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We're On Facebook! UWRA-Madison



THE SIFTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT

Butterflying: An Activity Similar to Birding

BY PAMELA SKAAR, UWRA MEMBER

I began this article on an unusual retirement activity on April 12, when I sighted my first butterflies of 2022: four of them, two Mourning Cloaks and two Eastern Commas. Seeing these seemingly fragile creatures flit around engaging in mysterious activities, and doing things that are obvious such as eating or breeding, brings beauty and delight to warmer days.

Butterflies are most active from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. on sunny and calm days and can be found in most Wisconsin habitats. Find varied species by exploring diverse habitats from sand barrens to bogs, meadows to marsh, neighborhood gardens to expansive prairie areas.

This is a relatively new activity for me, but it is an expansion of childhood interests in other living things. I was introduced to butterflying before retirement through Madison Audubon, which occasionally partnered with the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association (SWBA). In 2022, SWBA will be leading a few field trips in the Madison area. Beginners are always welcome, and the group often has extra pairs of close-focusing binoculars for folks to use.

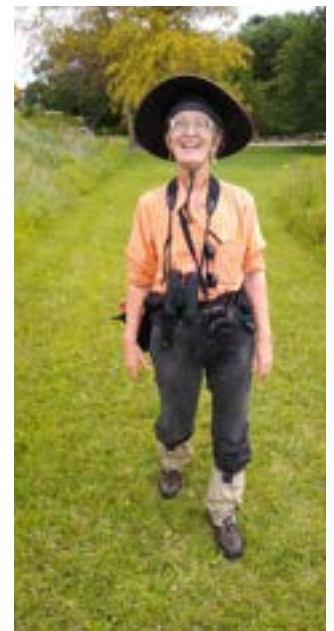
If you are interested in trying out butterflying with a knowledgeable and friendly group, email/call karlindot@charter.net or Karl and Dorothy Legler

608-643-4926. And, visit the association website at naba.org/chapters/nabawba.

Although you can butterfly almost anywhere, some places have more species and more individuals. Good local places to explore are the UW Arboretum Grady Tract, Cherokee Marsh North Unit, Governor Nelson State Park Prairie, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Mirror Lake State Park barrens, and Walking Iron State Park.

You need to dress for outdoor conditions, including direct sunlight, ticks, mosquitoes, temperature, and walking, which may be cross country. My time in the field is usually an hour or longer, and I typically wear sunscreen, a hat, and mosquito repellent.

Getting butterflies in the binocular view takes some practice, and identifying the butterflies takes some memorization. After you gain proficiency in focusing on and identifying these flying jewels, you can report them at wisconsinbutterflies.org/butterfly. Recording data on species abundance helps track population trends and species distribution. The website also has a photographic key and information on Wisconsin's butterflies. ■



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Welcome Our New Officers

BY SANDI HAASE



Please join me in welcoming the newly elected officers and board of directors: president-elect Rob Seltzer, directors Michael Bernard-Donals, Ramona Gasper, and Scott Hildebrand, and treasurer Beth Zemp. They join president Jane Dy-

mond, past president Esther Olson, secretary Marian Fisher, and directors Tom Broman, Laurie Mayberry, Jim Stratton, Marc Fink, Jurgen Patau, and Mary Czynszak-Lyne.

Sincere Thanks

At the annual meeting we bid farewell to outgoing board members. We offer our sincerest thanks to directors Millard Susman, Jack Sorenson, and Mary Doelp, and past president Chris Kleinhenz, who leave the Board. All have made positive and unique contributions to our Association.

Join a Committee!

We are an all-volunteer association with over 2000 members. The success of UWRA is due to all the work that is done by our committees. There are more than 70 members who volunteer their time and serve on our committees.

The work you see most often is done by the *Sifter* volunteers and by the Electronic Technology Committee, Committee on Financial Matters in Retirement, Luncheon & Reception Committee, Retirement Opportunities Committee, and Travel Committee, which together annually sponsor nearly 30 virtual programs and 12 virtual breakfast gatherings. Behind the scenes, other committees, including Audit, Budget, Membership, and Business Office and Operations, keep the association running smoothly.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the Retirement Association, joining a committee is a great place to start. You can learn more about

each committee by visiting UWRAmadison.org. Please consider joining a committee and sharing your skills, talents, and interests today!

Visit the Website during the Summer

Lots of plans are in the works for an exciting lineup of fall programs. Several programs are already announced. Visit the website often as programs will continue to be uploaded.

Remember that the *SIFTER* takes a break during the summer. The next *SIFTER* will be the September issue.

Watch the "announcements block" on the UWRAmadison.org home page for periodic news updates.

Do You Subscribe to the Printed *Sifter*?

For those who have elected to receive a print edition of *The Sifter*, it is also time to renew your subscription, at \$15 per year. A subscription form is included in this issue on page 3. UWRA must receive your renewal by August 1.

Continue to stay well; we will see you on Zoom in the Fall. ■

WEBINAR RECAP

Annual SWIB/ETF Update

BY MILLARD SUSMAN, MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL MATTERS IN RETIREMENT

In April, the top officers of the Department of Employee Trust Funds and the State of Wisconsin Investment Board presented to UWRA their annual overview of the organizations that manage the Wisconsin Retirement System. The speakers were Edwin Denson, executive director/chief investment officer of SWIB; Rochelle Klaskin, deputy executive director and chief administrative officer of SWIB; and John Voelker, ETF Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds. ■

Visit the UWRA website (UWRAmadison.org) then select Resources/Presentations/2021-22 Jan-Jun to find a video recording of the program.

UWRA NEWS

Dues Increase Starts September 1

The UW Retirement Association Board of Directors has approved a modest dues increase effective September 1, 2022. The new dues amounts, effective with payments made on or after September 1, 2022, will be:

- Annual **\$30**
- Bargain (6 years for cost of 5) **\$150**

- Life **\$400**
- Out of Area (living outside the 535xx, 537xx, or 539xx zip codes) **\$15**
- Out of Area Bargain (6 years for cost of 5 and living outside the 535xx, 537xx, or 539xx zip codes) **\$75**
- Not yet retired **\$15**

This is the first dues increase since UWRA was formed in 1999 and does not affect dues submitted between now and August 31, 2022. ■

UW-Madison Retirement Association Membership Application and Renewal Form

(Please Print)

Name	Spouse/Partner Name
Email	Spouse/Partner Email
Are you retired? ___ Yes ___ No Year you retired?	Are you retired? ___ Yes ___ No Year you retired?
Retired from? (Department)	Retired from? (Department)
Classification ___ Academic Staff ___ Academic Staff (limited) ___ Faculty ___ Faculty (limited) ___ University Staff	Classification ___ Academic Staff ___ Academic Staff (limited) ___ Faculty ___ Faculty (limited) ___ University Staff
Home phone Mobile phone	Mobile phone
Street Address	City/State Zip Code + 4
MEMBERSHIP LEVEL OPTIONS. All levels include an electronic copy of <i>The Sifter</i> which is published monthly September – June.	
___ Annual \$20 ___ Bargain (6 yrs.) \$100 ___ Life \$300 ___ Not Yet Retired \$10	Outside of 535xx, 537xx, 539xx: ___ \$10 (1 yr.) or ___ \$50 (6 yrs.)
	AMOUNT

- You can:
- Join and pay online
 - Join online and pay by check payable to UWRA
 - Join by mailing this form and a check payable to UWRA to UW-Madison Retirement Association, 21 N. Park Street, Room 7205, Madison, WI 53715-1218

You are encouraged to join online! Visit UWRAmadison.org

Subscription Order Form for Paper Copy of *The Sifter*

- Paper subscription runs concurrently with a membership UWRA Fiscal Year (July 1-June 30)
- Subscription is renewable annually
- Multiple year subscriptions not available at this time
- Printed Sifter is limited to mailing to U.S. addresses only

NOTE: All members receive an electronic copy of *The Sifter* monthly.

I wish to subscribe to *The Sifter* in paper format at the additional cost of \$15/year.

(Please Print)

Name
Street
City State Zip + 4 digits
Email

- You can:
- Subscribe to *The Sifter* and pay online through online UWRA Store
 - Subscribe to *The Sifter* online through the online UWRA Store and pay by check payable to UWRA
 - Subscribe to *The Sifter* by mailing this form and a check payable to UW-Madison Retirement Association, 21 N. Park Street, Room 7205, Madison, WI 53715-1218

You are encouraged to subscribe to *The Sifter* online! Visit UWRAmadison/Store to order



**PAPER SIFTER
SUBSCRIPTION
COST
\$15 ANNUALLY**

PARTNERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

Volunteer with UW Athletics

BY GERALD KULCINSKI, MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON PARTNERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

The Committee on Partnership and Engagement has renewed discussions with the UW Athletic Department on ways that UWRA members could assist in hosting activities that benefit UW–Madison. Many of these activities were originally intended for student volunteers, but they did not attract enough students because of conflicts with classes and other scheduling difficulties.

Presently there are six potential areas for which UWRA members could help, briefly listed in the table below. More details are available; if you are interested in any of these areas, please respond to Gerald Kulcinski at gilkulcin@wisc.edu. We will tabulate the results and discuss the next steps with Athletic Department Officials. There is no financial remuneration except for tickets to events where appropriate. ■



Name	Location	Brief Description	Commitment	Volunteers Sought
Bucky Ambassadors	Camp Randall Stadium	Prior to football games, direct visitors to the appropriate gate for their seats and/or hand out souvenirs	≈ 1 hour before home game	15–20
Athletic Facility Tour Guides	Camp Randall and/or Kohl Center	Give tours, typically for school groups on weekdays	≈ 1 hour/tour, weekdays	6–12
Guest Assistance	Camp Randall and/or Kohl Center	Inside the venue, answer questions from people with accessibility needs	≈ 2 hours	50–60
Badger Give Back Program	Camp Randall and/or Kohl Center	https://uwbadgers.com/sports/giveback Collect and sort requests for donations to the public	Weekdays, several hours as needed	Several
Children's Hospital Guest Hosts	Camp Randall and/or Kohl Center	Host and assist families of UW Children's Hospital patients on Endzone patio	Includes tickets to game, ≈ 3–4 hours	Several
External Request Program	Camp Randall and/or Kohl Center	Fill donation requests from external organizations	Weekdays, 3–4 hours	Several

PARTNERSHIPS & ENGAGEMENT

Mentor UW–Madison Scholars

The Mercile J. Lee Scholars Program (cspks.wisc.edu/) is inviting UW faculty, staff, community leaders, and UWRA members to serve as mentor-friends to scholars in our program beginning in Fall 2022.

Our mentor-friends help personalize a large and complex university and provide support to scholars as they navigate academics, campus resources, belonging, and career development.

- We are looking for mentors to be matched with our sophomore scholars and with other scholars whose mentor-friends have retired or are no longer at UW.
- Your commitment to this role will be for two



years (sophomore and junior year) and can continue as your relationship evolves. In the scholars' senior year, they will be matched with an alumni mentor.

- We ask that mentors meet with their assigned scholar at least 2 times a year (once each in the fall and spring semesters).

If you are interested, please complete a brief survey by Monday, August 1, 2022. Find the survey at <https://tinyurl.com/mpbapwxd>. ■

Please contact csp@provost.wisc.edu with any questions, or Kao Yong Thao, interim assistant director, at kaoyong.thao@wisc.edu.

WELLNESS MATTERS

The Wellness Wheel: A Road Traveled

BY STEPHANIE EHLE, MS, CWP, CPT

As we become aware of our wellbeing (or lack of) it, it's up to us where we want to travel next. Each day presents new opportunities and challenges. It's like having many forks in the road on the world's longest road trip! As we explore the last three dimensions of wellness, I hope you bring a renewed sense of hope and determination to tackle and continue your wellness journey.

Vocational Wellness includes identifying your skills, abilities, and interests, then incorporating them into your life's work. This dimension recognizes personal satisfaction and enrichment in life. Lifelong learning opens new possibilities for finding talents, interests, and passions.

Home practice Grab your journal and start praising yourself. What types of things are you good at? What do you love doing? Retirement can be a great time for self-exploration, rejuvenation, and reinvention.

Emotional Wellness includes experiencing and expressing a wide range of feelings, coping with life's occurrences (COVID anyone?), giving and receiving support, and learning to trust and rely on your ability to deal with any situation. Emotional maturity allows us to develop meaningful connections with others and acknowledge our interdependence. Managing your life in personally rewarding ways, and taking responsibility for your actions, will help you see life as an exciting and hopeful adventure.

If we've learned nothing else from COVID, we know that our emotional wellbeing needs attention. If the emotional "spoke" on your wellness wheel was hit hard, know that you are not alone and you can get the help you need.

Home practice Take a media/technology hiatus. This could be for half a day or longer. During this time tune into yourself. Write in your journal, or call a friend or medical provider. Take time to sit and let your emotions flow without judgement.

You may be surprised by what is revealed if you take some time for yourself.



Spiritual Wellness

involves reflection on what intrinsically inspires and motivates us. Spirituality is highly individual and can be expressed in many ways. Often this involves questioning existence, connecting with people and animals in meaningful ways, developing relationships of faith, sharing your beliefs, and exchanging energy through thought and deed with other entities within the Universe. Spiritual maturity enables us to find a peaceful co-existence with others who do not share our belief systems. Spiritual commitment encourages us to look for common threads in our beliefs and to celebrate what joins us. Spiritual wellness enables us to come to terms with our existence and order our experiences around our beliefs and goals.

Home practice As masks start to disappear, I encourage you to smile at people you don't know—the store clerk, the waitstaff, anyone. Take it one step further and offer a compliment to a stranger, hold the door for someone, or offer to walk your neighbor's dog. There is always room for more kindness in our world!

As you can see, the dimensions of wellness overlap and flow together. Taking positive steps in one area will create improvements in another. If you need help, ask. If you get stuck, reflect. We are already success stories; we just need to choose how our story will end. ■

UWRA Breakfasts to Resume in Person

The final virtual breakfast will be online, Thursday, June 9, at 9 A.M. Register at [UWRAmadison.org/event-4806180](https://www.uwramadison.org/event-4806180).

In-person East side breakfasts will resume at 9 A.M., July 19 and August 30, at Elie's Cafe, 909 E. Broadway in Monona. No registration is necessary; just come! UWRA is seeking a West side coordinator. Contact Sandi Haase in the UWRA office. ■

MEET A UWRA MEMBER

Plant Breeding, Creativity, and the Wisconsin Idea

BY ROBERT FORSBERG

I was born in Julesburg, Colorado, in 1930, and eventually moved to a small fruit farm in southwest Michigan in 1935. As youngsters, my siblings and I worked hard—think of picking an acre of pickles or an acre of tomatoes.

I moved to Madison in 1947 to establish residency and enrolled at UW–Madison in 1948. After receiving a B.S. in agronomy in 1952, I enlisted in the U.S. Navy, went to Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, and received a commission as ensign.

After three years of active duty, I returned to Madison for graduate school followed by a two-year post-doc in genetics at North Carolina State University. I returned to Madison as an assistant professor in the Department of Agronomy 1963.

During my professional career at UW–Madison, I was a small grain breeder and geneticist in the Department of Agronomy. My work involved the development of improved varieties of oats, barley, soft red winter wheat, winter rye, and winter triticale—a cross between wheat and rye. My research dealt with the transfer of rust resistance from wild species of oats to cultivated oats.

I taught courses on quantitative genetics in plant breeding, biometry, experimental design, and crop plant taxonomy. I thoroughly enjoyed the diversity and creativity of the position as well as working with Wisconsin farmers and seed-producer members of the Wisconsin Crop Improvement Association (the Wisconsin Idea in action).

Upon retirement in 1994, my wife Darlene and I sold our home in Fitchburg and moved to our 35-acre property in Door County near Baileys Harbor,

Wisconsin. We enjoyed the musical and theatrical events and participated in township and county committee activities. We served on the board of Door County Land Trust and also protected our property with a permanent conservation easement.



Recent books I've enjoyed include *Fox and I* by Catharine Raven, *The Shepard's Life* by James Rebanks, and *The Fall of Wisconsin* by Dan Kaufman.

Darlene passed away in 2006, and my second wife, Margo, passed in 2016. I moved into Oakwood Village–University Woods in 2006. I spend my time volunteering at Oakwood and at my church, plus walking and enjoying life, especially time spent with the families of my four children and nine grandchildren. My next travel plans include a family reunion in Door County in 2022. ■

APRIL 1–30, 2022

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bruce Christiansen,

Internal Medicine

Stephen Coon,

Medical Physics

Gary Girdaukas,

School of Pharmacy

Martha Girdaukas,

School of Pharmacy

Gareth Green,

UW Shared Services

Susan Laurie

Mark Lingenfelter,

Medicine

Keith Sayles, *Facilities*

Planning & Management

Leslie Shear, *Law School*

Janice Singles,

Orthopedics and

Rehabilitation

Amanda Vander Venter

{ The UWRA is your network in retirement! }

WEBINAR RECAP

Apostle Islands Virtual Tour

BY ALLEN LIEGEL, MEMBER, TRAVEL COMMITTEE

In April, Brooke Norsted, assistant director of the UW-Madison Geology Museum, led us on a virtual tour of the Apostle Islands and the area surrounding them. The Ojibwe were the original inhabitants of the Apostle Islands. A Wisconsin map showing the history of the indigenous nations in our state gave the participants of the tour further background on our early inhabitants.

During the tour we learned about the geology of Wisconsin and its creation including the sandstone sea caves, distinct rock formations, volcanos, and glaciers. The volcanic rock can be radiometrically dated as 1.1 billion years old. Maps of different time frames helped us put things in perspective.

Even though the Apostles archipelago has 21 islands, our virtual tour focused on six of these: Devil’s Island, Sand Island, Madeline Island, Stockton Island, Ironwood Island, and Raspberry Island. Madeline Island was featured because it can be reached by ferry, and visitors can bring their cars or bikes along. It also has restaurants, places to stay, and hiking and bike trails. Madeline is the only island with year-round inhabitants.

Norsted also presented us with information on the area lighthouses and how important these were to developing trade in the area. Five of the islands had lighthouses that were constructed from 1856 to 1929. The lights began to be automated in 1921. She shared some of the history of the occupants of these lighthouses.

The highlight of the presentation for many was Norsted’s presentation of the geology of the region, as she is an engaging speaker and gifted interpreter of geography and geology in our Upper Midwest region. ■

Visit the UWRA website (UWRAmadison.org) then select Resources/Presentations/2021–22 Jan–Jun) to find a video recording of the program.

WEBINAR RECAP

Friends of Parks and Natural Areas

BY TOM EGGERT, MEMBER, RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

We honored the 52nd anniversary of Earth Day with a presentation on Madison Parks and Natural Areas on April 20th. Sheila Leary, representing the Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Tim Astfalk, representing the Friends of Hoyt Park, and Hans Hilbert, representing the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy, spoke about the history and importance of their parks/natural areas.

Nearly all of our major parks and natural areas in the Madison area have “friends” groups that help care for them, organize voices of support, teach members of the public about these public lands, and raise funds for the benefit of these local treasures. The session was recorded and you’ll see pictures of natural areas, maps, and some of the species found in those areas. ■

Visit the UWRA website (UWRAmadison.org) then select Resources/Presentations/2021–22 Jan–Jun) to find a video recording of the program.

**UW INSTITUTE ON AGING
32ND ANNUAL
COLLOQUIUM
Thursday,
September 22, 2022**



Highlighting the latest research and resources on positive aging, including speakers, a poster session, and the Health & Resource Fair. Free and open to the public, but registration is required and space is limited.

Registration opens August 1.

For complete details, see:
aging.wisc.edu/
or call 608-262-1818.

**Thursday
Sept. 22, 2022**

8am to 1:30pm on the UW-Madison campus

Includes speakers, a Health & Resource Fair with local aging organizations, and a Poster Session showcasing recent aging research.

UWRA NEWS

A round of applause ... please!

The success of our Association is a direct result of the time, effort, dedication, and work done by the UWRA Board of Directors, committees, and Strategic Framework Workgroup. While we continue to face unprecedented challenges, these members continue to work toward offering programs and moving the Association forward.

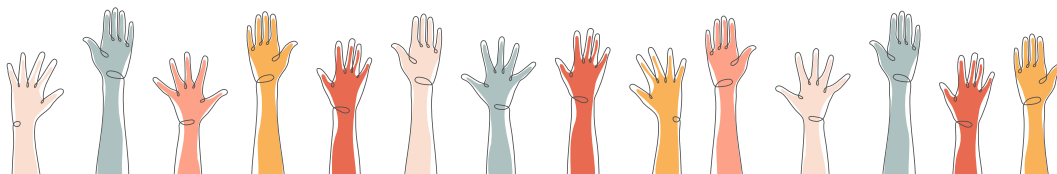
We take a moment to recognize all committee members for their contributions and celebrate another very successful UWRA year. In recognition of their effort, the Board of Directors has approved a \$500 donation to the UW–Madison Open Seat Pantry.

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|--|---|
| Sue Adams, Travel | Strategic Framework Group |
| Rachel Baker, Electronic Technology | Jane Dymond, Board of Directors, 2023 Big 10 Conference |
| Tom Broman, Partnership & Engagement, Membership, Board of Directors | Tom Eggert, Financial Matters in Retirement, Retirement Opportunities |
| Bruno Browning, Electronic Technology | Marc Fink, Luncheon, Board of Directors |
| Dan Catlin, Auditor | Sue Fischer, Retirement Opportunities |
| Kathy Christoph, Electronic Technology | Marian Fisher, Financial Matters in Retirement, Board of Directors |
| Ted Collins, Travel | Ramona Gasper, Luncheon, 2023 Big 10 Conference |
| Judy Craig, Electronic Technology | Joan Gillman, Financial Matters in Retirement, Partnership and Engagement |
| Mary Czyszczak-Lyne, Membership, Board of Directors, Strategic Framework Team Lead, 2023 Big 10 Conference Coordinator, Luncheon | Sandi Haase, BOOT, 2023 Big 10 Conference, Financial Matters in Retirement, Strategic Framework Group |
| Peggy Daluge, Travel | Jim Hanson, Membership |
| Rick Daluge, Financial Matters in Retirement, Membership | Scott Hildebrand, <i>Sifter</i> Column Coordinator |
| Marcy Doelp, Electronic Technology, Board of Directors, Facebook Coordinator | Lisa Hildebrand, <i>Sifter</i> Column Coordinator |
| Ruthi Duval, Luncheon, 2023 Big 10 Conference | Karen Holden, Financial Matters in Retirement |
| Bob Dye, Financial Matters in Retirement, Membership, | |

- | | |
|---|--|
| Gail Holmes, Travel | Opportunities |
| Brad Hughes, Electronic Technology | Mary Barnard Ray, <i>Sifter</i> Columnist |
| Bob Jokisch, Retirement Opportunities, <i>Sifter</i> Column Coordinator | Steve Reischel, Electronic Technology |
| Orv Jordahl, Electronic Technology | Paul Reichel, Electronic Technology, Financial Matters in Retirement |
| Faisal Kaud, Electronic Technology, Financial Matters in Retirement, Retirement Opportunities | Kay Reuter-Krohn, Financial Matters in Retirement |
| Chris Kleinhenz, Partnership & Engagement, Board of Directors | Louise Robbins, Electronic Technology |
| Sharon Kluender, Retirement Opportunities | Ralph Russo, Travel |
| Diane Kravetz, Electronic Technology | Barbara Rust, Business Office and Operations Team (BOOT) |
| Crescent Kringle, <i>Sifter</i> Column Coordinator | Rob Seltzer, 2023 Big 10 Conference |
| Jerry Kulcinski, Partnership and Engagement | Christine Schlinder, Luncheon |
| Ullrich Langer, Travel | Hugh Schmidt, Electronic Technology |
| Sheila Leary, <i>Sifter</i> Editor | Karen Schwarz, Travel |
| Al Liegel, Travel | Jack Sorenson, Financial Matters in Retirement, Board of Directors |
| Judith Louer, Luncheon | Bill Steffenhagen, Membership |
| Laurie Mayberry, Partnership and Engagement, Retirement Opportunities, Board of Directors, <i>Sifter</i> Column Coordinator | Jim Stratton, Partnership and Engagement, Retirement Opportunities, Membership |
| Colleen McCabe, Travel | Millard Susman, Electronic Technology, Financial Matters in Retirement, Retirement Opportunities, Board of Directors |
| Don Miner, Financial Matters in Retirement | Jim Vannes, Electronic Technology |
| Gary Mitchell, Retirement Opportunities, Membership | Ann Wallace, Electronic Technology |
| Mel Morgenbesser, Financial Matters in Retirement | Wendy Way, Retirement Opportunities |
| Tim Norris, Financial Matters in Retirement | Barbara Wiley, Luncheon |
| Esther Olson, Travel, Board of Directors | Larry Winkler, Business Office and Operations Team (BOOT) |
| Jurgen Patau, BOOT, Board of Directors, Financial Matters in Retirement, Strategic Framework Group | Beth Zemp, Business Office and Operations Team, Board of Directors, Strategic Framework Group |
| Mary Beth Plane, Retirement | |

Kathy Zweifel, Financial Matters in Retirement

Please join in thanking all of our volunteers. ■

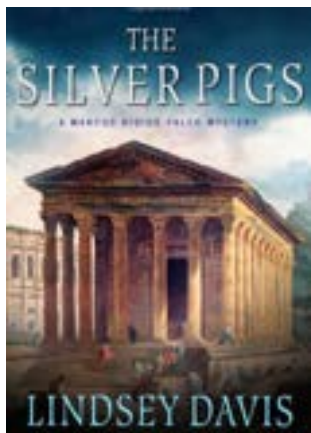


BOOK MARKS

**Crime in Ancient Rome:
The Falco Mysteries**

REVIEWED BY MARY BETH PLANE, RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR AND UWRA MEMBER

If you have ever been inclined to wander the streets of ancient Rome with an irreverent and self-deprecating informer, your chance to do so is in the Falco historical mystery series written by Lindsey Davis. Over the course of 20 novels, Marcus Didius Falco (said informer, of modest means and ambitions) peruses the streets of Rome and adjacent territories of the Roman Empire searching for answers to problems for clients ranging from Emperor Vespasian to a dead lion.



The Silver Pigs (Sidgwick and Jackson, 1989), the first book in the Marcus Didius Falco series, has Falco traveling to ancient Britain to find the source of graft in silver mines. Though in my view this is not the best book in the series, it introduces readers to the Falco and his world, buoyed by the best

of all mystery aids: an illuminating list of characters, annotated by relationship, location, and sometimes motive. There are also maps of the relevant areas where the story takes place.

Falco’s character and outlook on life grows over the course of the series, although one can read the books in any order as each includes its own list of characters and maps. I became hooked on the books after reading *Last Act in Palmyra*, the sixth book in the series. Re-reading these books now, I still enjoy the descriptions of Rome and Falco’s sometimes outrageous comments on society, his relationships with his family and friends, and the stories themselves.

The author, Lindsey Davis, has won numerous awards for her historical crime fiction, including

the 2011 Cartier Diamond Dagger from the Crime Writers Association and the 2010 Premio Colosseo from the City of Rome. Her other series featuring Flavia Albia, Falco’s adopted daughter, is a bit heavier but is also a good read. ■

Please email brief book reviews for Book Marks to column coordinator Laurie Mayberry at laurie.mayberry@wisc.edu.

**✓ SAVE THE DATES FOR
FALL 2022 PROGRAMS**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
ELECTRIC VEHICLES**
with Jane McCurry of
Clean Fuels Michigan

Tuesday, September 27
10:00 A.M.–NOON Online Webinar

Sponsored by the
Retirement Opportunities
Committee



**Registration Deadline:
September 23**
Advance registration is required. Register online at:
UWRAmadison.org/event-4812071

**FAMILY RESEARCH GENEALOGY
WORKSHOP SERIES**
with Diane Hart Deci of
Wisconsin DAR

October 5 Beginning Your Family Search
October 25 Now, Climbing that Family Tree
November 16 Do Not Let the Family Tree Get
Top Heavy

Sponsored by the
Retirement Opportunities
Committee



Visit UWRAmadison.org for
pre-registration details.

REFLECTIONS

The Perks of White Hair

BY MARY BARNARD RAY

On milestone birthdays, I give myself a consolation gift so I can celebrate getting older. When I turned 40 (remember when that seemed like a big deal?), I took a hot air balloon ride. At 50, I gave myself permission never to wear heels unless I



wanted to. At 60, I gave up eye shadow. Okay, part of the reason for that was that my eyelids got droopy. I considered grieving about that one but decided instead to celebrate having one less self-care item on my “ought” list. My favorite gift so far is the one I

gave myself at 65: I stopped coloring my hair. I thought it was for convenience and economy, but it turned out that having almost white hair had surprising advantages.

I just love having white hair. It has so many perks. Now I get all the senior discounts without having to ask for them. Young people with piercings offer me seats on the subway. I get help from clerks in stores, which was much harder when I was in the invisible-middle-aged-matron period of life. One of my favorite perks, though, is stopping traffic. When I am traveling with a group of people, and we need to cross a busy street without a stoplight, I just move toward the front of the group and start eyeballing the approaching drivers. This has worked for me on three continents, so far. I have to admit, stopping traffic in Samarkand was a high point in my travel experience.

There is one final perk of white hair that I feel compelled to admit. I can sometimes get by with things. If I slip into an area where I am not supposed to be, it is easy to claim ignorance. If I forget my vaccination card, they take my word for it. (I have used this only ONCE, really.) This certainly wouldn't work for driving errors—like going the wrong way on a one-way street—but you might be

able to get a warning instead of a speeding ticket if you aren't going too fast. It's just a small benefit, after all. But there are enough drawbacks to aging, so I'll take what I can get. ■

WEBINAR RECAP

Hidden Digital Gems in the UW–Madison Libraries

BY BRAD HUGHES, LOUISE ROBBINS, AND KATHY CHRISTOPH, MEMBERS, ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

In March, an informative webinar presented the amazing resources available digitally through the UW–Madison Libraries. These include a remarkable on-line image collection of some 38,000 aerial photos of Wisconsin, begun in the 1930s; memorable examples include “the lost city” on land that became the UW–Madison Arboretum, cranberry bogs in Wood County, cherry orchards in Door County, and the land that became the Brewers' stadiums in Milwaukee.

The Digital Collections Center includes fascinating and varied digitized content, including Early Modern books about chemistry and alchemy and an archive of beautiful African fabric. Additionally, an extensive variety of videos, periodicals, and books are available digitally through Badgerlink (available to any Wisconsin resident).

The presenters gave a behind-the-scenes look at the process of digitizing library materials and explained which digital materials are available to UW–Madison retirees from on-campus and off-campus locations. They also presented an overview of technology's complex effects on libraries. The slides of the presentations include bountiful links to the digital library materials mentioned, which are well worth exploring. ■

Visit the UWRA website (UWRAmadison.org) then select Resources/Presentations/2021–22 Jan–Jun) to find PDFs of the presentation slides and a video recording of the program.

ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY

Why Don't I Have a Password Manager?

BY RACHEL BAKER, MEMBER, UWRA ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Overheard: "I have reached the point that I would rather just let someone steal my identity than remember another password!"

Internet passwords have become more necessary and important every day. Even if you decide to keep a written list of unique, complex passwords and store that list in a secure place, will you keep the list up to date? Can it be found by someone you trust in an emergency? These concerns are more easily handled through a Password Manager that keeps a secure list of passwords and even automatically fills in the correct one for you.

- How much does it cost?
- How do I know which one is the best?
- How do I know it's any more secure than my written list?
- How do I even start?



All of the above are good questions (with good answers), so we present two alternatives for no-cost, easy-to-use password protection.

1. UW's "LastPass" is a robust and easy-to-use app

that runs as an extension to any browser. LastPass is available at no charge to UW retirees. It encrypts your passwords, manages passwords in mobile apps such as MyChart, and includes the option to share passwords. LastPass will even store and protect other important information you need, including IDs and credit cards. Check kb.wisc.edu/103552 to see which LastPass option is available to you and how to get started.

2. Or, to get familiar with basic password storage and auto-fill, use the built-in password feature in your favorite web browser. The browser options will work on your home computer as well as on mobile devices. They are secured by a browser password or your device password. Learn more about some of them at:

- Chrome tinyurl.com/2p8tsdxk
- Firefox tinyurl.com/2p98mnsz
- Microsoft Edge tinyurl.com/23sf9vrs

Start protecting your passwords now. The UWRA Electronic Technology Committee hopes to offer an in-person Tech Clinic when UWRA gatherings resume. Meanwhile, we can answer your questions through our email address, UWRA.tech@gmail.com. ■

■ UW-Madison Retirement Association Calendar Dates ■

Continue to monitor the UWRAmadison.org website for further updates.

Virtual events (V), In-Person events (IP)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| • Tuesday, June 7, 2022 | 10:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M. | <i>Tour of International Crane Foundation</i> (IP) |
| • Tuesday, July 19, 2022 | 9:00 A.M. | <i>East Side Breakfast, Elie's Café, 909 E. Broadway, Monona</i> (IP) |
| • Tuesday, August 30, 2022 | 9:00 A.M. | <i>East Side Breakfast, Elie's Café, 909 E. Broadway, Monona</i> (IP) |
| • Tuesday, September 27, 2022 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | <i>What You Need to Know about Electric Vehicles</i> (V) |
| • Wednesday, October 5, 2022 | 1:00–3:00 P.M. | <i>Family Research from the Very Beginning</i> (V) |
| • Tuesday, October 25, 2022 | 1:00–3:00 P.M. | <i>Climbing that Family Tree</i> (V) |
| • Wednesday, November 16, 2022 | 1:00–3:00 P.M. | <i>Do Not Let the Family Tree Get Top Heavy</i> (V) |

For information on upcoming PLATO trips, visit platomadison.org/page-18561. For information on Board and Committee meetings and deadlines for **The Sifter**, see the UWRA website at UWRAmadison.org.

THE SIFTER

UWRAmadison.org

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c/o Division of Continuing Studies

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