlough, as the 2025 recipient of the Norman L. Berven Distinguished Service Award. Brad's selection by unanimous vote of Rehab Psych faculty and staff was the result of all the support he has provided their program over the years.

Brad received his master's degree in Rehabilitation Psychology from UW in 1992. "This award is really special because it is in Dr. Norm Berven's name," Brad said. "Dr. Berven was my mentor and I always admired his compassion and dedication."

Brad estimates he supervised close to 100 Rehab Psych students over the course of his 30-year career in community mental health. Yahara House also maintains a creative collaboration with the program. In addition to a Transitional Employment position with the program, "they have also helped us with grant-writing; they attend community events and have gotten to know our members," Brad said.

"The relationship between Yahara House and UW Rehabilitation Psychology exemplifies the Wisconsin Idea. I deeply appreciate the different creative ways the program continues to partner with us."



BRAD SCHLOUGH (LEFT) ACCEPTS THE NORMAN L. BERVEN AWARD FROM UW REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR TIM TANSEY



TOP LEFT, CLOCKWISE: RICK PETKZE, ISAAC BUELL, BRAD SCHLOUGH, ADOLF GUNDERSEN, FEE BUCHANAN, SHANNON SCHAEFER, JERRY PASDO, DAN SCHEITTLER, ERIN KUEHN-SCHETTLER, SONJA TRAVERSE, JAMES VAN ABEL, MANDY INGRAM, EVIE TENNANT

## Pickleball for Mental Health

By MC Department

To celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month in May, Erin Kuehn-Schettler and Dan Schettler sponsored a Pickleball tournament at McGaw Park in Fitchburg on May 30 to raise money for Yahara House and address stigma about mental health. Yahara House members and staff served refreshments and pasta salad made by our café. We also had a silent auction selling donated items from the community. We raised over \$7,000.

Advisory Council members Adolf Gundersen and Jerry Pasdo planned the event with Erin and Dan and also went door-to-door to get sponsorships and items for the silent auction. We admire their tireless dedication to Yahara House. Thank you, Adolf and Jerry!

All in all, it was a lot of fun, and we made our presence known to the public as a progressive mental health provider. This was the first fundraiser of its kind in the Madison area, and we plan to do it again next year.



YH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER ADOLF GUNDERSEN



# World Seminar Themes: Community and Funding

By Owen Burke

*Four Yahara House colleagues traveled to St. Pete Beach, Florida, in May for the 2025 Clubhouse International World Seminar. They joined 650 attendees representing 16 countries, 32 states, and 170 Clubhouses.*

Under the sun of the Gulf Coast, attendees soaked up sage advice and sound counsel from their peers, sharing strategies, tips and tricks that have helped sustain their clubhouses. For some, the members were the highlight of the seminar. "It was nice to see the camaraderie and the way people banded together to share resources," Yahara House member Rissa said. Yahara House Director Brad Schlough added, "We went to Florida and ended up getting some valuable face-to-face time with other Wisconsin clubhouses."

Networking and funding were themes of the seminar. Some clubhouses advocated for private funding through forging connections with local businesses and organizations. Other clubhouses highlighted the support they receive through publicly-funded grants and technical assistance. Rissa noted, "The impact of disparities in funding and local community support from clubhouse to clubhouse was very apparent."

"It is encouraging to see many state governments recognize the value of the clubhouse model of recovery by supporting new clubhouses through grants and technical assistance, as well as adopting clubhouse-specific Medicaid billing options. All of this makes funding much more reliable," said Brad. "Unfortunately, Wisconsin does not recognize accredited clubhouses as evidence-based mental health recovery, which makes our landscape much more challenging."



PANEL DISCUSSION AT WORLD SEMINAR 2025



BRAD S. AND MICHELLE D. AT WORLD SEMINAR 2025

## The Freedom of Being Sober

By John Harris



**Yahara House: What is the hardest part about getting clean and sober?**

John Harris: Coming to the conclusion that I needed other people and God to help me recover.

**YH: What/who has helped you get a year of sobriety?**

JH: Relying on my sponsor, others in my recovery group, my counselor, and God. Yahara House has helped me to stay focused on healthy things to do and to stay busy.

**YH: What have you learned about yourself in the last year?**

JH: I came to the truth that I was a really lonely man and needed healthy people in my life.

**YH: What is the best thing about being sober?**

JH: The friendships I've developed.

**YH: Do you feel like a role model or example for others? How does that feel?**

JH: A little bit. It feels good to be an example of recovery and that it works.

**YH: What inspires you to continue your recovery?**

JH: The hope to reconnect with my daughters in the future, get a part-time job and stay productive.

**YH: What would you say to someone who wants to stop drinking but isn't sure how?**

JH: Go to an AA meeting and pray like hell.



clubhouse wisconsin  
For Adults Experiencing Mental Illness